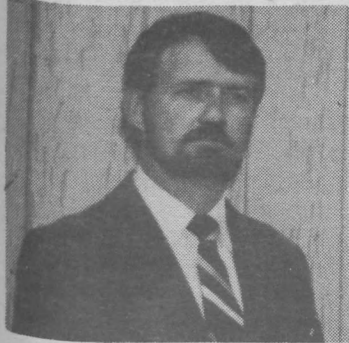


## CLEANSSED FROM ALL

by Bob Belanger  
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1 John 1:7 "...And the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

I can for the moment think of no other verse in the Word of God



Bob Belanger

which has such a full gospel meaning and message. This deals with subject matters all too often neglected in our day and time. It deals with the utter wickedness and darkness of sin. It deals with a subject so few are willing to believe and admit, even the thoroughly crooked, perverse, depraved nature of man. It deals with the only one remedy for the sin diseased ridden human race.

(Continued on Page 6 Column 2)

## STUDIES IN I JOHN

by Clyde Everman

"I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him



Clyde Everman

that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one" (1 John 2:12-14).

John, at this point, has finished the discussion concerning love for fellow Christians a test of fellowship with the Father. He now stops to give a word of encouragement as well as a word of warning to the true Christian in the church. He is not only writing this letter to the church or churches to show that the false teachers are false, but also to give assurance to those who are loyal followers of Christ.

John divides those to whom he is writing into three groups,

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## THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

by John Pruitt  
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INTRODUCTION: I should hope that this Scripture does not apply to the majority of true Christians in America today, but I am afraid that it might. I realize that most do not know what Christmas really is or where it came from, but I would hope that if they did know they would take immediate steps to correct their error. Nevertheless, we have been told from childhood and for many generations that "Christmas" is a Christian holiday set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Another error which is even worse than the first, which is due to the commercialization that has entered into the Christmas scene, where today our economic

stability is based on the Christmas buying and selling index; and when there is more liquor, beer, and wine sold than any other time of the year; churches are going to great lengths to try to put Christ back into Christmas.



John Pruitt

Certainly there is something about the Christmas season that causes all of us to have sentimental feelings: the lights, and the decorations on the homes, streets, and department stores; families getting together, people giving, and receiving gifts, Christmas parties at school, and Christmas music all around. It is next to impossible to resist the Christmas spirit with "city sidewalks, busy sidewalks dressed in holiday style"; "chestnuts roasting on an open fire", and everyone "dreaming of a white Christmas".

But should we try to put Christ back into Christmas? I must tell you that that would be a most impossible task. With a little basic research one is sure to

(Continued on Page 11 Column 3)

## TOTAL DEPRAVITY

by John Alber  
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This one doctrine alone, total depravity, is somewhat overlooked or very much underestimated in our present day. In the past several years that have come and gone, it has become more and more evident in this preacher's short observation that men as a whole, hate the truth of God's



John Alber

eternal precious Word, the Bible. Yes, on several occasions, this preacher has heard or read what other "so-called men of God have said about this most precious truth; and in the most part, they do not represent the total clear teachings of the Word of God. Where once the Baptist Church (I am using that term in its most

(Continued on Page 8 Column 3)

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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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## WHEN THE WATERS RESHAPED THE ROCKS

by John C. Whitcomb

Psalm 104 is truly the great nature Psalm, describing God's work at the time of creation (verses 1-5), at the time of the great Genesis flood (verses 6-9), and since the flood in His providential care of this world (verses 10-35).

From the sixth verse our attention is focused upon the record of the great flood, at which time God transformed the surface of this earth and shaped it into the present geography and topography of our world.

"Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains." Here is a universal, mountain covering flood, referring, we believe, to the Genesis flood, for reasons which we shall see very shortly, especially in verse nine. It was as if God threw a vast blanket of water all over this planet.

Naturally we ask where all the water would have gone when such a flood came to an end, if it really covered all the mountains of the earth. We also ask how long it would take for the water to subside. To transform a shoreless, global ocean into the present distribution of waters in the oceans and seas of our planet seems an impossible occurrence. The same psalm tells us in verse seven, "At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away."

In other words, it did not take vast ages of time for these adjustments to occur, but God's direct intervention brought about a transformation over the surface of this planet which can only be described in terms of supernatural catastrophism.

Then where did the water go so hastily? The answer is provided in verse eight: "They go up by the mountains; they go

down by the valleys."

Unfortunately this translation obscures the clear statement of the Hebrew text, which in some modern translations has been greatly improved to bring to light a vital fact concerning the work of God at the time of the deluge. A more correct, accurate translation reads thus: "The mountains went up and the basins sank down."

Reshaping earth's surface: That was the mechanism God employed to rapidly distribute the mountain-covering waters of the universal flood in the days of Noah, at the dawn of human history, to achieve the present distribution of oceans and seas and continents and mountain ranges of the world.

By the power of God, mountains suddenly rose to tremendous altitudes. By the power of God and His direct intervention, stupendous basins were provided in other parts of

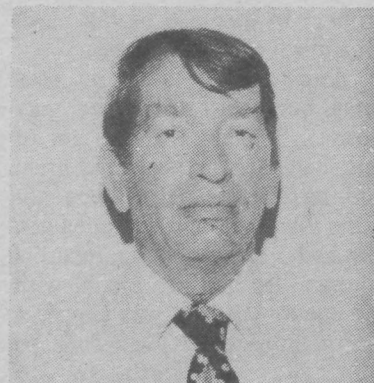
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## THE SHAMBLES

by Ray Hiatt  
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"Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no questions for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof." (1 Corinthians 10:25-26).

"Some people are so painfully good that they would rather be right than be pleasant." (L.C. Ball, 1900).



Ray Hiatt

I don't know which causes us the most grief, the puritans or the hedonists. The hedonists generally live dissolute lives and leave others alone while the puritans constrict the very world we must live in.

The "shambles" may well have lessons for us all. They may reason with us of wisdom, kindness, holiness and tolerance... most of all of tolerance. The epistles record much disruption caused by intolerance and insensitivity in churches of mixed Jews and Gentiles. The Jews would not let go of certain things and the Gentiles were not sensitive enough to avoid giving offense in matters of inconsequential trivia. And so intolerance sprang up and with it harsh and bitter judgments concerning things of no possible importance.

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(USPS 042-340)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

### BUSY HERE AND THERE

"And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it" (1 Ki. 20:40). This is the sad confession of one who failed to do as he should. This gives a major reason why many fail to be what they should in Christian life and service, they are too busy about the secondary and the unimportant to give time and attention to the things that matter for eternity.

Let us look briefly at the background for this text. God had graciously given Ahab two great

victories over Syria. As a result of these, Ben-hadad, king of Syria, was totally at the mercy of Ahab. Instead of destroying this inveterate enemy of God's Israel, Ahab befriended him, made a covenant with him, and sent him safely away. God was angry with Ahab over this, and chose a strange way to rebuke him. One of the prophets asked a man to smite him. The first man he asked to do this, refused, and was slain by a lion. The second man asked, did smite the prophet and wounded him. The wounded prophet, with ashes on his face, disguised himself and waited for Ahab to

come by. When the king came by, the disguised prophet told him this story. He had gone out to battle. A man had brought a prisoner to him and told him to keep the prisoner. He was warned that if the prisoner escaped, he would pay with his life or with a large sum of money. He then told the king that, as he was busy here and there, the prisoner escaped. The king rebuked him strongly, telling him that he had decided his own punishment. The prophet then disclosed his true identity, and, in the name of the Lord, rebuked Ahab for letting Ben-

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)



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## BUSY

(Continued from Page 1)

hadad, whom the Lord had appointed to destruction, escape. Though it was a contrived story to be used in rebuking king Ahab, let us use the statement of this prophet in disguise as the basis for a much needed message.

"And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone...." What was the sin of this man? It was not some great and terrible crime. It was not some vile, low, and degraded act. He had not turned against his country. He had not joined with the enemy. His sin was simply a sin of omission. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him is sin" (Jms.4:17). Oh, those sins of omission! Many seem to think little about such sins. Many hardly regard them as sins at all. If they are sins, they are not very bad sins; many think. Let me give a definition of sin. Sin is any transgression of, or lack of conformity unto, the law of God. Read that again. Sins of omission are, doubtless, the prevailing sins of Christians. You don't get drunk. You don't steal. You don't commit adultery. In fact, there are not many bad things that you do. But, what about the things you should do, that you don't do. What about those? This man committed no great and terrible crime. He was just so busy about other things that he forgot about the main thing, and allowed his prisoner to escape.

What was the reason for this

sin? It was not ignorance. He knew his duty in this matter.

It had been made very clear to him. He knew the importance of doing his duty. He understood that it was very important that this prisoner not escape. He knew the penalty for failure to do his duty. He must die or pay a large sum if he failed to do his duty.

I fear that there is sometimes too much made of sins of ignorance. There are doubtful things. Is this a sin or is it not? Much debate is made, much thinking is done, much confusion and difference of opinion exists over the sinfulness or lack of sinfulness of this, or that, or the other. The Bible does not clearly and specifically deal with the matter. One preacher says it is a sin. Another preacher says it is not a sin. Another says it is a matter of indifference, and that its sinfulness or lack of sinfulness depends on how the individual feels about it. My friend, I am not



Joe Wilson

overly concerned about these things. It is not the things that we are not sure about that are so wrong in our lives; rather, it is the things that we know. I can live with the old saying, "If it's doubtful, it is dirty." I would strongly suggest that a person abstain from doing that about which he has doubts as to it being all right. But still I say, it is the things we know for sure about that are the big problems in our lives.

There are so many things that are very clear in the Word of God as to their sinfulness. There is no question about it. The Bible is very specific about it. There are things that we know are wrong. There are things we know are right. We know that we should not do some things. We know that we should do other things. My brother, my sister, these are the things we should give our attention to. We were sitting around at a Bible conference, talking between sessions as to whether or not a certain thing was sinful. I told the group that I felt that if I would, and if I could get my people to, just do the things we knew were right and abstain from the things we knew were wrong; I would be pretty well satisfied to leave the other things alone. Friend, we know for sure about enough things to occupy all our time and effort in doing them. I suspect that if we would sincerely endeavor to live in the light of the things we know for sure, God would make doubtful things clear to us.

Is it wrong to smoke? Is it wrong to wear shorts? Is it wrong for a woman to wear pants? Is it wrong to look at T.V.? Is it wrong to go to a decent movie? Is it wrong to play cards without gambling? Is it wrong to dance? Is it wrong to drink a glass of wine? Well, many have very decided opinions on some or all of these things - that they are sinful. Others think that some of these things are not sinful. Others have doubts as to some of these things. Let us say for sake of argument

that these things are doubtful. I am not saying that I approve of any of these things. I am just trying to make a point. I am just saying that, for now and for arguments sake, let us say that some of these things are doubtful.

It is wrong to lie. It is wrong to gossip. It is wrong to envy. It is wrong to be jealous of others, and oh how many preachers are guilty of this sin. It is wrong to be proud. It is wrong to fail to pray. It is wrong to fail to read your Bible. It is wrong to fail to witness to the unsaved. It is wrong to miss church without a good reason. It is wrong to be discourteous. It is wrong to be mean, vindictive, unkind, or cruel to others. It is wrong to fail to consider the feelings of others. It is wrong to fail to love others. It is wrong to mistreat others in any way. It is wrong to have sinful thoughts. It is wrong to hurt others by what one says. I could go on and on. No one can argue about any of these things. There is no doubt about them. The Bible is very clear on them. Now, I insist that it is these things that we know about, that are very clear in the Bible, that cause us trouble in our lives. It is not the doubtful things. It is the things we know. Let us concentrate our preaching on things that are very clear in the Bible as to the sinfulness thereof. Let us concentrate on endeavoring to live up to what we know for sure the Bible teaches. No, this man did not sin because of ignorance.

This man's sin was not because of a lack of ability. He was not surprised into a failure to keep his prisoner. He was not overcome by some superior force. He bore no scars of a battle to keep his prisoner. He had not fought and been defeated. It is not because of a lack of ability that we sin as we do. We can do what God wants us to do. God does not require of His children that which they are totally unable to do. When we sin, it is never any justification of that sin to say, "I couldn't help doing it." Such a statement is untrue. Such a statement would be adding sin to sin. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Php.4:13). I am not talking about sinless perfection. You know me better than that. But I ask you, do you fall into a sin while you are fighting against it, while you are praying for strength to overcome it? Is it not when you fail to fight and fail to pray, that you are defeated? God will give us more strength than we even dream of if we sincerely desire it, pray for it, use it. We could "be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." We could be, "strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

This man did not lose his prisoner, fail in his appointed task, because he was lazy. We know, of course, that the lazy person will not get the job done. I have a thing against laziness, and I think that God does too. Lazy people are useless people. This man was not lazy. He was very busy. He was busy here and there. He was not necessarily busy about wrong things. The Bible does not say that this man was busy about sin. He may have been busy about good, useful, even needful things. Many are very busy, but they are not busy for God. Some say they are too busy to have time for the things of God. If you are too busy for God, you are too busy. Well, not really too busy; just too busy

about the wrong things. This man was so busy about the trivial that he did not have time for the essential. One man said, "I wasted my life doing nothing." Many will say this some day

when it is too late to correct such a deplorable condition. Friend, there are things that need to be done, and there are things that must be done. Get your priorities

(Continued on Page 4 Column 5)

## FROM THE EDITOR

I write this on November 5th, but it will appear in the last issue of the Baptist Examiner in 1987; so I will write from that standpoint. "...Hitherto hath the LORD helped us" (I Sam.7:12). I have been pastor of Calvary Baptist Church and the editor of this paper for a little over five years now, and the above Scripture is my testimony. I also consider it as a promise and a prophecy that the Lord will help us still. I do verily know that I could not carry on this great work without the help of the Lord. At times I feel almost totally helpless, but then I remember that my sufficiency is of the Lord, and that His grace is sufficient for me.

We have buried three members of our church this year. We have many elderly, and if the Lord does not soon come, many will follow those who have gone before into the realms of glory. I suppose that things in our church now are about as they were at the beginning of this year. If there is some change, it is likely somewhat down. Oh, that the Lord would give us revival, lift us up, and give us showers of blessings.

We did have the best Bible conference this year that we have had since I came here. It was truly a time of great blessings. We just closed revival services, with Gordon Buchanan as our speaker. All in all, I was pleased with the revival. I feel that the attendance and the services were better than I was expecting. I feel that we had a small measure of revival. Brother Gordon preached a very powerful sermon on Sunday morning on "Bringing Others to Christ." I told our church that this message pin-pointed the greatest failure of our kind of churches, and of our own church. I told them that, if we did not listen to this kind of message, we were going to self destruct. Oh, that the Lord will use that message on me, on a few others, even as many as pleases Him.

