

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

# 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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## STUDIES IN I JOHN

by Clyde Everman

As we begin the study of the first epistle of John we need to look at who wrote it (the Holy Spirit being the author of course) and for what purpose it was written. Although there is nothing in the epistle which would indicate who wrote it, it is pretty well established that it was written by the apostle John after he had been released from the island of Patmos and was pastor of the church at Ephesus. This means that John was well up in age and this epistle was one of the last if not the last book to be written in the New Testament.

During John's lifetime many false doctrines had risen among the churches. One main one which is still in existence is that Christ was not human. It was taught that He was only a spirit, that His human body only appeared to be a body, a shadow, a phantom. If you tried to touch Him you would only grasp air. One of the reasons John wrote this epistle was to disprove this false doctrine. It was also written to give assurance to the Christians that they might know they had eternal life and could have fellowship with the Father and the Son.

John begins the letter by stating the fact of the humanity of Christ: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the Word of life" (I John 1:1).



Clyde Everman

John is saying that he is not bringing anything new, but it is what has always been from the beginning. We go to John 1:1 and find, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." We find Him in the beginning of creation in Genesis 1:1, for in John 1:3 we are told "All things were made by

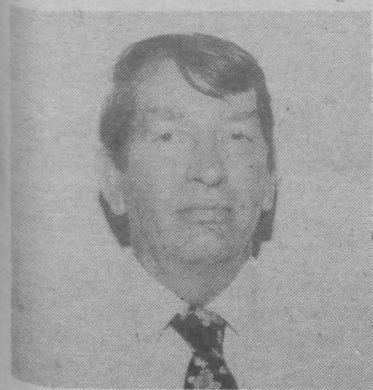
him; and without him was not any thing made that was made". What John is saying is that before the beginning of time the Word (Christ) was there. He had no beginning. In John 1:14 we read "And the Word was made (born) flesh, and dwelt among us". Now the beginning spoken of by John in I John 1:1 is the time when Christ came into the world at Bethlehem. When He was about thirty years old, He called John to follow Him. During this time John says he heard Him. He saw Him. He looked intently at Him. He touched and handled Him. He was a real person. He is stating something that is not hearsay but something he knew to be true. He continues, "For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us" (I John 1:2). John is talking about the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of life. This is the One who was with the Father. The One who was manifested unto John. The

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## IMPRESSIONS - PALIMPSEST

by Ray Hiatt

This is a story often told but it shall lose nothing in the retelling. There is a gray paper slate called a Magic Slate manufactured for children, and it is covered by a bit of clear



Ray Hiatt

plastic. When you mark on it with a stylus and then raise the plastic the writing disappears. But, if you look closely the legend of the writing can still be seen.

There is a strange similarity about false doctrines. They seem to spring from the same source as though if you looked a bit behind the scenes you could find them written on the same palimpsest with different phrases.

A writer is a worker in an ancient craft. Words are his tools. He must choose his words well if he wishes to communicate a clear message. A writer of Biblical themes is much more

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## CREMATION — WHAT DOES GOD THINK?

by David Cloud  
Missionary in Nepal

In a book recently published on the subject of Christian funerals, a writer gives the following advice regarding cremation: "Personally the minister may or may not approve of such proceedings. Privately, he is free to hold any opinion that he will. But officially he should keep an open mind. In the Christian religion there is nothing that frowns upon cremation or requires burial."

This is wrong and evil

counsel. We feel it also a very strange statement, being made as it is by a pastor who professedly studies and believes the Bible. The sad fact is that the practice of cremation is quickly on the rise in the so-called "Christian" nations of the West. Until recently burial prevailed almost universally as the common method for disposal of the dead in Western nations, and cremation was looked upon as something practiced only by atheists or those totally ignorant of the Bible. The turn back to cremation can be seen in direct

connection with the rapidly increasing apostasy from the Word of God in those nations where Christianity is the dominant faith.

In my home state, Florida, in America, a popular retirement area for the elderly due to its tropical climate, ads are taken out in local newspapers inviting people to join "clubs" for quite inexpensive fees, the membership of which allows one the "benefit" of discounts on cremation expenses.

All of this is against the Bible, (Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

## SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

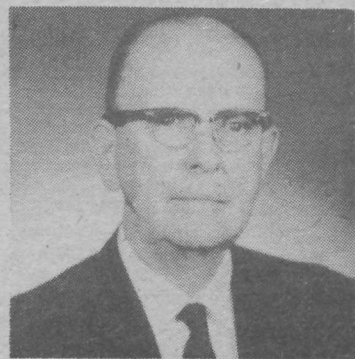
by E.G. Cook

The question about what takes place when a lost person is saved, and how it is brought about is probably the most misunderstood thing in all the Bible. We have heard so many different ways set forth even by those who call themselves Baptists. Probably the most popular one of them all is what they call making a decision for Christ. We hear preachers talking about how many decisions were made during a meeting. All this sounds mighty good. It gives the preacher a big name. But is it Scriptural? Paul says in Romans 10:10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." But you and I know that decisions are made with the mind. You decide whether you will go fishing today or stay home and cut the grass. This decision originates above the ears. So do all other decisions. It is to be feared that the lake of fire will be so full of "decisionites" that there will hardly be room for those who made no decision.

Quite a few years ago I visited a large Baptist church (so called) in this area to hear a big name Baptist (?) preacher. When he came to his invitation he told us that he had an agreement with the Lord. He said the Lord agrees that if we will stand for Him down here He will stand for us up there. When he said that the pastor of the church said "Amen" at least half a dozen times before I could have said "jack rabbit." Then he told those who wanted to be saved to stand up for the Lord. And quite a few stood up. Then

there are many other different ways presented to the lost. But if you have not already heard them you sure are particular about where you go to church. And you sure turn off the radio or the TV when the preaching starts. So let us now consider some things that at least sound Scriptural.

I know full well that I do not know all there is to be known on this subject. But I am convinced that many well meaning Baptists do not understand some of the Scriptures that seem to be



E. G. Cook

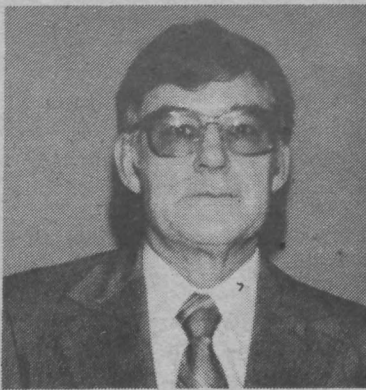
clear. Certainly we are to preach repentance. Most certainly repentance is essential to salvation. There is absolutely no way for a person to become a child of God without it. But the important question is, What is repentance, and how is it brought about? We must also tell the lost person he must have faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him." So there can be no salvation apart from faith in Christ. But how does the lost person come to have that faith

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## A GIVING GOD

by Ray Brown  
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"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living



Ray Brown

God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" (I Tim. 6:17).

The things of the world are so uncertain. They are going to pass away. They are going to lose their value. They will not be of any benefit to you whatsoever. He is a giving God. He is a God who has given us all things to enjoy. This doesn't mean that what God has given us here is going to lose its enjoyment. What God gives is an enjoyment and a joy throughout all eternity. Uncertain riches and uncertain physical things of the world will lose their joy. But what the living God gives us is all things

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## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

### WHO IS YOUR KING

"And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us, And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over

them" (I Sam. 8:5-7). "Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles" (19-20).

We are going through a "book of the month" study and preaching plan at Calvary Baptist Church. In our studies we came to that turning point in the history of Israel when they demanded, and

God granted them, a king. Their desire for a king originated in their depraved hearts. They rejected the rule of God over them, as He ruled through appointed judges. They desired to be like the nations around them - a prevailing sin among God's people in every age. They wanted to walk by sight (seeing a visible king) instead of by faith in the invisible God. As I read this book, seeking sermon subjects for the month, I was led of the Lord to preach on the above subject. It was suggested that this would be a good sermon for The

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## KING

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Baptist Examiner. Well, we will see.

Man needs a king. Man is not capable of living without a king over his life. Man must and will have a king. The question is not if one is independent or has a king. The question is, "Who Is Your King?" Man must and will have a god. Who is your God? Man must and will serve someone. Whom are you serving? My subject is very important. The question that forms my subject may well be the most important question in life. Not may be, it really is. Please give serious attention to this message. It could be of great good to you. I pray that it will.

Look back over the history of Israel unto this point. It had been several hundred years since they came out of Egypt. They had had Moses, Joshua, and then the judges. They had gotten along very well when they walked with God. It was not their lack of a king, but their sins that had gotten them into trouble and repeated defeats. My friend, don't look in the wrong place for your troubles and problems. We often do this. Our trouble is sin. Our trouble is self. Yet, we look in a hundred different places, seeking a place to put the blame for our failures and defeats. Let us look at our sins. Let us look at self. The man in the mirror is our greatest enemy in our Christian lives. Instead of judging and repenting of their sins, Israel felt that the lack of a human king was the root of their problems. If they could just have a king like the nations

around them, to go before them and fight their battles, everything would be all right. Oh, what a mistake! Look at the after history. Yes, they did have some good kings that were a blessing to them, under God. But look at all the sin, trouble, and defeat that was brought upon them by many of the kings they had.

Please notice that they were not obtaining a king; they were exchanging kings. God had been their king. He had delivered them from Egyptian bondage. He had led them through the wilderness. He had given them His laws. He had provided for them. He had



Joe Wilson

fought for them. He had been a good King. Who could ever have a better king than Israel had? He had gone out before them. He had judged them. He had given them great victories. Yes, they had a King, a wonderful King. They were not obtaining a king, they were exchanging kings - and what a poor trade they were making - and how they suffered for it.

Who is your king? Are you your king? Is not this your trouble? You desire to have no one to rule over you. Man does not want God to rule over him. Man does not want anyone, even God, telling him what to do. Man wants to do as he pleases. This lawlessness, this desire to do totally as one pleases is the root of all and every sin. The lawless spirit is at the very heart of every sin a man commits. Oh, the horrible vernacular of our day - how vile and wicked it is. The drunk is an alcoholic. The whore is a nymphomaniac. The thief is a kleptomaniac. The terribly wicked homosexual is a gay. The lust crazed act of illicit sex is called love (mis-called). One of the worst expressions of our day, revealing in itself the horribly wicked character of our day, is the favorite expression of the young, "doing your own thing." Are you your king? What a poor king you have! You are sure to make total shipwreck of your life, to suffer greatly, to be a curse to all around you, and to wind up in hell; if you are your king.

And I fear that this being your own king is, after all, only a delusion. I fear that Satan is really on the throne of your life. I fear that he has stayed in the background and deceived you into believing that you are doing your own thing, when you are in fact doing exactly as he wants you to. I fear that, instead of being your own king, you are the dupe and slave of Satan. I fear that you are his goods, and that he is keeping you in peace; and that your only hope is that maybe Jesus will come along and set you free. My friend, no one is free who has not been freed by Jesus. If you think you are your king, you are really just a blind slave, following Satan, energized by him, blinded by him, doing his will.

Who is your king? Is someone else your king? Is some loved one your king? Does some loved one have a strangle hold on you? Do

you order the events and details of your life so as to meet the desires of a loved one. Oh, to have loved ones. Oh, to love loved ones. But loved ones, forgetting that they are to love in return, can become the most cruel taskmasters one can have. There are those who dare not make any plans, nor any move, without consulting the feelings and desires of a loved one. I fear that one of the chief sources of compromise and of sin is a mis-guided and sinful subjection to the whims of some loved one. Have loved ones. Praise God for them. Love them deeply and sincerely. But do not let them be your king. Don't let your husband be your king. Don't let your wife dominate you. Don't let the children rule the roost at your house. Don't let anyone, no matter how dear that one might be, be the king of your life.

Are friends your king? Do you allow your friends to set the tone of your life? Do you allow your friends to dominate your decisions, plan, and activities? Oh, what a multitude of people, especially young people, have allowed friends to persuade them into doing what they never would have done on their own. Have you allowed friends to pressure you into doing what you really did not want to do? Are your friends your king?

This matter of peer pressure. What a monster it is. How many of the youth of today are being pressed into the mold of peer pressure. The young girl must sacrifice her virginity - a priceless possession - to peer pressure. The young boy must start smoking - who knows when he will be delivered from the habit? - by peer pressure. Strong drink and hellish drugs are destroying America - and it all gets its first hold because of peer pressure. Young people, be strong, make up your own mind, do what you know is right; do not allow your peers to pressure you into making a wreck of your lives.

My heart goes out to the youth of our land. It is so much harder on them than it was on me when I was a teenager. There were standards in those days. One could not light up a cigarette within two blocks of the school. There was little, if any strong drink around the school. Drugs were penicillin and aspirin tablets. Divorce was an infrequent thing. Teachers were expected to - and were - in charge of the school and the class. Sundays were closed days - praise God. Television had not been invented yet - at least I did not know anything about it. Children were expected to obey their parents. Oh, it was a different day. The youth of today face so many more temptations than I did. They have so much against them today. But, young people, don't let your friends lead you into ruin and hell. Young people, choose your dates very carefully. Be very careful where you go and what you do when you date. Get in at an early hour. I remember when I had to leave my girl friend's house at 9:00 P.M., praise the Lord. There is much more sin committed between 9 PM and 2 AM, than there is before 9 PM. Why, my friend, if we could see to it that our children were home by or before 10 PM, we might yet save this generation from going to hell. Call me old fogey if you will, but I've got the answer. The trouble is that no one will listen to me.

Are circumstances your king? It is doubtful if we realize how

much circumstances shape our lives. We live in a day of "situation ethics." People decide what is right and wrong according

to situations and circumstances. The only trouble with that is that God's Word does not change to

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## FROM THE EDITOR

WHAT LOVE DOES NOT MEAN. "This is my commandment, that ye love one another...." (John 14:12). Not only should we love one another, but we should love everyone. There is not a person on the face of the earth that it is all right for me to not love. Not knowing even of the existence of many, it is impossible to have a great, active love for them; but I should have the attitude of love for everyone, and that love should become active as to those I get to know.

