

# The Baptist Examiner

**Baptist Is Our Middle Name**

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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 PILLAR OF CLOUD

by E.G. Cook  
(Now in Glory)

In this issue let us study the typical significance of the pillar of cloud by which our Lord led



E.G. Cook

the children of Israel during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. I sometimes wonder if the almost universally accepted teaching concerning the typical significance of the pillar of cloud has led us down a dark alley. Could it be that we have suffered a great loss in our own individual lives, and in the spiritual life of our churches due to a wrong conception as to how our Lord has divinely ordained to lead us? The pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night by which our Lord led those people in the wilderness should set forth a clear type as to how He leads us today as we travel our pilgrim journey through this old evil world.

Let us keep in mind that I Cor. 10:11 makes it clear that the things that came to pass in the lives of the children of Israel did so in order that they might

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## PRAYER

by Carl Barnette  
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This is a lesson in prayer. First of all let us define prayer, so please turn to the Gospel of Matthew chapter 7 verse 7-11.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"



Carl Barnette

One of the many things which is revealed unto us in these verses of Scripture is the definition of prayer. Prayer is simply a child's request to his Father, and out of all the privileges a child of God has, prayer is the greatest privilege of all. Prayer is the back bone of one that has been born again by the grace of a Thrice Holy God. Who can

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The "more convenient season" usually never arrives.

## THE GREEN TREE AND THE DRY TREE

by Ray Brown  
Box 203

Cannelton, W. Va. 25036  
"And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" (Luke 23:27-31). "But woe unto them that are with child, and to them, that give suck, in those days for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of

the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:23-24).

He is dealing here concerning the time of the Gentiles. The beginning of the Gentiles was with King Nebuchadnezzar. The ruling power of the Gentiles over the nation Israel. The fulfilling of the Gentiles, as Jesus is saying here. He talks



Ray Brown

about this also in Revelation. It will be a bad time if women are with child or women with nursing babies in those days. If you would read the account of what's going to take place during the tribulation period time. How the Antichrist is not going

to permit child bearing and things during the tribulation. Women with child are going to be destroyed. The children that are already born will be destroyed. They will be killed by the sword. They will be picked up and slammed against the walls. The fruit of the womb he will destroy during that time. It will be a hard time for a woman to flee from the Antichrist, if she is with child or if she is nursing a child in those days. Jesus said in Matt 24:20 "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day." It is going to be a terrible time and day. If you would read Zechariah, chapter 14, it will show you that three eighths of the population of that area is destroyed during that time.

Jesus is saying, "For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" If you do those things which I am foretelling you what's going to become of the nation Israel during that time? Remember when they were crucifying Christ and Pilate said, "Well, here's your King."

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## THE TRUTH ABOUT CAMPBELLISM

by Doug Newell  
Assistant Editor

I Peter 3:21, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be



Doug Newell

baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

The two preceding verses of Scripture are commonly used by the Campbellites to promote their doctrine. The truth about Campbellism is, that there is no truth in it. What they are promoting is a doctrine straight from the devil himself. They have taken Scripture out of context and have tried to make it applicable to their hellish road

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## FLEECE AND THE WILL OF GOD

by Gaylord Haubert  
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And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a

bowl full of water. And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground" (Judges 6:36-40).

"And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say,

Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou has appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Mileah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder... And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the Lord had made

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## FALSE VIEWS OF ELECTION REFUTED

by T.P. Simmons  
(Now in Glory)

The doctrine of election is one of the most valuable doctrines in the Bible. It yields a veritable mine of spiritual wealth to the devout and humble student. It is the foundation of all God's deal-

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## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

### JESUS KNOCKING AT THE DOOR OF A CHURCH

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20).

The usual interpretation of this verse by the Arminians is that Jesus is knocking at the door of the heart of the lost sinner — that He wants to come in and save the sinner — that it is up to the sinner to open the door of his heart and let Jesus come in. If the sinner will open the door of his heart, Jesus will save

him; and if not, Jesus will not come in — that Jesus may at any time decide to quit knocking, and go away, and the sinner has then crossed the deadline and can't be saved. This interpretation is often presented in religious (?) art and in many of the songs in religious services today.

This interpretation is false, and it is contrary to the teachings of God's Word. The error of this interpretation is easily seen. The sinner has a black wicked heart, and Jesus

would not want in a heart like that. In salvation, Jesus gives a new heart instead of coming into the old heart. Read Ezekiel 36:26. Any heart opening done is done by the Lord, and not by the sinner. See Acts 16:14. This usual interpretation denies the clear doctrine of total depravity. This usual interpretation denies the sovereignty of our Lord, denies His omnipotence, and places Him as a helpless supplicant at the footstool of the "freewill" of man.

The true interpretation of this (Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

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## KNOCKING

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verse is clearly set forth in the passage and is in absolute harmony with the whole of God's precious Word. "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write..." (Rev. 3:14). "Let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 3:22). These two verses in the immediate context of Revelation 3:20 clearly show that the verse refers to a local church. It is at the door of the church that Jesus is knocking, not the door of the sinner's heart. The sad, awful, and thought-provoking truth of this passage is that Jesus may be on the outside of a true church, seeking entrance into His own church, and that such a church is in imminent danger of ceasing to be a true church of Christ.

I am not to be understood as saying that Jesus is standing at the door of just any so-called church. He is not knocking at the door of the false churches such as Presbyterian, Methodist, Holiness, Lutheran, and others. These false institutions are not, never have been, and never will be true churches of Christ. They were started by men, started since the days of Christ — with man-made doctrines and man-made practices. Christ was never in them as churches, and He is not trying to get into them now.

It is at the door of a true church that He is knocking. This church is called a church by Christ Himself and must be recognized as such in spite of its condition. It is only at the door of true churches that Jesus knocks. Surely, if you are a reader of this paper, you know by now that only Missionary Baptist Churches are true churches of Christ, but that all who

go by that name are not true churches. I wonder if there are not more that "ain't" than there are that "are." It was a church that was especially loved by Christ and purchased with His own blood, Ephesians 5:25, 26. It was a church founded by Christ and of which He was the head. It was a church that had, no doubt, experienced many blessings of the Lord's presence in days gone by. This is the awful and sad truth of this verse: that a true church can come to a condition like this in spite of its past stand and experiences. This is the awful sin of this passage. That a true church can run the dear Lord Jesus out of its midst, shut Him out, and leave Him there knocking at the door of His own church. It is as if one would enter a man's house, be graciously received, and then run the owner out and not let him into his own house. It is much worse than this.

Now, how did this awful condition come to pass? How did Jesus get put out of His own church? The Bible clearly teaches that a church should practice discipline in a Scriptural way, upon Scriptural grounds, and for Scriptural purposes. We need to preach and practice this. But here is a

church that (I speak in a figure of course), had a meeting and put Jesus out of their church. He was in the way, He interfered with their plans and their program. He tried to tell them what to do. They could not stand this, so they put Him out; and there He stands, knocking, knocking — seeking entrance



Joe Wilson

again into His own dearly loved church — counseling, warning, and loving them. Oh! Let us ponder this Holy Spirit given picture. Let us study it. Let us learn from it, and seek grace from Him that it may never be true of the church where He has placed us. Let us think for awhile, and see if we can discover what it is that puts

Jesus out of His own church.

When the church puts such an emphasis upon numbers, lowers the standard of God's Word, receives unsaved people as members until the unsaved are in the majority; then surely Jesus is headed for the outside of a church like that. The Arminian evangelism of our day, the almost fanatic craze for numbers, the ignoring of the work of the Holy Spirit in evangelism, the exalting of freewill (so-called) to the throne in evangelism, the determination to have results regardless of what kind — all these have conspired to place a large number of unsaved people in the churches of today. Many unionistic, Arminian evangelists and the churches in which they preach would rather have great movings of the Holy Spirit — great Holy Spirit revivals; but they are determined to have results, to have decisions one way or another. Oh, the tricks, the mob methods, the high pressure salesmanship that is used in evangelism. The biggest trouble with many of the churches of today is that they have drawn people into the church that the Holy Spirit has never drawn to Christ.

When a church refuses to exercise discipline, there is danger of Jesus being on the outside.

The Bible clearly teaches in many places the matter of discipline. I Corinthians 5 is a good example of such teaching. Churches today almost completely ignore this teaching. Many churches not only do not practice discipline, but oppose any teaching on this subject. Church members live any way they please. A man may die drunk, in a gambling den, or in many different ways of sin; but at the close of the notice in the paper one reads what church he was a member of. Now when this lack of discipline goes on so far, the house becomes so filthy that the pure and holy Lord Jesus will live in it no longer; and He is outside the door.

Jesus is often outside the door of the church because of the lukewarmness of the church as a whole. That is one of the things stated about the Laodicean church. Our Lord would have us to be red-hot in our zeal for Him. We ought to be zealous in our lives, in our service in the church, in our attendance, in our giving, and above all, in our love for the Lord. In fact, a warm love for the Lord Jesus will make us zealous in all these other things. Much has been said of late about cold or dead orthodoxy. The implication has

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## FROM THE EDITOR

So far as I remember, I have not heretofore mentioned Jerry Falwell in this paper since assuming the editorship thereof. I have rejected articles attacking him. Frankly, I have had a great deal of admiration for the man. I do not agree with him on many things, but I have deeply appreciated some of the things about his ministry. I certainly am for morality and for America. Furthermore, I did not want to get lined up with that crowd that is against him. I still do not want to line up with the multitude of liberals, homosexuals, and un-Americans who are opposed to him.

I was utterly shocked upon learning that Falwell had accepted the offer to take over as leader of the PTL. I could hardly believe my eyes. I wondered repeatedly what on earth could Falwell mean. What was his thinking in doing this? I have now read something about this in his own words and from his own paper. Therefore, I write the following.

I quote from April issue of The Fundamentalist Journal. "That's why it is all the more important for Christians to surround this ministry (PTL) with prayer and support in this time of need... If God can use me to help prevent the failure of a ministry so important to the cause as PTL, I am willing to do that. There is more at stake here than Jerry Falwell or Jim Bakker. If a ministry as large as PTL collapsed because of a dilemma like this, it would affect every ministry in the nation, if not the world. The entire cause of Christ is at stake, and we are all responsible for that cause. That is why, when Jim Bakker asked me, I agreed to undertake the task... Our goal is not to reflect on the past and what has happened but, for the sake of the cause of Christ, to try to take the ministry on toward the dream and vision of the founders."

I can hardly believe my eyes. Jerry Falwell, a Baptist (?) and a Fundamentalist, saying such things as these about PTL. I must say that the man has gone way down in my estimation by these words.

So, all Christians are to surround PTL with prayer and support. Well, my only prayer for such a heretical ministry would be that the day of its departure from the face of the earth might be soon. My support therefor will be exactly equal to what it has already been — nothing. I have never had any respect for the PTL ministry. I have always considered it a work of the devil. I consider it a ministry of fakery, fraud, and thievery. I consider it a ministry of false doctrine. I consider it an enemy to the cause of Jesus Christ. The sooner it perishes, the better for all concerned.

So, PTL is an important ministry to the cause. Well, that may well be true. It depends upon what cause you are talking about. The cause of Christ, certainly not — PTL is a ministry which is diametrically opposed to the cause of Christ. PTL deceives multitudes who ought (if truly saved) to be members of true Baptist churches. PTL drains off multiplied millions of dollars that should be given to true Baptist churches. If you mean the cause of Satan, yes — PTL is important to the cause of Satan. I do not know that there is a ministry more important to the cause of Satan than that of PTL. Of course, Oral Roberts may well run a close second, and there are many others not too far behind. Still, for my part, PTL leads the way as a ministry of Satan.

So the collapse of PTL would affect every ministry in the nation, if not the world. This might well be true. The collapse of PTL would injure many of the ministries of Satan. It would help many of the ministries of true Baptist churches. I cannot see how the collapse of PTL could harm the ministry of our church or of The Baptist Examiner in any way. Let it be known that the editor of TBE is totally opposed to PTL, and if the continuance of PTL depended upon his vote, PTL would cease to be.

So the entire cause of Christ is at stake. No so, Jerry, not so. Jesus Christ started a Baptist church in the days of His earthly ministry. He promised perpetuity to that kind of church until His

coming again. He has so far (and will continue) accomplished that promise. Jesus Christ gave the commission to properly do His work in the world to Baptist churches. He committed His cause to them. The cause of Christ got along very well before there was a PTL club, and it will surely prosper after its demise. The cause of Christ surely does not need the glamour and show, the false doctrines, the fakery, the fraud, the thievery of PTL to continue in the world. For shame, Jerry, for shame.

So, the goal of Jerry's leadership is to take PTL on toward the dream and the vision of its founders. Jerry may be able to accomplish this. But what is that goal and dream? Fine, luxurious homes for its leaders. Fine, expensive cars. Fine jewelry. Glitter and glow that rivals adulterous Hollywood. Amusement parks. Hotels. Untold wealth for its leaders. Jerry, is not this the dream and vision of the founders and leaders of PTL. At least, much of this has been already accomplished, and more of it surely is in the future plans, or at least, was in the plans. To take money from the poor and needy millions by fake healings plus many other means and give that money, or a large part of it, to the wealthy leaders of PTL — is that not the dream and vision of the founders of PTL?

I am so saddened to write this. I am so saddened that Jerry Falwell has taken the leadership of PTL, and written the quoted words as an explanation thereof. Many spoke to me against Jerry Falwell. Some urged me to print against him. I would not do so. I had much respect for the man and for much of what he was doing. It saddens me greatly to lose much of that respect. But Jerry's involvement with PTL and especially his explanation thereof has brought this about. Before I could ever feel as I did, the man must repent deeply of what he has done and said relative to PTL.

I wonder how the members of Thomas Road Baptist (?) Church feel about this matter. I wonder if the church was consulted about this. I wonder if the church voted to authorize Jerry to do this. Surely, if we are Baptist people and believe in Baptist church government, a Baptist pastor should consult his church and have her approval before doing anything as important and as damaging to the Baptist name as this. I would think that, if there are any real Baptists in Thomas Road, they will speak out against this thing. Surely any real Baptist will be opposed to what Jerry has done. I would think that, if this action was taken without the consent and approval of Thomas Road, the church will call Jerry Falwell on the carpet and deal with him concerning this matter. For a pastor to do such a thing, to bring such reproach on the name "Baptist", to bring such reproach on his church and all her ministries — this surely constitutes grounds — yea rather — demands and necessitates that the church take immediate action concerning her pastor. Surely, if this thing was done with the consent and approval of Thomas Road, then she has lost all right to the name "Baptist", if she ever had it. I suggest that Thomas Road deal with her pastor concerning this matter, disassociate herself entirely from such action, clear her skirts; or forthwith drop the name "Baptist" henceforth and forever.