I was privileged to preach four revivals this year plus a week in our mission in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I preached in four conferences including ours. I held one revival and preached in one conference in churches I had not been in before. I preached in two other churches in which I had never preached. This is always a blessing to me. I am to preach on Nov. 8th in Kirtland, Ohio for their twenty-fifth anniversary. I wish that all our daughters, (and even the mother) were doing as well as this fine church.

There have been many highlights in the Lord's work for me this year. I really fear naming any, for I know I will forget some as good. The baptismal service in Pacific, Mo. stands out as one time of great blessing. There were many other highlights, but I forbear.

There have been low points during the year. I have had more problems since coming here than in the total of my ministry heretofore, but I suppose this was to be expected. I have had some battles with others, one preacher even threatening to run paid announcements concerning me in our local paper, and also to take me to court. I have had some deep hurts. I will bear some scars of 1987 the rest of my earthly days.

I have faced some very difficult decisions. God has graciously given me assurance as to what I should do and the strength to do it. I have often told others that a servant has the right to expect from his master, directions as to what to do, and that which is needed in order to do it. I have found the Lord faithful in meeting these in my behalf. I praise Him for this.

I have had some good. I have had some bad. I testify to the glory of God that the good has outweighed the bad. God's blessings are greater than the troubles He allows to come our way. I have been amazed frequently since coming here at how God balances things out for me (really, overbalances toward the good). I have again and again received calls or letters putting me down to the lowest, and on the same day received others that lifted me up to the higher realms of blessings. I can say that God is good to me.

I have learned a lesson as to one of my great needs. Pray with me about it. When I know the right thing, and do it; I need to be able to leave it then with the Lord and trust Him as to the consequences. I find this latter part harder for me than the former. I know what the Lord wants me to do. I do it. Then I worry and worry over the possible consequences. Pray for me as to this failure and need in my life.

Things have gone quite well with The Baptist Examiner. We have received much, very much mail concerning this ministry. Most of it has been good. The paper as a whole has been praised by our readers, and special articles have received special praise. Very many write or call to tell me what a blessing the paper is to them. I praise the Lord for this. Of course, we have received some criticism; of the paper as a whole, or of certain articles. We have had some ask that their names be dropped from our mailing list. But good letters and new subscriptions have far outweighed the other. We are sending out many more papers than we were at the beginning of this year. We are especially sending out more papers overseas than before.

We have lost some support. We have gained some support. We had one church drop support. We had one church lessen support. We had one (or more) churches start support. We had some occasional supporting churches become regular. We had several churches raise their support. Our support from others is about as it was at the beginning of this year.

I wanted to improve the paper this year. I do not know that this has been done. I do not think it has become any less what it was. We have had some great and God honoring and soul blessing articles in the paper this year.

It has been a good year. One could wish it had been better, but it has been good; and I praise the Lord for His blessings upon Calvary Baptist Church, The Baptist Examiner, other ministries of our church, and upon Katie and me. He has blessed us greatly. Oh, that He might continue this, and use us even more to His glory in the coming year. God bless you.



## A STORY OF GRACE

In the year of our Lord 1552, the subterranean dungeons of the city of Lyons were tenanted by two prisoners of strongly opposite character. In one of these dark, damp, and dismal vaults, bound hand and foot, and tormented not only by the vermin which infested this noisome abode, but by the fierce cravings of hunger, which the scanty prison allowance of bread and water seemed rather to stimulate than to satisfy, lay Jean Pierre Chambon, who having, three years before, committed robbery and murder, had at length fallen into the hands of justice.

Shut out from the light of day and the sight of his fellow-men, save when once in twenty-four hours, the jailer entered with the sparingly doled out portion of food, from which a dog might have turned away with loathing, this ruthless robber had for two weary months been fain to vent his impotent rage by impatient tossings on his mouldy straw, making the gloomy walls resound with the clanking of chains, mingled with blasphemies against God, and curses on the day of his birth, his parents, and all mankind.

But, a few days before the period at which our relation commences, most unwonted tones disputed with the blasphemer the hitherto undivided empire of those cavernous receptacles, and the harmonious sounds of psalms and hymns were borne distinctly to his ear from neighbouring dungeons.

The year 1552 is, alas! marked in the annals of France as one of grievous Protestant persecution, and many pious Huguenots were incarcerated in Lyons, and in other parts of France, for their adherence to their holy faith. From them proceeded the unwanted sounds; which produced no other impression on Chambon than a stirring up of the native enmity of his heart, impelling him to redouble his blasphemies whenever the accents of prayer or praise fell with distinctness on his ear; for he was rude and boisterous by nature, his heart was hardened by crime, and so entire was his ignorance of the Gospel, that, although familiar with the name of St. Francis, he was wholly unacquainted with that of Christ the Saviour of the world. Such was the bodily and spiritual estate of this miserable man, when, in the gracious providence of God, it came to pass, that as all the cells were overfilled with persecuted Gospel confessors, one of them, named Peter Bergier, a native of Geneva, was placed in the dungeon with Chambon.

Bergier being engaged in commerce, had come to Lyons in the course of business, probably little anticipating any evil results from his journey thither. He was a man of considerable property, was highly esteemed by his fellow-citizens, and especially happy in the possession of a devoted wife and promising children; yet none of these temporal advantages had so absorbed his affections, as to induce him to neglect the higher and holier ends of his being; but, like that merchant of whom the Saviour speaks, he had been a seeker of "goodly pearls," and having

recognized in the Gospel the "one pearl of great price," he felt ready to part with all, even life itself, rather than forego possession of it. In being subjected to bonds and imprisonment for the truth's sake, Bergier knew he did but share the lot of all Christ's disciples, from apostolic times down to his own; yet was he not a little startled when he learned with whom he was to be imprisoned, and still more was he appalled when he heard the curses and blasphemies which flowed unceasingly from "the evil treasure" of the wretched Chambon's heart. But the thought that for this soul also the Saviour may have died, changed his horror into compassion, his disgust into an earnest longing to contribute to the rescue of the lost one.

Bergier began by beseeching, with all gentleness and kindness his rude companion to desist from cursing and blaspheming; representing to him that these could not possibly help, but would most assuredly injure him by heaping up wrath against the day of wrath on his devoted head; and he further entreated the unhappy man to join with him in prayer. Chambon replied that it was very true that his curses did not bring him any aid, but that Gerbier's prayer would bring himself as little. Finding, therefore the futility of his attempts to induce his wretched associate to pray for himself, Bergier was only the more fervid in intercessions for him, and at the same time evinced his sympathy and goodwill towards him by performing (for he was unfettered) many little services for the manacled prisoner, and even by sharing with him the better food with which private friends in the city strove to lighten the privations of the martyr's imprisonment. The result was, that Chambon ceased to disturb, at least, the good man's prayers, by the accustomed rude and blasphemous interruptions, and began by degrees to listen with patience, if not with interest, to what Bergier communicated to him from the Word of God. With true Gospel wisdom, Bergier dwelt on the love of Christ in "emptying Himself" of his Glory for our sakes; in becoming a man, yea, a man of sorrows; and in at length submitting to the bitterest sufferings and death, even the death of the cross, in order that none who believe in Him should perish, but that all, all without exception, who turned their believing eyes on Him, might be saved by free grace, and receive the gift of eternal life.

And lo! what bolts and bars, dungeon darkness, dungeon fare, manacled limbs, and hunger-wasted frame could not effect, was effected by the preaching of the Gospel. As "a fire" the words of free favour enkindled repentance in the heart of this sin burdened man, and as "a hammer" did they break in pieces his stony heart. Sighs after pardon and forgiveness burst from his labouring bosom, and his sins rose up before his mental vision in all their condemning enormity. Like Cain, he had committed murder, and like him too, he was tempted to despair. But Bergier pointed out to him the mercy of God, who "willeth not

the death of the sinner, but that he should turn to Him and live." "What I even a murderer?" asked Chambon, with averted face. "Yes!" replied Bergier, "for thus speaks the Lord by His prophet to those whose hands were full of blood, 'Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do well; and though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool'." "But what good can I now do," asked Chambon, "bound and fettered, and appointed to death as I well know myself to be?" "You can believe God's declaration," replied Bergier, "and look to Him for the forgiveness of your sins. It was a criminal like you, one nailed hand and foot to the cross, appointed to death, and disabled from living a life of obedience, that said to Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom'; and to him the Saviour gave the comforting assurance, 'Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.' Take that for your example and your warrant." "And do you really believe," cried Chambon, on whose mind a ray of hope began finally to dawn, "that I can be saved?" "Only believe, and thou shalt be saved," said Bergier, with solemn earnestness; and straightway kneeling down, he began to pray aloud that Jesus Christ would take compassion on the repentant sinner and give him assurance of His grace. Chambon had fallen on his knees likewise, and with folded hands and trembling voice joined in Bergier's prayer with the petition, "Lord Jesus, dear Saviour, have mercy on me!" I am indeed unworthy of Thy notice, and merit nothing but damnation; but Thou hadst mercy on the malefactor on the cross; O! have mercy on me also, even on me!" And now, as it was the first time in his life that he had really prayed, so he learned also now for the first time that prayer can help us. Even while he prayed the ray of hope grew brighter in his heart, and the Holy Spirit, which had, by means of the word, begun the good work in his soul, carried it on by the same instrumentality to the day of redemption.

From that hour, Chambon commenced, as he himself afterwards expressed it, a new walk. Openly confessing himself the chief of sinners, bewailing his shameful life and horrid acts, he continued instant in prayer to God for mercy and pardon. At the same time he drank in the Scriptures, which Bergier repeated to him, as the thirsty earth drinks in the rain from heaven, until he at length attained to the firm assurance that he too, all unworthy as he was in himself, had obtained, through the Lord Jesus Christ, "redemption in His blood, even the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." The lips of him who was before a blasphemer, and injurious, now overflowed with thanksgiving and praise for the mercy which had been vouchsafed to him. He bore now every suffering with patience, acknowledging he had deserved much more both from God and man, and professed a humble but devoted love for that God of whom he

had once refused to hear.

About the time when this entire change took place in his inward man, it pleased God, who is rich in mercy, to appoint him some alleviation of his outward sufferings by the removal of his fetters, and the being furnished with better food. But far more than over such bodily comforts did the repentant sinner rejoice in the acquisition of a Bible, which some friends had sent to Bergier, and which he gladly permitted his fellow-prisoner to read. A very little light fell into the dungeon through a small air-hole, and before this orifice Chambon would stand hour after hour, poring with extreme difficulty, but unsatiated delight, on the newly obtained treasures of the sacred page.

Bergier, who seems to have met sympathising abettors among the prison officials, found opportunity of communicating to other Gospel confessors, who pined within the same walls, the great mercy which Chambon had experienced from the Lord; and in order to strengthen his faith and comfort his heart, they sent to him some books they had themselves received from pitying friends, accompanied by a letter of encouragement and exhortation. Chambon obtained, through the kindness of one of the prison attendants, writing materials, and replied to those Christian prisoners in the following terms: — "Time would fail me were I to attempt to rehearse all the mercies and benefits which the Almighty hath bestowed on one whose godless life and daring crimes deserved nothing but judgment at His hands. But thanksgiving and praise be to Him for the merciful chastisement with which He had graciously visited me in this world, that I might not be condemned in the next. For, although my punishment is severe, I yet feel and confess that I have deserved a thousand-fold worse. Hence, I no longer regard my pains and torments as heavy to bear, but looking away from them, endure all patiently, only wondering at all the goodness and mercy which God hath displayed towards me. Wherefore I am ready and willing to undergo whatever further trials He may see fit to lay upon me, and will take them all patiently. But I earnestly entreat you to do me one kindness, and that is, to write to me how I may best prepare myself for death, in case I be doomed thereto, and I further beg that you will not forget me in your prayers. The Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, comfort you, and give you patience in your imprisonment!"

Thus, it was with Chambon, as with all Christians — "old things passed away and all became new."

But the Lord showed him yet another distinguished mercy. His brother, though wholly innocent of all participation in Jean Pierre's blood-shedding, had been accused, arrested, and imprisoned as an accomplice, and worse than all, had been put to the torture to make him confess himself guilty! Bergier, having opportunity of meeting him occasionally in the cell of another prisoner, availed himself of these opportunities to relate to him his brother's change of mind, and to urge

him to follow his example. And the Lord "opened his heart, so that he received the word with joy," and Bergier became the honoured instrument of his conversion also. This was the greater joy to Chambon, as he justly felt himself to be the procuring cause of his brother's misfortunes, and he thus alludes to the circumstance in the already mentioned letter to his Christian fellow-prisoners: — "I must also inform you of the great grace which God hath shown my brother, and thus made him ample amends for the torture to which he was innocently subjected. He came into this prison with blinded eyes as well as I; but by God's mercy and blessing the instruction of our brother Bergier, he will leave it with the light of the knowledge of the Divine word; so that his benefit is greater than his injury; and if brother Bergier had never done any other good but this, it would be a wondrous deed, for I esteem it higher than if my brother had gained the whole world!"

Chambon continued to grow in grace, so that at length he was able to meet his fearful punishment with courage and hope. He was condemned to be broken on the wheel, and yet, notwithstanding the well known tortures which accompany this death, he listened to his sentence with composure, and bore its execution with patience. At the place of punishment he confessed, with much contrition, his many sins in the hearing of the assembled multitude, and entreated their forgiveness for the scandal and offence he had occasioned, even, as he trusted, God had forgiven him for Christ's sake, for which grace he praised God with a loud voice, and then quietly laid himself down to endure his fearful doom.

And what became of Bergier? He might easily have not only saved his life, but obtained permission to return to his home and family, had he been willing to purchase these favours by a recantation of his Protestant faith. But he remembered his Saviour's declaration, "Whosoever will lose his life for my sake, shall find it;" and so he manfully "held fast that he had," that "no man should take his crown," continued steadfast in the faith without saving, and was condemned to be burned to death. On his way to the place of execution, we are told, the peace of God so illumined his countenance, that his friends deemed they had never seen him look so beautiful and engaging; and as he passed along in the condemned car, he greeted such as were known to him by bidding them a friendly "Good night", whilst he at the same time entreated every one whom he might unintentionally have offended to forgive him, as he from the heart forgave all his fellow-creatures. Unmoved by this touching evidence of Christian humility and love, a Romish priest called out to him, "Thou art going straight to hell, thy fitting dwelling-place," to which the martyr replied, "The Lord forgive thee!"

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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

*Should a preacher perform the wedding for a saved person to an unsaved person?*

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II. Corinthians 6:14: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

Let me admit, without hesitation, that this verse has reference to a whole lot more than just a lost and saved person getting married. In fact, I do not believe that is the main point in this verse, if it is a point at all (in the context.) The verse and the context are dealing with the Christian's responsibility to be separated from the world. Paul is telling the Corinthian church that they had become so closely associated with the world and the people in the world that they were sacrificing Christian principles. Certainly, this is true of saved people marrying lost people. Therefore, this verse could be used to teach that a preacher should not marry a saved person to a lost person. This relationship indeed places the Christian at risk of forsaking God. You could also use the Old Testament examples of God forbidding Israel to marry outside their own nation; this serving as a type of the saved person's responsibility to marry only in the Lord.