But this is sometimes carried too far. There are those who make unreasonable and even sinful demands on another; and when those demands are not met, they say, "you don't love me." There are many who judge us as not having love because we do not meet their unreasonable and even sinful demands. We are asked to compromise our standards and our convictions in the name of "love." Let us look at the matter somewhat.

Love does not mean that I must compromise my convictions as to the teachings of God's Word in order to properly manifest my love. Our kind of Baptists are a strong doctrinal people. Frequently, our strong stand for the truths of God's Word draws from the world about us the charge that we don't have love. We believe that Missionary Baptists - I mean the true variety - are the only churches there are. We believe that all other so called churches are false. Love does not mean that we must recognize the claims of false churches to be true churches of Jesus Christ. I can have genuine love for those who are in false churches, and still oppose with all my might the churches they are in. I can call them "Synagogues of Satan" and still love the members thereof. Having such love does not mean that I have to respect their claims.

Love does not mean that I have to honor the false doctrines that men preach. I can hate the heresies that men preach, and still love the heretic. Love does not mean that I have to accept the heresies of Arminianism. Why, I hate those doctrines. I hate every false way. Still I can love those who walk in those false ways and who preach those heresies Love does not mean that I must accept the sprinkling, even baby sprinkling, of heretical religious organizations. Oh, no, such are not baptized, and I should tell them so.

Love does not mean that I must invite everyone who claims to be saved - even who really is saved - to join with me and our church in observing the Lord's Supper. Because we practice closed communion, there are those who accuse us of lack of love. This is not true. We will allow any one on the face of the earth to partake of the Lord's supper with us on the same basis as we allow our own members to do so. The man who is not a member of my church may eat with me at my table, but I have no right to invite him to the Lord's table except on those conditions laid down by our Lord.

Love does not mean that I must compromise my convictions of what is right and what is wrong. Much sin of this kind has been committed in the name of love. I love an individual. He or she is doing wrong. He thinks I should go along with his wrong, or I don't love him. I am asked to compromise my standards of right and wrong to prove my love. Not so, beloved, not so. Love does not mean this at all. I can stand strong, hard, and without compromise against the wrong one is doing and still love that one with all my heart. I can pray for that one. I can do all I can to help that one. I can be kind and compassionate to that one. Still, I do not have to compromise my convictions, I do not have to go along with the sin in order to prove my love. The truth often is that the best proof of real love is when we stand against the sin of a loved one.

I do believe that one of the chief sources of compromise, of sin, of condoning and going along with another's sins is a misconception of what true love means. I think I have seen this often. Men often stand like a rock against sin, not budging an inch, until one of their loved ones is involved. Love does not mean this at all.

Love does not mean that one must be blind to the faults, even the sins, of the one who is loved. We often hear that love is blind. This is not true. True love can see the faults and sins of the loved one, can stand against that sin, can speak strongly to the loved one against that sin; and still have strong and deep love for that one.

A young man is dating a young lady. He seeks to seduce her into sexual sin. He tells her that if she doesn't do this, she does not love him. Love does not mean that she must give in to this monster of iniquity. But it does mean that, if he had any love for her, he would not even suggest such a thing.

A man is able to work. Work is available. He will not work. We are told that we do not love him unless we provide all his needs for him. We can love such a one with all the love the Bible requires - and let him starve to death (II Thess.3:10).

A man has committed a capital crime - say raped and murdered a young girl. We are told that love means that we cannot properly punish this crime. We are told that capital punishment is inconsistent with true Christian love. Why, we can love that man with all the love the Bible requires of us, and pull the switch that sends him into eternity. My friend, no word is more sinned against than the word "love." Love does not mean all the things we have been told it does.

We can have all the love the Bible requires of us; and we can stand like a rock for the doctrines of the Bible, we can stand against false churches and false doctrines, we can stand uncompromisingly against sin, even the sins of our closest loves. Why, we can even have all the love the Bible requires of us, stand with our Lord at the white throne judgment, watch men go from that judgment into a burning hell, and say "hallelujah."

Love means that we truly love, that we desire the very best for, that we would do what we could that was right for the object of our love. It does not mean that we must compromise or that we must do wrong because we love. One of the greatest needs in our churches today is to learn - and practice - true and proper love. God bless you all. I love you.



## KING

(Continued from Page 2)

suit the situations, and God's Word is that by which men will be judged at the last day. The standards of the world change, but God's Word does not change. If it was wrong for grandmother, it is wrong for granddaughter. I know this is 1987, but I also know that God's Word has not changed since 1887. Sin is always sin. Sin is sin yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Sin is sin in the south and in the north. Sin is sin when society disapproves of it, and when society changes its frown into a smile of approval, sin is still sin. Do not allow the situation or the circumstances to rule your life.

Is the world your king? The Bible speaks of being not conformed to the world. The Bible says to not love the world or the things in the world. The Bible speaks of those who walk according to the course of this world. The influence of this world is powerful. The influence of this world is evil. The influence of this world is down, ever downward, until at last it lands those who follow it in a burning, eternal hell. Are the pleasures of this world your king? Do you live only for having a good time in the pleasures of sin? This is a pleasure mad age - and yet, an age that does not know the meaning of real pleasure. The pleasures of sin last for but a season. The cup is soon drained, but the bitter after effects last forever.

Are the possessions of this world your king? Do you plan and live your life dominated by the desire to obtain all the material wealth you can? Ah, me money, what a useful servant it is. It can be used in many good and wonderful ways. But, oh, what a terrible master is this same money. Do you own your money, or does your money own you? The desire for more, more, more, and much more of the material things of this world rules - and ruins the lives of multitudes. What miserable slavery it is to be chained by the love of money, which is the root of all evil!

Is the fame and honor of the world your king? Do you sacrifice morals to gain the fleeting fame of this world? Think of movie and T.V. stars. How rich and famous they are. But what has it cost them to gain this? Think of Jessica Hahn. She has become rich and famous through her story and topless pictures; but what has it cost her? What will it cost her? In a world that is evil and hates good and God, it is difficult to become famous without sacrificing good, God, and often decency itself.

Is the devil your king? I am certain that this is more often the case than men realize. I think that the devil, so long as he can rule and ruin the life, is content to stay in the background and let his deceived dupes boast of doing their own thing. He is the god of this age. He is the ruler of the darkness of this world. He is the prince of the power of the air. He is really the power on the throne of the life of every unsaved individual. The devil is not "after you", he has "got you." He has you blinded to the gospel of Jesus Christ. He has you blinded to real good and real freedom. He has you blinded to the damning nature of sin. He has you blinded to the reality of the hell to which you are travelling. I suspect that there are only two kings after all - God and the devil.

I suspect that if God is not your king, the devil is. The devil may exercise his power over you through many other individuals and things, but he is really the one who is king of your life. Even while you think you are doing your own thing, you are really doing his thing.

Is Jesus your king? I know that, in a sense, He is Lord of all. I know that, in a sense, he is king over all. I know that He is now ruling over the kingdom of sovereign providence. But I speak of this in another sense just now. Is He your realized king? Do you gladly crown Him as king of your life? Do you seek to know and do His will in all things and at all times? Is He your realized, recognized, owned, and obeyed king?

If Jesus is your king, you will spend time in prayer. You will talk to Him. You will pray that He will show you His will for your life. You will ask for His power in your life. You will seek His blessings on your life. If Jesus is your king, you will spend time in His Word. It is the Word of the king. You will not treat it indifferently. You will not cast it to one side. You will delight in it. You will meditate over it. It will be one of the occupations of your life - to read and study in the Word of God.

If Jesus is your king, you will seek to know what He would have you do. You will not decide for yourself. You will not decide on the advice or because of the desires of others. You will earnestly - might I add, successfully - seek to know His will. And it is the right of a servant to know the will of his Master. This right to know His will inheres in the master-servant relationship.

If Jesus is your king, you will endeavor to do whatever He says. In your life, you will seek to live as He would have you to. You will desire to live clean, pure, separated from the world. You will not desire to please self or others. You will desire to please your King. You will endeavor to honor the king day by day in the way that you live.

You will desire to serve the King according to His will. You will want to be a member of His church. You will want to serve Him in the church in any way that you can. You will desire to do anything in His service that He wants you to do. You will witness for Him. You will give to His church. You will do whatever He would have you do in serving Him.

Jesus will be no part King. He will not allow you to have Him as King of part of your life, but not the rest of it. If He is not king of all, He is not king at all. You cannot pick and choose. You cannot say, "Jesus, you can rule here and here and here, but you must not interfere there." He will not be a part time King. You cannot have Him as King on Sunday, but be your own King on Saturday night. He will be King of all, He will be king all the time; or He will not be your king. Of course, there will be lapses. Of course there will be failures. But I speak of the over all tendency of the life.

What were the consequences of Israel's fateful demand to exchange the Lord for a king of their own? Why, one might say that all their after trouble began with that decision to have a king. Read their after history and see.

All will one day bow before Jesus and confess that He is Lord of lords and King of kings. But

what about now? What about when it brings great peace, joy, and blessings? Who is your king is a very important matter with eternal consequences. It deals with the greatest of blessings for the saved. It deals with the matter of eternal salvation for the unsaved. I ask you earnestly. I ask you sincerely. I ask you in love. Who is your king?

## SALVATION

(Continued from Page 1)

in Christ? Then we must tell the lost person that he must believe on Christ. In Acts 16:31 Paul and Silas said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.**" So believing is an absolutely essential part of salvation. But how is this believing brought about?

So we see there are three things that are absolutely essential to salvation. Therefore it behooves the Lord's servants to put forth every effort to learn just what these three things really are, what the connection between them is, if any, and just how they are brought about. Unless we know this, there is danger of telling the lost person the wrong thing. Certainly no true servant of the Lord Jesus Christ wants to do that. So I hope to show that there can be no faith at all whatever until there is first repentance. And that there can be no believing until there is faith. These three things are inseparably linked together in that order. And that order cannot be altered in any way. It can only be repentance first, then faith, and then belief.

And since repentance must come first let us see if we can learn just what it is and how it is brought about. You have probably seen a preacher walk in one direction behind the pulpit for two or three steps, then turn around and walk in the other direction, and say, that is repentance. Now if that is repentance anybody who is able to walk can repent. But the fact of the matter is, this no more repentance than the ugly duckling was a bald eagle. There are some terms in the Bible that it is absolutely essential that we go to the original language in order to get the true meaning. And repentance is one of them. Dictionaries of today just do not give the meaning that it had two thousand years ago. The word "repentance" in the Bible comes from the Greek word METANOEO which simply means another mind. It means to have a new mind, a different mind. Romans 8:7 says, "**The carnal mind is enmity against God.**" And that is the only kind of mind that a lost person can possibly have. So we see the lost person must have a new mind, one that is not enmity against God, before he can become a child of His. If he could change his mind to one that is not enmity against God while he is still a lost person he would be a monstrosity. The fact is he is dead in trespasses and sins, Ephesians 2:1, and is, therefore, unable to do anything about his carnal mind. So in Acts 11:18 we learn that God granted repentance to the Gentiles. This word "granted" comes from DIDOMI which means to give. So God gives the new mind to the spiritually dead lost person. There is just no other way under Heaven for him to get it.

We should have no trouble in

seeing that the lost person can have no faith in Christ until he receives that new mind that is not an enemy to Him. Now let us consider the faith. We hear people telling the lost to exercise faith. But how can they exercise something they do not have? Ephesians 2:8 says, "**By grace are ye saved through faith.**" So we know the lost person who has been given a new mind must also have faith. But how does the lost person get that faith? Does he generate it, or work it up? Let us go back to Ephesians 2:8 and take a close look at the latter part of that verse. There we read, "**and that (the faith) not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.**" We see God had to give the repentance. Now we also see that He gives the faith. I am sure that if that lost person had the ability to generate the faith, or to get it in any other way, God would not give it to him. God gives to the lost person that which he cannot get in any other way.

Now that we see that God gives the repentance and the faith, may we consider the believing. It would seem now that God has given the lost person a new mind and has given him faith in Christ, he should be able to believe on Him without any help. From a logical viewpoint it seems he could not help but believe after all that has been done for him. But God's ways of doing things are never logical. He says, "**My thoughts are not your thoughts,**" Isa. 55:8. So what does the Book say about the believing? In Philipians 1:29 we read, "**For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.**" So, if the Scripture says that our believing on Christ is a gift, we had better believe it. Another important question is, When does all this take place? Paul says in Galatians 1:15 that it takes place when it pleases God. And we had better believe that, too. Jonah must have known what he was talking about when he said, "**Salvation is of the Lord.**"

## WHY DID JESUS SAVE ME?

by Andy Proctor

The true doctrine of salvation is a very misunderstood subject in this age. A true-to-life experience with the salvation of my soul cleared away the demons of desperation and disillusionment which haunted my spiritual existence. At the instance that I was saved from my sins, peace and contentment came to me! I understood that Jesus saved me from my sins! Now, the question is why did Jesus save my soul from sin and hell? Christ Jesus washed away my iniquity because of my inability to cast off my sins. His ability to cast away my sins, His love for me, and His providential sovereignty in my life did what I could not do. Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ saved me from my sins in accordance with His divine love and power. The result was a God-loving, God-fearing Christian!

Consequently, the fact that God changed me reveals my wretched state of hatred before my redemption. My soul reeked with the stench of sin! Sin had its unmerciful, wicked grip wrapped around me like a boa constrictor ready to kill its prey. I had no defense, nor any of-

fense to combat this seemingly invincible enemy called sin. My foe... sin, was a spiritual opponent. I needed spiritual weaponry or spiritual power to overcome this spiritual enemy. The Spirit of Life was the only sufficient power which could conquer the spirit of death which dwelled within me. I was alive physically, but dead spiritually in my trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1, 5). A comparative illustration explains the nature of my problem before I was saved. A physically dead person cannot give himself life, and rise up to live for himself. In like manner, a spiritually dead person cannot give himself life, nor can he save himself from his sins and live for Jesus. In other words, my inability to save myself from iniquity resulted in Christ saving my soul from sin.

