

THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

by John Alber

Several weeks ago, this preacher was asked to write a dear brother in Christ and explain the Biblical doctrine of Trinity. I have never claimed to be a theologian and so it only goes without saying, such could do a better job than this preacher. Nevertheless, the challenge was given and accepted, therefore my notes and reasons are herein given for the readers of The Baptist Examiner.

The Trinity - what does the Bible teach about this doctrine? We, who are Baptists, Independent in nature and in affiliation have always believed the Word of God teaches the Trinity. We may not be able to completely understand it or explain it, but nevertheless, we believe the Word of God very clearly teaches this doctrine. First of all in our thinking today, a proper definition of the term is much needed. "In the nature of the one God there are three eternal distinctions which are represented to us under the figure of persons, and these three are equal." - A.H. Strong.

The Biblical doctrine of the Trinity (three in one) has been discussed, yea defended, and derided throughout the Christian world for many hundreds of years. It has become a battleground for truth - truth that can only be understood by those folk who are born again. Thus, some folk believe that the doctrine is absurd, a

mere human dogma, irreverent, and at best very illogical. Yes, the Theologians have argued for years that this one doctrine of the Trinity is contrary to reason. Beloved, it is, that is so far as the natural man is concerned. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).



John Alber

But, for those of us who know the God of the Bible by the wonderful miracle of the New Birth (John 3:3), we are somewhat awe-struck by its most wonderful truth, thus recognizing that the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity is a paradox. It does present many obstacles to the human reasoning. I am convinced in my own mind that it is a key to the revelation of Almighty God to man.

"Unto thee it was
(Continued on Page 3 Column 2)

GOD'S LITTLE WHITE STONE

by Harold Brunson

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it" (Rev. 2:12-17).

A white stone from the hand of God is promised to the overcomers in the church at Pergamos,
(Continued on Page 6 Column 2)

IF YOU OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL

by Doug Newell
Assistant Editor

I Peter 4:17, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

Obedying the gospel is the most important thing one will ever do. If the gospel is not obeyed, then your life on this earth will not amount to anything at all. I suppose the most important question we could ask an individual is, "have you obeyed the gospel of Christ?" Most people are searching for answers to many problems in this life, and they will so

foolishly leave this question for someone else to answer. What difference does it make if you find the cure for a cold, if you die and burn in hell for ever and for ever? Now obeying the gospel involves



Doug Newell

all that hear it. Once you have heard the gospel of Christ, your obedience is required. You cannot hear the gospel and walk away from it guiltless. For that matter you are guilty of sin and you must face God for that sin before you hear or if you never hear the gospel. But if you hear the gospel, you will answer to God for your reaction to it. Understand this that God takes note of how He is reacted to, and that men who are good at hiding their feelings from others cannot hide them from God. Now, I suppose everyone who reads this has reacted to the gospel in obeying it or disobeying. We have all re-

(Continued on Page 5 Column 3)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

MORDECAI, GOOD WORKS UNREWARDED AND REWARDED

"In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth,

and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name. And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out;

therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written, in the book of the chronicles before the king" (Est.2:21-23). "On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door,

who sought to lay hands on king Ahasuerus. And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him" (Est.6:1-3). The Book goes on to tell of the great reward that was given to Mordecai for this.

The good works of God's children often seem to go unnoticed, unappreciated, and unrewarded. This is often a depressing experi-
(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORDS, and he hath set the world upon them" (I Sam. 2:7, 8).

It becomes very obvious from the preceding Scripture that our God is very much involved in the affairs of this earth on which we live. The following Scripture shows that God is involved in promotions. "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another" (Psa. 75:6, 7).

The following Scripture shows
(Continued on Page 9 Column 4)

AN UNSCRIPTURAL DIVISION

by Harold Vaughan

"In this era of easy-believism and cheap grace," says Gordon Olson, "there needs to be a serious reassessment of a modern theology which preaches a salvation without submission, a discipleship without discipline, a reconciliation without repentance, and a love without law, which has produced a generation of sinning "Christians" without a conscience or fear of the consequence of their sin."

Today, we are witnessing what would have been unthinkable only ten years ago. Religious leaders are dropping off like flies due to immorality. Celebrities testify for Jesus on religious programs and then sing with vulgar rock bands or star in dirty movies. Greed, lying, and dishonesty have become commonplace. How are we to understand a minister who violates God's Word by divorcing his wife one week and appears on his television program shortly thereafter with his new wife to preach the "Word"? Clearly there is great misunderstanding or perhaps wholesale dismissal and despising of the law of God. Lawlessness is sin and those that forsake God's law are under judgment.

There are three basic meanings connected with the word "law" in Scripture. First there is civic or judicial law. The Old Testament reveals Israel as a theocracy - in other words they were ruled by God. Therefore the government

(Continued on Page 8 Column 4)

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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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TO KNOW GOD IS TO BE STRONG AND AT PEACE

by Willard Willis

"The people that do know their God shall be strong" (Daniel 11:32).

"Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee" (Job 22:21).

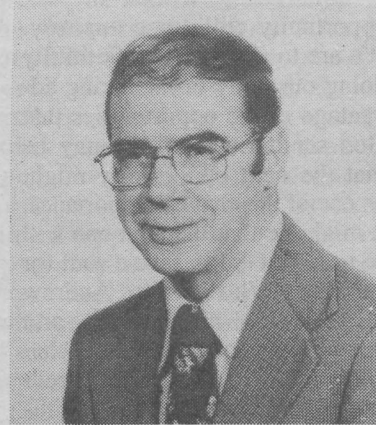
"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord" (Jeremiah 9:23, 24).

The above passages of Scripture set many truths before us. Two of these truths are that they who know their God shall be strong and at peace. They advise us that the important part of life is not that of earthly riches, might, or wisdom; but it is to

know Him - the God who made the earth and all the creatures who inhabit it.

Each of us should be aware at all times that God is not some far off spectator to the affairs of earth and its inhabitants. The following passage of Scripture makes this fact very evident.

"The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: He



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MORDECAI

(Continued from Page 1)

ence and a sore trial for the child of God. The purpose of this message is to prepare the child of God for such experiences and to encourage him therein.

Mordecai did a good work. He informed Esther of the plot against the king's life and thereby likely saved the king from death. The opportunity to do this good work came to him as he was going about his daily routine and tasks. From the statement of his sitting in the king's gate, it has been deduced that he had some sort of small position in the service of the king. He was carrying out his daily task when this opportunity came to him. My friend we ought to faithfully go about doing our daily tasks, whatever they might be. It is our duty to do this. Working on the job, keeping the house, going to school; whatever it might be, we are to just faithfully do the best we can at the tasks before us each day.

While we are doing this, we ought to be on the lookout for an opportunity to do some good work. We ought to watch for opportunities to do good more than they who watch for the morning. We ought to be greedy of opportunities for doing good as is one searching for hidden treasures. We should look for opportunities to do good to our fellow man. We ought to look for opportunities to be loving, kind, thoughtful, and helpful to others. My friend, concern for others is a missing note in the religion of many today.

We ought to be on the look

out for opportunities to glorify God. It should be the chief aim of our lives to glorify God. We should look for opportunities to read His Word, to pray, to praise Him, and especially to witness to others of God's saving grace. These opportunities often go together. It is often in being helpful to man that we have the opportunity to glorify God.

The opportunity that came to Mordecai that day was that of doing a great and important work. Who knows what all was wrapped up in Mordecai's faithfully doing that which came his way on that eventful day? We never know when such an



Joe Wilson

opportunity will come our way. We are to just keep on faithfully doing our daily tasks, taking advantage of the opportunities that God sends our way. It may be that the next opportunity might be one of the greatest importance. It might be that the next one will be used of God to save a soul for eternity. Who knows? Andrew found Peter, his brother, and brought him to Jesus. Look what Peter did. Look what great things came from Andrew faithfully doing that which came his way in the providence of God. Just keep on faithfully doing your daily tasks, and God will send opportunities when, how, and as it pleases Him. Great opportunities often come in the path of doing our daily duties.

Mordecai did that which God's providence gave him the opportunity to do. Some would have acted differently. Some maybe would be glad for the plot against Ahasuerus to succeed. Some would have not wanted to get involved. Some would have feared the consequences of their telling the king if it were found out by the two traitors or their friends. Some would have just looked at the opportunity, admired it as a great opportunity, and let it go by without taking advantage thereof and doing what they should do. My friend, we should go about faithfully doing our daily tasks, we should be on the look out for opportunities to do good for man and to glorify God; and we should immediately do that good work that God has placed before us.

Mordecai's good work went unrewarded at the time. Why one would have thought that the king would immediately give some great reward to the man who had saved his life. It seems strange that this was not the case, but God had something more wonderful in mind. I wonder how Mordecai reacted to this. Many would be momentarily expecting some great reward, and would be very disappointed at what did take place just then. Many would grumble and complain "Why did I get involved?" "Why did I not just let the king die?" "I surely thought that the king would greatly reward me." Yes, many would have greatly grumbled at such a turn of events. I suppose that Mordecai just went right on,

faithfully performing the tasks of each passing day.

Now, this often happens to the child of God as to his doing of some good work. We do a good work. No one even seems to notice what we have done. No one applauds us for it. No one seems even interested or concerned about the good work we have done. Why, we worked hard at it, we prayed hard, we gave much time and effort into the doing thereof; but for all the good it seems to do, we might as well have left it undone. Many men and women do many good and wonderful works throughout their Christian lives, no one seems to notice; they die and are soon forgotten.

There are temptations that come from this. One is tempted to despondency or despair. One is tempted to a loss or weakening of faith. One is tempted to say, "What's the use?" One is tempted to cease from doing good works in the future. This is a very natural thing, and one we need to greatly guard against. We need to just keep on doing good works as best God will enable us and leave the rewards in the hands of the Lord. Still, we all have trouble with this. When we do something, we want people to sit up and take notice. We want to be appreciated. I fear that we are not adverse to wanting the applause of men for the good works we do. We often not only want our left hand to know what our right hand doeth, but we want the world to know as well. Let us greatly beware of all this.

Mordecai's good work was recorded in a book. I doubt that Mordecai knew this. I suspect that he may have thought it was completely forgotten. My saved friend, all our good works are recorded in God's book of rewards. If we give a disciple a drink of water in the name of a disciple, we will not lose our reward. God is not unfaithful to forget the good works done by His children. Daniel was told, "But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days" (Dan.12:13). God was keeping a record of all of Daniel's good works, and Daniel would stand in his lot of reward at the proper time.

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name" (Mal.3:16). "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Heb.6:10). Before I go further, please note in this last reference that ministering to the saints is a labor of love toward the name of the Lord. God keeps accurate records. He records every good work performed by each of His children. When you pray, He writes it down. When you read His precious Word, He records it. When you attend church, it is put in the book. When you are kind, thoughtful, considerate, and helpful to another for the Lord's sake and as a Christian, He records every such act. When you witness to an unsaved one, it goes down in the book. When you talk to others, even the saved, about the Lord, the record

is kept. Why, when you even think about the Lord, it is written in His book. Why are these things all written there? Why this evidences that God will not forget them. I am sure that you and I do not keep such a record. I am sure that we do not write down every good work we do. Many of them have been long since forgotten. But God keeps a record, an accurate and detailed record, of all that we do for Him or for others in His name. Now, this should be a great encouragement to the child of God who often wonders about the matter.

Mordecai's good work was finally rewarded in a most wonderful way. He had done this good work. No reward had been given. Time went by. A plot was hatched by Haman, the Jew's enemy, (Beware of being the Jew's enemy lest you come under Genesis 12:3) and approved by the king to kill all the Jews. Haman had become a favorite with Ahasuerus, so much so that it seemed he could obtain anything he de-

sired. Things did indeed look bad for Mordecai and all the Jews. And we need to remember that the Jews were the channel through which the Saviour was to come. To destroy the Jews would destroy the coming of the Saviour, defeat the purposes of God, invalidate the promises of God, and send all men to hell. Of course this could not really be, but a plot was on foot to attempt such.

Haman had decided to wait no longer to get rid of Mordecai. He had built a gallows seventy-five feet high upon which to hang Mordecai. He was on the way to the palace to request this favor from the king. In the meantime, the king could not sleep. Sleep is in the hands of a sovereign God who withholds it, gives it, even causes a deep sleep as He did on king Saul - and all, as it pleases Him. Ahasuerus called for them to bring the records and read them to him since he could not sleep. Oh, wonder of wonders of God's (Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

FROM THE EDITOR

God has predestinated everything that will ever come to pass. Everything will come to pass exactly as God has predestinated. Prayer will not change this. The slogan "Prayer Changes Things" is as false as "Smile, God loves you" when applied indiscriminately to all men. It is as false as, "Give God a chance now", or "There's a new name written down in glory", or "Let God save you." Some become furious when one tells them that prayer does not change things. Some, who finally accept this, become confused and discouraged as to prayer. Let us think about it this way for a little time: Would you really want prayer to change things? Would you really want the great God of the Bible to be putty in the hands of men? Would you want God to pledge Himself to do anything that any man (even a saved man) might ask Him to do? Would you really and truly, after thinking it over, want God to pledge himself to do anything you might ask Him to do for the rest of your life? Think about it.

