

## THE ATONEMENT

by Dan Phillips  
Bristol, Tennessee

Isaiah 53:12 says, "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death, and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

This has reference to the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. It says that He would bear the sin of many, not everyone, as we hear so much of today. We see a limitation made here as to the atonement made by our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. The atonement is a nec-

essary factor in our salvation. Election never saved anyone; but, rather, marked out particular sinners unto salvation. Ephesians 1:4 says, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of



Dan Phillips

the world that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."

We cannot believe in election without believing that those chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world had to be redeemed, paid for by the precious blood of the Son of God. Revelations 13:8 says, that He was a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. You will notice that the first part of this verse states that those who did not worship the beast had their names written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. What? My name and all that have been saved, those saved now and those who will be saved, their names were written in the Lamb's Book (Continued on Page 3, Col. 4)

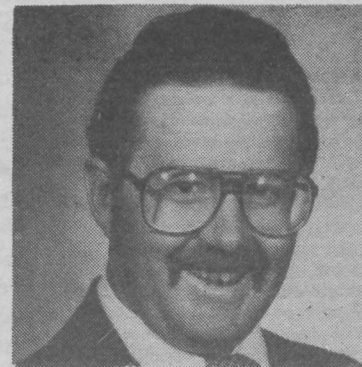
## WILD BEASTS ARE AFTER OUR CHILDREN, PART TWO

by Sam Wilson

Leviticus 26:22: 21,22: "And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me: I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins. I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children."

I want to continue looking at wild beasts that are after our children. We examined four of these beasts last week. We want to notice several more this week. I remind you that this is a very important subject to all of us. May God help us to realize these beasts are out there, and that they are after our children. May God deliver our children from them. May God make us concerned parents, grandparents, and citizens aware of the severity of this problem.

The fifth beast I want to mention is the beast of uncaring parents. The Bible speaks of the last days as being a time of unnatural affection. I do not believe this verse only has reference to homosexuality. I believe it could refer and does refer to the lack of affection that there is between



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parents and their children. Let me illustrate this with a survey taken by Zig Ziglar. Phone calls were made to homes at nine o'clock at night. The goal was to ask parents if they knew where their children were. In over 70% of the homes the children answered the phone and did not know where their parents were. Beloved, we live in a day when there is not the love there should be between parents and children. Oftentimes, the wild beasts that are after our children are parents themselves. The very people responsible for the safety and welfare of our children are the ones who are destroying our young people. It is a

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**Baptist Is Our Middle Name**

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"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" -- Isaiah 8:20.

VOL. 62, NO. 19

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1990

WHOLE NUMBER 2591

## STUDIES IN JONAH

by John Alber

Please note what the Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 1:22, "The Jews require a sign." Now, as you keep this verse in mind turn with me to the book of Luke and notice what our Lord said with regards to Jonah.



John Alber

"And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it,

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 4)

by C.D. Cole  
(Now in Heaven)

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Cor. 5:21).

Speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul says, For our sakes He (God) made Him to be sin who Himself knew nothing of sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. In a word, Paul is saying that God the Father treated Jesus Christ, the Son, as a sinner or unrighteous person, so that we sinners might be treated as righteous persons.

A missionary was once

## HE SWAPPED WITH ME

preaching from this text to a group of natives in a foreign land. When he had finished his message, he was desirous to know whether they had understood it or not. So, he asked them to tell him in their own words just what it all meant to them. The chief of the tribe spoke up and said, "It means that the Lord Jesus swapped with me." And I might say that this puts the way of salvation just about as plain as human language can put it. He Who was without sin took the place of sinners under God's Holy Law, so that sinners might have the place of sons before God the Father. Christ, the righteous Son of God, took the

place of the guilty and bore their sins in His own body on the tree of the cross. He Who was rich became poor for our sakes, that through His poverty, we might become rich. Christ died as the just One for the unjust ones, that He might bring us into God's favor.