I do believe the attitude towards this practice is changing in our ranks today. I have heard some of our men justify marrying saved people to lost people. Their arguments go like this: They are going to get married anyway; so we may as well go ahead and marry them. In marrying them at least we get the opportunity to witness to the lost person and to give warning to the saved about coming difficulties. If we refuse to marry them, then we could hurt the relationship we have in the church; especially if it involves church members. If we marry them, then maybe they will come to church here after they are married, and then maybe God will save the lost one. It also gives us the opportunity to preach in the wedding ceremony concerning Christ and the gospel. I will not argue that some of these arguments do not seem legitimate, but I personally would not at this time marry a saved person to a lost person. I also would probably not marry a saved sound Baptist to anyone else but a saved sound Baptist. Is this not a form of being unequally yoked together? I assure you that if the Baptist is what he should be, there will be some trouble ahead. I would be interested in hearing from my

preacher brethren and their members as to their opinion on this subject. Please write and inform me how you feel. In conclusion let me say this. What others do is their business. I would not marry lost and saved. God bless you all.

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I realize that we live in a day when many people choose to "live together" without the benefit of marriage. Still others who do consider marriage have little thought, or respect as to God's principles concerning marriage, but usually have a secular reason as their motive to the observance of marriage. God tells us in Hebrews 13:4 that, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Marriage is proper for non-Christians as well as Christians if they have met the essential conditions of marriage which we do not have space to discuss here. Is it right for a Christian and a non-Christian to enter into marriage together? No! Is it proper for a God-called preacher to perform the mixed wedding of a saved and unsaved person? Again an emphatic no! Just as it would be wrong and unscriptural for two people, one saved, the other not, to marry; so it would be wrong, in my estimation, for a preacher to perform the ceremony.

God forbids marriage between believers and unbelievers. God's people in ancient times were told in Deuteronomy 7:3,4 "Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly." There are also other Scriptures that speak in a positive and clear way against mixed marriages of God's people and the heathen lost. Read Joshua 23:11-13 and Ezra 10:10-12. Also look at the situation found in Nehemiah 13:23-25. Here the children of mixed marriages spoke half the language of the heathen, and no doubt knew their ways. So it is often the case today. The children of mixed marriages are influenced in a spiritually positive way and also a spiritually negative way from parents who are opposites spiritually. They may be one flesh, but not one spirit. It is evident that God's counsel is the same in the New Testament when He tells us, "Be ye not

unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (II Corinthians 6:14), and ".... marry, only in the Lord" (I Corinthians 7:39). God warns us against mixed marriages between the saved and the lost because they are unscriptural and secondly, the results at best, are spiritually compromising and very often disastrous. Could a true preacher of God's Word perform a ceremony with so many Scriptural examples against it? No! No matter the damage to our popularity, or the human consequences, let us stand true to God's standard.

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Personally, I not only believe that a preacher should not perform the wedding of a saved person and an unsaved, but I do not believe that we should perform the wedding of a true Baptist with one of another denomination.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). People who are not true New Testament Baptists, even though they might be saved, cannot agree with and walk in harmony with one who believes the Bible as we do. Marriage has many problems without adding those additional ones to it. The husband cannot be the proper spiritual head if he rebels against Bible teachings, and he does this if he is not a member of the Lord's church. The wife cannot be submissive if she is in rebellion to his beliefs.

The question, however, is pertaining to the saved and unsaved. There is one passage of Scripture that makes this clear and plain as it can be.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 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. 6:14-18).

Not only should a Christian not marry an unsaved person, he

should not even be partners in business with one. If a preacher marries someone like that, then he is disobeying this passage of Scripture.

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"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14) God told the children of Israel that, when they entered the land which He had promised them, they were to make no covenant with the people of the land, "Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son" (Deu. 7:3).

God has always instructed His people to remain separate from the world. This includes marriage. For a saved person to marry an unsaved person is disobedience to God; therefore it is a sin. If it is a sin for such a one to marry then it certainly would be a sin for a minister to perform that marriage. The minister, in performing marriages, is first an agent of God and secondly an agent of the state. As an agent of the state he could legally perform such a marriage, but his first duty is to God, and he must give an account to Him for his deeds. Could he ask God's blessings upon the couple whom God said were not to marry? Could he say it was a holy matrimony if God did not approve?

By the way, a believer wanting to marry an unbeliever, raises a question in my mind as to why he/she would want a "religious ceremony when it is in direct opposition to God's command. Why ask a minister to share in his/her evil deeds? If one insists in going against God's command why not go to the civil authority for the ceremony rather than going to a minister of God?

## GRACE

(Continued from Page 3)

A vast multitude having accompanied him to the scene of his sufferings, Bergier cast on them a compassionate look, exclaiming "Oh, how great is the harvest! Lord, send labourers into thy harvest." (Matt. 9:38). He then repeated the confession of faith, and cried out as its conclusion, "Oh, Lord, how sweet and lovely is Thy name!" As they were binding him to the stake, Bergier prayed, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit." And when the fire was kindled, and the flames began to wrap him round, he looked upward and said, "I see heaven open!" These were the last words he was heard to utter. Smoke and flame choked his voice, and his soul ascended to Him who hath promised, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

What gave Bergier the strength thus to hold out to the end? The same Word and Spirit which changed Chambon, the

reckless, ruthless murderer, into the humble, contrite, and patient disciple, and thus united the murdered and the martyr. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." And this Word and Spirit are offered to all -- to you, also, Oh reader! Oh, lay then to heart the words of the Lord Jesus, "Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

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## BUSY

(Continued from Page 2)

in order. Do the things that must be done. Then do the things that need to be done. Then, if you have time, do the things that you want to see done. Never, never, never put the trivial and non-essential ahead of the essential and vastly important in your life.

Watch T.V. if you have time. Play games if you have time. Read the paper if you have time. Make social visits if you have time. Lie around and do nothing if you have time. But do not let needful and important things go undone in order to do these or a thousand other such things. Do the house work if you have time. Do the work in the yard if you have time. Tend the garden if you have time. Paint the house if you have time. But do not do these needful things if you do not have time to do the things of utmost importance. I would say that the most important thing in a Christian's life, the thing that would contribute most to spiritual usefulness and prosperity, would be to get one's priorities in proper order.

There are those who are too busy to pray. Prayer is one of the most important things in a believer's life. He needs to pray more than he needs anything else. Yet, he is too busy to pray. He is busy here and there, and lets prayer go undone. What a tragedy. Is it not true that many of you use the excuse that you are so busy, for praying as little as you do? There are those who are too busy to read the Bible. This is a twin to prayer as the most important thing in the believer's life. Would you believe that there are Christians who do not read the Bible an average of fifteen minutes a day? Would you believe there are Christians who do not pray a total of fifteen minutes a day? They are busy here and there. They just cannot afford to give thirty minutes a day to prayer and Bible study. Is it any wonder that there is a spiritual blight upon us? Is it any wonder that our churches, are in the shape they are? How can a Christian be a strong, healthy, happy, spiritually prosperous Christian when he cannot give thirty minutes a day to prayer and Bible study? What a tragedy.

There are those who are too busy to witness to others about the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Oh, they have time for social visits. They have time for chit-chat with others. But they do not have time to go out and tell others the story of Jesus Christ. We say that we are Missionary Baptists. We say that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. We say that we believe a man cannot be saved without hearing the gospel. But we are so busy that we cannot give two hours a week in getting this soul-saving gospel to the lost. We are busy here and there, so men will just have to go to hell without ever hearing the gospel. We just do not have the

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## The Baptist Examiner Forum II

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

Should a church baptize a minor (say 15 or 16 years old) without the parents consent?

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Anyone who has been born again should be baptized in order to show the world that he means business with God. Baptism is, in a sense, putting on our uniform and placing us in the service of our God.

Romans 6:4 says, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Verse five says, "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."

Baptism seals our profession of faith. When we go down into the water, we are saying that we believe that Jesus died for us and was buried. When we are raised up out of the water we are saying that not only did He die for us and was buried, but He arose from death and the grave for our justification. So you see that baptism is a picture of our profession of faith.

Is it necessary to get the parent's consent in order to baptize a minor? Our command is to preach the gospel that folks might be saved, then baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost. If a minor is saved we are to follow our Lord's command and let the Lord take care of us if we are brought to court.

Most important is we would not want anyone to lose rewards, especially the great one of being in the Bride. Ephesians 3:21 says, "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end." Our Blessed Lord receives His glory through the church, therefore when we become members we begin to give Him glory with our lives and work as we serve Him there.

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I think this is one of those questions that has little if any Scripture to refer to. But I do know that children are to honor their parents and obey them in all things, just as the Bible states (Col. 3:20). And, fathers are not to provoke their children to anger, bringing discouragement (v. 21).

Nothing would be more discouraging than to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and wish to follow Him in baptism only to be prevented by one's parents. I believe the pastor representing the baptizing church should meet with the parents and discuss their reasons for not consenting to the baptism of their child. Perhaps the problem could be worked out.

We have baptized several people around this age and younger, and have never sought the permission of the parents. None have ever shown any opposition to their child being baptized. If the parents would not consent to the baptism after talking with them, I would recommend that the church not baptize the child. If the majority of members of the church voted to go on with the baptism, I would fulfill their wishes.

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"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:13-14).

"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea." (Matthew 18:6).

The disciples objected to some people bringing little children to Christ. These little children were not brought to try to persuade them to believe in Christ. They were believers already. Christ was displeased with what the disciples did in their rebuking the ones that brought these little children. The word Christ used in the above mentioned Scriptures "suffer" means to let them come or permit them to come to Christ.

The word "little" when referring to those brought means half grown boys or girls, teen agers or maybe younger. So, it was teen age children that Christ spoke of in these verses. And it was little children that the disciples had reference to when they rebuked the ones that brought them. I think that it could very well have been children eight, nine or ten years old of which Christ spoke these words, "... these little ones which believe in me..."

Then we have the word "young" children in Mark 10:13. This word means the same thing that "little" does. It means young children or teenagers.

Then we have the phrase. "... which believe in me..." This means to trust, to rely upon, to have confidence in, to commit, to put in trust with. This word is taken from the same Greek word that is used when it is applied to an adult. It can not mean any more than then it does with children.

Some one may say the children may not know what they are doing. Christ said, they believed in Him. Is not that what we teach and preach for; so that the elect may come to Christ. Any way, Christ said to permit them to come to Him.

It is amazing to me why parents would not want their teenage boys or girls to come to Christ and follow Him in baptism. This is an important thing. It is a pictorial ordinance taught in the Word of God. It is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It pictures to the world that a believer has been buried to the old life, and that they are to walk in newness of life.

If parents do not understand the motive of their children, then I would suggest that they discuss the question of baptism with them. They need to find out if they have trusted Christ for salvation, and then not to hinder them from being baptized.

Surely, parents ought to rejoice when their children make a profession of faith in Christ. Then, asking permission should not be necessary.

### BUSY

(Continued from Page 4)

time from our busy schedule to get involved in this.

There are those who are too busy to give the church its rightful place in their busy lives. Why, they can't possibly attend all the services at church. They have other things to do. A member said to me, "You expect a man to be there every time the doors are open."

And why shouldn't I expect this? One is expected to be at work every day unless he has a good reason. Why, some companies will not even pay for days one does not work. You are expected to be at school every day.

Why, some schools will fail a student who misses too many days. If some children attended school the way some folk attend church, they would never get out of the first grade. If some people went to work the way some folk attend church, there would be multitudes more on welfare. And is not the church as important as any school and as any job? I have to get dinner for company. I have to go visiting. I have to get some rest. Sunday is the only day I have, you know. People are busy here and there, and too busy to forsake not the assembling together that God commands of His people.

Then, some who attend church pretty faithfully are too busy to serve in the church in some capacity. Teach a class? Sing in

the choir? Hold some office that takes time and work? Visit and invite others to church? Go early for prayer? Leave home early and go out of my way to take others to church and take them home? Why, you know that I do not have time for things like that. It is all I can do to just be present. Busy here and there, and too busy to serve the Lord.

Oh, this busy here and there is a tragedy. Unimportant things get done while important things go undone. Trivial things of no lasting consequences get done while essential things of eternal consequences go undone. What will be the result of all this? Only God knows the great hurt to His cause that is done because his people are busy here and there, and are not busy about the Lord's work.

The remedy for all this is for you to re-arrange your priorities. Get things in proper order. Spend your time and energy according to the importance of the things you do. Put first things first. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Mt.6:33). This is not the way of salvation. This is the way saved people are to live. Every saved person is to put the Lord, the things of the Lord, the work of the Lord, ahead of everything else in his or her life. God first, others second, self third - what a good rule to follow.

Oh, if you would but listen to me in this sermon; what great and good results would follow. You would be greatly blessed. You would be a blessing to others. God would be glorified. You would be richly rewarded at the judgment seat of Jesus Christ. What could be more wonderful than all this? My friend, please do not be so busy here and there that you let the main things go undone. Re-arrange your priorities. Put first things first. See that you do the most important things, the spiritual and eternally valuable things; then, if you have time, do the other things. May God bless you to do this.

### STUDIES

(Continued from Page 1)

"little children", "fathers", and "young men". He addresses each group twice. He does not refer to their physical age but their spiritual age. In the family of God there are different ages of the members as in the human family.

The "little children" are the newborn ones in Christ. Peter calls them "newborn babes" (I Peter 2:2). The "young men" are the ones who have grown from childhood and have become active and strong in the work of Christ in the church. The "fathers" are the ones who have had a long and faithful service in the work of the Lord.

The "little children" of verses 12 and 13 are ones who have become children of God by the new birth. Their sins are forgiven for His names's sake. This means that they have been and will always be forgiven of their sins because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. They also, "have known the father." That is they have come to know God as their Father. This is the experience of every new born Christian. He rejoices in the fact that his sins are forgiven, and that God is his Father. He may not know much about church truth or the doctrines of grace, but

if he is fed, "the sincere milk of the word" (I Pet.2:2) he should grown into a strong, active Christian. The sad fact is that many Christians never advance beyond this stage in their Christian life. After years have passed; they are still babes, still requiring milk. Paul said to the Corinthians, "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able" (I Cor.3:2).

In both verses 13 and 14 John addresses the spiritual adults, the "fathers" of the congregation. Their experience of being forgiven of their sins was long in the past. They have walked in fellowship with their Lord for a long time. The battles of the young men are past for them. They have grown from babyhood through the "young men" stage to the senior adult stage. They have fought the "good fight of faith" (I Tim.6:12). They have earnestly contended for the faith (Jude 3). They have, "tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: (Rev. 2:2). Each one of these can sing with John Newton:

"Thru many dangers, toils and snares,

I have already come;

Tis' grace has bro't me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home."