Let us suppose for awhile that this is the case. What a predicament this puts God in. Two nations are at war. Saved people in both nations are praying for victory. Poor God, what will He do now? Can He answer the prayers of both groups? Of course not. A farmer is praying for rain. Someone else, for some reason or other, is praying for a pretty day of sunshine. What will God do? A believer is sick. It is his time to die. God has given him "dying grace" and he is ready, even anxious to go. The angel band is on the way to take his soul into the presence of the Lord. Another believer prays for his healing. What will God do? It is election day. Saved people in one party are praying for victory for their candidate. Saved people in another party are praying just as hard for their candidate's election. What will God do? A saved Baptist man and a saved Methodist woman get married. He prays for her to become a Baptist. She prays for him to become a Methodist. What will God do? God has prophesied that a certain event will take place. A believer prays that this will not take place. Can the believer's prayer change the predestinated and prophesied plan of God relative to that thing? God foreknows that a certain event will take place at a certain time (and He foreknows all things). Say God foreknows that John will die at a certain time. A believer prays that John, who is sick, will not die. What will happen? Can prayer change things that God foreknows will be? Surely, no one will be so foolish as to say, yes. Well, then why argue that prayer can change things that God has purposed will be. The truth is that no one can believe in God's absolute predestination of all things, or even in God's absolute foreknowledge of all things (what Arminian will deny this?) and, after really thinking the thing through, believe that "Prayer changes things."

Now, considering all these things, would you still want God to pledge Himself to always do what you asked Him to do, no matter what it might be? And would you, want Him to do this for all His children. My friend, such a thing, if true, would bring about total havoc, confusion, and destruction to this world. How would such an attitude on your part comport with true humility. Surely, you know that you are not as wise as the all-wise God of the Bible. Surely, you know that He is far better qualified to run this world and its events than you are. A proper humility, a proper understanding of our own lack of wisdom, a proper understanding of the love, wisdom, and power of God; all these would keep us from really wanting the great God of the Bible to subject Himself to every whim and fancy we might take a notion to pray about.

Surely, if God were to come to you and tell you that He was placing Himself at your disposal; that he would be, as it were, your genie and do whatever you asked - surely, you would speedily decline such an offer. You would realize your total inability to equal such a situation. You would say, "No thank you, God, I prefer that you do exactly as you see fit about all things, including my prayers." I believe that, after giving the matter thorough and spiritual consideration, this is what you would do.

So, let us pray in faith in God's great power to do anything we ask. When, through His Word or His Spirit, we know His will; let us pray in bold confidence that our request will surely be granted. When we do not know what His will is, let us pray in sweet and humble submission, with the attitude, whether we say it or not, of "Thy will be done." My friend, God's will being done will be best for all of us.

MORDECAI

(Continued from Page 2)

sovereign control over all things; they just happened (as men would say, but we know better) to turn to and read the record of how Mordecai had saved the king's life. The king, hearing this, sat upright. "What reward has been given Mordecai for this," he asks. "Nothing at all," is the reply. "Why, that is awful. We can't let that pass. Who is in the court?" Haman had just come into the court to request permission to hang Mordecai. He comes before the king. "What shall be done to the man the king delights to honor?", asks the king of Haman. Haman muses within himself, "I am a favorite of the king. Surely he means to honor me." Haman says that for the man the king delights to honor, the following shall be done, "Why take the royal apparel and the royal crown and place it upon his head. Set that man upon the king's horse. Let one lead that horse and its rider through the streets proclaiming that thus it shall be done to the man the king delights to honor." "Do that for Mordecai", the king commands Haman. Oh, what a turn of events! What a terrible shock to Haman! What a blessed and surprising thing for Mordecai!

Well, Mordecai was rewarded for his good work. And what marvellous and perfect timing by the sovereign God of the Bible. Just when the reward was most needed, just when the reward would save from disaster; yes, just at the right time the reward was given. Praise the Lord! It was a great and wonderful reward. Mordecai was honored. The Jews were delivered (and the channel of the Saviour preserved). Mordecai was promoted to a great, powerful, and influential position. Who can tell what influence Mordecai and Esther had on the good events of Ezra and Nehemiah and the Jews who returned from the captivity?

"...and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?" (Est.10:2). What Mordecai had done in secret, thinking only of the good of others and the glory of God, was shouted from the housetops and spread throughout the known world, and down even to this very day and this very sermon. Yes, Mordecai's work was rewarded. And it is not over yet for the Lord will reward this faithful servant at the judgment seat of Jesus Christ.

This is not an exception in God's dealings with His children. This is an example of how God will deal concerning all the good works of all His children. They will all be rewarded, yes, they will. To some extent, they will be rewarded here and now; for it is always an inward blessing to know one has done the right thing. Men may criticize, men may misunderstand, men may oppose; but it is always a good inward testimony to know one has done a good work for God. I would rather be right than be president, wouldn't you? Often, God rewards good works publicly and in this life. There are many such occasions in the Bible - Mordecai is one, David and Goliath is another. It is always good to have this done, but we can live without it if the Lord sees fit to not do it this way.

My friend, there is coming an-

other day and another place. We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. There all our good works will be properly and graciously rewarded. Not one will be forgotten. That which we never even thought of as a good work and that which we have long since forgotten will be rewarded in that day. What a day that will be when the saints are rewarded for the good works that God gave them the desire and ability to do. Who knows what all the rewards will be? but they will be far more wonderful than anything we could ever imagine.

Some of these rewards will relate to one's position of reign in the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. Our position therein will be given according to our faithful service here.

Then that reward - that greatest of rewards - that of being in the Bride of Christ. That will not be given to men just because they are saved. That will be given only to Baptists. It will not be given to men just because they are Baptists, but it will be given to clean, loyal, hard working, faithful Baptists. That will not be given simply as the sovereign gift of God, but it will be given as a reward for good works. The wedding garment of Revelation 19:8 is not the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, for all the saved will have that glorious apparel. The wedding garment of the Bride will be the righteousness of the saints. It will be that righteousness wrought out by them in the power of the Holy Spirit as they lived and served God as faithful members of true Baptist churches. Not all the saved will be in the Bride, only Baptists. Not all Baptists (so called) will be in the Bride, only true Baptists. Not all such will be in the Bride, only the faithful ones. May we all have this great reward in mind as we seek to faithfully serve the Lord in one of His true churches.

Yes, all the good works of all the saved will be wonderfully and gloriously rewarded in that day, and the rewards will be of eternal character. But, the unsaved can do no work that is good and acceptable to God. The unsaved can do no work that will be rewarded by God. His best works are filthy rags in God's sight. Jesus Christ is God. He was born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life. He died on the cross for the sins of His people according to the Scripture. He was buried. He rose again according to the Scriptures. That is the gospel - who Jesus is and what Jesus did. You must believe that gospel, you must know that Saviour before you can ever do one good work in His sight. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

DOCTRINE

(Continued from Page 1)

shewed, that thou mightest know that the Lord he is God; and there is none else beside him" (Deut. 4:35). "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord" (Deut. 6:4). "That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else" (I Kings 8:60). "I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God" (Isa. 44:6). All of the above verses of Holy Writ only give unto us the oneness of our God. That (the oneness) in itself is a great mystery!

Many other verses from the Bible could be given, but these will do the job intended - to briefly show that the Bible teaches the oneness of our great God.

Elder Thomas Paul Simmons wrote these words in his book, "Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine." "We make no attempt to deny or to explain away the mystery of the doctrine of the Trinity. It is a high mystery that human minds can never fathom" P. 81. Brother Simmons is correct in his brief statement with regards to the Trinity. The Bible teaches us that there are three persons within the Godhead: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. That can be proved over and over throughout both the Old and New Testaments. But first, let us take a moment and draw our attention to the book of Genesis.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Elohim, the Hebrew word that is translated in our King James Bible is found here to be God. It is a plural noun with a singular meaning - in fact, it literally means more than two. As we shall see, the Triune God was involved in the creation of the world as well with the plan of redemption. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gen. 1:26). Again, the Bible has used a phrase here that refers to God as (us), a plural form, not singular. It is very interesting that the Hebrew word (Elohim) is used about 2,500 times in the Old Testament.

Would you please note with me that each person of the God head is called "God" - (1). The Father: "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:7). (2). The Son: "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matt. 1:23). (3). The Holy Spirit: "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto me, but unto God" (Acts 5:3-2). There should never be any doubt whatsoever to the child of God that the Bible in these few verses calls each person of the Godhead, God. Furthermore, these verses of Holy Writ are but a few of the many that so refer to each person of the Trinity.

Next, would you turn your attention with me and note that each person of the Godhead is called "Lord." (1). The Father: "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (Matt. 11:25). (2). The Son: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). (3). The Holy Spirit:

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Cor. 3:17). Again, from the reading of these three verses of Holy Writ, there ought never be any question as to the fact that each person of the Godhead is called Lord. Nevertheless, it ought to be once again pointed out, there are many more of these self same kind of verses.

Furthermore, would you again turn your attention with me and note that each person of the Godhead is called "Creator" (1). The Father: "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else" (Isa. 45:18). (2). The Son: "All things were made by him (Jesus Christ - see verse one and fourteen); and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3) (3). The Holy Spirit: "By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent" (Job 26:13). "And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Gen. 1:2). These few short verses prove to my personal satisfaction that all three persons of the Godhead had a part in the creation of the world.

Lastly, would you note with me that each person of the Godhead is called "The Comforter". (1). The Father: "I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass" (Isa. 51:12). see verse 3 as well. (2). The Son: "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18). (3). The Holy Spirit: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; or he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:16-17).

Thus, the Word of God tells us very plainly that there is but One God, but that there are three "Persons" who are shown to be God. Thus, human reasoning implies that the two thoughts are very much irreconcilable. But you must remember, dear reader, that word "Trinity" literally means "Tri-unity." Now, the "Trinity" can be found throughout the entire Old Testament - that is to the careful student of the Bible. Within the New Testament, there is not and should not ever be any question as to the "Trinity." As already pointed out, in the Old Testament there are numerous passages of Holy Writ as with Genesis 1:26, 27 that gives to us a plural noun when talking about God. But in the vision of the glory of Almighty God which Isaiah the prophet describes in chapter six of his book, he speaks of God as "the King, (Jehovah) of hosts." The Apostle John states that the

glory seen by Isaiah was that of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 12:41), while the Apostle Paul adds that the message given to the prophet was that of the Holy Spirit (Acts 28:25).

"And God said, Let us make man in our image" (Genesis 1:26). "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple"... (Isa. 6:1 and etc). "These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him" (John 12:41). "And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers" (Acts 28:25).

Furthermore, throughout the Old Testament Holy Scriptures, there are many different references to more than one person. In the second Psalm, the Psalmist unites the Father and the Son in the coming wrath, judgment, and the universal reign of our God. Then, when one picks up the New Testament, it becomes somewhat evident that some Old Testament saints were aware of the existence of the eternal Son of God. "Abraham rejoiced to see my day" (John 8:56). "Moses... Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt" (Heb. 11:24). "they (the children of Israel) drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ" (I Cor. 10:4).

Now, as we somewhat turn our attention to the New Testament Scriptures, one will immediately find a very strong emphasis for the Biblical doctrine of the "Trinity". Remember, that the New Testament is hid within the pages of the Old Testament and the Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament. The two Testaments must always agree! Therefore, it should not surprise us that the New Testament is much clearer on this subject matter.

(1). In the Incarnation (Deity taking upon self, human flesh) one can see the "Trinity". Luke 1:35, "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." "For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: For He shall save His people from their sins... Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matt. 1:20-21, 23).

(2). In the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ one can plainly see the Biblical doctrine of the "Trinity." "it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the

(Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

The Baptist Examiner Forum I

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

Explain I Tim. 5:9, especially as to the number of years?

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Please read I Timothy 5:3-16. I Timothy 5:9 says, "Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man."

In order to explain verse 9, we need to consider what Paul has been saying about widows in general; who are true widows, and how they are to be provided for as to physical need. This Paul has been doing in the preceding 6 verses. Widows have ever been one of the special objects of God's mercy in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Whether in the congregation of the O.T., or the assembly of the N.T., God has provided for the care and provision of true widows. Please read Deuteronomy 14:28,29 and Deuteronomy 24:17-21.

The portion of Scripture here in I Timothy was written some 30 years after some provision for widows was established in Acts 6:2. I believe that the Spirit's reason for writing through Paul as to widows in I Timothy 5 was to establish a guide as to who are truly widows needing help, and who do not qualify as such. In verses 3 and 4, Paul instructs that recognition (honor) be given those who are truly widows. The

first responsibility for caring for the needy always falls on the family of that person: not on the church. That is the order in God's economy here. Therefore, a distinction is made between widows who have someone to help them and widows who do not. A true widow gives herself over to service to God and has no one to rely on but the Lord. In order to be on the true widow's list for help and support of the assembly, she was to meet several qualifications. The first of these was to be godly in life, conduct, and devotion to God. Paul says in verse 7 that these things are to be commanded and he lists some instructions in determining proper widows in the following verses. I might add that these instructions were for the good of the churches, as well as the widows themselves. If the wrong widows were included in a group recognized and helped by an assembly, their sensual life styles or misconduct would bring reproach on that assembly. Not all widows are godly, chaste women, in contrast to a Christian widow meeting God's guide lines.

Now verses 9 and 10 give some qualifications for the proper recognition of verse 3 for a

widow. There seem to be 3 primary qualifications to be met. First, she was to be over 60 years old. I am aware that the age of 60 was looked on in Paul's day as much older than we consider it to be today, but Paul had good reason to note a particular age. A woman of this age was well settled in life's experiences. The active passions and desires of the young would not be a problem to her Christian works and devotion to the Lord. She could better resist the temptations and troubles that come with idleness. If she were destitute, having no one to help here, she would certainly be a proper recipient of the church help provided to true widows. Secondly, she was to have been faithful to her husband literally "a one man woman". Thirdly, she was to be well known for her good deeds of which Paul gives 5 examples in verse 10. Her godly living was to be well known. A Christian woman who met these general qualifications was to be included in the number receiving help from the assembly. Today I am sure that in spite of Social Security and other means of help, there surely are some deserving widows who rely on God and meet these guide lines. There are probably very few today compared to the early church, but the provision has not been abrogated, or changed by God. A Christian widow is still a special object of God's mercy.

