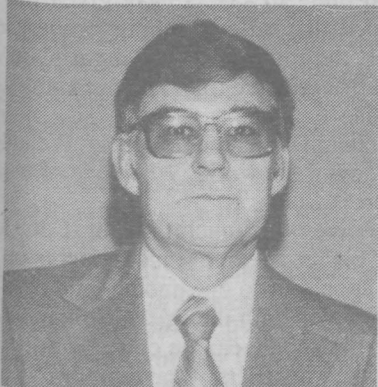


HOLINESS PART I

by Ray Brown
Box 203

Cannelton, WV 25036

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).



Ray Brown

This verse of Scripture is telling us that without holiness no man shall see the Lord. Two questions arise: Are we holy? Shall we see the Lord? These are very important questions. We're to examine ourselves fully under the light of the Word of God.

"The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works" (Psa. 145:17). Exodus 15:11 says God is "glorious in holiness." In Psalms 29:2, and 96:9, the Bible says, "worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." In Psalm 108:7: "God hath spoken in his holiness." Isaiah

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GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE GREAT WHORE

by Doug Newell
Assistant Editor

Revelation 19:1-2, "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our



Doug Newell

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by David West

"Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12).

We are living in a time when young people are not an example for good, but for evil. I do not mean all of our young people, but many of them. We have many young people who live honest, clean, upright lives. We yet have some young people who live Christian lives, who shun the evil things of today, and who attend the services of our churches. We thank the Lord for them. May the Lord bless them. But I speak concerning those young people who are not faithful and who go out in the world and take part in the things of the world. I speak that they may take warning. I speak that they may hear.

We are living in a time when there is much to draw our youth away from God's house. There are more places of entertainment in the world today than there has ever been in the history of the world. At least, I think that there



David West

are. There are more places of pleasure for both young and old than are needful. If mothers and fathers would carry their children to God's house every Lord's day,

this would be a better country in which to live.

The first thing to which I would like to call your attention is this, "...be thou an example of the believers..." It is sad to say or think about, but many of the young people today are an example not for good but for evil. Many of our youth today use foul language rather than words that are pleasing to the ear. Many take the Lord's name in vain. Shame on you if any of you who read this take the Lord's name in vain. Or if any of you who read this know of some one who does take the Lord's name in vain, remind them of the Scripture which warns that God will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. Young man, young woman, use language that will be impressive in a good way and not in a bad way. Men and women of

(Continued on Page 3 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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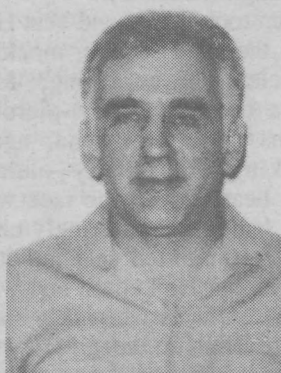
TERRY BROWN'S TESTIMONY FOR THE LORD MONTANA STATE PRISON, DEERLODGE MONTANA

by Terry Brown
Montana State Prison

First of all, I want to thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for saving my soul. Also for forgiving me of all my sins, when I humbled myself down and asked Him (Jesus) to forgive me.

I think I should tell a little about my younger life. I was born and raised in a good Christian home. My father and mother were both born-again Christians. They both worked hard to give us children a good home. I was the youngest of the three boys. I also have three sisters. I truly love

them all. My parents saw to it that I was in church with them every Sunday morning and night,



Terry Brown

and also on Wednesday nights. We attended the Old Fashioned Baptist Church in Stanleyville, North Carolina. As a boy, I was a pretty good boy.

My troubles in my life really started when I was the age of 13. That is when I was introduced to alcohol. My brother-in-law gave me my first drink, and I was addicted to alcohol from that moment. There was no way that I could drink around my parents, so I started staying over-night with my friends whose parents drank, and they didn't care if we drank

(Continued on Page 9 Column 4)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

THE FORSAKEN SUFFERER

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?" (Psa. 22:1).

We are told that a man is very sick, probably dying. We are so quiet. We show respect for the suffering ones and for his loved ones who stand by. We would not joke and laugh. We would not speak boisterously. We would not indulge in loud games at such a time. We certainly would not mock at or ridicule the dying man. Yet, our Lord Jesus

Christ was treated in all these ways as He hung near death on Calvary's old rugged cross. Oh, how the depravity of man shows forth in the treatment of Christ as He endured the accursed death of the cross

Who was it that suffered on that day? It was our Lord Jesus Christ. It was One equal with God. It was One who was and is God. He is a man, but He is more than a man. He was the equal of the Father, yet the Father forsook Him as He hung there that day.

It was One who had never

sinned against God. Never, in thought, word, or deed had He displeased His Father. "Then I was by him, as one brought up with him; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him" (Pro. 8:30). Jesus Christ had been the delight of His Father from eternity. They had rejoiced in sweet fellowship together from before all ages. Yet, this was the One who was suffering. "...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). Thus

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

DEMIGODS AND NONGODS

by Gene Darwin Abbott

An Honest God is the Noblest work of Man." Robert Green Ingersoll, in his lecture entitled "Gods."

A half-truth is perhaps the subtlest and most effective form of deceit. It is likely the implied application of Ingersoll's statement that is the most misleading by this late great deceiver. Having made the statement, he went on in his lecture to infer that the Biblical God was fabricated by the human mind; while in truth this forerunner of modern humanism was, himself, advocating a worship of human-



Gene Abbott

ity. The final paragraph of his lecture begins thus: "We are laying the foundations of a grand temple of the future, not the temple of all the gods, but of all the people-wherein, with appropriate rites, will be celebrated the

(Continued on Page 4 Column 5)

WHY WE ARE BAPTISTS

by W. K. Wood

Peter tells us to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh us a reason for the hope that is in us with meekness and fear. Every Baptist ought to be able to tell why he is a Baptist, and to be able at any time that he is called upon to give his reasons for being a Baptist. Those who are not Baptists ought to have good reasons for not being a Baptist. We believe with all of our heart that the church Jesus built was a Baptist church. There is much talk about the uniting of all churches (so-called). We do not know of anything that would be more dishonoring and more disgraceful or more distasteful to our Lord than for Baptists to unite with other so-called churches. We do not even unionize with them in their union services. To do so is to put Baptists on the same level with them and to dishonor Christ, and to give encouragement to those who are teaching heresy. To unionize with others reflects upon the church Jesus built, which is the pillar and ground of the truth. A union that is not based upon unity bears a falsehood upon its face. In fact, union without unity is a flat contradiction. So if Baptists do not intend to line up in this great union movement, then they ought to give a reason for their existence as a separate people. If heretics are not to be received into our house, neither to be bidden God speed, there should be a reason for not partaking of their evil deeds. Therefore we are giv-

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FORSAKEN

(Continued from Page 1)

spake the Father of His Son following Christ's baptism. Yet he was the One who was suffering that day at Calvary. "...for I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29). Thus spake Christ of His conduct towards His Father, and no one ever has or can contradict it. Yet, this was the One who was suffering. The wages of sin is death, This One had done no sin. Yet, He was dying a most horrible death.

This One who was suffering had never done anything harmful to man. He had never sinned in any way against any man. He cast out demons. He caused the deaf to hear. He caused the blind to see. He had raised the dead.

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power; who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" (Acts.10:38). This verse is a marvellous summary of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. He went about doing good to others. Still, this One was suffering the cruel death of the old rugged cross. The darkness of the sufferings of Calvary can only be seen against the background of the purity, deity, and glory of the One who was suffering. Those suffering appear in all their horror when the true character of the sufferer is discerned.

Oh! how He suffered! Let us look awhile at Psalms 22 and see therein the sufferings of our Lord and Saviour. Verse 6 tells us that

He was, "...despised of the people." Why did men despise the One who had never done them harm, who had done great good to many, who came into this world on a mission of mercy? The depravity of the natural heart is no where more clearly seen than in its attitude toward the suffering Saviour. This word speaks of a deep-seated hatred. It speaks of "looking on with contempt." It speaks of a total rejection, of a determination to have nothing to do with Him. It speaks of a total lack of sympathy with the suffering One; yea, rather, of an unholy joy therein.

"He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him:



Joe Wilson

let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him" (v.8). Here, the dying sufferer is ridiculed by those around Him. He had spoken of His trust in His Father. Now, this is used against Him. He had delighted in His Father. His Father had testified of His delight in His beloved Son. Those about Him imply that such trust and delight never truly existed. They mock what they consider as only a profession or show of a true relationship with God. They mock Him, as if the One in whom He had professed faith had deserted Him (And He had, though they understood not the significance thereof).

"Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion" (Vss.12-13). Our Lord here likened the vicious and wicked crowd around Him to wild beasts of the field. No beast of prey ever gaped more ferociously nor roared more threateningly against its intended prey than did the crowd around the cross on that day when Jesus died. No wild animal ever acted more cruelly than did those around the cross, and many of them were religious leaders, shamelessly wearing the robes of their religious positions.

"I am poured out like water, 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" (vss.14-15) These verses describe some of His terrible sufferings and the effects thereof upon His physical frame. What great physical anguish is described therein!

"For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me...." (v.16). Like wild dogs howling against their intended victim, are the wicked men who surrounded the cross on that day. "...they pierced my hands and my feet" (v.16). Yes, they drove cruel nails through His

hands and His feet so as to hang Him on the cross. Those hands that had ministered to the sick, lifted the dead into life, been laid in blessing upon little children - those hands were pierced through with cruel nails. Those feet that had walked the dusty roads and paths of Galilee, that had walked on the stormy sea, that had walked about doing great good - those feet were pierced with cruel nails.

"I may tell all my bones: they look and stare on me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (vss.17-18). His bones were out of joint; they almost stuck through His skin in places. That wicked and vicious crowd stared upon Him in His shame, humiliation, and suffering. Those who had nailed Him there, caring nothing for His great suffering, callously knelt at the foot of His cross and gambled for His vesture.

See, in these verses, a prophetic description of what Christ suffered at Calvary. He suffered in agony in Gethsemane until His sweat became as drops of blood. He saw the wrath of God against the sins for which He was about to die, in that cup before Him. He cried out that, if there were some other way for men to be saved, He might be spared the hell of Calvary. Nevertheless, He humbly bowed in sweet submission to His Father's will.

He was arrested in Gethsemane. He was dragged from one false mockery of a trial to another through the long hours of the night and into early morning. Six trials, three civil and three religious was He put through - not that justice might be served, but that His forthcoming murder might have a semblance of legal authority about it. He was mocked, taunted, and ridiculed through that long night. He had nothing to eat from that Passover meal until He was hung on the cross at 9 A.M. the next day (nothing then either).

Men took a reed and beat Him over the head with it, mocking His claims to be a king. Men put a crown of brow-piercing thorns upon His head, again mocking His kingly claims. Men beat Him in the face with their hands and sneeringly challenged Him to tell who had done it. (Ah, but He knows, and what a day it will be when they stand before Him at the great white throne judgment and give account therefor, except they are saved by His grace) They spat upon Him in the ultimate expression of hatred and shame. They took a whip and beat Him across the back, striking again and again. They plowed long furrows of suffering across His back until, as someone said, His bones stood out like islands of ivory in a sea of gore.

Then they nailed His hands and feet to the cross. They lifted Him up between heaven and earth. They dropped that cross into the hole dug therefor with a jar that increased His agony. They watched Him there. They laughed, ridiculed, and mocked at His suffering. The words in Psalms 22:7-18 so perfectly describe His sufferings that day. Oh, how He suffered. No one has ever suffered, in all the annals of time, as Jesus Christ suffered on that day.

In the midst of all this suffering, and as the climax of all His suffering, He was forsaken by His Father. "Why hast thou

forsaken me?" He asked His God. He said, "O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest me not; and in the night season, and

am not silent" (v.2). When you and I come down to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, our God will not forsake us. (Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

FROM THE EDITOR

In this editorial I make a statement, really three statements that are closely connected, and I ask a question. Since I have been saved, Christian people have caused me more trouble and done more to hurt me, than have the unsaved. Since I have learned the truths I believe today, my kind have caused me more trouble than the rest. And I do verily believe that preachers have caused me more trouble, done more to harm me, than any others. Isn't that a sad thing to say? I have given this matter a good bit of thought. I hoped that, after thinking it over, I would realize that it is not true. But, the more I have thought about these things, the more I have realized that they are true. I do not know a much sadder thing I could say than this.

This is a sad and heart breaking matter. These are our people. We are bound together in closer bonds than any of the world. When one of our own family and kind hurts us, the hurt is worse.

Why are these things true? I have given this much thought. I don't suppose I have the complete answer, but let me give some thoughts on the subject. Maybe it is because we are closer to one another and have more contacts with one another than we do with the world. So long as we are in the flesh, I don't suppose that people can be close together, working together, without having some conflicts. I have more to do with the saved than with the unsaved. I have more to do with Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptists than with other Christians. And I probably have more to do with preachers than with others. Such close contacts should be sweet fellowship, but since we are all still in the flesh, this may occasion some of our strife.

I believe a part of the answer is that we are not the abrasive factor in the unsaved world that we ought to be. We are not doing our job of witnessing to the world, for such witnessing would often bring trouble and conflict to us. We are not shining the light of the Word of God on the darkness of this world as we should be. We are not acting as the salt of the earth as we should. We are not condemning the world and its sins as we should. We are not like Noah who condemned the world by his obedience to God. We are not like John the Baptist who got his head cut off for opposing Herod's sin. We are not like Paul and his company who turned the world upside down. We are not having any effect upon the world, and worse than that, we are not trying to. We argue with our brothers and sisters about many different things, but we do not argue with the world about anything much. I fear that we do not suffer from the world as we should, because we do not witness to the world and speak out against its sins as we should.