However, what abilities did the Lord Jesus Christ possess which would enable Him to save me from my trespasses? John 14:6 says that Jesus is, "**...the way, the truth, and the life...**" He was that spiritual life needed to overcome my spiritual enemy which held me in the bonds of death.

Equally important, the Lord Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh. My great God, Jesus Christ, is my Saviour! (Titus 2:13). Only God possessed the ability to deliver me from my wretched condition. Thus, He paid the penalty for my sins - death, hell, and the grave.

The supreme love of Christ is greatly evidenced by the price He paid for His elected people, which I am happily part of. (Though, not of my merits was I predestinated to salvation, but of the merits of the Lord Jesus.) The Son of God descended from His glorious throne in heaven to humble Himself as a man. Born of a virgin, Christ Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life upon this earth. He had very few earthly possessions. Jesus lived a humble, simple, and sinless life in this world. Only God could achieve this feat. Not only did the Lord Jesus live so humbly, but also He allowed mankind to torture Him with scourgings, beatings, piercings, mockings, sneerings, and with the grueling, cruel crucifixion. Oh, His flesh took on all my sin, and the consequences thereof. Namely pain, agony, torture, sufferings, sickness, hell, and grievous wounds which caused Him to look hardly human, were willingly endured by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. He did this because He loved me. The sin finally took the life out of His human body, and He died and was buried. To the equivalent of the flaming horrors of hell went my Lord to pay the penalty for my sins eternally. Buried for three days and nights; God is able. But, he didn't stop there, for He rose from the dead by His own divine power! Symbolically, His resurrection represented His victory over death (sin), hell, and the grave on my behalf. In order for Christ to save me from my sins, He had to love me.

On the whole, my sin was the cause, or the need for the effect of God's saving grace upon me. At the same time God's

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## The Baptist Examiner Forum I

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT  
THE BAPTIST EXAMINER--P.O. BOX 60--ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

What did Agrippa mean in Acts 26:28?

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Acts 26:28 says, "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." One of the oldest English versions of this verse (Tyndale) says, "in a little", i.e., in a small degree, you persuade me to be a Christian. Young's Literal Translation says "In a little thou dost persuade me to become a Christian."

There have been many renderings of this verse and several interpretations. I believe that Agrippa meant that Paul's presentation, as well as his own prior knowledge and religious position, was enough to begin to persuade him to some little degree of the truth of Paul's words. He was near to becoming a Christian, but still short of the mark. As I said in an answer to a similar question a few months ago, Agrippa was experiencing an intellectual persuasion based on several things. When Paul said in verse 27 of Acts 26, "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.", he was referring to Agrippa's religious knowledge as a professing Jew. Herod Agrippa II was the last of the Herod family who reigned from 55 B.C. to near 100 A.D. All of them were professing Jews, but wicked men at heart with self-centered ambitions despite their outward works such as the building of the temple by Herod the Great. Agrippa knew the writings about Messiah in the Old Testament. He knew the claims and works of Christ and all about the new Christian religion, as one who is a spectator or observer. He knew the teachings of the Old Testament, but did not apply them to himself. Agrippa had a superficial, intellectual taste, or knowledge of things concerning God and Christ, but he had no grace, no true experience. He seemed to have enough intellectual understanding to be a little way from, almost persuaded to, believing the words of Paul unto becoming a Christian. This persuasion was only of men, intellect, human reasoning, human understanding, and conscience. No real change of heart took place! In support of this, history tells us that Agrippa's incestuous affair with his sister Bernice who came to live with him after her husband died, became notorious and apparently lasted throughout their life time. Also, after Paul's words here in Acts 26, we see Agrippa leaving with no apparent change.

History tells that Agrippa was well received of the Jews and was respected of them up to the time of the later revolt when he supported Rome. Agrippa returned to Rome after the revolt where he died in 93 A.D. almost persuaded, but lost. We need to remember that when we use the word "almost", it is just that; almost, not altogether. Almost is still short of the mark; almost, but lost. Apart from the quickening, revealing, enlightening grace of God, almost persuaded remains almost for all of eternity. "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing:" (John 6:63).

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Acts 26:28: "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

There are two possibilities I want to mention in offering an interpretation of the above text. There might be many others, but I just want to deal with these two.

First, I believe Agrippa manifests here a problem that still exists today. That problem is men trying to get lost people saved. Let us imagine that Agrippa is indeed very serious here in verse 28, and that he is being honest with Paul in saying that Paul almost persuaded him to be a Christian. Beloved, had Paul persuaded him to be a Christian; he would have still died and gone to hell. You see, we cannot persuade men to be saved. It is not our job to persuade men to be saved. It is our job to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to them, and if the Holy Spirit wants to persuade them; then He will, and they will be eternally persuaded. Paul makes good arguments to Agrippa for Christianity, but Agrippa was a dead depraved sinner who could not be persuaded by mere man to repent and believe on Christ. I thank God that He does not "almost" persuade; but goes the whole distance in bringing sinners to Himself. The Arminians in our day have the same theology as Agrippa. They are guilty of the blood of many whom they have persuaded to become Christians. Apart from a work of the Holy Spirit, men will always be only "almost persuaded."

The second possibility we want to look at is that Agrippa was speaking sarcastically. The possibility exists that Agrippa was doing nothing more than mocking and making fun of Paul. I can see this man now, as he laughingly says, "oh yes, Paul, you almost had me there; I ought to give all this up and be a Christian like you, Ha Ha!" This was not the first, nor will it be the last time that lost men sneer at the things of God. Ah, but men

will answer to that same God they mocked while on this earth.

In conclusion, let me mention two things. First, man's depraved condition will only allow him to be almost persuaded by other men.

It takes a work of the Spirit to fully persuade men unto salvation.

The second thing is; may God give all of us the desire and burden Paul had to see lost men saved. May God bless you all.

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"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28).

To understand the meaning of this statement we need to see what has been said to cause him to say this. The apostle Paul, before Festus the Roman governor and Agrippa, had told of his life from before becoming a Christian until the present time. He told of his vision on the Damascus road, his obedience to the vision; and because of his teaching, he was arrested. He told how he had preached only that, "which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles". (Acts 26:22,23). At this point Festus broke in and told Paul that he was mad, "much learning doth make thee mad". Paul's answer was that he was not mad, and then he turned to King Agrippa for proof that what he said concerning the prophecy was true. He asked Agrippa, "believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest." (Acts 26:27)

This placed Agrippa on the spot. What would Festus think of him if he agreed with Paul whom Festus had said was mad? Therefore, he could not say that he did believe the prophets; but on the other hand, he could not say that he did not believe them, for he had a reputation for knowing the Scripture and he would lose his influence among the Jews if he denied believing them. So, instead of being forced to agree with Paul, I think he said in a sarcastic manner, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian". Or as in the Williams translation, "In brief you are trying to persuade me and make a Christian of me." There was no way that he would agree with Paul, so he took this means of getting around answering him.

### WHY DID

(Continued from Page 3)

sovereignty and providence overshadowed the whole event

of salvation in my life. Therefore, it was in the Lord God Almighty's predestinated plan to save me from my sins. Certainly, God's revealed will (His Word), and His secret will (unknown to man) are in consideration here, but I trust Him to be true and faithful to His Word. I thank and praise my Lord, for His ability overcame my inability; His Love cast away my hatred; and His sovereign power overruled my deficient weakness. After all, by these Jesus saved me from my sins!

## CREMATION

(Continued from Page 1)

though. Cremation is a heathen custom, meaning a practice of people who do not have the Bible, or else have rejected its authority. And it is frightening to see Americans who in recent years commonly considered cremation wrong, now accept the abominable practice even with the blessing of their church leaders.

By now many are surely thinking, "How can this man be so certain cremation is wrong? Is it really important whether or not a dead body is burned or buried?" If the Bible did not speak clearly on this issue and give such clear example, it would indeed not matter. But when God has spoken, when He has shown the way, we dare not ignore His counsel for the popular thinking of modern man — or modern preachers!

As proof of our contention that cremation is unchristian and unbiblical, we offer the following eight reasons. The basic outline for the following is from James Fraser's excellent book, *Cremation — Is It Christian?*, published by Loizeaux Brothers, Neptune, New Jersey. But let me also say that we had come to see that cremation is wrong — yea, evil — long before we read Brother Fraser's book. Our experiences as missionaries in Nepal and India and a study of God's Word had taught us this.

### Cremation Has A Heathen Origin and Purpose, Whereas God's People Have Always Practiced Burial

At the outset let me answer an objection sometimes made at this point. The objection is, "Yes, God's people in the Bible practiced burial. The example is clearly there. But are we bound to follow these examples, as they are not direct commands?" The answer is given in no uncertain terms in Romans 15:4. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning..." And again in I Corinthians 10:11 we read, "Now all these things happened unto them for examples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." God is saying in these passages, "Yes, you are to follow the Bible's examples as well as its direct instructions."

#### A Heathen Origin

Cremation as practiced today in the more technically advanced nations no longer has the physical ghastliness associated with cremations performed in the poorer parts of the world. The modern method incorporates the use of an exceedingly hot incinerator which reduces the body to ashes in a matter of minutes completely out of the view of loved ones and the

public.

Not so in India, Nepal, and other parts of South Asia, the area of our missionary ministry. I am convinced that if Christians in America and Europe could stand with me beside the "holy" River Bagmati in Kathmandu, Nepal, and observe the burning of the body of a Hindu following the performance of the Hindu death rituals, they would cast aside in repulsion every thought of cremation being an acceptable Christian practice. Just five days ago I stood three or so feet from a burning corpse with a missionary pastor from Singapore and his wife who were visiting us. The head was already burnt beyond recognition and the skull split open due to internal expansion from the heat of the fire. The lower legs and feet were unscorched, as they were protruding from the pile of burning wood and stubble upon which the man's body lay. The professional Hindu burners were poking the body from time to time to keep the members in the fire and adding stubble and wood as needed. The bones were contracting and popping; the bodily organs were frying and the juices sizzling in the intense heat. My wife, a nurse with experience in a leprosy hospital and also in an intensive care ward, stood with another friend observing the ghastly sight from a distance, unwilling to come closer. The air for a hundred yards or more was filled with the unmistakable stench of burning flesh. When the fire had burnt most of the body, the ashes and remaining members were shoved into the river. This is cremation as has been practiced by heathen religions for untold centuries, but without the sanitized, "instant fry" method adopted in technically advanced nations and sanctified by apostate Christians as an "acceptable Christian practice."

Would you treat your loved ones so? Is this an acceptable Christian practice indeed? No sir, cremation is a heathen practice. It is of heathen origin and serves heathen purposes. There is nothing Christian about cremation. We were standing that day, as I have at other times, observing cremation in the surroundings from which the practice arose — idolatrous, Christless heathenism.

### God's People Have Always Practiced Burial

Following are just a few examples. I challenge you to read the Bible from cover to cover and find one occasion in which one of God's people was cremated or given anything other than a decent and proper burial (except in a few cases involving God's anger, as we shall shortly see).

Abraham was buried — "Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people. And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah..." (Gen. 25:8-10).

Sarah was buried — "And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old... And Sarah died in Kirjatharba... And Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her. And Abraham stood up from before his dead,

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)



## The Baptist Examiner Forum II

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT  
THE BAPTIST EXAMINER--P.O. BOX 60--ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

Explain the different offices in Ephesians 4:11 with reference to what they were, and do they exist today?

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"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called," "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (Eph 4:1,7). The word vocation (calling) in the New Testament refers to the calling whose origin, and nature are heavenly. All of God's people are saved on purpose for a purpose. Their calling is to carry out the commands of their God and Saviour. To enable His people to do His will, God gives them gifts with which to work. All people are not given the same gifts. "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness." (Rom 12:6-8).

Every one of us is given a gift to use in our ministering. Some are given more than one gift. Whatever gift or gifts we are given, we are responsible to use them for God's work. "As every man hath received the gift (grace), even so minister (serve) the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Peter 4:10). And we are, as Paul told Timothy, not to ever stop using that gift. "Neglect not the gift that is in thee," (1 Tim 4:14a).

The word some in verse eleven refers back to verse seven where it speaks about those to whom a gift has been given. Some were given the gift to be an apostle, some prophets; some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers. All fit into at least one of these categories, with most falling into the teachers portion. The first four offices require a man, where all can teach or expound the faith to others. Whatever office is involved, the purpose has been, and will continue to be as it is stated in verse twelve. "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:" Of these five offices, only the latter three exist today. We will try to very briefly examine these offices.

**APOSTLES.** The Apostles were selected from the disciples that followed Christ. There have only been fourteen men to hold

this office. The office was given to the first twelve by Christ in Luke 6:13. The other two men to be placed in this position were Paul and Matthias. It was a position of leadership and great responsibility. The office of an apostle does not exist today, and has not existed since New Testament times. The requirements for this office cannot be met today. "Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us. Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection." (Acts 1:21-22).

**PROPHETS.** Prophets were inspired men of God that foretold the coming of Christ and those things relative to His kingdom. The prophets were responsible for the writings in the Old Testament as they were directed by the Holy Spirit. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21). The office of a prophet does not exist today. "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it." (Luke 16:16).

**EVANGELIST.** The word means a messenger of good. The term has diminished in usage today. Philip was called an evangelist in Acts 21:8. An evangelist is a preacher of the gospel. The term is probably more appropriate when used of missionaries today. Paul instructed Timothy, a pastor, to do the work of an evangelist. "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of the ministry." (2 Tim 4:5).