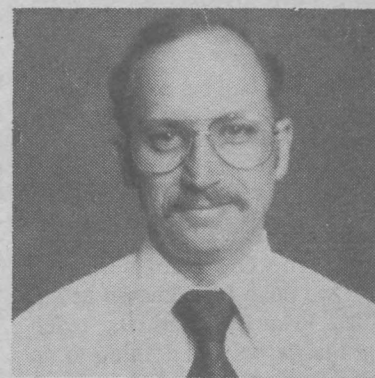
A man was once asked if he would like to be saved. He replied, "Yes, if God can save me without doing wrong." This man was a thinker. He saw a problem in a just God saving unjust people. He realized that a just God must punish sin. He confessed that he was a sinner, and that if God was just in dealing with

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## WILL THEY REVIVE THE STONES? NEHEMIAH 4:2

by John Pruitt

The captivity of Jerusalem began in B.C. 606 with Nebuchadnezzar leading most of the people captive to Babylon. Zedekiah was the last king to be carried captive in 597 BC. The city of Jerusalem was completely destroyed and the temple burned in 586 BC, nine years later. This awful time in history is recorded in the 24th and 25th chapters of



John Pruitt

II Kings. The land of Judah remained in this state of ruin until Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, Belshazzar, was taken by King Cyrus, of the Medo-Persians. The total length of captivity was 70 years.

In BC 536 in the first year of King Cyrus, the Lord laid it upon his heart to allow the people of Judah to return to their homeland over 500 miles away and rebuild their city. Led by Zerubbabel who was a gallant servant of God, some 42,360 people left

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## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

## BEGOTTEN THROUGH THE GOSPEL PART I

"For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel" (I Cor. 4:15).

Oh, the fulness of the Word of God; oh, the power of the Word of God; both are seen in this verse of Scripture. There are two terrible heresies that are dealt with and destroyed by this one verse of Holy Writ. The Campbellites and the heresy of Baptismal Regeneration are cut down by one edge of this two-edged

sword. The Hardshell heresy that the gospel is not used in regeneration is cut down by the other edge of this sword drawn from the arsenal of God's Word.

"I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; for Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel...." (I Cor. 1:14,17). Can you imagine a Campbellite using the language of v.14? Paul was not a Campbellite, so he could write like this. Now compare these verses with my text, I Corinthians 4:15, and you will

see that baptism is not necessary to salvation; that one is not regenerated in the waters of baptism. Paul said that he did not baptize many of them, but that he did beget them through the gospel. Regeneration is by the gospel, and not by baptism. Paul

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The editor had appendix surgery on August 7th. His appendix had ruptured and some days later blood clotting developed. As of this date, August 20th, he is still in the hospital. Prayers are requested.

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**The Baptist Examiner**  
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Office Ph. 606-325-2012  
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Owned, authorized and published by Calvary

Baptist Church, Ashland, Ky.

**Editorial Department**, located in ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where all subscriptions and communications should be sent. Address: P.O. Box 60, Zip Code 41105-0060.

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**PUBLISHED EVERY 2 WEEKS** at 3339 - 13th St., Ashland, Ky., with paid circulation in every state and many foreign countries.

A contribution of \$6.00 per year would be greatly appreciated to help with the cost of mailing.

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**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Baptist Examiner, P.O. Box 60, Ashland, Kentucky 41105-0060.

## BEGOTTEN

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was not sent to baptize, but to preach the gospel. Therefore, baptism is not part of the gospel. One is saved through faith in the gospel, and being thus saved, he becomes a candidate for baptism. Only those already saved can be Scripturally baptized. Baptism is not necessary to salvation. Rather, salvation is necessary to baptism. Well, we have seen how this text demolishes the Campbellite heresy; let us now see how it does the same with Hardshell heresy.

The Hardshell heresy that I deal with in this article is that the Word, specifically the gospel, is not used in regeneration. This heresy is taught by the New Hardshells as well as the Old Hardshells. The Old Hardshells, the ones we have long known as so-called Primitive Baptists, teach that the gospel has nothing to do with regeneration and eternal salvation. They teach that one might be saved by the Holy Spirit, live and die without ever hearing the gospel, without even knowing that there is a Jesus Christ, without knowing anything about what Jesus did for his salvation; and then go to heaven, and only then hear the gospel and know that there is a Jesus Christ. In fact, a heathen may be regenerated, live and die and go to heaven, and never know that there is a true God.