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I Timothy 5:9: "Let not a widow be taken into the number under three score years old, having been the wife of one man."

The question asks for a special comment as to the number of years. I am assuming the reason being whether or not this would be applicable today. The number of years mentioned in the verse is sixty. I believe the number is used because before the age of sixty, there was still the chance of her remarrying and also she would still be young enough to work. Many say that the Jews considered sixty the start of old age. I do not think this age should be strictly enforced in our day and time. I also doubt that it was meant to be a rule to which there were no exceptions. I use the case of an invalid before the age of sixty. I think the church then would have been of help to this woman.

Let me briefly explain what the verse is talking about. First, understand that the first obligation to care for the aged rests with her or his family. It is too bad that many children neglect the parents that raised them, and unnecessarily put them in a rest home. Read verse eight and see what it has to say concerning the people who

will not take care of their own.

If the case should rise where there was no family to take care of these widows then this burden fell upon the church. Guidelines are set so that some do not take advantage of the situation. I think the important thing to note is the obligation that we as fellow church members have to one another. We have greatly failed in the area of love and concern for each other. May we as children and as churches realize our responsibility in this area.

Lastly, let me explain what I think is meant by the phrase; "having been the wife of one man." It does not condemn second marriages when they are Scriptural. I believe it refers to widows who had not put away their husbands unlawfully to marry another. This was considered by the Jews to be a terrible sin (and rightly so). Let me mention one more thing in closing. It is not the church's obligation to provide for every widow. Notice some requirements given in verse ten. Those who have served the church well, should be well-served by the church. May God bless you all.

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"Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man".

Before the churches left the responsibility of caring for their widows to the government through welfare programs and food stamps, they took care of their own. In the first church at Jerusalem trouble arose over the matter and seven deacons were elected by the church to over-see the matter. (Acts 6).

In I Timothy 5, the Apostle Paul is giving instructions to Timothy concerning the responsibility of the churches in the care of the widows who were in need. The church did not have the responsibility of caring for all widows. Widows who had someone in their family who was able to care for them were not to be included in the number, "If any man or woman that believeth, have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged: that it may relieve them that are widows indeed" (I Tim. 5:16). Neither were the younger widows

to be included, "But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry" (I Tim. 5:11). The widows to be included in the number that the church had the responsibility of caring for were to be at least

sixty years of age and have a record of "good works", that she had "brought up children", "lodged strangers", "washed the saints feet", "relieved the afflicted", and "followed every good work". What Paul is saying is that if the widow, in former days, had spent her time in real service for her Lord, now, not being able to provide for herself, the church had the responsibility to provide for her. She was to be taken into the number for which the church was caring.

DOCTRINE

(Continued from Page 3)

heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven which said, Thou art my beloved Son (literally, this is My Son, the Beloved - cf Isa. 42:1); in thee I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21-22). As the eternal Son of God is submitting to baptism, the Father is said to be speaking from heaven, and the blessed eternal Holy Spirit of God is descending upon the Lord of glory.

(3). In the redemptive work of Almighty God, one can also see the Biblical doctrine of the "Trinity". I Peter 1:2, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." Furthermore, we have the words of the Apostle Paul in the book of Titus. "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour" (Titus 3:4-6). Again, the apostle speaks unto the Hebrew Christians and has this to say, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works, to serve the living God" (Heb. 9:14). In the Gospel of John and chapter three, one of the most frequently used passages of Holy Writ today, we can very clearly see the Biblical doctrine of the "Trinity." (1). John 3:3-12 the Holy Spirit of God is seen as regenerating the sinner. (2). John 3:13-15 the Son of God is pictured as the One that is redeeming the lost sinner. (3). John 3:16 the Father is revealed as the One who loved the sinner and gave His only begotten Son as the gift unto His own.

(4). In the Great Commission that our Lord gave unto His church before He left this world, one can very clearly see the blessed doctrine of the "Trinity". Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." It should be noted here that this one verse in Matthew agrees with what Moses taught in Genesis 1:1. In the name (singular) and then the apostle lists three Persons: The

Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Here in Matthew 28:19, the plain meaning of the Holy Bible is noted: unity of the Trinity. Dr. A.T. Robertson comments on this single verse in Matthew 28:19 and says, "Baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Trinity."

(5). In the doxologies of the New Testament, the student of the Bible can also see the doctrine of the "Trinity." Jude 20-21, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Furthermore, we have the words of the Apostle Paul in Second Corinthians, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen" (II Cor. 13:14).

There are so many other references to the three Persons of the Godhead within the New Testament that time and space in this article would not permit. Ephesians 2:18; 3:14-19; 5:18-20; Philippians 3:3; I Thessalonians 5:18-19, etc. are but a few examples of what I mean. The one thing that is very certain in all of these verses, the three Persons of the Godhead are distinguished. Thus, the Bible teaches to us plainly that each person of the Godhead is co-equal, co-eternal and co-existing and that they have always so been. The evidence as given in the Holy Writ is overwhelming and thus, there is more than sufficient proof given therein to prove the Biblical doctrine of the "Trinity." Literally, what one must be willing to do is accept the Bible as the final word (authority) and rule for faith and practice. Forget what the Theologians have written, yea, even the preachers themselves and search out the blessed eternal Word of God and see what it has to say on this subject. For you see, if our doctrine is not in agreement with the Word of God, it is the duty of every born again believer to reject what is said of written.

There could be so much more said about this subject matter, but I have tried to let the Word of God do the speaking rather than this preacher. Therefore, I trust that in some small way, I have been able to answer any and all questions that the readers might have as to the picture the Bible gives of the Biblical doctrine of "The Trinity." If not, please feel free to ask questions, but above all, seek the Word of God for your answer. It is my opinion, if you will look up these verses of Holy Writ and study them for yourself, you can not but come up with the Biblical doctrine of the "Trinity." You may not be able to understand it, but then no one person has ever been able to do that completely. I have tried not to give human illustrations of the Trinity and for one good reason, and that is this: everyone of them falls short sooner or later. May the God of Heaven give unto you a spiritual understanding of this vital and important question.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" (Eph. 2:8).

The Baptist Examiner Forum II

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

Explain James 5:14-15 with reference to what we should do today as to this Scripture?

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It is the duty of Christians to pray for the sick. We are to pray for those who have infirmities. We are to pray for the weak in the faith. In fact we are to pray all the time. 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing." This means the same thing our Lord meant when He told the disciples, "...that men ought always to pray..." (Luke 18:1). These verses do not mean that we are to always pray and do nothing else. But we are to pray morning, noon, and night. We are to have prayer in our hearts and on our lips. We are to pray in secret and in public. So we are to pray for the sick.

It is our duty to visit the sick even in this day in which we live. We are to pray for them. We are not to expect that the sick shall miraculously be healed. But we believe that the Lord may restore our loved ones to health. This is still the work of the Lord, but it is not healing in the way of a miracle that is done suddenly.

The Scriptures referred to cannot be in opposition to other Scriptures where we are taught to pray that God's will be done. Jesus said to ask what we would, to ask for anything in His name. John 14:13; 15:7; 16:24. Read these Scriptures carefully and you will find that we are to (1) pray, (2) pray in Christ's name (by and through His authority), (3) what we desire. These things will not be unreasonable things if we pray in God's will.

I believe that James 5:14-15 had to do with the days of miracles before the Word of God was complete. That such miracles were performed to convince the onlookers of the truth of God's Word, and to convince the unbeliever of the work of God; to convince people that the Lord Jesus Christ had come in the flesh. That this instruction was before the Bible was completed and all of the inspired writings had come together in the book now known as the Bible. I believe what the Scripture referred to was during the time or age of miracles, as Paul did on occasions, and as the other disciples did, and as our Lord did on the earth during the days of His earthly ministry; when He healed the sick, caused the dumb to speak, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, and raised the dead.

We have the complete Word of God today, and we are to convince men by this that the things we preach are the true doctrines of God. But this does not mean that we are not to visit the sick among us. We are to go see the sick and pray for them, believing that God may heal them. Not

that those who may be weak in body will suddenly get strong and well in a moment and take up their bed and walk. But to restore to health in the ordinary way is still the work of God. It is by His power that this is done.

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Being a Baptist does not mean that I do not believe this portion of Scripture. It means just what it says. I believe this applies to us today just as much as it did in the days of the Apostles.

I know it applies to us today because I have seen it work. One of our members a few years ago had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital where it was determined to be quite serious. She stayed several days and was sent home and told that she would have to have a lot of bed rest and would have to take it easy. She was not one who would give up easily.

She sent for the Elders of the church to anoint her with oil and pray over her as she believed was taught in the book of James. Well I must say this was a new experience for me; but I looked these verses over, and something came over me that convinced me that if I believed this and the other Elders of the church believed this and our member believed this; it just had to work.

I called for our ordained men and told them what I felt and how the member felt and if they felt the same way, that our Lord would honour His Word. Some did not feel the same way, but there were about four of us that did. We went, we anointed her with olive oil, and we prayed. When we ceased praying she let us know that she felt better already. She got up the very next day and went on about her business for several years. However, her husband died, and she only lived a short time after that. She had a serious heart attack and died.

You might argue that she was not healed then. Beloved, I agree and believe Ecclesiastes, chapter three and verse two. "There's a time to be born and a time to die." I believe that was not her time to die, yet she thought it was and was led of God to call upon the Elders of the church that we might put this in action and believe it. Had she not done this, it would probably have been her time to go. God uses means and we do not know the will of God therefore, whatever He leads us to do, do it without question.

Yes, I believe that she was healed of this heart trouble at this time, for she, as to my knowledge, did not complain of any trouble afterwards. As I stated before, I believe they must believe God will heal them by

this process and that those who are called to pray must likewise believe this, or it will not work.

GOSPEL

(Continued from Page 1)

acted to it in one of these two ways. There is, though, a proper and Scriptural way of reacting to it; and that is in obedience to it. The Bible says that all are to obey it. Acts 17:30-31 says, "And the time of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men in that he hath raised him from the dead." God has sent forth a commandment that all men repent. All are responsible for this and will be judged for not obeying it. Does this not show us how totally depraved we are, in that we will refuse to obey the only thing that will deliver us from the wrath of God? Oh, how men will argue against the gospel; how they will distort it and pervert it! Isn't it terrible how men and women and children react towards the gospel?

Some may ask, "What is the gospel?" We might answer their question in this way: by saying first of all that the gospel is good news from heaven. There has never been any news that is superior to the gospel. Many wars have been started and the news broken of them and it was considered to be the most important news of the day. Many disasters have occurred, and the news of them was the news of the day. Well, beloved the top news story of the day and every day has been the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. No news commentator has ever matched the good news that we find in the blessed Word of God. No news will ever effect your life like the gospel will. No news story will ever be more blessed to you than the gospel. And, no news story will do for you what the gospel will do if you will only obey it. So, the gospel is good news. It is good news of God's love for sinners. It is a marvelous thing that God, who is pure and righteous and holy, could love sinners such as you and me. There is nothing in us that would appeal to such a God. We can't, by our actions, win His love like a young man would try to win the love of a young girl. No, there is nothing at all in us

that we might win His love. God, in His infinite mercy, loved a portion of mankind. God has loved His elect people from everlasting to everlasting. He does not love all of mankind, but there are a chosen people who are blessed and privileged to be called His own and He loves them. 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." The gospel is good news for sinners; that God would send His very own Son into this world and make the supreme sacrifice for them that they may be eternally saved. Now, I ask you, what better news have you ever heard than that? Is this not the greatest thing that anyone has ever told you?

In the next place, the obedience to the gospel is good news for it tells of a holy life lived by Jesus Christ. When the Bible speaks of the righteousness of man it states that, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." The Bible says, that there is no righteousness in us. It is our sins that bring the judgment of God. God has one standard, and that standard is perfect holiness. All who do not meet that standard must face God in judgment, and stand before Him and hear their awful sentence which will be, "...depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire." The Bible says also of us, that "we have all sinned, and come short of the glory of God." This then condemns the whole world before God. Now the gospel is the good news in that there is one who met the perfect standard of God. Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world and lived a perfect life and kept all of the law of God. Jesus did what no other man could do. Jesus did what was impossible for you and me to do. Jesus came into this world without sin, and He never sinned while He was here. He was not contaminated by sin as we are, but Jesus came into this world by way of the virgin birth. No one has ever been born in this manner nor shall there ever be another. Jesus was conceived in the womb of a woman. This woman was a virgin having never been with man. The Bible tells us in no uncertain terms that Jesus was born of a virgin and conceived by the Spirit of God. Listen, "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost". Jesus was God manifest in the flesh and came as the Saviour of the elect of God. He was the only one who could fulfill the law's demands. By His coming and living a perfect life He was able to become a substitute for the people of God. He was able to go to the cross in His holiness and perfection and take my place and satisfy the wrath of God. For you see, I could not do that, nor could anyone else. It had to be one who was without sin. The substitute had to be one that God could accept, one that was without spot or blemish. Oh, praise God for ever more that He is holy.