**PASTOR.** A pastor is an undershepherd who is to guide as well as feed the flock over which he has been made overseer. He is also referred to as bishop or elder. The office of pastor and deacon are the only two that exist in the church today. There is no such thing as bishops, archbishops, etc., today.

**TEACHERS.** These are men and women who are gifted to impart and expound others the Word of God. The teachers are taught by the pastors. See Paul's instruction to Timothy in II Timothy 2:2.

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We find four offices listed here: apostles, prophets, evangelists,

pastors and teachers. The question is asked, "do these offices exist today?" First, let us break them down as to their positions.

**Apostles:** There were twelve originally whom our Lord called and ordained to be a part of His earthly ministry. He gave them power over unclean spirits, and to heal all manner of diseases. He commissioned them to preach the Kingdom of God. An apostle must have seen the Lord in person according to Acts 1:21 and John 15:27. This office does not exist today. I might add that the apostle Paul claimed this office because he saw Jesus in a vision.

**Prophets:** Prophets of the Old Testament foretold the futures. They were inspired of God to tell things that must come to pass. The prophets of the New Testament were not foretellers but rather forthtellers. That is, one whose gift enabled him to speak to edification and exhortation. The word edification means to build up or strengthen, instruct and improve. We have no foretellers today. God has told us in His Word everything we need to know about our future.

**Evangelists:** Evangelists were missionary preachers such as Philip the deacon. Paul was not only an apostle, but an evangelist as well. Such were the other apostles.

**Pastors:** Pastors were the overseers of local churches. They were shepherds of the local flock. They were called elders not Reverend. Reverend is only mentioned one time in the Word of God. Psalms 111:9 gives this title to God, and not to man. To call one's self reverend is to claim equality with God.

**Teachers:** Teachers are to instruct the church in the things of God. They are to study the Word and break it down where everyone can understand it. A teacher should do word studies and to always give an answer to those who might need help in the Word of God.

Do these offices exist today? Yes, with an exception of one. We do not have apostles today in the same sense as they were in Bible times. Yes, the other four are in existence today.

A pastor should be able to teach. He should be able to evangelize and to be a prophet telling forth the things that are written rather than being inspired as were the prophets of old.

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The offices named in Ephesians 4:11: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, were given for the purpose of building up the church spiritually. And they were given by Christ in His appointed time.

Apostles: in order to be apostles



of Christ, they were ordained by Christ in person, and were empowered to perform every work involved in the edifying of the body of Christ. They preached, taught, prophesied, and evangelized until their death. Our Lord founded His church as He began to call out the apostles, one of whom was a traitor named Judas, who fell. He was replaced by Matthias by the early church before Pentecost. Then later, after His ascension, Christ appeared to Saul of Tarsus and chose him as apostle to the Gentiles (See Acts 9:15). No more apostles of Christ have been chosen since these that are named in New Testament Scripture died.

True prophets of God were ordained and empowered by God and inspired by the Holy Spirit. A prophet, in the strictest sense, spoke God's message concerning future events, God's own eternal purpose was delivered to His prophets who revealed God's plan, word for word, and recorded it for His glory and our edification in the Bible. Some of the apostles were granted revelations of future events and inspired to record them. "The revelation of Jesus Christ", to the apostle John, is full of prophecy. But since the Bible was completed, there has not been another true prophet.

An evangelist is one that proclaims the good news of the gospel of Christ. They should be sent forth under the authority of the church, and should be ordained by the church. I do not believe that evangelist is a distinct and separate office in the church. The deacons, and other male members of the assembly should be considered evangelists if they are called to preach the gospel. By all means, the pastor should be an evangelist.

Pastor is an ordained office in the church. The church should seek a man as her pastor, that is called of God, and qualified to fill that office. The qualifications of a pastor are very strict as seen in I Timothy 3:1-7. A man that is above reproach, having only one wife, orderly; one that manages his house well, and has his children in subjection, not a new convert, but a man grounded in the faith. He must be able to teach the Word. These men are few and far between, but there are many given for the work of the ministry even in this day and age.

Teacher is not a distinct office in the church, but can be filled with any member in good standing that the church sees fit to place there. Women can teach children and women. The pastor, deacon, and others that are qualified should be ready to fill this office.

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This Scripture agrees with the one in I Corinthians 12:28 which reads, "And hath set some in the church, first apostles secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." God sets these offices in the church. He ordained the men to fill the offices. He gave gifts unto men that He ordained to fill these offices.

I believe that Ephesians 4:11

has more reference to the gifts given to these men than to the men themselves. God called and ordained the men, and gave the gifts. These were such gifts as were to enable them to perform miracles, such as speaking in other languages, the interpretation of other languages, the gift of healing and other gifts whereby they had the power or authority to perform these miracles.

Some of these men were called before Christ ascended. The apostles were called and ordained before Christ went to the Father's right hand. They were set in office in the church before Christ left the earth. Others were put in office by the Spirit after Christ ascended, and these were installed in office for the same purpose, that is, for performing certain duties. These duties included the working of miracles, teaching (instructing), helps, etc. All these offices and the men put in these offices were for the purpose of edifying the church.

Some of these men were ordained for the purpose of preaching the gospel, such as the bishops, elders and the evangelists. These evangelists went from one place to another, declaring and preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostles also preached and had the authority to ordain elders and bishops. This ordination was done under the authority of the church at Jerusalem. When Paul and Barnabas were sent out, they were sent out by the authority of the church at Antioch. (Acts 13:1-4).

Most of these gifts God gave to the church are not in the church today. The modern day charismatics have the idea that these gifts are still in the church and that by these gifts, which they claim to have, they have the power to perform miracles. But such is not the case. Some of these gifts ceased to exist. If the student of the Bible will make a close study of I Corinthians chapters 12, 13 and 14, he or she will find why these gifts were given and "...set in the church..." In this study you will find in I Corinthians 13 which gifts remain. Read verse 13. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." This means that there are not any other gifts in effect since that time. All of these gifts named in chapter 12: 7-9 were in effect until the Word of God was completed. They are not needed now. We have the Bible, the perfect and complete instruction for the church and the people of God. The Bible is the complete rule for faith and practice for the Lord's church.

The gifts were given to confirm the Word. That is, to convince the listener and to stop the mouths of the gainsayers, until that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part is done away. (I Corinthians 13:10). So these helps, governments, are no longer needed since we have the complete Word of God. The Word of God is all that we need, and is to be used for the purpose of building up the church, edifying the saints and

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## FORUM

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to convince the gainsayer.

The only two offices in the church in which we have ordained men is the pastor and deacon, the others ceased to exist with the ending of miracle working, of speaking in tongues, gifts of healing, and such like.

## CREMATION

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and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying, I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." (Gen. 23:1-4).

Rachel was buried — "And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath... And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day" (Gen. 35:19-20).

Isaac was buried — "And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him" (Gen. 35:29).

Jacob was buried — "And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people... And when the days of his mourning were past... his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah..." (Gen. 49:33; 50:4-13).

Joseph was buried — "So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt" (Gen. 50:26).

Joshua was buried — "And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him..." (Josh. 24:29-30).

Eleazar was buried — "And Eleazar the son of Aaron died; and they buried him in a hill that pertained to Phinehas his son, which was given him in mount Ephraim" (Josh. 24:33).

Samuel was buried — "And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah..." (I Sam. 25:1).

David was buried — "So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David" (I Ki. 2:10).

John the Baptist was buried — "And he sent, and beheld John in the prison... and his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus" (Mt. 14:10-12).

Ananias and Sapphira were buried — "And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him... then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found

her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband" (Acts 5:5-10).

Stephen was buried — "And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him" (Acts 8:2).

### Even When Burial Was Difficult

Even in difficult circumstances God's people in olden days practiced burial. For example, Joseph's body was kept for over 400 years in Egypt and then carried through the 40 years of wilderness wanderings before being buried in Palestine, the promised land.

"And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence." (Gen. 50:24-25).

"And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you" (Ex. 13:19).

"And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver..." (Josh. 24:32).

How much simpler it would have been for the Israelites to have cremated Joseph, then carried his ashes with them in a tiny container! But this they refused to do. Joseph, a follower of the one true God, a man who looked forward to the bodily resurrection, was given an honorable burial, as was every man of God in the Bible.

### Burial Looks Forward To Resurrection

"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:22-23).

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (II Cor. 5:1).

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming" (I Cor. 15:20-23).

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in vic-

tory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:51-57).

The reason God's people have always been careful to practice burial is not difficult to understand. We believe in a bodily resurrection. Yes, the buried body will decompose in time. Yes, there are occasions in which Christians die in ways which render burial impossible — in the sinking of ships, in house fires, etc. But when at all possible we bury. Why the trouble? Because it is our certain hope that the same individual will be raised in the same body, only changed.

The physical body is called the seed for the resurrection body. When planted, a seed decomposes, and the new plant comes forth. The Bible uses this to illustrate resurrection:

"But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain; But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him and to every seed his own body... So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (I Cor. 15:35-44).

When we bury a Christian loved one, we are planting the seed for the resurrection body! It is a powerful testimony of our unwavering faith in God's Word regarding the promise of bodily resurrection.

Contrast heathenism. They have no such knowledge or hope. The Hindus and Buddhists, for example, believe in a human soul which is distinct from the body. But they do not believe that the soul, once departed from the body at death, will be resurrected in any relation whatsoever to the first body. Rather they believe the soul will be reincarnated in another entirely unrelated body, or into a non-physical sphere of existence.

God's people, though, have had some knowledge of a bodily resurrection from the earliest days. The book of Job is considered commonly to be the oldest book in the Bible. There is no mention in the book of Job concerning Israel, or Jerusalem, or Palestine, or the temple, or the Jewish state or kingdom, and it is most likely that Job was a God-fearing man who lived in the days prior to Abraham. Yet, consider this ancient man of God's thorough knowledge of the bodily resurrection.

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" (Job 19:25-27).

God's people have always buried their dead with this

magnificent hope burning in their hearts — "We will see that brother or sister again in that same body, only changed, glorified!" Hallelujah! Only through the death and shed blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can we have this certain hope. He has taken upon Himself on the cross the punishment for our sins, carried our sins into the grave, and rose again in eternal triumph three days later. When an individual thoroughly acknowledges his sinfulness before God, repents (changes his mind about living a sinful, self-willed life), and receives Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Saviour, the sin debt becomes paid, and eternal life and glory is promised from God the Father. Part of our glorious heritage in Christ is the resurrection body.

### God Practices Burial

"So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day" (De. 34:5-6).

### Cremation Is A Sign Of God's Curse

Throughout the Bible the destruction of a human body or of an object by fire is used as a sign of divine wrath. Consider with me some examples:

The example of Sodom and Gomorrah — "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven" (Gen. 19:24). "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that should live ungodly" (2 Pet. 2:6).

The example of Nadab and Abihu — "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord" (Lev. 10:1-2).

The example of the men who rebelled with Korah — "And there came out a fire from the Lord, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense" (Num. 16:35).

The example of idols — "And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it" (Ex. 32:20). "The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the Lord thy God" (Dt. 7:25). "And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them" (2 Ki. 10:26). "And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire" (I Chr. 14:12).

The example of magic books — "And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver" (Acts 19:18-19).

The example of the unsaved cast into the lake of fire for eternal punishment — "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).

### For A Person Not To Have A Proper Burial Was Considered Dishonor

Example of Jezebel — "And of Jezebel also spake the Lord saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat" (I Ki. 21:23-24).

Example of the Midianites — "Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth" (Ps. 83:9-10).

### The Christian's Body Belongs to God: It Is Not Ours To Destroy By Fire Or Any Other Means

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:19). "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's" (Rom. 14:8).

### God Has Plainly Called Cremation Wickedness

"Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime" (Amos 2:1).

### The Lord Jesus Was Buried,

### And He Is Our Great Example In All Things

"And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand" (Jn. 19:38-42).

In light of the above Bible teaching, the statement, "In the Christian religion there is nothing that frowns upon cremation or requires burial," proves to be untrue. Of course we cannot force people either to bury or not to bury. But the pastor or missionary must patiently share these truths with his people and with those who seek his assistance in the burial of loved ones. In these days of widespread apostasy and doctrinal confusion among professing Christian leaders, a clear voice in this matter is urgently needed.



## IMPRESSIONS

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constrained, for he is not allowed the luxury of imagery and loosely flowing prose. He must address the specificity of what God has said, and communicate from a Biblical basis in all he says. He may not walk about the earth and gather materials for doctrinal construction and weave them into a supposed Biblical exposition of things Biblical or doctrinal. A Biblical writer is compressed within specified bounds much like the writer of a sonnet who must limit himself to a certain number of lines and therein express his entire theme.

A bright man once said, "There is a strong family resemblance about misdeeds,"

and most surely there is. I don't enjoy reading the ravings of false doctrines yet, I gain something from the exercise. False doctrines all address different themes, but there is a "strong family resemblance about them," and most especially in their genesis. Having seen the evolution of one false doctrine you come to recognize its children in their early growth. False doctrines are like a palimpsest which one writer uses only to have His words scraped away with successive applications of falsehoods placed thereon. You see this family resemblance recurring time and time again.

Heinrich Schliemann dug for Troy just where Homer said it would be, and he found many Troys superimposed upon each

other just as there were many Jericho's which were built on the site of the original. When we dig into the realms of false doctrines we find ourselves struck by their similarities as though they were written in succeeding stages on the same palimpsest.

The most striking thing about every false doctrine is its generality of expression and the giant leaps men take unto non-Biblical conclusions. I have never known of any false doctrine which confined itself to the specifics of the Bible.