Now, let us look at the New Hardshellism among professed Missionary Baptists. They teach exactly the same thing about the gospel not being used in regeneration. However, they do teach

*The greater the river, the less the noise; so it is the greater the life, the less the noise.*

that one thus regenerated without the gospel will sometime before death, hear the gospel, repent of sin and believe in Jesus Christ for salvation. This is a new doctrine; consequently, there is much confusion among its adherents as to its actual details. W.E. Best is one of its best known advocates, and in his book "Regeneration and Conversion" he is unable to state clearly the distinctions he wants to make. He is confused as to what the gospel is used for and what it is not used for.

You see, these new Hardshells make unscriptural distinctions in



Joe Wilson

the salvation experience, and say that the gospel is used in one and not in the other. The trouble is that they have not yet decided as to the proper terminology for these distinctions. One of them trips up the other by using a different terminology. Some of them, as W.E. Best, trip themselves up by using different terminology in different places in the same book. In one place, p.18, he has one regenerated without the gospel, and then the New Birth taking place by the gospel Ha, ha, ha! "Generate" means birth. "Re" means again; Yet Best has a man regenerated but not born again. Ha, ha, ha! Forgive the laughter; the matter is really too serious for laughter; one can but wonder at such ignorance and (shall I say it? Yes, I will say it) stupidity. Later on p.45, Best has regeneration and the new birth synonymous. See the confusion of Hardshell heresy. Others have distinguished between regeneration without the gospel and the new birth with the gospel. But this is not a usual distinction with the New Hardshells.

Some will distinguish between regeneration and salvation. Regeneration is without the gospel, and salvation is through the gospel. How absurd! Here we have a born again child of God who is at the same time an impenitent unbeliever; how absurd. A frequent distinction is between regeneration and conversion. Of course, conversion here is the same as salvation in the preceding distinction. Here one is regenerated without the gospel, and is later on converted through the gospel. Here we have the anomaly of an unconverted, yet born again child of God. See what absurdities heresy leads to?

A favorite distinction of the New Hardshells (I suppose that many follow Pink in this) is that of conception and birth. They say that one is conceived, given spiritual life, by the Spirit without the gospel; and later on that one is born again by the gospel. They insist, of course, without an iota of Biblical proof, that since there is a time between conception and birth in the realm of physical life, there must be the same in spiritual life. Hey, you Hardshell heretics; show me in the Bible that one who has spiritual life but has not been born

again, or show me in the Bible that one who has been regenerated but has not been saved - has not repented and believed in Jesus Christ - show me such a one in the Bible. Show me your "spiritual fetus" in the Bible. Come on now, I challenge you to show me such a thing in all of the Word of God. I once offered a man at one of Brother Gilpin's conferences, five hundred dollars for one verse (I did not ask for two) in the Bible that showed a regenerated, born again person who had never heard the Word of God. Needless to say, he did not even attempt to do this. I then offered, free of charge, to show him many verses where the Word of God was used in regeneration.

Yes, the New Hardshells make these distinctions which are without Scriptural support, and then say that the gospel is used in one and not in the other. Now, note this fact: the New Hardshells agree totally with the Old Hardshells that the gospel is not used in the giving of spiritual life. The Old Hardshells teach that one has spiritual life without the gospel, and may die and go to heaven without ever hearing and believing the gospel. The New Hardshells agree with the Old that one has spiritual life without the gospel, but teach that such a one will hear and believe the gospel before he dies. Now, please note and understand this major point of heretical agreement between the Old and the New Hardshells.

It does seem to me that the New Hardshells are drawing closer to the Old. I have seen some move to the total Old Hardshell position and still hold the Missionary Baptist name. I have seen some admit that their position was new to Missionary Baptists, not the position of the majority of Missionary Baptists, and still hold onto it. Some have joined with the Old Hardshells. I am glad for this. I admire their honesty in this. I wish they would have come back to Missionary Baptist and Bible truth, but since they did not, I admire them for getting out of Missionary Baptist Churches, quitting their hypocritical position, quitting causing trouble among Missionary Baptists and openly and publicly joining the Old Hardshells. I wish that all of the New Hardshells among Missionary Baptists would come back to the truth or get out and join the Hardshells.