The gospel is not only a message of the perfect life of Christ and His miraculous birth, but it also tells us of the atonement for sin. This gospel that we preach tells of the sufficient atonement of sin secured by Jesus Christ Himself. What Jesus did at Calvary was sufficient to save all of the people of God. When Jesus

said, "it is finished", He meant that all that was owed to secure the ransom of the elect of God was paid in full. He was saying that there is nothing else that is required. What a wonderful salvation this is. I love to hear and to preach that Jesus paid it all and all to Him I owe. God was satisfied with His atonement for sin, and nothing else is required. The gospel is a message about Christ saving sinners. But men are not satisfied with that gospel. They prefer a gospel that includes a work on their part that they may share in the glory with God. Beloved, nothing else is required by God. Jesus died for sinners and paid their sin debt, and besides this nothing else will work. If Jesus cannot save you, then no one can. If what Jesus did at Calvary is not enough to save you, then there would be no hope for anyone to be saved. But the good news of the gospel is that Christ does save sinners, and that this gospel does work. Hebrews 9:28 says, "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 was offered to bear the sins of many and it worked. He took the sins of His people upon Himself and suffered their hell for them. This verse is not saying that the first time He was here He was a sinner, but that He had the sin of His people upon Himself and bore them to dark Calvary.

This gospel that we preach is one that perfectly delivers us from sin and the wrath of God if obeyed. We read in Ephesians 1:13-14, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." This gospel, if obeyed, will deliver you from this sin cursed earth one day to where you will be with the Lord and His saints. This gospel will deliver you from all of your trials and heartaches and disappointments. The message of the gospel is one of deliverance from sin to holiness. It delivers from failure to perfection and from heartache to complete joy. It is one that will deliver you from the bondage of the devil and from the bondage of sin. Yes, my friend, the gospel is a message of deliverance.

The gospel does not end with Christ in the grave. When the whole story is told, He is found seated at the right hand of the Father in glory. He was victorious over death and the grave. He arose from the grave, and thus He manifested the approval of the Father in the work of redemption. The fact that Jesus is in heaven and not in the grave is proof that all for whom He died will one day be saved. This, my friend, is the gospel. It is a simple message, and it is a message that all men must face.

Now, what is the requirement for those who hear this gospel. The requirement is to obey it, to believe it, and to trust it. It will

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

GOSPEL

(Continued from Page 5)

not benefit you to merely hear it. Many have heard the gospel and gone on to hell. It is not enough for you to accept the fact that Jesus really did exist and die at Calvary. No, my friend, you are required to obey the gospel. Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Obedience to the gospel requires one to see himself as a lost sinner and then to see Christ as his only hope of salvation and turn to Him in repentance and faith. Obedience to the gospel means to turn it all over to Christ and to depend upon Him to save you from your sins. John 3:14-15 says, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." Obeying the gospel does not require that you work your way to heaven, but it does require that you believe and trust in the finished work of Christ.

Notice now what the Bible says about those who do not obey the gospel, "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" Everyone who will not obey the gospel goes on record as calling God a liar. They are on record as saying that all of the Lord's preachers are liars, and they are preaching a lie. They, in calling God a liar, are making a joke out of the Word of God and the people of God. Let them laugh all they want, but the Bible says in Hebrews 6:18, "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us." Let men say what they will; but as for me, I will believe the Word of God. God cannot lie, and the truth is that you will believe the record of His Son Jesus Christ and trust that for the saving of your soul, or you will die and go to hell. You have believed a lie yourself if you think that you have no need of Christ and don't need to obey the gospel.

There is a dreadful end for all who reject the gospel. To reject it is to reject the only means of salvation. There is no other way to be saved. You may believe there is another way, but if you continue in your sins you will find to your horror that there is not. We read in Hebrews 2:3 these words, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation: which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." Well, the answer to this is, you will not escape the wrath of God outside this great salvation. Outside of Christ there is not any hope.

There are no second chances, and there are no blessings to be had. But, in Christ there is all the joy that I have spoken of. If this be true, and it is obey the gospel and be saved for ever more.

WHITE STONE

(Continued from Page 1)

and I believe is also offered to all others of all time who fall into the realm of victorious overcomers.

Many have been the suggestions as to the main meaning of the promised white stone, and it is my candid opinion that none is without significance. Therefore, we shall view four usages of the white stone in Bible times that are worthy of our profound meditation today.

(1) The white stone was given to a man who after trial was justly acquitted, and went forth clear from condemnation.

(2) The white stone was given to a soldier who, returning from war, having won victories, bore his triumphs with him. This was the reward of victory.

(3) The white stone was sometimes given to a man as the token that he was made a free man of a particular city, thus establishing and indicating his free citizenship.

(4) And yet there is one other meaning, perhaps more beautiful and sweet and tender than all. This was the white stone known as the "tessera hospitalis." Two men, friends, about to part would divide a white stone, each carrying with him half, upon which was inscribed the name of the friend. These men might never meet again, but that stone in each case would be bequeathed to a son, and sometimes generations after, a man would meet another man, and they would find that they possessed the complementary halves of the one white stone, and their friendship would at once be formed on the basis of another friendship made a long time ago.

For the sake of summation, the first is the white stone of acquittal which is justification. Second, the white stone of victory, making us triumphant over all our foes. Third, the white stone of citizenship which marks the freedom of the city of God. And fourth, the white stone of unending friendship, my name written on His half, and His name written on my half.

THE WHITE STONE OF ACQUITTAL WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO JUSTIFICATION

Every believer has this white stone; we have been acquitted, we have been freed, we have been justified!

Justified By Faith!

(1) We have been justified by faith! "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). The instantaneous second that a poor benighted sinner places his faith in the blessed Son of God, then and there, without any delay on earth or in heaven, he is saved, and being saved, he is counted righteous, and being counted righteous, praise God, he has then in his possession the white stone of acquittal, which is equal to justification.

Justified By Blood!

(2) Justified by faith, yes, but also by His precious blood. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners

Christ died for us, much more than, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Rom. 5:8-9).

There have been many lives saved in hospitals, on the battlefields, high in the air in an airplane, aboard a ship at sea, in elaborate and humble homes, and other places, because of the power of blood transfusions, which to me, are but similitudes, preaching to depraved humanity that, "without shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb. 9:22). Oh, dear sinner, as you read these words, won't you please be acquitted by placing yourself under the dripping blood of Calvary's cross? "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24).

Once in the Baptist hospital in New Orleans, I would have lost my dear mother had not she received a blood transfusion. The kind physician had to have the right type of blood to transfuse my mother, else she would have died on the operating table, but forethought preparation had the needed plasma at the right place and at the right time. Dear lost person, the Lord has the right type of blood for whatever killing operation that sin has performed upon you, so won't you please trust Him now?

Justified By Grace!

(3) By faith, yes, by blood, yes, but more humbling still, we are justified by His grace! "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that being justified by his grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5-7).

Grace is God's un-merited favor that is willingly bestowed upon humanity. Hebrews 2:9 says, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

My justification is secured in the white stone of acquittal through faith in His dear name, through being washed in His precious blood, and through His amazing grace that floods my soul.

THE WHITE STONE OF VICTORY WHICH GIVES TRIUMPH OVER ALL OUR ENEMIES

We Have Victory Over Sin

(1) We have victory over sin because of God's marvelous provision for us. This doesn't mean that we have sinless perfection, for no man can attain this, but it does mean, that so far as sin's penalty ever resting upon us again, it is removed henceforth forever. "Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back" (Isaiah 38:17). "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions

from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him" (Psalm 103:12-13).

Paul says in Romans 5:20-21 these wonderful words, "Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

And again, he declares, "For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14).

We Have Victory Over Death

(3) We have victory over death. The sentence of death has been passed upon all humanity, because, "the wages of sin is death." We might even say that the sentence of "double-death" has been passed upon depraved man. The unsaved will not only die physically, but also spiritually (Rev. 20:14-15).

The white stone of victory gives my heart assurance today, and since I have been born again, I know that I shall not be hurt by a second death. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death" (Rev. 2:11).

Jesus has slept in the grave of death for all believers. Jesus was victorious over death and the grave, and being in Jesus, I have the same victory today. Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Let the sting of sin, let the sifting of Satan, and yea, let even the silent messenger of death come, but I shall not be afraid, for I have complete victory in Jesus. "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:57).

THE WHITE STONE OF CITIZENSHIP, WHICH MARKS THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF GOD!

Though God's Children Alive Here, We Are Citizens of Heaven God's Children Are Free From Fear!

(1) Yes, God's children are free from the law, because Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth (Romans 10:4). Once the law could say, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point he is guilty of all" (James 2:10), but now we can say, "We have trusted in God's Son, therefore we are guilty of none." "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

God's Children Are Free From Fear!

(2) Many religions thrive healthfully today by keeping their constituents "hellscored." This is not true of Christianity, for the only one who needs to be "hellscored" today is the unregenerate man that has never trusted Christ for salvation. No group in the religious world preaches the doctrine of hell any stronger than Baptists, but they never teach saved people that unless they do

certain things they will be in danger of hell. Baptists do teach and preach that a saved individual will walk uprightly in this world, and if he doesn't, then God will surely chastise him, but never will He send one of His children to hell. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness" (Heb. 12:6-10). "If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I" (Continued on Page 8 Column 2)

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Brethren,

Enclosed is a check for 10.00 to extend my subscription for T.B.E. We enjoy reading every issue. Keep up the good work. Sincerely, Audy Tyrell, FL.

T.B.E.

Enclosed is \$-... Use the balance for publication of the paper. I've enjoyed it for so many years. God bless you. Hazel Sanduson, Linesville, Pa.

We enjoy the paper very much, and wouldn't want to be without it. Cloyd Brittain, Hiddenite, NC.

Brother Wilson,

Here is \$... to renew my subscription to T.B.E. for one year. You may use the rest as needed. I wouldn't want to miss one of the papers. It's wonderful to know that God has preachers who still preach His truth. Margaret Smalley, Lucasville, Ohio

Dear Sirs,

I am enclosing \$... for your wonderful paper. Please use it any way you need to, We enjoy your paper very much, and we would love for you to pray for our family. Robert Moore, Shinnston, W.VA.

Dear Pastor Wilson,

I enjoy the Examiner so much. If I did not have it there would be a big void in my life. Perhaps that sounds funny, but it expresses the way I feel about the paper. I do pray for you and the work there. My thoughts are with you, Mrs. Wilson, and the church. In Christ's love, Ana Griffin,

PLAIN PROPHECIES FOR PLAIN PEOPLE - Part XI "Armageddon"

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

For each of these chapters I have been bringing you messages on the subject of prophecy. I have tried to show you that God has kept His Word as to the prophecies of the past, and if He has kept His Word concerning the prophecies of the past, does that not give us reason to believe that God will keep His Word concerning all the prophecies that are yet future?

I think if God has kept His word relative to the Jewish nation (and He certainly has), I think He will likewise keep His Word concerning the prophecies relative to the second coming, and all the things related thereto. I have a feeling that God has kept His word relative to the nations that existed at the time when the Jews were making history. I am sure that God has kept every prophecy that was given relative to Edom, Moab, the Philistines, and all the balance of the nations round about the Jews. If God has kept His word concerning these, then surely we can expect Him to keep His word as to future events as well.

In our study of prophecy in the last chapter, I discussed what I chose to call, "The Tribulation Period." Actually, my message now is but a continuation of the last chapter. Then I discussed in general sense what is going to take place in the tribulation period. Now, I want to show you particularly one event at its close, and that is the battle of Armageddon.

I am sure that all of you have heard about the battle of Armageddon. I am sure you know there are individuals who say that the Battle of Armageddon has already been fought. There are religious denominations that are built upon the fact that Armageddon is in the background. Today, I want to show you what I think the Word of God says, and teaches, relative to the battle of Armageddon.

I have often thought about a lad that I knew years ago - a little boy about four years of age - who hadn't quite learned to tell time by the clock. One day his father said to him, "Son, what time is it?" The little boy looked up at the clock, then turned around to his father and said, "The little hand is between 11 and 12, and the big hand is on 10." That was as much as he could tell, but he was getting pretty close to telling time. Of course, that meant that it was about 10 minutes 'til 12. The father said, "Well, I didn't know it was that late."

That was just a casual experience, but I think of it from a spiritual standpoint today. I am afraid that the majority of people don't realize that it is as late as it is from a spiritual point of view. I am afraid the statement that this father made when he said, "I didn't know it was that late," is certainly true so far as the majority of people are concerned, for the majority of folk don't realize how late it is, and how near we are unto the time of the end.

It seems strange to me, in that respect, why it is that people can't tell the spiritual time of day. The birds, and the animals and the fish all seem to be able to tell time. For example, the nightingale that was born on an

English hilltop flies to Africa to the right place and at the right time, once every year. It isn't driven there by hunger, and it isn't driven there by cold, but that nightingale, once every year, will fly from the hilltops of England to Africa, and will do so at a particular time. If that nightingale were to wait for cold and hunger to come, it would be entirely too late, but driven by neither cold nor hunger, the nightingale takes



John R. Gilpin, Sr.

off for Africa at the exact time every year.

They tell me that if you put a nightingale inside of a coop with bars all around it, that the nightingale would beat the bars with its wings at that time of year when it is time for it to take off from England to go to Africa. Beloved, the nightingale can tell time.

I think also of the bobolink that we see in this section, and particularly in Iowa, and the Dakotas, and in some sections of the northern part of the United States. All during the latter part of the summer that little bobolink will be making music all over the wheat fields, but long before cold weather sets in, he will start for the Pampas region of South Brazil. He will fly for 5,000 miles and will stay there for five months, and then he will come back to the United States, and he does it every year. I tell you, birds can tell time.

