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## HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE

by Doug Newell  
Assistant Editor

Matthew 1:20-23, "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she



Doug Newell

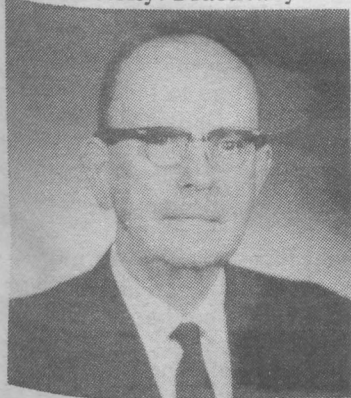
shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet,

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## IS THAT SCRIPTURE TRUE

by E.G. Cook  
(Now in Glory)

The title of this tract may sound foolish to you, but I assure you I have put it that way in all sincerity. Practically every



E. G. Cook

Baptist in the world who has not been tampered with by a modernist preacher will say that all Scripture is true. And I am convinced they really think they mean it. But when confronted with specific Scriptures very, very few of them will stand firm. For instance, in Romans 8:29

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"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them"—Isaiah 8:20.

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## THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

by Ray Brown

"And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and

she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that vir-



Ray Brown

tue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague"

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## LET'S LOOK AGAIN AT JOHN 3:16

by Robert McNeil

Without a shadow of a doubt the 16th verse of the third chapter of John's gospel is one of the most quoted, best loved, most greatly used verses of the whole Bible. It has even been called the Bible in a nutshell. It has been used for the last 19 centuries to bring hope, light and assurance to men and women, young and old of all colors and languages. Probably the only portion of God's Word that could compare with this verse in popularity would be the Shepherd's Psalm, Psalm 23.

When a person, a thing, a situation becomes extremely familiar it is often taken for

granted. John 3:16 is so often quoted that most church people today believe they know it well enough that it sort of sums up their theology. In fact many people who attend church know very little about the Bible. They can quote very few verses from the Word of God, but they know one verse — John 3:16 — but they have it wrong! Let's look again at John 3:16!

We have often said in our ministry over the years that we believe the most misquoted verse of the Bible is II Peter 3:9. People are continually saying, "God is not willing that any should perish," but II Peter 3:9 does not say that! It does say,

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." The phrase "to us-ward" changes the whole meaning of that verse from the misquoted way people use it.

If II Peter 3:9 is the most misquoted verse of the Bible, then John 3:16 is one of the most misunderstood and misinterpreted verses of the Bible. What do you think John 3:16 says? If you were asked to explain it in your own words how would you

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## A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CHURCH

by Larry Killon

Matthew 16:18, "upon this rock I will build My church..." Last week I preached on "Who is the ye in the great commission?" We saw how Jesus spoke those words to the



Larry Killon

eleven disciples as His church and promised to be with His church until the end of the world. We tried to show the importance of seeing the Scriptural teaching on the church, and how

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## ARRANGED MARRIAGES: ARRANGED GOD'S WAY

by Andy Proctor

There are marriages arranged by humanity without God's approval; there are marriages arranged by God with God's approval. In Richard Stengel's "No More Moon June: Love's Out" article on marriage — he suggests that arranged marriages are the solution to the failure of marriages based upon romantic love. In conclusion, Mr. Stengel states that arranged

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## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

## THE CREATOR AND HIS CREATION

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).

Only God can create. Man can discover, combine, develop, and use; but he cannot create. It is only in the sense of understood limitations that we ever speak of man as creating anything. I would not know what to think of the mental ability of a person who would even imagine that man can create.

In some respects, Genesis 1:1 is the greatest verse in the Bible,

and the greatest words ever written. Who can scale the heights, plumb the depths, or span the breadth of meaning in this short verse? The man who believes this will have no difficulty believing all that is written in the Bible. He who does not believe this verse may as well disbelieve the rest. We have no authority for believing any part of the Bible that we do not also have for believing this verse. I very seriously question the professed salvation of the person who doubts this verse of Holy

Writ.

"In the beginning God..." God is the beginning of all things and of all knowledge. He is the beginning of creation, of history, and of revelation. He surely is the beginning of salvation. There is nothing back of Him. There is nothing before Him. From everlasting to everlasting He is God.

The Bible does not pause to, nor even attempt to prove the existence of God. The Bible assumes and declares this. The

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## CREATOR

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Bible, in all that it says and teaches, is based upon the existence of God. I suppose that I know a little about the so-called proofs of God's existence. However, I have little confidence in or use for them. I do not think we can prove by rational and logical arguments to the natural and objecting mind that there is a God. If he is so blind as to fail, and so depraved as to refuse to believe in the existence of God; no mere arguments will change him. I think we should just declare that God exists, and just preach His Word to men, and leave it to the Holy Spirit to make this effective.

Genesis 1:1 establishes many truths and refutes many errors. It refutes Atheism for it declares the existence of God. It refutes Pantheism for it distinguishes between God and creation. It refutes Polytheism for it teaches that there is one God who created all things. It refutes Evolution for it declares that God created. It refutes Materialism for it tells us that there is more than the material creation. It refutes Humanism for it declares the activity and glory of God, not man.

This verse tells us truth that we can learn nowhere else. One is truly amazed at the varieties, and especially the absurdities, as well as the contradictions of the opinions that men, who deny the Bible, hold on the origin and development of creation. The depravity of man's mind is nowhere more evident than in this subject.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen

were not made of things which do appear" (Heb. 11:3). By simply believing the Word of God, we understand what men of great human learning do not know, and never will know until and unless they bow humbly before the Word of God, gladly receiving its testimony on the subject. The most humble and most ignorant (in worldly wisdom) believer understands many important truths that are totally unknown by the wise of this world.



Joe Wilson

The Bible has very much to say about creation. Let us look at a few verses. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto

night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard" (Psa. 19:1-3). Man can read, if he will, the existence and power and glory of God in creation under, around, and above him. "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:19-20). Men who deny God's existence are without excuse. It is not lack of evidence, but wicked and willful rebellion that blinds them. "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen." (Rom. 11:36). "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Col. 1:16-17). "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things,

and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Rev. 4:11). God created all things. He sustains that which He created, and all was created for His glory.

I desire to point out three things about creation in the first

chapter of Genesis. Note what I call the ten commandments of creation. We read, "And God said" ten times in this chapter. We then read words to the effect that it was so. God commanded, (Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

## WHAT SHOULD FOLLOW SALVATION?

by Dr. Roy Mason

In previous articles, I have tried to set forth the false ways of salvation, how actually to be saved, and how long salvation lasts. For the present, I wish to deal with the question, "What should follow salvation?"

THE FIRST THING THAT SHOULD FOLLOW SALVATION IS CONFESSION OF CHRIST. On Pentecost, this was illustrated by the three thousand or more who became believers. They didn't hesitate, but immediately expressed their faith in Christ. There are many people in the world who claim that they are saved, but they have never stepped out before the public to express their faith in Christ. It is doubtful that such persons have ever really trusted the Saviour. I once visited a very sick man, who wasn't expected to live a week.



There was no time to beat around the bush in dealing with this man. His wife thought he would insult me if I talked to him about religion. I did it anyhow, and told him the way of salvation. This hard-hearted old sinner listened, and turned to Christ. He gave me pretty good proof, when he said, "If the Lord spares my life, the first place I'm going when I get out

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## FROM THE EDITOR

"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31). Why can't men leave this Scripture as it stands? Why do so many men insist on adding to this numerous and varied other conditions as necessary to salvation? It seems that one of my many and recurring battles has been over men doing this. I suppose that my position that truly saved persons will have good works; and that a truly saved person will persevere in repentance, faith, and holiness might be regarded by some antinomians as additions to this Scripture on salvation. However, these two things are clearly taught in the Bible as results, not conditions, of salvation. I suppose that the men who hold the two things I am about to deal with consider them the same way I consider good works and perseverance, but they are not taught in the Bible (show me where they are), and they are very false and dangerous doctrines.

I do not know who first applied the term "Bapto-Campbellite" to the Priesthood of the Church doctrine; but I have learned that it is very, very appropriate. The two errors with which I deal in this editorial seem to me to be the ultimate — the logical consummation point — of the Priesthood heresy. I hasten to add that I do not mean that all who hold these two errors are Priesthood men. I think some of them do not realize the close connection between these errors and the Priesthood teaching. However, I do think that careful thought will set forth clearly this connection.

Understand that I consider the two following errors to be unscriptural additions to the condition of salvation set forth in Acts 16:31. Also understand that I do not believe that faith is a condition performed by man in his own natural ability. I consider it to be the gift of God, but I also consider that this gift of God is exercised by man.

The first error I mention is that one must hear the gospel from, through, or in some way connected with a Baptist person or church in order to be saved. The teaching here is that no one is ever saved by hearing the gospel from anyone other than a Baptist. Now, there is no Scripture given to support this, neither can there be. It is the gospel that is the power of God unto salvation. It is not the gospel, delivered by a Baptist, that is such. When one hears the gospel, no matter by whom, and the Holy Spirit works in effectual power, using that gospel to give spiritual life; that person is saved forever. The person giving the gospel adds no mystical saving power thereto. I would not at all doubt that some have been saved who heard the gospel from the lips of an unsaved person. I do not doubt but that Judas cast out demons, performed miracles, preached the gospel, and baptized people. Prove me wrong. It is the gospel, not the person delivering it, that is the power of God unto salvation. Let us stay close to Acts 16:31; Romans 1:16; and Romans 10:17 in this matter. God has not tied the effectiveness of the gospel nor the effectual work of the Spirit to the human giver of the gospel.

I know that I am saved, praise God! I was saved while sitting in a Holy-roller church listening to a Holy-roller preacher. He did not know nor preach much truth, but he did preach Christ and faith in Christ for salvation. Of course he preached the mourner's bench and losing salvation, and other heresies. He did preach Christ, and the Holy Spirit called me to the salvation experience. I have never seriously doubted that I was saved that night. I have never had another experience since that night that I even imagined was my salvation experience. I was also called to preach while I was a member of the Holy-roller church. I know that some men have said that, if this was the case, Joe Wilson was not saved nor called to preach. I leave them to their own thinking. That is their problem. I know whereof I speak. I do not believe I was ordained to preach until this was done by a true Baptist church. But I was called to preach before that.

I am a Baptist. I preach often, strong, and hard on this subject. I believe that everyone who is saved ought to be a Baptist. I believe that the Lord's work is properly done through a Baptist church. I

believe that every preacher ought to be a Baptist preacher. But I do not believe that only Baptists are saved. Neither do I believe that Baptist preachers are the only men called of God to preach. Of course, God never called a man to preach error. But He has called men to preach who do preach some error. Crucify me if you will, but here I stand. I have stood here since becoming a Baptist, and I suspect I will die standing right here. Apply these statements to the second error which I now mention.

I am hearing strange and unbelievable things. I am hearing them from and about Baptists. I am hearing that some men believe that everyone who is truly saved will become a Baptist before he dies; that if one who professes to be saved dies without becoming a Baptist, this is proof that he was never saved. I am not hearing any Scripture to prove this, for there is none. Frankly, I am not hearing too many men speak out boldly and openly on this. I do not blame them. If they believe this, I hope they always whisper it in dark corners where few can hear such. I do not know that any man has taught this effectively to his church so that the church stands for this heresy (except probably one so called church that is so far off on so many doctrines). I surely hope that no church will ever totally accept such a new and strange doctrine.

Let those men who hold this doctrine stand by the consequences thereof, for maybe the facing of these horrible consequences will awaken them and start them back to the truth on the subject. Understand that if this new and strange doctrine be true: 1. All who die as members of any but a Baptist church will go to hell. 2. All who call themselves Baptists, but are not in true Baptist churches will go to hell. 3. Either God has two or more ways of salvation, or all who professed salvation before Christ started His church, and any who profess salvation after the church age — all such will go to hell.

I do hear that some men seemingly hold this doctrine, but have invented ways to get the above mentioned classes saved. Some teach that Christ was baptized for all the saved who are not baptized for themselves — at least for Old Testament saints.

I heard that one preacher said in a Bible conference (had he preached it in our conference, he would have been set down) that John the Baptist was baptizing Protestants and Catholics in the river of life to make Baptists of them. I hope the brother was joking, but this is certainly no joking matter.

The two errors I oppose herein are: 1. One must hear the gospel from a Baptist, or he is not saved. 2. If one professes salvation, but dies without becoming a Baptist; this is proof that he is not truly saved. For shame, for shame, for shame that men wearing the Baptist name will teach such awful, ridiculous, unscriptural things.

Years and years ago, and many times since, I was told that Baptists believe they are the only ones who are saved. I denied this vehemently. To my sorrow I have lived to see men, wearing the Baptist name, teach this very thing. Well, I cannot control the thinking and preaching of others. Hopefully, I can influence men to turn from these errors with holy horror such as I feel. Be that as it may, let it be understood that Joe Wilson, Calvary Baptist Church, and The Baptist Examiner do not believe these new and strange heresies. We walk in the old paths. We have found them satisfying and blessed in the days gone by. We do not intend to forsake them for the paths of heresy devised by the minds of men.

These two doctrines are so close to the Campbellite teaching that only Campbellites are saved that I do not wonder that men have applied the term "Bapto-Campbellite" to these teachings. I warn Baptist brethren to avoid these doctrines as they would a wild animal. We have enough problems by standing for the truths of God's Word. Let us not increase our problems by teaching things contrary thereto. May God bless you.