If we, as God's people, would live more holy, clean, and separated lives; and if we would take more of a stand against the sins of those around us, likely we would begin to suffer from the world. Likely, I would not be able to make the sad statement with which I began this editorial. Folk, even Christian folk, often have the attitude that what another person does is his business, and we are not to criticize, condemn, or interfere in any way therewith. It is our sinful silence that has delivered us from the enmity and persecution of the world. It has also brought us to the place where we have no influence with the world. It has also brought us to the place of greatly displeasing our Lord.

A further part of the answer to my question, and a major part, is the lack of love that we have for our brothers and sisters in Christ. All these problems that we have with one another, this quarrelling, this bickering, these hard feelings, these backbitings - all these things are not the result of the manifestation of the love we ought to have. They are the result and manifestation of our lack of love for one another. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). Well, we are not showing this love to one another, and the world is not being influenced favorably thereby.

Of course, love cannot - and should not - ignore the wrong that one might do to another. But it should keep one from doing that wrong, and it should cause one to take that wrong with as much grace as possible, and it should cause one to be always ready and willing to forgive the wrong. I am not asking for a love that does not defend truth and right. I am not asking for a love that is never offended by wrong done it. I am not asking for a love that does not defend itself when falsely accused or badly treated. But I am asking for a love that will greatly lessen all bad treatment between Christians, churches, and preachers; and that will be more ready to work things out, to forgive, and to return to sweet fellowship. Yes, our lack of love is a major reason for the sad statement I made at the first of this editorial.

Now, for a brighter side. Though my statement at the beginning of this article is true, it is not the total truth. Praise God that the sweetest and best fellowship in the world is between Christians, especially between those of like precious faith, and especially between preachers of like precious faith. Though I sadly say that I have had much hurt and trouble from these; I most gladly say that I have had much more help, encouragement, joy, and blessings from these. Not all of God's children, especially our kind, especially preachers do me (I use myself as an illustration) great damage and hurt. Multitudes of them, the vast majority of them with whom I have contact, are a great blessing to me in more ways than I can tell. When I am under fire, when I am down, when some brother or sister has hurt me badly; oh, I think of the others, their number is legion, who are good to me, who cheer me, who encourage me, who are a blessing to me of the highest value.

So, it is not as bad as I may have made it look at the first. But even so, it is still bad. It is very bad. I know the answer to this problem. It is that each of us will show more love to the other. It is that we will be filled with the Spirit and thus manifest the blessed fruit of the Spirit. Yes, this is the answer. How to get all of us to do this - that I do not know. I cannot control others as to this. But, but, but I could and should see to it that I do what I can and should as to all this. What about it brothers and sisters? Let's try the way of love.

FORSAKEN

(Continued from Page 2)

us. He will be with us. When you and I, in our suffering and need, cry to the Father, He hears and answers us. But not so with the Lord Jesus Christ at this time. Verses 4 and 5 tell of how others had cried and been heard and delivered. But, though the Lord roared forth in His agony, the Father heard Him not. He was forsaken by the Father. He was The Forsaken Sufferer.

"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken..." (Psa.37:25). Well, David, look on this scene and behold a wonder of wonders; the righteous One forsaken. "...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb.13:5). Friend, look on the only case of its kind in the history of the world; look and wonder. The Righteous One forsaken by the Father. Who would have ever imagined such a thing. Yet here it is, before our very eyes. He had delighted all His days in His Father. When men rejected Him, He turned for sweet comfort to blessed fellowship with His Father. Now, He is forsaken by His Father. At the time of His greatest need, at the hour of His greatest suffering; He was forsaken by His Father. What a most amazing scene is this!

This was the climax of His suffering, this was the greatest suffering of all. My friend, being forsaken by God will be one of the chief agonies of hell. Men may not now think this true. They may even greatly desire to be left alone by God. But in hell they will not think so. Now, we have and move and have our being in Him. Now, He provides in a thousand unknown and unrecognized ways for the sons of men. But then and there - in hell - men will be totally and eternally forsaken by God; and as they realize the horrible significance of this, they will know that this is the chief torment of eternal hell.

Why was He thus forsaken? That is the question. At first it seems unanswerable, but when its full significance is seen, it is realized that; of course, under such circumstances He must be forsaken. The answer to this question leads us into the very heart of the glorious, and saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Why was He forsaken? The answer is found in the first four words of verse 3, "But thou art holy." The ineffable holiness of God is the reason for His forsaking of His Son. You ask, how can that be? What is the connection between God's infinite holiness and His forsaking of His Son? I am glad you asked that. Let me explain that. There is one more piece of the puzzle. When we put in that piece, all will then be clear.

"All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned every one to his own way; (I know that, you say; but listen further) and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa.53:6). There is the answer to the puzzling question of Psalms 22:1. Our sins were laid on Christ. Why, of course then, the Father must forsake Him, for the Father is, "... of purer eyes than behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity...." (Hab.1:13). "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the right-

eousness of God in him" (II Cor.5:21). He knew no sin. He was made sin for us. Not that He actually became sin itself, but that the guilt of our sins was charged to Him. Then it is no wonder that the Father forsook Him - not because of anything in Him - but because He was made sin for us. Praise God for the glorious sequel to this - we are made the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ, and thereby saved forever. Praise the Lord. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us...." (Gal.3:13). We had broken God's holy law. Therefore, we were under the curse of that law, even the eternal punishment of hell. Christ redeemed us from that curse. How? Not in some easy way such as when He spoke the world into being. Not by just willing it so, but by becoming a curse for us. Why, this answers the question of Psalms 22:1. The Father forsook the Son because the Son was made a curse for us.

This is substitution, and substitution is the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ. No one can understand the gospel until he understands substitution. No man can expound the gospel until he expounds it around the word "substitution." The Lord Jesus Christ took our place on Calvary. He died in our room and stead. He came down from heaven that we might go up to heaven. He thirsted that we might drink of the water of eternal life. He hungered that we might eat of the bread of life. He was condemned that we might be justified. He went to the hell of God's wrath that we might go to the heaven of God's love. He died that we might live. Oh, glorious gospel - the gospel of substitution. Christ substituting for sinners is the answer to the otherwise unanswerable question of Psalms 22:1.

Read on in Psalms 22; my brother, read on. At v.22 the scene changes. Before this all had been as the darkness of midnight. After this all is bright and glorious. Just run rapidly over the Psalm noting this matter. Before v. 22 there is great suffering, there is a being forsaken, and there is praying without being heard. After v. 22 there is declaring the name of the Lord, there is praising, there is the hearing of prayer - oh there are many great blessings. Read of them. What makes this great difference? Why, verse 22 is a prophecy that implies and demands, therefore speaks of, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He dies; but lo, He lives again and goes forth with great victory. Oh, my soul is almost overcome with rapturous praise as I consider this great crucifixion-resurrection Psalm. I rejoice with great joy as I think of the great suffering of our Lord, the resurrection of our Lord, and the glorious things accomplished thereby.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is an essential part of the saving gospel. Tell me not of how He died on Calvary unless you also tell of how He rose again. Oh, do not leave Him dead and buried. There is no gospel there. The gospel is that He died for us according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and (oh, precious and wonderful "and") that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (I Cor.15:1-3). The man who does not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a lost man. Only a risen Christ can save a sinner, and the sinner must believe in a

risen Christ in order to be saved. It is not a dead Christ who saves; it is a Christ who died and rose again and lives forevermore.

Dear friend, I urge you to read of the blessings in Psalms 22:22-31. Read of praising and glorifying God. Read of sweet answers to prayer. Read of a chosen and saved seed. Read of eating and being satisfied. Read of living forever. Read of worshipping and serving the Lord. Read of His rule and His kingdom. Read of those who declare His righteousness and tell to all that, "he hath done this." What wonderful, precious, and eternal blessings are these! Now, note that all these blessings are purchased for us by the One who suffered the awful suffering of Psalms 22:1-21. Note that they are guaranteed and assured to us in that God raised Him from the dead. Oh, precious gospel! Oh, wonderful blessings contained in that gospel! Oh, that gospel of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Please, please pay attention to this statement. No person but Jesus Christ and no place but Calvary can explain this Scripture. Please read that again and again. Though this Psalms was written a thousand years before, it seems to be written by one who stood before the old rugged cross that day, and wrote down what he saw and heard. Read that again and again. What a marvellous and unanswerable proof of the inspiration of the Bible is this! Written a thousand years beforehand, yet describing the events of that day as if written by an eye witness thereof; only God can write like this.

Come my friends. Look on this scene a few moments longer. Saved friend, see there your suffering Saviour and go forth to live for His glory and serve Him to the utmost of your Spirit given ability. Unserved friend, look on this scene. See the sufferings you deserve, and that you will endure if you continue to reject the Saviour. See the only way of salvation. Oh, see the only way of salvation. My friend, if God should ever allow a rejector of His Son to enter heaven and walk the streets of gold, He would need apologize to His Son for allowing Him to suffer so. This will never be. The suffering and risen Christ is the only Saviour. Trust Him and be saved forever. Reject Him and suffer the agonies of hell through all eternity. Which will it be? Oh, my unsaved friend, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

YOUNG PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 1)

the world use evil language, I suppose, because they have such a small vocabulary. Young people do not look to such to follow after.

What is wrong with the youth today that they are an example to tear down rather than to build up? I will tell you, they are not brought up right in the homes, that's why. How sad this is.

I realize that the text of the message was to young Timothy. The exhortation of Paul to him was that he might be a good example as a young minister to other believers. But, dear young people, let me ask you a question. What is wrong with you being an example to other

believers? We need more youth to be an example in up-building of our youth today. Do that whereby you will be remembered for good and not for evil.

Now, what is it whereby you need to be an example? Let us notice the first thing that is mentioned in the text. Be an example in Word. Timothy was a young man, and he was a minister of the gospel. Many times people are apt to think that a young preacher, being a novice, does not know whereof he speaks. They think that he does not know much. They think that he has not learned much from the Word of God. They think that he does know how to preach what he does know. Some times people go to hear a young preacher out of curiosity. They want to see how he is going to sound, if he speaks like he did before, if he is funny, if he is sincere, or if he knows how to entertain. I remember in my early ministry, when I spoke for the first time in a church in the community where I grew up, there was one of this idea. I was young then. One lady told me the following Monday that she would have gone for curiosity. Well, I thought, what a compliment! Many times, when people go to hear a young preacher, they go for the wrong reasons. Men should not do this. They should go to hear God's Word and to worship God. So Timothy was admonished by Paul to speak words that became sound doctrine; to speak the truth in purity.

Also, I believe the young should be an example in speaking words of honesty, truthfulness, and kindness. Speak words which would be becoming to young Christians, and words which he would not be ashamed of when standing before Jesus in the judgment of the saved.

Then he was to be an example in conversation. I think this has to do with living. This word is used in places in the Word of God which has reference to one living a godly life. This involves one's speech, walk, work, or whatever one might do in the presence of others who may be watching. Just to put it simply, it means to so live that others may see our good works and glorify our Father which is heaven.

Then, Paul admonished young Timothy to be an example in purity. This could very well mean purity in doctrine, but I think that it has more reference to purity of life. For Paul said to Him, "let no man despise thy youth." So, I think that it has reference to what the world would think about how he would live. The world would look at him as to how he conducted his life. Being a young man, people would take more notice of him as to how he spoke in the company of others, where he went, and the company he kept. So he must live a clean, honorable, upright life so that no one would have an occasion to slander him in his profession. He must live above reproach.

I am aware that the text of this lesson was an instruction to Timothy as a young minister of the gospel. I am sure that this text is applied to other young ministers of God's Word, and that this would be an exhortation unto them. To this we all agree.

While this is directed to young Timothy and to other young ministers, let us take notice that it is right and proper for all young people to live honorable and clean and holy lives.

There are many things in the world for the young people to get into that will lead them astray. And many of the young people delight to get into the sinful things of the world. But when teen-age people get into the sinful pleasures of our time, they are not making a good name for themselves. When people live lives of pleasure, they are many times cut off, and have a short life. In such cases they are not remembered long after they are put in the ground.

The wicked are not long remembered. Why is it that our youth would want to live in such a way that they are soon forgotten? When young people get out and engage themselves in the drug and liquor traffic, they are not building for themselves a name. They are destroying themselves. They are making for themselves a short life that will soon be forgotten. Young people, listen, why do you want to live the kind of life that no one will remember long? Why not strive for that life that you will long be remembered? Do that which, when you are gone from this life, mother or father or sister or brother and all your loved ones and all your friends will long remember you. That after you have long since departed this life, men will speak well of you.

The Bible teaches us that they who live godly shall suffer persecution. Even so the suffering of persecution that comes on the godly will not nearly equal what the transgressor will have to endure. The Bible says the way of the transgressor is hard.

Let me tell you about a little girl who lived in the long ago. There was a time when Israel was being overrun by the Syrians. The Syrians had gone out in companies into Israel and had brought away a captive out of the land of Israel, a little maid. This maid told of the man of God back in Israel, how that he could recover Naaman from his leprosy. Naaman was healed because of what this little girl from Israel told about the man of God. She made a good report about Elisha. Naaman learned about God through this little Jewish girl. He learned that there was none like the God of Israel. He learned of the true, one and only God who could perform great things. There is none like this great God of the Hebrews. Not only did He heal this leprous man, Naaman, but He is able to do anything. As Job said, "He can do everything."

Let us notice some things about this little Jewish girl from Israel. One thing she did was that she remembered what she had been taught about God. She remembered that He is all powerful. She knew that it was through and by the man of God that this miracle could be performed. She knew that God was still on His throne, and that He was in control of all things on this earth. She was not afraid to tell about what God would do through His servant, Elisha.

Another thing I want you young people to remember is that some one taught her right. Someone taught her about God and the man of God. Where did she learn this? I do not know. But one thing I do know is that she learned it from someone. I would rather believe that it was her mother and father. It could

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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

Explain Psalm 137:9.