In between the little children and the fathers are the young men. They are the ones who have developed from childhood into young adults in the Lord's work. They are fighting and overcoming the wicked one. They are, "contending for the faith" (Jude3). This includes church truths, the doctrines of grace, as well as all the other doctrines of the Word of God. I John 2:14 tell us they were able to do this because they had obeyed the Word, "the word of God abideth in you and ye have overcome the wicked one."

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15). John now gives a word of warning to all the Christians to whom he has just written. The world here is not the same as the world in John 3:16 and in I John 2:2. That world is made up of all of the elect, the sheep for whom the Good Shepherd gave His life, the ones for whom He was their propitiation and advocate. (John 10:11; I John 2:1,2). They are the ones John saw in heaven singing, "for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;" (Rev. 5:9). The world spoken of here in I John 2:15 that we are not to love is that system that is in opposition to God of which Satan is said to be the god, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds---" (II Cor. 4:4). In Ephesians 6:12 it is said, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"

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## STUDIES

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The Christian is to love God, his Father. He is to love his brother, but he is not to love the world. One reason we are not to love the world is because one can not love God and love the world at the same time, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him". "No man can serve two masters" (Matt. 6:24). If we can not serve God and mammon, neither can we love the Father and the world.

John gives three ways in which the world entice us, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but of the world" (1 John 2:16). The word "flesh" here means the part of man that is unregenerate, the seat of sin in him. Paul wrote in Romans 7:5, "For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death" To be "in the flesh" (Rom. 8:8) is to be controlled by the corrupt nature which is within all of us. "The lust of the flesh" is the temptation that comes from within. It is the strong desires of the carnal nature of man. It is the pull toward evil which is common to all of us. It is a desire to do those things which are forbidden by God. "The lust of the eyes" is the desire which comes from without, that which we see.

It could be the lust for fine clothes, a new car, or a lust for power and fame. It is anything we see and desire which God does not intend for us to have. "The pride of life" is vain glory. In James 4:16 it is called "boasting", "But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil". Pride was what brought about the downfall of Satan. Pride is what causes men to go about "to establish their own righteousness" instead of submitting "themselves unto the righteousness of God" (Rom. 10:3). What is the result of yielding to these temptations? The Word of God tells us, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14, 15).

We see that when Satan, using all three of these avenues of temptations, caused Eve to yield to them; it resulted in the whole of Adam's race being plunged into sin, "by one man sin entered into the world" (Rom. 5:12). By Achan's lustful eye seeing the "goodly Babylonish garment" and taking it along with the silver and gold caused Israel to lose the battle (Josh. 7:21). David's lustful look upon a beautiful woman caused him not only to commit adultery, but also murder to try to cover it up.

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever". (1 John 2:17). John continues in this verse to show why we are not

to love the world, "the world passeth away". The world and its lusts will not last. The world is under the judgment of God. But we that are children of God, those who have their faith in the blood of Christ have been delivered from that judgment, "he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" "every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40). So why should we, who abideth forever, occupy with something that is to pass away, something which is under the judgment of God? The eternal, all powerful, holy God has made a way for us to walk in fellowship with Him; but we cannot walk with Him if we love the world. There can only be one object of devotion. It will either be the world or the Father. Where is our devotion? Is it upon the Father who loves us or is it upon the world which is our enemy? Christ in His prayer prayed, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:15, 16).

## CLEANSSED

(Continued from Page 1)

How weary beloved, it is at times, to deal with those many professing Christians who will not hear the Word of God, but will readily hear the teachings, the doctrines of their religious beliefs, forsaking the only truth concerning salvation. Forsaking the Word of God that they might cling to the words of men. Beloved if we are not surely in the end times now i.e., the end of the Gospel age, how perverse will be the generations to come, when even now those who hold the pure Gospel are so few in number? To be saved we hear of the baptism of infants, the so called baptism of the Holy Spirit, getting sanctified, taking the sacraments, observing all manner of various rituals, feasts and fastings. Yea, the list is almost endless when we consider how many ways man has dreamed up on how to be saved in order that they may join hand in hand against the truth. These so called religions who teach such wicked perversions of the Word of God are indeed the "thieves who climb up another way", and in due season they shall hear the

Judge of all say, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity, I never knew you." Jesus said in Matthew 15:13, "...Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up."

Our text plainly states, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." That is all, any, and every; meaning every kind or variety of sin. Where do those who claim we cannot be saved without baptism, sacraments, etc, get their doctrine and lead many astray? Beloved, my trust is not in a priest, preacher, or water, but in the Blood. The blood that cleanseth! Such precious words as our text display abundant and sufficient grace, abundant hope, abundant promise. Such words as these should not be trodden underfoot and become secondary to the works and deeds of man. How true are the words, "cleanliness is next to godliness," and the cleanliness I

speak of is found here and here alone! His Blood, the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Most High God, cleanseth us, the elect, from all sin!

How well do we understand what our text is telling us? How well we need to let these words "sink down" in our ears. Since this tells us that "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth," it also tells us that we are filthy, dirty, and black with sin in the sight of God. No sin, however small it may be considered, should ever be looked upon as other than sin. There are some who make great distinctions in levels or types of sins, but regardless of what sin may be committed, all are works of a depraved being. The Lord has declared in Ecclesiastes 7:20, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not." Romans the third chapter further adds, "There is none righteous...none that understandeth...none that seek after God...None that doeth good...For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Yea, the filth of sin is far worse than cancer or some other dread disease for it has infected all of mankind and will bring mankind to the grave. Yet, lest we despair beyond measure, He who declares all under sin, points to the Blood of cleansing for all sin! This reminder, that by faith we are cleansed, is not intended and not spoken to us that we should continue in sin and become hardened in it, but the rather that we should give praise and glory to the most high God that the love of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Father, the comforting of the Spirit was shed abroad upon us in the forgiveness of ALL sin. The sins of yesterday, the sins of years gone by, and the sins of the tomorrows which may come.

Who, in light of this, in the understanding of this, should ever doubt the total security the true believer has? Cleansed from ALL sin forever by Him "who ever liveth to make intercession for us." He "cleanseth us." He made us clean from the filthy stains and the dirt of sin, from the disease of sin, yea, that spiritual leprosy that yet every second eats at the world. He cleansed us not only from all sin, but from the very guilt of it. We are made pure in the eyes of the Judge of all the earth, not because He sees us, but because He has declared, "When I see the Blood, I will pass over you." Praise His name!

In the words of the Lord Jesus found in Luke 14:28, He tells us: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" The men of Babel built a tower to "reach unto heaven" and as a result of this device made to seek God by their own means, were scattered upon the face of the earth. But this man, Jesus Christ, made access to heaven and drew many together, yet how well did He count the cost! Counting the cost to make access, to rend the veil, to make a way to the Father, and that cost beloved is found here in our text: "The Blood of Jesus Christ His Son."

How quickly does mankind fill the movie theaters to see films of blood and gore. Films which prove and display the heart of man. Films to satisfy the inward appetites of that depraved nature. But speak to them of the Blood of

Jesus Christ and you will be told that it is repulsive, disgusting, and a cruel demand of God. I think of the words of Peter as the Lord was washing the disciples feet, and apply them to the Blood of Christ, "Lord not my feet only, but also my hands and my head." To be bathed in (spiritually) the Blood of Christ is a joy unspeakable! An eternal blessing showered down in abundant mercy. Did Jesus count the cost? Yea, and amen! Such proof of love, the likes of which mankind shall never again see on the earth for in that He shed His blood once and for all the elect. Yet it is seen daily in everyone who comes to this cleansing fountain. The value of the Blood of Jesus Christ shall be seen in eternal glory throughout eternity as those elect of every kindred, tongue, tribe, and nation, as a number no man can number, give their praise unto Him. I Peter 1:18-19 reminds us: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers: But with the precious blood of Christ." Yea, to "count the cost" was surely done! The precious blood of Christ. That is, His Blood is accounted of great price by the Father, a price able to pay, when we had nothing to pay. The Blood of Christ is most precious because "the life of the flesh is in the Blood." The cost was the shedding of blood, the giving of His very life for the remission, the cleansing of sin. Well does the Word of God proclaim: "To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever...to Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood," We listen again as Paul speaks to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:28; "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood." This precious blood was able to purchase the church, and all the elect family of God. How little esteem does the elect of the Lord Jesus Christ have in our day from the world, but how greatly esteemed it is of God that He should shed His own blood for their purchase!

Revelation 7:14 calls the blood of Christ, "the blood of the Lamb." Indeed, that Holy, harmless, undefiled Lamb of God. Judas, filled with remorse, but ever unrepentant, was forced to proclaim, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood." Pilate proclaimed the Blood of Jesus Christ as the "blood of this JUST person." The just blood, the innocent blood, the blood of the Lamb. A Lamb led to the slaughter, innocent, guiltless of sin. Humbling Himself, in all meekness, into the hands of sinful men that we might be made just. Roman 5:8-9 declares of Him:

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

"And the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all SIN." While we

were yet inner, we were saved from wrath.

Let us pause for a moment and consider these words, "saved from wrath." We were saved from wrath. What is the wrath of God? This particular word here translated "wrath", indicates an abiding condition of mind with a view to take revenge. It is a Patient waiting to display controlled anger which is lasting in nature. Yea, surely, and how rightly does Scripture declare that "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God! Oh that the world would know and hear that the wrath of God is patiently waiting the unbelieving and unrepentant sinners, to be displayed upon them in an eternal, ever abiding Hell! But beloved of God, to us who believe by faith in this sure promise given: "Being now justified by His blood shall be saved." For "without the shedding of blood is no remission."

There never is, there never will be, and never can be any other way to put away sin. Ephesians 2:1 states: "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." How man has always, and even presently, run after the gods of this world because he claims he has this inborn desire to be near God. But this I say, that unless they look and believe upon the blood, they are as far from God as heaven is from hell. We are made near to God only by the blood of Christ. All the chantings and courting of beads, all the pilgrimages and self afflictions brings man no nearer to God than the east can cross to the west. Romans 3:23-25 tells us:

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood."

It is Jesus alone. It is the life of Him. It is His blood that "speaketh". The voice of this our Elder Brother cries unto the Father for mercy! Hebrews 12:24 tells us that the blood of Jesus Christ "speaketh better things than that of Abel." Abel's blood cried from the ground for vengeance, but here we are told that the blood of Jesus Christ speaks against vengeance, and for pardon on the believer's behalf.

Yea, the blood of Christ gives us sweet "communion" directly to the heavenly Father, and for this cause we are told in Hebrews 10:19. "Having therefore, brethren boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus." The veil of the temple has been rent, and the way to the holy of holies now may be entered as a place no longer forbidden, and entered in boldness or with freedom of speech. Because His is the blood that speaks for us, we may freely speak unto the Father by faith in the finished work of Christ. By His blood we have peace with God, we have forgiveness, redemption, we are justified, we are purchased, we have sweet communion or fellowship with God. We have the only sure and certain eternal security. John 6:54,

"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, (i.e., receive and believe in by faith)



## PLAIN PROPHECIES

by John R. Gilpin, Sr.

**"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins"** (Acts 10:43). All the Bible definitely points to the Lord Jesus Christ. If you read in the Old Testament you will find it points forward to the coming of Christ, or if you read in the New Testament, it points backward to the Christ of prophecy and shadow and type as found in the Old



Testament. I insist, beloved, there isn't one passage in all the Word of God that doesn't point either forward or backward to the Son of God Himself. In other words, Jesus Christ is the sum, the center, and the circumference of every verse in the Bible, and Jesus Christ can be found in every verse of the Bible.

I want you to notice today a number of prophecies that definitely find their fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Himself.

I. There is the prophecy that Christ was to be born as the seed of the woman. **"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"** (Gen. 3:15). In this verse God was talking to the serpent, and He said, "I am going to put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed." This is the first prophecy of the Bible and is the fountainhead of all prophecies, since it is the first. In this, the fountainhead of all prophecies, we have the statement that somebody is going to be born, who will be the seed of the woman. All others, beloved, who have been born in this world have been as the result of the combined seed of man and woman.

The Word of God tells us that someone is to be born who will be the seed of the woman, and we find that fulfillment in the Lord Jesus. Listen: **"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law"** (Gal. 4:4).

I say then, beloved, in this prophecy which is the first prophecy of the Bible which is the fountainhead of all prophecy, and out of which all other prophetic utterances flow, we find the fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ. As it was thus prophesied that He would be the seed of the woman alone, so Jesus Christ was born the seed of the woman.

II. The second prophecy concerning Christ is that He was to be born of a virgin. **"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"** (Isa. 7:14). This prophecy is very closely related to the first one of Genesis 3:15. Genesis 3:15 declared that Jesus would be born of a woman. Isaiah 7:14

tell us what kind of a woman was to bear him. He was to be born of a virgin.

The Word of God tells us concerning the fulfillment of this second prophecy, for we read: **"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost"** (Mt. 1:18).

Matthew says that this was a fulfillment of the Old Testament Scripture, and he writes saying that all of this was done for the purpose of fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy. Listen: **"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us"** (Mt. 1:23). Here then is a prophecy in Isaiah that Jesus is going to be born of a virgin. Matthew I tells us that He was born of a virgin.

Some years ago I was talking with an individual who denied the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. He said that Jesus was born of a Jewish maiden, and that His father was a Roman soldier who was quartered in the land of Palestine at that time, and that Jesus was more or less what we would call a "war baby." He said that he did not believe in any wise at all in a virgin birth. I asked him plain out if he was a modernist, and he admitted that he was. I asked him if he believed in evolution, and he said that he did. I asked him that since he believed in evolution, did he believe that the first amoeba got here without having either a father or mother, and he said that he did. I said, "Do you mean to tell me that the first amoeba got here without having a father or mother, yet, you can't believe that the Lord Jesus Christ got here without a father?"

Now, beloved, that is certainly a strange freak of a man's imagination and mentality that he can believe that the first amoeba that started all civilization got here without having either a father or a mother, but he can't conceive of how the Lord Jesus Christ got here without having a human father. I tell you, beloved, it was prophesied — He was born of the Virgin Mary.

III. The next prophecy was that he was to be born in the city of Bethlehem. **"But, thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah; yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"** (Micah 5:2).

It is rather interesting to notice that Micah even names the very place where the Son of God was to come to this earth. He tells us that Jesus Christ was to be born in the city of Bethlehem, and beloved, the Son of God was born in Bethlehem just like it was prophesied. **"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria). And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is**

**called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn"** (Luke 2:1-7). Micah 5:2 says that He was to be born in Bethlehem; Luke 2:1-7 tells us that he was born in Bethlehem.