## CREATOR

(Continued from Page 2)

and it was done. In this chapter, we read eight times, "after his kind" and two times, "after their kind." These words forever refute evolution. These words set up a divine barrier that evolution can never cross. There may be change and improvement within the species, but there has never been a crossing from one species to another. Evolution is a theory without any proof whatsoever. It is contrary to the Word of God. It is most assuredly not scientific, for "science" means knowledge, and one can never know an untruth. One might believe a lie, but he can never know such. The individual who holds to evolution puts a serious question mark beside his professed salvation. Note the words, "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good..." (v. 31). Of course it was, how could it have been otherwise.

I personally take the position that v. 31 as well as the whole chapter contradicts the gap theory of Genesis 1: 1, 2. There is not seen in v. 31 a creation that became bad and was destroyed, but all that God had made was very good. I do not believe that the devil had fallen as yet, else how could v. 31 be true?

Let me now point out two very important things about creation. It was "ex nihilo". This means that it was out of nothing. God did not use pre-existing material. There was nothing at all. Then God willed it, and there was creation. It is very important that we believe this about God's creation. He did not work with pre-existing material, else, who made that material? That one would then be the God of creation. Secondly, it was creation by "fiat." This is a command or act of the will that creates something without further effort. God said, or willed it, and it was done. Now let us notice some things about the Creator and His creation.

The Creator is before His creation. Matter is not eternal. It had a beginning. There was a time, if time it may properly be called, when nothing existed except the Triune God of the Bible. God had no beginning. He is from everlasting to everlasting. As surely as He has no end, He had no beginning. If God had a beginning, who "began" Him? That being would then be the true God. It is highly dishonoring to God to even imagine that He had a beginning. That being who had a beginning cannot be God. The man does not truly and savingly know God who does not know Him as a Being without beginning and without end. He is the eternal God. It would also seem that that which is eternal is unchanging. It is a comfort to the heart of the believer to know that God is eternal and immutable. We could place no faith in one who was otherwise. We could have no comfort or strength in one who was otherwise.

The Creator is sovereign in His creating. It must be so. No one was in existence who could have even suggested, much less dictated, to the Creator as to what or how He would create. The sovereign God of the Bible decided at what point in the eternity of His being He would create. He could have created aeons before He did. He could have waited until now to create.

it was entirely up to Him. He was sovereign as to what He would create. From the tiniest bit of life, unseen except by microscope, to the mighty whale of the deep, God was sovereign in creation. None of His creatures can say unto Him, "Why hast thou made me thus?" He was sovereign as to how many He would create. All Bible believers know that God only created one pair of humanity: a male and a female. But it is most likely that He created many of other beings. How many of each was entirely at His sovereign disposal.

He was sovereign in the creation of the material universe. How large shall the earth be? What will its shape be? How many material bodies shall He create? How many suns, moons, stars, and planets shall He create? What shall the size of each be? What will be the relationship between the created bodies? How shall the seasons and times be brought about? Brother, all these things were according to the sovereign will of the Creator. Those things that we are just beginning to learn about the wonderful creation of God were all determined by His sovereign will.

The Creator is greater than His creation. This is involved in the very meaning of the words used. It could not be otherwise. The Creator could not create that which would be greater than Himself. This Creator is so much greater than His creation. He could have created any number of worlds, all greater than this one, and He would have still been greater than the sum thereof. How great is this creation! We are just beginning to fathom some of the greatness thereof. Men are being continually amazed at new discoveries of the greatness of creation. How great is man, God's chief creation? What great things men are able to do? What great wisdom men display? Men are now doing things that their forefathers never imagined. Brother, if God's creation is so great — and it is — how much greater is the Creator? Surely, creation teaches us the omnipotence of our God. How comforting it is to look out on this mighty creation and to now that our Heavenly Father created it all, and to rest in and draw strength and comfort therefrom.

The Creator is in control of His creation. God did not create the world and then turn it loose. God did not lose control of His creation; neither did He turn it over to anyone else, nor to a set of laws. Moment by moment He sustains and controls His creation. "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Col. 1:17). Here we learn that all things are held together by the Creator. "...and upholding all things by the word of his power..." (Heb. 1:3). The heavenly bodies move in their predestinated pathways. All creation is completely and continually controlled by the sovereign God who brought it into being. Not a drop of water, a ray of sunlight, a movement of the wind ever moves a hair's breadth from the will of God. Men walk through all the days of their lives in the path marked out by a sovereign God's eternal predestination. As a driver controls the powerful automobile which he drives down the street, even so does God control His creation — and much more so.

This is a most wonderful, awe-inspiring, and comforting truth. What if this world were

out of control? What if the flood waters, the wind storms, the burning sun — what if they were out of control? We would be a doomed people except that the Creator is in absolute and total control of all His creatures and all their actions. Praise the Lord for this! This is the glorious, blessed, strengthening doctrine of God's Providence.

The Creator is the reason for His creation. The will of the Creator is the only reason for there being any creation or for creation being what and as it is. "The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil" (Prov. 16:4). "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images" (Isa. 42:8). "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen" (Rom. 11:36). "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Rev. 4:11). All that God does is for His own glory.

Every thing, every part, every activity of creation all rebound to the glory of the Creator. He will get eternal glory therefrom. When it is all over — when time is no more — when we are in eternity — it will be palpably plain that all things are to the glory of our sovereign God. He created for His glory. He controls creation so that it promotes His glory. In the work of salvation it is the same. It is all for His glory. That is why salvation is by grace, and not by the works of man — so that God will get all the glory therefor. The Creator is before creation. The Creator is sovereign in creation. The Creator is greater than creation. The Creator is in control of creation. The Creator is the reason for creation. What glorious, blessed, and mighty truths are these relative to the Creator and His creation!

Let us believe these truths. Let there never be a shadow of doubt in our minds relative to these matters. But, praise God, men's doubts and even men's disbelief, do not change the facts. These things are true whether you believe them or not — whether any man believes them or not. God's truths are not dependent upon man's acceptance for their truthfulness. Let us declare these things unto others. Let us never waver before those who oppose these things. Let us never tremble before the haughty claims of infidelity parading as science. Truth is with us. All men will one day bow before the truths you and I now know and rejoice in.

Let us be sure that we know this Creator as our God, our Lord, and our Saviour; for there is no other who can save from sin and hell. As creation glorifies God, let us gladly and willingly make the glory of God our chief end in all that we do. Every individual of mankind will glorify God. Some will glorify God's holiness, justice, and wrath in the fires of eternal hell. Some will glorify His goodness, mercy, and saving grace. But all will, one way or the other, glorify God. Which way will you glorify God? Oh, which way will it be? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Glorify your redeemer in your body and spirit which are His by right of blood redemption. Do all that you do to the glory of God. May God bless you all.

## JOHN 3:16

(Continued from Page 1)

do it? Does not the average person, yea, 99 out of a 100 people tell you that John 3:16 means, "For God so loved everybody that He gave His only begotten Son, that everybody might be saved." But look again at John 3:16!

John 3:16 says that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that believers might not perish. Isn't that exactly what it says?

One of the most popular beliefs of the day is that God loves everybody, and the very fact that it is so popular with all classes ought to be enough to arouse the suspicions of those who are subject to the Word of Truth. God's love toward everybody is the fundamental and favorite tenet of the Universalists, Unitarians, Theosophists, Christian Scientists, Spiritualists, Russellites, Modernists, Liberals, One Worlders, and most Integrationists. No matter how a man may live in open defiance of heaven, with no concern whatever for his soul's eternal interests, still less for God's glory, dying perhaps with an oath on his lips — notwithstanding, God loves him we are told. This dogma has been proclaimed widely and it sure is comforting to the heart which the Bible says is at enmity with God — but it is a modern belief! The writings of the early church, the Reformers, the Puritans will be searched in vain for any such concept. Let's look again at John 3:16!

The principal subject of John 3:16 is Christ as the gift of God. There are a number of questions in connection with Christ as the gift of God. What moved God to give His only begotten Son? For whom did God give His Son? Why did God give His Son? Let's look again at John 3:16! What moved God to give His only begotten Son? The text is crystal clear as to what moved God to give His only begotten Son, His love. There are many today who talk about the love of God who are total strangers to the God of love. Divine love is commonly regarded as a species of amiable weakness, a sort of good-nature indulgence, a mere sickly sentiment patterned after human emotion. But what saith the Scriptures? The Bible informs us that God is three things. God is Spirit, God is Light, and God is Love. Please note that God is Love — not just that God loves. Now the love of God is uninfluenced. Many of the things God says to, and about Israel, are certainly applicable to the saints of the New Testament and present day era. In Deuteronomy 7:7, 8 God says, "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in numbers than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." Also in 1 John 4:19 we read, "We love him, because he first loved us." Then the love of God is eternal and immutable. Jeremiah cries out in chapter 31:3, "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love:

therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." And Paul echoes back from his great letter to the Ephesians... "he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." The Lord Jesus Christ, — "having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." (John 13:1), or the marginal reading renders it "to the uttermost." The early church father, John Chrysostom, translated the last phrase — "to the highest degree." Then always remember that the love of God is sovereign. Just because we read that God loves some, it does not necessarily follow that He has to love everyone. Romans 9:13 will always tell us in the New Testament what Malachi 1:2, 3 informs us in the Old Testament, "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."

These four things about the love of God would be enough in themselves to refute the interpretation of this verse that God loves everybody, but in case people are prejudiced let us go right to the context of the third chapter of John and ask an important question. Have you every considered John 3:16 and John 3:36 together? If John 3:16 means God loves everybody then what do you do with John 3:36? John 3:36 declares... "he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Notice abideth is present tense. Is the wrath of God and the love of God abiding on the same person at the same time?

Many times John 3:16 is pressed to such an extreme that God is represented as too loving to punish anybody, and so full of love and mercy that He will not deal with men according to any rigid standard of justice regardless of their deserts. Again let us appeal to Scripture. Did God love Pharaoh? Romans 9:17 says, "For the Scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth." Then verse 22 of the same chapter illuminates the matter of God showing His power, "What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction." Pharaoh was a vessel of wrath, and God certainly didn't love him; but He did love his foster son, Moses. Did God love Esau? Read Malachi 1:1, 2. Did God love the Amalekites? If you can get any love out of these words... "Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven" (Exodus 17:14), then you twist the Scriptures. Did God love the Canaanites whom He commanded to be exterminated without mercy? (Deut. 20:16). Did God love the Ammonites and Moabites whom He commanded not to enter into the congregation of the Lord? (Deut. 23:3). There is a verse in the Psalms that many people do not even know is in the Bible. Psalm 5:5 reads, "The foolish shall not stand in thy sight:

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# The Baptist Examiner Forum I

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P.O. Box 60 - ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

Are all holidays unscriptural? How about birthdays considering such in the Bible?

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"I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself:— (Rom. 14:14).

All holidays are what we make of them. How we observe them determines whether they are unscriptural or not. New Year's Day could be observed in a very unscriptural way or it could be a day of praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord. Most of our national holidays have been set aside for observing some great event in our history, or in memory of some great or not so great man's birthday. We see from the Scriptures that the nation of Israel was commanded to observe some great events where God had worked in their behalf. Even of a battle won by Israel, God told Moses, "Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua." (Ex. 17:14). As these holidays have no religious significance I find no Scripture that would condemn the observing of them. The only two birthday celebrations recorded in the Bible is that of king Herod (Mark 6:17-29) and that of Pharaoh of Egypt (Genesis 40). Although John the Baptist lost his head at Herod's and the chief baker lost his head at Pharaoh's, I see no reason to condemn all birthday celebrations.

Some of our national holidays are of a religious origin; some even of pagan beginnings. If they are national holidays we are forced to observe them to some extent whether we like to or not. If the banks, post offices, stores, places of business, and schools close for a holiday; we have no choice in the matter. For most of us a holiday just means a day off from work or school to do what we want. From experience, I know how the pupils and teachers look forward to that one in December when they get one to two weeks off. I again say that holidays in themselves are not unscriptural, but in how we make use of them. In Romans 14:5 we are told, "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Although this seems to have been said concerning days observed by the Jews, I believe it would also apply to our holidays.

Some churches make good use of some of our holidays by holding a Bible conference on them. There could be nothing wrong in attending a Bible conference, hearing the Word of God preached and fellowshiping

ing other saints, even if it is on Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, or any of the other holidays.

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Galatians 4:10, 11: "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."

I am convinced that the days, months, times, and years mentioned in our text refer to those celebrated by the heathen. They do not refer to any or to all days, for that would include the Lord's day. I think those in Galatia had begun to join in the heathenistic celebrating of days. Surely, the modern day religious world has done the same in their practice of observing Christmas and Easter.

Now let me answer your question, No, I do not believe all holidays are unscriptural. I do think that all religious holidays that center around Christ are unscriptural. We have no more right to invent days in which to worship God than we have to neglect the day on which He has commanded us to worship him. Any holiday that has anything to do with the life, death, burial or resurrection of Christ is an unscriptural holiday. We have commandments from God relative to commemorating Christ's death. We have a commandment from God about being in His house on His day. These other holidays are the heathenistic inventions of men.

Personally, I don't see anything wrong with holidays such as Thanksgiving. I know we should be thankful everyday and not just one day a year. I do not however see how that makes that day to be wrong. I also see nothing wrong with birthdays. I know that the only two birthdays celebrated in the Bible end up in someone being put to death. That however is not sufficient proof to say they are wrong. The way some people celebrate these holidays might be wrong, but that does not make the holiday itself wrong.