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"Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones" (Psalms 137:9).

At first reading, the sentiment in this verse seems extremely cruel, and to be the wish of the writer and those of Israel who have suffered the capture and resultant captivity. However, a closer reading along with the entire Psalm reveals it to be an agreement with what God has already pronounced upon Babylon rather than a vindictive wish. We find Isaiah 13:16 telling us, "Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished." This is a prophecy against Babylon for their wickedness and cruelty. I believe that we also find in this Psalm some prophecy and reference to the tribulation period of the earth which is yet future as an end time judgment, but for our question we restrain our comments to Babylon. Few of us in modern America can identify with the feelings of Israel in this Psalm, or understand the despondency that they felt. Those who were God fearing had undergone much pain and sorrow. Seeing many of their family and friends die and then being transported into captivity in a heathen land, the captives of Israel longed for their former homes and the sacred city of Jerusalem. The writer of Psalm 137 is saying in verse 8 that the one who recompenses Babylon, that is, returns to her in like manner of her cruel treatment, shall be happy and blessed as he carries out God's will. The captors of Babylon, it seems from verse 3, were as most captors: haughty, demanding, and demeaning of the captives. In verse 9, the writer of the Psalm agrees with God's coming judgment on Babylon, rather than wishing it on them from his own misery. It will be God Who is fulfilling His promise in this verse with its horrible picture of infant death. God's recompense is in view here, and it is inevitable. Proverbs 11:21 reminds us that, "Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered." God's prophecy against Babylon came to pass as He said it would. All would do well to remember that the horror of this verse is meant to highlight the awful vengeance that God will execute upon all human

lawlessness, especially in the coming seven years of tribulation and also upon those who hate God's elect nation of Israel. Man's wickedness continues on, for during the tribulation of all the earth another wicked Babylon the Great will suffer God's recompense in like horrible manner as did Babylon of old. That judgment shall also be to His praise. Let us bless God for His justice.

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Psalms 137:9; "Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones." This is what is known as an imprecatory Psalm. That simply means it is a Psalm with a prayer of evil upon someone. It would be somewhat likened to a curse. I recognize people's difficulty in understanding verses such as this. They have a hard time understanding how a loving God can have this written, and especially have this action performed. The problem is that people have been so saturated with the love of God, that they forget that He is also a God of hatred wrath, and justice. I think this Psalm in question deals with the justice of God.

It is important to read verse 8. "O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us."

The prayer in this Psalm is that Babylon receive the same punishment that they had so cruelly bestowed upon Israel. History tells us that this was first done to Israel by the Babylonians. The prayer here is not for revenge, but for justice. You will find another reference to this in Isaiah 13:16. Does not the Bible teach that man shall reap that which he has sown? That is just the prayer of the Psalmist.

Let me try to illustrate this by using a present day example. Let us suppose that a man has committed murder. It is not wrong for me to pray that this man be put to death. In fact, I would rather say that it is my responsibility to pray for his execution. I would see nothing wrong with praying that he be executed in the same way in which he killed the person he was guilty of murdering. I recently had a discussion with a person who thought that death to a person, guilty of a capital crime, should be by just giving them a pill and letting them go to sleep. I told him that I thought he should be made to suffer in a similar way as did his victim. I reminded him of Bible days of execution. There is nothing wrong with saved people praying for the just execution of criminals, and there is nothing

wrong with what is written here by the Psalmist

Let me make one point before closing this answer. I do not think this point applies to this question, but it is a good time to make it. The point is this; just because something is in the Bible, does not mean that it is right. By right, I mean that it is proper before God. There are things written in the Bible that are sins. They are recorded there to show us the right from the wrong. I hope I am making myself understood. Let me give an example; David's sin of adultery is recorded in the Bible. That does not mean adultery is all right. The same is true of attitude in the Bible. In closing, I think the verse in question is to be interpreted literally, and according to history, it did literally come about. May God bless you all.

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The Psalmist who wrote psalm 137 was one of the Jews who had been taken captive to Babylon after the Babylonian army had sacked Jerusalem. He had seen the temple destroyed, the walls of the city torn down, and the women, children, and the aged slain (II Chro. 36). As his mind goes back to this time of horror he recalls how the children of Edom, neighbors and kindred of the Jews (Esau's descendants), instead of giving aid, rejoiced at their destruction. He exclaims, "Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof" (Psa. 137:7).

It seems that now his mind goes to a prophecy which was made by Isaiah more than two hundred years before, concerning the fate of the city of Babylon. It had been prophesied that, "Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished" (Isa. 13:16). The reason for this punishment is given in Isaiah 47:6,9 where it is said, "I was wroth with my people. I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke. But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments" (Isa. 47:6,9).

Realizing that vengeance belonged to God and that He would punish the enemy, he now proclaims, "O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us, Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones" (Psa 137:8,9). "Happy shall he be ---" means happy or highly to be honored will be the one whom God uses to fulfill this prophecy. History tells us that Cyrus the Great did to the Babylonians exactly what the Babylonians had done to the Jews of Jerusalem and what Isaiah had prophesied would come to pass.

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have been her aunt or uncle or sister or brother. But the fact remains that she learned of God and the man of God. She did not forget her God. She did not forget the man of God; she did not forget what she had learned earlier from someone. One thing she did not do, and that was she did not forget her Creator in the days of her youth. Oh, that our youth might remember God while the evil days come not.

I call to your attention another thing about this little Jewish maid. She is still remembered today. This day in which we live she is spoken of. Her deed is still preached about from the pulpits of our land. Some three thousand years have passed, and what this captive maid told about God and His servant Elisha is still proclaimed today. What a wonderful thing to do. What a wonderful life to live; that when you have long since passed this life, the deeds that you do, the words that you speak will be remembered and praised. Your God will be praised. Because of what this maid did some one learns of God even yet.

Let us notice still further. This little Jew girl was not ashamed of what she learned. This is one thing that will be to the credit of our youth, if they will while they are yet in the tender years, learn of God and remember their Creator. They will be able to tell what they learned from their teacher, from their parents, when attending the house of God and listening to God's Word expounded. Not to be ashamed through the years will be to have a peaceful mind.

There were others who lived for God while in their youth; such as Joseph, Daniel, and others, but this should be sufficient to get the message across so that you might see that it pays to serve God and come to the Lord Jesus Christ early in life. It pays to live godly lives. It pays in this life and will pay in the life to come.

You will not be remembered long if you live a sinful and wicked life. You will not be remembered long if you follow the days of Satan and his crowd. Besides, living in sin and the ways of the world is a hard life. To follow the ways of sin may bring on an early death. The Bible teaches that children are to obey their parents that they may live long on the earth. Not only will they live a long life, but will be remembered long after this earthly life is gone. How much better it is then to be remembered

as a result of faithfulness than to live a life that is displeasing to the Lord and be forgotten.

May the Lord bless you.

DEMIGODS

(Continued from Page 1)

religion of Humanity."

Whether the Biblical God of the humanistic concept of the ultimate being (man) is most nearly correct to the one speaking, or writing, is purely a matter of the mind of that person. If we regard the Biblical perspective as truth, we might look at II Timothy 4:2-4. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." The New American Standard uses myths, rather than fables, in this passage. The Roman mythology constituted an example of the type of condition illustrated here. Man has always invented some kind of god rather than the God. Ingersoll would see the humanist (or atheist-same thing) view in the opposition. It is more my concept (and yours too I assume) to set Christianity aside as a unique view in the Biblical Trinity and lump all other forms into either humanistic or quasi-humanistic beliefs. Quasi-humanistic means seemingly humanistic, and anything which falls short of the belief in an absolutely sovereign God seems tainted with humanism, in my mind.

The ancient Greek and Roman gods were actually only demigods. They had some distinctively human weaknesses. Petty jealousy was perhaps one of the most outstanding, but deceit was prevalent also, and there were many more character flaws. They had affairs with human beings also. These ancients made their gods in man's own image. We can think of the evolutionary theory and specifically of the Piltdown man, if we wish to think of fables (as used in the KJV) in our contemporary understanding of the term. The textbooks on evolution have included this fable, and they know (they don't just think it could be) of a certainty that this was a hoax. It should have been relegated to Aesop's fables. It is covered in "science" although a hoax, since evolution has no proven evidence to recommend it. Then today, we find another form in our science fiction stories in books, on television, and in movies. Remember Star Wars? I didn't see it, because I don't go to movies but it was quite the rage. It was impossible to live without being aware of it. We're being indoctrinated into thinking there are wierd life forms on the planets. We thought there might be life on Mars until recently. It now seems evident that it is a dead planet. There has been no evidence that anything comparable to humanity exists anywhere in this universe, yet we're being indoctrinated into thinking there simply must be. Why? Is it not to discredit the Bible? Is it not to cause us to think in terms of myths, or fa-

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The Baptist Examiner Forum II

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT
THE BAPTIST EXAMINER—P.O. BOX 60--ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0063

How should a church deal with one who drinks alcoholic beverages?

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I am opposed to the sale and the use of alcoholic beverages in any form, whether it is sold in a legalized package store, cocktail lounge, super markets or bootleg. It has ruined the lives of many and destroyed and wrecked many marriages and homes.

The Bible is never silent on any force or evil which ruins men's souls, minds, bodies and influence. Many try to use the Bible, the miracle at Cana, where Christ attended a marriage ceremony and turned water into wine. Others try to defend their drinking by attacking those who use pure wine in the Lord's Supper.

These all have their place, but never give anyone an excuse for social drinking using alcohol as a beverage. Drunkenness caused Noah's sin after the flood and brought a curse upon one of his sons. Drunkenness brought moral disgrace to Lot and his daughters. Drunkenness spelled the doom of Belshazzar and caused him to see the handwriting on the wall.

The Bible teaches that it is wrong, sinful, and immoral to drink alcohol as a beverage or to deal in it as a business.

Proverbs 20:1 says, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Proverbs 23:21 says, "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags." Verse 29 says, "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? What about those who sell this filth? What about those who can not drink alone but must have someone else to drink with them? Habakkuk 2:15 says, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!"

How should a church deal with one who drinks alcoholic beverages? You would deal with him as you would deal with one who commits adultery or kills someone. What! One may say, "Do you mean one who drinks is as bad as these mentioned?" Sure, sin is sin, and I have showed you that it is a sin to drink. God does not grade sin. There are no big sins or little sins with God. Sin is sin. One who has been caught in the act of drinking should be brought before the church and warned that, if he continues to practice this, he will be excluded from the church.

The procedure for enforcement of church discipline is unchangeable.

It is to remain constant whatever offense is committed against the body. The procedure for dealing with one that trespasses (sins) was outlined by Jesus while He was here on earth. There are three steps to be followed in any area of trespass. "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." (Matt 18:15-17). The question that is being raised here is the drinking of alcoholic beverages.

Although the word alcohol is not mentioned in the Scriptures, there are numerous references to strong drink and drunkenness. The words that are closely used with strong drink are; "shall not drink", "do not drink", "drink not". We see then, that there are many admonitions against the use of strong drink in the Scriptures. The definition of strong drink is that which intoxicates, and one that is intoxicated is out of control. The world would tell us that such have a disease or a problem, when the proper definition is simply "sin". How is a person to deal with someone in this condition?

Many times an individual is aware, before anyone else, that another individual in the church is using alcohol. The church can only deal with those over whom it has authority. When this knowledge exists, it should not be told around to everyone else in the church, but the individual committing the trespass should be approached on a one to one basis by the person that has knowledge of the trespass. It is to be between these two people alone. The manner of approach in this situation must be with love and compassion, never with harsh feelings. We should never demand that a person comply, but instruct with reason. When this is done, the brother may be gained because he will hear you.

If it be that he will not hear a single brother, then it becomes necessary to approach the brother (or sister). He would then enlist

the assistance of one or two others, advising them alone of the situation. The one that has trespassed would then be approached again in the same manner as before, only this time with two or more witnesses. This is done to establish what is said by each one, and that the opportunity for error or misunderstanding is eliminated. If he will neglect to hear those two or three, the third step is to bring it before the church.

When it is brought before the church, and it must be, no matter how distressing it is, one of two things will happen. First, the offender will submit to the will of the body and will be restored and will cease the sinning. If this desired result happens, such an one should be restored immediately to the fellowship because he has repented and is to be forgiven. "Take heed to Yourself: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him." (Luke 17:3-4). But if he neglected to hear the church, he is to become as an outsider. He is to be excluded from the church.

The matter is not brought to an end by the exclusion of the offender. It is now time for the process of restoration to take place. From the beginning this situation should have been a matter of prayer, first, by the only one that knew, then the two or more, then the church. Many times the one that has been excluded is forgotten, but we are told to seek their restoration to fellowship. "BRETHREN, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (Gal 6:1).

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Proverbs 23:21, "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags..." Proverbs 20:1, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Proverbs 21:17, "...he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich."

I suppose the question has to do with the abuse of alcoholic beverages. The foregoing Scriptures should answer the question as to what to do about

one who drinks such.

The Bible teaches against the improper use of alcoholic beverages. There is no Scripture against the proper use of wine. If it is used as Paul gave instructions to Timothy; if it is used as the good Samaritan did on the man who fell among thieves, when traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, and they stripped him and left him half dead; and when we use wine in the Lord's supper to represent the blood of Christ.

It is the abuse of wine and not the use of it that is a sin. If a person is given to wine or strong drink and such continues this improper use of alcoholic beverages, then one should be dealt with accordingly. I take it that the question means to continue at the bottle. The expression in I Timothy 3:3, "Not given to wine..." means the habitual use of wine. When a person who is a member of the Lord's church drinks alcoholic beverages, as the strong liquors made in our country, and wines and beer; such should be reprimanded. If this act continues on, then it should be dealt with like any other offense.