I think not only of the birds but also of the fish. I have been impressed particularly in being over on the sea coast at various times to notice how horseshoe crabs that are supposed to be the lowest form mentally of all the fish family - I have noticed how those crabs come out of the bank to spawn at an exact time every year. In the month of June two days before the full moon comes, at night you will see a few crabs out on the ground ready to spawn. One night before the full moon in June, you will see a few more crabs out on the ground ready for their spawning season. On the night of the full moon, those crabs will be piled up along the sea coast, two and three inches deep, and the farmers go there in their trucks and haul them home for fertilizer.

Now, beloved, can you tell me why it is that those horseshoe crabs come out at exactly that time this year, last year, and every year; how there is no variation so far as they are concerned? You say that is instinct. I'll tell you, beloved, they can tell time. They know how to read time.

I think of this and I think also about ourselves, how we can prognosticate so far as the weather is concerned. All the weather prognosticators and all the professional weather forecasters claim that their weather forecasts are within 85 percent accurate, and I suspect that is about

right. It is rather interesting to me how it is that the signs relative to the time, and to the seasons are so true.

I grew up on a farm and I have always been interested in noticing how things react in the light and the dark of the moon. When the stars seem extra bright and extra large, we can say that we are in for some bad weather. Whenever you see a ring around the moon, you say that we are in for some bad weather. If there is one star inside that ring, you'll say it will be one day, and if there are two stars, you'll say that it will be two days until there will be a storm. When a rainbow appears, we say:

"Rainbow at night, sailor's delight;

Rainbow at morning, sailors take warning."

Then there is another poem that says:

"Evening red and morning gray,

Helps the traveler on his way;
Evening gray and morning red,
Brings bright showers on his head."

We read the signs from the sun, and the moon, and the stars, and the rainbow. We can read these, but God's Word says:

"The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Mt. 16:1-3).

If the fish and the birds are able to tell time, and if we ourselves are able to prognosticate what the weather will be by observing certain signs, then why is it that we can't read the signs of the times, and understand something from a spiritual standpoint?"

Let's look at the clock and observe what we can see, so far as the clock is concerned. I ask, what time is it? How late is it? Which way are those hands pointing? If you will notice on your watch, you have three hands: an hour hand, a second hand and the minute hand. I would like for you to notice how those hands are pointing from a spiritual standpoint.

I like to think of that second hand as pointing toward the redeemed, or the saved people, of this world. What does it tell me, beloved? If I look at that little second hand that is ticking all the time, and ask the question, which way is it pointing, what can it tell me? If it speaks about the saved of this world, it tells me one thing, that we are in the latter days so far as the saved people are concerned. Listen:

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and

commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth" (I Tim. 4:1-3).

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affections, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (II Tim. 3:1-5).

I say, beloved, that little second hand that is ticking away, tells us one thing: we are getting down to the close of the church age. We have almost run out of time so far as the church age is concerned.

Let's look at the hour hand. I would like for the hour hand to represent the Gentile nations of the world. You realize of course, that the Jewish people were under the control of the Gentiles from the time of Nebuchadnezzar to a little past 1950 when the Jews became a nation again. In other words, for 2,500 years, the Jewish people were under the control of Gentile powers. Beloved, I would like for you to notice this truth, that while that has been true. God's Word says: "...and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

Beloved, Jerusalem isn't trodden down by the Gentiles any longer. Jerusalem is completely freed of the Gentiles. I am saying that we can learn something by looking at the clock.

Let's look at that long hand - the minute hand. I would like for this hand on the clock to point to Israel. Listen: "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Mt. 24:32, 33). Beloved, I think we can realize that the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ can't be far away, as we look at the hands of the clock.

Notice again: "In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, the LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own

land" (Jer. 23:6-8).

What does this tell us? It says that the time isn't going to come when they'll not say that the Lord brought Israel out of the land of Egypt, but that the time is going to come when they'll say that the Lord that liveth, has brought up those of the seed of the house of Israel, which has been scattered throughout all the countries.

I say to you, that they are being brought back today, one by one. Time would fail me to tell you all that has happened so far as the Zionist movement is concerned in the last several years. Would you believe me when I say that Zionism is a triumphant factor relative to the Jews? They are rebuilding Palestine. They are rebuilding the land where the Lord lived, and the land that lay desolate for years is now being turned into a fruitful field, and a fruitful valley. Why? Because the Lord is bringing up the children of Israel from the nations where they have been scattered.

Look at these three hands. The second hand points to the redeemed, and everything relative to the redeemed, as we are coming down to the end of the day. The hour hand points to the Gentile nations, which tells us that the time of the Gentiles is fast running out, and that the Gentiles have trodden down Jerusalem for the last time. The long hand, or the minute hand, points to the Jews and says to us that Zionism is a complete success, and that the Jews are rebuilding the land of Palestine.

I ask you, what time is it? When the father said, "Son, what time is it?" The son said, "The little hand is between 11 and 12, and the big hand is pointing at 10." The father said, "I didn't know it was that late." When you look at the redeemed, or when you look at the Jews, or when you look at the Gentile nations, you have to look up and say, "Father, I didn't know it was that late. I didn't realize that time had passed by and we were so far along the schedule, and that we were so near the end of time."

Well, beloved some of these days, time is going to completely run out. So far as the redeemed of the Lord is concerned, they are going to be called away. Following that is going to come the tribulation period, which is going to end with the battle of Armageddon. I want to read you several Scriptures that will show you about the battle of Armageddon.

II. "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

PLAIN

(Continued from Page 7)

another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle unto the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs" (Rev. 14:14-20).

This is a picture of Armageddon. This is one of the Bible pictures of the battle of Armageddon. I don't mean to tell you that I can say what every word in these seven verses represent, but I think that it gives to us a gruesome, awesome picture of what is in store for the world at the end of the tribulation period.

Can you imagine God enduring, with patience, the nations of this world? That is what He is doing today. Listen: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at" (Acts 17:30). God is just winking at ignorance today. He is just allowing people to go on in their sin. However, one of these days, God is going to thrust in His sharp sickle and is going to reap the clusters of the earth, and cast them, as it says, into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

Notice what comes out of that winepress of God's wrath. It says that the blood flows up to the horses' bridles for a space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. A thousand and six hundred furlongs reduced to miles is 176 miles. When it says that the blood is going to flow up to the horses' bridles for that distance, it would tell us that the blood is going to flow approximately 4 feet deep for 176 miles.

You may say, "That doesn't seem possible. There is not that much blood in all the world." I don't know how many people will be in this world when that time comes, and I couldn't say where all that blood is coming from, but I am just reading to you the Word of God, and I believe what God says within His Word. I accept it as final when God says that the blood is going to flow up to the horses' bridles for a space of 176 miles.

I do know this: when Titus, the Roman general marched against the city of Jerusalem in the year 70 A.D. - just about forty years after Jesus went back to glory - when they killed so many of the Jews, and when he burned the city of Jerusalem and carried thousands of Jews captive that were sold in Egypt - I do know that history says that they put out the fires in the city of Jerusalem by dipping up the buckets of blood that was run-

ning in the streets of Jerusalem. History says that they put out the fires within the city with the blood of Jewish men and women that had been slain.

I don't know how God is going to work it out, when the battle of Armageddon takes place. I can't say that it is going to be in foxholes; I can't say that it is going to be in trenches; I can't say how wide-spread it is going to be, but I will say that God says the blood is going to be up to the horses' bridles for a space of 176 miles.

WHITE STONE

(Continued from Page 6)

not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail" (Psalms 89:31-33).

I serve Him today, not because I am afraid of going to hell if I do not serve Him, but because He is my Father, and love for (and not fear of) my Father in heaven impels me to serve Him. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18).

God's Children Are Free From All Danger

(3) Let hell boil over with ten million demons, then multiply them by the sands of the sea and the stars of heaven and then by infinity, and unite them together to march against any child of God and defeat will not come for God's child, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3).

There are dangers seen, temporal and spiritual, chronic and acute, painful and pleasurable, on the right hand and on the left hand, but the dear Lord in heaven has made provision against all of these dangers for His beloved. Let us accept by faith what God said when He declared "nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus." "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39).

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him" (John 10:27-31).

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24).

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:5). "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed

with that holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13).

THE WHITE STONE OF UNENDING FRIENDSHIP

--MY NAME WRITTEN ON HIS HALF, AND HIS NAME WRITTEN ON MINE!

Because I Am His!

(1) I have an unending friendship with God because I am His, I belong to Him, for I have been bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20). I received the half of the white stone with His name upon it on March 17, 1943, when I trusted His Son as my personal Saviour. No, I have not seen Him face to face, but I have seen Him by faith, and because I have seen Him by faith, one day I shall see Him face to face and tell the story, saved by grace! "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

Because He Is Mine

(2) In my present possession is the white stone of unending friendship because He is mine. The unanimous claim of the children of God is voiced in the words of Thomas when a long time ago he cried out, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). God Made Us Friends (Christ And I)

(3) The white stone of unending friendship exists between Jesus and me because God made us friends the day I was saved. "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24).

I have had some earthly friends to disappoint me. I have had some earthly friends to forsake me (even some church people because of my strict stand on some things) but thank God, from the day that God made Jesus and me friends, He has never forsaken me. He has helped me to preach this little sermon on a few occasions, and now while I am writing it, as the tears flood my eyes and flow down my cheeks, He is helping me! Praise God, He is my Friend.

Now, the important thing is, will these two halves of the white stone ever come together? Yes, they will, and I believe very soon. When? Well, one day the trump of God shall sound, the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them to meet our Lord in the air, and so shall be with the Lord.

Yes, at the second coming of Christ the matching halves of the white stone are coming together, and there our eyes shall behold Prince Immanuel, and while the ceaseless ages of eternity roll, we shall dwell ever and forever with our wonderful Friend, our Saviour, our Lord, and our King. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:16-18) "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of

this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

Christ is more than a saviour; He is salvation itself! David said, "The Lord is my light and my salvation." It is well to see salvation in the work, life, and death of Christ; but we must never forget that the essence of salvation lies in His person. He himself is salvation! It is who He is which gives virtue to what He does. We are bidden to come, not to His work, but to Himself. The gospel loses much of its sweetness when the person of Christ is put in the background and honor is given only to the work.

-C.H. Spurgeon

DIVISION

(Continued from Page 1)

punished sin as well as crime. For example, a rebellious child was to be stoned according to civic law. The judicial law was abolished with the going out of the state of Israel.

Second, there is ceremonial law. This refers to the various feasts and offerings, circumcision, the dietary laws, the observance of special days, etc. The ceremonial law was abolished in Christ because the ceremonies and ordinances were merely a shadow of Christ, Who is the substance.

A third meaning of the word "law" has to do with the moral law of God which was imposed from the beginning. God set up a universal system of justice that was founded on His own character. Adam and Eve were charged not to disobey by eating the forbidden fruit and warned of the consequences in advance. When Cain murdered his brother there were severe consequences con-

nected with his actions. Ultimately, the moral law of course was capsuled in the Ten Commandments which defined standards for behavior as well as proper heart attitudes. This moral law always has been and always will be. Note carefully the words of our Lord, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Mt. 5:17-18). Thus we see that Christ is not opposed to the law, but He is a fulfillment of its righteous demands.

The Bible says, "the law is holy" (Rom. 7:12) and "the law is spiritual" (Rom. 7:14). Paul said, "we know that the law is good" (1 Tim. 1:8). Obviously there is nothing wrong with the law, but there is something wrong with us! Moses' anger was kindled when he came down Sinai only to find Israel committing the gross sin of idolatry. In his wrath he smashed the tablets of stone containing the Ten Commandments on the ground, and man has been breaking them ever since! Jesus showed how the law was concerned about motives as well as actions. "Ye have heard... Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery... in his heart" (Matt. 5:27-28). The commandment against adultery also prohibited lust. So the spirituality of the law is seen in that it deals with the attitudes as well as actions.

The Purpose of the Law. Why
(Continued on Page 9 Column 1)

JESUS ONLY

(Tune: Our Great Saviour)

Jesus only is my Saviour,
Jesus only will I praise:
Trusting Him, I need no other,
Trusting Him, I have all grace.

(Refrain)

Jesus is my God and Saviour,
Jesus saves me by His grace:
Jesus only, Jesus only,
Jesus only will I praise!

Jesus only represents me,
He's the Lord, my Righteousness!
His obedience, perfect, holy,
Is before my God my dress.

Jesus only died at Calvary
Bearing all my guilt and sin:
Precious blood, He shed so freely,
Has atoned for all my sin!

Jesus only rules in heaven,
There for me He intercedes:
By His blood I am forgiven,
And for me His blood He pleads.

Jesus only, King of glory,
Soon will come to call me home:
I will see Him, Jesus only!
When I ready my heav'nly home.

Don Fortner

DIVISION

(Continued from Page 8)

was the law given? What is its purpose? The Bible gives clear reasons for the moral law or Ten Commandments.

First of all, the moral law reveals God's character and nature. It shows us what God is like by way of comparison and contrast. Simply put, some things correspond to God's nature; these things are right - absolutely right. Other things conflict with God's nature. These things are wrong - absolutely wrong. The prohibition against murder and adultery demonstrate God's goodness and desire for mankind to live in peace and harmony.

A second purpose of the law is to expose sin. Romans 4:15 states, "...for where no law is, there is no transgression." So God gave the law to make men aware of sin. "...for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20). Paul makes clear the intent of God's law in this statement, "I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Rom. 7:7).