Let me say this to the New Hardshells; you once believed exactly as I do on the use of the gospel in regeneration. Come on now, be honest. You have changed haven't you? Though I have heard that some of you hypocritically say that Joe Wilson has changed. Show me where, and on what, I have changed. You have changed; at least most of you have. How many of you have discussed this matter with me, been in total agreement with me; we have had sweet fellowship on these things; and now you have changed? Come on now, is not this the truth? Well, since you were a Missionary Baptist; and now you have changed on that which is the major dividing line between the Missionary and Hardshell Baptists; why don't you show your true colors, fly your proper flag, and join the Hardshells? Quit being deceitful about this matter, quit causing trouble to sound Missionary people; get out and openly, publicly be what you are. When I quit believing Holy

Roller doctrine, I turned in my license and got out. Why don't you be as honest?

What do these Old and New Hardshells do when the Bible connects the Word of God with regeneration, spiritual life, and salvation? The Bible does this quite often. Let us see. "...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (Jn.3:5). I believe that "water" here refers to the Word, and that this verse teaches that the new birth is by the Spirit and the Word. I know that some understand "water" here

as referring to the physical birth, so I will not push this, though I do feel that it teaches my position. "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (Jn.15:3). There is a cleansing in the New Birth. This cleansing is by the Spirit using the Word. I suppose that those who deny the use of the Word believe that the regenerated are still dirty, uncleansed sinners, for they believe the cleansing Word has not yet been applied. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power" (Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

## FROM THE EDITOR

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom.8:28).

This Scripture is true. It has always been true. It will always be true. It is true in and about all the events of time. Nothing will ever take place outside the circle of the truth of this Scripture. It is a limited verse in that it is only true of certain people. These people are described in two ways. They are those who love God. They are those who are effectually called to the experience of saving grace. These are two different descriptions of the same people. Those who love God are effectually called. Those who are effectually called will love God. The word "called" in this verse must mean the effectually called, for those who receive the general call and do not respond to it (no man will respond to the general call unless he is effectually called) do not love God, and this verse does not apply to them. The words "his purpose" in this verse can refer to all things working together for good - that this is God's purpose. Or they can refer to those who are called according to God's eternal purpose. Both things are true, and I am not sure which of these the word "purpose" refers to.

This verse is an unlimited verse. The "all things" in this verse means exactly that. There are times when "all" does not mean all without exception (Many Scriptural examples could be given). This is one of the (really few) times that "all" means all without exception. Good things, bad things, things of nature, political things, so called accidental things, even sin - all things work together for good for God's people.

The reason that this is true is that God is in control. Man does not work things out this way. The devil certainly does not work things out this way. Things do not just happen to work out this way. God is in control. He's got the whole world, and everyone in it, and every thing in it, in His hands. If God is not in total and absolute control of all things, then Romans 8:28 would not and could not be true. One cannot really believe Romans 8:28 who does not believe in a Sovereign, Almighty God who is in control of all things. This verse is true.

This verse is sometimes hard to believe. It is an outstanding proof of depravity, that we sometimes have difficulty believing God. I doubt that there is, or ever has been, a Christian who has not at times had difficulty believing this verse. Oh, it is easy to believe when the sun is shining and everything is going well. But, when the storms come, when sickness comes, when sin comes, when loved ones are taken in death, in many times and in many ways most of us have had trouble at times believing Romans 8:28. I doubt that there is one among us who has not at times said, "I don't see how that can be for my good; I do not see how any possible good can come out of that." My brother, my sister, is this not true? If we truly, totally, completely, always believed Romans 8:28; we would never be sad, we would never murmur or complain, we would never wish that such and such a thing had not happened, we would never want anything changed. Yes, this verse is sometimes hard to believe.

This verse is always true whether we believe it or not. The truth of God's promises does not depend upon the faith of His people. "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself" (II Tim.2:13). Our unbelief cannot and will not disannul the faithfulness of our God. To fail to keep His promises would bring great dishonor to Himself, and this can never be. Yes, Romans 8:28 is true whether we believe it or not. All things do work together for the good of God's people. We may believe of this, or that, or the other that it could not possibly be for our good; but it is.