Strong drink and the liquor traffic is a curse on our land. Alcohol, drugs and the gay rights will bring this nation down if allowed to continue. Continued public drunkenness ought to be classed with any other crime and a mandatory jail sentence imposed. A church should deal with drinking like they deal with any other wrong doing or sinful act.

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"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine" (Prov. 23:29, 30).

There is much evil associated with alcohol. The facts are self evident in our society today. Thousands are killed or maimed on our highways each year. Many innocent people lose their lives to the bottle. Murder, rape, and beatings, are committed by men under the influence of alcohol. Children are addicted to the use of alcohol, and to many it is a stepping stone to stronger and more destructive drugs. People do things under the influence of alcohol that they would never do in a sober state. Can anyone give a reason why alcohol should be used as a beverage? Paul said... "Abstain from all appearance of evil." Christians should abstain from the common use of alcohol as a beverage. When used on a regular basis it can become addictive. Alcohol takes control of them; it enslaves them. The church's responsibility is to teach the truth concerning the evils of alcohol; to take an active role in the community against the use and abuse of alcohol.

If a member opposes the stand the church takes against alcohol, the church should try to teach that member, if he will not hear them, and will not abstain from a common or regular use of alco-

hol, the church must discipline that member up to and including exclusion.

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bles? Perhaps it is to prepare humanity for the soon-coming time of great tribulation, so men will not recognize that the prophecies of Revelation are coming to pass, so they will think it is something caused by alien terrestrial creatures. This is the kind of thing "science" is preparing us for. If this is science, we need less of it and more good hard theology.

Humanism has attempted to generate "an Honest God" as Ingersoll would say before. In history class we studied the French Revolution. Some of you may remember studying it. Some of you may also recall the culminating feature of it, or the Reign of Terror. This was the purest form of humanism ever to gain control of a nation, and with disastrous results. They established their humanistic gods (and Ingersoll would've known all about it) that represented desirable human attributes. They were saying the human was the ultimate power in the universe and their only gods emanated from humanity. Now, if you can find a difference between this and atheism, just try to explain that distinction to me. Newsmen and historians will quickly tell us of failure of religious efforts, and they'll lump them all into one without distinction. Islamic fanatics are fundamentalists to them, so we're expected to be accountable for the Arminian, the Charismatic, the Islamic terrorist, and the Mormon. There is hardly any limit to our liability. The Christian is somehow to blame for anything that cannot be tagged to the humanist, and yet they don't seem to recall this event which might well be termed the darkest era in history. The Reign of Terror lays naked the very barest form of human nature. These French humanists were making gods of their best attributes and displaying their worst, yet it is only the Christian who will be accused of hypocrisy. These advocates of all that was good and decent killed each other (and all known opposition) off during the Reign of Terror. No foreign invader and no Christian assault was necessary to bring this travesty to a close. They accomplished it in their own bloody and ruthless fashion, claiming to be humanitarians. Ingersoll criticized Washington for failing to appeal to Robespierre for clemency for Paine (who escaped beheading, anyway), who had gotten involved in this farce. Washington, of course, did not; for why should a Christian beg one atheist to spare another atheist?

Now, I don't see much difference between a liberal politician and a liberal theologian. They will both ignore history, in case you may not have noticed. They will claim things have changed and what has happened in the past can no longer be our guide. They are wishing to let human desire reign supreme over experience. If you read of the French Revolution, and appreciate the signifi-

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DEMIGODS

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cance of it, you can appreciate just why they don't like to study history. History disproves their logic; but that isn't all, for it also displays the gigantic flaw of human character. It is a recorded example of the highly depraved basic nature of these ideological atheistic humanists, for this Reign of Terror was the result of their program. No other group had any voice in it. They couldn't even tolerate each other.

I would submit that anytime man has attempted to invent a god (whether it is an honest god, or a dishonest god), it will be recognizable. Man will find some measure of glory or credit for it. Man claims no credit for the God of the Bible and has no part in salvation. No, Mister Ingersoll, Man will not and indeed can not create a noble, or honest, god. Man can do no better than invent demigods and nongods.

WHY

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ing you our reasons as to why we are a separate people, as Baptists in the true sense of the word cannot be anything but a separate people.

I. We are a Baptist because Jesus, the head and founder of the church, was a Baptist. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Peter says this rock was Christ. Paul says, "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." If you will read Mark 1:9-11; Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-23, you will note how this Head and Founder, who is Jesus, became a Baptist. He came to John the Baptist and was baptized of him in Jordan. The Baptist name is of divine origin. It came from heaven. God gave it to John. It was given him because of the work God gave him to do. He was sent from God (John 1:6), and God called him the Baptist before he started preaching. "In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judaea" (Matt. 3:1). He is not called a Baptist because he was a baptizer. He was called the Baptist before he came to Jordan baptizing. God named him and commissioned him. The divine record shows that Jesus was baptized by this first Baptist preacher. This made Him a Baptist. And when John had baptized Jesus a voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." If God was well pleased with Jesus being a Baptist, surely He is well pleased with all the followers of Christ being Baptist.

II. The material out of which Jesus built His church was Baptist material. John the Baptist prepared the material for the organization of the church Jesus built.

True to his God-given commission and name, he was very careful about this material. He demanded that this material should bring forth fruit worthy of repentance. But some one will

say, "Did John baptize the material that went into the church that Jesus built?" Certainly. The prophet said that he would prepare it and in the fulfillment of this prophecy, he did prepare it. The next day after John had baptized Jesus, two of His disciples heard John's testimony concerning Christ. And one of these who heard the testimony was Andrew. And he found Peter. These, together with the other apostles, were baptized by John. And when one was to take the place of Judas, who by transgression had fallen from his bishopric, he must have been one who had been baptized by John the Baptist (Acts 1:22). These apostles whom John had baptized were the first set in the church. "God hath set some in the church, first apostles" (I Cor. 12:28). When were they set in the church? Turning to Luke, chapter 6, verses 12 to 16, we see Jesus going into a mountain to pray. And He continued all night in prayer to God. When it was day He called unto Him His disciples. Out of them He chose twelve, whom He also named apostles. These apostles according to divine record were baptized by John the Baptist. And being the first set in the church they became the first charter members of the first Baptist church in all the world. For if the foundation, head and founder of the church be a Baptist, and the material that went into it was Baptist material, what else could it be but a Baptist church? This took place in the days of the personal ministry of Jesus Christ here on earth. That leads to our third proposition.

III. We are a Baptist because the church which Jesus built, being a Baptist church, was set up by the Lord Jesus in the days of His personal ministry. It had everything in it described in the Bible that goes to make up a church. Eleven reasons for so believing:

1. The apostles were in it. We have just shown from I Corinthians 12:28 and Luke 6:12,16 that Christ set some in the church, first apostles after an all night of prayer to God, having called them out from among His disciples. The word "church-Ecclesia" means "called out."

2. Prophets and teachers were in this church during His personal ministry. For in I Corinthians 12:28, "God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

3. This church had an ordained ministry set up by the Lord Jesus during His personal ministry. It is stated in Mark 3:14, that He ordained twelve that they should be with Him and that He might send them forth to preach. Three things said in this Scripture:

- Ordained.
- That they might be with Him. Mind you, with Him!
- That He might send them forth to preach. All agree that a church should have some kind of ordination for their preachers. There is Jesus ordaining a ministry and sending them forth to preach the gospel.

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JUDGMENT

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God: For true and righteous are his judgments:

for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand."

Without knowing who this whore is, one can see that God is very displeased with her. Our Scripture text tells us that God not only acknowledges her as the whore that she is, but He says that she is a great whore. Not that she is great in stature but that her whoredoms are great. She is surely one with many a vile sin upon her to be spoken of the way she is mentioned in the Word of God. Also, it is interesting to note that there is much rejoicing going on when this whore is judged. In the third verse it says, "And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever." When this whore is judged, the Bible says that the saints of God will rejoice over her judgment. Now beloved it is obvious that this old whore has given God's people a lot of trouble and has been one who has tried the patience of God.

The identity of this whore is easily found with very little research required. As most whores, this great whore has not been ashamed of her whoredoms. This great whore has, from her beginning, proudly proclaimed her immodesty and has not tried to hide it. Now, of course, we are not speaking of one woman. One woman could not have done all that this whore has done. We are speaking of a corrupt, vile, filthy, whorish organization; instituted by the devil in order to corrupt the earth. The identity of the great whore is the Roman Catholic Church. This church fits every description given in the Bible connected with the great whore. She is full of idolatry, fornication, corruption; and surely she has persecuted the saints of God. In all of her years she has not tried to hide the actions she has taken against the people of God. In all of her years she has continued to worship idol gods. In all of her years she has played the principle part in the corruption of the earth. Yes, beloved, the identity of the great whore is known to God and to the people of God.

This 19th chapter tells us of two female characters. One of course is this whore, and the other is a virgin bride. One is a whore, and the other pure. One is hated by God, and the other loved. One is blessed of God, and the other damned. One is corrupt, and the other righteous. Certainly there is a great deal of difference between the two. Surely, one can see that God sees a big difference between the two. Let me explain the difference between the two. God in His sovereignty and by His eternal decree established the proper way to serve and worship Him in this age. When Jesus was here in the flesh He established a church. No longer was He to be served in the temple, but in the church that He started. From that one church at Jerusalem have come all true churches that are in existence today. All true churches can be traced back to that church. It is also a proven fact that only Baptist churches can be traced back to Jerusalem. If you will read your Bible you will find that there were no arguments about which church was the right church. When people were saved they did not have to make a decision what church they would

join. Beloved, there was but one, the Baptists. They did not have to decide which mode of baptism was correct, there was but one, total immersion and that by the Baptists. Bible characters had no problem about the church. There was only one and it was the Lord's, they knew that, and they gladly wanted to serve Him there as was commanded. The 8th and 9th verses of chapter 19 tell us of those who were in Baptist churches, and it is these who are the bride spoken of in these verses. Listen, "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." God will reward and bless those who serve Him the proper way.

Now, this whore mentioned in this chapter seems to stand in total opposition to Baptist churches. We hear people say that

it doesn't matter what church you are in, that God is in all churches, and that it doesn't matter to Him. If you think that, maybe you better read and read and read this chapter again. It does matter. The Lord's true churches are espoused virgins to the Lord Jesus Christ. They are pure and undefiled. Baptist churches are the only churches that can make that claim. As I said, Jesus started His church; and the devil started the Catholic church. She never came into existence for several hundred years after Jesus started His true church. This makes her impure, and defiled by the hands of the devil and men. Listen, anything that man starts is corrupt. It always has been. Corrupt men do corrupt things. But when God institutes something it is uncorrupt. His true churches have remained undefiled for that very reason. Not because Baptists are above sin; I assure you that we are not, but because Jesus is our head and founder, we make this claim. So, with this established fact, that the great whore is the

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GOD'S MIGHTY POWER MANIFESTED IN NATURE (Psa. 19:1)

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Who is man to question God's ways,
Doing all things, just as He wills:
What mighty power our God displays
In ocean, desert and lofty hills.

When we look up, we see this power,
The earth beneath, his glory shows,
His work is manifest, hour by hour,
To Thee, O God, our heart o'erflows.

In the Springtime new life appears,
With awe, what beauty we may behold:
Sure, all things to His will adhere,
'Tis by His power alone, we're told.

In Summer, He sends the sun and rain,
Seedtime and harvest of golden grain,
And as we behold, plant-life mature:
'Tis our Father's doing, we are sure.

In Autumn, leaves on all the trees
In diverse colors, our forests glow:
Await the frost and Autumn breeze
To bring them down to earth below.

Arrival of Winter brings the snow,
The symbol of purity, as we may read:
The seasons come and the seasons go:
All sent by God, for our every need.

All work of nature, great 'tis true,
Our spiritual need, cannot give:
It took Jesus' blood for me, for you,
Then for His glory, may we ever live.

We have a Living Saviour today
Who for our sins, doth intercede.
The One who is not too far away
To know, and meet our every need.

'Twas by God's power that He arose
From the rich man's tomb that day,
Victorious over death and His foes,
Regardless of what the critics say.

Claude H. Creech

PLAIN PROPHECIES FOR PLAIN PEOPLE THE TRIBULATION PART TWO

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

The Tribulation Period is also going to be characterized by the cruel reign of the beast. When I say the cruel reign of the beast, I can't begin to emphasize it sufficiently. Listen: "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power" (Rev. 13:1, 2).

This is the beast, the man of sin, that is spoken of elsewhere in the Word of God. It is the Anti-Christ, and God refers to him as a beast. Notice the beasts that are used to describe him: a leopard, a bear, and a lion. A leopard is the most blood-thirsty of all beasts. A bear has big feet. This is always indicative of an indomitable will. A lion, which is a ravenous beast. Could God have used three greater description words than the words that He used to describe this Anti-Christ - a leopard, a bear, and a lion? No wonder it says that he gets his power from the devil.

Notice again: "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" (Rev. 13:4). I say to you, one of the horrors of this period will be the cruel reign of the beast, for the Anti-Christ is going to control this world.

Some place today, there may be a mother rocking her babe, and she looks down into a seemingly innocent face. It could be that that babe will one day be the Anti-Christ. It could be that the Anti-Christ is already grown. He may be a statesman or a politician now. I don't know when the day is coming, but I know this, that there is going to be a tribulation period, and someday that which was once a little innocent babe in his mother's arms, is going to become the beast that is going to control the world for seven years time. This is the second outstanding horror of the Tribulation Period.

Another characteristic of the horrors of this Tribulation Period is the active interposition of Satan, who gives his power unto the beast: Listen: "and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority" (Rev. 13:2).

Where does the Anti-Christ get all of his power? Beloved, there is just one of two places you get power; you either get power from the Devil or from God. The Anti-Christ doesn't get it from God, but he gets it from the dragon, which is the Devil.