It is rather interesting to notice how his parents happened to be in Bethlehem at that time. They were living in Nazareth, which was quite a good distance away from the city of Bethlehem, and there went out a decree from Augustus Caesar that every individual was to be taxed. A special taxation was to be levied, and it was necessary that every individual go to his home city to register, or to be assessed looking forward to a special taxation. Now since Joseph and also his wife Mary were from the city of Bethlehem, it was necessary that they make that hard, laborious trip back to Bethlehem, even at the time when the Baby Jesus was soon to be born. So they journeyed to Bethlehem in accordance with the edict that had gone out from this worldly man Cyrenius, the governor of that country; and the Word of God tells us that when they arrived there, Jesus Christ was thus born.

Listen, beloved, if it hadn't been that this Roman Emperor gave this edict that everybody had to be taxed at that particular time, Jesus Christ would have been born in Nazareth and the Word of God would have been broken. Don't you see how that God ruled and over-ruled in the plans of this worldly monarch in order that His plans might be perfected and that the Scriptures might not be broken, but thus might be perfectly fulfilled?

IV. God gives us a prophecy concerning the gifts that were to be presented to the son of God. **"The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts"** (Psa. 72:10). **"The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall show forth the praises of the LORD"** (Isa. 60:6).

I haven't the time to enter into a detailed explanation of these verses and the context surrounding them, but we will find in passing that each of these verses are merely prophetic utterances that the Lord Jesus Christ was to have gifts presented to Him when He was born.

If you will turn to the book of Matthew, you will find that this was fulfilled to the very letter. Listen: **"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh"** (Mt. 2:11). Those very gifts that were brought to the Son of God right after His birth were prophesied 700 years before, and

they were named explicitly as being the gifts that were to be given to Him at the time of His birth.

V. We have a prophecy as to the sinless character of the Lord Jesus Christ. **"And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth"** (Isa. 53:9). The only one of whom it can be said was sinless was the Lord Jesus Christ. Here is a prophecy that tells us that He was to be born, and that he was never to do any violence, and that there would never be any deceit in His mouth.

We have another statement of like nature: **"I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly"** (Psa. 22:10). This Scripture refers to no one else except the Lord Jesus Christ. You and I have been born depraved. You and I have been born into this world with a depraved nature. We have come from our mother's womb depraved in this life, but the Lord Jesus Christ could say, **"Thou art my God even from the time of birth."**

It was prophesied that He would have a sinless character, and, beloved, the Word of God tells us that He was the possessor of such, for in I Peter 1:19, He is spoken of **"as a lamb without blemish and without spot."** In Hebrews 7:26, we read of him as **"holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens."** In II Corinthians 5:21, we read of Him as one **"who knew no sin."**

I say then, beloved, as it was prophesied in the Old Testament that Jesus Christ would be the possessor of a sinless character, so the Son of God thus came and fulfilled the prophecy that was given of Him in the Old Testament.

VI. It was also prophesied in the Old Testament that Jesus Christ would be hated by the Jews. **"They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head; they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty; then I restored that which I took not away"** (Psa. 69:4).

Can you imagine Jesus speaking 700 years before His birth and saying that He would have more enemies that He had hairs on his head? Scientists tell us that the average individual has approximately 120,000 hairs on his head. Jesus knows exactly how many hairs there are in your head and in mine. He knew exactly how many there were in His head, and He said before He was born, 700 years in advance of His birth, "I will have more enemies to hate me than I will have hairs in my head."

Was this prophecy fulfilled? Listen: **"If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause"** (John 15:24, 25).

In the Old Testament, it was said that He would be hated by the Jews. When He was born, He was hated by the Jews, and Jesus said that they hated him without a cause for doing so.

VII. Another prophecy was

that Jesus Christ was going to be sold for money. **"And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver"** (Zech. 11:12). Zechariah as one of the minor prophets thus told the price that Jesus was to be sold for — thirty pieces of silver. He gave this prophecy in the Old Testament 500 years before the Lord Jesus Christ was to be born. How did he get his information? Where did that information come from? Was it an unusual means whereby that information was given to Him? I tell you, beloved, it came to him by inspiration from God and a revelation from the Almighty, and thereby Zechariah knew that Jesus was going to be sold for thirty pieces of silver, or to be exact, \$15.95 in our American coinage.

This prophecy came to pass 500 years after it was thus spoken in prophecy. Listen: **"And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver"** (Mt. 26:15). The Word of God said that He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver, and He was sold for thirty pieces of silver. It was just like the Word of God had said.

VII. Notice also the prophecy that Jesus Christ was to be rejected. **"I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children"** (Psa. 69:8). What could be a more forceful statement than this, that Jesus Christ was to be rejected — rejected to such an extent that He will be a stranger to His own brethren, and an alien unto His own mother's children! Was this prophecy fulfilled? I say, beloved, it was perfectly fulfilled, for we read: **"He came unto his own, and his own received him not"** (John 1:11).

IX. We have a prophecy as to the intensity of Jesus' sufferings. **"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death"** (Psa. 22:14, 15). Let's see how Jesus Christ perfectly, gloriously, and completely fulfilled this Scripture. **"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground"** (Lk. 22:44).

In the Old Testament He said that He would be dried up like a potsherd — like a broken piece of crockery. Beloved, He was dried up to the extent that in Gethsemane when He prayed, He didn't sweat drops of water like you and I, but rather, drops of blood poured from His face. How perfectly the Word of God is fulfilled in this particular!

X. We have a prophecy that vinegar was going to be given Him to drink in His agony. **"They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink"** (Psa. 69:21). You know a little bit, I suppose, what it means to be

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## PLAIN

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thirsty, yet I doubt if any of us has ever come to the place that we were actually suffering from the standpoint of thirst. No doubt you know what it is, in a slight measure, to be thirsty, but, beloved, can you imagine what it would be like when you are thirsty to have someone pour vinegar down your throat? Instead of slacking your thirst, it would merely intensify and augment the thirst that you had.

Thus, it was prophesied that the Lord Jesus Christ at the time of His sufferings would be given vinegar mingled with gall to drink. Was it fulfilled? **"They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink"** (Mt. 27:34). As it was written in prophecy, so was it fulfilled in history.

XI. It was prophesied that His suffering was to be for others. **"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all"** (Isa. 53:4-6).

Why did Jesus suffer? Why was there a prophecy that He was going to suffer? Was it because of his sins? Nay, beloved. There is not one thought of sin in His life, but rather it was prophesied that He was going to suffer, not for His own sins, but for your sins and for mine. When Jesus Christ came to this world, He didn't suffer because of any wrong-doing on His part; rather He suffered for our sins. We read: **"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"** (Mt. 20:28). Why did He suffer? Beloved, He suffered for the elect of God. As it was prophesied that He would suffer for others, so He did suffer for the elect of God that they might obtain salvation.

XII. Notice also that it was prophesied that they would gamble for His clothes. **"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture"** (Psa. 22:18). Somebody might think that this was an idle statement, but not so. Listen to me, beloved, there is no idle statement in the Word of God. Every passage within the Bible has a definite meaning and a definite purpose, and will be definitely fulfilled.

It was prophesied that they were going to part His garments among them. It said that they were going to roll the dice for His clothes. Did it come to pass? Listen: **"And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots"** (Mt. 27:35).

Can you imagine any human

being so depraved as to sit down beside the man that they crucified and to roll the dice on the ground to see which man was going to get the seamless coat that belonged to Jesus Christ? Why did they do it? They could not have given you a reason why they thus sat there and gambled. They could not have given you one reason as to why they rolled the dice for His clothes, but beloved, there was a reason. It had been prophesied, and they merely fulfilled the prophetic utterance of the Word of God.

XIII. Another of these prophecies was that the Lord Jesus Christ was going to be pierced. **"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn"** (Zech. 12:10). The day that they nailed Jesus to the Cross, they likewise drove a spear through his side into His heart. They pierced the heart of the Son of God with a spear. They didn't treat the two thieves that way. The thieves didn't die with a pierced heart. At the same time, beloved, when they came to look at the bodies of the thieves, they broke their legs, but they didn't break the legs of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Can you tell me why it was that they broke the legs of the thieves and didn't break the legs of Jesus, and why it was that they pierced His heart but didn't pierce the hearts of the thieves? I can tell you, beloved, God said that not a bone in His Son's body was to be broken, and He said that the heart of His Son was to be pierced. It came to pass just like it was prophesied in the Word of God.

XIV. It was also prophesied that Jesus Christ was going to be buried with the rich. **"And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth"** (Isa. 53:9). Can you imagine Jesus, a peasant, being buried with the rich? Can you imagine the Son of God being allowed a burial in a rich man's grave, yet, beloved, it was thus, and it came to pass just like God said it would in prophecy.

I see that man, Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy man, come to Pilate and ask for the permission of giving decent burial to the body of the Lord Jesus Christ. When he asked for that body, he took it and wound it about with linen and put the proper anointment upon His body and took it away and buried the body of Jesus in his own tomb. If you will stand outside that tomb in the cemetery, you can read the inscription, "Sacred to the memory of the family of Joseph of Arimathea." Beloved, why was Jesus buried in a rich man's tomb? Not that He had the wealth to be buried there, but because prophecy said that He would be buried with the rich in His death.

XV. Finally, we have the prophecy that Jesus was going to be raised from the dead. **"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption"**

(Psa. 16:10). God said that Jesus Christ was going to be raised. God said that that body of Jesus was not going to see corruption. God said that that body of His own Son was coming out of the grave, and, beloved, all hell couldn't have kept the body of Jesus Christ inside that tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

They stationed soldiers about the tomb and they did everything possible to see to it that there was no deception. They even rolled a stone against the door — a large boulder — so large that when the folk came to anoint His body, they wondered how they were going to get in, and who was going to roll the stone away from the door. There wasn't any chance taken that Jesus' body would be stolen away by the disciples. Though they locked the door of that tomb with a stone, though they put a Roman watch around that grave, and though they took every precaution to see that His body stayed inside that tomb, on the third day, seventy-two hours after He was buried,

## CLEANSED

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**hath (present) eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."** What more could He give the believer than this, a finished work? Eternal life tells us of the death of all sins.

This beloved, is the blood of the passover lamb, the blood of the eternal covenant, the blood without sin, the blood of the peace offering, the blood of reconciliation with God. This is the blood poured out on the cross of Calvary. In this, is His love shed abroad for His own. Matthew 26:27-28, **"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them...For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"**. Beloved, where would we be at this hour, if He had not taken the cup and given thanks? Sinner friend, **"Believest thou this?"** May His blessings abide upon you all.

## TOTAL

(Continued from Page 1)

general way possible) stood solid and united on this one issue, today they are as divided as the gulf that separated the place where Abraham and the rich man ended up after certain and sudden death came - Luke 16.

This was brought to my attention several years ago when a student of a Baptist College was very vocal in his open opposition to the Biblical doctrine of total depravity (inability). When asked where he had received his thinking on the subject, he quickly answered, "Bible College." This pastor was more than just shocked, but as the days unfolded into weeks and months it became more and more apparent that the so-called Bible College did not support the doctrines of Grace. Thus, one thing stood out very clear to this pastor; we who are Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist in our convictions have no right or place whatsoever with these false organizations. Though many so-called Bible Colleges claim loud and clear that they stand on the truth of God's precious Word, the real truth of

the Lord Jesus Christ came triumphant and victorious over death. Beloved, it was thus because God said that it would be thus in prophecy.

Conclusion: If God has kept His promise in these fifteen prophecies, that I have read to you, then, beloved, God will keep His promise in every place else that He has given it. If God makes promises fifteen times, and has kept all fifteen of those promises, that to me is plenty of evidence to cause me to believe that He will keep His word everytime He speaks to you and me.

Notice my text again: **"To him give all the prophets witness, that though his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."** If God has kept His word concerning these fifteen prophecies that I have read, then He will keep His promise when He says that **"whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."**

Listen, sinner friend, do you want to be saved today? Would you like to be a child of God? There is one way whereby you

the matter is this: they hate our doctrine from start to finish.

Does all this really matter? Can we not fellowship with them where we do somewhat agree? Beloved, the only Biblical answer to that soul searching question is so crystal clear in God's Word: God forbid. How can darkness and the eternal light of God's Word exist in the same place without the glorious light of God's Word expelling that darkness? Oh, beloved, we have no right whatsoever to fellowship with those who would and do pervert the truth of God's eternal Word. **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you"** (2 Cor. 6:17).

Nevertheless, it does not really matter what these so-called Bible Colleges are teaching or this preacher, especially if they do not agree with the teachings of the Word of God. Thus, one must ask this question: what does the Bible teach about the subject matter at hand? Beloved, always remember this one truth; God Almighty said what he meant; and meant what He said. In other words, God said it and that settles the whole issue whether or not anyone accepts it as truth.

DEPRIVITY- What it does not mean! There are many today that do not properly understand this one doctrine. Settle the matter of total depravity, and you will not have any problems in understanding the rest of the doctrines of Grace. Above all else, stay with Biblical terms. On that account, it would be most helpful to find out what the Bible does not mean by this term before we go any further in our present discussion. Thomas Paul Simmons listed six things in his book that the doctrine in question did not mean. (1). That man by nature is utterly devoid of conscience. Even the heathen has conscience (Rom. 2:15). (2). That man by nature is destitute of all of those qualities that are praiseworthy according to human standards. Jesus recognized the presence of such qualities in a certain rich man (Mark 10:21). (3). That every man is by nature prone to every form of sin. That is impossible, for some forms of sin exclude others. "The sin of miserliness may exclude the sin of

can be saved. God says, **"...whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins,"** and the same God that spoke these words is the God that spoke the prophecies that I have read and that have been fulfilled. If He has kept His word in one instance, He will keep His word in every other instance.

Would to God today that you might look to the Cross and might see this truth, that Jesus Christ has died on Calvary's cross, and that He has died just like the prophets said that He would. He has fulfilled everything that the prophets said concerning Him. If He has fulfilled all that the prophets said about Him, then, beloved, He will fulfill everything else that is said within the Book relative to you and me, as to our salvation.

Oh, sinner friend, would you be saved today? There is a way. Look up to Calvary, repent of your sins, and believe the gospel, and thank God for the salvation that is yours in the Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you!

luxury; the sin of pride may exclude the sin of sensuality' (Strong). (4). That men are by nature incapable of engaging in acts that are externally conformed to the law of God. (Rom. 2:14). (5). That men are not corrupt as they might be. They may and do grow worse (II Tim. 3:13). Thus total depravity does not mean that depravity is total in its degree. It has to do with extent only. (6). Moreover total depravity does not mean that there is depravity or corruption of the substance or essence of the soul." (pp. 166)

DEPRIVITY- What does it mean? Elder C.D. Cole writes this concerning the depravity of man: "Depravity is that state of nature that causes man to put self in the place of God, and to seek his own gratification, honour, and interest as the ultimate end of all his actions....Depravity is the corruption of nature that leads men to act for self glory. The very essence of sin is selfishness. Take the first and last letters off the word 'sin' and you have the letter 'I'. Take the word self and spell in backwards, adding the letter 'H' and you have the word 'flesh'. And the Bible often employs the word flesh to denote the corrupt nature of man." (pp. 13 Definitions of Doctrine, Vol. 2)

We must begin right here in our search for the truth of God's precious Word. You must understand this; he who is correct on this one point is a very long way toward properly dividing the rest of God's Word, the Bible. The Bible declares: man (sinners) lacks the proper love to Almighty God. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, **"But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you"** (John 5:42). Our Lord heart for God's Word, much less the One whom the Word reveals as God's eternal Son. Elder A.W. Pink wrote, "The reason why men despise the claims of Christ is not because of any want of evidence on the side of those claims, but because of a sinful indisposition on their part to attend to those claims. They have not the love of God in them; if they had, they would receive and worship His Son."