Let me sum things up this way. A good portion of the modern day holidays celebrated are unscriptural. I think especially of xmas and easter. Christian people have no right participating in these two holidays. They are not God-honoring, but are an abomination unto God. (I don't have time to enter into all the reasons why.) Other holidays, that do not have a religious flavor to them, let your conscience be your guide (With the help of the Holy Spirit). May we be faithful in the days God has commanded us to observe. God bless you all.

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I take it that the questioner is asking about religious holidays. Most holidays have a religious, pagan origin, or a history of anti-christian observance. No person, place, or thing should ever have precedence in the Christian's life over the place of the Lord Jesus Christ, or that of God the Father. Hence, in the strictest sense the men who are given a holiday observance (Washington, Lincoln, Columbus, etc.) should not be exalted above Christ. In that view, holidays as such are unscriptural. Those holidays with a direct religious origin of observance, be it evil as in Halloween, or so-called good such as Good Friday, are accepted by millions, but are blatantly unrighteous and wrong. Certainly most of our kind of Baptists reject Lent, Easter, and Christmas as wrong. Some holidays are overlooked as "OK" for the children because they appear harmless. Valentines day, Saint Patrick's day, and May day all are generally accompanied by lustful, anti-christian practices. I do not believe that we Christians are to observe "holy days", or religious holidays in this dispensation of grace. Paul says in Galatians 4:10-11, "Ye observe days, and months, and times and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labours in vain." He is here referring to the ceremonial observances of sabbaths, moons, and years in regard to the Jewish Christians influenced by the Judaizers in the early churches. They felt it would help them, or add to their salvation. Many practice that kind of religion today. Many feel that outward practice is the best thing that they can do. Many feel that it is the most important thing that they can do. Many feel that the outward practice is all that there is. God is not pleased, to be sure, with people who are concerned with Him only on certain days, or in certain observances. Outward form means nothing. Becoming a new creature in Christ through God's power is important, not outward practice without it.

As to birthdays, we have two examples in the Word of God; both are not happy occasions. Pharaoh's birthday in Genesis Chapter 40 results in life and restoration for one of his servants and death by hanging for the other. The other example is in the New Testament. It is Herod's birthday celebration found in Matthew 14:1-12. Because of a lustful and probably drunken promise accompanied by an oath, one of the most infamous acts of the times took place. John the Baptist was

beheaded, and a wicked woman's vengeance was allowed fulfillment. In view of these two birthday celebrations, it might be wise for Christians to ignore and cease to practice observances of these kinds of days. Instead, men should know us by the countenance we wear. Our countenance and practice should be as Philippians 4:4, which says, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Do not become entangled again in the things of this world, of which holidays are most certainly a part.

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Before answering this question let me apologize for missing some questions last month. Due to my surgery and some other problems that came up I did not send in an answer for them.

The only holidays that I consider relative to Christian responsibility are those that are incorporated into church or worship services. Such holidays as Christmas, Easter and Halloween (Halloween because it is Satan worship) are most definitely not to be practiced by Bible believing people. Everything about them is unscriptural and should not be a part of Christian life or practice. As to President's Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, and such holidays which are strictly national holidays, I do not feel we should consider them in this type of a question.

You asked specifically about birthdays. I personally do not see any harm in remembering the day you were born. There should not be any church activities connected with it however, as it is not a part of worship. The only reference pro or con about birthdays is when John the Baptist was beheaded following a wild birthday party. "And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, ... and brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother" (Mark 6:21, 28). This does not say we should or should not observe our birthday but it certainly shows that it should not be a wild one.

## JOHN 3:16

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thou hatest all workers of iniquity" — notice that it is the workers and not their works. This goes contrary to the old worn out statement, "God loves all sinners, He just hates their sin."

The greatest thing about God's love is that it is effectual. How little believers really love Him and know anything about His great love for us. He was willing to suffer agony, die the cruel death of crucifixion that His people might have life. The Father so loved the world that He actually gave the Son the beautiful name of Saviour, for one of the first things a person reads when he opens the New Testament is the statement the angel made to Joseph, "thou shalt call His name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." No wonder the Holy Spirit tells us seven

times in the 17th chapter of John that the Father gave believers to the Son, and not one of them will be lost. The Bible states that the Father so loved; and that the Son shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied; and the Holy Spirit declares none will be lost who believe on the Son — how effectual the Trinity is in our salvation! This brings us to the second question concerning our text.

For whom did God give His Son? "For God so loved the world..." — if world means everybody then the New Testament teaches universalism! If John 3:16 means everybody, then John 1:29 means everybody, for it is the same Greek word used there. John 1:29, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." If the Lord Jesus Christ took away the sin of everybody, then the Bible is a book of confusion; and Christ contradicted Himself when He said to the Pharisees, "Ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep," and in another place He said, "...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24) — If He took away the sin of the world, why is He talking about men dying in their sins?

One of the most common and tragic mistakes being made in New Testament interpretation today is the failure to recognize the fact that the New Testament presents two worlds to our mind. There is one world beloved of God, and there is another world under the wrath of God. In II Peter 2:5 we read of the "world of the ungodly" and the Greek word for "world" is kosmos, the same word used in John 3:16. If there is a world of the ungodly, there must be a world of the godly, and isn't this exactly what Christ was intimating in John 6:33? "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." Even liberal theologians will admit that not everybody is receiving life! Paul says the same thing about a world of the godly in II Corinthians 5:19, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world, unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." Notice what follows the world in this verse — "not imputing their trespasses unto them" — now it is a known fact in all Arminian circles that the ungodly are going to have their trespasses imputed unto them — so Arminians will have to admit in this verse that Paul is talking about two worlds.

The trouble with most people concerning John 3:16 is the fact that they will not take a concordance and trace the word "world" through the Bible. The word in John 3:16 for world is the Greek word "kosmos" and it is used many different ways in the Word of God. Some of the different ways it can be used is a world system of order, the earth, the general public, the followers of Christ, the universe, the whole human race, etc. Let us take a couple of illustrations. We read, "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness" (I John 5:19).

Even though the adjective whole is used in front of world, it can't mean everybody in the world lies in wickedness, for the

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# The Baptist Examiner Forum II

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P.O. Box 60 — ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

Should a church give a pastor a percentage of the offering or a set amount?

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I have always thought that a church should give their pastor a set amount. This way he knows just how much he has to live on and can adjust himself to the amount allotted to him regardless of how much it might be. He knows if he does not live within his means that he is in trouble.

If a pastor is paid on a percentage basis he might not get enough to buy gas for his car. This might be all right for awhile until some one, or many gets angry with him and quits tithing. If this happens he could be in trouble. On the other hand, the church could prosper so much that he could be the wealthiest man in the church. Really, I think a set salary is the best policy.

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"...For the labourer is worthy of his hire..." When Christ sent out the seventy it was His intention that they be taken care of in their work. However, it surely could not be known by the seventy how they would fare. I am sure that they did not have a sumptuous repast served to them everywhere they went. I believe though that the Lord in His providence saw that they were supplied those things that were necessary. Then these seventy had faith in their Lord, for they observed him and went out on the mission journey.

"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." (I Corinthians 9:14). I had a Primitive Baptist preacher say to me once that the meaning of that Scripture was "they that preach the gospel should live like they preach." However, while that is true, it is not the teaching of I Corinthians 9:10. Also, Paul wrote by inspiration "...Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn..." (I Cor. 9:9). "...that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope" (I Cor. 9:10). If the pastor feeds the flock spiritual food, is it not right to see that he is provided for, out of the good things with which the Lord has so bountifully blessed the flock? Should the flock of God muzzle their own pastor? To treat the pastor as one would the ox, would mean that the church did not want him to share in what

God has blessed them with. The church who loves their pastor would not want him to go hungry, or not to be at least dressed decently.

I wonder just what could be meant by paying the pastor a percentage? Would it be five percent, ten percent, fifteen percent or what? If the offerings are low and percentage is low, then the pastor would be in bad shape. If the offerings were high or became high and the percentage high, then the pastor might receive more than would be needful. If the tithes and offerings are sufficient, then to give a percentage would be proper if this is what the church desired to do. But, personally, I am very strongly opposed to giving the pastor a percentage of the offerings. I would not recommend the percentage method for supporting the under-shepherd of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am highly in favor of giving the pastor a set amount. This amount should be arrived at by each church. The church should continually see about the pastor's needs. If the overseer of the flock can know what he is going to receive each week or each month he can know how to take care of his obligations. I suppose there are those who are against a set amount for the pastor. If I Corinthians does not teach that a pastor is to be taken care of, then there is no such thing taught in God's Word.

Some one might say to pay a salary is not Scriptural. For sure I have no place where the Scriptures say, "pay the pastor a salary." But on the other hand I Corinthians and other such Scriptures teach us that it surely is not unscriptural. And when, if at all possible, this set amount should at least be a reasonable amount so that the pastor could provide for the needs of his family.

## JOHN 3:16

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writer himself was not in wickedness. In John 1:10 the word world is used three different ways in one verse, "He was in the world (earth), and the world (the universe, all things) was made by him, and the world (mankind) knew him not."

But an objector is sure to quote I John 2:2 to anyone who believes that John 3:16 means just the world of the godly. And on the surface this appears as positive proof that Christ died for everybody for I John 2:2 reads, "And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." It might be well here to quote the outstanding Jewish scholar, Brother John Gill, "For the better understanding the sense of this text, it should be observed, that the apostle John was a Jew, and writes to Jews, and them chiefly, if not altogether, who were distinguished from the Gentiles; commonly called the world. Nothing is more common in the Jewish writings, than to call the Gentiles the world; the whole world; and the nations of

the world; hence the apostle Paul calls them kosmos, the world in Romans 11:12, 15."

Instead of I John 2:2 being a proof text for Arminians who believe in a universal atonement; it says much more than they want it to say, if it is carefully examined. It is a great proof against their position for the verse clearly states Christ is the propitiation for our sins: (Jewish believers) and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (Gentile believers). For whom Christ is a propitiation, their sins are atoned for and pardoned, and they are justified from all sin, and so shall most assuredly be glorified; which certainly is not true of everybody in the world. Furthermore we are told in Romans 3:25 that Christ is "...set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood..." The benefit of His propitiatory sacrifice is only received and enjoyed through faith — and the Bible distinctly says, "for all men have not faith" (II Thess. 3:2). Let me repeat, if John 3:16 and I John 2:2 means Christ died for everybody, then there is only one alternative — you have to believe in universalism.

I agree with J.R. Graves' statement, "All men are by nature Arminians," so if you will not accept the word world as the world of the elect, let me show you one more problem that every Arminian will have with John 3:16. The verse still limits for whom God gave His Son — the verse reads, "whosoever believeth on Him" — what if a man or woman does not believe? If the love is for everybody, why does the statement only cover the whosoever believeth? Did you ever compare John 3:16 with John 17:9 where the Lord Jesus says, "I pray not for the world." Does the Father elect a people, but the Son dies for everybody and the Holy Spirit tries to get as many as possible saved? Never! The Trinity is not at odds. The Trinity is in perfect accord and agreement in its work on salvation. Listen to the Psalmist give the beatitude of sovereign grace — "Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple" (Psalm 65:4).

Why did God give His only begotten Son? If the first part of John 3:16 is misunderstood and misinterpreted, the last part of the verse is neglected. These are days when the doctrine of the punishment of sin is denied, forgotten, neglected, twisted; and this is no surprise. If God loves everybody and gave His Son that everybody might be saved but can't accomplish the thing He is trying to do! John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the world that His Son was given that these believers would not perish. Now this can not mean perish as in death, for both the world of the godly and the world of the ungodly will face physical death and each day saved and unsaved people are dying.

The Scofield reference Bible has this note about the word perish, "Greek-apollumi,

translated, "marred," in Mark 2:22; "lost" in Matthew 10:6; 15:24; 18:11; Luke 15:4, 5, 32. In no New Testament instance does it signify cessation of existence or of consciousness. It is the condition of every non-believer."

Did you ever realize that John 3:16 is a wonderful proof text for the security of the believer? Most people turn to John 10:26-30 as great verses for proving the perseverance and preservation of the saints; but John 3:15; John 3:16; John 3:35; and John 3:36 are also great verses to find comfort that those whom the Father chooses, whom the Son redeems, whom the Holy Spirit calls, will always have everlasting life.

In conclusion let me relate an experience in my own life to show how the Holy Spirit used just one word "everlasting" to convince me of the wonderful, assuring doctrine of the perseverance of the saints. Upon returning to college in the fall of 1942 after being saved just a few weeks, I observed a professing Christian doing something that was not right and doubted his salvation. At the time I was unlearned and an Arminian in theology; but I had a wonderful, wise, tactful friend, who was a born again believer and a professor on the college faculty with a Ph.D. degree. He took me aside and asked me if I had everlasting life. "Certainly," I replied, for the one thing I was certain of was the fact that Christ had saved me. He then asked me, "How long will this life last?" — I hesitated for a moment and then replied, "Why eternally forever!" (Eternal life and everlasting life are the same Greek word *aiōnios*). The professor then smiled and said, "If you can lose it in two months or two years then you never had everlasting life to begin with, did you?" From that day to this I've been a firm believer in the security of the saints. Everlasting life means that those who believe on the Son of God will have eternal life now — and throughout the ages of eternity. This again shows how great God's love is for His own.

John 3:16 is one of the great verses of the Bible — but remember it does not say, "For God so loved everybody, that everybody might be saved."