I say, then, that the third outstanding characteristic or horror of this period is the active interposition of Satan, in that he gives his power unto the Anti-Christ.

He has the power to give. Did he not take Jesus Christ one day and say to Him, "If you will just worship me, I will save you from Calvary. If you will fall down

and worship me, I will give you all the kingdoms of the world and the glory thereof?" I think in that day the devil showed Jesus the glory of the United States, France, Belgium, Germany, Russia, England, and all the nations of the world. He said, "You look down the avenue of time and you will see the glory of these countries, and all you have to do is to fall down and worship me, and I will give you the glory of these lands." He had the power to give, for he is the god of this world. He has this world in his control today, and someday, he is going to give to the Anti-Christ



John R. Gilpin, Sr.

his power, his seat (his throne), and his great authority.

The fourth horror of this period is the unprecedented activity on the part of demons. The Bible makes it clear that there is one devil and under him are many demons. In the tribulation period, we are going to have unprecedented activity on the part of demons. Listen: "And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit" (Rev. 9:2). "And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon" (Rev. 9:11).

What does this tell us? It tells us that when this bottomless pit, or hell itself, is opened, there comes out into this world a crowd that is nothing else but the demons of hell, with a king over them, who is called Abaddon or Apollyon.

We think we are having a hard time now, beloved. We think so far as God's people are concerned, this old world is having a hard time today, but it is nothing like it is going to be when this world is overrun by demons. Can you imagine a world that is ruled by a beast, who gets his power from the devil - a world that has activity from the demons like the world has never had before? Talk about horrors; it is in store for this world.

Every once in a while, I'll read in the paper about a horror show that the movies are putting on. I never did see a horror show. I don't know what it is like, for I don't go to the movies, and I don't watch them on television. The fact of the matter is, I don't know what a horror show is. However, I tell you, if you want to see a horror show that is really a horror show, you wait until the tribulation period when the world is given over to consternation and fear at the prospect of God's wrath, when the world is ruled by a beast who gets his power from

the devil, and when the demons of hell overrun this world. Talk about a horror show, you have it coming.

Another outstanding horror of this period is the terrible vial judgments that are spoken of in Revelation 16. In this book of Revelation, the seals (Rev. 6) are opened and judgment falls upon the earth as a result of the breaking of the seals. Then the seven trumpets (Rev. 8) are blown, and seven woes fall on the earth. Then in Revelation 16, there are seven vials, or bowls of God's wrath that are poured out upon the earth. We read: "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your way, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth" (Rev. 16:1).

Talk about a horrible experience, can you imagine anything quite as horrible as this? God gives to the seven angels the commission that they are each to take a bowl of difficulty, hardship, troubles, and woes and pour them out, one by one, upon the earth.

Let's notice some of these vials or bowls: "And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image" (Rev. 16:2). "And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea" (Rev. 16:3).

What is the blood of a dead man like? It is not like your blood. You are alive; your blood is flowing. Your blood is liquid. What is the blood of a dead man like? Take a body that has not as yet been embalmed and you can see the blood settling in the veins and arteries. What is happening? The blood is coagulating. It is in a gelatinous state. When this second bowl of God's wrath is poured out upon the sea, the sea turns into a gelatinous state, and every soul within the sea dies. It was bad enough when the first angel poured out his vial upon the earth and there was a grievous and noisome sore upon the men, but now, this is on the sea.

Let's notice another one of these vials: "And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory" (Rev. 16:8, 9).

The first angel poured out his vial on the earth, the second angel on the sea, the third angel poured his on the rivers and fountains of water on the earth, but the fourth angel poured his vial on the sun. What is the effect? Men are scorched with fire.

I think the hottest day I ever saw was when the temperature was 117 degrees F. It seemed to me that I was scorching. As I walked along a street in a western city, the pavement burned my feet, and the heat came up into

my face to the extent that I thought I was being scorched alive. Beloved, that is nothing to compare with what is going to take place when God has the angel to pour out this vial of His wrath upon the earth, to the extent that men are scorched with heat; yet they curse and blaspheme the God that has sent the plague.

People talk about an individual going to purgatory and suffering a little while, and as a result of his suffering, he pays for his sins, and gets out. Beloved, don't let anybody tell you anything like that, because men don't turn to God as a result of suffering. Rather, men suffer and go on cursing and blaspheming God.

Let's notice the fifth angel: "And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain" (Rev. 16:10).

I have seen that take place. I have seen individuals so painfully sick that their tongues had to be fastened to keep them from gnawing their tongues in pain. I have visited much in the hospitals, and I have seen all kinds of sickness, disease, and suffering. I have seen people suffer until it seemed that the demons of hell were parked on the very footboard of the bed, just ready to pick up the soul. I have seen people suffer greatly. I think the greatest suffering that I have ever seen is when an individual is in such pain that they have to fasten his tongue to keep him from gnawing his tongue in pain. God says that the world is going to be exactly like that, in the tribulation period.

Notice again: "And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague there was exceeding great" (Rev. 16:17-21).

Notice when this last bowl of God's wrath is poured out, there is an earthquake. Every once in a while we hear about an earthquake. They had one up in Alaska some years ago which caused a lot of difficulty. Out in San Francisco several years ago, the editor of the leading paper in that city said that nothing could hold back the city of San Francisco. The next day, God sent an earthquake and leveled much of it to

the ground. Though these earthquakes were bad, we have never heard of an earthquake like this one spoken of in Revelation 16, an earthquake so mighty and so great that the Word of God says the cities of the nations fell. Can you imagine the trouble that is going to be in Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles? Can you imagine the trouble that is going to be in Paris, Berlin, London and in all the capital cities of the world? Can you imagine the trouble that is going to take place when the cities of the nations fall?

I have stood in Mexico City and looked at those buildings that are standing in an unlevel position. You can see many large buildings in Mexico City that are standing at an angle. Mexico City was built as a result of the draining of a lake, and the filling in of the city was built on that kind of a foundation. As I have looked at those buildings, I have felt that I was not any too safe there, that the whole city was liable to cave in, or start falling. Someday, beloved, I am not going to be here in this world, or in Mexico City, or Chicago, or New York, or Paris, but all the cities of the world are going to be thrown into consternation, with the cities falling, when God is going to send hail stones out of heaven weighing about 125 pounds. As I say, beloved, this is one of the horrors of this period.

Another horror is that the false churches are going to be destroyed, as recorded in Revelation 17 and 18. People ask me every once in a while when the old whore and her harlot daughters are going to be destroyed - when is Roman Catholicism and the Protestant churches that have come out of Rome going to be destroyed. I'll tell you when: right here in this tribulation period. God is going to see that the Anti-Christ puts an end to the false churches. He is going to destroy them with a man who is a child of the devil, and who gets his power from the devil. The devil's crowd in the churches, the devil's churches themselves, and the devil's preachers are all going to be destroyed by an individual who gets his power from the devil - the Anti-Christ himself. That is going to be one of the horrors of this period.

Notice another verse which describes the horrors of this period: "And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them" (Rev. 9:6). Can you think of anything any worse than that a man desires to die and death will flee from him; he seeks after death, and there is no way for him to die? I tell you, beloved, these are some of the horrors of the Tribulation Period.

IV. Will There Be Any Saved During This period? God's Word tells us there will be people saved during the tribulation period. Listen: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding

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PLAIN

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the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel" (Rev. 7:1-4).

Will there be anybody saved? Beloved, God is going to have some elect in that period of time. God is going to have some elect in this tribulation period, and He is going to say, "Don't you hurt this earth, but hold back until I seal those that are mine." I tell you, beloved, if necessary, God will stop the tribulation period long enough to get His elect out of there.

I turn to God's Word and I read: "And all that the Father giveth me shall come to me" (John 6:37). When I read this, I say, "Thank you, Father, because I know there is not going to be one of your children go to hell." Beloved, He holds back all these plagues in order to seal a hundred forty four thousand Jews, besides a great multitude of Gentiles.

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9, 10). Notice, beloved, there is a multitude that no man can number, and what are they singing? They are singing "Salvation to our God." They are not praising the Pope. They are not praising any cardinal or bishop. They are not praising the waterhole. They are not praising anybody but the Lord.

Then we read: "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:14).

How are men saved during this period? Just exactly the same way that men are saved today - by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has never had but one way of salvation. He has never had but one plan of salvation. Even in the tribulation period, He'll save men just like He saved them today - by the blood of the Lamb.

Beloved, God will never save you on any other basis. Don't try to reform. Don't try to quit your meanness. Don't try to be a good boy or a good girl. Don't try to

do anything to be saved. Remember this: God has just one way to save people through all the ages, and that is by the blood of the Lamb. May God help you to realize the truth that Jesus Christ died for sinners, and may you trust Him and be saved.

May God bless you!

JUDGMENT

(Continued from Page 6)

Catholic church, let's notice her judgment.

Again, be reminded of the severity of her judgment. Oh, beloved, God will not let men get by with sin, and especially the sin of blasphemy. Men will mock God and use His holy name the way they do. God will remember it all dear friend, and then there will be a pay day. God is going to have a day when sinners will stand before Him and be judged for every wicked deed. It is horrifying to think of our loved ones who are lost without Christ as they may face this judge one day. But, this whore will be severely judged. She will be judged for many reasons. And notice that our text said, "For true and righteous are his judgments." The whore will get all that she deserves, and all that she gets she will surely deserve.

One reason she will deserve judgment is her obsession with idol gods. The church at Rome has never been satisfied with Jesus Christ, and according to prophecy she never will be. She was never satisfied with the virgin born Son of God. She has looked elsewhere and to other gods for redemption. Many, many years ago God said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Ex. 20:3). But, Rome ignored that and sought after other gods. As I said, they were not satisfied with Jesus so they set up His mother Mary as deity and have her as an intercessor between man and God. Yes, they are so foolish to think that they may gain access to the throne of grace through Mary. But, this too, is in conflict with God's Word. For the Bible says, "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." No man can go to the Father except he go through the Son. When they say they commune with Mary, they lie. She does not speak to them nor does she appear unto them. Now, knowing a little, very little, about demons I'm not saying that someone or something does not manifest itself to men from time to time, but I assure you Mary has never visited anyone since she has gone to heaven. They not only worship Mary, but they worship and pray to many of the departed saints. They have different saints that they pray to for different needs. Oh how foolish to pray to one who does not hear. I thank God that I can pray to Jesus, and He will answer and hear my prayers. Our prayers do not fall on deaf ears if we go through the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 4:15-16 says, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Thus,

when she stands before God she must answer as to why she sought after other gods and was not satisfied with the true and living God.

She will have to answer for recognizing the Pope as her sovereign head. The whore and the pope commit a terrible blasphemy when they claim their leader is infallible. Beloved, they are giving him the attributes of God when they make this claim. They are dressing up a vile man whom God considers just a worm of the earth and pawing him off as one who cannot make a mistake. Yes, he sits on his throne in Rome, in his scarlet robe and his large head dress, claiming to be Christ's vicar on earth. The Catholic church will do whatever he says. They worship him as if he were a god. You have seen how they bow to him and how that it just thrills them to be able to touch him. They will kiss his ring and claim that they have been blessed from on high. He will kiss their babies and they believe their children have been blessed. All of this is total nonsense. I'll tell you friends, children would be better off if they never heard of the Catholic church and her leader, the Pope. The whole world would be a far better place to live in if there were no such church. Oh, what past Popes have learned and what the future ones will learn one day when they leave this world and stand before God. Brother Gilpin preached several sermons on Catholicism and each one is a classic. We have a book entitled, "Sermons on Catholicism." Every Christian should obtain a copy of this book as he goes into detail on the errors of this great whore. He has one in particular, "The death of the Pope and what he has learned." Yes, beloved the Pope's who have died have learned some startling facts about God.

The Whore will be judged for the doctrines that she teaches. She proclaims that salvation is obtained through baptismal regeneration. They claim all who do not have this are doomed for hell. Of course they claim too, that this is only obtained through Catholicism. In other words, you are a heathen if you are not of them. Their claim is that salvation comes through them, and that is the only way. Again, we see that among other traits this whore is one of the biggest liars there is. They even go so far as to say that babies who are not baptized go to hell when they die as infants. Again, we see the error and foolishness of her doctrine. Salvation comes by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." There is nothing here about a church or about baptism, or anything else. This verse speaks of faith in the finished work of Christ and that alone. The whore is leading thousands and thousands to the burning flames of hell with her hellish doctrine. Listen, if you are a Catholic, get out of her. Do not listen to her lies. If you believe them, you will go to hell. Don't have anything to do with her at all.

Another thing she will be judged for is her justification by works. She does not believe that Christ satisfied the justice of God on Calvary. She does not believe that what Jesus did was enough

to secure eternal redemption. She has devised many works that she claims can do what Jesus was unable to do. There is her teaching of confessing sins to a priest. Remember, the Bible said that there is only one intercessor between man and God, and He is Christ Jesus. Confessing to a priest will not do you any good. There can be no atonement made for you in this work. You must come to Christ to have your sins forgiven. You must come to Him in repentance and faith. You must come to Him as a sinner, and be washed in the blood of the Lamb. There is no value in the blood of sinners, and an earthly priest surely will do you no good. You must come through the Priest, Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:11-12 says, "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."

Another work she teaches is that of "hail Marys." They have this stupid doctrine that says when you sin, you can say hail Mary so many times and that sin will be taken care of. Now, I say stupid because I could not think of a better word to describe it. Beloved, there is only one thing that can cover sin and that is the blood of Christ. You try to cover sin with anything else and the stain of sin will show through. This old whore has many devices to cover sin, but none of them work. There is only one thing. The Bible says, "The blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin." You can say "hail Mary" until you are blue in the face, and it will not help you at all.