Many have taken the words of our Lord Jesus Christ and read into those simple statements

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## TOTAL

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things that just are not true. We must learn how to rightly divide the Word of God. Many of the Christless crowd of our day and days gone by have had and still do have a form of godliness - outward religious practices. Oh, beloved, that does not mean that they are rightly related to Almighty God! They are not in any way pleasing God. They can not and will not because they are of the flesh. **"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God"** (Rom. 8:8). Our Lord told Nicodemus that those who are of the flesh cannot please God (John 3:6) The apostle Paul further declared that the natural man is at enmity against his Creator - Romans 8:7. Again, our Lord informed Nicodemus that the "Light of the World" has come, but that men in general loved darkness over against the glorious Light, because of their sin (John 3:19).

Today we are being sold a bill of goods that just is not true. The world and its religious leaders would have us to believe that in

every man is a tiny spark of divinity. That comes out every time you turn around, and especially when the invitation is given in the average church. Nevertheless, the Word of God teaches us that the very minds of unsaved individuals are only defiled - **"But even their mind and conscience is defiled"** (Tit. 1:15). That is not a self-exalting statement; nevertheless, it is most absurdly true. Oh listen to me, there is absolutely nothing in the natural man that would draw him unto God, much less save his miserable soul.

The declaration of the Word of God is very clear on this one particular issue. Man in general or individually has absolutely nothing that he can present to God that He would be interested in. The book of Romans would have us to know and understand that the natural man has no ability within himself to come to God. **"...it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy"** (Rom. 9:16). Furthermore, the apostle John informed us that those who are

given the privilege of being called the "Sons of God" **"...were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God"** (John 1:13). Paul, the New Testament theologian, explains why man can not and will not come to God on his own. In the third chapter of Romans, the Holy Spirit of God reveals unto us four basic reasons why man on his own is totally, and completely depraved.

(1). The Judge of the Universe, Almighty God, has heard the case and this is His verdict: man lacks the righteousness God requires - verse 10. Man also lacks the understanding of spiritual things - verse 11. Man will not seek after God - verse 11. Man has abandoned the way to God - verse 12. And lastly, man's ways are very much unprofitable - verse 12.

(2). The Divine Physician has examined man and given this report: man is betrayed by his own speech - verse 13. His feet have also betrayed him - verse 15. And lastly, man is betrayed by his own hands - verse 15. (3). The Historian of the world has taken

His pen and recorded the works and deeds of men and come up with this report: The past actions of man has only condemned him - verse 16. The present actions of men are equally damaging as all one needs to do is look and he can see for himself. If the past and present actions of men are any barometer of the future, and and they are, man's future actions will only condemn him; (4). Thus the deeds of the law have looked into the heart of man and passed its verdict: **"...by the law is the knowledge of sin"** (Rom. 3:20).

From the early chapters of Genesis throughout the rest of the Holy Scriptures, one can see the nature of man coming out time after time. Apart from the intervention of God, no man will come to a saving knowledge. You see, **"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"** (John 6:37). The very reason God, the Holy Spirit, does His office work in our heart, quickening, is because of our natural heart. Man is sick from the sole of his foot even unto the

head according to the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah. Jeremiah would have us to understand that the natural man's heart is deceitful above all things, and is desperately wicked. King David would have us to know and understand that men are born into this world with a sin nature (Psalms 51:5), and the apostle Paul would inform us that nature has been passed down from Adam to every creature born of man (Romans 5:12).

Total depravity simply means this: man is so depraved or corrupt in all his ways that he can not and will not come to God Almighty in order to have everlasting life. Oh, Beloved, it takes the blessed work of the Holy Spirit of God to bring salvation. Why? Because man is depraved in all his ways. He is spiritually dead in his own personal sins - Ephesians 2:1. Thus we are informed in the Bible that man can not on his own understanding comprehend spiritual things, much less come to a saving knowledge - 1 Corinthians 2:14.

The damage is already done! Whether or not we want to acknowledge this truth does not matter - it is still true. Man does not have the ability on his own to please God. You may protest this doctrine and even say it is not fair, but that does not change the truth of this doctrine. Man cannot reason it away and thus give himself hope! He cannot help himself and come out on the right side of things. Man can not pick himself up by his own bootstraps. Then you might just say, "is there hope?" Thanks be unto our God that has loved us with a very special love from before the foundation of the world. You see, Almighty God is the One that chose a certain number of folk out of humanity to be the recipient of His free grace. Don't take my word for it, rather look into your Bible and see what God has said about this truth. Now do yourself a big favor and forget what you have been previously told. Let the Word of God be your teacher, not man. The Bible clearly teaches that the Son of God came into this world and took upon Himself the sins of those whom the Father had given Him 1 Peter 2:24; John 6:37-39. Therefore, we may say with boldness, the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cruel cross of Calvary for the sins of the elect of God, 1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 5:8.

Lastly, and in our closing remarks, in God Almighty's, perfect timing the blessed Holy Spirit comes and gives to the elect of God, new life - John 1: 13; 6:63. The Bible is clear on this point! The Word of God teaches us that it was by the sovereign pleasure of our God that we were the ones in whom God saw fit to show His grace - Ephesians 1:11; Philippians 2:13. We have nothing whatsoever to glory in - save the work of God in and for our behalf. These are words of comfort to those who really love the Lord. **"We love him, because he first loved us"** (1 John 4:19). May God bless your heart as you think upon these wonderful and glorious truths of the Word of God.

**"And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"** (Mat. 5:2-3).

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## WATERS

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this earth which served as vast reservoirs for the waters that once covered the mountains.

Notice the words at the end of verse eight, concerning the great ocean basins. God sent those waters..."to the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound(ary) that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth."

Two water sources: This is obviously a reference to Genesis 9, and the great rainbow covenant that God gave to the human race after that mountain-covering flood came to a permanent conclusion.

In other words the oceans represent today the final resting place of the global waters that once surged and swirled over the highest mountains of this planet.

This agrees perfectly with the Genesis record of the flood which records the methods God used to terminate that universal deluge. The Genesis flood began as ocean basins were pushed up, apparently with a corresponding depression of continents in reference to the surging waters that covered the world (Genesis 7:11).

At the moment that God completed its creation, the condition of the earth was such that men and air-breathing creatures found themselves upon continents surrounded by oceans of liquid water and with a vast canopy of vaporized water above them. We are told in Genesis that on the second day of creation week God divided the shoreless ocean which covered the earth at creation and lifted up vast quantities of water above the firmament (the empty space that separated upper oceans from lower oceans).

At the flood there was a global, aqueous, supernatural catastrophe. **"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights"** (Gen. 7:11-12).

All ocean basins were broken up

by stupendous, seismic, volcanic upheavals, as a great over-burden of ocean waters was lifted up by the power of God to flood the shorelines and lowlands of the continents where men and air-breathing creatures lived.

Atmospheric water: Simultaneously, the great upper vapour canopy collapsed in six weeks of global, torrential rains, which could never be repeated today. (If all the water vapour, water droplets, and clouds of the atmosphere suddenly precipitated to earth today it would produce an average of two inches of water world-wide and the 'storm' would be over in an hour.)

The flood was nothing less than a collapse of an antediluvian canopy of ocean water. In six weeks of torrential downpour everywhere in the world, those water sources created a shoreless, universal flood, an ocean without a shore.

Genesis 8:2 tells us that the flood ended when God stopped the fountains of the great deep (in other words, pushed them back down again). Psalm 104 supplements the Genesis record in that we learn not only that God caused the ocean basins to be depressed to enormous depths (some of them over 35,000 feet deep) but we also learn that God caused the mountains to go up to provide what we call isostasy (earth balances, with the continental uplift, and the oceanic depressions).

Geologists today who adhere to a uniformitarian, evolutionary interpretation of earth's history, have grasped in vain for a mechanism or energy source to explain the enormous forces which must have been involved in the uplift of mountain ranges. They have failed. It is of no value whatever to assume that millions and millions of years will have caused them to go up.

The obvious scientific response to such an idea is that the mountain would diminish with time--not increase. Time cannot create anything.

Only the power of God could have caused trillions of tons of mud and rock to suddenly rise high above the waters of the sea, taking up with them the remains of trillions of creatures buried by the waters during the months of

the flood.

Only God's power can explain the great Rockies of North America, the Andes of South America, the Alps of Europe, or the Himalayas of Asia. Some mountains of Asia reach nearly 30,000 feet above the level of the sea, and when we study these mountains we are astounded to find features which could not possibly have existed before the flood. We find fossils of creatures that once lived in the sea.

Fish in high places: Evolutionists agree with 'biblical catastrophists' that those fish fossils in high places could never have arrived there by climbing up from the sea. They must have been buried under masses of swirling water and then lifted up to their present altitude, but by what mechanism no man (apart from God's Word) can possibly imagine.

As we consider these mountain fossils, we realise that these creatures permanently impacted in the rocks, are quite out of place amidst the ice and snow of high altitudes. Most belong to the environment of a steaming jungle, a tropical or at least semi-tropical climate.

In the tundras of Siberia and Alaska, over five million mammoths have been discovered, in some cases perfectly preserved, quick-frozen. This could only happen if temperatures of 180 degrees C below zero swept over those regions, so that such creatures died and were promptly buried (as masses of water swept in from the sea) to be permanently preserved. Most of them are smashed and mangled, but some are preserved with even fresh vegetation in their mouths and stomachs, spectacular evidence of a catastrophe on a global scale (which uniformitarian evolutionism can never explain).

In the mountains of Antarctica, in the south polar region, huge coal seams have been found, representing forests that once grew there, showing that the whole climate of this planet was controlled by some type of a vapour canopy, which collapsed at the deluge inaugurating what we know as the ice age.

Apart from the hints given in God's Word, no one knows the cause of the ice age, nor the cause

of the mountain uplift, nor the cause of vast ocean basins.

Flood-water studies: In recent years God in His providence has raised up a number of men across the western world who have had considerable experience in analysing the earth's features such as fossil strata, glacial formations, and basic mountain structures. These scholars have re-examined the popular and traditional explanations for those things given by uniformitarian, naturalistic and evolutionary thinkers, and they have all concluded that a basic misunderstanding has been widely accepted.

Among the men who have spent their lives on such studies is Dr. Henry M. Morris, for many years the chairman [professor] of civil engineering departments in major American universities, and the author of one of the world's most widely-accepted textbooks on hydraulic engineering. Dr. Morris has spent his life analysing the effect of moving water under flood conditions--hydrology, or hydro-dynamics.

Strata and fossils: Dr. Morris has elucidated three distinct facts relating to a universal flood catastrophe which must be considered very carefully when we analyse the earth's appearance today. First: the enormous destructive power of moving water under flood conditions.

Secondly: the unique effect of moving water under flood conditions in producing vast, horizontal, superimposed, parallel, sedimentary strata or layers.

Thirdly: the unique effect of moving water under flood conditions in terms of producing permanent fossilisation. Floods are the only known mechanism in the world to cause the formation and preservation of vast beds of fossil plants and animals.

Let us consider first the enormous destructive power of moving water under flood conditions. In recent years hydraulic engineers have become fascinated, even obsessed, with the destructive power possessed by water. In the United States of America we have been overwhelmed by the destructive power of gigantic river systems

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## SHAMBLES

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Our land is thankfully hygienic and we are spared the sight of a shambles. We have large supermarkets and the killing is done elsewhere. When I was in Hong Kong there were public shambles along the waterfront with the freshly killed meat in open display. The meat was covered with flies and the odors were something that only a native could withstand. We moderns dine on the result and are spared the stages of slaughter and preparation and perhaps we have lost some valuable lessons in being so disinfected.

There was a shambles at Corinth as there was in most cities and villages of the Roman world. The Roman police didn't concern themselves with matters of diet but were constantly breaking up riots between Jews and Gentiles and between varied bands of Christian believers. In Kipling's excellent tale, "The Church That Was At Antioch" he tells us of this and shows a Christian intolerance which no doubt truly existed in those good days of so long ago.

The shambles may show us something of true holiness instead of the artificial variety which is so rampant. When a Jew was born again he was still a Jew at heart just as all peoples retain certain prejudices of their culture and upbringing.

It was perhaps 14 years after Peter's rooftop experience concerning eating and the Gentiles when he generated confusion at Antioch which was so severe that even my favorite personality Barnabas was carried away with it. Peter was still a Jew at heart even this far from Calvary and Paul rebuked him before them all. Peter was being "painfully good" and creating difficulty for his brethren. I have always found it more pleasant to be joyfully good than to be painfully pious.

We all bring prejudices into our new life for Christ. I was singularly blessed for I don't recall having any religious opinions of any kind before being saved. The Corinthian church was not so blessed and suffered from pre-salvation prejudices. The local meat market sold meat in all conditions and some was brought to be offered unto idols and then resold. The meat had suffered no harm and no taint because an idol is nothing anyway. Mature Christians of the Corinthian church were buying this meat for they had "knowledge" that it was unsoiled. Weaker brethren saw this, and in their immature condition thought it had somehow been marred; and their stronger brethren's actions offended them, for it wounded their weak consciences.

Paul clarified this subject and a multitude of other things by telling the church that if eating meat (though the meat had no intrinsic evil within it) caused his weak brethren to be offended, that he would eat no meat while the world stood. Paul says that we all have knowledge, and we do more or less; but knowledge without charity only serves to puff up. Love edifies or builds up.

I tell you all that there is no physical object which is evil, per se. There is no evil inherent within any physical object. There is no innate evil in a television set, a sword, a gold club, an automobile, or a bottle of whiskey. Whiskey can be used to cauterize a wound or assuage a snakebite. It carries no evil within itself. But for conscience sake, and for the sake of "appearances" with a weak brother's condition in view a Christian should distance himself from any harsh spirits, for their very possession might cause a weak brother to be offended. (The liquid element in the Lord's Supper is most assuredly wine, but this is another study).

What troubles me is when folks are so "painfully good" that they erect arbitrary standards and enforce them upon all people in all conditions of life. I don't know any Baptist Pharisees but I do know several who are striving to be.

Paul said that he endured all things for the elect's sake and

this speaks not only of sufferings but of deprivation. We, like Paul, deprive ourselves of many innocent things for the sake of weaker brethren. Paul labored at Corinth without sustenance from them, and this was for their good though they later charged him with evil. We also suffer, and properly should suffer, ourselves to be deprived of many things for the well being of weaker souls.