A third purpose of the law is to convict the conscience. It is interesting to note that the Roman epistle does not begin with justification; it starts out by showing that mankind is under the wrath and judgment of God. For decades the gospel message has been tainted by a pathetic view of man, instead of the scriptural position of guilt before God. "Now what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (Rom. 3:19). "The beginning of the way to heaven," said Bishop Ryle, "is to feel that we are on the way to hell." Martin Luther said, "I have followed the rule not to minister comfort to any person except to those who have become contrite and are sorrowing because of their sin, those who have despaired of self-help, whom the law has terrified..." It is through an understanding of how we have broken God's law that the conscience is convicted and this is the prelude to conversion.

The ultimate purpose of the law is to bring man to Christ. The law shows sinful man his need of a Saviour. "Wherefore the law was our school-master to bring us unto Christ" (Gal. 3:24). Imagine the inevitable chaos of a classroom of students who have no

teacher. The school master's presence is to lead the students into truth. Even so, the law points men to Christ. It shows us our inability to please God on our own. "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law" (Rom. 3:31). There is no conflict between the moral law and faith. "Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid" (Gal. 3:21). Unfortunately, there has crept into the contemporary "Christian mind" a fatal miscomprehension about the moral law.

When Scripture says "we are not under the law, but under grace" it is referring to the means of justification. "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight" (Rom. 3:20). We are saved by grace through faith. Keeping the law is not the way to salvation. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5). No man save Christ has ever kept the law. We have all violated God's law, and in mercy God offers the fallen race salvation as a free gift. Since man rebelled and sinned against God and His law, God sent His Son to redeem us. Don't underestimate the seriousness of this. The only way to truly understand redemption is to see man as he truly is - guilty of breaking God's law. It cost God the sacrifice of His own Son to give pardon to His people. A sentimental misrepresentation of Jesus is sure to follow when there is a shallow view of God's moral government.

Why is there such confusion about faith and works? It seems that a reaction against "works righteousness" (salvation by works) has led to throwing out of works altogether! But the Bible has much to say about works - after salvation. Though works do not save a man; works do affirm a man's salvation. As one of the reformers put it, "We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone!" "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..." (Eph. 2:10). A living faith is accompanied by works. James tells us that demons "believe and tremble," but demons do not possess saving faith. Far from downplaying works the Bible clearly states that "faith without works is dead." Obedience, or good works, is not the way to salvation, but an evidence of salvation.

A Christian has a new nature that delights in God's moral law.

In fact, a Spirit-filled believer will by virtue of the divine nature habitually avoid those things that conflict with God's character. Paul said, "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk... after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:4).

This is not legalism, for it deals with more than mere external rules of conduct. Some are so afraid of legalism that all they can do is quote verses about liberty and freedom in Christ. Thank God for the liberty in Christ! But freedom in Christ does not make us free to sin. It makes us free from sin! Are Christians free to commit adultery? Lie? Steal? Blaspheme? And Covet? Absolutely not! These acts are a violation of God's moral law. Any "faith" which does not change a man's heart and behavior is a sham. "...no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience" (Eph. 5:5-6). Salvation delivers a man from sin and rebellion so he can live a life that honors God in the most practical ways. Profession without possession is the essence of Titus 1:16, "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him..."

What saith The Scripture? The Lord Jesus capsuled the law by saying, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart... soul, and... mind. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (22:37-40). Therefore the moral law is God's objective standard, and its demands are met in perfect love toward God and man. J.I. Packer notes, "Law and love belong together. Law is needed as love's eyes; love is needed as law's heartbeat. Law without love is pharisaism, love without law is Antinomianism." Antinomianism is a big word which refers to the belief that since you are saved by grace, you can sin all you want because Jesus has already paid the penalty. This is what I call "sloppy agape." No character, no discipline, just a bloated evangelical grin and a lifestyle of ungodliness that boasts of liberty in Christ. Cast out God's moral law and speak only of love, and you have an accurate profile of contemporary Christianity in America - rampant immorality, divorce, materialism, selfishness, dishonesty, and a host of other sins which manifests a lack of love toward God and man. James makes the correlation between love and law, "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." From a Biblical standpoint, the moral law and love cannot be separated, they are needed to balance one another. Principles, or commands abound in the New Testament. Someone pointed out that nine of the Ten Commandments are reiterated in the New Testament. Someone pointed out that there are over 100 commandments listed in the

last section of the Bible called the New Testament. Any theology that downplays the validity of these commands must be rejected as extreme.

God commented about this age of grace when He said, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them" (Heb. 10:16). When God writes His law on our hearts, Christ is not likely to erase it! The moral law is not merely an external code, it is also an internal reality. It is exactly suited to the new nature, for God said He would write His law on our hearts. Therefore, the child of God intentionally gravitates to corresponding to this law written in his heart. Martin Lloyd Jones said, "Holiness is not an experience you have, holiness is keeping the law of God." Our love for God is demonstrated by obedience to God's moral law which, simply put, is loving God supremely and loving others as ourselves. Did not our Lord say, "If you love me, keep my commandments."? Jesus thus reconciled law and grace by challenging us to demonstrate our devotion to Him through the fruit of obedience.

While we despise the bondage of legalism (and rightly so!) and totally reject salvation by works, we dare not forsake the moral law which is the crux of Biblical love. Included are both the positive and negative elements; "Thou shalt" and "Thou shalt not." These are guidelines by which we can judge our own hearts, especially our attitudes and motives, as well as actions. True godliness is a heart purged from "all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Cor. 7:1).

"Sinai is the subsoil on which Calvary is planted," says Al Martin. In preaching to the lost, the character of God must be the backdrop on which the gospel is presented. Men must be made to understand the God of the New Testament is the same as He was in Old Testament times. He has not changed. It will not do to unscripturally divorce His moral law from grace. To do so is to pervert the Bible and throw the door open for unabashed sin in the house of God. A friend of mine once told me that every problem was of a theological nature, either an ignorance or misunderstanding of God. He preached over thirty weeks on God's character to his church only to find radical transformation throughout his congregation. Preaching on the character of God and His moral law will bring genuine conviction to the lost and will aid believers in purifying their hearts. In turn, men will be turned to essential "holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14).

TO KNOW

(Continued from Page 1)

that God even controls the decisions made by leaders of nations. "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will" (Prov. 21:1).

All of the above is summed up in the following passage of Scripture. "And all the inhabitants of the earth are

reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and one can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Da. 4:35).

The idea has been advanced by some that God is dead. They have arrived at this conclusion because of world conditions. Those who hold to this kind of thinking would do well to observe closely the blooming of a flower. The rising of the sun, or the beating of one's heart. All of these acts fall under the category of God's maintenance program for the earth. It, in other words, requires just as much from God to maintain His creation as it did to create it. A Scripture relating to God's maintenance program is as follows: "Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water?" (Job 8:11). The answer to the above passage is "no", since God must maintain the growing of the rush and the flag.

The fact of God's involvement in the affairs of earth can be seen in the face and fingerprints of each person upon the face of the earth. The face is about the size of one's hand, and yet no two faces on the earth look exactly alike. Most of us would have difficulty drawing very many faces, the size of a hand, that did not look alike. God, on the other hand, has made all of us to differ. Those, in fact, who know me would recognize me in Germany, France, or any other place; since there is no other person identical to me. The same applies to one's finger prints.

It should become more and more obvious as we proceed that, as our text states, "They that know their God shall be strong." It is commonly thought that God is in need of us creatures to help Him in His various programs. It is true that God has chosen to use us, but the fact remains that He does not need us. God does not need us any more than the water needs the fish or the air needs the birds. The fish add nothing to the water, and we add nothing to God. God is always the same. We cannot change Him by anything that we do. This fact is borne out in the following passage of scripture. "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Mal. 3:6). The following scripture also confirms this fact. "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen" (Rom. 11:34-36).

Some have not only questioned whether or not God is alive, but they also question whether or not God created the earth and its inhabitants. I, on the other hand, have no problem believing that God has created all things. To believe otherwise would present me with a major problem. It would be a major problem for me because of the design which I can observe in all of creation. It is

(Continued on Page 11 Column 4)

PUZZLE: FLOWERS IN MASQUERADE

Names of flowers are hidden in the following sentences. A clue is that after finding the first letter of the name in a sentence; the other letters of that name follow in succession, but not necessarily consecutively.

1. Jesus arose from the tomb.
2. Gethsemane was the name of a garden in an area near Mt. Olivet.
3. Carnal gratification is fleshly frailty.
4. The honor which we give is more than word.
5. The truth never slips.
6. A morning prayer glorifies our day.
7. Many people today live in hypocrisy.
8. Paul went faithfully to Macedonia.
9. He will pardon us today.
10. We must be humble.
11. Jesus said, "Do violence to no man."
12. Let us live our life the right way.
13. Iscariot betrayed Christ.
14. They were astonished at His doctrine.
15. Pontius Pilate and the people betrayed Him.

Send us the correct answers to this puzzle and receive five free subscriptions to The Baptist Examiner.

ANOTHER TIME OF BLESSING IN APPALACHIA, VIRGINIA

It was my great honor and privilege to preach at the Temple Baptist Church of Appalachia Va. April 8 - 10. I pastored this church for about two and one-half years about thirty year ago. However, God has kept some ties between us through these intervening years. I suppose that a part of this is due to the fact that my oldest son died during my ministry there and is buried nearby. But that is not all of it. It is just that the Lord has strangely kept some spiritual ties between us. I recommended three of the pastors they have had since then, including Reggie Moore, their present pastor. I baptized once for them. I have gone there for two funerals. I have preached there many, many times in the intervening years. I have a deep love for the people there, for the town and area, and for the church. We have great times of spiritual blessings when we are together. I do praise the Lord for the blessings this church has been to me, and for the precious fellowship we have had. I hope that, if the Lord tarry, we will have many more such times.

It is always a joy to preach for this church. I feel a kindred spirit. I feel the presence of the Lord. It seems that the Lord blesses me, and I hope them, in a special way. This was the first church I pastored that was really a Sovereign Grace, Landmark, Missionary Baptist Church. I received Baptist Baptism just prior to becoming pastor of this church. I had just come to see some church truth at this time. I was weak on church truth. I was wrong on the heathen holidays. I was wrong on the woman's place. I grew much while I was pastor there. I thank the Lord that, since learning the truth on some things I was then in error on, and since becoming much stronger in the truths I did then believe; God has allowed me to go back there and apologize to them for these things and to preach these things to them. They were stronger on the church when I was pastor than I was. They helped me some. Dale Dean, a deacon there, helped me on the Baptist Bride. I feel that this church helped me much, and I hope I have been a help to them. I was sort of in a transition stage in my ministry while there. Maybe all these things helped to strengthen the spiritual ties between us.

We had good services for these three days. I felt that the Lord was with us. The people listen well. There was a spiritual response between preacher and audience; something every preacher will understand, something that is important, something that is better "felt than telt." Oh, I cannot explain it, but there is just such a warm, heart felt, spiritual fellowship between these people and me. Even as I write this, my heart goes out in love and prayer for these dear people.

Brother Reggie Moore is the pastor of this church. God has richly blessed his ministry in Appalachia. The church has grown. People have been saved and added to the church. Some members have started back and

are coming good. They are having a full schedule of services. They have had many visitors. There has been much physical work done around the church, and all these have added much to the appearances of the church. Reggie's wife, Faye, has been a blessing and a help to his ministry there. She is a fine example of what a preacher's wife should be. She works hard to help Reggie. The women of the church love her and work with her in many things about the church. Reggie and Faye are a blessing to be around. I always enjoy fellowship with them. It is always a blessing to be in their home. I assure you that time spent in the Moore home will be spent in talking about the things of the Lord and the work of the church.

On Saturday night we ordained Brother Ralph Wells as a deacon in the church. He is one of the old (not in years, but in membership there) members who has really become faithful since Brother Moore went there. He has been a great help in and to the church. Many of the physical improvements around the church have been done, in part, by Ralph. He is a help and blessing to the church and pastor. It was a joy to have him in our home here recently, and we look forward to seeing him at our conference. Brother Ralph did a fine job answering questions. I believe he will make a good deacon in the church there.

We had several visitors during these meetings. Brother Dan Phillips, a most dear and valued personal friend, and a real friend of our kind of churches, was there two nights. Brother Jim Mills and Brother Rex Tomlinson were there on Saturday night to help in the ordaining of Brother Wells. Brother Herbert Cole, a deacon of the church in Winston Salem, N.C. was there two nights and helped in the ordination service. I was this man's pastor for some time. He is one of God's great men today. I love Herbert and

Sadie dearly. I thank God upon every remembrance of them. Brother Cole stayed with the Moore's, and we had great fellowship on Friday and Saturday. There were visitors from the area. It is always an added blessing to have friends visit during a meeting.

I preached twice on Sunday morning. I felt that the Lord helped me a little more at this time than the two previous messages, but one never knows what the Lord might be doing. Following the morning service, I left and returned to Ashland where I preached on Sunday night. I had, had another time of blessings in Appalachia, Virginia. I look forward to the next time. I will see, God willing, some of them at our conference (which will be over by the time you get this). Probably, I will be privileged to preach there again some day; I surely hope so. May God bless this fine church and her able pastor with great blessing. If you ever have the opportunity to visit them, please do so. You will be blessed thereby.