Our lack of faith cannot disannul the promise of God, but it can rob us of much comfort, joy, and peace. We cannot draw from the promise that blessing that is stored up therein for us, we cannot draw the joy and of strength therefrom that is contained therein; if we do not believe the promise. Oh, let us pray, "increase our faith." Let us seek to wrap our faith around this glorious promise of God. Let us confess any doubts we might have, and ask for forgiveness and victory. We miss much because we do not believe Romans 8:28 as fully as we should. We suffer much by this. But, even though this be true; the promise remains firm and true as it ever was. We may miss out on some present comfort, strength, joy, and peace we could have had; but we cannot miss out on the fulfillment of the promise. It will still be true.

I think that, yonder in glory if not before, we will realize and understand this promise. I think we will "Understand it better by and by." I think we will then see how it was true that everything - even that which seemed so much against us - was for our good.

Well, Romans 8:28 is a glorious truth. Praise God for it. Let us rest upon it and draw from it all that we can. Let us believe it as best we can. I think that the child of God, even in the midst of wondering and doubting, still knows in his heart of hearts that this verse is true. I think that sometimes we say, "I believe, help thou my unbelief." Someone called Romans 8:28 a soft pillow for a tired heart - how true!



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of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...." (Rom.1:16). Some Hardshells foolishly say that these are already believers before they hear the gospel and it saves them. Well, what did they believe? The gospel must be believed in order to be saved. It must be heard in order to be believed. Oh, how foolish are Hardshell heretics. How they twist and turn to try to get away from the sharp edge of the sword of God's Word. They remind me of a worm twisting and turning, trying to get away from the sharp point of the hook. Maybe I should not blame the Hardshells, for the Word of God slicing into their heresy is painful. Twist and turn as they will, the Word of God will eventually destroy their rotten heresy.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?...So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:13,14,17). Wow, is this ever a Hardshell killer! One must hear the Word of God in order to have saving faith. Wiggle, you Hardshell; squirm, you worm. The Word of God sticks and cuts, doesn't it? "...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe (I Cor.1:21). It may not please the Hardshell that God saves in this way, but it does please God. "...in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel" (I Cor.4:15). This verse forever destroys both the Old and New Hardshell heresy of regeneration without the gospel. Why won't you Hardshells be honest? Why won't you face up to the Word of God? Why do you try so hard to make the Bible say what it does not say? Why do you refuse to believe the Bible? As long as this verse is in the Bible, no one who will bow to the authority of the Word of God, and really believe what the Bibles says on the subject, will ever believe or preach that one can be regenerated without the gospel. Understand what I say; you Hardshells, New or Old, do not believe this Scripture. You are rebels against the clear and plain statement of the Bible.

"Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth..." (Jms.1:18). Oh, I know you Hardshells will say that "begat" does not mean "begat," but that it means the birth of what is already begotten. But you pervert the Word of God in doing this, and you would have never thought of such a thing if you had not already accepted Hardshell heresy and was trying to force the Bible into your Hardshell mold instead of just believing what the Bible says. I know that you say that a different Greek word is used here, but when the Greek word you make much of not being used here is used in I Corinthians 4:15, you still deny the truth.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and

abideth for ever" (I Pet.1:23). The Bible is full of my doctrine that the gospel is used in regeneration, stating it again and again. The Hardshell heresy does not have one verse anywhere in the total of the Word of God to support itself. Oh, ye Hardshells, hear Joe Wilson; your doctrine is a doctrine without a verse of Biblical proof. You say differently; well the matter can be easily settled: give me one verse (I do not ask for two) that teaches your doctrine. Yes, give me that one verse, and I will print that verse in The Baptist Examiner and expound it, showing that it does not teach your heresy. If there is a verse that teaches your doctrine, give it to me; I will print it, and if it does teach your heresy, then you will have succeeded in getting your doctrine in the pages of this paper. This paper will print any part of the Bible. This paper will print any doctrine that is taught in the Bible. So, if the Bible teaches your doctrine, here is your opportunity to have it publicly printed in The Baptist Examiner. I have given several Scriptures that prove the Missionary Baptist Doctrine that the gospel is used in regeneration. I could print more. Now, you Hardshells give me the verse to print that teach your doctrine, or forever admit that the Bible does not teach your doctrine.