I predict that Jerry Falwell will not be helped by this association with PTL. I predict that the day will come when he will rue his decision relative to this matter. I would urge Jerry Falwell, if he has any regard for the name "Baptist", if he has any regard for the truth of the Word of God, if he has any regard for the ministries he has engaged in in the past, that he repent publicly of what he has done and immediately disassociate himself from PTL. However, I have observed with sadness that men rarely do this. And even should Jerry do this, I fear that he has done irreparable hurt to himself, Thomas Road Baptist Church, and the ministries in which Jerry has been previously engaged. We will see what we will see.

## KNOCKING

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been that there was something wrong with orthodoxy, and that one must be either a heretic or else very weak doctrinally to be on fire for God. I don't know why we have to tie "cold" or "dead" with orthodoxy as if orthodoxy were wrong. The coldness is wrong and the deadness is wrong, but surely there is nothing wrong with being sound in doctrine. Brethren, let us quit putting these words together in such a way as to seemingly put a slur on orthodox doctrine. Let us preach against the coldness and deadness of many of our orthodox brethren, but let us never say a word against soundness in doctrine. Now our Lord warns against lukewarmness in the church, and threatens to spue such a church out of His mouth. This has nothing to do with a saved person losing his salvation, but is talking about a true church losing its place as a recognized church before the Lord.

When Jesus is denied His proper place as head of the church, then surely He is headed for the outside of such a church. Many churches are willing for Jesus to stay on as sort of a silent partner, if He just will not interfere with their plans. Jesus Christ is the head of the church. This is taught in many Scriptures. He is the only head of the church. Read Ephesians 5:23. The pastor is not the head of the church. Many preachers seem to think that the Lord invented the church so that they would have a place to show off their oratorical ability — a place where they could exercise their usurped authority — a place where they could make a good living easily. The deacons are not the head of the church. Many deacons seem to think the church was invented as a playhouse for them. They run over everything and everybody in their desire to show their authority. Some woman or woman's group is not the head of the church. Many women think the church was invented to show off their finery and to show their authority. And, dear friend, some association or convention is not the head of the church. If you want to ruin a church just lead it into the Southern Baptist Convention. I tell you they have everything so planned and programmed that there is no room for or need of the Lord Jesus. If you don't believe they will run the church, just keep your eye upon the next associational missionary you meet. In Tennessee there is a lady associational missionary, and boy do the men seek her favor. Well a lady "one of them there things" is just as Scriptural as a male one, and they are both unscriptural and anti-scriptural and will soon have Jesus on the outside of the church because His headship is denied. Jesus is the head of the church. The church was established to carry out His will and command. No individual or group is to interfere with His headship over the church; and when this is allowed, the church itself is held responsible, and Jesus is on the outside of such a church.

When Jesus is unwanted or unneeded by the church, He is on His way out. That was another trouble in Laodicea. They said they were rich and increased with goods and needed nothing. Jesus was unwanted. They could get along very well without Him they thought. Oh, how many churches are like that

today. Jesus is not wanted in the pulpit, they have a well educated "doctor" as pastor. Jesus is not wanted in the music, they have a trained choir. Jesus is not wanted in administration; they have orders from headquarters, an educational director, and many paid assistants. Jesus is not wanted in the pew; they have a wealthy, socially prominent membership. In fact, my friend, Jesus would be considered as a rank trouble maker, an undesirable character, and a divisive factor in many churches today.

When the ordinances of Christ are neglected or perverted, then Jesus is on the way out of such a church. The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper are very dear to His heart. They symbolize precious truth. He will not allow a church to neglect or pervert them and remain in such a church. In North Carolina, two churches (Baptist, so-called) have started taking sprinkled members. Well, false church sprinkling is as good as false church immersion. We most earnestly contend for all the truth relating to the two ordinances of the church. Again, if you read this paper you know the truth about the ordinances. I cannot go into that now. But, brethren, let us be strict and true, on these matters if we would have Jesus with us and His blessings upon our churches.

When the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ are put out of the church and man-made doctrines are substituted, then surely Jesus is on His way out of such a church. He has magnified His Word above all His name. He has clearly, definitely, repeatedly set before us what we are to teach and to preach. The church is the executive and not the legislative body in this matter. We are to execute His laws and teach His truth, not our own. How few and far between are the churches today that teach the precious truths of God's Holy Word. How many places can you go and hear sovereign grace, the local church, the ordinances, the woman's place in a church, the second coming, the truth about Christmas and Easter and many other parts of the whole counsel of God. The professed churches of today have put out the teachings of Jesus. The Lord will not long remain in such a church.

Well now, what do these churches do when Jesus is on the outside, knocking? They increase their programs, their worldly attractions, their appeals to the flesh, their multiplications of unscriptural organizations within the church. What is all this "alphabet soup" in many Baptist churches but multiplied efforts of said churches to get along with Jesus on the outside?

The church with Jesus on the outside is unaware of her awful condition. They have grown accustomed to His absence. There is no repenting, no mourning over past blessings and the present lack of same. Such a church continues to be recognized by the world as a great institution, and looks upon itself with pride and self-satisfaction, knowing not its true wretched condition. My friends, I wonder how many present day churches (?) are described in Revelation 3:14-22 - rich and increased with goods, needing nothing: knowing not.

Now notice a marvel of the grace and love of Christ. This church was still the object of His wonderful love. He was still

knocking, still chastening, still counseling with them. How loving He is with His church. How patient He is. How slow to depart from it and leave it to its own blinded condition, no longer a true church of His. It is a wonderful illustration of His love. Notice also the individual's privilege in such a church. Any saved man in such a church may have blessed personal fellowship with the Lord even though He is outside the church. He will come in and sup with such a one. But dear friend, this individual privilege holds only as long as Jesus is knocking at the door, as long as He still recognizes it as His church. When He ceases to knock, when He spues it out, then truly saved people are to get out.

This church is warned that the present condition cannot and will not continue. They must repent or else they will be spued out will no longer be a true church of Christ. What a sad thing, but how often has it happened? Such an organization may continue before the world, but not before the Lord. No more of the blessings of God, no more authority from God — its ministry, baptism and supper without authority from God — no more special reward for works done in and through it, no more a place in the Bride of Christ for its members. The Spirit-taught individual would have to leave and find a true church and join it. You say, how would he know?

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches" (Rev. 3:22).

The man in fellowship with His Lord would know. When the Lord quits knocking, when He spues this church out that's it. That's all there is. The organization is no more a church than the false institutions of man. There is no cure, it cannot again become a church. Its saved members would have to unite with true churches and stay with them, or get authority to start another church. Oh, how sad it is that many earnest truly saved people are trying to administer first aid to a dead church. It is utterly impossible for a church that is not a true church to ever become one. And a church that has had the candlestick removed, that has been spued out, that is no longer recognized by the Lord is not a church now, even though it once was — no more than any of the false institutions of man. Brethren, get out of those disowned churches. They are beyond help. Get into a true church of Christ. It has been a sorrow to me to meet men who gained my love, who were sound in the faith, who were zealous in many ways — but who were remaining in churches that they themselves seemed to realize were dead and gone instead of getting out and into a true church.

Brethren, this is a message from the Spirit to the churches. No matter what a church is today, this danger is before it, out yonder somewhere. Let us own our Lord as the head of the church. Let us faithfully do His will and teach His Word. Let us have great zeal in all that we do, and let us guard against ever having Him on the outside knocking, or worse yet — quit knocking and gone away, having spued us out. God bless you all. Amen.

## GREEN TREE

(Continued from Page 1)

They said, "We have no King but Caesar." He said, "I am go-

ing to wash the blood from my hands and be innocent of the blood of this just man." And they said, "Let His blood be on us and our children." Oh, how far reaching that was. And the prophecy of the very words that came from the lips of the Pharisees and Sadducees that day. How far reaching this has affected the nation Israel. The nation of Israel still has to go through the tribulation period time. Why? Because, that is how she is going to be purified. She is going to be purified by gentile world kings. How is the saint of God going to be purified? He is going to be purified at the Judgment Seat of Christ. She made herself ready. Christ is going to have a church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. She is preparing down in the bridal chambers upon the earth, and the consummation of it will be in the bridal chambers in glory. She is preparing herself and making herself ready for this glorious event.

A green tree resists the fire and the dry tree attracts the fire, because it is proper fuel. Jesus is talking about the wrath of God. If God's justice and God's wrath would be done this in a green tree, then what shall be done in the dry? What shall be done in those that are dead? The trees that are dead? The proper fuel for God's fire? "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (I Peter 4:17). Where "must" judgment begin? The judgment of God, the wrath of God, and the sword of God's judgment begins with His lovely Son the Lord Jesus Christ. If God rendered judgment out on His only begotten Son, how much more will the judgment and wrath of God be upon those that obey not the gospel of God? What about those people? Those who denied the gospel of Jesus Christ, those who reject Christ, and those who don't want to have anything to do with God. Where will their judgment be, and how severe will it be? If only Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, was the only one that was able to stand in the presence of the indignation and wrath of the almighty God, where will the sinner and the ungodly man appear? It is going to be a terrible time because the ungodly man and the sinner that obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ will be unable to stand before God's indignation and wrath.

"Proper Fuel." This Proverb means if such sufferings alight upon the innocent one, that is the Lord Jesus Christ, the very Lamb of God, what must be in store for those who are provoking God's wrath? Jesus Christ is a green tree fruitful and flourishing. If such things were done to Him, we should wonder what will be done to the whole human race. If He didn't interceded on our behalf what would have been done to the whole human race of Adam? What would have happened to the whole human race if Jesus Christ had not interceded on our behalf? What will be done to those who continue to be dry trees? God has given a divine revelation that man is without excuse. God has given knowledge. The death of Jesus Christ is a historical fact. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died nearly two thousand years ago on the cross of Calvary. Also a divine revelation which brings salvation.

Let's read in Hebrews 10:26 concerning crucifying the Lord. "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins." Verses 27-31. "But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing; and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord, And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." How in the world could a sinner ever crucify Christ afresh and put Him to an open shame? There is no way a sinner by rejecting Christ can crucify Him afresh. A believer can. You have that account with Moses. This is the writing of Moses and is talking about how the people see Moses. They despised Moses' law, and they died without mercy under two or three witnesses. They did not see the ministry and work of Moses. Moses was a green flourishing tree in the midst of Israel. Israel was a dry tree. God fruitfully supplied fruit and flourished with the life of Moses. His ministry, his work, his leadership as a leader leading four and a half million Jews. They could not see his ministry and work. There are a lot of people today who are blind. They can not see afar off.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets" (Hebrews 1:1). God used different means to talk to the people of old. He spake through wind, by the chariots of fire, and by a donkey. He spoke by voices like thunder. He spoke through His prophets. Verse 2: "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things by whom also he made the worlds." God spoke to us by His lovely Son. This is what Jesus is saying, that He is the green tree. Considering all the sufferings of our dear Lord, should it not engage us to stand in awesome wonder of the justice of God? The best saint of God is but a dry tree when compared to Christ.

"He that spared not his own Son..." (Romans 8:32). How does the world think they are going to get away with the way they are living? The world has yet to give an account for the death of God's Son. It was cold blooded murder when they crucified the Lord of Glory. They crucified Him and He was innocent. The free willers are charging God of double jeopardy. God in His sovereign mercy and in His sovereign grace gave His only begotten Son that we might have life and have it more abundantly. God is going to hold each man accountable for his own sins.

There is fuel for God's fire. It is natural fuel. Just like a dead tree is natural fuel for our fires we have today. Then the sinner

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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

## Does the devil know our thoughts?

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James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you".

I can begin the answer to this question by saying, "No, the devil cannot read, or know our thoughts". I know that there are times when it seems as if Satan is able to know our thoughts, but he is a created being with limited abilities and activities. Just as there are people that do not give the devil proper credence and consideration, there are also some that ascribe too much power and authority to him. Please do not misunderstand me; Satan is a most powerful and crafty being who is far beyond a match for us. His wicked wisdom and the craft that he practices unceasingly are greater than most Christians seem aware of today, but Satan is a limited being. He is, first of all, a created being and a true personality, not the "essence of evil". He does not have the gift of omniscience that is one of the attributes belonging to our God. He, therefore, does not know the thoughts of people. This can be evidenced by the many mistakes that Satan has seemingly made in his war against the sovereign eternal God, Jehovah. If Satan were able to know our thoughts and the thoughts of other created beings, he would be able to do a better job than he has. How then does he at times, seem to know our thoughts and so skillfully cause the harm that he is allowed to produce?

There are three things that we need to remember and to consider when thinking of Satan and his wicked world order that is opposed to God. Satan is well versed in human nature and has much experience in taking the best advantage of its weakness and extreme frailties. He has observed and experimented since the beginning of human history in getting the advantage. He knows that if he can use his deception to get a person into the attitude of self control, desire, and life that he can very accurately predict the actions and thoughts of that individual. His great deception of materialism and laxity today prove very useful in his warfare against God and those that belong to God. The Scripture says in I John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world". In other words, we are not to love the wicked world system of Satan and its ways, means, and conveniences. Secondly, we need to remember that Satan has a vast host of demonic powers at his command. They have the

hierarchy of their own which is dedicated to nothing but serving Satan in his warfare against God and the servants of God. They not only do the works of Satan, but they keep him aware of all he needs to know concerning humans and their activities. Satan cannot coerce a person to sin, but the person can be tempted, or wiles brought against him to influence unto sin. Lastly, we must remember that Satan, his servants, and their activities and sphere of activity are all limited by the Sovereignty of God. They can do nothing to the people of God, or their lives without the consent of our God as evidenced in the case of Job. True, Satan and his host are all too powerful for us as human beings, but not for the One who dwells within us. Satan cannot know our thoughts, but we need to beware of being in a place, or situation where he can easily guess what they are.

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I believe that the devil not only knows our thoughts but if we are not careful, he causes us to think and act according to his will. In II Corinthians 4:4 we are told, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." We know that he causes men to sin for we read, "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel" (I Chron. 21:1).

Satan seems to have the power to mental suggestion which causes men to perform that which is evil. It is said of Judas Iscariot, "And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him" (John 13:2). Again we read, "Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" (Acts 5:3). He sometimes takes possession of men as he did in Judas. "And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, What thou doest, do quickly" (John 13:27).