## SCRIPTURE

(Continued from Page 1)

we read, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate..." In verse 30 we read, "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called..." In Ephesians 1:5 we read, "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself," and in verse 11 we read, "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."

Some few years ago I attended a funeral that was conducted by a Baptist preacher who once lived next door to me. When he came up to the pulpit he looked out toward the audience. When he saw me he looked me straight in the eye and said, "I do not believe in predestination." I realize that I am responsible to my God for whether I believe what He has said in His Word or not. But I am so thankful that I am not responsible for what that preacher believes or does not believe. Four times we are told

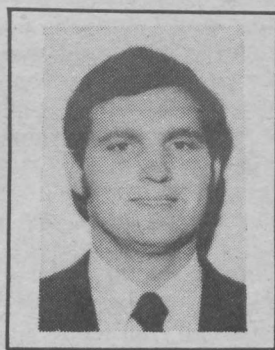
in the precious Word of God that He has predestinated certain ones. But that preacher says, "I don't believe it." How many Baptists do you know who will deny the doctrine of predestination? Most of them will call you a Hardshell if you even so much as read those Scriptures in their presence.

There are many other specific Scriptures that even most Baptists refuse to believe. But for this particular study may we consider I Corinthians 14:34. There we read, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak." In my younger days women knew that Scripture was in the Bible and they obeyed it, that is, in the part of the country where I lived. I never heard my mother nor my mother-in-law say a word in church in my life. They were both faithful members of Baptist churches. But they had not been taught these modern day ways to circumvent that Scripture. In fact I was a grown young man before I ever heard any woman speak out in a Baptist church.

It was only after Southern Baptist Convention preachers came on the scene that women began to ignore I Corinthians 14:34 and to rebel against it in the part of the country where I lived. The first detour around this Scripture that I ever saw, or heard was in a Southern Baptist training course book. The author of this book said that they were having trouble in the church at Corinth, and that Paul told the women to keep silent until the trouble was settled. Many women who had knowledge and oratorical ability and wanted to use it in the church did not think to check the author's statement. It sounded so good they just swallowed it hook, line, and sinker. Had they taken a good look at this Scripture they would have known the author was lying to them. Paul did not say in this church. "Neither did he say 'in the church.'" He said "in the churches." That takes in all of our Lord's churches. Had you told those women that they did not have education enough to tell a plural noun from a singular one you would have been in serious trouble. It takes so little to convince people that what they want to do is all right. I am made to wonder if that Southern Baptist detour around I Corinthians 14:34 has not played an important part in the

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Come and hear Brother James Crace, an appreciated Forum writer, who will be one of the conference speakers.



Brother James has a subject which deals with "Temptation."



## SCRIPTURE

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break down of the American home. And furthermore it just may be that the infamous E.R.A. may be laid on the doorstep of the Southern Baptist Convention. When a person once feels justified in rebelling against God, and against His Word, the sky becomes the limit.

According to a question that was sent in to the Baptist Examiner Forum recently, it seems that someone else has found a detour around this Scripture. It seems that somebody has come up with the bright idea that Paul just meant that women were to keep silent only in the matter of speaking in tongues and prophesying. I assume that by tongues is meant the so-called unknown tongues in I Corinthians 14. I wish our translators could have been content to just translate the Greek text in this chapter and to have left off their additions to it. Quite a few Bible readers notice that the words "unknown" in this chapter are in italics. But how many of them know why those words are in italics? You probably know that it means that these words are not in the original Greek. But since they are not in the original Greek what business do they have in the translation? That is not what is meant in I Corinthians 14:34 simply because those (unknown) tongues had not been invented when Paul wrote I Corinthians. But if they had been invented back then, and if the Holy Spirit meant that the women were to keep silent in the churches only in the matter of unknown tongues and prophesying, why did He not say so? Beloved, the Holy Spirit said what He meant; and whether we like it or not, He meant what He said.

Then just recently a beloved brother, William Lowe of Holden, Missouri sent me a clipping from some paper that really takes the cake. In an interview Dale Evans came up with a honey. She said that she had spoken in churches all over the world, but that what Paul said about women keeping silent in the churches had always bothered her. But on one of her trips she had a well educated guide who took away all that bother. He told her that in the synagogue in Capernaum the men sat on the main floor, but the woman had to sit in the balcony. And when the rabbi would lower his voice the women would yell, What did he say? He said that it was this interruption that caused Paul to reprimand the women. Dale says, "I was so relieved by that statement." Is it not wonderful when you are bothered about something and someone comes along and removes all that which you were bothered about? What a relief it is. Now Dale can speak in churches all over the world without feeling that she is rebelling against God, and against His Word simply because Max has explained it all to her.

Now let us take Max's statement apart and give it a good examination. Neither he, nor Dale should object to that. If it stands up under close examination we should all accept it just as Dale did. But if it won't stand up under that examination, no one should accept it. In the first

place, it was at least a thousand miles from Capernaum on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee to Corinth in Greece where this church was located. It is doubtful that the members of this church had ever heard tell of this synagogue in Capernaum where the women were supposed to be yelling. So why should they be reprimanded for something they knew absolutely nothing about. I have no reason to believe that Paul was ever in that synagogue himself. It is true that Paul preached in the synagogue there in Corinth until the Jews began to blaspheme, Acts 18:4-7. But when they did that he shook his raiment and told the Jews their blood was upon their own hands. He then departed from the synagogue and led his group of believers into the home of Justus. In all probability they were organized into a church there in that home. In the second place, Paul is talking to the women in the churches, and Max is talking about a Jewish synagogue. And they are not even kin folk. It sure did not take very much to relieve Dale's mind. So I repeat, It takes so little to convince people that what they plan to do anyway is all right.

It is a serious thing when anyone whether man or woman refuses to do what God says do, or when they do something God says not to do. In I Samuel 15 God told King Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites along with everything they possessed. But when Saul and his men saw some fine sheep and oxen they decided it would be better to save them to sacrifice unto the Lord. But remember, God said destroy them. And in verse 22 He says, "to obey is better than sacrifice." There is just no substitute for obeying God's Word. In verse 23 God calls Saul's failure to obey His Word rebellion. Many women today seem to think they can do God a service by talking in the church rather than by keeping silent as they are told. But still He calls it rebellion. Any time you or I do what God says for us not to we are rebelling against Him. There is just no valid excuse for our not doing what we are told to do. A Baptist woman once said to me, "If we women in our church were to keep silent the men would spend our money for any and everything. Still God's Word says for them to keep silent. If the men spend the money in a way that is not pleasing to God, they will have to answer to him for it. But if the women rebel against God and against His Word, they will have to answer for that. When Saul refused to do what God told him to do because he thought his way was better, God called it rebellion and rejected him as ruler over Israel. Could it be that some of our Lord's people will not be permitted to reign with Him in the next world because they refused to obey Him in this one? This applies to men as well as to women.

In Ezekiel 20:7 God says that He told the children of Israel to do some things. But in verse 8 He says they rebelled against Him and did not do what He told them to do. Then in verse 21 He says, "...the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments." Dear Christian woman, are you rebelling against God by refusing to do what He tells you to do in I Corinthians 14:34? If you are, please remember that John says in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful

and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." There are so many who seem to look to their own understanding in an effort to learn why women are to be silent in the churches. But anyone who really wants to know why they were told to do that, can learn why by turning to I Timothy 2:11-14. There we find that it is because Eve was deceived in the garden of Eden. Adam was not deceived. He did what he did with his eyes wide open, but Eve was deceived.

It's an easy matter to prove that Dale Evans' guide was wrong in his explanation. It's an easy matter to prove that the Southern Baptist training course book was wrong on this subject. But I challenge anyone to prove that I Timothy 2:11-14 is wrong. If I were a woman I believe I had rather hear my Lord say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" than to have the people in the church hear what I had to say.

## HE SHALL

(Continued from Page 1)

saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

In this article, we will use verse 21 as our text. In this verse, we find the wonderful words, "he shall save his people." If people would just take this verse as it is, there would be a lot of false doctrine dropped. There is a lot of Bible truth concerning salvation in this one verse of Scripture. These verses deal with the period of time in which the Lord Jesus Christ was coming as the virgin born Saviour. Now this was not the beginning of our Lord, for He is eternal God. Jesus has always been and always shall be. Jesus was coming into the world that He might offer Himself up for a sin offering. It was important that He come virgin-born, for the sin sacrifice must be a holy one, spotless and without blemish. While Jesus was God He also was man, and it was in this God-man form that He would offer Himself up. The angel declared that Mary would bring forth a child conceived of the Holy Ghost. The angel of God had a message from God, and that was that a heavenly being was coming into the world, and that He was coming in a way that no other being has ever come before. All of the Old Testament saints had been looking forward to this day. All of the saved in the Old Testament knew that their salvation lay in the Lord Jesus Christ. When they offered up sacrifices all of those years, they were not trusting in them for the saving of their souls. No, they were looking forward to that day when Jesus would come and make the atonement for sin. So when the angel told of this birth, he was proclaiming that the Scriptures were being fulfilled, and that the Saviour had come. There was a man living in this day, who was a devout and just man, whose name was Simeon. It was revealed unto him that he should not see death before he had seen the Saviour. The Bible says, that he took Him in his arms and said these words, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (Luke 2:29-30). Yes beloved, Si-

meon knew all about salvation. He knew by a God-given faith, the same way that everyone knows about it. Simeon knew that all of the sacrifices were only types of the holy One whom he was holding in his arms. There also in Jerusalem was a saint of God named Anna who had been awaiting this day for a long time. She was not hoping and trusting in the sacrifices, but rather her hope was built on nothing less than Jesus Christ and His righteousness. When she heard of the birth, we read that she... "gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). Thus you see, the saved of God have never trusted in anything or anyone but the Lord, and these saints were looking for Him to come. Those who were looking for redemption were looking for the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. So the first part of this verse has a great doctrinal teaching contained therein: the coming of the Lord into the world to make an atonement for sin. Oh, how we rejoice in the proclamation of that holy angel of God. How thankful we are that Christ was willing to come and pay the sin debt.

The next great truth we find in this verse is this. The angel had already been told of God what the Saviour's name was. Mary and Joseph did not name Him, neither did any of the family. A name had already been given Him, even that eternal name "Jesus." The angel did not say, "now you can call Him Jesus if you like", but rather, the angel said, "thou shalt call his name JESUS." There is a lot of doctrine, likewise, to be found in the name of Jesus. The name Jesus signifies some things to us. The name Jesus means Saviour. No one else has been called this by God. No angel of God has ever called any man by this name except for the Son of God. Now men may name their children by this name, or others may refer to themselves by this name, but in the eyes of God there is only one Jesus. There is no other way of salvation but through the chosen Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Men down through the ages have been trying to side-step the Lord into heaven. They have been trying to enter glory by other means, but not one of them has ever made it, for salvation is in the Lord. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). That's right friends, You'll enter in through the name of Jesus Christ, or you will not enter in at all. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved..." (John 10:9). Luke wrote in Acts 2:21, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." So you see there is no other way of salvation than through the blood of Jesus Christ. Oh, what a sweet name. There is no sweeter name upon the lips of mortal tongue than that of Jesus. No heavenly choir has ever sung a sweeter name than the name of Jesus. There is no greater name you can mention than the name of Jesus. The name of Jesus will bring joy and comfort to the weary child of God. To hear Jesus preached is a thrill for the saint of God. But my how the world misuses that precious name. My how men can take that precious holy

name and use it in their vile cursing. They let the holy name Jesus run across their lips in some filthy way not realizing what they do. Not realizing that if they are to be saved it will be through Jesus and not by their own merits. Yes, my friend, there is a lot of doctrine in the name of Jesus. Men will bow before Jesus in the judgment and answer for their sins. One day they will meet Jesus, and that will be one of the most frightful events in their existence.

The next doctrinal truth I wish to point out to you in the text is this. He shall save His people. The word "shall" is a very important word. This word says that without a doubt, Jesus is going to save His people. This means that there will be no preventing it. It is sickening to listen to all of men's theories concerning salvation. I have heard some of the holiness people in their conversations speak of how men are resisting the Spirit of God. They speak of how God is trying to save some, but that they will just not let the Saviour into their hearts. Beloved, there is no Bible for that. Such teachings cannot be found in the Bible, but only in the imaginations of men. Our text said that He shall save His people. Satan nor man can prevent the salvation of a soul. There are those who will try, but their attempts will end in failure. The devil, for instance, will try and prevent it. When the Word of God is presented he will be there to snatch the Word from men. "Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved." (Luke 8:12). In this verse, we find the devil trying to hinder the work of the Lord. We find him stealing the Word from the hearts of men so that they will not believe. This verse is not teaching that the devil has the power of God, for our text still stands. Jesus shall save His people regardless of the efforts of the devil. The devil may take the good seed for awhile, but when it comes time for the people of God to trust in Christ nothing in heaven, earth, or hell can prevent their believing. Psalm 110:3 says, "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power..." Now what will His people be willing to do? They will be willing to forsake all of their works and trust Christ as their Saviour. They will be willing to repent of their sins and flee to the Lord Jesus Christ for the saving of their souls. How will they be made willing? By the Holy Spirit of God. In the day of His power, the devil will not be able to hide the truth about Jesus from them

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Ray Hiatt, a frequent writer for T.B.E. will be preaching at our Bible Conference.



Brother Ray will be preaching about the "Beauty of Holiness."



## REVELATION

by John R. Gilpin, Sr.  
(Now in Glory)

Read Revelation 13.

VIII. He Will Be Blood-Thirsty.

"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority" (Rev. 13:2).