Then there is the sacrifice of the mass. They sacrifice Christ afresh daily. They claim that this also is a covering of sin, but they lie. There is no saving value in their mass. They will tell you to partake of it for the remission of sin. They will tell you that you are actually partaking of the blood of Christ. But not so beloved, The Bible says, in Hebrews 9:28, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Jesus died once, and that is all He will ever die. He suffered for sin once, and that is all that He will suffer. The Father was satisfied with the atonement, and there is nothing else left to pay. He died for the sins of His people; and they shall all, one day, be eternally saved.

Another doctrine they teach is that of purgatory. They claim this to be a holding place that some go to who were not quite good enough to make it to heaven. They lie again. There is no such place. When you leave this world you either go to heaven or to hell. And when you go to hell you stay there. There is no leaving. Hell is a "forever" place. This whore has invented this place so that she can rob and steal from those so ignorant as to believe her teaching. She teaches that you buy your loved ones out of this place. Oh, what a monster she is to use people this way. Yes, this old whore has many doctrines, and all of them damnable. Any truth that she does have she uses it in a false way turning the truth of salvation into a lie.

Another thing she will be judged for is being the mother of all those harlot daughters. You know what happens when a whore is active don't you. There will be offspring. And my how many daughters this old whore has. Beloved, every thing that is Protestant is an offspring of the old whore. Yes, that's right. You trace your history back, and you will find that you have a whore for a mama. Where did you think that all of these churches came from? They were the result of whoredom. Our text told us that she corrupted the whole earth. Did you know that if it were not for the whore and her daughters, people would go to the church that Jesus started. If it were not for the whore and her harlots, people would give their tithe in a Baptist church where they ought. Yes, there is much corruption, and it all falls back to this whore. She started it all.

She will be judged for her persecution of the people of God. She has always hated the saints of God. I don't know why they like to worship departed saints when they hate the ones on earth. They like to worship Peter as their first Pope, but if any of them had opportunity to be around him for one hour they would hate him too. This old whore is one of, if not the most, murderous organization there ever was. She has put to death countless thousands who have opposed her. She has used every imaginable means of death and torture in her rage and fury against the saints of God. Read, sometime "Fox's book of Martyrs." You will be horrified at the things they have done to godly people in days gone by. I have no doubt she would still do so in this country if she had half a chance. Yes, her judgment will be great on that day. The wrath of God is building up against her and will soon be released.

The world is fascinated by her as she sits arrayed in all of her pomp and vain glory, but don't you be. Don't wonder at her, but see her as she is: a great whore. She is arrayed in seductive clothing, as a whore usually is, but you turn away from her. Have nothing to do with her. She is dangerous and full of wickedness.

HOLINESS

(Continued from Page 1)

63:15 speaks of "the habitation of thy holiness." Jeremiah 23:9 speaks of "the words of his holiness."

I believe, without any doubt, that God is holy, that no one can approach the thrice-holy God outside of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can not exercise and exert holiness if we don't have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is true holiness? Some people call it practical holiness. First and foremost, a man must be in Christ Jesus. This is the beginning of holiness. A man outside of Jesus Christ is destitute of any righteousness, privileges, or any right concerning God.

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph. 1:4, 5).

(Continued on Page 9 Column 1)

HOLINESS

(Continued from Page 8)

We see here that Paul is writing to the church at Ephesus. He is telling the believers of their standing in Christ Jesus before God, that God had chosen them in Christ Jesus and that holiness is the object and design of their eternal election. Election doesn't save anybody. Election simply means that before the foundation of the world, God chose you to salvation in Jesus Christ. This is called election. This gives you an assurance of your eternal salvation and of your effectual calling of God unto this eternal bliss. Paul is saying to the believers at Ephesus that God had chosen them in His design of eternal election. "That we should be holy and without blame, before him in love." This is the sole design of God's election. God is going to carry this out. God is going to perform this. God has designed this for them that He chose before the foundation of the world.

God has demanded and decreed that we would be holy. God has decreed that we will be holy, and that we will be without blame before Him that is, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul is not telling the believers here that they have to do something that they may earn this holiness, that they may do something that they may stand without blame before God. No, God is going to give us this holiness. God is going to receive us without blame. He is going to receive us as a justified person in His sight in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. The beginning of holiness, the beginning of any privilege, and any right concerning a thrice-Holy God must be in the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17). We are a new creation in Christ Jesus, just like when God spake the world into existence. God in His creative power and in His wisdom, created and empowered. He brought forth life, He brought forth creation out of nothing. Our beginning is in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not in the beginning of our own wisdom, strength, or our own knowledge. It has to begin in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:24). That you put on the new man. Paul puts it in simple language, as if a person would put on a clean garment. You take off the dirty garment and put on the new garment. This is done by the renewing of your mind by the power of the Holy Spirit because you are a new creation in Christ Jesus. God has empowered you. He has given you knowledge and understanding. He has given you the gift of repentance. He has given you faith to believe and trust in the crucified Saviour for eternal salvation. You are a new man which God has created in righteousness and true holiness. We were created by the power of God. Adam was created by God in true righteousness and true holiness. God made us in the image and likeness of Himself. Every person that is born into this world is under the moral law of God. They have a moral obligation to God to keep the moral laws of Almighty God, the Ten

Commandments. The natural man is unable to do that, so God created man anew in true righteousness and true holiness.

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds. And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" (Col. 3:9-10). "...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (II Cor. 5:17). God chose us in Christ and makes us a new man, a new creature. We have come to Christ. You have to receive Christ through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. God gives you faith to believe and to receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. If you are saved, you have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him. God is restoring to us what we lost in Adam, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must understand and realize that we all died in Adam. All the elect are made alive in Christ. Adam was our representative before God. He disobeyed God. He sinned and fell from the estate in which God created him in true righteousness and holiness. He lost his fellowship with Almighty God.

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness" (Col. 3:12-14).

We can exercise this holiness that God gave us in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. God said we will be holy and without blame before Him. This holiness is in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is not in us. It is not something we do to make ourselves holy. It isn't going to an altar, and praying that we might receive the Holy Ghost and tongues. He is the Holy Spirit, not the Holy Ghost. God is not a ghost. If you say that, then God is dead; and you are bringing Him back as a ghost. That is almost blasphemy in the sight of Almighty God. God is not dead, God is living. He is a true and living God, and He will live forever. You don't do it by the way you dress, the way you talk, and the way that you are living. This is not the exercise of holiness. You can't work out this holiness. This holiness is in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have Christ, you have God's holiness. If you don't have Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you don't have holiness. I don't care how many times you go to an altar and pray. I don't care how many times you get on your knees anywhere and pray. The Holy Spirit comes into your heart and soul. He saves you and makes you a child of God. He empowers you that you might live this life of holiness.

"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication" (I Thess. 4:3). This word "sanctification" means holy. The Bible says this is the will of God. This is His direct will. His will that is revealed in the infallible Word of God that we might be able to keep His will and

know what God would have us to do. This is His will revealed in His counsel that He established before the foundations of the world.

"That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour" (I Thess. 4:4). That word "vessel" in this scripture means your body: the life that you have in the flesh upon this earth. Christ dwells in your heart by the power of the Holy Spirit. You are sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption. You became a new creation through regeneration. The work of sanctification empowers and strengthens the new nature which was given to you through regeneration until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of glory.

God didn't leave us in the dark about it. He has told us how we can exercise this holiness in our life. I believe in holy living. I believe that we are exercising this holiness that God gave to us at regeneration. We don't receive it any other way. We receive it by receiving Jesus Christ through faith.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (I Thess. 4:7). This is your effectual call from God, your call by the power of the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit. How does God save His people today? He saves his people today by the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit uses this and enables people to come to Christ. Why? Because a man outside of Jesus Christ is spiritually dead. He needs to be quickened and made alive unto God. A dead man can't do anything. To work out your own holiness or your own salvation: you could just as easily create a world, or you could just as easily raise a dead body. Man doesn't have that kind of power. I don't believe in free-willism. I believe God did it all. God bestows salvation upon hell-deserving sinners. We don't deserve anything. We turned our back on the Almighty God. We despised and hated God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We went on for years, and lived in filthiness of sin and the flesh. We didn't want to be told of our sin. We didn't want to be told how we were living. We were living after the lusts of the flesh. If you are saved, there came a time in your life when you were tired of sin and this kind of living and you wanted to live holy unto God. You wanted to be holy before Almighty God. The gospel of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, whispered in your heart and soul and made you realize that He died and shed his precious blood upon the cross of Calvary for you, and that He rose again from the dead.

Are we holy? Shall we see the Lord? We must answer these two questions. We must look further and deeper into the Word of God. I believe in this message that I proved beyond any doubt that God is holy. I believe I have proved how we receive this holiness and where it comes from. I believe I have proved that we receive it in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ by the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit. I

believe I have proved to you that you could never work out this holiness. God is the author of our eternal salvation. We can't come into the presence of God unless we are clothed upon with that righteousness imputed to us from the Lord Jesus Christ. We must come to Jesus Christ. God said we would be holy and without blame before Him.

We will continue to discuss this and other wonderful points of God's infallible Word in the second part of this series.

TESTIMONY

(Continued from Page 1)

too. Also, at the age of 13 I ran away from home. I went to the beach where my family had friends. Just as soon as I got there they called my parents without my knowing of the phone call. My parents came to get me to take me home, but I told them that I was happy where I was. That was a lie. I was not happy at all. I missed my family very much. The next day after my parents drove back home, I decided that I wanted to go home, so I took a bus home.

I was married at a very young age of 16, and my wife was only 14 years old. That was another mistake of mine.

I joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 18. In the Navy my drinking habit grew fast, becoming an all day part of my life. At first, I had a hard time adjusting to the Navy. I thought I could take a leave anytime I so desired. The last year and a half I was in the service I did well.

At the age of 22, I was introduced to cocaine. Another drug that I was hooked on as soon as I started. I found out very soon that the cocaine habit would cost me a large amount of money. That's when I started shooting pool to make money to support my two habits. I found that I couldn't make enough on the pool tables. So, I then started stealing cars and selling them. Also I would call my family and borrow money from them. I would borrow money from every person I could.

I loved my daddy very much; and when he was killed in an auto wreck, it made things worse for me. I would go places all over the United States without letting my family know where I was. Most of the time my family didn't know if I was dead or alive. I know they lay awake many nights worrying about me. I'm just so thankful that they didn't stop praying for me.

In 1976 I was placed in prison in North Carolina for stealing and selling my second ex-wife's car. The judge gave me one year in prison. I spent 8 months and 17 days in the prison. As soon as I got out, I started traveling again. I would sometimes get a job, but I could never hold a job.

In 1978 I was arrested for running a stolen car ring in Texas. I would steal the cars in Texas and sell them in Arizona. This time I was given 4 years in the federal prison system. I was paroled in 1980. In 1981, just a few months later, I was arrested in Texas and sent back to prison. I spent the rest of my time of this sentence in prison except 9 days. I spent the last 45 days in maximum security. After my release I was married again to a good woman. I'm ashamed to say that I have been married 7 times.

Each time I was married it wouldn't be long until I was back

to traveling again. All my wives were good women, but not Christians.

Finally, on June 26, 1986 I was drinking and on cocaine. I took another human being's life. For 5 days I traveled from Montana to El Paso, Texas. Those 5 days I could not eat or sleep. I still don't know how I stayed alive those five days. In El Paso I was driving a stolen pickup truck and was stopped for speeding. I was doing 91 mph. in a 55 mph. zone. I intended to hit the next bridge and kill myself. When the patrolman stopped me, I pulled over to the side of the highway and got into his car. At that time I told him that I had to tell him something and I confessed to what I had done. I could not live with myself any longer. That was on July 2, 1986.

On July 7, 1986 the sheriff, Wade VanGilder and his deputy, Dan Foley came to pick me up in Texas to transport me back to Superior, Montana, where I would face the charges of murder and felony theft.

At the airport, Brother Dan Foley started telling me about Jesus. He continued to do so on the plane to Missoula, Montana. Before we got off the plane I was asking to see and talk with a preacher. Wade and Brother Dan both asked several preachers to come to the jail to talk with me about Jesus. On July 28, 1986 a young preacher came to visit me. He told me how Jesus died, and how He was willing to forgive me of all my sins. Brother Dan had brought his own personal Bible for me to read the day I was placed in jail in Superior, Montana. I had been reading

God's Word ever day before I saw the preacher. That day, July 28, 1986 I confessed my sins to our Lord Jesus Christ and asked Him to forgive me of my sins. That very moment Jesus forgave me. I prayed that God would give me the Wisdom and knowledge to read and study His Holy Word, to have the understanding and the true meaning of His Holy Word.

On January 14, 1987 I was in the jail by myself. That day the Lord called me to carry His Word and minister to others. Every man that was located in jail was told about Jesus.

On January 28, 1987 I went into the courtroom and pleaded guilty to the charges against me. I was sentenced on May 6, 1987. My mother and my oldest sister, both Christians, came to Superior from North Carolina for my sentencing. When they arrived they saw the big change in me. When I would be with them, I would have my Bible. We would talk about the Lord and His Holy Word. They would come to the jail, and they would visit with me for hours. Sometimes I would be locked in a cell if the sheriff wasn't there. They would set outside the door of the cell and visit with me. I'm so thankful to the Lord for making it possible for my mother and sister to be there with me on my sentencing day.

The judge gave me 50 years, and to be eligible for parole in 17 1/2 years. As I was walking out of the courthouse going back to the jail, I praised the Lord for the 50 years the judge had just given me. To this day March 23, 1988

(Continued on Page 10 Column 1)

The praise of God is the choicest sacrifice and worship under a dispensation of redeeming grace; this is the prime and eternal part of worship under the gospel.

TESTIMONY

(Continued from Page 9)

I still praise God for my 50 years sentence here in prison.