The Scripture also tells us that the devil lays traps for men and takes them captive, "And that they recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (II Tim. 2:26). Also in I Timothy 3:7, "Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

We are told that in addition to the demons working to carry out the devil's work he also has certain men doing his evil work. In II Corinthians 11:13-15 we are told, "For such are false

apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness;"

These passages of Scripture and many more which could be quoted show us that the devil has the power to read our mind and if we are not careful can cause us to think and act according to his will. We are told to, "Put on the whole armor of God; that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11). Also in James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

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Ephesians 6:12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

This is a very interesting question to which I am not sure the Bible gives a direct or complete answer. I do want to mention that I am convinced that a major mistake made by saints today is that we underestimate the power and the influence of Satan. We had best realize that he is a force to be reckoned with. He is constantly out to destroy God's people and God's church. He does not work alone, but has a host of demons to aid him in his assault. We should read the context of the above verse and make sure we are prepared for his attack. Now to answering the question.

I would answer this question yes and no. I am not trying to cover my tracks with that answer; but I think there are times when Satan does know our thoughts, and there are times when he does not. Let me give some examples of Satan knowing our thoughts. When a person is demon possessed the devil knows his thoughts. The thoughts of this person become controlled by the demon inside them. When we are tempted, I think Satan often times will know our thoughts. I don't know if this is from supernatural insight or from a long study of human nature. I think the devil is often times able to place thoughts in our head, and then he would know our thoughts. There are Bible examples of Satan knowing the thoughts of people. I do not, however, believe that Satan has a knowledge or an ability to know all of our thoughts. Maybe I am wrong, but to me this would almost be ascribing omniscience to Satan. I do not for a moment believe that Satan is omniscient. It is evident to me that Satan did

not know what Job's thoughts would be after he was afflicted by Satan. He hoped Job would deny God, but Job did not.

My answer then is, yes, there are times and circumstances when Satan knows our thoughts; but he does not have the ability to always know what we are thinking. I believe this is an ability that is limited to God. May God bless you all.

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Many people seem to think that Satan has the same power as God. In fact, some give Satan more power than God. My friends, we must remember that God is the only one who is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. Satan is a created being just like we are. He has more power than we because he was an angel and has the same power as angels. He cannot however, be in two different places at the same time. "And the Lord said unto Satan, whence cometh thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, from going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it" (Job 1:7).

We must remember that we do not wrestle with weak man, but against greater powers than we are. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). Satan does have more power than we do, but he only has what God allows him to have. He has what power God allows him to have, but he does not have so much power that we cannot be victorious over him. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

No, Satan does not know our thoughts, but he can introduce things into our minds to cause us to sin. However, we must remember one thing, Satan tempts us but he does not nor can he make us sin. When he tempted Eve he stood by while she looked and then ate of the fruit. He did not force her to eat.

## GREEN TREE

(Continued from Page 3)

is going to be the natural fuel for God's fire. It is not fit for fruit. The only thing it is fit for is for the fuel of God's fire. Dry wood will be cast into a lake of fire and burn eternally and forever. A man is judged, because when Christ died on the cross of Calvary He judged the sins of God's people that He might set them free. He also judged the sinner. Those who will reject the gospel and deny the precious blood of Jesus Christ. They are not at the White Throne Judgment to see if they are guilty. They are guilty because they are there. There will be one who is not guilty at the White Throne Judgment. There will not be one guilty at the Judgment Seat of Christ. God is going to judge them according to the Word.

Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after" (I Timothy 5:24). This is talking about Calvary. Christ had to be a green tree. He

had to be a flourishing person. He had to have life. There had to be life given. God's judgment must be in the flourishing vital life giving of Christ. That is where His judgment was. God's judgment on sin was in Christ nearly two thousand years ago at Golgotha's Hill. He took our sins and they were opened beforehand and made known and revealed by the Holy Spirit of God that we could repent and confess our sins. There has to be a repenting of sins. You must confess that you are a sinner saved by God's grace. Verse 25: "Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid." God reveals and makes known. Those that slip around and hide to do all these terrible things cannot hide from Christ.

In Matthew, Chapter 3 it talks about the ministry and work of John. In verse 12 it's telling us the fan will be in His hand, and He will purge His floor. In other words, the fan is the Word of God. It is a mixture of wheat and chaff. A lot of people say it's the church, but it isn't. They say it's the Holy Spirit, but it isn't. The fire of the eternal lake of fire is not the Holy Spirit. Let's read some Scriptures concerning the precious Word. "The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted" (Psalms 104:16). Jesus said, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Mat. 15:13). Verse 14: "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Jesus was saying to leave the blind and the dead trees alone. There is no fruit. They are fuel for God's fire. They are marked and ruined and can't avoid it. A man is marked for eternal judgment and he can't avoid it. He can't do anything about it.

"Then I said, I will not make mention of him nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay" (Jer. 20:9). Jeremiah had life because he was in God. He was chosen of God and His word was in his heart as a burning fire shut up in his bones. "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord" (Jer. 23:28). The Word is a refining fire. Without Christ we would have no life. Are we green trees planted by God? Are we fruit bearing trees? Can the Master receive fruit from these trees? This is an illustration of Israel, when He cut the fig tree and He said it only had leaves. He went to the fig tree expecting fruit and all He found was leaves. A lot of us are like that. We only have leaves. We need to be a green tree and a fruitful tree in God's vineyard.

"He spake also this parable; a Certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it

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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

Was Cornelius saved before Peter preached to him in Acts 10?

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"While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come? And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee" (Acts 10:19-22). The purpose for which Peter was to go to the house of Cornelius was twofold. There was a lesson for Peter to learn, and there were some instructions for Cornelius. The instructions were not, in my opinion, concerning salvation, because I believe that Cornelius was already a saved man.

There are four reasons given in verse twenty-two concerning Cornelius. He was a just man. In the New Testament this word denotes righteous. When this word is used of God, it denotes the perfect agreement between His nature and His acts. Cornelius was a man that feared God. The word fear (PHOEBOS) means a reverential fear of God with hatred of evil. In verse two he is described as devout. This means that he exhibited reverence in his actions. He had a good report among all the nation of the Jews. The word report (MARTUREOS) means to be a witness or to bear witness. In verse thirty-nine Peter says: "And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:" It would seem that Peter was at this time including Cornelius in his statement. Then we read that he was warned of God by his holy angel to send for Peter. The word warned (CHREMATIZO) is used to give advice or as a response to those consulting an oracle (word of God). God does not hear sinners when they pray, except in a prayer of repentance. "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth" (John 9:31). There is one other proof in verse thirty-seven. "That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached." The word know (OIDA) means to have seen or perceived. It also suggests a fullness of knowledge. This statement suggests that Peter acknowledged that Cornelius knew about Christ.

Now concerning the lesson that Peter was to learn. God showed Peter in a vision all manner of things that he, Peter, considered to be unclean. This is a reference to anyone that is not a Jew. God spoke to him and told him not to call unclean that which God had cleansed. Peter showed that he had learned the lesson in two verses. "And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean" (Acts 10:28). "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:" (Acts 10:34).

God's purpose for Cornelius was in answer to his prayer in verse two. God sent Peter to give him instruction. This is why he sent for him. "And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do" (Acts 10:5-6). The word "oughtest" means what is necessary. If Cornelius was saved, there was something that he needed to do, he needed to be baptized. "Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou are come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear (harken to) all things that are commanded thee of God" (Acts 10:33). God had commanded the eleven disciples in His commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to preach the gospel, baptize, and to teach those that were baptized. "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days" (Acts 10:48).

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I think so. However, I can not prove it with chapter and verse. Cornelius was a devout man, and one that feared God. He gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always. His prayers came up for a memorial before God. He was a just man. He had a good report among all. Peter in verses 36-38 said ye know about Jesus Christ, Lord of all, and the baptism which John preached.

Cornelius was a devout man. Devout means holy, godly, pious. It would seem that Cornelius was already saved and had a love for God, and this love that had been shed abroad in his heart made him want to see and have his loved ones saved also.

Cornelius feared God. Proverbs 19:23 says, "The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." Proverbs

28:14 says, "Happy is the man that feareth always." The wicked are said to have no fear of God. Romans 3:18 says, "There is no fear of God before their eyes." The Scriptures teach that we love, fear, and serve God all at the same time.

Cornelius gave much alms to the people which came up before God and was accepted by Him. God will not accept an offering without one giving it from faith. Without faith an offering or gift of good works is not acceptable in His sight. It is hard enough to get saved people to give today, and lost people see no need. Surely this man had the love of God in his heart.

Cornelius prayed to God continually. No one can or would pray to God without believing in Him, and that He would hear him and grant his petition. Paul says in Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Acts 10:31 says "Thy prayer is heard." This too leads me to believe that this man was saved. God heard him. Psalms 66:18 says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Again in John 9:31 the Bible says, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."

One might ask how did he get saved. Well, I do not believe like one fellow did on this. He said that he was saved like Abraham, "He believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness." He was of the dispensation of the preaching of the gospel.

Paul said in I Corinthians 1:21 "...It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Paul said again in Romans 10:17. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Somewhere, somehow, Cornelius heard the gospel, the Holy Spirit applied it to his heart, and he was so thrilled that he wanted his household to be like him. You may or may not differ with me, but I can not believe that Cornelius was a born again man.

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We read in I Corinthians 12:3 "...and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." The meaning here is, that no one can call Christ Jesus his Lord but by the Spirit. By Lord, it is meant his Master and his Saviour, and he calls Him this in affection and love for Him. And, one could only know this because of the quickening power of the Spirit.

When Paul was on the road to

Damascus with letters to arrest saints of God and bring them bound to Jerusalem, there was suddenly a light from heaven round about him. "And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord?...? (Acts 9:3-4). From Paul's own writing, (and he wrote by inspiration) he said no man could call Jesus Lord but by the Spirit. It was by a direct revelation of the Spirit that Paul could say what he did, in calling Jesus Lord. I believe that Paul was saved when he called Jesus Lord.

In verse four of Acts ten we read "...What is it, Lord?...?" I think that Cornelius called Jesus Lord, as his Saviour. I think that he appointed Him to himself as really and truly his Redeemer. I believe he meant the same thing that the publican did when he prayed and said words to this effect, "Be thou to me that propitiatory sacrifice," when he called upon God.

When Cornelius prayed God heard him, for his prayers had gone up to God for a memorial. A memorial is something remembered. God heard and remembered the prayers of Cornelius.

When Peter fell into a trance, he saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth. In this vessel were all kinds of meat, some of which the Jews were forbidden to eat. Peter declared he would not eat what was unclean, but when God told him not to call unclean that which He had cleansed, he changed his mind.

When the apostle Peter learned of the household of Cornelius, he understood what God showed him by letting the vessel down from heaven. God had purged the sins of Cornelius.

Yes, I believe that Cornelius was saved before Peter preached to him.

## GREEN TREE

(Continued from Page 4)

alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then thou shalt cut it down" (Luke 13:6-9). This parable means that all trees are not fruit bearing trees. Even if they are allowed to take food from the earth they still do not produce fruit. This parable also relates to people's lives. Some people bear fruit for the Lord and live their life for God while others take what God has to offer but do not bear any fruit for God's glory. They take their food from God's earth and give Him nothing in return.

"She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her" (Prov. 3:18). It is referring to the Lord Jesus Christ. It's talking about life. She is a tree of life in the midst of the garden. Christ is that life and that tree. "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you" (John 6:53).

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30). How do you know there is life? Because of the fruit. In Matt. 7 Jesus says, "Ye shall know them by their fruits."

"The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want" (Prov. 13:25).

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalms 1:3).

## PRAYER

(Continued from Page 1)

pray? One of the most common answers to this question is that anyone can pray, and God will answer. But, is this a correct answer? Let us see, turn to the Gospel of John chapter 9 verse 31: "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth." Here God makes known unto us that there is a certain group of people that prays, and that their prayers are not heard. God also makes known unto us that there is a certain group of people that prays, and God hears their every request. Notice the Scripture beloved, now we know that God heareth not sinners. Age. Many people feel that because the human race is almost 6000 years old, and that because God created the human race that age has taken its toll upon God, and that God must be a gray haired old granddaddy, very weak, very feeble, and certainly His mind is failing.

Therefore, they think He can not hear or remember the prayers of sinners.

Beloved, let me assure you that the God of the Bible is perfect, and that He is just as much alive and perfect today as He was from all eternity. You and I are the ones that age takes its toll upon. We are the ones that become weak, feeble minded, and then return unto the dust from where we came. But God is perfect, and because of His perfection He can not age nor become younger. God cannot add unto Himself nor take away from Himself, perfection will not permit this to happen.

Therefore, there must be another reason, that God heareth not sinners.

Beloved, it is the plain teaching of the Word of God, that the only prayer of the unsaved sinner that God hears, is the prayer of the unsaved sinner crying in repentance. And the only reason that God hears that prayer, is because the unsaved sinner is one of God's sheep. This elect one was chosen in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world. Ephesians chapter 1 verse 4: "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:" Who then can pray? The rest of the verse is self explanatory, it says if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth. Who can pray? I Peter chapter 3 verse 12 tells us the righteous can pray. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." Who can pray? Acts chapter 12 verse 5 tells us the church can pray. "Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." To whom should we not pray? We should not pray unto Satan the God of this world. We should not pray unto Mary. True beloved, Mary

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## PRAYER

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was the most blessed of all women, by being the mother of Jesus, but still we are not to pray unto her, by her or thru her. We are not to pray unto material objects, such as the sun, the moon, the mountains, or any such thing. We are not to pray unto earthly men, such as the pope; the pope does not, and can not make intercession for the transgressors.

To whom should we pray? We should pray only unto God the Father. Matthew chapter 6 verse 9. "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Thru whom should we pray? We should pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus. John chapter 15 verse 16.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

Where can we pray? We can pray anywhere; in our home, in our cars, on our walks, on our jobs, in private and in public. I Timothy chapter 2 verse 8 says, "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." When praying in public, only men should pray out loud. Women can also pray in public, but their prayers should be in silence, not showing forth power or authority over the man. I Corinthians chapter 14 verses 34-35, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

We can and we should spend much time in private prayer Matthew chapter 6 verse 6. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into the closet and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." When we pray we should pray with our confidence in God, and ask according to His will I John chapter 5 verse 14-15. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." When we pray we should never ask anything for our own glory, we should ask for the glory of God John chapter 14 verse 13. "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." Now beloved, we all as children of God know, that we should spend much time in prayer, or that we should pray without ceasing.

What happens to a child of God who refuses to pray or takes the attitude that prayer does no good?