I shall furnish an example. I recently read a document (almost a palimpsest) where the author said that God loves the non-elect. He quotes from others, and offers a smattering of his own wisdom to the brew, while he belabors our minds

with examples of God's benefits upon mankind in general. Now certainly the Lord sends the rain on the fields of the just and the unjust alike, and often the unjust wallow in wealth while the saints of God suffer need. The author explains this in laborious detail, and then he makes his "leap." He says that because God grants benefits to the non-elect, He loves them. Now he gives no precise Scripture which uses the word "love" in connection with the non-elect, but instead makes a great bounding leap of intellectual conclusion and states this out of the conceptualization from within his own mind. This convoluted reasoning abounds among false doctrines for I have seen such leaps unto conclusions among many men who are intelligent

enough to know better.

I have two cats. I like cats. My two cats are mine by possession, and if it is possible to love an animal, then I love my cats. But, I do not love all cats. If I loved all cats, then my love would propel me to provide for all cats; and that I manifestly cannot do. I am kind to all animals but I do not love all animals. I love my own. Just because I forbear to run over stray cats when I'm driving does not mean that I love the critters. Now, just because God sends the rain upon the non-elect does not mean that He loves them.

Leaps and bounds. The author I cite as saying that God loves the non-elect says that God made the earth and saw that it was good and thus He

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## THE THREE F'S OF NEW TESTAMENT EVANGELISM

Harold Brunson

**"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen"** (Matt. 28:18-20).

This message will deal with the three F's of New Testament evangelism. They are: The Fathers of New Testament Evangelism, The Foes of New Testament Evangelism, and The Fires of New Testament Evangelism.

**The Fathers of New Testament Evangelism**

Many are the fathers of New Testament evangelism. I shall point out only a few of them. No doubt, volumes could be written on the first phase of this message. I am sure that I will probably leave out one of your favorite fathers of evangelism.

First, Peter on the Day of Pentecost. "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be 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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:37-39). The Apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost is a different man from what he was the night of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. From a cursing coward who warmed himself by the enemy's fire to a dynamic and fearless evangelist was the transition exemplified in his life. Before his denial Jesus had told him that He had prayed for him that his faith fail not, and further instructed him to strengthen his brethren after he was converted. Jesus, of course, did not have reference to the conversion of Peter's soul, but to the conversion of his impulsive, spasmodic, and temper filled life. This prayer was answered and the impulsive, temper filled Peter of days past is now a calm and

collected dynamo of power in the hands of the Lord on this unforgettable Day of Pentecost. Truly, Peter was one of the fathers of evangelism.

Second, Paul at Corinth is one of the fathers of evangelism. "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you" (I Cor. 9:22-23). This man known to us as the Apostle Paul was formerly the ruthless, heartless, Saul of Tarsus who hated Christian people and everything for which they stood. Converted on the Damascus road while on a mission of intense persecution against the followers of Christ, this man who had been a murderer of Christians now is a Christian himself. This man wrote fourteen books of the New Testament and is the greatest single credential of Christianity since Christ Himself. The one driving force that moved this man perpetually onward was his passion for the souls of men. He was in shipwrecks often, he was often among false brethren, five times he received forty stripes of the Jews, save one. Stoned on different occasions and once stoned so severely that he was left for dead. So terrible were his persecutions and sufferings for Christ that near the close of his earthly ministry he wrote, "From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus" (Gal. 6:17). He is saying the world has placed no tribute upon his head and there are no laurel leaves of earthly applause to anoint his brow and the only credentials which he had to show were his literal scars and marks in his body which he had received at the hands of the enemies of Christ. Truly, Saul of Tarsus who became the Apostle Paul was one of the fathers of evangelism.

Third, James, the pastor, was one of the fathers of evangelism. "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:20). James seems to have been one of much patience and endowed with a special portion of God's wisdom. At the Jerusalem council, it was the Apostle James who stood and with his deliberate

speech ironed out the difficulties and brought the brethren together upon common ground. It is well to note that a man of his composure, insight, and special wisdom was also a man who was greatly concerned for the souls of men. Truly, James was one of the fathers of evangelism.

**The Foes Of New Testament Evangelism**

Dr. Vance Havner has declared that we are living in an age which has "revised the Bible, streamlined the gospel, remodeled heaven, explained away the devil, and airconditioned hell." This is a good summation concerning the foes of New Testament evangelism. They are Modernism, Unionism, Cynicism, Emotionalism and Defeatism, and here again I might add "spiritual rheumatism" as the sixth foe.

First, Modernism is a foe of New Testament evangelism. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (II Tim. 4:1-5). Modernism decries the miraculous and the supernatural. It substitutes reason for faith, logic for the "logos" and science (falsely so called I Timothy 6:20) for Scripture. It is not an uncommon thing for men frocked out in a pulpit robe and in a pious manner to cry down the great cardinal doctrines of the Bible in the name of Christianity. Christianity which decries the authenticity of the Holy Scriptures is not Christianity, but Modernism right out of the pit of hell. There is a man in the town where I am presently pastoring who advocates the story of Adam and Eve, the flood, the Red Sea experience, and many other historical events of the Bible as purely allegorical and in no wise genuine. This gentleman is a

"whiskey-palian" (Episcopalian) I call him a "whiskey-palian" because he is also a social sipper and drinks with the boys. This is just one example of Modernism (rotten religion) leading to corrupt morals. Let it be forever stated that if our nation could get spiritually right, a lot of other things would adjust themselves with the precision of automation.

Second, Unionism is a foe of New Testament evangelism. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Cor. 6:17-18). Anytime you read of a Jew and a Catholic and a Protestant and a Baptist (Baptists are not Protestants) taking part on the same religious program in the name of brotherhood, mark it down, the religious world has taken another step toward hell. Let me boldly affirm that if a Baptist were as much as a ninety-seventh cousin to a real Baptist, he would not participate in these unionistic services. There is a vast difference between unionism and unity. I saw a man fall into the river. This man had a chew of tobacco in his mouth and he swallowed the tobacco. He had union so far as the tobacco and his stomach were concerned, but he didn't have any unity and the spitting and the sputtering and his automatic gag reflexes proved my point! Christian fellowship is an experience which can be enjoyed between all of God's children regardless of denominational affiliation. Church fellowship is an experience reserved for those in their particular congregation and denomination.

Third, Cynicism is a foe of New Testament evangelism. (Gal. 5:15). No comment! Just swallow this little dose of medicine. You probably need it.

Fourth, Emotionalism is a foe of New Testament evangelism. Some of the modern day healers and religious racketeers thrive upon "worked up" emotions. Among this number we find A. A. Allen, Oral Roberts, O.L. Jaguars, J. Charles Jessup, and other false prophets who are forerunners of the Anti-Christ and his false prophet (Matt. 24:12; 24:24). Man is an intellectual

being and an emotional being possessed with a will. Emotionalism neglects the intellect and the will of man, and majors only upon his emotions. Intellect has to do with knowledge, emotion has to do with feelings, and will has to do with actions. We ought to keep a perfect balance of these three as the gospel is presented to man. This is our business as Baptists, and it would help put a stop to some of the flagrant claims of our modern day evangelists who are majoring on people's emotions rather than the true doctrines of Christ.

Fifth, Defeatism is another foe of New Testament evangelism. "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" (Gal. 5:7). While others are taking their false doctrines to every nook and corner of the earth, let us beware lest we be overcome with defeatism and despairingly cry, "What's the use?"

**The Fires Of New Testament Evangelism.**

Paul speaks these words in Hebrews 1:7, "...Who maketh his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire." Pathetic as it is, there is more fire in the kitchen of the average church than there is in the pulpit. Cold, intellectual, philosophical, dry preaching is another curse of modern day religion. There is a conspicuous absence of the fire which is needed in real genuine New Testament evangelism.

First, the fire of the Holy Spirit is needed. "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Tim. 1:6-7). "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit:" (Eph. 5:18). "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zech. 4:6). It would be wonderful if every preacher in America could suddenly realize

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## THREE F'S

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that it is the power of the Spirit of God which will bless and enable the ministry. We should seek His leadership in preparation and delivery of every message. We should trust Him before the message, in delivery of the message, and even after the message.

Second, the fire of His Word is gravely needed today. "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 forebearing, and I could not stay" (Jere. 20:9). "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD" (Jere. 22:29). "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" (Jere. 23:29). Today we hear much about the Bible but very little of the Bible. The average sermon is packed with literature, history, psychology, economics, politics, social reforms, and glorified hog wash! What is needed in America today, and even in Baptist pulpits, is a revival of Heaven sent, fire-consuming, sinkilling, Spirit-filled, Christ-exalting, Bible-packed preaching. It is not an uncommon thing to hear a thirty minute message without one quotation from the Word of God.

Third, the fire of a warm heart is needed. "My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue" (Psalm 39:3). "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Rom. 5:5). Hot heads and cold hearts do not produce New Testament evangelism, but cool heads and warm hearts can become useful in the Master's vineyard. Many services are completely stoic. Weeping and tenderness are graces which have long since absented themselves from the sanctuary of worship. May the Spirit of God break down the coldness in the heart of every reader and warm and tender your heart.

New Testament evangelism has had its fathers and still has some in the making. New Testament evangelism has always and shall always have its foes. New Testament evangelism has some wonderful fires that need to be rekindled in our own hearts. May the Lord bless and help all of us to do our part.

## IMPRESSIONS

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loved the earth in its pristine state. Does the Bible say this? It does not. This is merely another leap unto a far fetched conclusion. I have seen this type of non-literary, non-exegetical procedure build false doctrines from the ground up, and it is like seeing an ancient palimpsest being used time and time again to record the same kind of error.

I am disliked in some quarters because I insist on holding men to the sticking point even if they

squirm. The sticking point is the specifics of the Word of God. Men scribble to record their leaps and bounds unto conclusions concerning what the Bible never specifically says.

The sticking point is this. When any man presents a proposition to me; I ask, "Does the Bible specifically say this thing. Specifically? Does the Bible anywhere precisely and specifically state what you are postulating? It is then that many men squirm and begin to look uncomfortable.

An example. I state emphatically that I am saved by grace through faith because the Bible specifically states this unto me. This doctrinal point is specific of the Bible and stated precisely in those words. Does the Bible anywhere specifically and precisely state that God loves the non-elect? Is this the specific wording of the Bible? Is it? Gracious no! Men have merely leaped to this conclusion by their own reasonings.

Men use terminology to cover their shortcomings of intellect and perception. When they say that God loves the non-elect they arbitrarily divide God's love into two compartments. They say that God has a general, non-saving love for the non-elect and a covenant love for the elect. Reading this sort of imagery is like reading a scraped over palimpsest which has recorded varied evils since the advent of the first man, Adam. There is truly a "family resemblance" about men's misdeeds.

The father of all literary/doctrinal misdeeds is the lack of Biblical specificity. I go in a holy dread of speaking something which God has not said. The Lord does not need latter day speech writers to amend His meanings for Him. If the Bible does not say something in specified terms, then you are putting words into the mouth of divinity to insist that it does. When men say that God loves the non-elect they are forcing words into His mouth which He never spoke, and this is deadly ground to tread.

I try to write interestingly so that what I say might be read. I may or may not achieve this, and my readers are the final judges. But I would rather write in an unutterably dull manner and have what I say sound like a Gothic dirge than place words in the mouth of God which He never spoke and then trumpet them as "thus saith the Lord" when really my message is just a tawdry offering of "thus saith me."

When men say that God loves the non-elect they are saying "thus saith me," for they can never give a "thus saith the Lord" to support this.

Experience teaches many things. I shall re-plow some old ground. Men have said that the atonement has an infinite value. Again, this is like a palimpsest unrolled before our eyes. The first thing I do when reading any doctrinal point is to research the words themselves and I have researched "infinite" and "value" both to see if they are ever used in connection with the atonement. They are not. This "infinite value" theory is like the same old generalized and leap upon palimpsest recording yet another message of confusion. The author of this theory says that Christ is infinite in nature and only so-

meone like a Jehovah Witness would argue with this. He then makes a giant leap and says that Christ's atonement must therefore be infinite in its nature. What these "leaping" brethren do not seem to realize is that just because one factor is true does not mean that any other factor is cut from the same cloth measure for measure.

Any Biblical conclusion which we make must be based on something which is specifically stated by God. In another epoch of my life I was a gambling man and I have often concluded that a man held certain cards because of a shift of his eyebrow or a twitch of his face. I have bet certain sums on my conclusion only to find myself bluffed and bested. I risked my money on nothing more than a guess. When men form conclusions based upon nothing specific which the Bible has said (or not said) they are as foolish as I was in my gambling days.

Does God love the non-elect? Then please be good enough to show me where God specifically states this in His Word. Do not unroll multitudes of Scriptures before me which do not even speak to the question. Show me specifically where in the Bible it is stated that God loves the non-elect. Show me the very words as God spoke them. I can show you many places where God says He loves His children and I can show it in specified terms. Can you give me one Scripture where it explicitly states that God loves the non-elect? Spare me your conclusions. Show me the precise words.

Some men are gambling with Biblical factors. They are betting their reputations as scholars and ministers upon non-specified things. If you state that the atonement has an infinite value, then show me the specified words in Scripture. Keep your wired together conclusions. I care nothing for them.

I can understand how men draw some conclusions while disagreeing totally with them. I can understand how a Campbellite can believe in baptismal regeneration if he just glanced at certain passages without studying them. I can understand how a Papist can believe in the detestable confession booth, for the Bible speaks of confessing our sins and faults. The Campbellite is wrong as is the Papist, but I can understand how they came to their error even while I deny the error. At least their error is based on something. It is something that they have misunderstood but at least they have a shadow of reason to believe it. What I cannot understand is how men can derive a conclusion based on nothing whatsoever. The concepts of an infinite value in the atonement and God's alleged love for the non-elect are based upon nothing. There are no wordings in the Bible which even hint at such a thing, yet men avow that they are so.