I arrived here at the prison on May 7, 1987. While I was in the reception unit, the other men would ask me how much time I got. I would tell them 50 years. They would then ask me what I was smiling so big all the time for. I would tell them that I have Jesus and He allows me to smile, because I am living in His light. Then I would witness to those men for the Lord.

After two weeks in there, I was placed in Close Unit One. This is on the high security side of the prison. The Lord has richly blessed me here. The Lord has given me the words to witness to many men here. We have chapel services for the Lord here daily. We have a good Chaplain also.

The Lord has blessed me with born-again brothers and sisters that come from Superior to visit with me. Brother Bill Arnold and his wife, Sister Cora, come to visit with me once a month. Brother Bill came to visit me daily while I was in jail, and sometimes two times a day.

Since I have been here in the prison the Lord has richly blessed me daily in so many ways. The Lord has answered so many prayers for me. Also the Lord has blessed me with a tape ministry for Him. At this time the warden has put the tape ministry on hold. This is putting the Lord Jesus Christ on hold. Please do pray for the tape ministry. The Lord truly blesses me in His Holy Word daily as I study His Word. He has blessed me with a job in the kitchen here in the prison. I'm blessed by the Lord each day here. I'm so very thankful to be a child of God. I'm thankful to the Lord for sending the Holy Spirit to dwell inside me every moment. I'm thankful to the Lord for blessing me with the Baptist Examiner every two weeks. Also, thanks to my uncle Herbert and Aunt Sadie Cole for paying for my years subscription to the Baptist Examiner. I do want to thank Brother Joe Wilson and all the other ministers that teach in the Baptist Examiner. Keep teaching the truth, the Word of God.

My prayers are that all my brothers and sisters in the Lord will be blessed by the Lord through my testimony for our dear Lord Jesus Christ.

If a sinner should read my testimony, I ask you to please seek to hear the Word of God, and humble yourself down to the Lord Jesus Christ and ask for forgiveness of your sins and turn your life over to the Lord.

Brothers and Sisters, each day we should pray for sinners that God will open their eyes to our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are to love one another, and pray for one another daily. Please do pray for me.

Thank you Lord for saving my soul from hell. Thank you for dying on the cross of Calvary for my sins.

Thank you Jesus.

We have plenty of people about nowadays who could not kill a mouse without publishing it in the Gospel Gazette; but Samson killed a lion and said nothing about it. - C.H. Spurgeon.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
MAY 28, 1988
PAGE TEN

BOOK REVIEW

We have two new books in our book store. They are: "Classic Sermons on Prayer" and "Classic Sermons on Worship". They are compiled by Warren W. Wiersbe. They are paper back books of over 150 pages each. They sell for \$8.95 each.

Prayer and worship are certainly very important subjects that need to be studied, learned, preached, and practiced. The book on prayer contains fourteen sermons. These sermons are by fourteen different preachers. A few words are given about each preacher. These sermons should bless the heart, show some of the many blessings of prayer, give some hindrances to answered prayer, etc. Especially, these sermons should move the reader to be more faithful in prayer. Order from our book store. The profit stays in the book ministry.

The book on worship contains twelve sermons by ten different preachers. I do not know about others, but I know that I have sadly neglected this great subject. We need to know more about worship; what it is, and how to do it. I fear that "the morning worship service" is one of the great misnomers of all time. I am sure that one could learn more about worship from this book, and might be motivated to make worship more a part of his daily life. Again, order from our book store.

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Brother Wilson:

I am very pleased to renew my subscription for two years. Enclosed is my check for \$.... The articles I enjoy the most are those on the doctrines of grace and eschatology. Thank you for your faithful service to our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. Contending for the faith in the service of our Saviour. Royce W. Plyler. Houston, Tx.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Elder Rick Perdue of Taylorsville, N.C. will be preaching in a revival meeting at the Grace Baptist Church of Stanleyville, N.C. (Near Winston Salem). Services will be held June 8th-12th. The Sunday services will be held at 10:45 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Other services will be at 7:30 nightly. Grace Baptist Church is pastored by Elder Gene Kiger. Two fine preachers will be working together in this meeting. If you live in the area, you will be blessed by attending these services. Let all readers pray for this meeting. For further information, contact Elder Gene Kiger at (919) 377-9808.

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

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

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

BOOK REVIEW

We have a book in our book store. It is, "What Does The Bible Say About....?" It is by a Dr. Howard and a Lucile Sugden. It is a paper back of over 200 pages, and it sells for \$8.95. There are 226 questions answered in this book. Some of the answers are good, and some of them I would not agree with.

I am a little prejudiced against women authors of books on the Bible. It is difficult for me to dissect my belief that God does not call women to preach from women authoring or co-authoring books. This is therefore, in my mind, a mark against the book. I have looked through the book. Some of the answers to questions are good, spiritual, and informative. The book is divided into sections with usually several questions in each section or category. Order from our book store. The profit stays in the book ministry.

Dear Brethren:

Thank you for a splendid Baptist journal. I have received the Examiner for over thirty years. Hillary Howell Pheonix, Oregon

A LETTER AND ITS ANSWER

To whom it may concern:

I am asking that my name be dropped from your mailing list as I cannot agree with some of the teachings of the paper.

1. You, as its head, are disqualified by having two living women. I know you have justified yourself, but the Bible hasn't and you know you are wrong. You know better, shame on you and there are no excuses.

2. Tithing: that was part of the law and you know it, but that is the only way you perverters of the gospel can get your share of the money. It doesn't belong in the New Testament church. So tell the people the truth if you know it yourself. Shame! Shame! Anyone that can't separate that, how do they get out of bed in the morning? I don't know.

3. The subject on the head covering is typical of your way of distorting the truth so your ignorance won't show. You know the Bible says her hair is given for a covering not a hat or veil. Again I would be ashamed to teach something so far from the truth.

Also that article on the water changed the rocks; that fellow sure has a warped sense of the Word of God. He should do more studying and less talking.

Lastly, the answer you gave to the lady from Goose Creek, South Carolina was pretty self-righteous on your part. To suggest that any one that didn't agree with what you believe is wrong. That just goes to prove what I just said. You act like what you say is infallible, then you put the Pope and others down when you are as bad as they are.

God will bring you into judgment for all of these things you are trying to cover up to keep from saying you are wrong. There are some good articles in the paper, but why get something

when you have to spend so much time trying to sort out the bad.

May God help you see the wrong you are doing before He calls you out to face it all before Him.

.....Bronston, Ky.

Dear Brother

Of course, we will drop your name from our mailing list. It is sad that you do not want to receive the paper that God sent to you to show you some of the truths that you do not now believe. I wonder if He will send you some other means of learning the truth, or just leave you in your ignorance. Of course, you have the Bible, and if you would read it and believe it, you could learn the truth therefrom. The things we teach that you oppose are surely the teachings of Scripture.

Anyone who says that I have two living wives is a Scriptural ignoramus or a liar-take your pick as to which you are. The Bible clearly teaches that there is a Scriptural divorce. Divorce means to break the bond. The Bible teaches that the one who has a Scriptural divorce has a Scriptural right to remarry. There is not one word in all the Bible that would disqualify such a one from being a pastor. Shame, shame on you for your ignorance of the Bible and your lying on me.

Tithing was before the law, during the law, and is still in force after the law. It may well be that folk like you who ignore and pervert the Scripture are doing so to justify your stealing from the Lord. Shame on you for trying to make the Bible justify your robbery of God. How can you get out of bed and look in the mirror?

You are wrong on the head covering. Her hair is a covering, but not the covering that she is commanded to wear in I Corinthians 11:1-16. Why would God command a woman to wear her hair to church? You are so ignorant. I guess you also believe that a man is not to have

any hair on his head in church. That Scripture surely teaches that whatever a woman is to have on her head in the assembly, a man is not to have. So, I guess that all the men in your church are totally bald-headed. Shame on you for teaching something so far from the truth.

You are utterly foolish if you believe that the flood of Noah's day had no effect upon the rocks. I would have thought that anyone could understand that. That article was a great one.

I was very kind and gracious to the lady in Goose creek, South Carolina. I do believe that the truths taught in The Baptist Examiner are the truths of the Bible. Otherwise, I would not admit them into the paper. I have never claimed to be right on everything I believe. I know I am not infallible. The Word of God, and it only is infallible. I certainly know that my righteousness is the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. I do not claim to be righteous in myself, but I am made the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour.

Yes, I will stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ, and so will you. Thank God that I will not stand before the great white throne judgment, for that is only for the unsaved. I am ready to stand before Jesus Christ and give account of the things I have published in The Baptist Examiner, including this letter.

I am sorry that you are so very ignorant of the truths of God's Word. I sincerely hope that the Lord will bring you to know the wonderful, precious truths we teach in our paper. I praise God that I believe many are saved and in heaven, or will be, who do not here see these precious truths. Those who do not believe these truths will miss many blessings in this life and many rewards in heaven, but if they truly repent of sin and believe in Jesus Christ, they are saved with an everlasting salvation. I do trust that you are in that number.

Yours by free grace,
Joseph M. Wilson

Take me, O my father, take me;
Take me, save me, through thy Son;
That which thou wouldst have me, make me,
Let thy will in me be done,
Long from thee my footsteps straying,
Thorny proved the way I trod;
Weary come I now, and praying,
Take me to thy love, my God.

Fruitless years with grief recalling,
Humbly I confess my sin;
At thy feet, O Father, falling,
To thy household take me in.
Freely now to thee I proffer
This relenting heart of mine;
Freely life and soul I offer,
Gift unworthy love like thine.

Once the world's Redeemer, dying,
Bore our sins upon the tree;
On that sacrifice relying,
Now I look in hope to thee;
Father, take me; all forgiving,
Fold me to thy loving breast;
In thy love for ever living
I must be for ever blest.

Ray Palmer

The Baptist Examiner Forum

Apology by the editor. These three answers were in on time to appear with the other answers. It is my error that they did not so appear. I have asked the writers to forgive me. I appreciate so much their work, and am truly sorry for this error.



John Lenegar

A church votes to give her pastor a weekly salary. The church later asks him to resign, owing him part of this salary. Is the church expected to pay this unpaid salary?

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn, And, The labourer is worthy of his reward." (1 Timothy 5:17,18)

I believe that the answer to this question is generally, "yes". There could be an exception however, an agreement between the church and pastor should stand. Much would depend on the circumstances of the resignation and, depending upon feelings, some assemblies may feel that they are justified in not meeting their obligation. Many pastors depend heavily upon the agreed support of a church and to leave unfulfilled a support agreement, could in deed cause a great hardship for a pastor. Depending on the reason for asking for his resignation, a church may decide that they will not "pay another penny" for his support even though they may still owe him a week, or whatever was originally agreed. I might mention here that it is possible for a church to come to a place where they are behind in supporting their pastor, as happens more often than is thought, because of financial reverses, loss of members, or unforeseen, unavoidable expenses. Should a situation then arise where the church, for whatever reason, asks the pastor to resign it is only fair and right to recognize their obligation and pay him whatever is owed according to their agreement as soon as possible. If a pastor decided then to release the assembly from their obligation, well and good; but if he needs the support, and the assembly decides not to honor their agreement. I believe that this is wrong.

The action of the church is ultimately final and binding in her business affairs, but their action may not always be right and justified as men are fallible and sometimes they are influenced by the flesh and emotions to the point that their spiritual thinking is clouded. The pastor is worthy of the same principle that God stated in Leviticus 19:13 which says, "Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning." The pastor should be treated as all men are to be treated in financial dealings. It is my feeling that a

church should make a clear provision for some kind of procedure to meet a pastor's need in asking him to resign, unless some kind of major crime, or sin is involved; and even then a pastor's family should be considered in severing the pastor church relationship. In most cases an agreement for salary, or however the financial provision is administered, should be honored. That is to the benefit and honor of the church, and it certainly honors the Lord. It also exhibits to those round about the value of right Christian practise. We should be ever careful not to defraud one another in love and consideration, as well as the physical things of this life.



C.T. Everman

Comment on the use of wine in today's society? Does 1 Timothy 5:23 relate only to medical usage?

"Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities" (1 Tim. 5:23).

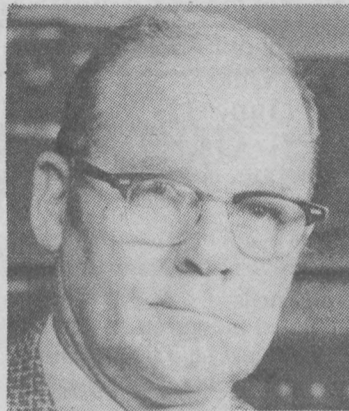
This verse is often quoted by those who attempt to justify their drinking of alcoholic drinks. It is certainly wrong to try to use this verse or any other verse in the

Scripture to try to justify drinking. It would seem that Timothy was troubled with some digestive disorder, and Paul wrote him to take a "little" wine for that trouble. The meaning is that Timothy, instead of totally abstaining from wine as a drink, which was one requirement of an elder (Titus 1:7), was to take a small amount of wine as a medicine.

"For thy stomach's sake" shows that it was not to be used for the pleasure obtained from the effect of the wine, but solely used for his health- only as a medicine. Instead of the passage giving the o.k. for the drinking of wine or other strong drink, it really is a passage against it. Timothy, it seems, was in the habit of drinking only water and he was advised to depart from this habit only in a small degree in order that his health might be improved. We must remember in that day there were not the many stomach remedies which we have today. Today, I am sure that Paul would have told Timothy to take some Maalox, Alka-Seltzer, Pepto-Bismol, or some other remedy.

As to the use of wine or any other alcoholic substance as a drink, the Scripture has forbidden its use. "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess: but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18). "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Prov.20:1). To use wine and other alcoholic drinks as medicine often leads to becoming a slave to it. J.H.Spencer in his book, "A History of Kentucky

Baptist" tells of much trouble in the early churches caused by drinking by the members. In fact, many of the ministers lives were ruined by drink. It seems that many of the churches, thinking to correct this problem, even went so far as to substitute grape juice for wine in the Lord's Supper thereby destroying the symbolic element for the sinless blood of Christ. Many of the churches have continued that practice until the present time.