If a child of God does not pray, he soon finds himself out of the will of God and obeying the lust of the body, or obeying Satan, the god of this world. Had the sweet poet of Israel, David, prayed unto our great God Jehovah, when he lusted after another man's wife, he would not have committed that terrible sin that blackened his beautiful record. I think we have all seen this happen to pastor after pastor, to Christian after Christian. As has already been stated, prayer is the backbone of a Christian, and when he or she refuses to pray, the very first thing that happens is, that they get themselves out of the will of God. Not out of the saving grace of God, but out of the will of God. Then they become sick, sick of mind, their thinking becomes warped, they become heart sick, they become soul sick, some become sick of body. Many have taken their own life, or tried at least once to take their life. Life has become meaningless unto them, therefore by their actions, they have not only destroyed themselves, but they have destroyed the lives of others, or damaged them deeply. Then at last they, themselves, become as a heap of dung. Very few make it back to be the men and women they used to be. May our Great God Jehovah enable us all to go forward for His Glory. No one is so big that he or she can not fall to the bottom. Let us all get on our knees, and pray unto God at least three times a day, and let us pray one for another. The Power of Prayer. Beloved there are only two powers that exist, all other powers fall under one of these two powers. Firstly, the power of our Great God Jehovah. Secondly, the power of Satan. Satan's power is controlled, or limited as to what God will let him do. Job Chapter 1. Therefore, the greater power is that of our great and sovereign God Jehovah. Prayer is the key that unlocks the door to that power. Prayer is the only key that fits the lock. Words are not in the human language to describe the power of prayer, but nevertheless I will try. In the book of Exodus 4, God makes known unto us, that when He was delivering the Israelites out of slavery, they were camping by the Red Sea. The Egyptian army was about to capture them and return them unto slavery. Moses prayed. God told Moses in verse 16 of Exodus chapter 14. "But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it." Moses did as God has instructed him to do. The Red Sea opened her mouth, dry land appeared, and the Israelites crossed safely upon dry land. The Egyptian army followed them into the Red Sea and when the Israelites were safely on the other side Moses stretched out his hands over the Red Sea. It closed its mouth, and consumed the Egyptian army. The power of prayer James Chapter 5 Verses 16-18. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

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Truly beloved, it was the power of the prayer that closed the very windows of heaven, and it was the power of prayer that opened them again. Beloved, we the chosen of God, the sheep of God, do not have a stronger weapon against the evils of the world than the power of prayer. When temptations round you gather, breathe that holy name in prayer. The power of prayer can make the blind to see, the dumb to speak, the deaf to hear, and the lame to walk, and the dying to live. The power of prayer can feed the hungry, the power of prayer delivers the child of God from evil. The power of prayer. Prayer is the instrument that can accomplish the possible, and most of the impossible. What kind of prayer does God answer? He answers all the prayers of His children. He answers long prayer, short prayers, and medium prayer. One might say I have prayed, and prayed, and prayed and God still has not answered my prayer.

Let us continue in prayer, and if we have not asked for foolishness, He will give us that for which we have asked. Beloved, we as children of the most high God, are much more precious to God, than all the gold and rubies contained in this land. God will hear, God will supply, if there is a need, and we can say along with David of old, "The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Now beloved, how do we obtain power with God? As has already been stated, the key that unlocks the door to that power is prayer. We must learn to pray correctly, and we must learn to live Godly. One of the first things we must do after we have been saved by the grace of a thrice Holy God is to seek the righteousness of God. We should never depend upon our own righteousness, nor should we depend upon our own understanding. Next, we must seek the will of God in our lives. We do this for God's glory, not for our glory. God never saved anyone that He did not have a job for.

Next, let nothing stand in our way from doing what God would have us to do. If anything stands in our way, we should try to remove what is there. If we ourselves can not remove what is

in our way, simply leave it to the wisdom and power of almighty God. He will provide a way. Nothing can keep God's will from being done. Sometimes we may think that Satan is winning the battle, but Satan can never win the battle or the war. Before we pray we should think about what we are going to ask of God. One of the hardest things to do is to pray in public. Why? Because we do not have time to think. Position is not so important in this sense. We can and we should pray any time, and any position we find ourselves in will be acceptable. For example, if we are driving down the road, and we desire to pray, then we should pray. We must always remember that we are about to come into the presence of the most holy God. After we have made ready to pray, we should address God directly, saying our Father which art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Some may want to start their prayer in a different way. Whatever way you chose to start your prayer, approach God directly, do not be afraid to approach Him boldly, but approach Him with the utmost respect. Before we ask God for anything, we should let him know that we are thankful for His blessings we have already received. Remember that you are in the presence of the most holy God. Ask God to forgive you of your sins. We should never ask God for anything with sin upon our soul, and we should never be demanding of God. After all of this we are now ready to fill our mouths with arguments, and pour our hearts out unto God.

Let God know why you have asked for what you ask. This is filling your mouth with arguments. We should never doubt that God is able to do that which we have asked. Always believe that God is willing and able to do that which ye have asked. Next, we should say something like this, Lord if I have asked anything that is bad for me, please do not grant it. Why put that in your prayers? Simply, because you and I may think that we know what is good for us, but God always knows best. Now we are ready to close our prayers, and close our prayers we should. We should never leave it open. When we close our prayers we should close it in the name of Jesus, and for His sake, and always with an amen. Now beloved, if you have a problem it's o.k. to discuss it with your brother. Maybe God will burden him to advise or help in some way. But before you go to your brother, be sure you have a problem. After we have prayed, we should expect God to answer. We must also put our best foot forward to see that these things we have been praying for come true. For example, if you have been praying for wisdom, study and do all you can to learn, and God will grant it unto you. This beloved, is the most effective way that I know to pray. Now for short prayer, and the last point. Sometimes we do not have time for long prayer or medium prayer. But we should never forget to call upon the name of the Lord in our time of need. Beloved, God hears, God honors, and God answers short prayers. And as children of the most high God we have a hot line to God. Please do not be ashamed or afraid to use that hot line. Lord help me, just three little words, but yet a prayer that God will hear.

Let us continue in prayer, and if we have not asked for foolishness, He will give us that for which we have asked. Beloved, we as children of the most high God, are much more precious to God, than all the gold and rubies contained in this land. God will hear, God will supply, if there is a need, and we can say along with David of old, "The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

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## HOW WE CLOSE OUR SERVICE

Our church does not have a set form that we use to close our worship service, except that we always close with a song. I do not know that there is any set procedure in the Scripture for giving an invitation at the end of a service. My own personal preference is to let the circumstance dictate as to what I do. If we are teaching some kind of doctrinal lesson on Wednesday night, we will usually simply stand, sing a hymn, have prayer, and dismiss. I usually call on one of the men, or I will pray the dismissal prayer myself; we would never call on a woman to pray aloud. However, whether Sunday or Wednesday, if I suspect that there are lost

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## CLOUD

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be types for us in our day. And we are told that these things were written for our admonition. This word "admonition" comes from the Greek word NOUTHESIA which simply means a putting in mind. So the history of the wanderings of the children of Israel was written for the purpose of putting it in our mind that those things were for types for us. But how can we benefit from these wonderful types unless we study the history of these people. The old devil does not want us to see all of the types set forth in the history of the children of Israel, so he does all he can to make the Lord's people think the Old Testament is not really important to us in this age. For that reason, the Old Testament is a closed Book to many of our Lord's saints.

When we stop to think about it we find it hard to comprehend all the wonderful things God has done just for us who have been privileged to live in this church age. We, who are privileged to do so rejoice greatly in the sweet fellowship we have with each other and with our dear Lord around the precious Word of God in our respective churches. These churches were not even dreamed of in Old Testament times. We can tell a lost world that Christ died for our sins, but the people in that age could only look for Him to come and do that. We have all the wonderful types to guide us in our study of the precious Word of God. Those people did not even know that what they were doing was to be used of the Lord for types for us. Just think, they had to drink their old idol god, and some twenty three thousand of them had to be slain with the sword in order that you and I might see a clear distinct type of the awful tribulation that is coming upon this old world. Moses had to come down off mount Sinai the second time and make the people drink their idol god, and have all those people slain with the sword in order that you and I can know that our dear Lord's second coming will precede that awful tribulation.

With all that in mind let us now consider just what the relationship was between the cloud and the Lord. We know the people were to follow the cloud. But how was the Lord leading these people when they were following that cloud? Did He stand at the fork in the animal trail in the wilderness, blowing a whistle and pointing the way He wanted them to go. Or did He just give them the feeling that they should go a certain way? Surely you will say, that is ridiculous, and to be sure it is. But, is it any more ridiculous than some of our conceptions as to how the Lord leads us today?

In Ex. 13:21 we see the Lord going before the children of Israel in a pillar of cloud. In Acts 1:9 we see Him ascending back to Heaven in a cloud. And in Rev. 1:7 John saw Him coming back with, or in the clouds. Is not the cloud then our Lord's royal carriage? What a thrill awaits us when we come to I Thess. 4:16-17 where we are caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. I have had some thrilling rides in my day. I recall flying back from Seattle, Washington sometime back. And though we were some six miles above the ground, and were traveling more than five hundred miles an hour, still the water in the glass while I was

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## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

by John R. Gilpin

(Read Revelation 15 and 16)

In our previous chapter, that is, chapter 14, you noticed many things relative to the battle of Armageddon. You can't read the last part of that chapter without realizing that that day of battle is going to be a terrible day of slaughter so far as men are concerned. I would suggest that you read also the book of Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, in order that you might get a further picture of the battle of Armageddon. Certainly, it is going to be a time of terrible slaughter when the blood flows up to the horses' bridles for the space of 176 miles.

Now this Scripture that we have is, in my opinion, a description of what takes place at the battle of Armageddon. The 15th and 16th chapters are but a giving to us of the particulars of the battle of Armageddon. In other words, we had a general picture of the battle in the 14th chapter, and a general description as to how the battle was going to be fought, and the fact that blood was going to flow up to the horses' bridles for a space of 176 miles. Now chapters 15 and 16 give to us some of the particulars and some of the details that take place at the time when the battle is fought.

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shalt not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest" (Rev. 15:1-4).

Now this is a picture of the remnant. We have seen this group before. In fact, beloved, if you will notice carefully, we have already had a good view of this remnant as we have studied about them in Revelation 7. Then we saw them also in the fourteenth chapter. I identified them in both places as being the remnant, or the firstfruits of the Jewish nation.

I believe, beloved, that at the end of the battle of Armageddon all the Jews left in the world will be saved — a nation saved in a day's time. But, beloved, before that nation is saved, before that nation comes to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, there is going to be a remnant of them that will be saved during the tribulation period. As I say, we have looked at them twice, both in Revelation 7 and in Revelation 14, and I consider that this group here is the same group that we have studied these two times previously.

It is rather conspicuous that this remnant comprise the ones that refuse to worship the beast. It says in the second verse that they "had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over the number of his

name..." so we can see, beloved, that these individuals of Revelation 7, Revelation 14, and Revelation 15 — this remnant — the firstfruits of the Jewish nation — have gotten a victory over the beast — over the Anti-Christ.

I wish you would notice that this crowd that we are reading about is not the crowd that has gotten a victory over him at every time. They have never saluted his image, and they have never bought and sold under his name. There is never a time they have compromised in any way regarding the Anti-Christ.



John Gilpin

Now, beloved, it says that this group is in perfect repose, for we read: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass..." (Rev. 15:2).

In all probability, you have stood along the sea coast at sometime and have noticed that the sea is always moving, that it is never still, that it is always turbulent, that it is never quiet. I don't know how many times, beloved, that I have looked out upon the waters and I have thought as I stood beside the sea shore, "Is it possible for the waters to ever cease moving? Is it possible for the waves to ever become quiet?"

Well, beloved, you know as well as I, if you have seen the ocean, that the time never comes when the tide is at a standstill, but rather it continually moves.

Now, beloved, we find that God says that these 144,000 — these who have gotten the victory over the Anti-Christ — are standing as it were on a "sea of glass" — in perfect repose. I like to think of this group who are in perfect repose. They are not troubled, they have nothing to worry about, they have gotten victory over the beast, and they stand in perfect repose. How wonderful it is to know that when these seven plagues fall upon the Anti-Christ and his dupes and when the worshippers of the Anti-Christ suffer as these last seven plagues fall upon the world, these who have been victorious over the Anti-Christ are in perfect repose. They do not bow to the Anti-Christ, and when the last plagues fall upon the world, they stand in perfect calm. Those plagues do not touch them.

Now let's go back to the children of Israel in the land of Egypt. The first three plagues in the land of Egypt fell upon both Egyptians and Jews alike. But then, beloved, it says that God made a difference between the Jews and the Egyptians so that the plagues fell upon Egypt and not a plague fell upon the children of Israel. I see those Jews, beloved, when the flies were thick in Egypt, yet there wasn't a single fly in all the dwellings of the children of Israel. I see the Egyptians when they felt the darkness — it is so dark that they can feel it — yet over in Goshen, in the houses of the children of Israel, there is light. God made a difference in-

somuch that the cattle of the Egyptians died, but the cattle of the children of Israel survived. God, I say, made a difference between Egypt and the children of Israel.

But now, beloved, when these last plagues are being sent upon the Anti-Christ and his followers, God's own — this 144,000, this remnant — the firstfruits of the Jewish nation — stand in perfect repose, calm, peaceful, placid, enjoying to the fullest their experience in the Lord while the Anti-Christ and his crowd suffer.

It is rather interesting to notice this group — this remnant — that they sing, for it says that they "...sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb..." Now, beloved, Moses was a believer; he delivered the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. The Lord Jesus Christ was a Deliverer; He delivers the elect from hell. So this crowd sings the praises of Moses and the praise of the Lamb who delivered them.

In singing, beloved, they praise the Lord for His works, for it says, "...Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty..." There is not one of these Jews who is saved that praises his own works. There is not one of them that sings about what he has done. There is not one of them that praises himself for what he has accomplished. Rather, beloved, they praise the Lord, because of what God has done for them.

There is not an Arminian in the crowd. Every last one of them believes in sovereign grace. Every last one of them believes in the doctrine of election. They praise the Lord for His marvelous works.

I would like to emphasize the fact that the only works that will ever amount to anything are not our works, but the works of the Lord.

Listen: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:22, 23).

This is a picture of the last judgment. We see unsaved men as they come to be judged of God, and as they stand there, they say, "Lord, we've preached big sermons in your name, and we have cast out devils, and, Lord, we have done many wonderful works."

Notice, "...and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you..." He listens to these unsaved preachers when they tell the Lord about their preaching. He listens to them when they brag about the number of demons that they have cast out, but just as soon as they start talking about their works, He says, "...I never knew you..."

I tell you, beloved, the only works that will count at the judgment bar of God are the works of the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who finished our salvation at Calvary. The works of man will avail nothing.

"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him

whom he hath sent" (John 6:28, 29).

Here was a crowd who, after Jesus had fed them, listened to His discourse on the bread of life. They interrupted Him by saying, "What can we do? We want to know what we can do that we may work the works of God?" Jesus said, "There are no works that you can do; there is just one work, and that is the work of faith wrought out in the Lord Jesus Christ."