There is a rather pithy saying which I like which says, "That which goes around, comes around." As sure as the ages come and go the same ancient palimpsest of error is coming around again. It has been written on, scraped upon, and written on again. I have no doubt that new and novel doctrines

shall be written upon it when Christ returns (but I cannot give a specific Scripture which states this).

The Bible is a simple revelation from God. Of a surety it contains mysteries and when we see a mystery we declare it as such. Yet the bulk of the Bible is given for our benefit so that we might see the mind of God in certain things. That which God says we repeat, for we cannot improve upon His words. We speak as the oracles of God and this is the highest form of expression. If God said anywhere that the atonement has infinite value then I would echo His words. If God anywhere stated that he loves the non-elect than I would rejoice in stating the same. I am willing to risk everything on what God says, but I have left my gambling days behind me; and I will not play venturesome games with the Bible and put words in God's mouth which He has not recorded for our learning.

Have you ever seen the palimpsest of error? You shall know it by its leaps and its generalities. Shun it as death for it is toxic to the touch and many have been slain by dabbling with it.

## GIVING

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to enjoy throughout eternity. Not only does He give it to individuals, but He gives it also to His true churches, that they may enjoy. So, He is a giving God. The God of the Scriptures is portrayed as a Father of mercy. You can read about that in II Corinthians 1:1-10, Psalms 103:1-17, and Psalms 106:1-8. In I Peter 5, He is known as the God of grace. In Romans 15 He is known as the God of peace. He is the divine Giver, the divine Author, and the divine God. He gives us richly all things to enjoy. We can't cover all of the things that God gives us, but the things that He does give us, He gives richly. As Peter wrote, it is joy unspeakable and full of glory, the half has not yet been told. We rejoice and our hearts rejoice over Him, though we have not seen Him in the flesh. God is the divine claimer. He requires satisfaction of His broken law. He is not only the claimer, but He was also the meeter. He met the demands of the law for His elect. He met the conditions of the law for them. He was not only the claimer of it, but He also met the requirements of that law. Why? Because He is a giving God. His just claims are met by His own grace. He who asks for sacrifice from us made the supreme sacrifice for us. Why? Because He is the demander and also the donor. God demands because He is holy and without sin. He cannot tolerate sin. Man can't look upon God because God is holy. Man can't come into the presence of God, for God demands obedience and perfect holiness. He demands it and also He is the donor of it. Who is the donor? The Lord Jesus Christ is the donor. He supplies the needs that we might stand justified in His presence. He supplies that we may be able to be clothed upon with the robe of righteousness in Christ Jesus. He supplies that we might be a justified person standing in His

court. So, He is the demander and also the donor.

God is also the requirer. He required from Adam that he not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said, "in the day thou eateth thereof thou shalt surely die." God required of the man to have fellowship with Him and depend upon Him. But God also demands that and requires that which He gave in the beginning and we lost in Adam. We had no way to come up with what God requires of us.

God is also the provider. What God requires, He provides. He provided eternal salvation for them that believe upon Him. He is a giving God. What is the first thing that comes to mind when we think about God as a giving God? We read in Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Luke 2:11 says, "For unto you is born this day a Saviour." The divine decree of Almighty God sending forth the Son of His love and the fulfilling of the prophecy in the Old Testament that He was to give the gift of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

This giving God gave His Son. He sent heaven's best from the portals of glory, and He came to this sin cursed earth. He lived approximately thirty-three years and died on the cross of Calvary. He was buried and rose again the third day and ascended back to the heavenly Father. Yes, a giving God gave us His Son. This was the guarantee of all the promises and blessings that God had in store for us.

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Rom. 8:32).

The word "freely" means, in the Greek, without a cause. God, without a cause, so marvelously spared not His Son but lifted up His Son for us on the cross of Calvary. To seal the pledge of His blessings and of all His promises freely given in Christ Jesus our Lord.

"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (II Cor. 1:20). No one, outside of Jesus Christ, can claim the promises and blessings that God has so freely given. Paul said, we're only the instruments which make known the promises and pleasures of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ. God so freely lifted up His Son. God so freely gave His Son that we might have this life in heaven's glory abundantly. So, He gave freely the gift of His Son. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (I John 4:9-10).

First of all it is the gift of His Son. He made this known and made it real to us by the gospel of Jesus Christ. What greater gift could God give than that? How many would be willing to give up their only Son? God was willing to show us this love which was manifested in Christ's death at Calvary. "Ac-

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## GIVING

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giving as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (II Peter 1:3).

He has given all things pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who has called us to glory and virtue. God has given us all things. This is part of the promises and blessings of God, that He has given all things pertaining unto this new life that we might be able to live for Him bringing glory and honour to Him. We would have no understanding of this new life unless God gave us a new nature. "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

God didn't say "I am going to give my son for you and I hope you do all right." He didn't say "get out here do the best you

can. Live the best you can, and in the end I hope everything is going to be all right." No, God didn't say that. God, who put the new nature in there, will preserve and keep that new nature until it has brought you into glory. He will preserve and keep the soul and the new life which He has given to His people.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Mat. 1:21). "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (I Peter 2:9). God gives marvellous light. There is the light of the Word of God, and the light of eternal salvation. A man who has been called unto eternal salvation has been called into the light of God. A man outside of Jesus Christ is in the kingdom of darkness. God, though, has called us out of darkness into His marvelous — light. What does that mean, out

of darkness? "We have also a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and day star arise in your hearts" (II Peter 1:19).

The light is the gospel of Jesus Christ. This light is the Word of God. The dark place is this old world. Jesus said, He came to preach to them that were sitting in darkness. You can read the account in Matthew, and you will have a day dawning in your heart as you are looking for the coming of Jesus Christ. I don't care how dark it gets, how sinful it gets, and how wicked it gets; we have a day dawning, a star in our heart and soul, because we have the anticipation and hope of the coming of a great star, the Star of David.

The gift of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, brought forth this new nature that we have. Also this gift He has given is the gift of His Spirit. In I John 3:24, "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the

Spirit which he hath given us." "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (Gal. 4:6).

The Holy Spirit has sent forth in our hearts according to Romans 5:5. The love of God is in our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a gift. He is one of the pleasures, one of the gifts, and one of the blessings that God has promised His people. In Acts 2:33-34, Jesus Christ proclaimed that promise. Christ was a gift from God to His people. He is a love gift. The Holy Spirit also is a gift from God. We're saved by the power of the Holy Spirit through the gospel. The Holy Spirit used the gospel of Jesus Christ to save lost sinners. He doesn't do it any other way. He does it through the power of the Holy Spirit by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have the gift of His Son, which is the gift of eternal life. And the gift of this new nature that we have is our life. This new life God has given us is a gift of His spirit and His Spirit seals us until the day of redemption. "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory" (Eph. 1:13-14).

God gave you spiritual understanding that you might believe Christ is the Son of the living God. Without the knowledge of Christ Jesus you could not have been saved. Simply, believe. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Faith is to trust in what Jesus Christ did on the cross of Calvary for the pardon and remission of our sins. Repentance means that He gave you a change of mind towards self, towards God, and towards sin. Grace comes as pure charity. No man has claims upon God's grace. This is a perfection of divine character only toward the elect of God. The elect of God only see this character of God through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

## STUDIES

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One to whom John bore witness. It is in Him that we have eternal life.

John is saying, "I am not telling you something new, but what I have known from the beginning" New doctrines which men come up with are not true. Someone has well said, "What is new is not true, and what is true is not new". In verse 3 he restates that what he is telling is what he had received, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (I John 1:3). Here we have one of the reasons why the letter was written: that we might have fellowship not only with fellow Christians but also with the Father and Son. The word "fellowship" means "having in common or sharing with." It means sharing things with Christ. It means being interested in the same things as Christ. It means

walking with Him. Another reason for writing this epistle is given in verse 4, "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

This means that a believer's joy becomes greater as he comes to know Christ better. As our fellowship becomes closer with Him, our happiness becomes greater. The amount of joy which we have depends upon our fellowship with Him.

"This then is the message which we heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (I John 1:5). Here again we are told this is nothing new, but just what he had heard from the Lord Himself. This is the message Christ gave to His church to take into all the world. This is the message that will fill the heart with Joy if believed. To say that God is light and in Him is no darkness is to say that He is absolutely holy. There is nothing in God but absolute purity, absolute perfection, "in him is no darkness at all." Now here is the problem. How can we have fellowship with God? God is holy. Man is a sinner. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). How can I, a sinful creature, be able to walk with an absolutely holy God? "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth" (I John 1:6). There are those who say they have fellowship with God, but really know nothing of that fellowship. There is no way that one can have fellowship with God and continue to live in sin. To walk in darkness is to walk in sin, "For ye were sometimes in darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8). "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Eph. 4:18). If we are to have fellowship with God we must walk where God is - in the light. To walk in darkness yet claim to have fellowship with Him is to lie. This cannot be, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

In verse 6 we are told who can not have fellowship with God, those who walk in darkness. In verse 7 we are told who can have fellowship with Him, those who walk in the light. Verse 6 is talking about the unsaved person who claims he is walking with the Lord, while verse 7 applies to the ones who have put their faith in the shed blood of Christ. It is only the children of God that can have fellowship with Him. We become children by the new birth, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God;--" (I John 5:1). "But if we walk in the light" is not talking about how we walk but where we walk. If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. He keeps on keeping us clean. There is a difference between relationship and

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## HANDCLAPPING, HANDRAISING AND HOLY KISSES

by Herb Evans

The Pentecostal ancestors of modern Charismatics have long tried to pawn off, without success, the notion that certain Scriptures mandated their own peculiar behaviour. Lately, however, some Baptists and Protestants see such behaviour as the answer to dead members and churches. We seriously doubt that emotional extroverts or their fleshly mannerisms will supplant the time tested method of revival and life giving; God's Spirit and God's Word; neither do we think such behaviour will result in any stability in faith or practice. Nevertheless, Charismatic prooftexts must be addressed to see whether their behaviour should be emulated and whether or not it is really heartfelt, heartbroken, spiritual emotion or merely a cheap fleshly imitation.

### Handclapping

"O Clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph" (Psalms 47:1).

This passage, the only one that instructs people to clap hands, is often cited to mandate the practice or to question one's spirituality or joy if they do not engage in handclapping. Strangely, there are no instructions or even examples in the New Testament, a suspicious difference in emphasis - if nothing else. A study of the context of the passage reveals a shout of triumph and clapping because the Lord is terrible, is king, and shall subdue the nations under Hebrew feet. Hardly a description of a New Testament church service! Surely, well placed Amens and other affirmations of the truth preached and making melody to the Lord in one's heart, calling attention to Him rather than to one's self, have not been improved upon or obsoleted.

Since our women are admonished to keep silence in the church, does such a prohibition cause them to be less spiritual or

to have less joy? Or, shall we allow them to have conniption fits like wildfired Holiness churches? Since when has a meek and quiet spirit become a sin?

If we are to copy Hebrew coronation and victory celebration clapping, why not copy dancing also? Oh! Some have already done so? Sorry I asked!

### Handraising

"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands..." (I Tim. 2:8). Certainly, we have seen upraised Bibles and hands in good taste. However, the programmed gestures and holy countenances that are familiar to most readers is hardly a holy practice. A careful examination of the proof text will show that Timothy was not mandating folks to lift their hands during prayer (an already established custom at the time), however, Timothy is demanding that those lifted hands be holy and without wrath and doubting. That is where the emphasis belongs!

### Holy Kisses

"Greet one another with an holy kiss." (II Corinthians 13:12). Of all the Charismatic practices, Independent Baptists are fast becoming more and more susceptible to this one. Once, we could say that they seem to prefer women for their kisses (which is bad enough), but alas, even that has changed. What a shame!

Paul, like Timothy, is not mandating that folks kiss each other. This, also, was a well established practice. Foreign born folks still greet their friends and relatives with a kiss. Again Paul's emphasis is on the holiness of the kiss. Since the handshake is the custom among the brethren, it should, indeed, be holy and without dissimulation.

### Jewelry Taboos

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls or costly array" (I

Tim. 2:9). Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel" (I Pet. 3:3).

In the light of recent developments among the Charismatics and with the advent of "Tammy", it hardly seems worth mentioning the older Pentecostal taboos, but since we have encountered them in the not too distant past, it might be prudent to examine the proof texts that still may be used in some circles.

When old time Pentecostals used to read this passage, they used to think that "adorn" meant "wear." However, to make this short and sweet; such an interpretation would demand that Christian wives, in I Peter 3:3, go naked - not putting on of apparel. Since such exegesis is somewhat wanting; we suggest that the passage is instructing wives how to "adorn" themselves (Rev. 21:2) - not concerning what to wear!

### Conclusion

Churches have tried Bozo the clown, pack a pew, world's biggest banana split, and just about every gimmick there is in order to inject some life and numbers into their midst. However, Charismatics stole the better gimmicks and the show. Now, are we going to adopt Charismatic gimmicks to try to do something only the Bible and the Holy Spirit can do? Yes, there are a few of us who like to be noticed and a few more who would like to vent their frustrations into some emotional escape, but would that constitute true revival? Do we really want the lack of victory and growth that plagues the "second blessed?" Do we really want to emulate the mannerisms of others, or do we want our own Spirit filled originality and personality? Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty; but everything is to be done decently and in order. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant!



## THE TRAGEDY OF NOT TITHING

by E. J. Daniels

When a Christian does not tithe he robs God - actually steals from Him. It doesn't matter how small a thing you think it is not to tithe; God declares it to be plain thievery and robbery of the blackest dye. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me, But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings," is God's answer (Mal. 3:8). Now, isn't robbery about as black a sin as there is? Especially is it so when we take advantage of God's goodness and trust and then rob Him. It is more honorable to pocket a revolver, walk down to the bank and stick the gun in the face of the bank officials and order them to turn over their money, than to rob God of His tithe. How, my friend, does God feel when we would never think of stealing from our fellow men, while at the same time count it a small matter to rob Him? You should rob no one, certainly not God.