I detest arbitrary standards which men create and structure into their own personal laws of holiness. Just what is modest apparel in 1987? There are many experts who can tell you this thing to the very millimeter of the hemline. I am not so favored with wisdom. I simply don't know. At best I have an opinion (several in fact). It is my opinion that a bikini is not modest, but surely even this is a variable. In certain villages in India the poverty is so bleak that 3 women must share the same dress on alternate days. In this setting even a bikini would surely be more "modest" than

nothing whatsoever. I am not speaking of situation ethics but rather of a Christian pragmatism which should cause us to be enjoyably good, not painfully puritanical. American ministers who have seen no more of the world than the environs of their own hometown rage against such things as bikinis as though their opinions covered the globe. Leisured Baptist wise men make incontestable laws of their localized opinions. What is modest? Under the Florida sun I see some portly men in scant clothing who are far more immodest than any woman with an encroaching hemline. I fear that many times we unwittingly preach Americanism or American standards of probity instead of Biblical holiness. This is an easy snare to fall into.

All I know about modesty is that a Christian must appear different than the mode of the world in which he labors. Many of our wise men know everything about modesty and apparel or imagine they do.

Surely modest apparel has more to do with orderly arrangement or adorning than with style. These words speak of harmony not length of clothing (though length of clothing cannot be ignored). Nevertheless, I am quite weary of wise men erecting ignorant standards in a fast changing world where in the Christian must be different than the prevailing style. In my mother's day it was immodest for a woman to go shopping without a hat and gloves, and this was merely a style of the 30's and 40's. We must live today and function as Christians today and this without being bound down by archaic standards which have no current meaning or practical enforcement. If we are not careful we shall find ourselves gray garbed like the Amish who are living in far ago yesterdays. There is much foolishness and not a little straining over matters of modesty because men would make us painfully good rather than practically holy. Practical

(Continued on Page 11 Column 1)

## WHAT THE BAPTIST EXAMINER MEANS TO ME

by Gene Flynn  
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What the Baptist Examiner means to me can never be written in words. This is the greatest paper that I know of outside of the Bible. Let me back up to January the 20th, 1966. That was when I was saved and I



thank the Lord and praise His blessed name. I was saved where I worked, on a coal tippie, and I have many fond memories of the place. There were certain hiding places that I had where I would go to pray to my Lord. I am now retired after 39½ years in the mines, but thanks be unto God for those precious saints of God who took time to witness to me of my blessed Saviour.

I remember years ago my wife would take our children, we have three, and go to a Methodist Church a little ways from our home. I would never go unless it was on Christmas or Easter and sometimes not even then. After I was saved I went with them, and old dumb-headed me; I didn't know any better. In time the blessed Spirit lead us out of the little Methodist get together and we took the children and started going to a little Baptist Church down the road. Things didn't work out very well there either as the blessed Holy Spirit was leading. We were set aside, and the people didn't want anything to do with us. I was telling them about the Lord's Supper in which they were using grape juice and crackers, and about the women talking in church and teaching the men's class. I found out that all the men there belonged to the Masons, even the preacher, and that all the women belonged to the Rebekahs. So out we went from

their little Baptist get together. So I took my wife and children and we started going to another little get together about fifteen miles down the road, but it was the same old thing all over again. I don't call them Baptists now, for my Lord is a Baptist; and I don't want to bring shame on my Lord. By this time my wife and children were getting weary of me, but in our every night Bible reading I would tell them the Word of God, what the Bible said. I knew there was something out there, and the more I read the more the Spirit was opening up more; and a great joy was being brought to me. Then one day a neighbor was visiting me, and we were talking about the goodness of the Lord and the Bible. I had a little paper I was reading and he said, "You wait right here, I'll be back." This brother went down the road about two miles to his home and came back with two Baptist Examiners and said, "Read these." Oh praise the Lord, I read those papers that night after I came home from work, and oh what joy I felt. The blessed Spirit let me see that night how the Lord Jesus established His church, and that it is here today. I thank the Lord for Brother Mullens! Later, I went to his home to see if he had some more papers, and down in his basement we found forty to fifty papers; and I read them all. Brother Byrn Mullens and his dear wife Maggie are still neighbors of mine and I love them in the Lord. Brother Byrn is 84 years young. Please remember Byrn and Maggie in your prayers, that God will give them good health and watch over them. Brother Dee Mullens is Byrn's brother, and he and his dear wife, Alma, go to the Indore Baptist Church with me. Brother Dee has been sick a lot lately and in and out of the hospital. I would like to ask you to pray for him and his dear wife.

Now getting back to the Baptist Examiner; while reading all those papers I found out that Brother John R. Gilpin of the Calvary Baptist Church was having a Bible conference at the Twin Towers in Huntington,

WV. That was in 1970. That was the first time I saw Brother Gilpin; and meeting him, such a great saint of God, was a joy I'll never forget. Needless to say I rejoiced all through that Bible Conference! I believe if I could have gotten any closer to heaven, the Lord would have said, "Come on home, Gene." Oh, what a joy to praise His Holy Name, and to thank you Jesus, only the blood bought can praise His name. Oh, the Joy! All the Bible Conferences I've ever gone to have been a great blessing to me. To have the preacher preach the Word of God, and meet and fellowship with the saints is a joy no child of God should miss.

It was at such a conference that I first met Brother Joe Wilson. He was selling books. Brother Joe's hair was real black at that time; and dear children, down through the years Brother Joe has been a big help and a great blessing to me. He says he is sixty years old now and can't remember very well; but we had a revival at the Indore Baptist Church a few weeks ago and when this dear Brother preached, he set us all on fire! I think he was just pulling our legs about his memory. Brother Joe, you are a great blessing, and we love you in the Lord.

As the Bible conference where Brother Gilpin was preaching came to a close, I had come into the truth and knew about the Church that Jesus built. I will never forget the look on Brother Gilpin's face when I was getting ready to leave. He showed such compassion and understanding when he said, "Brother Gene, you know you are not in the Lord's Church." I knew I had to be in the Lord's church. I prayed all the way home.

I wrote to Brother Gilpin, and he told me to come on down the following Sunday. It was a 150 mile drive to Kentucky; so my son Stevie and I started out early that morning. The church at Calvary Baptist was still in the basement at that time. What a great day that was. I'll always remember it. Stevie was just 9 years old, and

Brother Gilpin baptized us in a big old wash tub. What a great day and to know we were finally in the Church that Jesus built. Oh, how can we find words to praise and exalt our great God and blessed Saviour. As time went on Stevie and I would attend Church in Ashland every two weeks, but it was such a long drive. Then I found out that the Indore Baptist Church of Indore, WV, was taking the Baptist Examiner. So Stevie and I would go there sometimes, it was closer home. We met the Church and their Pastor, Ray Brown. I knew they were not in the church that Jesus built, but thanks be unto God for those dear saints of God and their great pastor. I praise God for the effect that the Baptist Examiner had on those dear people, and the leading and guiding of the blessed Holy Spirit to the truth of God's precious words and the church that Jesus built. The Indore Baptist Church was scripturally organized through the Beauty Mountain Church of Edmund, WV, into the Lord's true Church on October 16, 1977. There were thirty-four baptized at that time into the church; now we have fifty-two members. The Lord has given me the great privilege of being a member of this church and to love these dear saints in the Lord. Our pastor, Elder Ray Brown, preaches the great truths that the Baptist Examiner stands for. He is a great warrior and a soldier of the cross, and we all love him in the Lord.

Oh, this great paper, The Baptist Examiner, means so much to me; and I know it has been a great blessing to you. The paper has helped so many down through the years, and we can only praise the Lord and express our thanks to the Calvary Baptist Church and their Pastor, Joe Wilson, who is the editor of The Baptist Examiner.

Dear Brethren and Sisters, I started out to write what the Baptist Examiner means to me and I could never get all the words out for the love of this great paper. If I have said something to help or have been a blessing to you, just thank the Lord for His goodness.



## SHAMBLES

(Continued from Page 10)

holiness is of far more value than decrees of men which would cast us backward into yesterday.

The Bible says that a man's hair should not be long, and this has prompted a multitude of Sinai like utterances from our wise men. With the advent of the Hippie Movement much has been said on this subject, where for decades it was hardly mentioned. How long is long? Again, I can only give an opinion, though others give platitudes of certitude. The word long is not a measurement of millimeters. It is said by some of our sages that a man's hair is long if he can be confused with a woman. This sounds nice, but I fear that the Bible simply does not say this. I think that this is probably a correct pragmatic view, but it is not one which I, or anyone can prove by precise Scripture. I wear my hair in the style of the 50's when I first began to comb it with any regularity. Yet, during the Civil War and the Crusades good and godly men wore their hair shoulder length and none called them ungodly just as no one calls a Scot's kilts effeminate. There are styles, and then there are styles. I have pictures of godly ministers of the early and middle 1800's who wore shoulder length hair, and who preached deep and serious sermons of truth. I am not trying to justify long hair, but am attempting to show that where precise definitions are lacking we must exercise a charitable tolerance. I detest suits and neckties, but I wear them for it is expected of me, not from any moralistic principles. We have far too many moralistic principles which have no precise basis in Scripture.

We must at all costs confront the spirit of the world which faces us today. I simply do not know what is modest or long, so I always go to the shambles for wisdom. The shambles tell me that I must do nothing which shall cause my brother to be offended. I therefore have very short hair, my wife wears properly long dresses, and we avoid grosser forms of what might be called worldliness for the elect's sake.

I once preached for a group of people here in Florida who were not a church, but merely a group assembled together to study the Bible. On a sultry Florida Sunday morning I did not wear a coat to the class. A very kindly man, who was unfortunately steeped in prejudices, told me that it was unheard of for a minister to be without a coat. Thereafter I always wore a coat. I deprived myself of the comfort of coolness for the elect's sake. We must not be ruled by men's prejudices or we shall live our lives in an unprofitable swirl. But that which might offend and which can be laid aside without compromise must be given up for the elect's sake even if the thing within itself is perfectly innocent. This, the shambles teaches us.

I own two television sets which I bought used for little money. They are not evil instruments, though I once thought them to be. For a time of years I cast all television sets out of my house. Then I began to preach on television and

found it necessary to re-think my position (not only on television but on many things). There are godly Baptists who say that a television set is a wicked instrument and declare that those who possess these instruments are somehow wicked. Yet, I have preached the gospel via television just as I have shot snakes with a shotgun. It is the usage, not the instrument, which is evil. A printing press may print a Bible or pornography, and it's usage defines its morality.

I once worked with a very dear Nazarene lady who was working her way to heaven by being painfully good. She boasted that she never bought her groceries at a store which sold harsh spirits. I thought this a good thing if it could be done. In Florida it cannot be done. From Tampa to Miami I do not know of any grocery store which does not sell harsh spirits of some kind. If this dear lady moved to Florida she would have to either starve or modify her theology. If I made it a moral point in Florida to never purchase food where harsh spirits are sold, I would starve. Again, this is not situation ethics, but rather joyful holiness.

I am not sure that I always know what is morally upright. In things of which the Bible does not precisely speak we require wisdom, and the church makes determinations in her area of service. What the church of Christ declares in disorderly is truly disorderly for her people. Yet, morals which are not specified in the Bible are not exportable.

That which is considered "moral" in Kentucky or Iowa can be positively ridiculous in the Solomon Islands. I am not speaking of such catalogued sins as theft, drunkenness, or adultery; but of the many things which are not precisely specified in Scripture. Our gauge of things not specified in Scriptures must lead us back to the shambles and we must ask ourselves, "will this thing cause my weak brother to be offended?" Our weak brother cannot rule our lives, but we do owe him a respect even if it occasionally causes deprivation to us in innocent things. Whether we speak of hair, clothing, cars, guitars, or songs with or without a certain tempo, we must have our weak members in view. We have knowledge... or say we do. However, all men do not. We must not let our knowledge become a stumbling block unto them.

Romans 14 speaks much of this. We must not judge our brother in either eating or drinking, but rather seek for those things which make for peace. For my brother's sake I touch no harsh spirits nor have them in my home; for his sake I dress in moderation; for his sake I wear my hair short; for his sake I suffer deprivation of many things which are in no way evil within themselves. For his sake I consider his conscience fully as much as my own. I think I have knowledge but my knowledge must not be unattended by charity.

A Christian must be concerned for appearances. In Hazard I would not even go into a bar to use a telephone for someone would surely say, "what is that television preacher doing here?", but in Florida I buy my

groceries at a supermarket which sells harsh spirits just as much as the Hazard bars do. The difference is in appearances, i.e.; the appearance of evil, which we must shun.

Perhaps we should look more closely at the shambles and learn some necessary things. The Lord very wisely did not specify every circumstance which his children would encounter, for we have the Spirit within us and wisdom guaranteed to us for the asking. I automatically reject all arbitrary standards which men foist upon us in the name of painful piety. I have enough trouble respecting God's laws to consider the arbitrary laws of men. But I must care enough for my brethren to avoid giving offense, be they Jew or Gentile.

We Baptists have vast knowledge. What we require is the wisdom which shall tell us what to take and what to shun, and this in Christian love for our brother's sake.

## TRUTH

(Continued from Page 1)

discover that Christ was never in Christmas in the first place. Just ask yourself a few simple questions: (1) What is Christmas? (2) Where did Christmas come from? (3) Does Christmas really honor God?

HOW DID CHRISTMAS GET STARTED? The information that I will give you is not exclusive; nor does it come from biased, religious publications, but from reference books found in the local library. There is no information about Christmas being a holiday set aside to celebrate the birth of our Lord in the Bible. Many have tried to trace the observance of the Nativity back to the New Testament, but there is simply no mention of it in history for the first three hundred years after the Lord's birth.

True, we are given the account of His birth, because the fact that He was virgin born confirms His deity. Christ Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin girl, yet we are not told to celebrate the Nativity, nor are we given any example of such the New Testament. Even the Roman Catholic Church admits that no one knows the exact date of His birth, or even the year.

World Book Encyclopedia says that the first mention of a Nativity feast was around A.D. 336, probably influenced by pagan feasts. Ancient Romans held celebrations to honor Saturn, the harvest god, and Mathras, the god of light.

The source of most basic forms of paganism can be traced back to Babylonian "Mysteries". From the time of Nimrod the great, (Genesis 10) on through world history, paganism has been the basic religion of the peoples of the world.

The manners, and customs of idolatry have varied down through the years, but they all find their purest form in Babylonianism. Throughout the Old Testament, Babylonianism was condemned by God; and many nations, including Israel were judged because of it. In the New Testament, Babylon becomes the revised Roman Empire, (see Revelations 17:1-6).

The wine of her fornication, and the cup full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication is Babylonian idolatry, which is the second oldest religion in the world.