I want to read you another verse to show you that works are absolutely unnecessary so far as man is concerned in the realm of salvation: "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).

Listen, beloved, the only works in heaven that will ever be praised are the works of the Lord. While the Anti-Christ and his followers are receiving the due reward of their terrible deeds — while they are having these seven last plagues poured out upon them, that saints of this earth are sitting with arms folded, in calm repose, praising the Lamb and singing the praises of their Saviour. They don't praise themselves; they don't brag about their works; rather, they praise the Lord and His works.

It is interesting to me as I read this Scripture to remember that the only folk who sing during this tribulation period are the folk who praise the Lord for His works. They have the deeds of the Lord to sing about. I tell you, beloved, if it were left up to you and me to do anything worthwhile within ourselves, we would never sing like these individuals. These individuals fold their arms and stand in sweet repose and sing the praises of the Lord because His works are perfect works and because that through His finished work of redemption at Calvary, they are saved.

"And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled" (Rev. 15:5-8).

The seven angels with the seven last judgments are just about ready to pour out their vials upon this world. Notice that it says that these seven angels were clothed in pure and white linen, and that their breasts were girded with golden girdles. Beloved, even the angels of God were clothed.

Maybe this is the wrong season to talk about "shorts", but I may not be around next May, June, July and August. I may be in glory by that time, so I want to offer a word of warning now. Beloved, if the angels of God are clothed, how much more does it behoove us as the saints of God within this world!

Now, beloved, as I say, heaven is getting ready for judgment. These angels come forth

to prepare for judgment. Most preachers talk about a God of love all the time. In the modern pulpit we study and talk and preach about a God of love, who loves everything and can't hate anything, and yet the Word of God says that these angels came forth talking about wrath — about God's wrath, and about a God who liveth forever and ever. Beloved, the God we serve is a God that is eternal. We are not serving a God who lives a little while and then passes away, but He lives forever and ever.

Listen: "...O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt..." (Rev. 16:5). Notice, there isn't any doubt about God perishing. God will always be here.

### III. The First Vial.

"And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image" (Rev. 16:2).

Notice, this plague never touched the children of God. It never touched the 144,000 which are the firstfruits of the Jewish nation. Rather, it was aimed at those who were worshippers of the beast. It is a plague that is described as a grievous sore.

In the book of Micah, we have a prophecy relative to the repetition of the plagues that fell upon the Egyptians. Beloved, we have it right here. It is the same plague being repeated upon the world so far as the Anti-Christ and his workers are concerned.

Lazarus had a plague of boils. Now they fell upon this ungodly crowd — the Anti-Christ and his followers — in the closing scenes of the tribulation period.

### IV. The Second Vial.

"And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea." (Rev. 16:3).

This second vial had the effect of causing the sea to become as the blood of a dead man. Beloved, you can hold the blood of a dead man — a gelatinous mass — in your hand, but you can't hold the blood of a man who is alive. God says that the sea is going to become as the blood of a dead man.

### V. The Third Vial.

"And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy" (Rev. 16:4-6).

When this third angel pours out his vial upon the fountains of waters and they become as blood, we learn that the angel who has charge of these waters declares that God is just — that He has dealt in justice, and he praises God for his justice.

Some of these days when Revelation 19 becomes a reality, the saints of God are going to shout over the damnation of the lost. Four times in Revelation 19

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the saints of God shout "Hallalujah" over the destruction of the old whore and her harlot daughters. When they do so, beloved, they are really praising God because He is pouring out His wrath upon those who have long rebelled and blasphemed His name.

In dealing thus, the world is merely getting justice — merely reaping as they have sowed. We read: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

## CLOUD

(Continued from Page 6)

eating my lunch moved so little that it could hardly be detected. But something like that cannot be compared to that wonderful ride with our dear Lord in His royal carriage. But when our Lord was in the cloud in Ex. 13:21 He was directing, or leading those people in their journey. When they followed the cloud they were following His leadership, because He was in the cloud.

With it in mind then, that our Lord led the children of Israel by means of the cloud, let us consider by what means the Holy Spirit leads us today. The Lord was leading the Israelites, but He was invisible to them. However, the means by which He was leading them was visible to everyone. That being true, should we not expect that which the pillar of cloud typifies to be clearly visible to us? A.W. Pink who is one of the most respected Bible commentators of our time says, "What a truly marvelous type of the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit was the fiery and cloudy pillar", (Gleanings in Exodus page 106). Then I.M. Haldeman, another highly respected Bible commentator says in The Tabernacle Priesthood and Offerings page 404, "The Holy Spirit like the cloud is here to regulate the movements of the church." To be sure, the Holy Spirit is here to regulate the movements of the churches. But can we see the Holy Spirit and follow Him as the children of Israel saw the cloud, and followed it? Would it not be better to say the Holy Spirit, like the Lord in the cloud is here to regulate the movements of the churches? We must remember that the Holy Spirit leads us today by a visible means just as the Lord led the Israelites by the visible cloud. When we look for the Holy Spirit's leadership we should look for something that we can see. If He does not lead us by some visible means, how can we be sure we are following His leadership?

When we realize that the Holy Spirit leads us today by means of the written Word of God, and in absolutely no other way. We are amazed at the number of the Lord's people who will spend hours reading the daily paper, including the comic section, and then grab the Bible and read a couple of verses as they reach for their hat and coat and rush out into the world feeling that the Lord should really be proud of them because they had read their daily Bible readings. Then if they happen to think of it they may ask the Lord to lead them

in their undertakings. Just what do we expect the Lord to do when we ask Him to lead us? Do we expect Him to take a visible form and point out just what He wants done, and how He wants it done? Or do we expect Him to give us a feeling that we should do this, or do that? Is this not the general idea among Christians today? Even if we have not read a chapter in the precious Word in twelve months, do we not feel that somehow the Lord will give us a feeling as to what He would have us do?

Really and truly is there just one little reason why our Lord should go to any trouble to lead us when we show such utter disdain for the instructions He has already given us in His Word? When God's children love His Word they take great delight in the study of it that they may know what His instructions are. If it is feelings we want, the old devil has a bucket full of them, and he waits, poised and ready, and even eager to come running with them as the water boy runs with the water for the players on the field. We do not mean to say that feelings have no place in the Christian's life. We just mean that it is all important that we know the source of our feelings. If we can come to see that God has given us all the instructions we need in this life, and all that we will get, it may be that we will stop trying to get more instructions through our feelings, or some other unscriptural source. If our feelings are based upon Scriptural knowledge of our salvation and our eternal security in Christ Jesus all the wealth in the world cannot buy it. But, if our salvation and security is based upon our feelings, we may have it today and lose it tomorrow, depending upon how we feel tomorrow. That kind of salvation is a detriment to us, and an abomination in the sight of God.

Can we not then agree that the cloudy pillar in the wilderness was a type of God's Word today? The cloud was what they saw, and the Word is what we see. God spoke to Moses in the cloud, Psa. 99:7. The Holy Spirit speaks to us in the Word, Rev. 2:7, 11, 29, 3:6, 13, 22. Not only did the Lord use the cloudy pillar to lead the Israelites, but He used it to separate them from the world, Ex. 14:20. Not only does the Holy Spirit use the Word to lead, or guide us today, He also uses it to separate us from the world, even the religious world. Absolutely nothing will separate the Lord's people from the religious world so quickly, and so thoroughly as a firm stand concerning God's precious Word. If His people are steadfast and unmovable, always contending for the faith once delivered to the saints, they are an abomination to the religious world.

In Nehemiah 5:17, Nehemiah tells us that there were those who came in unto them from among the heathen. I can just see them having the time of their life as they ate steaks and roasts with the Jews. But in Neh. 13:1-3 we find that the reading of the law separated them. It will do it every time. Many Baptist churches of our day have anywhere from one to four or more kitchens in their church plant. And if any one of those pastors would like to find out how many heathen he has eating at his table, I double-dog dare him, as we kids used to say, to

tell those at his table to wait before they start to eat in order that we can feed our souls first. And then read Scriptures to them like John 6:44 (all of it), Acts 13:48, Rom. 8:28 (all of it), Eph. 1:4-5, Eph. 1:11. Then for good measure read Job 23:13 and Dan. 4:35. Before he has time to read more, most of those at his table will probably turn up their nose at his fried chicken. Come to think of it, many of those pastors just might turn up their noses too before they got all those Scriptures read.

In Ex. 14:20 that pillar of cloud gave light to God's people, but at the same time it was darkness to the Egyptians who were a type of the world. And how true that is of God's precious Word. In Psalm 119:105 David said, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." But, in I Cor. 2:14 we learn, that the natural man cannot understand the Word, that it is foolishness to him, and that he cannot understand it because he does not have the Holy Spirit to teach it to him. It is darkness to him just as the cloud was to the Egyptians.

The pillar of cloud was given to the children of Israel without their having to ask for it. The Word of God was given to us the same way. The cloudy pillar left no place for liberal teaching, or independent thinking. The Israelites had to either go the way the cloud went, or go the wrong way. There was absolutely no room for compromise. By means of the cloud God told them when to start, where to go, when to stop and how long to stay stopped, Num. 9:17-23. Following the cloud kept God's people together in unity and harmony. The infallible Word of God will do the same for His people today if they will only study it with open minds, in the light of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not teach you one thing and me another thing. Our divisions among us today are not the result of the leadership of the Holy Spirit, but rather the lack of it. If all of God's people in the world today were to seriously, and prayerfully study the Word of God in the light of the Holy Spirit there would be a literal fulfillment of I Cor. 1:10 among us.

## THE TRUTH

(Continued from Page 1)

that leads to hell. The truth about Campbellism is, that it is a man made organization preaching a man made doctrine. The Campbellites originated in the year 1827 with its founder being Alexander Campbell. 1800 some years after Jesus started His church (Baptist), this Alexander Campbell rises up in rebellion against God and truth, and starts his own church. All who are guilty of this will, like Campbell, answer to God for this. Mr. Campbell had no authority from God to do this, neither did he have authority to propagate the strange doctrine that he started. It is interesting, that they no longer want to be called Campbellites, but rather they want to be known as the churches of Christ. It is strange that they want the name Church of Christ, yet they want nothing to do with the church that Jesus started. They also want nothing to do with the truth concerning salvation. Instead, they love a lie and become very angry when the true church, and the truth of

salvation are presented to them. So, the first truth about Campbellism is, that they are enemies of God, and they in fact are synagogues of Satan. They are not doing the Lord's work, but rather they are fighting against it.

Now, most Campbellites say that we are afraid to use the Scriptures that I used at the beginning of the article. Well, that just isn't so. Baptists are not afraid to stand up to any of the harlot daughters or her whoreish mother (Catholic Church) when it comes to any portion of the Word of God. In these verses, the Campbellites claim that salvation comes through the waters of baptism. Now brother and sister that is a very foolish thing to believe. To believe that a man could be saved by having one dunk him under some water you would have to be a very deceived individual. Even if this were true, and it is not, one could not be saved through their ministry, for they have no authority to baptize anyway. Only Baptists can baptize. All others can only dunk you under water. All others receive no more benefits than one would receive swimming in a swimming pool. So, the Campbellite doctrine revolves around water and what it can do for them. If you take the water out of their preaching, they have no salvation left. If one is unable to get to water, there is (according to them) no hope for them being saved. I am sure if this were a true doctrine, the Bible would have much to say about water, and water would be presented throughout it. But the truth of the matter is, that Campbellism is a lie and the Bible does not support it. The Bible makes the way of salvation plain, and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ. Campbellism puts the salvation of man in the hands of other men. According to them, if you are ever to be saved someone is going to have to put you under the water. According to them, if a Campbellite is not around to this for you you cannot be saved. Well friends, folks have been saved from the days of Adam without water and up to the year 1827 without a Campbellite doing anything for them, and they have all been saved in the same manner, in the blood of Jesus Christ. "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:13). "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12). Let me ask the Campbellite, where is the mention of water in these verses? If water is so important to salvation why is it not mentioned in these verses? Well it is not mentioned, because it is a lie and has nothing at all to do with salvation. The Campbellite would want us to believe, that when we are put under water our sins are washed away. They say that you meet the blood of Christ in the water, trying to dress their doctrine up a little, but the fact remains; their emphasis is put on the water. If they would read further in one of their favorite verses, they would see that baptism does nothing for the filth of the flesh. Isn't this what we read in I Peter as the offset?

Another truth about Campbellism is, that it is a doctrine of works. In other words, you will have to do something for yourself in order to be saved. Now men have been trying to

work their way to heaven right from the start, but not one of them has made it yet by their works. Adam and Eve thought they could get by on their own, but they soon found out the fig leaves they had sown together did not hide them from the judgment of God. Now, neither will water hide you from the judgment of God. The Word is plain on works. Ephesians 2:8-10 makes it very plain. "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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." The Bible says that you are saved by grace. Grace is that unmerited favor which He bestows unto His own elect. We do not deserve salvation nor can we earn it, but it comes by the free gift of God. The Campbellites, like all other religions of the world, do not believe this great Bible truth. They teach that you must perform this work in order to have your sins washed away. The Bible says that none will be able to boast about their salvation, because it is not attainable through works. If we were saved by our works, we would be able to walk around heaven and tell everyone there how that we went to the water, or went to the altar, and did what we had to do in order to be saved. Well beloved, boasting is one thing that will not be heard or seen in heaven. All of the saints will know that it was the Lord who paid their price of redemption and they will know that they played no part in that. When these men preach a works salvation, they will say that God has done all that He can do and the rest is all up to you. They mock our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. They make Him unable to save anyone without their help.

Another teaching of the Campbellites is their usurping of the mediator. According to them the baptizer is the mediator between God and the sinner. The Campbellites makes the baptistry or their water hole God and they make the baptizer the mediator instead of Jesus

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## BIBLE SALE

I am a KJV fan. I am even more a Textus Receptus fan. However, I am not a fanatic on the matter. I do not believe that the translators were inspired so that there are no errors in the KJV. Crucify me if you will. I will say that, among the many different versions of the Bible, the NIV seems to one of the most popular just now.

I do highly recommend the Thompson Chain reference Bible as having the most and the best references of any such Bible. We have some Thompson Chain Bibles in the NIV. We have some in black, brown, and burgandy. We have some indexed and some not. The indexed sell for \$62.95, the other for \$57.95. We will sell the indexed for \$44. and the other for \$40. This will be plus \$4.25 postage and handling.

Frankly, I desire to get rid of these "other version" Bibles, and do not plan to sell anymore except on special order.

Please give second choice as to color and indexed when ordering.



To err is human; but to persist makes a man like the devil, who is to this day of the same mind he was at his first fall.