David S. West

Who is the invitation of Revelation 3:20 for? What does it involve?

The mistaken idea of some is that backsliding is to fall from grace. That is to fall from that standing that one has in Christ and to again go out in the world and to live that sinful life again. To take part in the sinful things of the world and to be in the former state or standing in the relationship with God. This would be in that state where in the wrath of God was on them again. Should they not recover from this condition into which they had returned, or backslide, they would die lost. They would die without

the grace of God in their hearts, or without the righteousness of Christ. This is not the meaning of backsliding as set forth in the Word of God. Neither is it the teaching of God's Word, that a child of God can go away from God and never return again.

When Christ spoke of His crucifixion, He told His disciples how that they all would be scattered. Peter strongly affirmed that he would never deny Christ. Likewise so said the other disciples. Christ said that Peter would deny Him three times before the cock crew twice. Mark 14:30 "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice." Peter could not believe that he would do such a thing and even became very emphatic in his stand for Christ when the hour of trial would come. but deny Christ he did But let us remember that Christ said that He would pray for Peter that His faith fail not. Luke 22:32, "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not:..."

Let us also notice that Christ prays for all His saints. John 17:20, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;" And let us learn still further that the Father always hears the prayers of Christ. John 11:42. "And I knew that thou hearest me always:..."

Psalms 37:23-24, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he

(Continued on Page 12 Column 1)

WHY THE NAME "BAPTIST"?

By S.E. Anderson

The name "Baptist" is a scriptural name. It is found first of all in Matt. 3:1 which, like all Bible verses, is given by inspiration of God. John the Baptist is referred to immediately after "the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son Of God" (Mk. 1:1). In Luke, his story begins with verse five and in John with verse six. Thus the name Baptist stands at the very threshold of the New Testament.

The name of Christ's great forerunner is found no less than fourteen times in the New Testament. The more honored name "Christian" is found only three times, and two of these are apparently used with scorn. Strange as it may seem, the name Baptist is always used with evident respect.

John the Baptist won a great many converts to Christ. These were soundly converted, baptized and trained, even before Christ began His own brief ministry on earth. Thus when Christ called for disciples He found them already prepared for Him (Mt. 4:18-22; 9:9). We do not read that John's converts were called Baptists, for there were no denominations in those days, but they must have been Baptist, for they believed what John the Baptist preached, they accepted the Baptist's baptism, and they in turn won converts and baptized them. Moreover, Jesus Himself was baptized by John the Baptist and endorsed him with lavish praise.

Again, the name Baptist is a Christ-centered name. John baptized in order "to make Christ manifest" (Jn. 1:31). Since

Christ's greatest work on earth was His death, burial and resurrection on our behalf, John's baptism-immersion pointed clearly to the atonement. John pointed to Christ as the Lamb Of God which taketh away the sin of the world. John always pointed to Christ, saying "He must increase, but I must decrease." When we do likewise we are Christ-centered.

John the Baptist came to "prepare the way of the Lord, and to make his paths straight" (Mt. 3:3). When we prepare the way for our children, and Sunday School pupils, and those who listen to our witness - all for our Lord, then we are doing what the Baptist did. And when our paths are straight by Christian standards, then they will lead our followers directly to Christ.

The name Baptist is also a descriptive name. Since baptism symbolizes our death of all sinful ways, our burial of all bad habits, and our rising to walk in newness of life, then baptism symbolizes our conversion as well as our entire Christian life. Perhaps that is why the word "baptized" is used in several places to describe the entire work of John the Baptist (Jn. 1:28, 31, 33; 10:40) and of Christ Himself (Jn. 3:22, 26; 4:1, 2).

Logically, then, each Baptist is one who has "killed" all sinful ways, buried them in the baptism, and ever since lives as one who is "risen with Christ" (Col. 3:1), who has put off the old man" (Col. 3:8-14). Thus it seems that Baptists have a deeper obligation to live a consistent Christian life than non-immersed Christians! But do we?

Further, the name Baptist is an ideal name. It is the name of the Christian gospel, the one who baptized the Son of God, the one whom the Holy Spirit dwelt from his infancy, the one who was "great in the sight of the Lord" (Lk. 1:15), the one whom Christ praised so profusely, the one whom all men counted as a prophet indeed, and the one who had the honor of being the first martyr for Christ. Notice that everything John did and said brought honor to Christ. His name was not an object of praise or glory; rather, it was a signboard pointing to his Lord. Would that all modern Baptists were faithful signboards, not seekers for glory.

Again, the name Baptist could be what it was at first, non-sectarian. John, the first Baptist, was not a narrow denominationalist; he was all out for his Lord. If every Christian now could forget all divisive influence, all divisive teachers or leaders, and go back to the original source of the Christian gospel in the New Testament, he would take his stand with the Lord Jesus and His apostles. All of them endorsed John the Baptist (Acts 1:22). This endorsement would magnify Christ as Lord and Saviour, not any lesser cult or leader.

Then the name Baptist could be a unifying name. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:5) is our ideal. If we all had one Lord we would have one faith, and if we all had one faith we would have one faith, and if we all had one faith we would have only one baptism. Conversely, if all Christians held to

one baptism - the one Christ approved - that baptism would point to only one faith, the faith symbolized and portrayed by the original baptism. Then if all had that one faith, we would all have one Lord and only one. We would declare our independence of all popes, bishops, priests, traditions, superstitions, and extra Biblical customs which now confuse multitudes of people.

How did Christians ever become so divided, especially on baptism? Within a century of Christ's resurrection, some influential leaders got the idea that baptism was necessary for salvation. This heresy led to baptizing babies, and sick people, thus making sprinkling seem to be more convenient. After a few more centuries, the majority of Christendom held to sprinkling babies, making the Roman hierarchy the arbiter of disputes.

However, God had preserved for Himself a remnant through the ages, those who never yielded to Rome or to infant baptism. They were called various names, and since 1644 the name Baptist has gained increasing respect.

Every Baptist has the great privilege of witnessing for his Lord by means of explaining the meaning of his baptism and of his name Baptist. For when baptism is explained, the gospel of Christ is explained. Baptists, then, should be both bold and courteous in explaining their name, and thereby glorifying the Lord.

TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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

THEME: THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUTH

Friday Evening (June 10)

- 7:00 - Song service (Kenny Brown, directing)
- 7:20 - Christian Characteristics, II Peter 1:1-11
Jack Duplechain, Memphis, Tennessee
- 8:00 - Singing
- 8:10 - The Perpetuity of Baptist Churches
Milburn Cockrell, South Point, Ohio

Saturday Morning (June 11)

- 9:15 - Singing
- 9:30 - The Glorious Doctrine of Election, Romans 8:29, 30
Roger Dohrer, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 10:10 - Singing
- 10:15 - Satisfaction of the Heart
Max Nunley, Collinsville, Illinois
- 10:55 - Singing
- 11:00 - The Church, The Body of Christ
Earl Smith, Plumerville, Arkansas

Saturday Evening (June 11)

- 6:30 - Singing
- 6:45 - Six Treasures of the Local Church, I Cor. 2:1-16
Ray Sexton, Lexington, Ohio
- 7:25 - Singing
- 7:30 - The Atonement
Charlie Buford, Scottsboro, Alabama
- 8:10 - Singing
- 8:15 - Hanging Our Emotions
Orval Heath, Mena, Arkansas

Sunday Morning (June 12)

- 9:15 - Singing
- 9:30 - The Cup of Blessing Which We Bless,
I Cor. 10:16, 17
James Green, Washington, Illinois
- 10:10 - Singing
- 10:15 - Acknowledging the Truth, Titus 1:1
Nick Wools, Windsor, Illinois
- 10:55 - Singing
- 11:00 - The Family, the Kingdom, and
the Church of Our Lord
Walter Cade, Kansas City, Kansas

Sunday Evening (June 12)

- 6:30 - Singing
- 6:45 - The Resurrection and General Judgment,
Matt. 25:31-46
- 7:25 - Singing
- 7:30 - Total Hereditary Depravity
Joe Sherman, Covington, Indiana
- 8:10 - Singing
- 8:15 - Coming to Grips with Jacob and Esau,
Romans 9:1-23
Wayne Camp, Memphis, Tennessee

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Brother Wilson:

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I have been receiving copies of T.B.E. and I am enclosing a check covering a subscription cost. I do enjoy reading them, and they are a real blessing unto me. I do intend to share with my brethren, reading from T.B.E. May the Lord continue to shower His blessings upon you all. Pray for me and my family. Your brother in Christ. Hydao Alli, Brooklyn, N.Y.

I have enjoyed the Baptist Examiner for several years. My eye sight is so bad now, that I cannot see to read. If you would, I would like for you to send the paper to a friend who would really enjoy your paper. Thank you. Clay Marks, Glenville, W. Va.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
MAY 28, 1988
PAGE TWELVE

Dear Brother Wilson:

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I have been receiving copies of T.B.E. and I am enclosing a check covering a subscription cost. I do enjoy reading them, and they are a real blessing unto me. I do intend to share with my brethren reading from T.B.E. May the Lord continue to shower His blessings upon you all. Pray for me and my family. Your brother in Christ. Hydao Alli, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Brother Wilson:

Your great paper is the most precious thing to enter my home. It alone stands for truth and the true Baptist stand. I praise God for it, and we pray continually for you and this great mission work. How great it will be to meet you and all the other saints our there in Kentucky. God bless you all. John D. Alley, Middleboro, Mass.

Forum

(Continued from Page 11)

delighteth in his ways. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord holdeth him with his hand."

It can be seen from the foregoing Scriptures that a child of God can backslide. Backsliding is going backwards for awhile, becoming less enthusiastic, less aggressive in the work of Christ, losing the fervor as one once had.

Some one may say, suppose Christ does not pray for a child of God while in a backslidden condition, what will happen then? There is not such thing as Christ not praying for His own. Read John 17:20 again.

BOOK REVIEW

We have a book in our book store. It is an old book with a new title - a practice I really wish book publishers would not practice. It is called "Home Bible Study Dictionary." We also have this in our book store as "Bible Dictionary." It is by A.R. Fausset who co-authored the famous "Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown" commentary. I consider this to be a very good Bible dictionary. It is very conservative. It has over 700 pages and sells for \$18.95. It is a paper back book. I do not recommend the purchase of a paper back book when it is in this category. Some books one will read rather quickly and rarely refer to again. For such, a paper back is all right. But when a book is a reference book that likely will be used again and again, I would not want a paper back. "To each his own." Order from our book store. The profit stays in the book ministry.

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Brother Wilson:

I am very pleased to renew my subscription for two years. Enclosed is my check for \$11.00. The articles I enjoy the most are those on the doctrines of grace and eschatology. Thank you for your faithful service to our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. Contending for the faith in the service of our Saviour. Royce W. Plyler. Houston, Tx.

Dear Brother Wilson:

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I have been receiving copies of T.B.E. and I am enclosing a check covering a subscription cost. I do enjoy reading them and they are a real blessing unto me. I do intend to share with my brethren reading from T.B.E. May the Lord continue to shower His blessings upon you all. Pray for me and my family. Your brother in Christ. Hydao Alli, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Brethren:

Thank you for a splendid Baptist journal. I have received the Examiner for over thirty years. Hillory Howell Pheonix, Oregon



WHOSO FINDETH A WIFE FINDETH A GOOD THING

They say that it is better late than never. I don't know about that, but I do know that this is mighty late appearing in this paper. 1. We set up so far ahead of the date of issue. 2. Jim Walters was late in getting the picture to me. 3. I have waited too long after receiving the picture. Well, anyway, here it is.

It was my great honor and joy to unite Elder Jim Walters and Bonnie Barrett in the bonds of holy matrimony on November 7th, 1987.

I consider Brother Walters to be a very dear preacher friend. He is pastor of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Mansfield, Ohio. He is a very sound and able preacher. Our friendship began shortly after he became pastor of that church a few years ago. It has grown, deepened, and strengthened rapidly since that time. He is a regular speaker at our Bible Conference, and I have been privileged to preach for him several times.

Brother Walters' first wife

passed away a few years ago. He has a young son, Jason. I am happy for him that he has finally found him a wife. At one of our early meetings, I told him I would be happy to be of help to him in any possible way. He suggested that I might help him find a wife. I tried, and tried, and tried; but failed. Well, he has finally found one all by himself (so far as my help is concerned), and he found him a fine, beautiful young lady to be a companion to him and a help to him in the days and years ahead.

I did consider being asked to perform the ceremony as a great honor. I pray for this man and this woman. May God greatly bless their life together. May God bless the ministry of this fine preacher. If you are ever in the Mansfield, Ohio area, you will enjoy a blessing in visiting this family, and an added blessing in visiting the church he pastors. Jim, I was getting worried about you. I am happy for and with you. May God bless you both.

One day I saw something I had to have.
I'll begin to pray, I'll be so glad,

For months and months I'd pray and pray,
And make my petition every day.

Lord, please give me this thing I ask,
The answer came, oh but alas, - no.

No, my child it's not for you to have,
It would make you very sad.

You'll have to wait for what is best,
From my hand, then you'll be blest.

Wait, I said, but Lord, why?
I gave Him a thousand reasons, I'll just die!

If I can't have what I want now, then -
Despair and gloom, I began to pout and growl.

Strong rebuke came - I stopped and cried.
I claim to walk by your side,

I say I know you know what's best.
But I really fail when put to the test.

Slowly I began to realize quite well,
If it wasn't for Him I'd be in hell,

He saved my wretched soul one day,
He promised He would light my way,

I'm sorry Lord for my sinful greed,
Then He began to lead,

From now on Lord - I said - I'll wait on you.