To end on a sad note with a request for prayer. Sister Jean Bishop is a dear Christian sister and a faithful member of this church. I helped ordain her husband as a deacon in this church two to three years (or more) ago. He was a valued member of the church. He was surely a blessing to preach to and fellowship with. Less than two years ago, he died suddenly of a heart attack at home. Sister Bishop has not yet gotten over this. Her son, Tim, was the only one left at home with her. He played the piano for the church. He played for me to sing that last Sunday morning, and I talked with him briefly after the service. The following Saturday morning, Sister Bishop found Tim in bed, dead. Oh, this has been on my heart since I heard of it. Please pray for this dear sister in Christ that God will comfort her, bless her, and lead her. God bless you, Sister Bishop. I love you much in the Lord.

A MARVELOUS EXAMPLE OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

The meeting in Appalachia, about which I have written in this paper, brought the following to my mind again. I thought I would just write it up. It is, to me, an amazing example of the doctrine of the Sovereignty of God that we preach. I have thought about it so many times, and it has been such a blessing to me.

Reggie and Faye Moore are two of my closest friends. God has given us a great love for one another. I have been so greatly blessed in and by knowing and fellowshiping with them. Brother Moore is now pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Appalachia, Va. God has greatly blessed his ministry there, and I believe that the Lord has many more blessings in store for his ministry and that church.

Let me back up and say a few things about this church. This church went through a long period of very trying and difficult

times. I could write a book about this church and the different experiences she has gone through since her beginning. One amazing thing about this church is the battle she has had with Hardshells and Hardshellism; and especially the way she has stood strong and true through those battles. Her victories in these many battles is an amazing testimony to her soundness and determination to stand for the truth. I forbear telling all these things. For several years, before God gave them Brother Reggie Moore as pastor, it seemed that they were about to go under. Many times they were up to their neck in troubled waters, and it seemed they surely would go under. I am sure that there were times when many of the members wondered if there were any use trying to go on. At times they were down to a very few in attendance. They wondered when and if they were going to get another pastor. There were

many days, and days, and days when things looked mighty dark for this church.

But God kept them going. I am sure that there were times when Satan was sure he would soon have the victory over this church. I am sure there were times when the enemies of this church said, "She will soon be gone." I am sure there were times when her friends, and even her own members, wondered if she would survive. I have often thought, as I have witnessed these trying and dark times for this church, that God had a purpose in keeping this church going. I have often thought that God had a use for this church, and that He was going to revive her, bless her, and use her to His glory. I praise God that I have lived to see those things begin to come to pass. But it did often look very dark, almost hopeless; but God was in control.

I did not know there was a Reggie Moore. In 1983 I was invited to attend a fellowship in Springville, Ala. and to preach. I was told there would be several preachers there. I did not know the pastor or the church, except that they were supporting our work somewhat. It so happened (does anything just happen in a world ruled by our sovereign God?) that I was scheduled to hold a meeting for Dan Phillips the week before this fellowship. The meeting was to close on Sunday, and the fellowship was on Thursday. I had also been invited to preach on Wednesday night if I was there. We have two members, Harry and Agnes Danner, dear and dearly loved members, who live in Tullahoma, Tenn. I decided to spend a couple of days with these two, and Harry had agreed to drive me to Springville, Ala. for the services. It is strange how things all worked out.

The fellowship, unknown to me, was a group of Mahanites, Reformed Baptists, Hardshells, etc. Had I know what I was getting into, I would not have gone. Brother Joslin down in Birmingham, Ala. knew what I was getting into. I had written him about the meeting, and hoped he could attend. He wondered what Joe Wilson was doing, getting mixed up with such a group. He started to call me and ask me about this. Had he called me and told me what the situation was, I would not have gone. But God had some purpose, unknown to me, for my being there and preaching there. Well, these things all worked out, and I preached there on Wednesday night. We had a good service.

I had never met Reggie Moore, but he had been reading The Baptist Examiner for many years. It so happened (?) that Brother Danner and I were to spend Wednesday night with Brother Moore and his wife, Faye. We talked a long time that Wednesday night after the service. I began to get some inkling of what I was into. Brother Moore was the assistant pastor there, but he was not happy about the fellowship meeting. In some way or other, the subject of "Baptist Bride" came up in our conversation. Sister Faye said something like, "Oh, I wish you would preach on that tomorrow." I replied that I had already decided on what to preach and did not plan to change. I had planned a sermon on "Is Sovereign Grace Important?" Had I preached it, everything would have been fine so far as my reception with the preachers was

concerned. Sister Faye said something like, "I am going to pray that you will preach on the Baptist Bride." I went to bed with no intention of changing my sermon.

The next day we had the fellowship. Some preachers preached in the morning. We had lunch. Some preachers preached in the afternoon. We had supper. I was scheduled to preach last. Oh, I wished I had known what this group was. I wished I had gone home from Bristol. I felt like going home several times during the day. But I thought that, so long as I was there, I might as well stay and preach. I heard the universal church. I heard Hardshellism - and it does not take much of either of those to make me sick. But I behaved like the gentleman I am.

Brother Danner is not noted for his tact. At supper he asked one of the preachers, "What do you all believe about the church?" The preacher sputtered and stammered, and said, "What do you mean?" Brother Harry replied, "Some preachers preach sovereign grace, but are rotten heretics on the church." The preacher soon left our table. Good for Harry.

Well, Faye had been praying as she said, and the Lord was working. (I don't know why I just happened to have my sermon on Baptist Bride with me - I did not plan to preach it). During the day my planned sermon started slipping away from me. I grabbed at it and tried to hold onto it, but it just took wings and flew away. Preachers will know the feeling. As the planned sermon moved out, the sermon on The Baptist Bride moved in. This sermon began to weigh on my heart heavily. I tried to get rid of it and hold onto my planned sermon, but it did not work. By supper time I knew I would have to preach on the Baptist Bride.

The first evening speaker was done. It was time for me to preach. I told how glad I was to be invited to preach. I told that I would preach a sermon that likely many of them had not heard. I asked that they give me a hearing, pray about what I said, and then do as they saw fit about it. I told them I was going to send The Baptist Examiner to all of them as a gift from our church. I read my text, gave my introduction, and began my sermon. Wow, would you believe it? Nine people left before I could get started good. I had listened to their Universal Church and Hardshell heresies, and they could not hate Baptist Bride anymore than I hated those; but they were not the gracious gentlemen that I had been. They made quite a scene of leaving. Well, some remained. But oh, the wiggling and squirming; oh, that manifested hostility towards what I was preaching. It was not a pleasant experience. It just happened (?) that Harry Danner was also present the next time I preached that sermon. It was in the Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Fort Pierce, Fla. What a difference! The message that day was received with great spiritual joy. Harry and I marvelled at and praised God for this great difference.

I was through preaching. The pastor was angry. He got up and told his "buddies" how he had been taken advantage of. He apologized for what they had been put through. He was very angry with me. I wrote him later that

(Continued on Page 11 Column 1)

EXAMPLE

(Continued from Page 10)

he knew what I believed, he professed to somewhat agree with me, he invited me, and he should have expected me to preach what I believed. This man has since left our ranks. The preachers came up to shake hands with the pastor. A few spoke to me and shook hands with me. I thought one man was going to hit me. I braced myself to take the expected blow. Oh, he was furious. This was a very sad and crushing experience for me. It is hard to preach under such circumstances.

Thank God for Reggie and Faye Moore. They "ate it up." They greatly rejoiced in my preaching of the truth and stood by me. Harry Danner was a tower of strength to me that day, and on the drive back to his home. He helped and encouraged me much. I don't know what I would have done without him. Thank God for Eldon Joslin and several of the members of the church in Birmingham, Ala. They came to the fellowship. They stood behind me. They were a source of great help during and after the sermon.

Well, the services were over, some of us had talked at length, and Harry and I were on the way to his home. It had been some day. I was beaten down and crushed somewhat by the experience. But God helped me, and

dear friends meant so much to me at that time. Harry encouraged me greatly as we talked on the way to his home. I came to a conclusion as I talked with him. I said something like this, "Harry, God has a purpose in this. God is going to bring something good out of this. God is going to straighten that pastor out so that he will stand for the truth, or God is going to bring Reggie Moore out of that and use him for God's glory." We both felt that it would more likely be the latter.

Well, God moved the pastor out. Reggie began to preach regularly there. He was ordained by the Philadelphia Baptist Church. The church (?) in Springville fell apart. It is most doubtful that it was a church to start with as to an authorized beginning.

Reggie moved to Georgia. He worked with Aaron West in getting a church started there under the authority of the church pastored by David West. Aaron is pastor there. Reggie and I became closer and closer as friends.

Temple Baptist Church in Appalachia was still without a pastor. Reggie was going to attend our conference. I called the church in Appalachia and told them about Reggie. I told them that he could come and preach for them on Sunday. It was all worked out. Reggie preached that Sunday for them. They called him as pastor.

The Lord has greatly blessed his ministry there. I did not know there was a Reggie Moore, but now I count him as one of my dearest and closest preacher friends. Oh, the sovereignty of God, the sovereignty of God! See how God worked in all this. I would not have gone to Springville if I had known the situation. If Brother Joslin had called me and told me, as he started to; I would not have gone. Had not the Bristol meeting and the Tullahoma visit fallen into place, I would not have gone. Had I preached the sermon I planned, things would not have developed as they did. Had I not stayed that night with the Moore's, and had not The Baptist Bride come up, and had not Sister Faye urged and prayed that I would preach that; things would likely have turned out differently. Oh, the sovereignty of God!

This is one of many examples of God's sovereignty that I have seen in my life and ministry. It is one of the stronger ones. God is sovereign. He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will. He works all things for the good of His elect. I praise God for this experience. I praise God for Brother and Sister Moore and the sweet fellowship we have. I praise God for the Temple Baptist Church. I praise God for the good ministry God has given Reggie Moore there. Who would have thought what

good would come out of that experience in Springville, Ala. that night? Praise God that He is on the throne. Isn't this a marvellous example of the Sovereignty of God?

TO KNOW

(Continued from Page 9)

obvious to me that there cannot be design unless there is one who does the designing. Evolution, on the other hand, could not be designed. Evolution to me would be like dropping from a plane all that makes up a house and expecting it to fall so that a complete house was erected.

A close study of all creation shows that a lot of planning has gone into each created object. Our bodies, for example, are the work of a genius. The feet, the legs, the knees, the stomach, the bowels, the heart, the lungs, the throat, the mouth, the tongue, the teeth, the nose, the eyes, the ears, the circulatory system, etc.; all show clearly that they were designed by a genius. That genius, of course, is none other than God.

I'm sure that any person who found a watch would never believe that the watch evolved. It is likely that any person would believe that the watch had been designed before being made. The human body, of course, is far more complicated than a watch.

God, then, should receive the honor and the glory for all that He has so marvellously made. I'm sure that those who do not give Him the honor and the glory for His creation will answer to Him in the day of judgment. The following passage of Scripture points out clearly that there is definitely going to be a day of judgment. **"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"** (Heb. 9:27).

Let us again, at this point, remind ourselves again of our text which states:

"The people that do know their God shall be strong." Genesis 1:1 states, **"In the beginning God..."** This fact, among other things, means that prior to this time there was no earth. There was no sun in the morning or moon at night. There were no people or angels. God lived all alone and had lived alone for all the past eternities. He, during this period, was fully satisfied. He was in need of nothing. He, in fact, if He had been in need, would have spoken His need into existence. God, then, when He did create, did so, not out of necessity, but out of the good pleasure of His own will.

Luther, in his letter to Erasmus, said, "Your thoughts of God are too human." It is likely that the thoughts of most people today, relative to God, are much too human. God, in fact, does not think like we do. The only way for our thoughts to correspond with the thoughts of God is for us to learn how God thinks by way of His revealed Word - the holy Bible. The following passage of Scripture conforms that which I am saying. **"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"** (Isa. 55:8, 9).

The fact that God is far above us in every aspect of His being is declared plainly in the following passages of Scripture. **"Behold the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, He taketh up the isles as a very little thing"** (Isa. 40:15, 16). The "dust of the balance," in the above passage, refers to dust one finds on scales. One, in other words, considers the dust so insignificant that it is not removed before weighing one's self.

Let us now ask why it was that God created, since we know that it was not out of necessity. We can be sure that God did not create for the sake of humans since we were not even in existence when He created the earth. Why do we build houses? Is it for the sake of the house, or the builder? The builder, of course, builds for his own sake. The same applies to God. He, in fact, has made all things for himself. This fact is borne out in the following passage of Scripture. **"The Lord hath made all things for himself; yea, even the wicked for the day of evil"** (Prov. 16:4).

The rose was made and blooms, first of all, for God. The first priority of birds is to sing for God. Its beauty is entirely for Him. We, of course, enjoy these things, but God made these things for Himself.

Suppose a woman can paint a beautiful picture, but she never paints. Her talent would lie hidden. God, on the other hand, by way of His creation has shown us what He can do. His glory therefore is not hidden.

"The end of wisdom", says Tennant, "is design; the end of power is action; the end of goodness is doing good." We can see then why it was that God created. God's wisdom has brought design and His power has brought all things to pass.

The rose reveals its beauty by unfolding itself and God has revealed His glory by creating, and according to the following Scripture, He has done all of His creating for himself. **"For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him"** (Col. 1:16).

Humans, as is true of the rose, were created to glorify God. Man, however, according to Romans 3:12, has become unprofitable. Romans 3:23, in fact, states that **"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."** The rose has not failed God, and neither has the beautiful sunset; but man has failed Him. The main point of failure with humans is that they have sought to glorify themselves rather than their maker. They have sought to get God out of their knowledge as is stated in the following passage of Scripture. **"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient"** (Rom. 1:18).