## THE TRUTH

(Continued from Page 8)

Christ. You see how terrible and God dishonoring this teaching is. According to them you must come through the baptizer in order to get to God. The Bible says, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Tim. 2:5). The Campbellites tell us that you must go through their baptism to meet the blood of Christ. Christ on the other hand says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." One interesting fact about this is that the preacher has the right to accept or reject anyone who comes to be baptized. In other words, they claim the preacher has the power to send to hell or to grant entry into heaven. The church is not allowed to make this decision, but only the preacher in the church. I think they like the idea of making themselves gods just like their momma (Catholic Church). I personally believe, if given the opportunity, they also would be just as ruthless towards the true churches of Jesus Christ. They teach that you are saved through baptism, and that this baptism must be administered by them. They, like their momma, have salvation locked up in their church and have condemned all others to hell.

The later text that I used in the article is another which this organization perverts. They claim you must be baptized in order to have remission of sins. This is not what this verse is

pointing out. The teaching here, is to be baptized after you are saved, or because you have been saved. They make the mistake of using the wrong implication of the word "for". The word for is one that means because of in this case. Because you are saved, you should be baptized by a Baptist and become a member of a true church and serve God faithfully in that church. As I understand their doctrine, they are not much interested in whether you repent or not, just that you be baptized. Again they place their hope in the water, expecting it to cover a multitude of sins. They do not understand that sin must be paid for. They do not understand that Christ was the only one able to be a sacrifice for sin. They do not understand that Christ paid the full and exact penalty for sin for the chosen people of God. They do not understand that the justice of God was satisfied, and all who are in Him shall not come unto condemnation. They have no idea the way of salvation, for it is perverted in their teaching. You cannot be saved believing what they teach. If any of them are trusting in Christ and Him alone, yes. But if they have their hope in their water god, then I think not.

The Campbellite doctrine has made an inconsistency with God as regards to salvation. Like other false religions, they have come up with a new way of salvation. They say, that Old Testament saints were saved in a different manner than the New Testament saints were. You can hear them say, "well that was back in the old Bible,

that doesn't concern us today." Whenever you hear one use the terms old Bible and new Bible, you can be pretty well sure that they don't believe any portion of it at all. I think the thief on the cross is the perfect example of salvation. In this we see one saved by grace and not by his works. We see one who was not a member of the Lord's church. We see one who did not have the opportunity to be baptized or to serve the Lord. He was able to witness to the other thief and that was the extent of his service to the Lord. But the fact remains, that the Lord saved this man while they both were hanging on their crosses, and Jesus told him that, that day he would be with Him in paradise. Now, the Campbellites refuse to believe that we are all like this man on the cross. They insist, that you must be baptized in order to go to heaven.

The Campbellite doctrine puts baptism before salvation. Notice the event which took place in Acts 8:36-38. "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Phillip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." Phillip would not baptize him unless he was saved. Had the eunuch not believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour, then Phillip would have denied him baptism, for it would not have benefitted him in the least. Also, in the Book of Matthew we find the baptizer baptizing and some come to him to be baptized. "Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come: Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance."

John would not baptize them for they were lost in their sins. They like the Campbellites were trying to work their way to heaven, and John called them a bunch of snakes. He warned them to flee to Christ for salvation. To seek Him first, and then he would baptize them. Baptism is never put ahead of salvation in the Word of God, and as I said, only Baptists are able to Baptize anyway.

I could go on with more Scripture to prove Campbellism a hellish organization. What has been pointed out in the article is enough to prove them the enemies of Christ and His true churches. Campbellism stands as a bold force used by the powers of darkness to deceive many in our day. After studying them I view them as worse than I did before I studied them. They look so much like the Roman Catholic Church that I must put them in the category of a cult. They have dressed themselves up as a God honoring organization, but underneath their flattering tongues we see their attempt and desire to take the place of Christ and be the judges of who is going to heaven and hell. But like all cults, God will have the last

say, and in the day of judgment they will be put down, and God will remain the true Sovereign that He is. God will not share His glory with them, and their attempts to glorify themselves in their own works will come to nought. If you are in one of these organizations, may God bring you out of it.

## FLEECE

(Continued from Page 1)

his journey prosperous or not." (Gen. 24:14, 15 & 21).

The first passage of Scripture has to do with God using Gideon to deliver Israel from the hands of their enemy, the Midianites. Gideon used the excuse that his family was poor, and he was the least in his fathers' house, therefore, he wasn't qualified. Judges 6:15. The Lord promised to be with him, and that Gideon would be victorious in defeating the Midianites. Judges 6:16. Gideon's next request to the Lord was a sign from Him that he had talked with Him. Judges 6:18-24. Request granted. Gideon had to be reassured by the Lord each time he was called on by Him to carry out His will in certain matters.

Sometimes, Gideon needed more than one assurance to be satisfied that the Lord would be with him. Judges 6:36-40.

The second passage of Scripture Genesis 24:15, 16 & 21, is the record of Abraham's eldest servant seeking out a wife for his son Isaac according to Abraham's dictates, Genesis 24:2-4. The servant had certain fears, Genesis 24:5, that he would not be able to carry out the oath that he had sworn to Abraham. Abraham reassured the servant that he would be free from the oath if the damsel refused to follow him. Genesis 24:8. Consequently, he asked the Lord to show him the damsel that he had appointed to be Isaac's wife by her actions according to that which he had requested. Genesis 24:14. It came to pass exactly as he requested. Genesis 24:15-20. The servant still had reservations about the matter. Genesis 24:21.

1. Question: what else did he (servant) or Gideon need?

2. Question: Have we as children of God learned how to find out God's will in certain matters in our lives, or, do we continue in the dark never knowing which way to turn in defeat?

3. Question: Does God want us to prove Him?

4. Question: Were these experiences examples that we in the 20th century might be able to profit by? Answer, YES!!

Follow me a little farther in the Word of God please. I Corinthians 10:11. "Now all of these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." God is a God that delights in His children proving Him. Malachi 3:10 and Romans 12:2. By proving God we prove to ourselves we can be useful to Him and He to us. In other words, this is a matter that is reciprocal (mutual-interchangeable).

The Word of God contains His will, His ways, and His work. Thus, we can successfully find the pathways of this life by faithfully adhering to the Word of God, thus His will will unfold. Have you tried this formula (God's ways) for answers to problems and been defeated? The reason could be: 1. Unconfessed sin. 2. Iniquity in your heart. 3. Ask amiss. 4.

Worldly, (backslided). 5. Lack of faith. 6. Lack confidence. 1st John 1:9, Psalms 66:18-20, James 4:3, 1st John 2:15-17, Hebrews 10:38, 1st John 5:14 & Philippians 1:6.

We should seek to prove, and to please God. Psalmist David said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psa. 139:23, 24).

In closing, I would like to say that I have tried this formula (if you please), and I must admit, I have been amazed on many occasions as God reached down and, did exactly as I asked Him to do. To God Be The Glory!!

The "Clarion Call," (Clear-Proclamation) from God is... "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (Malachi 3:10b). This promise from God in Malachi 3:10 pertains to tithing, nevertheless, I believe when we try God in other areas of our Christian experiences the promise is the same. Amen and Amen.

## FALSE

(Continued from Page 1)

ings with His people.

This doctrine has a broad and deep foundation in the Scripture. It is woven into the very warp and woof of divine revelation. Like a continuous scarlet thread this gracious purpose of God runs through the fabric of His Word. "The Bible not only teaches the doctrine, but makes it prominent — so prominent that you can get rid of election only by getting rid of the Bible" (Bishop, in "The Doctrines of Grace.") "Let the Scripture be read with reference to this doctrine, and every passage marked which indicates God's dealing with men as an absolute sovereign, and also every declaration which ascribes election or the fruits of it to His choice and not to the will or act of men, and every illustration afforded that this is God's usual method, and it will appear that scarcely any book of Scripture will fail to furnish testimony to the fact that in the acts of grace, no less than those of providence, God "...doeth according to his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth" (Dan. 4:3-5). (Boyce in "Abstract of Systematic Theology).

But since this doctrine is so stripping and humbling to man and so thoroughly distasteful to the carnal mind, it has many opposers — even quiet a few who pose as Baptists. It is even as the immortal J.R. Graves said: "All men are by nature Arminians; and the absolute sovereignty of God is a doctrine hateful to the natural and depraved heart. False teachers have taken advantage of this natural feeling and have for ages inflamed the prejudices of Christian men and women against any exercise of sovereignty on the part of God" ("The Seven Dispensations," pages 95, 96).

It is our purpose in this article to refute some of the foolish and vain notions of men by which they would explain away this glorious mystery. Their theories, if true, would drag

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## WHEN THE CHURCHES BEGAN

by The Editor

True Missionary Baptist churches were started by Jesus Christ during the days of His earthly ministry in the land of Palestine.

Holiness (so-called) churches. There are multitude of such churches, most of which call themselves of a Pentecostal character. None of them began before the late 1800's. Most of them have begun in the 1900's.

The Seventh Day Adventists were begun by Ellen White in America in 1840. I would classify these as more of a cult than a church.

The Mormons were started by Joseph Smith in America in 1830. Of course, this cult has no real right to the name of a Christian denomination.

The Campbellites were started by Alexander Campbell in America in 1827. I know they do not like to be called by the name of their father, and I don't blame them. They themselves, by professing to be a restoration movement, admit that there was no such church in the world when Alexander started his. They have divided into a multitude going under different names such as Disciples of Christ, The Church of Christ, The Christian Church, etc. They differ on many things, but all unite on their "be dipped or be damned" heresy.

The Hardshells were started by James Osborne in America in 1827. They are not the primitive Baptists, for Missionary Baptists were here 1800 years ahead of them.

The Methodists were started by John Wesley in England in 1792.

The Freewill Baptists were started by Benjamin Randall in America in 1780.

The Congregationalists were

started by Robert Brown in England in 1850.

The Presbyterians were started by John Calvin in Switzerland in 1536.

The Church of England was started by Henry the 8th in England in 1534. The adulterous king wanted to divorce his wife, Catherine, and marry Ann Boleyn. The Pope denied him this privilege. Henry did this anyway. The Pope then excommunicated Henry. King Henry then convened his parliament and had them pass the "Act of Supremacy" making him the supreme head of church and clergy in England.

The Episcopalian Church is the same as the Church of England. She, of necessity, separated therefrom following the War of Independence.

The Lutheran Church was started by Martin Luther in Germany in 1520.

The Moravian Church was started by John Huss in Germany in 1457.

The Roman Catholic Church was started by Gregory the Great in Rome in 590. This church was actually a gradual development from early heresies. It is totally impossible for this murderous monster, this sum and source of most false doctrine to be a true church of Jesus Christ. Her utter unlikeness to the New Testament is final and convincing proof that she is a false church.

Baptist churches are the only churches that have Jesus Christ as founder and head. All others were started by men (or worse). All other churches were started too late to be true churches. Therefore, only true Missionary Baptist Churches are true Churches of Jesus Christ. Every saved person should be a member of such a church.

## FALSE

(Continued from Page 9)

God from His throne and subordinate His will to that of man in the bestowal of His grace. These theories are nothing more than an effort toward the "measuring of supernatural mysteries with the crooked mete-wand of degenerate reason."

We will take up the following theories:

1. That election represents the even tenor of Bible teaching, we have but to turn to the following passage of Scripture: "We are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation" (II Thess. 2:13).

This passage represents the even tenor of Bible teaching. It is true that election is secondarily unto service, but it is primarily unto salvation.

2. That election embraced only a sufficient number of individuals to guarantee that in every generation some would believe and propagate the gospel; others being left to themselves to believe or disbelieve.

It will seem strange to some of our readers to hear these first theories mentioned, but we have actually known of both of these first two being advocated by those who were supposed to be Baptists. For a refutation of this second view we turn to the ninth chapter of Romans. We find there that in respect to election there are but two classes: one God loves, the other He hates — which implies nothing more than the withholding of His love (v. 13); on one He has mercy, the other He hardens (v. 18); one consists of vessels of mercy afore prepared unto glory, the other of vessels of wrath fitted to destruction (vs. 21, 22). There is no hint here or elsewhere of a class that were neither elected to nor are excluded from the saving provisions of God's grace, but were left to themselves to believe or disbelieve. Again we turn to John 6:65, and there we find that the sinner's coming to Christ for salvation is the result of God's sovereign bestowal of ability upon those who come. That this gift of ability to come to Christ is not general, but sovereign, discriminating and particular, is shown by the preceding verse. Christ spoke of it in explanation of why some did not believe on Him. Therefore, since no one can come to Christ except those to whom God gives the ability, since He has not given this ability to all, and since that which God does now He purposed to do in the beginning, it being impossible that there should be any new thought or purpose with God, in the beginning God purposed to bestow upon some and to withhold from others the ability to come to Christ and be saved. This is election; and it is seen to include not merely some but all that will receive the blessings of salvation.

3. That personal election takes place in time and not in eternity; that we are elected when we believe.

This theory teaches that repentance and faith are the cause of election, and not election the cause of repentance and faith, as is truly the case. In refutation of this view let us note the following Scriptures: "All that the Father giveth me

shall come to me" (John 6:37). "As many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48). "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4). "And they that dwell upon the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 17:8). "I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (II Tim. 2:10).

Now let us note these passages carefully. The first one makes the coming of sinners to Christ the result of the Father's giving them to Christ. This giving of sinner to Christ, in this passage, has literal reference to the regenerating word of God's Spirit by which men are brought to Christ. But since that which God does now He purposed to do in eternity, the purpose to give these to Christ is eternal. This purpose is election. In eternity God in His purpose gave to

Christ those whom He should save, in time He carries out His purpose by bringing these into actual possession of Christ.

Therefore, since their coming to Christ is the result of God's giving them to Christ, their coming is the result of election, and not their election the result of their coming. The second passage teaches that only those who are ordained to eternal life believe. This ordination to eternal life is election. And since this passage puts ordination to eternal life before belief, election precedes salvation. And since all of God's purposes are eternal, this election is eternal. The third passage says that we are chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. No comment is needed to show that this refutes the view of election which we are discussing. The fourth passage says that those whose names were not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world will worship the beast (Rev. 13:8) and be lost (Rev. 14:9, 10). The others are the elect. And their election took

place from the foundation of the world, and consisted of the writing of their names in the Book of Life. From the foundation of the world means before the foundation of the world. In the last passage Paul tells why he endured all the privations and hardships which he bore. It was in order that the elect might be saved. Not that there was any possibility of any of them not being saved, but Paul was impelled by the Holy Spirit in carrying out God's purpose by predestinated means. This passage shows that there is an unsaved elect, and thus refutes the view we are considering.