They say that the leopard is not only the most beautiful of beasts, but that he is likewise the most blood-thirsty. We know a little about the leopard from his very, very far-removed cousin, the little weasel; which likes to slip into the chicken house at night and suck the blood from perhaps thirty or forty chickens — never eat the flesh, but just suck the blood from the chickens. The leopard is the most blood-thirsty of all the animals of God Almighty's footstool.

Listen, beloved, that is going to be the real nature of the Antichrist. He is going to come in peaceably at first, but his real nature is that of being blood-thirsty, and it will manifest itself. You can't read this book of Revelation without realizing that the tribulation period is going to be a "survival of the fittest." During the last part of the tribulation period it will be a time when blood will flow freely within this world.

As I have said before, I don't believe that there will be a single person saved during the tribulation period but what will seal his testimony with his life's blood. I believe that every man that is saved during the tribulation period will go to heaven as a martyr for the Lord Jesus Christ.

IX. He Will Have An Indomitable Will.

"...and his feet were as the feet of a bear..." (Rev. 13:2).

The feet represent the will. Our feet can't take us any place until the will operates. It tells us that the Antichrist has feet like the bear — large feet. In other words, it indicates that he is a person with indomitable will.

Who has the largest feet of all the animals? The bear. Then it would tell us that this individual has a will power that is stronger than any individual that has ever lived within this world. My brother, my sister, surely he must be an individual of indomitable will to be able to control the nations of the world, religiously, politically, commercially, and industrially. In every phase and respect of life he is to manifest an indomitable will.

X. He Will Be An Oratorical Genius.

"...and his mouth as the mouth of a lion" (Rev. 13:2).

What beast can roar the loudest? What beast has the ability to be heard the farthest? Let a lion make a kill either in captivity or out in the open, and he will put his foot down upon that kill and throw his head back, and his roar will rend the skies. Beloved, it says that this Antichrist is going to have a mouth like a lion. He is going to be an oratorical genius.

"And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows" (Dan. 7:20).

As I have said, the Antichrist is an imitator of the Lord Jesus

Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ spoke as never man spoke; therefore when the Antichrist comes, he is going to imitate the Lord Jesus as a speaker.

I say to you, beloved, William Jennings Bryan, if he were alive when the Antichrist comes, wouldn't be able to hold a candle for this individual to speak by. He will surpass all orators of the world, both ancient and modern. He will be an oratorical genius.

XI. He Will Receive His Power From The Devil.

"...and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority" (Rev. 13:2).

Not everybody in this world gets his power from God. There's many a person who



John Gilpin

stands in the pulpit who gets power, but he doesn't get it from God. I believe with all my heart that there is many a person who gets his power from the devil.

This verse tells us that the Antichrist will get his power and his seat and his authority from the devil. Couldn't Jesus have done likewise? Didn't the devil come to Jesus in the beginning of His ministry (Matthew 4) to bring three temptations — one, to turn stones into bread; another, that He cast Himself down from the temple in the sight of the people, that the people might see Him and believe upon Him; another, that He fall down and worship the devil and he would give to Him all the kingdoms of the world.

Beloved, when the Antichrist comes, he will take the devil up on his offer — the offer that Jesus spurned — and he will get his power from the devil.

XII. He Will Have Supernatural Powers.

"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast" (Rev. 13:3).

"And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:7, 8).

This tells us that he has a wound, and it looks like he is going to die; but he lives. He has supernatural powers to the extent that all the people of the world wondered after him. In other words, everybody worshipped him except the elect of God — except those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Beloved, isn't this a glorious passage of Scripture? Some people say they wonder why I preach election so much. Beloved, the reason that I preach it so much is because I preach out of the Bible, and you can hardly preach from any passage out of

God's Word without getting election out of it.

Thank God, every one of God's elect is going to spurn the Antichrist, but those who are not God's elect are going to worship him because of his supernatural powers.

XIII. He Will Be A Religious Genius.

"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Rev. 13:4, 8, 14, 15).

When the Antichrist takes over, he is going to be worshipped. Not only will he be worshipped, but his able confederate, the beast out of the earth, who is the Anti-Holy Spirit, is going to make an image to the beast and will give to that image power to speak. He is going to give that image supernatural power and everyone who won't worship that image of the Antichrist will be put to death.

You say, "Brother Gilpin, how in the world is the Anti-Holy Spirit going to make that image to speak and act like a man?" Beloved, I don't know. Hypnotism is a strange thing. I have seen a few professional hypnotizers work, and, beloved, through hypnotism strange things can be done. I have seen things done when a hypnotizer, apparently with the sweep of his hand, hypnotized the entire audience. I sat there spellbound and believed that what I saw was taking place, when actually it was what the hypnotizer had put within my mind.

I don't know the explanation as to how the Antichrist causes this image to act and talk like a man, but the fact is, he is going to be a religious genius.

We are getting ready for that kind of worship right now. We have union in the air — everybody wanting to unite. Everybody is saying, "What is the use of fighting other doctrines? What difference does it make about these little things we differ about? Let's get together around the big things." Isn't that the trend today? Beloved, it is just paving the way for the Antichrist. He is coming some of these days, and when he comes, he is going to take the religion of the pope, the teachings of the atheists, the teachings of the Protestants, and the heresies of the Buddhists and all the various teachers of the world and he is going to weave them together into one religion, and he is going to set up his own image, and the world is going to worship as he says.

I like unity but I don't like

union meetings. There's a lot of difference between the two. Years ago, when I was but a boy preacher, I was on my way to preach when I noticed ahead of me a lot of disturbance and noise. As I neared the crowd, I saw that a couple of the fellows had tied a tomcat and an opossum tail to tail and hung them over a clothes line. Beloved, there was plenty of union there, but there wasn't any unity.

Beloved, you can have union meetings today. You can get Methodists, Campbellites, Catholics, Baptists, Holy Rollers and Protestants and mix them up together. You can have union all right, but the only way that you can have unity is by a belief of the Word of God. If you get away from the beliefs and the tenets of the Word of God, there isn't any unity.

The Antichrist, I say, is going to be a religious genius.

XIV. He Will Continue As An Oppressor For 42 Months.

"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months" (Rev. 13:5).

Forty-two months, or three and one-half years, doesn't sound like a very long time, but it will be a long time for the individuals that will be on the earth at that time.

XV. He Will Be A Military Genius.

"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations" (Rev. 13:4, 7).

"And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people" (Dan. 8:24).

The Antichrist will be able to control the world. He will have the atom bomb, the hydrogen bomb, the cobalt bomb, and he will have all the rest of the bombs that will be brought into existence by that time at his disposal. Why wouldn't he be able to control the world?

We talk about Alexander the Great. Why was he great? Because he was a murderer; because he was a butcher; because he was a warrior. But, beloved, the exploits of Alexander the Great in his Grecian Empire will be story book play in comparison with the Antichrist when he controls the world.

XVI. He Will Persecute All Who Differ With Him.

"And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Rev. 13:7, 15).

Beloved, think about some of the things that Baptists have gone through in the past. They have suffered in the days gone by. Go back to the day when that faithful Baptist preacher

refused to bow before heresy and they put him in a leather sack with snakes, scorpions, and creeping things of all kinds and sewed the top and dropped him into the sea. Tell me, beloved, that Baptists haven't suffered in the past!

May I remind you of that day in the sixteenth century when the Catholics invited the Huguenots into Paris, France, and on St. Bartholomew's Day, fell upon them and killed seventy thousand Huguenots in one day's time, until the blood ran in the streets of Paris. When the pope heard what had happened, he ordered that they sing the doxology in all the churches.

Let me remind you of that long ago when, because Baptists refused to bow before heresy, that they were put upon poles while still alive, and with shirts starched with oil and grease, were set afire and used for torches around the king's arena. Beloved, they were dying in defense of the faith.

Let me tell you of that Baptist preacher who refused to have anything to do with Easter. You say, "Brother Gilpin, almost all Baptists have something to do with Easter." Let me tell you something, beloved, history says that because one Baptist preacher didn't have anything to do with Easter that they cut him to pieces, piece by piece, and let him suffer as long as they could until he expired.

I say to you, beloved, what Baptists have gone through with in the past is only a foretaste in comparison to what is coming to pass when the Antichrist comes into this world. Thank God, you and I are not going to be here. All of God's children will be gone — caught away when Jesus comes. Some of His elect will be saved during the tribulation period, but they will go to heaven as martyrs to the cause of Christ, because they won't worship the Antichrist.

XVII. He Will Be A Commercial Genius.

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six" (Rev. 13:16-18).

What a day it will be when men will be virtually slaves to the Antichrist! If you want to buy or if you want to sell, you will come up before an individual who will give you an inspection. If you do not have the mark of the beast either in your hand or on your forehead, he will refuse to buy or sell from you. You will be completely shut out.

Beloved, we know a little about this in our own experience. You remember when World War I was being fought how that we had rationing of flour. Then when World War II came along, we had red stamps and blue stamps when things were being rationed. Beloved, we are just getting ready for the

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## REVELATION

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Antichrist, and when he comes, that will be the way that buying and selling will be done. He will be a commercial genius and the nations of the world will be virtually his slaves. They will buy and sell at his command.

XVIII. He Will Have An Able Confederate.

"And I beheld another beast coming out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon" (Rev. 13:11).

This beast coming up out of the earth, the Anti-Holy Spirit, is going to be the spiritual advisor to the Antichrist.

Now who is going to be on the earth to carry on the work of God? In Revelation 11:3 it speaks about the "two witnesses." Beloved, those two witnesses are none other than Elijah and Enoch.

Notice this fact, this Anti-Holy Spirit is going to be here to attempt to caricature the work of Elijah.

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men" (Rev. 13:13).

What did Elijah do when he was here on earth? Go out yonder and stand beside Elijah on Mount Carmel, with the burned up plains of Jezreel stretching out before him, and hear him as he prayed a little prayer; see the fire fall down from heaven and burn up the sacrifice and the altar and consume the stones on the altar.

During the tribulation period Elijah will be here to encourage the saints of God. What is the Anti-Holy Spirit going to do? He is going to caricature the work of Elijah. He will bring fire down from heaven in order to deceive the people. I tell you, my brother, my sister, terrible days await the world when the Antichrist puts in his appearance.

I am glad that I am not going to be here during the tribulation period. Some of my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus will be here. They are going to suffer as martyrs when I am yonder in glory to walk the streets of gold.

Conclusion:

If these saints of God had to stand for the things of God against the Antichrist during the tribulation period, then how about you and me today? Don't you think we ought to try to stand a little more squarely for the things of Christ against the things of this Antichristian world? Beloved, God wants us to be faithful and true and to stand for the things that are right, looking forward to that day when we are going to stand before Him.

May God bless you!

## HE SHALL

(Continued from Page 6)

anymore. When the Spirit comes in power the devil must flee like a scared jack rabbit. The devil, even though he has great power, is helpless to defeat God. When it comes time for the Word to be made effective in one's life, the Spirit comes with power; and He comes effectively. In other words, He accomplishes what He comes to do.

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Another truth found in the text is that He shall save His people. They are the ones that Jesus is interested in saving. When in the womb of Mary, He had a people on His mind. In eternity past, there was an elect people on the mind and heart of God. God does not have, nor has He ever had any intention of saving any others but those whom He chose. Our text declares without any doubt that Jesus came to save a chosen people. Again, take notice of the word "shall" This word again declares that Jesus is going to do this very thing. It declares that it is the sovereign purpose and will of God to save His people. Now logically, the people referred to in this verse cannot be the whole world. If this verse means all of mankind then Jesus was a failure. For it was His mission, purpose, and will to save His people. If this verse meant the whole world, we could have no confidence in Him at all. If He failed to do His will, He would cease to be God and could not be qualified to be a saviour. If this verse means the whole world, then the angel of God lied to Joseph. If Jesus came to save all men, a holy, sinless angel told one of the biggest lies that ever was told, because multitudes are in a burning hell right now. If the whole world is meant in this verse, then God the Father lied, for He sent the angel with the message. It was a heavenly command which said, go and tell of the birth of Jesus. If the whole world is meant here, then the Holy Spirit is a liar, for He is the one who inspired Matthew to write the words found in our text. Thus you see, to say this verse means Jesus came to save everyone makes liars of the heavenly host. You make the blessed Trinity liars and the angels of God along with them. So these few words tell us that God had a people on His mind, and that Jesus came into the world to make an atonement for their sins and their sins alone. He shall save His people.

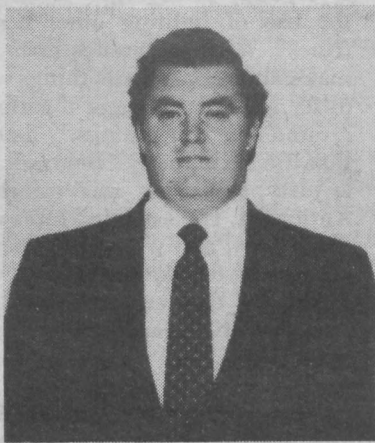
The Bible teaches that His people have always been His. I don't believe this goats turning into sheep stuff. If you are a goat you will always be a goat and if you are a sheep you always shall be a sheep. John 10:27 says, "My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me." There is no mention made of goats here, because the goats will not hear the voice of the Lord. The goats will not repent of their sins, for no power is given unto them of the Lord to do so. Only the sheep will come to Christ, for it is the sheep that God chose before the foundation of the world. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep." Many accuse the Baptists of making this doctrine up. Well beloved, when the angel spoke to Joseph, there was not a Baptist church in existence. This doctrine of an elect people is an eternal doctrine. The Word of God deals with Jesus saving the elect of God. You cannot escape this fact. Jeremiah speaks of the eternal love which God has had for His chosen people. "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." God has loved the elect from all eternity. And notice, this verse speaks of God drawing those whom He loves. If God loves you He will save you. If God does not love you, then you are

not His, and Jesus did not die for you at Calvary. Some hold to the doctrine that God loves everyone. This simply is not true. God only loves the elect, and all others He hates. I know that some believe that God loves all men, and just has a lesser love for the non-elect. But there are no Scriptures to back that up. The Bible says that God loved Jacob, and that He hated Esau. He hated Esau because he was a sinner, a transgressor of the law of God. On the other hand, God loved a sinning Jacob because He chose him in eternity past to be a joint heir with His Son Jesus Christ. I don't believe in the lesser-love theory either. I believe that God loves His children to the fullest extent that a Holy God can love them.