(Continued on Page 12 Column 1)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
JUNE 11, 1988
PAGE ELEVEN

A LETTER AND ITS ANSWER

I received the following letter, "My name is... I am currently receiving your paper. I did not subscribe to it and no longer wish to receive it. My old roommate thought I might like it, but I do not. I admit that some of your articles are very good, but as a whole I do not agree with you on many things. I am a Christian (the only one in my family). and my family is Catholic. I don't agree with Catholicism, but I also don't agree with the way you choose to express your views against it. I have worked with my family in this area, but in and with love that Christ has put in me, not condemnation as you do. My spirit feels very uneasy about your church, and since Jesus lives in me, I will go by what He says. I will not give you any Scriptures because you seem to know it all, and leave nothing for God's voice anymore. I feel that you hinder God in His movement because of your strictness in only one meaning in Scriptures. I have one thing to say in conclusion. God's Spirit is moving. Do you know where?"

My answer to this letter follows. Dear Brother...I call you brother because you say you are a Christian, and I accept this statement. Of course, we will recognize your request to cancel your subscription. We hate to do this. You are canceling an opportunity to learn truths that you will now likely never hear again. Brother, God will hold you responsible for your refusing this opportunity to learn these truths. You say you do not agree with the way we choose to express our disagreement with Catholicism. Well, I think much more of our way than I do of the murder of millions of Baptists that the Catholic Church chose as her way in past history. I surely deal with Catholicism with love, but I also condemn her heresies, sins, idolatries, murders, and persecu-

tions. What are we to do about sin if we are not to condemn it? It seems to me that your letter condemns us. Did you do this in love?

If you go by what Jesus says, you will go by His Word. The most dangerous part of your letter is that which seemingly speaks of God's voice speaking to men other than through His Word. You seem to believe that there are revelations being made today. You speak of our hindering God by our strictness of only one meaning in Scriptures. Dear Brother, what on earth are you saying? Of course, the Bible has only one meaning. Are you saying that there are many meanings to a portion of Scripture? Then, dear brother who is to say which meaning is true? I suppose you are saying that there are many true meanings of Scripture. Wow! What have we here? Are you saying that immersion is a true meaning of Scripture, and that sprinkling is also true? Are you saying that "Once Saved, Always Saved" is true, and that "Losing Your Salvation" is also true? What are you saying? If Scripture has many meanings, how is one to know its meaning? How is one to choose the truth from among the different doctrines men preach. This statement of yours is absurd. You surely have not thought this through. It is the main reason I write this. It is a statement that leaves one hopelessly mired in the heretical opinions of men with no sure standing for his feet. The opinion of one man is a truth of Scripture. The contrary opinion of another man is a truth of Scripture. Sir, do you really believe this? Can this really be true? Can you not see what this will do to all efforts to study, understand, believe, obey, and preach the Word of God? I hope you will rethink what you have written, see its wrong and foolishness, and write me back asking me to keep sending you The Baptist Examiner.

I fear that your whole trouble along this line is that you are still following some Roman Catholic ideas as to believing some Catholic doctrines that have no Scripture at all to sustaining them; such as Perpetual Virginity, Purgatory, Sprinkling and even sprinkling babies, Holy Water, Mother of God, etc. These things are not based on the Bible. They do not come from different interpretations of the Bible. They are doctrines of demons given through men. Your teaching that God's voice is still speaking, revealing things to men, and that the Bible can have many meanings - this is very, very dangerous teaching. It opens the door to doctrines of demons and to every imagination of the depraved hearts of men - giving such the right to pose as true doctrines of God.

Brother, arouse yourself. Think what you are saying. Get straightened out on this most important doctrine. The Bible is a full, total, and complete revelation of God to man. It is finished. Nothing can be added to it. Men who add to the finished revelation of God come under the condemnation of God and prove themselves to be liars.

You ask if I know where God's spirit is moving. Well, He is moving in His true Baptist churches. He indwells every true church. He is moving in conjunction with the Word of God. I do not know all the places that He might be moving, but I do know of a certainty that He never moves contrary to the written Word of God.

May the Lord bless you to realize the serious errors you now advocate and to turn from them. May He be pleased to lead you to repent of your letter and to write again asking that your subscription be renewed. We will surely rejoice at such a letter, and immediately put you back on our mailing list.

TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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

TO KNOW

(Continued from Page 11)

It is not only that "they did not like to retain God in their knowledge," but there are many today who fall into the same category. There is a push today to get God out of schools and any place else where God's name is mentioned. Russia has already banned any reference to God from their schools and other institutions. All Russian leaders and their cohorts must be atheists, or they cannot be chosen to their position. The end result of this thinking is that man is honored and glorified rather than God.

It appears, due to world conditions, that man is defeating God. This, however, is only an appearance. God is still in complete control of His creation. The following passage of Scripture, in fact, sets the record straight. "The wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" (Psa. 76:10). God, in other words, could restrain the Russians. He could also restrain the reprobate Americans, but He has chosen to direct their wrath so that He receives praise from it. God, in other words, will "get meat from the eater," or He will get water from the dry rock. He will have His way no matter what man purposes to do.

It is not only that reprobate Russians and reprobate Americans will not "retain God in their knowledge," but false teachers of the Scriptures fall into the same category. The God they preach, in fact, is not the God of the Bible. They have concocted what the Bible terms, "the doctrines of men" rather than the doctrines of God. God's Word to these people is as follows: "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9).

Let me add at this point that all of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

The only person who ever gave God all the honor due Him was His Son, Jesus Christ. It is as stated in the following passage of Scripture. "I have glorified

thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4). This is why the Bible declares that there is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved. Jesus, in fact, in John 14:6, said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by me."

Those who hope to reach heaven without repenting of their sins toward God and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour, are going to be very disappointed.

HOW TO CLOSE A SERVICE

by Eldon Joslin

The best way that we can close a service is to follow the leadership of our Lord and not our own personal emotions. The time that we spend closing a service should not be done to affect the emotions of our audience. However we determine to do this will bring criticism from someone. If we close our service by having the people stand and one leads in prayer, those who believe that man has a free will will say that we are Hardshells and gave no one a chance to be saved. If we sing three verses of a song those who are strong in the doctrines of grace will accuse us of being Arminians trying to persuade some to be saved.

I personally feel that the invitation is a rather new idea among true Baptists. I do not see why we would want to get someone to come forward, as this has no value in salvation. I do realize that when some come who would like to become a part of our assembly we need at some point in time have them to come where the rest of the assembly can give them the right hand of fellowship. Therefore I feel that as we close a service we ought to challenge the sinner to receive Christ and let any in the assembly know that if there is anything that needs to be done we would be available to help them. Singing a song should be optional to the pastor. I think it well that the service be closed in prayer, not because this is traditional, but because we need to take this opportunity to thank our Lord for bringing us through another service. Our prayer should convey that we would trust our service has been one that would have been pleasing to our Saviour. In our small assemblies we usually know our audiences and what their spiritual needs are. We should be open to help them, but never come to the conclusion that this can only be done if they come forward during an invitation.

It is important that we remember that the Lord is sovereign, and if a visitor leaves our assembly and goes down the street to a place where they are persuaded to join due to a long emotional invitation, we should realize that the Lord did not plan for those to come and be with us. We must show patience and faithfulness to our Lord and His doctrines trusting Him for the results He would want us to have. Pray for us.

by W. K. Wood
4. This church was in the possession of the gospel and was preaching the same while Christ was here on the earth. "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the son of God" (Mark 1:1). "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world" (Matt. 24:14). Mark you, this gospel, the gospel they were already preaching was to be preached in all the world. It was therefore the same kind of gospel that Jesus said was to be worldwide in the great commission. This church was undoubtedly commissioned to preach while Jesus was here, for in Matthew 10:7, "As ye go, preach." And mark you, this commission to go preach was given to the twelve, whom God says were first set in the church.

5. It was through this church during the days of Christ's personal ministry that He baptized. In John 4:2, "Jesus himself baptized not but his disciples." -the same disciples whom He had ordained and who dated their baptism back to John, who received his authority from heaven.

6. They had the Lord's Supper with the Lord Jesus during His personal ministry. In Matthew 26:30, we have the institution of the Lord's Supper. And at the close of the Lord's Supper, they sang a hymn. This is the only place that the Bible speaks of Jesus singing. And in Hebrews 2:12, it is stated, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee." So we have Jesus with His disciples taking the Lord's Supper in the church. And it was the command of the Lord Jesus to the Apostle Paul in writing to the Corinthian brethren (I Cor. 11:2), to keep the ordinances as I have delivered them unto you. And according to the 18th verse of the same chapter they were to come together in the church for the observance of the Lord's Supper. We should not take it outside of the place He has commanded it to be observed. It is not to be carried to a sick room. It is not a sacrament. It is to be observed by the church in memory of Christ until He comes.

7. This church could exercise a rule of discipline during the personal ministry of Christ. In Matthew 18:6-18, Jesus lays down this rule. It is for those who have had a difference to try and reconcile their differences between themselves. The one who has transgressed will not hear the one who has been transgressed against, let him take two others that every word may be established. Then if he neglect to hear them, tell it to the church. Then if he neglect to hear the church, let him be as a heathen man and a publican. How could they tell it to the church if this church did not exist?

8. Jesus gave to this church during His personal ministry, the keys of the kingdom (Matt. 16:19). The keys of the kingdom was the gospel and the Holy Spirit. The preaching of the gospel under the influence of the Spirit brings people into the kingdom. These are the two keys that open up the kingdom. "That which is born of the

WHY WE ARE BAPTISTS - Part 2

spirit, is spirit." "And being born again not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the word of God."

9. They kept some record of their finances as Judas was the treasurer of this church (John 13:29).

10. At the close of Christ's earthly ministry this church had 120 names on its roll (Acts 1:15).

11. It was to this church that three thousand were added on the day of Pentecost. "They that gladly received the word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

Thus far according to Scripture we have found the Baptists to have been organized at the right time which, according to I Corinthians 12:28 and Luke 6:12-16, was in the days of the personal ministry of Jesus Christ. Baptists are the only folks in the world that can date their origin back to this time. Alexander Campbell, in McCaula & Campbell Debate on Baptism, page 378-379, states that Baptists date back to the Apostolic age. "From the apostolic age to the present time the sentiments of Baptists and the practice of baptism has had a continued chain of advocates; and public monuments of their existence in every century can be produced."

John Clark Ridpath (Meth.), author of Ridpath's History of the World, in a letter to W. A. Jarrell, Baptist Church Perpetuity, page 59 said: "I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist church as far back as A.D. 100, though without doubt there were Baptists then as all Christians were then Baptists."

In 1819 the King of Holland appointed a committee of two, who were members of the Dutch Reformed Church, to write a history of the Dutch Reform Church and also to investigate the claims of Dutch Baptists. In preparing the history, a chapter is devoted to the Baptists. From this chapter we quote: "The Baptists may be considered as the only Christian community which has stood since the days of the apostles and as a Christian society which has preserved pure the doctrines of the gospel through all ages."

It could not be otherwise since Jesus said: "On this rock I build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." There isn't another church organization on God's dirt whose date and origin cannot be traced to some man or men this side of the days of Christ's personal ministry. May

we give you the dates of some of them:

Roman Catholic, with its first universal bishop or Pope came into existence in ...606

The Greek Catholic Church separated from the Roman Catholics.....1050

The Lutheran Church was founded by Martin Luther in.....1520

The Episcopal by King Henry VIII.....1534

Presbyterians, by John Calvin.....1535

Dutch Reformed Church separated from the Roman Catholics.....1540

Congregationalists were founded by Robert Brown.....1580

Methodist founded by John Wesley.....1740

Freewill Baptist, by Benjamin Randall.....1780

Campbellite by Alexander Campbell.....1827

Mormons by John Smith.....1830

Hardshell Baptists by Daniel Parker.....1832

Nazarenes, out of which has come about seventeen different kinds of Holiness by S. F. Breece.....1835

Christian Science by Mary Eddy.....1884

Russellites or Millennial dawn by Charles T. Russell.....1884

IV. We are Baptists because of their doctrine. Six reasons I want to mention. 1. The Bible alone is their only rule of faith and practice. "To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20). "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

H. B. Taylor had a way of saying: "If it is in the Bible, it is Baptist doctrine. If it is Baptist doctrine, you can find it in their Bible." Bible doctrine is Baptist doctrine. Nothing beyond what is written. Psalms 138:2, "For thou has magnified thy word above all thy name." Baptists do not teach for doctrine the commandments of men. But they believe as Jesus did that "thy word is truth". They say, "let God be true and every man a liar."

The rejection of the Word is next to the rejection of the Lord Jesus. The man who rejects the Word, will despise Jesus.

(continued in next issue)

APOLOGY, CORRECTION, AND EXPLANATION

In our last issue (May 28th) there appeared a program for a Bible Conference. I suppose our readers are wondering where this Bible Conference is to be held. Due, partly to my error and partly the printer's error, the name and address of the church was not printed. This conference will be held at the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Duncan, Okla. The church is pastored by Jarrel Huffman. I have written my sincere apology to Elder Huffman, and I apologize to the readers.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a fellowship meeting at the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Cortland, Ohio, Saturday, June 18th. Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served by the church. Services will conclude in the afternoon. Scheduled speakers are: Elders Paul Tiber, Leroy Pack, Dan Stepp, Doug Newell, and Joe Wilson. Pray for these services. You will be blessed by attending this fellowship. For further information call Pastor Chester Powell at (216) 772-6323 or Arvel Waddell at (216) 856-4945.