### A LIVING THIEF.

I have heard a story which illustrates about what I believe God thinks of those who withhold the tithe from Him. A minister asked a professed Christian: "Have you been baptized?" "No, the dying thief was not baptized so I have not been," was the reply. "Have you joined the church?" "No, the dying thief didn't join a church, so I haven't," he said. The minister asked question after question regarding his Christian duty, only to receive the reply each time, "The dying thief didn't, so I haven't." Finally he asked, "Do you give to the support of God's work?" The same reply came, "The dying thief didn't give anything so I don't." The preacher well said, "My friend, the only difference I see between you and that thief is that he was a dying thief and you are a living thief." Are we living thieves because we have robbed God?

And remember, we cannot steal from God and escape. Those who rob men may not get caught; they may get by, but never has anyone robbed God and not suffered a hundred fold for his black sin. He knows exactly what your tithe is, and what offerings above this you should and can give; you can't cheat Him and get by. You will lose two dollars for every dollar you steal from Him. Hear Him, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me...Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me" (Mal. 3:8,9). God collects His portion of our time and money, if we do not willingly give it, and puts the rod heavily upon us besides.

You remember God commanded Israel to set aside every seventh year as a Sabbath year. They were not to till the ground. For 490 years they did not observe this commandment. Did they get by? No! God allowed them to go into captivity and remain there for seventy years, the number of years they "stole" from Him (see Lev. 25:2,26:34,35; II Chron. 36:21). Not only were these years a loss to them (and God), but they suffered severely for their sin in other ways.

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### GOD COLLECTS.

If we withhold God's tithe, He will collect and will punish us in addition. What we steal will do us harm, we will lose days of work. Was not this proven in the "Florida boom?" "Times" were so good that people forgot God and His day. They worked every Sunday; getting paid big wages for it. Did they get by with stealing His day? Indeed not, for He stopped the boom; they lost all they had made on both Sundays and week days and had plenty of "spare days." Many people are in financial straits today because in their earlier days, and perhaps even now, they robbed God of His tithe.

### PUNISHED FOR NOT TITHING.

A former chief of police of a Florida town said to me one night after I had preached a sermon on tithing in the Baptist church of that town: "Preacher, I used to tithe and I had a good job and was very prosperous. I grew cold spiritually, ceased tithing and lost my job and practically everything else." If space permitted I could give dozens of other similar testimonies. My friends, from a financial standpoint it is cheaper to tithe than not to tithe. I know about how the devil has caused you to reason. He has made a tithe of a month's earnings look mighty big. He has shown you what you could do with it if you kept it. Hear him not, the tithe is God's. Anyway, you will lose dollars, if you keep tithing cents.

The effects of not tithing are not only disastrous to the individual, but to the church as well. Failure to obey God here has caused many churches to fail in preaching and gospel both at home and abroad. Many are having one-fourth and one-half time preaching when they could be having full time if they tithed. This is not pleasing to God. Many are struggling under debts that would never have been had the people tithed. Worst of all, churches are dishonoring God in trying to finance their work, because their membership does not tithe.

### UNSCRIPTURAL METHODS OF CHURCH FINANCE.

Because the members do not follow God's plan of giving, many churches have foolishly adopted dishonoring, and sometimes dishonest methods of trying to finance their work. There are three unscriptural, unworthy, and unsatisfactory

methods of church finance used by many churches today: namely, taxes, tips and trash. Some churches tax or assess their membership so much per member. People who give under this plan seldom do so of a "free will and willing heart." They pay their "dues" like they would pay their taxes to their government. Other churches depend on "tips" to support their work. A tip is a small amount that is given after the bill is paid. Many church members "tip" God without first paying their bill--their tithe. They give the small "tip"--a nickel, dime, or perhaps quarter--and nothing more. No church that depends on such a method of finance will ever prosper in any way. Neither will God bless a Christian who thus ignores His commands, and insults His worldwide program with such "tips."

Some churches try to support their work with "trash"--yes, trash! They put on "rag sales," "tag sales," "church suppers," sandwich stands at fairs, sell perfumes, extracts, pot cleaners--and what will you have? Such as this is a stench in the nostril of a Thrice Holy God. God hath ordained a method of church finance, the tithe; any other method dishonors Him, and will surely fail to bring permanent blessings.

God's method is not taxes, tips, or trash--it is tithes! If every church in the land would adopt this divine plan we would have a new day in all of the churches the world over. May God speed the day of its unanimous adoption. May He help churches to see that any other plan will not bring blessings.

(continued in next issue).

If sinners are not saved by the preaching of the truth of Christ, they will not be saved by the telling of lies. If "all the counsel of God" (His character, our condition, Christ's person and work) has no effect on sinners, our toning down the truth or mixing it with human works will not bring them to God. There is but one gospel for all purposes and for all people. The very gospel that comforts the saint is the gospel which saves the sinner. Some have the idea that we get men saved by whatever means, then we teach them "the doctrines of grace." Not so! It is grace that saves, grace that motivates, and grace that comforts.

Weary of earth, and laden with my sin,  
I look at heav'n and long to enter in;  
But there no evil thing may find a home;  
And yet I hear a voice that bids me 'Come!'

So vile I am, how dare I hope to stand  
In the pure glory of that holy land?  
Before the whiteness of that throne appear?  
Yet there are hands stretched out to draw me near.

The while I fain would tread the heav'nly way,  
Evil is ever with me day by day;  
Yet on mine ears the gracious tidings fall,  
"Repent, confess, thou shalt be loosed from all!"

It is the voice of Jesus I hear;  
His are the hands stretched out to draw me near,  
And his the blood that can for all atone,  
And set me faultless there before the throne.

Samuel J. Stone

## PLAIN PROPHECIES

by John R. Gilpin, Sr.

"Write the vision, and make it plain upon the tables, that he may run that readeth it" (Hab. 2:2). I am beginning today a series of sermons on the general theme, "Plain Prophecies for Plain People," and each of these messages will be centered around and built about the text which appears at the beginning of this chapter.

One thing that has always thrilled my soul when I have studied the Bible is the fact of its fulfilled prophecies. Not just a few, but multitudes and myriads of prophetic statements that are given in the Old Testament, find their completion and their fulfillment in the New Testament. As I have studied God's Word through the years. I have always been impressed particularly with the fulfilled prophecies of the Bible. That is the one thing which makes me know above everything else that the Bible is God's Word. The fact of fulfilled prophecies proves to me that man didn't have anything to do with the writing of the Word of God.

Beloved, man can't even prophesy with exactness and certitude twenty-four hours in advance. For example, I will ask you what the weather is going to be tomorrow. Though you might give a shrewd guess, there isn't a person within this area today who could tell me what the weather will be twenty-four hours hence. Man just doesn't have prophetic insight and foresight to foretell and to describe with accuracy the events that shall come to pass in the future.

When I turn through the Word of God, I see that over and over again God has given to us these prophetic statements, and thereby as I read them, I am persuaded to believe that the Bible was not written by man, but was written by God, in view of the fulfilled prophecies that we find therein. Today, the prophecies that I want you to notice are all prophecies that relate themselves to the Jews.

The first prophecy is that God chose the Jews to be His own people. "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee; And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families be blessed" (Gen. 12:1-3). Here is God's prophetic statement concerning Israel. He called the Jews to be His own particular people, and He promises a blessing upon that individual or nation that blesses the Jew, and a curse upon that individual or nation that curses the Jew.

I'll read you another Scripture that you might see that the Jews are definitely God Almighty's chosen people. "For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth" (Deut. 7:6). Every once in a while I meet up with some individual

who is either a Jew-baiter or a Jew-hater. Let me remind you, beloved, that God Almighty has something to say to that individual who in any wise at all mistreats God's chosen people. God has already said that there is a blessing or a curse resting upon you, depending upon your attitude toward those whom He says are His own chosen people. I will give you a few examples of how this has taken place and been fulfilled in the past.

Go back to the days of Pharaoh in the land of Egypt when Pharaoh killed the boy babies that were born of the Israelites. You will remember how that every boy baby that came into an Israelitish home



was killed. Pharaoh was making an attempt to destroy the nation, but, beloved, in spite of the fact that Pharaoh had all those Jewish boy babies drowned -- in spite of the fact, God blessed the Jewish nation and Pharaoh himself was ultimately drowned in the Red Sea. God saw to it that the man who did lift his hand against His own chosen people, perished in the exact manner that he had tried to cause them to perish.

Come a little further in history until you come to the days of Haman. You will read in the book of Esther, the book which does not bear the name of God in any wise but in which the hand of God is seen on every page -- you will read how that Haman desired and plotted and even paid for the privilege of the destruction of the Jews. You remember how that he went so far as to build a gallows 90 feet in the air, upon which he might hang one obstinate Jew who refused to bow his head in worship unto him. Though he went so far as to build these gallows upon which he expected to hang this man Mordecai -- though he had done this, he failed in his plans and he himself was hanged upon the gallows that he had built upon which to hang Mordecai.

Beloved, God had said that the man who blesses the Jew, He will bless, and the man who curses the Jew He will curse. Haman had to learn the meaning of this prophecy the hard way -- with his neck in a noose, dangling from the gallows which he had built 90 feet in the air.

Notice how it was in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, for in the year of 558 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar came against the city of Jerusalem. He burned the temple of the Jews to the ground, he stole the treasures out of the temple, and he carried the Jews into captivity into the country of Babylon, and there for 70 years he kept them as his prisoners and his slaves.

Now, beloved, where is Babylon and what became of Nebuchadnezzar? What

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## PROPHECIES

(Continued from Page 10)

became of his country? Beloved, Babylon is no more than a name — a name with a past, but without a present, and without any prospect of a future. Why? Because Nebuchadnezzar learned by experience that God would keep His word when He said that He would bless the man who blesses the Jew, and would curse the man who cursed the Jews.

II. We have a second prophecy in that God declares that the Jews are to become a byword. **"And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee."** (Deut. 28:37). God is speaking to the Jews, telling them about their dispersion, and telling how they are to be scattered among the nations. That word "byword" in the Hebrew is the word "Shenea." God said, "You are going to be a byword among the nations," and the exact identical Hebrew word when it is Anglicized gives us the common nickname of a Jew. When you refer to a Jew as a Shenea, you have nothing else but the exact word that God used in the Hebrew for the word "byword."

Oh, what an exact occurrence and what an exact incident of the fulfillment of the Word of God. He said, "I will make you a byword," and the very word from which we get the word "byword" when it is Anglicized, becomes the Hebrew nickname of Shenea.

III. A third prophecy concerning the Jews is when God declared that there was going to be a cessation of Jewish worship. **"And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odors"** (Lev. 26:31).

God spoke these words 1500 years before Jesus Christ came to this earth. At that time Jewish worship was flourishing, but God said, "I am going to make it come to an end," and God did that very thing.

If you will come down to the days of Jesus, though 1500 years had passed, God hadn't fulfilled that prophecy yet. In Jesus' own day they were still worshipping in the temple. We read of it in the Word of God on numerous instances.

You remember that one day Simon Peter went down to the waters and caught a fish and took out of the mouth of that fish a coin with which he paid the temple tax for himself and the Lord Jesus Christ. Jewish worship hadn't yet come to an end, but, beloved, God doesn't get in a hurry like you and I do. We plan something, and if we don't bring it to a completion in a very short time, we forget about it, but God's plans are on a long range basis. God had said 1500 years before that He was going to bring Jewish worship to an end. On the day when the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, in the temple where the veil separated the Holy of Holies from the outer place — on that day when Jesus died, an unseen hand reached down and tore in shreds that veil separating the Holy of Holies from the outer holy place, signifying the end of the Jewish worship. No longer did they need a high priest to come between the soul of man and God, but now the great

eternal High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ had worked out our salvation and henceforward we as believer priests through Jesus Christ, our High Priest, approach unto God.

You know, beloved, though that was actually the end of Jewish worship in the eyes of God and the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, the Jews were not content with that. Some of those Jews sewed up that rent veil. If you will study carefully the book of Galatians, you will see that this book of Galatians is based on the idea of the veil of the temple having been patched up, even after having been rent in twain. The book of Galatians is an attempt to put men back under the law and make them worship under the law as they did before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I can see some of those Jewish high priests patching up that veil in the temple, trying to restore the worship which God said He was going to make come to an end. Beloved, God let that go along thirty of forty years until a Roman general by the name of Titus, in the year 70 A.D., demolished the temple and destroyed the city of Jerusalem and for the last 1800 years of earth's history, Jewish worship has ceased just like God said it would.

IV. God said that the Jews were going to be sold as slaves. **"And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you"** (Deut. 28:68).

God spoke these words through Moses when the Jews were camped on the east side of the Jordan River, in the land of Moab, before their entrance into the land of Canaan. They had wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Now, just as they got into the promised land God said, "I am going to bring you back to Egypt again in ships. You have been forty years in the wilderness. You have walked from Egypt this time. I am going to bring you back to Egypt in ships, and when I do, you will be sold to your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen and no man will buy you."

Did this come to pass? In the year 70 A.D. when Titus destroyed the city of Jerusalem he carried over a hundred thousand Jews by ship to Egypt — Jewish men and Jewish women. He carried them by ship to Egypt, put them on the slave market, and sold them as slaves. Finally, the number that he took was so great that the slave market became glutted, and no one would bid on them. God said, "No man shall buy you," and exactly as God prophesied, so it came to pass 1500 years later.

V. We have a prophecy concerning the persecution of the Jews. **"And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life"** (Deut. 28:65-66). God is telling them what is going to come to pass,

and in speaking of their future, He declares that theirs is to be a life of rigor and servitude and hardship and persecution, with a failing of eyes, a sorrow of mind, and with a fear resting upon them, and with no assurance of their lives.