Another teaching I would like for you to consider in the text is this: that He shall save His people from their sins. At Calvary all of the sins of the elect were taken care of. During those three hours of darkness Jesus had the wrath of God poured out upon Him because of the sins of the elect. In other words, every sin of Doug Newell was brought before God, and Jesus took it upon Himself and suffered for each one of them. Every sin I will ever commit was paid for by Jesus. Likewise, if you are saved, Jesus did the same thing for you. When our text says that he shall save His people from sin, that is what it means. The elect are saved from the penalty of sin. There is no way possible for the elect to lose their salvation and go to hell. Jesus had paid the full price of redemption, and God the Father is satisfied with it. What Jesus did at Calvary satisfied the justice of God. All of the elect of God shall surely enter heaven one day because Jesus loved them, died for them, and made an atonement for their souls. All of the blood shed at Calvary was for the elect. Not one drop was shed for a goat, but rather it was all shed for the sheep. Not one prayer was prayed for them by the Lord Jesus. You can read in John 17:9 how that Christ only prayed for the elect of God, and that the reprobates were not mentioned as far as salvation was concerned.

There is a lot of truth, many times, found in a small portion of the Word of God. This is an example of how simple the Word of God is to the chosen of God. I must admit that there are saved people who do not believe all that I have said, but all who have had their eyes opened to the truth of the atoning work of our Lord must surely agree

One of the more powerful preachers of our day, Brother Gene Kiger, will preach at our Memorial Day conference.



Brother Gene will preach on the subject "How is the Atonement Limited?"

that our text is a marvellous one. This text is one of great hope to the believer. It leaves salvation totally in the hands of God, and gives us the assurance of eternal salvation. It also gives us hope that some of our families who are lost might be some of the elect of God no matter how hard they fight the truth and hate to see us coming with the Gospel. May this cause us to want to preach more and more, for we by faith, can believe the promise of God. Yes beloved, He shall save His people. May the Lord bless you all.

## PHYSICIAN

(Continued from Page 1)

(Mark 5:24-34).

This woman had two problems. She had a physical problem, bleeding, and also a problem with the soul.

In our day and time we have a lot of physicians of the body. Some have licenses and some don't. A while back they were catching many of these doctors who were practicing medicine that didn't even have a license. We call them quacks. They have no authority to do what they are doing.

Notice what is said in verse 26 of our text. "And had suffered many things of many physicians..." She suffered many attempted cures. Many times we go to the doctor, and he writes a prescription that's not very strong, and he will have us to come back. He is making money from us. He is saying how silly we are and how smart he is. These physicians were making money from this poor woman. They were having her to try many types of cures. She suffered many things from the hands of these physicians, but she wasn't any better. They took all of her money. They took all she had. We think about the poor people today who are on medicare and don't have any other kind of insurance, and yet they raise the medicare every year. The poor people are not able to pay it now. They are losing it, and they don't have anything. So they are suffering because of the cost and the situation that our world is in today. This woman was suffering many things that we still suffer today.

We have so called spiritual physicians in our day and time. They are not called of God. They have not been ordained of God and have no authority whatsoever to write any kind of prescription concerning the soul; yet they do it. They get in the pulpit every Sunday and preach and say they are giving prescriptions to the hearers that this prescription will be all right, and it will take care of the soul. A man must be called of God before he can preach. He must be ordained by a New Testament church. He must be sent forth by a New Testament church. The man that writes the prescription must have the authority of a New Testament church. So she had suffered many things of many physicians and spent all that she had. She was no better but rather became worse. That is the way it is today. People are heart sick, soul sick, and sick of body. They are going and giving their money and time to these so-called physicians, but all these physicians are doing is damning their soul. They don't have any kind of prescription that they can write them that will bring any relief or any cure to their soul.

What kind of physicians do we have today? First of all he

puts out his shingle. If a man puts out his shingle he should have passed his State exam and have all that on his wall. It's the same thing if a man is called to preach the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ who is the physician of the soul. I can't heal the soul but I can write a prescription that will relieve the soul. I can write a prescription that will save the soul. This is preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber" (John 10:1).

He that says he is going to preach without the authority of a New Testament church and without being called to be an under shepherd is a thief and a robber. That is what those physicians were. They knew they couldn't heal this woman. They had no authority to do so because they did not come in at the door. Why did they climb up some other way? Because they didn't have any shingle to put on their wall. They didn't have anything to show that they had graduated from an accredited college that taught medicine. Spiritually they had not been called of God to preach. They had not been ordained of a New Testament church to preach. They had no right to write prescriptions concerning the souls of men, women, boys, and girls. Today multitudes of people will flock and listen to these men. These men say they have a cure. John the Baptist was the porter here. He opened the door. The Holy Spirit showed John the credentials of Jesus Christ. He came in the door with the authority to get His sheep.

"But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep" (John 10:2). The Holy Spirit is the porter now. Who is the porter over the church? The Holy Spirit is. He is the one that takes care of the door. He is the one that sends out and separates. "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Soul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus" (Acts 13:2-4). Being separated by the Holy Spirit unto the work to which God had called them, the church sent them out as missionaries. In other words the Holy Spirit led them unto the work which God had called them to do.

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not

(Continued on Page 9 Column 1)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

I am often asked about a place that binds books and Bibles. I can highly recommend the work mentioned in this announcement.

B & C Bindery, P.O. Box 350, Bluff City, Tenn., 37618. Book binding and foil stamping. Don't throw your hymnals away. We rebind hymnals, stamp, and trim in gold. \$3.85 in lots of 50 or more, plus tax.

We rebind Bibles and all types of books. Our price depends upon the condition of the books. All work is guaranteed. For estimate or further information, call 615-538-7817.



## PHYSICIAN

(Continued from Page 8)

believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14). So if I'm called to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, then I can write a prescription by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep" (John 8, 10, 12, 13). So these men do not care for the soul. These men do not have any

concern, compassion, or love whatsoever concerning mens souls. They say they do, but they don't. The Bible plainly states that if you are not called and you are not the under shepherd, then you are a hireling and you care not for the sheep. You don't watch out for the sheep, and you don't lead the sheep to green pastures. But you flee because you are a hireling and don't care a thing in the world concerning the sheep.

There is another physician that we have out in the world today who writes prescriptions day and night. His prescription is - works for salvation. They tell their hearers to do something. Back in our text concerning this woman. "And had suffered many things of many physicians." Different physicians had told her different things to do for a cure. This physician is telling her she has to work. You have to come up front. You must take the first step. You must open your heart's door and let Jesus in. You must repeat this prayer

after me and you will be saved. If you take this prescription in time it will kill you and destroy your soul.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2: 8-9). We can not be saved by works. We can't be saved by keeping the law, by doing the best we can, by walking up front, or by being baptized. We are not saved because we open our heart's door. They will say open your heart's door and let Jesus in. You take the first step, they will say. Walking up front doesn't save you. By walking up front you are openly confessing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. You are telling the church you are saved and want to be baptized. So this position or prescription is works for salvation.

Another prescription is activity. He is an activity man. Activists always have something going on. Always busy feeding the flesh. This is activity. You

have someone sitting and telling you the things you are to do. They are known as the authority in the church. They are the ones that know what is good for your soul. They are the ones in authority to tell you what you must do. They have the prescription to write out to you that you might do some activities. They wanted this lady in the church. They wanted her to be busy though she was sick. She didn't have any relief from her physical problem and from her soul problem. But yet she had a little bit of money left and they said we will get that little bit of money. She can tithe and put in a pledge. "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not" (Matt. 23:3). "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:8-9).

(Matt. 15:8-9).

Man-made religion isn't anything but the philosophy of man. The concept of the mind of man. You are following the teaching of man, the concepts of man, and the so called religion that has been handed down or he made up his own doctrine.

"But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Mat. 15:13-14).

Their teachings and what they are doing is blind. Just like a blind man trying to lead another blind man. Jesus said in John 4:23, "...the Father seeketh such to worship him." What did Jesus say to the woman at the well? You know not what you worship. These are millions and millions of people who know what they worship. If you ask them what do they believe. They say they believe

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## IMPRESSIONS DECENCY

by Ray Hiatt

This is one of those words which have fallen out of fashion. In Western cow-towns there was an invisible line called the dead line which divided the rowdy cowboys from the decent people, and the town marshal enforced this line with firearms. Since those far ago days the line between decency and indecency has become blurred and in many cases erased.

The teachings of Jesus Christ have brought decency to a world which has from the beginning performed every venial act and licensed it by religious creeds. The world's religions exist to legitimize varied indecencies. This is not too strong a statement. Examine them. The Muslim is allowed to slay his foes and gain paradise thereby, while the Koran gives approval to his private revenge which he would perform in any case. The Mormon, seeking to justify fleshly indecency, wrote plural marriages into his creed. This legitimizing of indecency

by a religious covering is in all religions, and you have but to glance at them to discover it.

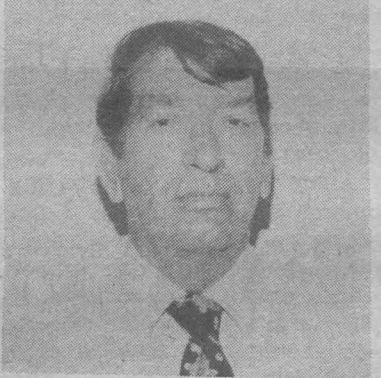
Humanism is a religion of indecency though it is not new. It is merely ancient hedonism under a different title. It is the controlling force in the Western world. It regulates what is read, seen, and every phase of daily existence. It legitimizes indecency to such a degree that the term itself has ceased to have relevance. It is no longer asked if an action is right or wrong, but only if it is meaningful or pleasurable. Hemingway once said that, "A moral act is one which you feel good afterward, and an immoral act is one which you feel bad after you do it." This is the indecent gauge which humanists use to measure all deeds. The very concept of wrong is lost in such a concept. Hedonism and its new born cousin "Humanism" will justify lying, theft, sodomy, incest, and homicide if they are meaningful. The banner of humanism is the term relationship. Any act is justified if it can some way be called a meaningful relationship. This term covers a multitude of sins, for even the term sin has fallen into disuse in Western society. So long as indecency is called meaningful, the Western world now smiles upon it.

Francis Schaeffer has perhaps the best work on this subject in "The God Who Is There." He emphasizes the crucial factor of the eroding away of absolutes. Where there is no absolute standard, men have no gauge for their acts. The Roman church and the Protestants have given way to humanism by forsaking absolute standards of human conduct. But then we never expected much from them anyway. In Roman and Protestant churches the terms right and wrong have ceased to have meaning, while relevance is now their guide.

Television of course is an active tool of indecency. Television is not evil within itself, but its usage has become indecent. Public service announcements speak of drugs, abortion, and sexual activity; but never with a view of right and wrong but only as to abuses. No absolute moral standard of decency is ever held forth. Programming on network television never, never addresses

any concept of decency or indecency. The rule is, "If it works for you, do it". They only mark an action as wrong if it is abused.

For many centuries there was a Christian influence which ruled somewhat in the Western world. America has never been a Christian nation as some say, but America has been governed



Ray Hiatt

by this powerful influence which dictated right and wrong, decency and indecency. Public opinion regulates human activity more surely than codified laws. When the Victorian said, "That really isn't done," he spoke of a Christian influence on public opinion which controlled the populace at large which thought of itself as decent.

The Western world is now a cesspool of filth and indecency. Yet, this isn't really the fault of the humanists/hedonists or really of evil men. Evil men have always been evil, and they are no more wicked today than before. They have not changed. The Hedonist influence of indecency has not risen; the Christian influence of decency has been lowered. The Christians of the West have not been defeated; they have surrendered. Evil men will always perform indecency if public pressure and opinion allow them to. They are like water. They will flow to whatever avenue of access is open to them. Christian influence has in the past acted as a dam which pent up the evil influences and controlled them. No more. The Christian influence for decency has waned and so evil men, by their nature, rise up and give vent to every indecency simply because they are allowed to do so.

The Christian influence has lessened, and the humanist influence has filled the void. My

Political Science professor once told me, "Power does not exist in a vacuum." If one active force moves out another moves in. The Christian force on public influence has moved out over the past years, and quite naturally the vacuum has been filled by the forces of indecency. The first thing which Political Science teaches you is that the rules are made by the strong. This is a rule of life which has no exception. The strong, whether they be kings, parliaments, influences, or Communist dictatorships do make the rules. Humanists have come to a place of power where they now make the rules in school text books, television programming, and the entire flow of information. They didn't win this position in open battle. It was ceded to them by a weakening Christian influence, and the why of this I still do not know. For hundreds of years the Christian influence for decency made the rules in Western society. No more. I repeat that we haven't been defeated, we have surrendered.