In A.D. 313, the Roman Emperor Constantine adopted "Christianity" as the official religion of the government, and mandated that all peoples of the world should convert to it. The official church was the Roman Catholic, (Universal) Church. A few disciples of Christ who would not submit to such a blasphemous mockery were the Puritans, labeled as Ana-Baptists, and were called Montanists at that time.

In an effort to win all the pagan people of the empire, the Roman church met paganism more than half way and adopted nearly all of the feasts and ceremonies, and proceeded to christianize them by mixing them with New Testament law. The pagan names of the feasts holidays, and ceremonies were changed, and given "Christian" names. Many of the legends behind the pagan gods and holidays were also adopted by the Roman State Church and included in the "christianized" holidays.

In A.D. 1644 after the great reformation had taken a foot-hold in England, the Westminster Assembly requested that the English Parliament pass a law forbidding the observance of Christmas, calling it a heathen holiday. In their "Directory of the public worship of God" the Westminster divines said, "There is no day commanded in Scripture to be kept under the gospel but the Lord's day which is the Christian Sabbath. Festival-days, vulgarly called 'holy days,' having no warrant in the word of God, are not to be continued." When the Puritans came to America, they passed a similar law making any celebration of such pagan holidays subject to a fine of five shillings. According to World Book Encyclopedia, "The Christmas holiday did not become legal in America until the 19th century".

VIRTUALLY EVERY ASPECT OF CHRISTMAS IS PAGAN: Between December 21st, and January 6th, the Babylonian heathen celebrated the return of Baal, the sun god. Ishtar, the queen of heaven, brought forth the birth of Tammuz on December 25th. This day was a pagan holiday long before Jesus was ever born. (World Book Encyclopedia) Santa Claus - derived from the Catholic Saint Nicolai. In some countries, he is called the father of Christmas. This so-called saint of good will was gradually given many of the attributes of God himself, but always winking at sin because of his kindness and love. He is more favored than God because he doesn't punish people for being bad. Sometimes threatening, but never really punishing. But the Santa Claus myth is just another lie from hell that has been accepted and is being defended by many Christian people.

The Christmas Tree-- Encyclopedia Britannica states that, "Tree worship, which was common among the European pagans survived after their conversion to Christianity. The Christmas tree was not included in the Christmas holiday in America until the mid 1800s."

Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics tells us that, "Most of the Christmas custom now prevailing in Europe are not genuine Christian customs, but heathen customs which have been observed or tolerated by the 'Church', (meaning the Roman Catholic Church)

It may interest you to know that the Japanese who are not Christian have set Santa Claus up

as one of the seven gods of good luck. Also, I have just discovered that the dictionary built into my typewriter has the name Santa Claus programmed into it but not the name Jesus Christ. It has "Christmas" but not the word Christian.

## IS THERE ANY REAL HARM IN IT TODAY?

To better answer that question you must also ask the question, "Are the things that I do surrounding the Christmas holiday honoring our Lord Jesus Christ?" One has said, "We spend money we don't have, to buy gifts they don't need, to impress people we don't even like."

Besides the merchandising of our Lord in every way imaginable, there is more booze sold, more booze consumed, more crime committed, more fornication committed, more highway deaths, more money spent, more debts made, more time wasted, and less devotion to Christ than any other time of the year!

During this feasting holiday there will be people who will let their hair down to take a few drinks, or smoke a little pot, or fool around with the neighbor's wife or husband, or drive drunk, or drink on the job, or go to a night club, and maybe take in a little burlesque, or go to a drunken Christmas party; who would not normally do such a thing all year long.

There will be Christian people who will be tempted to compromise their Christian principals to take just one little drink in the name of good will, or feel compelled by job peer pressure to attend a drunken office party who would never do such a thing all year

Beloved, is Christmas really just the harmless celebration that we abstainers have been led to believe?

How does Satan do his most effective work? Certainly not out in the open with warning. His devices are subtle and sly. The Bible calls him a masquerader pretending to be an angel of light. (II Corinthians 11:13,14), He does his most effective work in the name of Christianity, and Christmas was invented by him to deceive even the elect of God. Christmas is Satan's favorite holiday.

It is for good reason that we are warned to separate ourselves from the world and the world system. I John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (Revelation 18:4) "Come out from her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." In that verse our Lord is warning His people of the Babylonian idolatry of the Revised Roman Empire, and her harlot religious daughter. Paul said, "...be not conformed to this world..." (Romans 12:2)

If Christmas were what Satan would have us believe it is, do you think that the world would spend one minute celebrating it? Isn't there something wrong when our religious activities do not disturb the world?

## CHRISTMAS DESTROYS

(Continued on Page 12 Column 1)



## TRUTH

(Continued from Page 11)

### THE PURE GOSPEL:

In Christmas the gospel of Christ is substituted by a folk religion based on myth, tradition, and pagan legends. Jesus said to the Pharisees, "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold fast the tradition of men...making the word of God of none effect through your traditions..." (Mark 7:8,13).

Christmas provides an imitation gospel based on joy, love, and good will, but makes no mention of the need for a sacrifice of divine blood to save a depraved human race from the wrath of almighty God.

We need not only rebuke the world for this sin, but also to abstain from it ourselves. "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it" (Deut. 12:30-32).

## WATERS

(Continued from Page 9)

which occasionally run out of control at flood time.

In north central Peru there is a great valley at the foot of the mountain Huascaran, 22,000 feet high. The valley was once the home of a beautiful city with cobblestone streets and palm trees, populated by about 20,000 people, mostly Inca descendants.

Some ten years ago at the dead of night, an earthquake shook the Andes sufficiently to spill water out of a glacial lake high above the city. The water rushed down the side of the mountain, picking up mud, silt, gravel and rocks, and by the time that stupendous mass of rock and mud hit the city it was moving at 200 mph.

In a single minute 20,000 people were buried. The city has never been excavated, but it remains a permanent monument to water-catastrophism on a minor scale, a shocking demonstration of the fact that a depth of deposit is not a factor of time but of the magnitude of hydrodynamic forces involved.

What would happen if all the oceans of this planet suddenly rose (as Genesis described, and within six weeks all the mountains of this planet were covered with swirling masses of sediment-saturated water? There would not be just a flood. This is a mistaken conception, a vast underestimation of the magnitude of the destructive forces involved in such a deluge.

There would be literally millions of floods as the waters rose in one oceanic region to sweep land and back again,

eroding the whole terrain back to the sea. Then as the oceans rose higher and the waters swept inland once again, this time invading further terrain, another great sequence of erosion, transportation and dumping of sediment would occur.

Forming the strata: The process would continue—higher and further inland, back and forth, until by the time the flood reached its mountain-covering maximum depth there would be hundreds of thousands of different currents moving in different direction, at different velocities. Imagine the differing capability within the masses of water to carry different loads of mass and density according to the velocity and viscosity of the moving fluid.

This leads us to the second area of consideration, namely the unique; capacity and characteristic of moving water under flood conditions to form superimposed, parallel horizontal, sedimentary strata or layers.

Local river flood studies have shown that there is a phenomenon called hydrodynamic selectivity, whereby the mixture of materials swept along by a gigantic mass of moving water is sorted out to form deposits or layers of different materials at the bottom of the river bed.

Sorting of materials: The faster the water moves, the heavier the objects it can carry. And when the water slows down, the heavier objects instantly drop to the bottom to form a horizontal layer. As the water slows down further, lighter objects fall to the river bed—and so on. After the flood is over the river bed can be 'sliced' to expose (like layers of a birthday cake) everything it had ever carried, all sorted out perfectly in layers.

A universal flood as described in Genesis would not create total chaos all over the planet with mixed material strewn indiscriminately everywhere. Just the opposite would happen, as predicted by hydrodynamic engineering studies.

We would expect to find that the hundreds of thousands of distinct floods moving in different directions, at different velocities, and carrying different sediments (depending upon the terrain that they had eroded away and transported) would deposit vast layers all over this planet. And that is precisely what we do find everywhere.

The Grand Canyon of Arizona is an awesome sight. As one stands at the edge of the canyon one may look down 5,000 feet to the river below, or 25,000 feet to the other side of the canyon. One may look 100 miles in either direction, and everywhere the view is layer upon layer of absolutely horizontal strata which is just one small slice of a gigantic layer cake covering 500,000 square miles of Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah.

How did the layers get there? Are they the end product of hundreds of millions of years of gradual changes in that part of the earth? Of course, this is hopelessly impossible for those layers could not have formed gradually. Every discovery of hydrodynamic engineering has demonstrated just the opposite to be true.

Rapid layer formation: In order to have layers so gigantic in geographic extent, and so thick and horizontal to each other, each layer would have to be deposited so rapidly that it had no time whatever to be tilted, buckled,

eroded, or affected in any way by weathering before the next layer was placed on top of it.

In the Grand canyon we find not just one layer perfectly conformed to the one below it (over 500,000 square miles) but we find dozens of such layers going down to a depth of 5,000 feet! What does this demand?

It demands the explanation of a global catastrophe so gigantic in magnitude that each layer had to be formed by a stupendous sweep of sediment-saturated water which slowed down and dumped its load over a half-million square-mile area. And each deposit had to be immediately followed by another mass drop-out of material from sediment-saturated waters. Each subsequent deposit would have to take place while the preceding deposit remained absolutely untouched, unaffected, uneroded, untilted, and perfectly horizontal.

Consecutive loads would have had to be dropped by waters sweeping in different directions representing material from different terrains and transportation sequences until 5,000 feet of sediment layers were superimposed on top of each other, the top layer absolutely horizontal to the bottom.

The fossil problem: Now note Psalm 104. When the flood ended God caused the mountain and the continents to rise so that the trapped inland waters rushed to the sea. And in the Grand Canyon region, as the region was lifted up above the sea it cracked open to yield a fault line. The waters rushing to the sea gouged that crack or opening down to bed rock 5,000 feet below, and the gouging of the rushing waters caused the canyon walls to remain very steep.

This event took place so rapidly that the lowest layers did not have time to harden and thus resist the gouging effect. Normally rivers cause a broad alluvial plain, but the steepness of the canyon walls suggests that before even the lowest layers could dry out, while they were soft and unconsolidated, they enabled the water to find a rapid sweep to the ocean.

This leads us to our third point for consideration—the unanswerable evidence of the presence of billions of beautifully-preserved fossils in those layers of sediment.

In the Grand Canyon (and many of the western states of the United States) we find in these superimposed layers magnificent fish fossils. In the Devonian region, for example, there are 500,000 square miles composed almost entirely of perfectly-preserved fishes compacted in a matrix of mud.

Where did they come from? The uniformitarian interpretation has traditionally been to assert that these all gradually died over millions of years and were thus preserved. But this is simply impossible. Not one fish in any ocean today is becoming a fossil except perhaps in very rare, local flood conditions. When fishes die instead of sinking to the bottom and becoming fossils they are picked to pieces or they decompose and vanish forever.

To add to the difficulty of traditional evolutionary thought, a layer of carbonised vegetation lies above the fish fossils. We now know that anthracite coal can be formed in one hour under sufficient heat and pressure. Vast areas of beautifully preserved leaves and tree trunks crisscrossing whole series of

layers occur in the strata. (Could a tree remain semi-erect for a million years without decomposing, waiting for sediments gradually to accumulate around it?)

On top of the trees occur strata containing land animals, some of them gigantic reptilian forms (dinosaurs). A whole region of north-eastern Utah has been turned into a preserve by the United States government because of its spectacular dinosaur fossils. It is called Dinosaur National Monument. Here one may see a dinosaur skeleton 50 feet long from head to tail, perfectly preserved, half-chiselled out of the rock. How could such creatures have been so preserved?

Rapid fossilisation: The answer is not gradual deposition through millions of years of creatures dying. Across the western prairies, millions of bison or buffalo have roamed for centuries, yet no one fossil of a buffalo has ever yet been found. When a great creature dies it does not instantly sink into the ground and become a fossil. Scavengers remove the flesh and within a short time, the whole skeleton is reduced to powder, blows away and not one bone is preserved as a fossil.

Then how did a fifty-foot dinosaur arrive in the rock? Suddenly, without warning a stupendous mass of sediment-

saturated waters arose from the ocean basins to cut it off from predators, decay, oxidation decay processes. It became entombed permanently in the crust of the earth. That is the only known mechanism for vast fossilisation.

Proof of the flood: Beneath our very feet, in most continents of this earth, God has placed a testimony to His power as king of the earth in the existence of billions of flood deposited fossils.

These creatures tell us that there is no gradual merging of one species to another through evolution. We learn that each was separately, distinctively created.

But furthermore, as we see their preservation in superimposed, horizontal, sedimentary strata, we also learn that they were supernaturally buried, fossilised and preserved by a global catastrophe.

If we really desire to know more about the great flood in the days of Noah we need not take a tour of Mesopotamia to look at minor river flood effects in the Tigris and Euphrates valley, for that had nothing to do with the Genesis flood. We need only stay wherever we are, on whatever continent, and start digging down.

Sooner or later, inevitably we will discover a fossilised form of plant or animal. (copied from March-April 1981 issue of Sword and Trowel.)

## APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Sirs:

As a lifelong reader and fellow Baptist, but most of all a born again son of the King, I thank you for the knowledge derived from the Baptist Examiner. I enjoy each issue and am blessed

by reading and digesting the contents. Sincerely, Robert M. Allen, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

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Dear Sir,

Just a few words to tell you I still enjoy reading the paper. Yours truly, Delmer Dutton, Columbus, Oh.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Providence Baptist Church of Kountze, Texas is in need of a pastor. They desire a man who believes, in the main, the doctrines set forth in The Baptist Examiner. Anyone who is interested in this matter should contact Clarence McNeely at Rt. 2, Box 405, Kountze, Tex. 77625, or call him at (405) 246-3535. Pray for this church and this need.

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### One Tragic Little Letter (Mission Impossible)

Because they changed one letter

In the purpose of the church

Men are seeking scarlet ravens

In a vain and tragic search.

Steeple pierce the blue of heaven

In majestic massive grace;

But they fail to show salvation

To God's weak and needy race.

And it's all because His people

Have no gospel tale to tell:

For, pursuing worldly pleasures,

They changed "R" into an "L"!

They have drawn concealment's curtain

Over Calv'y's pard'ning cross,

Making tears and thorns and bleeding

Satan's gain instead of loss.

They have minimized God's Spirit

As they granted mammon voice,

Striving now to serve two masters;

Ah, hear Satan's realm rejoice!

And a world is falling, falling,

to the awful deeps of hell:

All because too many churches

Changed an "R" into an "L"!

Just one tragic little letter

Changed the mission of the church;

Changed its impact and its purpose:

Closed the "Door" to those who search!

Took its power and reduced it

To the status of a snail:

Hear those mountains and those valleys

And those seas and oceans wail!

Yes, the churches changed one letter

And it drove God's grace away:

They defaced salvation's billboard:

Now It's "Play" Instead Of "Pray" Clyde L. Fleming