Had we thought of it, we might also have well included in our list of passages in this connection Psalm 65:4. This passage says: "Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth and causeth to approach unto thee." This passage puts election before salvation because it puts the choosing before the approach to God.

4. That election took place in eternity, but that it was based

upon God's foresight of the repentance and faith of the ones elected.

We presume the following are the chief passages which the advocates of this view would rely on for proof: "Whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom. 8:29). "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:2).

We will closely investigate these passages, but first of all, let us ask what the advocates of this view hope to gain. Do they seek to vindicate God of responsibility for those that perish, which they think unconditional election imposes upon Him? If so, and they are capable of thinking, they must see the futility of their efforts. Suppose God exercised no sovereignty at all in the bestowal of His grace. Did He not of His own pleasure

(Continued on Page 11 Column 1)

## THERE'S NOTHING AS IMPORTANT

by Frank Beck

In number, there are many expressions of Christ's church, and they all are "the churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16). These churches are visible churches. They are not to be despised nor lightly esteemed, for they are true churches. Are they not the "churches of Christ?" These churches are also referred to in the sacred Scriptures as: "the church of God" (I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 1:1); "the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Tim. 3:15); and the "body of Christ" (I Cor. 12:27); and these churches of God are in such an exalted position that they are spoken of as being: "in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thess. 1:1). I repeat; these churches are real, visible churches, and not some imaginary invisible, universal church.

These churches are independent churches bound together only in the fellowship of the gospel. They are not bound together by presbyteries, general assemblies, synods, associations and conventions. Each one of these churches is complete in itself as in Christ. These churches are made up of baptized believers of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 18:8; I Cor. 1:2). To these churches the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper were delivered (I Cor. 11:2); by these churches missionaries are sent forth (Acts 13:1-4). These churches choose their own officers (Acts 6:1-5), receive their own members (Rom. 14:1) and dismiss their own members (I Cor. 5:11, 13). No other organization existed in the New Testament to do the will and work of God except the churches.

I am blind to everything but the Word of God! I say boldly that the large crop of independent mission boards and Bible schools and radio broadcasts and evangelistic crusades and parties and Bible conferences and youth movements are not on New Testament ground, in that they have not been authorized by the New Testament churches and, in many cases, take the place of the divinely-instituted church of God.

New Testament Evangelists Honored God's Church:

Barnabas and Saul were not independent evangelists or Bible teachers for they assembled with the church in Antioch a whole year and taught the Word (Acts 11:26). Today many of our evangelists and Bible teachers would rather preach in a tabernacle or tent or town hall! I hold in my hand two letters from a very popular radio evangelist concerning the arrangements for a rally. In the one letter his secretary writes: "...would prefer to hold the rally in a neutral auditorium, such as a high school auditorium..." In the other letter, she writes: "Mr. .... did not explain why it was not possible to get the high school auditorium for this rally; but we assume that it was not possible to rent this auditorium; therefore, the rally is being held in the Baptist church. Usually these rallies are held in neutral auditoriums where possible."

Why does this prominent evangelist prefer to ignore the church and preach in a neutral auditorium? Is it to get the unsuspecting to attend who would not otherwise come to the church? Is it to get away from the "churchy" idea? I do not know, but I do know that this is not New Testament evangelism, on the basis of Acts 11:26.

In Acts 13:1-4 Barnabas and Saul were "in the church that was at Antioch." This same evangelist told me himself that some of the missionaries his radio fellowship supports are not members of any church. His reason was that they have been "too busy winning souls." I don't know if that makes them any better than Barnabas and Saul or not, but Barnabas and Saul took time to join the church at Antioch: they were "in the church."

When the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write to the believers in Corinth it was to the "church of God" which was "at Corinth" (I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 1:1). So also in the letters written to the Galatians (Gal. 1:2); to the Ephesians (Eph. 3:14-21); to the Philippians (Phil. 4:15); to the Colossians (Col. 1:18, 4:15-16); to the Thessalonians (I Thess 1:1; II Thess. 1:1); and to the saints scattered throughout Asia (Rev. 1:14; 22:16); in all these cases it was always to visible churches in the vicinities. No other work was recognized. No other work should be recognized

today, apart from the New Testament churches. Why do we not abide by the Word of God?

The apostles, prophets and teachers and evangelists of the New Testament were not independent of the local church. They were set by God "in the church" (I Cor. 12:28). They recognized the authority of the church of God.

I know of no Christian preacher or worker in the New Testament of whom it can be proved that he was independent of the church. I know of no institution or ministry of Christian work outside of the local church in the New Testament. Do you? But we have many today! And the people love to have it so.

New Testament Churches Alone Have God's Authority:

In the New Testament the local church had its own God-given authority to pass sentence upon matters, select their own officers, send out their own missionaries and support whom they would. Examine the evidence as follows:

1. The church has authority to pass sentence (that is, within scriptural limits). Christ taught that the highest court of appeal in difficulties between Christian brethren was the action of the church! (Matt. 18:15-18). No synod or presbytery could be appealed to, to reverse the verdict. So the church receives whom it will (Rom. 14:1) and dismisses whom it will (I Cor. 5:5-6). It is the Christian's courtroom (I Cor. 6:4). Hence in Acts 15:22 the important decision as to whether or not Gentile converts had to be circumcised and keep the law of Moses was decided by the "whole church" of Jerusalem — not by the apostles alone, or by some council or synod.

2. The New Testament church has authority to select its own officers. While Peter suggested the election of an apostle to take Judas Iscariot's place, it was the 120 disciples who appointed by lot, (Matthias) (Acts 1:15-26); Peter did not look like much of a pope there! In Acts 6:1-5 it was the "multitude of the disciples" and not the apostles alone, who chose the seven deacons as officers of the early church. In I Corinthians 16: 1-4 the church of God at Corinth had the authority to select its own messengers to

carry its special offering for the poor saints at Jerusalem, even an apostle Paul had no authority to tell them. These messengers of mercy were "chosen of the churches" (II Cor. 8:19, 23).

3. The New Testament church only has Scriptural authority to ordain and send forth and support missionaries. I stand square on Acts 13:1-4 for this statement. It was the church of Antioch that sent forth Barnabas and Saul, and to that church later they made their report of "all that God had done with them" (14:27).

I have said it to the faces of two directors of Bible conferences and they have both agreed with me that their Bible conferences have no Scriptural right to send out and support missionaries, that it is the work of the church. Still they do it! Well then how will these missionaries be supported? Let them be supported by the same way pastors are supported and our own Baptist missionaries are supported and the same way the apostle Paul was supported, by the gifts of the churches. Give your tithes and offerings through the local church of which you are a member. The church at Philippi sent once and again to Paul's support (Phil. 4:15-16). Of course this will mean that these independent evangelists and missionaries will have to give the churches financial reports and also declare their faith and become "denominational."

Yes, they are independent. They are not tied down by any church. Neither are they like the New Testament evangelists and teachers who were servants of the churches (Rom. 16:1). They are not limited like Barnabas who went to Antioch by the authority of the church at Jerusalem to see how God had wrought among the Gentiles (Acts 11:22); or like Paul and Barnabas, who went down from Antioch to Jerusalem to discuss circumcision and the law of Moses, by the authority of the church at Antioch (See Acts 14:26-15:4).

I beseech you, do not be carried away with men and great numbers and sensational noises. Oh, I beg you, be bound to the Word of God and become "followers of the churches of God which... are in Christ Jesus" (I Thess. 2:14). Amen!

## FALSE

(Continued from Page 10)

create the universe and the human race with full knowledge of the outcome? Did He not know who would be saved and who would be lost? Why did He inaugurate a plan that would terminate with some, even a countless multitude, in hell? Why did He create the men whom He knew would perish? Could He not have ordered it so that every one He created should be saved? Would this have made man less free? If so, then those who receive salvation are less free than those who reject it! Then why didn't God order His creation, providence, and grace so that all He created would be saved? Certainly He could have done it. And since He could have and didn't, under this theory we are now discussing, He is as responsible for the perdition of men as He can possibly be under unconditional election. "I at once admit that the mere foreseeing an event which we cannot hinder and have no agency in accomplishing, does not involve us in any responsibility. But when the Creator, of His own sovereign pleasure calls an intelligent agent into being, fashions him with certain powers, and appetites and places him amid scenes where he clearly sees that temptations will overcome him — in such a case it is self-evident that our feeble faculties cannot separate foreknowledge from foreappointment" (Richard Fuller, in "Baptist Doctrines," by C.A. Jenkins).

Do they adopt their theory of election because they fancy unconditional election abrogates the free agency of man? If so, then, again they are striving in vain. If it is the certainty that prevails under unconditional election that causes them to charge it with destroying man's freedom, then we have but to remind them that their theory is open to the same charge. If God merely foresaw an event, that event is as certain as it possibly could be under unconditional election. Do they bring this charge against unconditional election because it involves the necessity of God taking the initiative in the actual work of saving men? If so, can they prove that God cannot do this without violating man's free agency? They cannot; neither by Scripture, human experience, psychology, reason, or common sense. If the advocates of this theory are capable of sound thinking, they will see, so long as God's work in salvation is such as to leave man at every moment free to follow his own desires and inclinations, to act voluntarily, being conscious of no outside force compelling against him against his will to this or that course of action, that man's free agency is not destroyed. Is the work of God in saving men, as involved in unconditional election, such a work as this? It assuredly is. We suppose no advocate of this theory would say that saved people are not free agents. Yet God works in them both to will and to do His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13)! And this work is so effective that by it God secures the certain perseverance of every believer (I John 5:4)! This will be admitted by every Baptist. Then if God can work effectively in the saved person and thus bring that lost person voluntarily to Christ? Certainly He can. And does the implantation of the new nature antecedent to faith (in order of thought) any

more abrogate man's freedom than the implantation of it subsequent to faith? Emphatically not. Any advocate of this theory with a fair mind and the ability to think will discard it after thorough study.

Do the advocates of this theory seek to avoid the thought of some men being born into this world without any possibility of salvation? If so, again they show themselves exceedingly foolish. For is there any possibility of any being saved except those whom God foresaw as the ones that would be saved? Not unless the foreknowledge of God can be made a farce! Then, in respect to this matter, how much better off is the advocate of this theory than the advocate of unconditional election? Truly did Richard Fuller say: "The denial of preordination does not, therefore, relieve any objection. It only conceals the difficulty from the ignorant and unthinking" ("Baptist Doctrines," as previously quoted).

Then, may we ask, what accounts for the certainty involved in God's foreknowledge? If God knew that certain ones would be saved, it was certain that they would, and that certainty existed before these individuals had any being in the universe. They could not, therefore, have been the author of the certainty. To the question as to the source of this certainty there can be but one of two answers. It was either an all-wise, omniscient, just, holy, gracious God; or it was stupid, cold, hard, merciless fate. Take your choice, friend, take your choice. Help yourself generously to either horn of the dilemma you prefer. They are both free. In case either horn should prove insufficient to satisfy you, write us and we will send you another car load.

Turning now to an investigation of the two passages given at the outset of our consideration of this theory, we will find that the use of "know" and its cognate forms, when expressing an act of God toward His people, means more than merely to apprehend intellectually. When God said to Israel: "You only have I known of all the families of the earth" (Amos 3:2), was He speaking of mere intellectual knowledge? If so, then He was not aware of the existence of any other nation! Plainly, the knowledge here spoken of is the knowledge of approbation; to regard with favor. This necessarily is the case with every use of the term "know," or any of its cognate forms, when it expresses an act of God toward His people. The presence of the Greek prefix "pro" before the verb does not alter this. This addition merely fixes the time of the act.

Then the lexicon will inform us that the word is not confined in its signification to a mere mental act. The form in Romans 8:29, according to the Classic Greek Dictionary, has, as a secondary meaning, the significance of "to judge or decide beforehand." The form in I Peter 1:2, according to both Thayer and Hickie, means both "foreknowledge" and "prearrangement."

We conclude that the forms of the word in these passages have reference to the sovereign fixing of God's favor upon certain individuals in eternity, marking them as recipients of His saving grace, for reasons known only to Himself. This implies and involves sovereign choice, which is unconditional election.

To represent God as looking down through time and seeing certain ones as believers,

without His prior purpose to work faith in them, is a denial of total depravity. (copied from March 1, 1932 T.B.E.).

## THE NAME OF THIS PAPER IS SIGNIFICANT

by T.P. Simmons

The name of this paper has not been selected carelessly. It was decided upon after much thought, prayer, and consultation with others. A number of names were considered, and the name that the paper carries was selected as the most suitable and appropriate one that could be found. The name describes the mission of the paper. Its mission is to examine such as may claim its attention in the light of the Scripture. The passage of Scripture we are using immediately under the name fits both the name and the mission of the paper. Our appeal will ever be "to the law and to the testimony." This is the highest court of appeal for all those who accept the Bible as the inerrant, complete and all-sufficient standard for faith and practice.

(Copied from the first TBE published 4-1-31)

Editor's Note: The name of this paper is still the same, and the purpose for having that name remains. We still examine that which comes before us by the Word of God and print the results of that examination in this paper.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The editor will be preaching in a revival meeting at the Indore Baptist Church of Indore, West Virginia, June 14-20. Services will be at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, and at 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. There will be special services on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. The church will then provide lunch for those present. Following lunch, there will be another service at which deacons will be ordained. There will be no Saturday night service. I would like to meet TBE readers in the area during this meeting. This is truly a great church. The church is pastored by Elder Ray Brown; a very fine, able, and sound preacher of God's Word. For further information contact Ray Brown at (304) 442-4017 or R.B. Legg at (304) 587-4647. You may also contact R.B. Legg, Jr., at (304) 587-2359. Please pray for this meeting.

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The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Cortland, Ohio is planning a fellowship June 20th, 1987. Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served by the host church. There will be an afternoon service following lunch. Several speakers, including the assistant editor of T.B.E. will be preaching. This is a very fine church. I urge readers who can to attend this fellowship. I have been to several fellowships with this church, and have been greatly blessed thereby. For any further information contact the pastor, Chester Powell at 7177 Hayes-Orangeville Rd., N.E., Burghill, Ohio 44404, or call him at (216) 772-6323.

Elder George Roberts has accepted a call to the Cedar Crest

Drive Baptist Church of Huntington, West Virginia and is now on the field. The church is located at 1444 Cedar Crest Drive in Huntington. Services are held at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Sundays and at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday night. This is a fine, sound, and true church Brother Roberts is a sound and able preacher. Readers in this area are urged to attend services in this church. For further information, contact George Roberts at (304) 733-3980.

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The Castle Road Baptist Church is located at 12800 Castle Road in Louisville, Ky. So far as I know this church is in agreement with truths taught in The Baptist Examiner. They are definitely a sovereign grace church. They would be happy for folk in the area to visit with them in their services.