For centuries the Christian influence controlled public policy and programs at every level. No politician could hope to be elected if he did not at least pay lip service to this influence of decency. No government program could ever be enacted unless it accorded with the accepted view of Christian decency. Now if you mention decency and right and wrong to any politician of any party, he simply will not know what you are saying. He will be mystified. Politicians now give attention to human rights, never considering whether they are decent or indecent from Biblical perspective.

I am not an expert or prophecy beyond the simplistic teachings on the subject. However, I do have the impression that this ascendancy of indecency is laying the paved stones upon which the anti-christ shall walk. No doubt all men in all ages past have seen their age as the gateway to the anti-christ, but the day on which I write this seems preeminently so. There are people who seem to have their consciences seared with a hot iron, and they predominate today. If you speak of decency to them they simply shake their heads in wonder, for you are speaking a

strange tongue to them. Like Israel of old, this generation is no longer able to blush and this is because their consciences are deadened to where they are not embarrassed by their sins.

You must not lay too great a stress on small things, but straws do show you which way the wind is blowing. My wife once worked in an office with many other women here in Florida. These women used, in their daily conversations, the foulest possible language and were not even aware that it was vile. Though we were in financial hardship I demanded that my wife resign for this language was a daily disturbance to her.

The language of these women is emblematic of the disease of indecency which now swamps us. The language of these women is foul because the prevalent influence does not censure it. These women are probably no worse than worldly women of the past, but the controlling influence in Western society now allows such language without any rebuke.

Evil men have always been evil, but their public conduct has in the past been regulated by a Christian influence. It is difficult now to dine at a restaurant without being soiled by the filthiness of the language at adjoining tables. I seldom take my children into restaurants anymore for this cause.

Are we in the latter days? I cannot say. I leave this to wiser minds. But the very flood of indecency which taints us every day would seem to say so. Can this tide of indecency be allayed? It surely can, but only by the re-institution of the Christian influence of the past. Baptists must be in the vanguard of such a movement. The ministries of Baptist churches have turned the world upside down in the past and can do so again. We expect nothing from the world's religions which name the name of Christ, but which are indecent. Baptists must do the work if it is to be done. We cannot reform society, for it is evil; but a powerful Christian influence can control the indecency which troubles us all.

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## APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Brother Wilson,

Greetings in the name of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. I hope this finds you and your family in good health and spirit, and enjoying the blessing of God. I know that I should write you more often to let you know how much T.B.E. means to me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lord for the work that you and Calvary Baptist Church do for Him, and to let you know what a blessing we receive from T.B.E., and the tape ministry.

I hope this love offering will help to spread the Gospel and the doctrines of grace throughout the world. Yours in Christ, Bill Elliott, Matthews, N.C.

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Dear Brother Joe,

I see my subscription for your paper is about to expire, I'm enclosing \$6.00, please renew it for another year. I do not want to miss a single copy. The writers in your paper mean a lot to my Christian experience. I pray the Lord will continue to bless you, yours, and your work. Sincerely, Carl M. Davis, Erwin, Tenn.



## PHYSICIAN

(Continued from Page 9)

what their church believes. What does your church believe? The church believes what I believe. They don't know what they believe or what kind of doctrine is going on. It is the activity and the work that is going on in the organization and it has people blinded to the fact of salvation. Satan is a shrewd fellow. This poor old woman is still sick. She doesn't have any money. She has tried all kinds of cures. Not only did she give these physicians her money, but she suffered at the hands of them. It brought pain upon following the instructions of the physicians in what they told her to do.

The next physician she went to; his prescription was Arminianism. What is Arminianism? Any system of doctrines that conditions the saving purpose of God on the acts or merits of men. The spirit of Arminianism is the spirit of modernism. So-called churches today call it modernism. You have to modernize or keep up with the world. To win the world you have to do as the world does. You have to give the world what they want if you want to win the world to Christ. They are making reason instead of divine revelation the standard of truth. Arminianism is the power of man. It began with man, and it will perish with man.

"When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole" (Mark 5:27-28). How do we touch Christ? I touch Christ by reaching out by faith and simply receiving Him as my Lord and Saviour. I touch Him through the Word of God. I touch the garment, and He makes me whole. He saves me. That's what people need to do today. Look to Christ and live. Trust Him and receive Him by faith. He will heal your soul. If you don't use the prescription given in the gospel of Jesus Christ, it will not do you any good. You need to heed the prescription in the gospel. That Christ came into the world to die for sinners. If you come to Him He will not cast you out.

## POSITIVE

(Continued from Page 1)

the body of Christ in the New Testament can only be realized as a local visible assembly of Scripturally baptized believers.

Our text today is the first place of 115 in the New Testament where the Greek word "ecclesia" is used. Jesus sounds rather narrow in this verse. He seems to be saying that there is only one kind of church that can qualify as His church. We can not spend a lot of time on this subject, but we would like to look at as many ideas as we can today; and see if we can make a positive identification of the church out of all the different concepts and uses of the word.

We might pretend that we are looking at a police line-up and must pick the one out of all the suspects which most closely resembles the New Testament description of the Lord's church. Let us look at a few.

1. The ecumenical church:

This refers not to one particular kind of church but to all denominations, collectively speaking as one. But as we think of all the divisions among the denominations and see in the Bible that God is not the author of confusion, this is obviously not of the New Testament meaning of the word "ecclesia."

2. The historical church: Again, no specific kind of church is meant here unless it is clearly seen in the context as a certain denomination. The normal meaning of this usage of the word simply refers to ecclesiastical activity down through time. This too is not the New Testament meaning of church.

3. The denominational church: This refers to a whole denomination as one church; such as the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Episcopal Church, or Methodist Church and so on. We will not weary you with a parade of all these counterfits now. Perhaps we can have a denomination national line-up in another study. Suffice it to say for now that we as true Baptists do not use this term of ourselves, because we see ourselves not as one church, but a denomination of many true churches throughout the world.

4. The ideal church: This too is not a real church but a model to go by. It is described by the New Testament in general, but is not actually located anywhere. Visible examples of it might be found where ever true churches are striving toward perfection. May God grant that the local church of which you are a member exemplifies the ideal New Testament church.

5. The generic church: This is the sense in which Jesus used the word in our text. He was speaking institutionally. Of course Jesus knew He would organize His first local assembly of Baptists in Jerusalem; but He also knew that out of that institution a succession of sister assemblies would continue to do His will until the rapture; so He used the word generally speaking of all true churches in the singular. We do the same thing with other words. For example, we might speak of the home as being the backbone of a nation, not meaning one particular home, but using the word institutionally. Or we might say the father is the head of the home, or apple pie is a very tasty dessert etc., again not meaning one father or one apple pie, but using the words generally.

6. The local visible church: Out of all the different uses of the word church, this is the closest to the meaning of the original word ecclesia. Here we find ourselves on solid ground. "Ecclesia" simply means assembly or congregation. There are three places in the New Testament where ecclesia is used that do not refer to the Lord's church. (Acs 19:32, 39, 41). These verses clearly indicate that an ecclesia is a local visible thing. So, not every local visible assembly is a true church of the Lord Jesus Christ, but every true church is a local visible assembly. Nothing else can be His church. A true church must match the pattern of the New Testament.

7. The universal invisible church: This is sometimes called by other names such as the spiritual body of Christ, the general or mystical body, or the big true church. This view of the church presents a realm of imaginative speculation, undefined

concepts, vague generalities, confusion and talking in circles. Again I must abbreviate the message here but with a little encouragement I would bring forth another study on "Refuting the Universal Invisible Church Theory."

Now, before we conclude this message, let us see if we can make a positive identification of the New Testament church of our Lord Jesus Christ. At least 97 out of the 115 times that the word ecclesia is used in the New Testament, it is undebatably speaking of a local visible assembly. We believe this basic meaning of the word can also very easily apply to the rest of the so-called problem verses. Everyone agrees that there is a local visible king of church in Scripture and in history, but those who teach that there is also some other intangible, imaginary, invisible kind of church can not even agree among themselves as to what it is and who is in it. They are in hopeless confusion and inconsistency when it comes to the awful doctrine of the so called invisible church.

The confusion about the different concepts of the church can be easily cleared up by the Scriptures themselves. We have the unalterable fact that the only living, working, preaching, baptizing, teaching kind of church seen in the New Testament is an assembly located in some particular place. They are spoken of in the plural. Christ recognized seven of these kind of churches by writing letters to them (Rev. 1:11). Generally or institutionally speaking it is "my church" but actually speaking they are "the churches." There is no practical way for the Lord to express Himself in any other kind of church but the local visible kind.

I am not just giving you my opinion on this subject. I am giving you what the New Testament shows to be the proper working order of church life. If you are a local visible believer, you should be a member of a local visible assembly of Scripturally baptized believers to properly serve God the New Testament way. Let it sink into your soul right now that I am not using church councils, creeds and articles of faith to prove my point. Much error has evolved down to us today through man's writings and the interpretation of them. If you would learn of the Lord's church, you must go to His Word on the subject. The New Testament is the only source guaranteed to be reliable on the subject of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. All other sources and documents are debateable. Let us therefore consider a few New Testament marks of a true local church.

1. Its Head and Founder: Jesus Christ (Col. 1:18; Matt. 16:18). 2. Its only rule of faith and practice: The Bible (II Tim. 3:15-17). 3. Its members: Scripturally Baptized believers (Acts 2:41). 4. Its style of operation: Congregational, Spirit led democracy (Acts 1:15-26). 5. Its ordinances: Believers, Baptism, (immersion) followed by the Lord's Supper (Jn. 1:6; Matt. 3:1-2, 7-8, 13-17; Jn. 1:32-33 and I Cor. 11:23-34). 6. Its officers: Pastors (bishop, elder) and Deacons (I Tim. 3:1-16). 7. Its financial plan: Tithes and Offerings (I Cor. 9:14). 8. Its purpose and mission: Get folks saved, baptize and teach them (Matt. 28:19-20). 9. Its independence: Separation of church and state (Matt. 22:21) and cooperation with sister

churches but non-affiliation with other groups (II Cor. 8:18-19 and II Cor. 6:16-17). 10. Its name: Jesus called it "My church" and "the churches" (Matt. 16:18, Rev. 22:16).

Finally, in dealing with our Lord's church, we must be careful to remain where He ordained it to be, not in some mystical universal invisible realm but where real people walk and talk in visible bodies with sin blinded eyes and spiritually dead souls. The only kind of church that can reach those kind of people is the local visible New Testament kind.

## ARRANGED

(Continued from Page 1)

marriages would possibly educate us as to how to love. (Rottenberg, "Elements of Argument" 125-127). Mr. Stengel, obviously does not adhere to the principles laid out by the principal authority of marriage — the Word of God. Consequently, one must be inclined to much rather consider the infallible Word of God as opposed to the fallible word of



Andy Proctor

man. Specifically, what does the Bible say about marriage? Well, in order to answer this question one must ask and answer these questions with reference to God's Holy Word: Who instituted marriage? What is marriage? What are the steps toward a successful marriage?

First of all, who instituted marriage; who was the Creator of marriage? Actually, we find that God Himself created the institution of marriage. Namely, the Word of the Lord asserts,

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon

Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." (Genesis 2:21-24).

Hence, we have God the Creator instituting marriage as revealed through the Holy Scriptures. Moreover, the married couple's relationship with the Creator of marriage is essential for a successful marriage; however, this will be covered in more detail when we cover the steps toward a successful marriage.

Secondly, what is marriage? The Holy Bible, for instance, affirms that when the Pharisees confronted Jesus concerning divorce, He answered them by saying,

"Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder." (Matthew 19:4-6).

Thus, the definition of marriage can be extended on this wise — the union of man and woman in the flesh further perfected through spiritual union between the married couple and God.

Thereupon, the third question must needs be asked — what are the steps toward a successful marriage? Basically, there are four fundamental steps toward a successful, God-pleasing marriage. The first step deals with each individual's relationship with the Lord God Almighty — the Creator of marriage. If one is not at peace with God the Originator of marriage — how can one have a successful, holy marriage? What puts enmity between man and God? Sin is

(Continued on Page 11 Column 1)

## MY GRANDPA

Back when I was just a child,  
I'd look up at my grandpa with a great big smile.  
I'd tell him the things for the Lord I would do,  
And ask him if he could do them too?  
He'd just look at me and nod,  
I could see in his face the miles he'd trod.  
Then with a gentle pat on the head,  
This is what my grandpa said.  
"There's nothing for God you can do,  
He's already done it all for you."  
Back then I did not understand,  
About God's holy, sovereign plan.

Now since the passing of my youth,  
It pleased the Lord to show me the truth.  
My grandpa is no longer here,  
But in my heart he's very near.  
Today I watch people work and plan,  
They talk about the greatness of man.  
How he does the saving of the lost.  
How he wins them for Christ no matter the cost.  
Then I remember from years ago,  
The words of the grandpa I loved so.  
There's nothing for God you can do,  
He's already done it all for you."

Faye Moore



## ARRANGED

(Continued from Page 10)

what is between God and humanity. For the Scriptures say, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Nonetheless, there is hope for the sinner — praise God! How is this? Well, one can be "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Throughout the entirety of the Word of God there are many references toward the salvation of mankind from his sins through the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. One must be drawn by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and quickened by the Spirit. As a result, the sinner repents of his sins by grace through faith in the redemptive work of Christ upon the cruel cross of Calvary.