Oh, how history amply and surely shows the fulfillment of this prophecy! Believe me when I tell you that the Jews have been driven out of England three different times. They have been driven out of France eight different times. Believe me when I tell you that there is not a civilized nation in the world today, with the exception of the United States, but what has stained its statute books with laws against the Jews. I would repeat, beloved, the only nation in the world that has not passed laws contrary to the Jews is the United States. Just think of the persecutions through which they have passed. Remember how they were persecuted all down through the ages, and peradventure your mind may have slipped a cog, you might go back a few years within the past decade and recall the tortures that were heaped upon them in Germany by Hitler, all because of, and for no other reason, than that they were Jews.

Ah, my brother, God said it would come to pass. God declared that there would be no nation where they would find security, but rather a fear of their lives would rest upon them through the ages to come. What God said has come to pass, just like God declared that it would.

VI. God gave us a prophecy concerning some of the Jewish cities. **"That, in the day that I shall visit the transgression of Israel upon him, I will also visit the altars of Bethel: and the horns of the altar shall be cut off, and fall to the ground. And I will smite the winter house with the summer house; and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end, saith the LORD"** (Amos 3:14-15). **"But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought"** (Amos 5:5). Those of you who know anything about the Bible will recall that Bethel was one of the great cities of Palestine. It is spoken of on numerous occasions in the Word of God, but God said, "It shall come to naught." A man is a fool to butt his head against a "Thus saith the Lord." Whatever God says is sure to be fulfilled.

God said that the city of Bethel would come to naught. What He said came to pass. Would you believe that from 600 A.D. down to 1900, for 1300 years, there wasn't a man on the topside of God Almighty's earth who could have been told you where the city of Bethel had been located. So complete was the destruction of it and so entire was the destruction of this city of Bethel, that nobody ever knew where it was and only when archaeologists dug it up with a spade in the year 1900 did they find the exact location of this city. God said that it would come to naught, and it did.

We have a prophecy concerning the city of Samaria. Listen: **"For the transgression of Jacob is all this, and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the**

**transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? and what are the high places of Judah? are they not Jerusalem? Therefore I will make Samaria as a heap of the field, and as planting of a vineyard: and I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and I will discover the foundations thereof"** (Micah 1:5-6). The city of Samaria was built by an Israelite king, Omri. Ahab was his son. Ahab is the synonym for "idolatry." The city of Samaria was located upon a high hill and was the capital of the northern kingdom of the Jews after the division of the ten tribes in the north and the two tribes in the south. It became the capital city, but God said, **"I will pour down the stones thereof unto the valley, and I will discover the foundations thereof."** Beloved, it came to pass just like God said that it would.

A few years ago a preacher friend of mine visited in the land of Palestine, and when he came back to this country, after having toured there extensively for probably six months with an archaeological expedition, I was talking to him and asked him about the city of Samaria. He told me how that the site of Samaria is today covered. The summer that he was there it was covered with cornfields and grape vines. God said that this would happen, and it came to pass.

Let's look at three other Jewish cities — Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida. **"Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum which are exalted unto Heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom, in the day of judgment, than for thee"** (Mt. 11:21-24). These were the three cities where Jesus had done His mightiest works. He said, "Woe upon you," and it came to pass just like He prophesied. Capernaum and Chorazin are today in ruins — no city there at all. Stones here and there mark the place where each of these cities stood. As for Bethsaida, there isn't a person in all of this world who knows the exact location of that city. So complete has been its destruction and so entire has been its demolition that not even the archaeologists have been able to decide the exact place where the city of Bethsaida was located. These three cities were the three favored cities of Jesus' day. They were the outstanding cities. They were the cities of architecture. They were the cities of wealth. They were the cities of age. They were the cities that had renown behind them. They were the cities that stood out in the days of Jesus. Nothing could have seemed further from the truth than the words of Jesus when He spoke about the destruction of Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida, but it came to pass because Jesus said it would.

Just a little distance from Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida was a city which in Jesus' day was an infant — a young city. It was the city of Tiberias, named for Tiberias Caesar. This city wasn't fifty years old when Jesus spoke the words of the prophecy in Matthew 11. It didn't have any age behind it. It had nothing behind it to make it a great city. Jesus didn't curse Tiberias, but He did curse Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida. Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida have passed out of existence, but the city of Tiberias is a flourishing city to this day.

Listen, beloved, God's Word is final. Whatever God says is sure to come to pass.

Here are a number of prophecies which I have given you concerning the Jews. If God has kept His word concerning these prophetic utterances of the past, God will keep His Word concerning every statement in the Bible. If God has kept His word in the past, He will keep His word in the present and in the future. If God has kept His word as to what He said back there, He will keep His word as to what He says down here.

Listen, sinner friend, He says: **"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"** (Luke 13:3). **"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel"** (Mark 1:15). **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"** (Acts 16:31). **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life"** (John 5:24).

Listen, sinner friend, as He has spoken in the past and has kept His word, you can be certain that He will keep His word concerning these statements.

Oh, may it please God today to help you to see this blessed truth, that God is a promise-keeping, prophecy-fulfilling God. That being so, sinner friend, may you heed the words of God and receive Jesus as your Saviour. May God bless you.

## STUDIES

(Continued from Page 9)

fellowship. The new birth puts us into the family of God. That relationship can never be broken. But where we walk determines our fellowship with Him. As I stated before, fellowship means to have in partnership. If two or more people share something in common, they are said to be partners together, **"truly our fellowship (partnership) is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ"** (I John 1:3).

**"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"** (I John 1:8). This verse tells us that if one denies that he has no sin he deceives himself; not his wife, not his neighbor, but himself.

Now, if we can not have fellowship with God because of sin in our lives, how can we overcome this? Verse 9 gives the answer, **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and**

(Continued on Page 12 Column 1)



## TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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

## STUDIES

(Continued from Page 11)

just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". To confess our sins means to acknowledge the sins which we have committed. It means that we agree with God that it is sin instead of trying to cover it up. If we confess our sins, then what? God cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Now our fellowship can be restored.

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 John 1:10). God has said, "--all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:10). The one who says he has not sinned in word, thought, or deed for so long a time is calling God a liar. What greater sin could a puny man, a worm of the dust, commit, than to call the Maker and Ruler of this universe a liar?

I do, and am constantly maintaining, both privately and publicly, as far as ever the Lord has enabled me, the wonders, the glories, the beauties and preciousness of charity; and yet I must be branded as being a man that is an enemy to charity.

But, if by charity these people mean that I ought to unite with Arians and Socinians, who deny the deity of my God and Saviour, whom I have proved again in my very soul that He is the mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace; if by charity they mean that I ought to meet and unite occasionally with people who can testify and say without a blush that election is a damnable doctrine, and they hate it in their hearts; that imputed righteousness is "imputed nonsense" and a doctrine that ought to be abhorred and spurned by all, which is the very garment and covering that hides all my shame, the very robe that adorns my naked soul, and so very many times has been the joy and rejoicing of my heart, and which I have found to be so many times the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; if they mean by charity that I ought to unite with people that can say and testify that we may be a child of God one day and a child of the devil another; that Christ died and atoned for the sins of Esau as well as of Jacob, for Cain as well as for Abel, for Judas as well as for Peter, and that there are thousands in hell for whom Christ died; if they mean by charity that I ought to unite and call those brethren who profess to believe in the doctrines of grace and call themselves Calvinists, but can declare at times that those blessed doctrines which are so precious and glorious to my soul are non-essential things; that is, if I understand their meaning right, they view them as useless things and that it is of no consequence whatever whether we receive or

believe these doctrines or not, provided we do but unite with all sorts, and pray for all, and be candid and mild, and esteem all as partakers of grace; I confess from my heart, if all this be charity, I am destitute of it, and instead of being grieved for my want of it, I glory in it.

I hear people say, "I would believe if I could just feel something unusual." You will never feel that something! You are told to believe the Word of God; is that not enough? "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater" (1 John 5:9). Joy, assurance, and spiritual growth will come in God's own time; but these things do not come before faith in Christ. We are like those who said, "Show us a sign, that we may believe." He has shown us enough by His Word, by the witness of faithful men, by the life and death of His Son. What other testimony do you require?

Others say, "I would like to have an unusual dream; I would have God speak to me in a dream." Would you put more confidence in a dream than in the Word of the living God? I do not believe that the Spirit of God speaks to any man apart from the Word. If you want God to speak to you above and apart from His Word, you will never hear His voice. Abraham said this to the man in hell, "They have Moses and the prophets; if they refuse to hear them, neither would they be converted though one rose from the dead."

"Doctor," says the sick man, "will your medicine heal me?" "Yes," says he. "But I cannot believe you or take your medicine until I feel some evidence inside that I am better and that it will work." This is ridiculous! Believe, take the medicine, and the results will follow.

"He that believeth on the Son hath the witness in himself." It is impossible to have any sort of witness, peace, or joy until one believes God! "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that believeth the Son hath eternal life." Can you believe? All these things are possible to him that believes; then you shall have the witness and the comfort in yourself, and He shall have the glory!

Let us with a thankful mind  
Praise the Lord, for He is kind;  
For His mercies shall endure,  
Ever faithful, in Christ ever sure.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

For some years I have heard much praise for the book, The Baptist Encyclopedia by William Cathcart. I have long wanted to own a copy, but could not find one for sale. The Baptist Standard Bearer of Number One Iron Oaks Drive, Paris, Arkansas 72855 is planning to republish this book. The book will sell for \$49.95, but is being offered for a pre-publication price of \$25.00. They need 500 orders in order to enable them to proceed with publication. I would think that our kind of Baptists would want this book.

## MY IMPRESSIONS

Thanks to Calvary Baptist Church for a time of refreshing in spiritual food. The conference was a blessing and good fellowship with God's choice saints. The members of the church were very nice and caring. May God's richest blessing be yours in our Lord Jesus Christ.

P.S. Thanks for the food.

Herbert Cole,  
King, N.C.

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What a blessing in the midst of another Spirit-filled Bible conference. Each sermon sent from God to God's man. Truly it is a taste of heaven on earth. Thanks be to my God and Saviour for this spiritual food.

Ruth P. Hall,  
Ironton, Ohio

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Great preaching and fellowship. So refreshing to see how well organized the conference went. Thank you Calvary Baptist Church.

Howard & Faye Moreland,  
Cincinnati, Ohio

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All the sermons were so needed for me to hear, but the one on "What does 'all' mean in Romans 8:28" was the one that God used the most to comfort and give peace to my heart.

Marie Sutherland  
Sanford, Fla.

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It has been a wonderful session of blessings from God. I thank the Calvary Baptist Church for her kindness in having me as a speaker and her hospitality in all things. Every aspect of this conference was blessed by God. May God use this to revive His true churches.

Sam Wilson  
Gladwin, Mi.

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The sermons by: Joe Wilson, Ron Boswell, Sam Wilson, David West, Dean Elzy, were anointed and scripturally documented. These messages addressed much needed subjects. I learned and profited greatly from the preaching and fellowship. Truly, I have been among some of God's choice preachers. I hope I can now be a better preacher. Many of these good preachers I plan to have preach at Deerfield Baptist Church.

W.P. Furlong  
Somerset, Ky.

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Thank God for the privilege of joining with the saints during this weekend. The time spent with Calvary Baptist Church was truly refreshing. God's presence was felt thru the preaching, songs, prayers, and fellowship. Many thanks to Calvary Baptist Church, her pastor and his dear wife. They were very gracious hosts, and made the stay so enjoyable that I anxiously await next year, Lord willing.

Gene Kiger  
Winston-Salem, N.C.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
To his feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who, like me, his praise should sing?  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King!

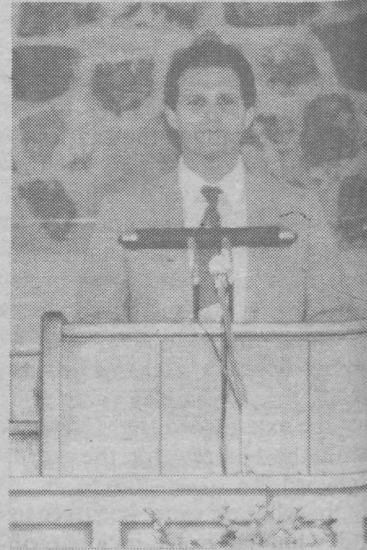
Henry Lyte



Jesse Cole and wife bless us with a song.



A very special, personal friend preaches on "Progressive Sanctification", Johnny Pruitt.



Forum writer, James Crace, preaches at our conference.



Sister Beverly Pack sings for us.



A long time friend and supporter of our work, Dan Phillips preaches at our conference.

Under true conviction a sinner finds that he has no righteousness before God. The more he strives to make himself better, the worse he finds himself. Daily he discovers more of sin's guilt. He finds in himself a want of all good and an inclination to all evil. He is convinced that the law of God is holy, just, and good; but when he would keep it, evil is present with him. Sensible of his guilty, helpless state, he knows that by the works of the flesh he cannot be saved. His heart, like a fountain, is continually sending forth evil thoughts; and after all his efforts, he cannot quiet his conscience nor attain peace with God. The gospel of Christ finds him in this condition, as the Samaritan did the wounded

traveler, and brings him good news. It discovers to him the way of salvation in Christ Jesus. Men who are accepted by God must appear at His throne in the perfect righteousness of the law and with a full release by God's holy justice! How can any son of Adam even hope to have such a standing and such perfect holiness? "In Christ," declares the gospel! The Lord Jesus, from all eternity, covenanted to stand as the Head and Surety of His people, in their nature and in their stead. He assumed all their debts and all the requirements upon them. In the fulness of time He came into the world and was made flesh—God and man truly united in one person. This God-man lived and died as the representative of His people. The holiness of His life was to be their righteousness, and His suffering and death under the wrath of His Father was to save them from all the sufferings due to their sins. And thus the law and justice of the Father would be glorified in pardoning them. God shall be strictly just and yet the justifier of all who believe in Christ.

--William Romaine