This church is also at present without a pastor. They would be happy for any preacher who could to come by and preach for them. They are looking for a pastor, but would appreciate a preacher preaching for them even if he were not interested in becoming pastor. They are in need of help. Any preacher, or anyone interested in this matter, contact Marvin Long at 12327 B. Western Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40229, or call him at (502) 955-7353.

## SERVICE

(Continued from Page 6)

visitors or people who are looking for a church home, I will give an invitation. I try to let the circumstance dictate and try to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

As for visiting speakers, my personal rule is to allow the preacher close the service the way he wants to as long as it is within reason. By that I mean exercising Scriptural conduct.

## WHAT THE CHURCH MEANS TO ME

by Waldo Whiddon

Sing songs of praise and adoration to the Messiah, our Lord and Saviour, exercise the victory given one in salvation by gathering and making it known. A place where the love of God flows freely from one bosom to another, rejoicing in life eternal given by Christ our Lord, as we worship in spirit and truth, that, my friend, are the actions of a true church of God. "Let brotherly love continue" (Heb. 13:1). God will honor such a church.

There is so much in the so-called interdenominational literature today that tends to tear down the local church and its program, that it causes us to take a stand against such heresy, and try to encourage the people to re-examine what God says in His Holy Word concerning the church that Christ established here on earth for His loved ones. We must have our feet on solid footing if we are to properly defend the true doctrines concerning the church. Again I say, we must contend for the faith. Jude 3.

We urge the Baptist people to examine God's Word daily, constantly, pray for guidance into what is right, and what is sound doctrine concerning the first church in Jerusalem (we believe

that is where our church started, and not three to four hundred, and up to a thousand or more years later, after our Lord went back to sit on the right hand of the Father). It is easy today to be misled concerning so-called Christian work on the radio, T.V., some schools, also certain mission work. They only serve to weaken the wallets of true Bible believing Baptists. One can be absolutely honest in his giving to some of the fly-by-night societies, and yet, his efforts be of no avail as to soul salvation. The missionary Baptist church should be just that, mission minded, and that very strongly with support to the mission work, but be sure you know what, and who your missionaries are. When they are Christ oriented, God called, proven sound in the faith, then give until it hurts, then give some more. A Bible believing strong Baptist church will do just that, and when she does, you may rest assured that God will bless that church. It has been our profound pleasure to witness that here in our home church at Park Ridge, and to God be the glory. When souls are saved, then feed them at home in the local church. Do not let them wander off and lean on this heresy doctrine that is prevalent today in our Christian endeavour. My God help us see the truth and stand up for it at all costs. It is wrong to let our young converts rely upon these doctrines when it is our duty to feed them at home, and help to safeguard them against the wiles of Satan who walks rampant to weaken their testimony.

One of the finest things today is to hear that souls are being saved, but my brethren, the program of the church goes beyond getting them saved. It also reaches out a helping hand to them that they might be properly fed, or shall we say, looks after their welfare as babes in Christ, while they grow in grace and into a better knowledge of the truth as they grow older in grace. These are duties of a true church. Interdenominationalism is not the true church, and one church is not as good as another. ...So be it. (Copied from The Park Ridge Baptist Messenger, November 1975 issue).

Psalm 19:8. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

"What book are you reading?" a man asked a girl. "The Word of God," she replied. "Who told you the Bible is the Word of God?" he asked contemptuously. "God told me." "God told you? Impossible! How could He tell you?" For a moment she was confused. Then she put a question to her questioner. "Who told you the sun is up there?" "Who told me? The sun tells me itself when it gives me its light and warmth which I love." "Well, my Bible is like the sun. When I read it, it gives me light. It warms my heart. I love its light and warmth. None but God could give the light and warmth I get from this book." The man turned away quietly and thoughtfully.

**TUNE IN TO  
THE CALL TO CALVARY**

Station: WEMM, Huntgn., W. Va. Time: Sun.—7:30-8:00 a.m. Dial: 107.9 Watts: 50000 FM

**HAVING WONDERFUL  
TIME WISH  
YOU WERE HERE**

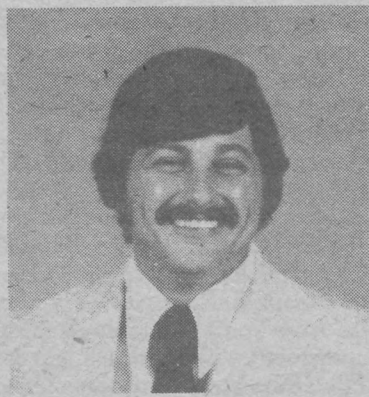
by The Editor

Richard Phillips, son of Dan Phillips (Forum writer) was killed in a car wreck on April 11th. This was a shocking and sad-denying event to those of us who knew and loved him. Richard sat beside his father in the pulpit each service. He led the singing for Dan for many years. He will be greatly missed by The New Testament Baptist Church of Bristol, Tenn., by his family, and by a host of friends. Richard leaves a wife and two teenage sons behind. Richard was a very faithful worker in the church.

Richard was manager of a Firestone store in Elizabethton, Tenn. He was deeply involved in Little League Baseball. His funeral was the largest ever in the Akard Funeral Home. There were over 600 who visited on visitation night at the funeral home. There were well over 100 floral arrangements. There were 300 to 400 at his funeral. He touched many lives with a favorable, helpful, and especially a Christian influence.

Elder Jim Hobbs sang two songs at the funeral. Elder Carl Jenkins, assistant pastor of The New Testament Baptist Church, was in charge of the funeral and brought a fine and helpful message. I was asked to assist in the funeral with a short message. I prayed much that the Lord would: 1. Give me a message that would glorify God and be a help to others. 2. Hold me up so I would be able to deliver the message. I loved Richard very much, and was deeply saddened by his death. I give below the message I delivered at this funeral. Of course, I cannot give it word for word, but give it as best I can remember it. I dedicate this message to the memory of Richard Phillips: good, honest, hard-working business man; loving husband and father; beloved, helpful son; remembered and loved relative; helper of youth; sound, Bible believing Baptist; exemplary Christian; faithful worker in the Lord's church.

"For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (Phili. 1:23). Often we say that when one is old, sick, poor, and suffering; and he dies, that he is better off. Well, we believe the Bible; and according to the Bible, to leave this world and be with Christ is better than any possible condition in which one can live on this earth and in this life. We believe the Bible. Therefore, Richard is far better off now than he was a few days ago. We are not; we suffer and weep; but Richard is with the Lord. He is in a better condition, a better place, better surroundings, better circumstances, and better company — even the angels, the departed saints, and especially, the Saviour.



I am supposing, just supposing, that there is a post office in heaven; that Richard has mailed me a card and asked me to read it to you. It says, "Having a wonderful time, wish you were here."

This event has come with a great shock to you and me, but it was no shock to our heavenly Father. This was marked out on the calendar of God's eternal predestination to take place at the exact time that it did. There is, "A time to be born, and a time to die..." (Ecc. 3:2). Our sovereign God appoints the time each one is to spend on earth — the time to be born and the time to die. No event of time catches our God by surprise. Likely, a short time after Richard left work and headed toward home, a band of angels left glory and headed to the place of Richard's leaving this world. They knew where to go. They knew when to be there. They met Richard there and escorted him into glory land — into the presence of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Yes, they did.

Richard is having a wonderful time. We sorrow, grieve, and weep; but not Richard. He has met the angels of God. He had a wonderful trip to glory with his heavenly escort. He is having a wonderful time exploring the scenery of that fair land. We think we have seen some sights. We have seen nothing to what Richard has gazed upon. We have yet to see the land far off with all its beauty and glory. Richard has seen it.

Richard is having a wonderful time in that he is done with sadness, suffering, and sorrow. We weep now, and we will weep again; but not Richard. His tears have been forever wiped away. We suffer now, and we will suffer again; but not Richard. He will never know any more suffering or pain. There is no pain in that fair land to which he has gone. I do not suppose that Richard had suffered great pain as yet. He was a young man. But, had he lived, he doubtless would have in later years. God has seen fit to take him away from all that. Much that you and I have gone through and will yet go through — God has seen fit to spare Richard therefrom.

Richard is having a wonderful time in that he is free from sin forevermore. Oh, we sin — we all sin. Though we have been saved, still we sin; and sin is a great grief and burden to our souls. Not Richard. He sins no more. He is now one of those, "...spirits of just men made perfect" (Heb. 12:23). He will never know again the great sorrow of sin or of failing the Lord. He will never again weep the tears of repentance as he returns to fellowship with God. Oh,

surely one of the chiefest of heaven's delights will be to be totally and eternally free from sin; and Richard has experienced and is experiencing this.

Richard is having a wonderful time in that he is getting acquainted with that multitude of saints gone to glory. He has already met many of them. He has met many whom he knew on earth and who went before him to glory. He was a young man. He did not know as many such as some of us do; but still he has met many such. He has met many of the saints of yesteryear. He had heard about them and read about them. Now he has met them. He has met many of the saints of Bible days. Why, surely, he has met James and John, Peter and Paul, Abraham and Moses, and David and Daniel; as well as many more. Oh, what joy and delight has been his these last few days!

Richard is having a wonderful time in that he has met the Saviour; yes he has. I am sure that this has been his chief delight these last few hours. He has gazed upon the face of Jesus. He has seen the wounds in His hands and feet. He has gazed in wonder, love, and adoration upon the One who died for him. Richard has told the Saviour, face to face, of his great gratitude for all that Jesus did for him.

Yes, Richard is having a wonderful time; and it has only begun. Unending ages of glory and blessedness lie ahead of him. He is having the best time he has ever had. Weep for yourselves. Weep for one another. But weep not for Richard. He is having a wonderful time.

How came this about? How came such glory and blessedness to be Richard's present portion. Well, it began in the heart, mind, and will of God. Before all worlds began God elected Richard, wrote his name down in the Lamb's book of life, and predestinated him to be the object and recipient of saving grace. It was not the decision nor the works of Richard. It was the sovereign grace of God. Nearly 2,000 years ago, the dear Lord Jesus Christ took upon Himself the guilt of all of Richard's sins. Jesus died for his sins. Jesus paid the full price for Richard's sins and redeemed him by His blood. Several years ago now, the Holy Spirit of God visited Richard with effectual and saving power. He wrought within Richard repentance and faith. He enabled Richard to trust the Lord Jesus Christ, and Richard had the wonderful experience of saving grace and power.

The Lord kept Richard safe and secure through the intervening years. We cannot save ourselves. We cannot keep ourselves saved. God keeps us by His power. God kept Richard. Richard sinned as we all do, but the Lord brought him to repentance and confession and blessed forgiveness. The Lord kept Richard straight, strong, and true. He kept Richard true to the Word and to the church. When trouble came to the church. When others left the church, Richard stayed true. He stood by his father. He stood by the truth. He stood by the church. He was a comfort and strength to his father through many battles.

Let me back up and say a further word about Richard's salvation experience. His father had preached the gospel to him many a time. His father and mother and many others had

prayed often for Richard's salvation. It was a wonderful time for them when the Lord answered their prayers in Richard's salvation experience.

The Lord kept Richard saved through the intervening years, and when the time came, the Lord took him safely home to glory. This is how it all came about. This is why Richard is now having a wonderful time.

The supposed card goes on to say, "wish you were here." I am sure that Richard would desire this for those who listen to me this day. I tried to think, "what would Richard have me say?" I think I know. I am sure that Richard would want me to tell you the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ — that Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a perfect life, died on the old rugged cross, and rose from the dead. I am sure that Richard would want me to tell you than any man, woman, boy, or girl who will repent of sin and believe on Jesus Christ will be saved forever, and will some day be where Richard is and having the wonderful time Richard is now having. I am sure that Richard would want me to urge you and to plead with you that you would trust Jesus Christ even now as your Lord and Saviour. I am sure that Richard would have me urge upon this audience that you be sure you are saved. Richard would have me speak to his friends and his loved ones left behind concern-

ing the matter of eternal salvation.

Richard is gone to a wonderful place. He is having a wonderful time. You and I are going. We are going somewhere. There is no question about our going. The question is, where are you going? What kind of time are you going to have there? There is a heaven of wonderful glory and blessing. There is a hell of unutterable suffering, anguish, pain and woe. Jesus Christ makes the difference between these two places. I urge you even now to trust Jesus Christ and be eternally saved.

I told my church the following after coming home from Richard's funeral. "I saw Richard as a sinner when we wondered if he would wreck his life with sin. I saw him as a wonderfully saved child of God. I saw him through years of faithful service for the Lord in the church. I saw him cold and dead in his casket. I will see him again in glory land with Jesus Christ."

Richard is having a wonderful time. How will it be with you when you leave this world? Will you go to heaven and have a wonderful time? Or will you go to the burning flames of hell and be tormented day and night forever? Jesus Christ makes the difference. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

**WHEN SORROW COMES**

When the storms of life are raging  
And I face a troubled sea  
Jesus softly whispers, "Lean on me, lean on me"

When life seems so unbearable  
And I feel I can't go on  
Jesus gently touches me, "Come along, come along"

When my heart is freshly broken  
And sorrow comes once more  
Jesus sweetly comforts me, just as He did before

When the night is long and dreary  
And I can't see the end  
Jesus brings the morning and sends with it a friend

So mine is not to question  
Though I do not understand  
I'm not left to walk alone for Jesus holds my hand

And I have this precious promise  
Midst the suffering and the pain  
"I am with you always," Oh, praise His holy name.

Mary Dickson

**APPRECIATED LETTERS**

Dear Brother Wilson,  
Praise God for your wonderful paper, and the three parts about the rock and roll and country music. What has happened to the good old days when a Christian was a Christian, instead of a made up movie star? Please find a ... check, and a change of address for me. I love to read your paper. May God bless you all. Yours in Christ. Mrs. Louise Collins, Baltimore, Md.

Dear Brother Wilson,  
I am enclosing a check for ... I sure do enjoy the messages in

T.B.E., and have for many years. God bless each one that helps with the paper. Mrs. Merle K. Hall, Knob Noster, Mo.

Dear Brother Wilson,  
Enclosed is \$... for T.B.E. I have been very ill. A valve in my heart isn't working. The blood isn't getting to my heart like it should. My hands shake that I can hardly write. I hope you can read this. I enjoy the paper so much and I look forward to reading each issue. God bless you. Dorothy E. Ballentine, Springfield, Oh.

I do not in the least doubt whether salvation be of faith or of works, whether faith be of our own power or of God's operation, whether Christ's obedience or our own be the just ground of our hope, whether a man can truly call Jesus Lord but by the teaching of the Holy Ghost. I have no more hesitation about these points than I should have were I asked whether it was God or man who created the heavens and the earth.

—John Newton