Now that step number one has been accomplished — step number two has to follow. In particular, one should be baptized into one of the Lord's true churches, and be a faithful member thereof. Evidence exists to support this claim? Specifically, for example, in the book of Acts on the day of Pentecost — Peter was preaching the gospel to a multitude of people. This is what happens in this event:

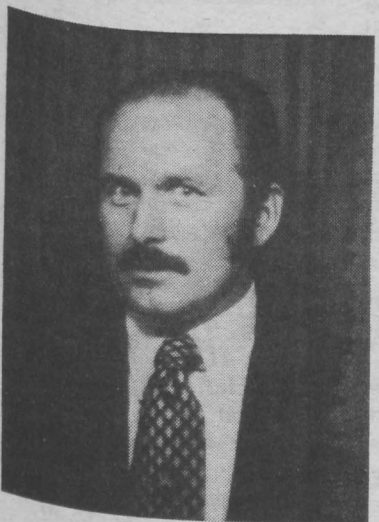
"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:41-42).

Previously, Peter had advised them to do that which was aforementioned. Once again, if one is to have a successful, peaceful marriage — one must obey the Creator of marriage.

Accordingly, the final, yet continual (save the time in glory), step toward a prosperous partnership is performed through strict obedience to God's Word — all of it. Namely, one must consider the role of the husband as spoken in the Scriptures, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." (Colossians 3:19). In other words, respect your wife — be understanding, love her as yourself.

In addition, one should examine the wife's role in marriage; "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord" (Colossians 3:18). In

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brief, obey your husband — so long as he asks you to do things which are according to the Word of the Lord.

Furthermore, let not the husband, nor the wife be envious or dissatisfied with their respective roles which God had founded, lest trouble find its way into the marriage. No one said it would be an easy task; nevertheless, with God's grace a seemingly cumbersome task can become a great joy.

In closing, if a married couple is faithful to God, and to one another... nothing shall come between them. Yes, if an arranged marriage between a man and a woman is arranged according to the Word of God — therein is a happy marriage. There are countless examples which back up this solution — family, friends, etc. Rest assured that if an espoused couple understands and agrees upon an arranged marriage prescribed by God — and they pray fervently about the matter — and they stay faithful — they will have a successful and happy marriage. Thanks be unto God for His abundant mercy and loving kindness.

## HOW WE CLOSE THE SERVICE

by David S. West

So far as I know there is no set way of closing out a service given in the Scripture. I suppose that each church and each pastor have their own way of closing the service. There are some pastors that do not give an invitation, while others give an invitation almost every service.

I am much opposed to having long drawn out invitations and singing of several verses of two or three songs. There is nothing in the Scripture that warrants such.

I have known of churches during the time that my father pastored that had the business meeting on Saturday morning. During this business meeting the pastor would give opportunity for membership in the church. This, of course, was not the only time they extended an opportunity for membership. They did in the regular services on Sunday. This Saturday meeting was a special time of business, and also to give opportunity for any who would like to come into the church.

We, at Landmark, do not have a song at the close of every service. I make whatever announcements that may be needed to be made and then close with prayer. When I have preached the gospel, and I feel that there may be someone who has been saved and needs to make a public confession before men; then I will have a song and give opportunity for any one to profess Christ by coming forward and letting the church know. Then I think it is proper to call for a motion to receive those who came by way of baptism or by letter of recommendation from a sound church. I believe it amounted to a vote being taken when the Apostle Peter in Acts said "Can any man forbid water, that these should be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" This is why we take a vote when we have new members to come during the invitation at the close of a service.

## THE CONVERSION OF MANASSEH

by T.B. Freeman

Manasseh was the son and successor of good king Hezekiah, (II Chron. 32:33), but he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord (chapter 33:2). He began his reign when he was 12 years old, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem as king of Judah.

This man was, if not the most wicked, one of the most wicked men we read about in the Old Testament. He was a cruel idolater. Moreover, he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom, that is, he either sacrificed his offspring to Moloch, or dedicated them to the service of the idol. He reared up the altars of Baalim, and worshipped all the hosts of heaven. He observed times, used enchantments, used witchcraft, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards. He made Judah and Jerusalem to do worse than the heathen. The Lord spake to him and to his people, but they would not hearken. This hardness and rebellion crowned and confirmed all his wickedness. So, the Lord spake by the prophets saying, "Because Manasseh, king

of Judah, hath done these abominations, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle." Notwithstanding, all the good reformatations under the reign of king Josiah, the Lord turned not from the fierceness of His great wrath that Manasseh had provoked Him withal (II Kings 23:26).

"Could such a man be saved?" we say. Yes, things that are impossible with men are possible with God. The Lord brought upon him the host of the king of Assyria, which took him among thorns, bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. When he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed unto Him; and he was intreated of Him, heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord, He was God (II Chron. 33:13). Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me, and a wretch like Manasseh. How about you, my friend?

Our Lord Jesus said, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:20). Now, how about Manasseh? He took away the strange gods and idols out of the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built, (this ought to be done in many churches today, which have turned people to look to inventions of men rather than Christ and His cross), in the mount of the house of the Lord. He repaired the altar of the Lord. This altar pointed to the cross of Christ, for He is the sum and substance of all true altars. All true converts look to Christ, not some human invention, and men have sought out many inventions. "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isa. 45:22). "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18).

(copied from the Park Ridge Baptist Messenger).

## SALVATION

(Continued from Page 2)

of bed is to your Church, where I'll confess Christ publicly." To the surprise of the Doctor and his wife, he lived, and true to his word, the first place he went after recovery was to my Church, where he confessed Christ as Saviour. If people are genuinely saved, they are given the impulse to confess their Saviour.

THE SECOND THING A SAVED PERSON SHOULD DO IS TO BE IMMersed. On Pentecost, the three thousand were baptized at once. When the Philippian jailor was saved, he didn't wait till daylight, he was baptized that night. When the Ethiopian was saved as he rode in the chariot with Philip, he stopped the chariot and had himself baptized. "Here is water," he said, "What doth hinder me from being baptized?" He confessed his faith in Christ right there, and was baptized. Some years ago, I visited Palestine, and traveled down what is believed to be the road that the Ethiopian traveled that day. We passed a lovely little lake which I personally

believe was the one in which this man was immersed. When I read this story in the Bible, the picture of that lake always comes to mind.

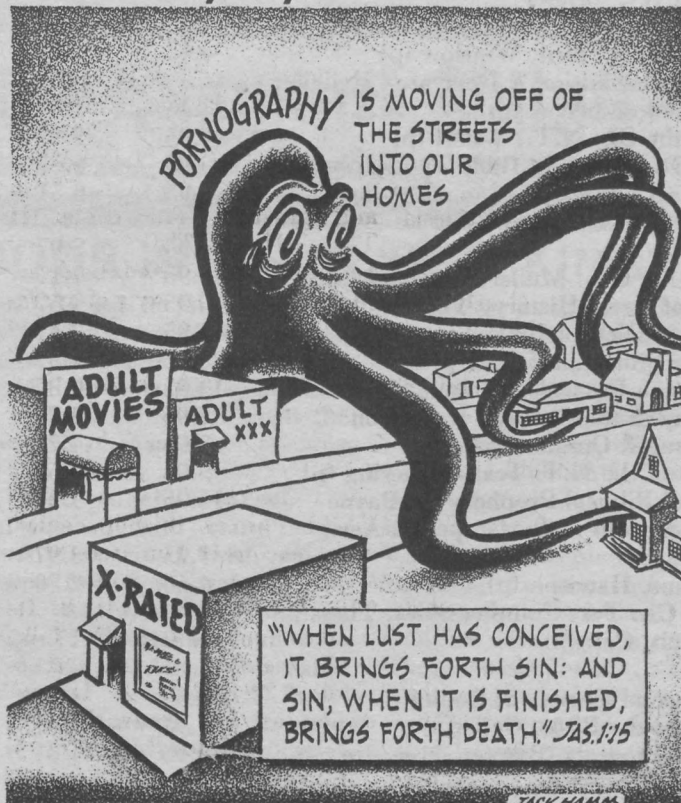
In big revivals, where there are many who claim conversion, there are usually a large number who never follow the Lord in baptism. It is very doubtful if such persons have ever come to really know the Saviour. In my own case, the day I was saved, I confessed Christ publicly, and it never occurred to me to neglect the matter of my baptism. I was baptized in a pond when the weather was cold, and the water was almost at the point of freezing. What a shock I underwent when I was plunged beneath that icy water! Nevertheless, it thrilled me to confess Christ in this way. Baptism has no saving power, but it is absolutely necessary to obedience, and every genuinely saved person should follow Christ as quickly as possible in this way.

THE THIRD THING THAT SHOULD FOLLOW SALVATION IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP. Of course, if a person is properly baptized, he or she has been received as a candidate for baptism by a Church. Membership in a Scrip-

tural Church is a tremendously important thing. Some carelessly say, "It doesn't matter what Church you belong to, we're all working for the same place." The Devil must have coined this expression, for it is a big lie. When people "work for the same place," they probably do go to the "same place" when they die, but that place is Hell. People don't go to Heaven by working. If they did, that would render the Saviour unnecessary. A truly saved person should want to join the Church that Jesus started (see Matt. 16:18). Baptists are the only people whose Church dates back to the time of Christ. The Catholic Church didn't come into existence for several centuries after Christ. The Protestant Churches came out of the Catholic Church many centuries after Christ. Multitudes of other so-called Churches have sprung up in recent times. Why join a man-founded Church when one can belong to the Church that Jesus founded?

THE FOURTH THING THAT SHOULD FOLLOW SALVATION IS A CHRISTIAN LIFE THAT HONORS CHRIST. No one should join a certain Church and then be of no use to the Church. They should back their Church in its effort to carry on the worship of God, to reach the lost, and to send forth missionaries in an effort to evangelize people far and near. If men have hair hanging down their backs in "hippie" style, they should read what the Lord says. He says in I Cor. 11:14, "If a man have long hair, IT IS A SHAME UNTO HIM." Both men and women should repudiate any fashion of this world that helps to identify people with the children of the Devil. The lives of the saved should be honest and beyond reproach. I could enlarge upon this, but if you will faithfully read the New Testament, your duties and obligations will be made clear to you. Indeed, Christian families should read the Scriptures aloud and have prayer together each day.

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They are not free.

All of these things have to be paid for by somebody, and that somebody is "we, the people."

There is no such thing as "federal funds." That term is a wolf dressed up in sheep's clothing, and it deceives a lot of us into feeling what we get from the Government is free.

Congress does not possess an Aladdin's Lamp, nor a financial wishing well.

Neither does the Administration in Washington.

Every dollar the Congress appropriates, and every dollar the Government spends, comes out of the earnings of the people.

There is no one else to pay the bill.

The more the Government spends for free school lunches, for free inland waterways, for free terminal and airway services, for free hospital and medical services, for free farm price support programs, the more the Government must tax us.

And that means that each of us has less to spend, or to save.

Not all taxes are visible. Most of them are not. We see the withholding and excise taxes. But we do not see the multitude of taxes hidden in the price of everything we buy.

The Government has only one source of income.

And that source is "we, the people" — all of us.

The Government does not produce wealth. The people do that. Government consumes wealth.

If the Congress appropriates and appropriates, and the Government spends and spends, then all of us are going to be taxed and taxed.

So will future generations.

If we demand "free lunches" and "free Government aids and benefits and services," we must pay the Provider "in taxes."

And this applies, also, in the fifty States.

That's the only possible way it can be done.

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I thought to prepare myself for great things only to learn that it was the rough voice in the wilderness He planned to use and not the polished preacher; it was the weak, impulsive shepherd with the sling that He planned to use and not the mighty warrior with his armor of wit and arsenal of facts, doctrines, and learning. If we don't pour contempt on ourselves, God will!

Do you remember John Newton's story of "The Three Wonders in Heaven"? The first wonder was that he would see so many there he did not expect to see there; the second was that he would miss so many he did expect to see there; but the third

wonder would be the greatest wonder of all — to find himself there. When I hear myself and others censuring and condemning other believers because they are not like us, or because we see some fault in them, or because they are not perfect, I should remind myself and all that we are saved by grace alone, and we have nothing that we did not receive. I do not have any time for free-will Arminianism and a compromise of the gospel of Christ; but where we find those who love Christ Jesus and preach (however imperfectly)

His grace, let us love, encourage, and pray for them. If there is anything that will cure a critical, envious spirit, it is to have the grace we preach and profess to become a heart experience.

message, we must not allow our love for them and our zeal for their conversion to lead us to offer them rest when they need strong words to shut them up to Christ. Any friendship with the pastor and church people which gives an unbeliever cheer, fellowship, and ease short of a union with Christ is dangerous. A sinner's main business is to come to Christ himself, to love Christ, to rest in Christ. Then comes church fellowship, rest, and the joys of the body. There is no halfway house before believing in Him!

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CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH BOOK STORE

Post office Box 60 - Ashland, Kentucky 41105-0060

On All Orders — Please Add Postage and Handling. Avoid delay... include Postage and Handling with your order. If your order is:

UP to \$5.00	Add \$1.50
\$5.01 to \$10.00	Add \$2.00
\$10.01 to \$20.00	Add \$2.50
\$20.01 to \$30.00	Add \$3.25
Over \$30.00	Ad \$1.00 for each add'l. \$10.00

Ky. Residents Add 5% Sales Tax