Let me ask this of the Hardshell, New or Old: if God had wanted to teach my doctrine that the gospel is used in salvation (in regeneration, for I know some of you try to separate these two so as to support your heresy, but your efforts are in vain) - if God had wanted to teach my doctrine on this, what words could He have used that would have made it any clearer than it is already made? If the Bible does not teach that the gospel is used in regeneration, then such a doctrine could not be taught in human language. If that which God has said on this subject does not teach the usage of the gospel in regeneration, then no words could be used by God or man that would teach such a doctrine. Mr. Hardshell, if you can get around the clear meaning of what God has said on this subject, you would also get around anything God could have said on the subject. If what God has already said on this subject does not convince you, then nothing anyone could ever say on this subject would convince you. You have made up your mind to believe your heresy, and you will not allow the clear teachings of the Bible to change you.

I once had a discussion with a no-heller. I thought that, if I could prove anything by the Bible, I could prove eternal hell. But he had his mind made up. He had a pre-thoughtout answer to any Scripture I gave him. Though the Bible is plain and clear on eternal hell, I could not convince this man of this truth. Mr. Hardshell, that is the way you are on this subject. No matter how plainly the Bible speaks on the truth of the gospel being used in regeneration, you have a perverted, pre-thought-out answer thereunto. You have made up your mind, and you are not going to let the plain truth of Scripture change you.

Mr. Hardshell, I ask you again; if the Scriptures I have given you (and more could be given) do not teach that the gospel is used in

regeneration, how could such a doctrine be taught? Mr. Hardshell, if these Scriptures do not teach that the gospel is used in regeneration, what do they teach? Tell me that.

Now, to mention a point that greatly offends me. Hardshells will call me and those who believe the truth like I do "Gospel Regenerationists." When they do this, they know that they are hypocrites and liars; but this does not seem to bother them, for they continue doing such. They know - at least they should and could know - and most of them do know that I (and those who believe the truth like I do) believe that the Spirit uses the gospel in regeneration. They know that I do not believe that one can be regenerated by the gospel without the Holy Spirit. They know this, yet they persist in calling me a "Gospel Regenerationist." I have said it thousand times; I will say it again: I do not believe one can be regenerated by the gospel without the effectual work of the Holy Spirit. I am not a "Gospel Regenerationist." I am a "Spirit/Gospel Regenerationist." Now, Hardshells know this about me and what I believe; yet I guarantee you that by the time you read this paper, and after some of them read it; some of them will again be calling me and those who believe the truth like I do, "Gospel Regenerationists." I say to all such; when you do this you are a liar and a hypocrite. I will tell the truth on you. I will not lie about you. You who do not believe that the gospel is used in regeneration are Hardshell heretics. See, I did not lie on you. You are "Spirit Without the Gospel Regenerationists." See, I did not lie on you. I told the truth. You are "Spirit Without the Gospel Regenerationists." Now why don't you tell the truth on me; I am a "Spirit With the Gospel Regenerationist."

Well, it sometimes takes a long time to kill a snake - and Hardshell heresy is a snake. So I will not be able to finish this article in this issue. I have introduced the subject. I have given you many Scriptures proving my position. Next issue, God willing, I will show how the New and Old Hardshells attempt to get around the clear and plain teachings of the Bible on this subject and will expound my text, I Corinthians 4:15, and deal further with this important subject.

Let it be known that Calvary Baptist Church, The Baptist Examiner, and Joe Wilson are Missionary Baptists. We are not Hardshell heretics. We stand by the Old Paths of Bible and Baptist doctrine, and we intend to stand true to these truths until the Lord calls us home. Some of the brethren and churches who once stood exactly where we stand now, have departed from the faith and become teachers of Hardshell heresy. Praise God that the vast majority still stand where we all once stood. The large majority of our preacher brethren still teach the Missionary Baptist truth about the gospel being used in regeneration. I praise God for them. You who were once one of our number: we stand where you stood when we stood together. We will still be standing there when you return to the truth and come back to stand with us, if God should will to bring this about (oh, that He would). But, we will be still standing there

when the Lord calls us home, whether you come back to truth and stand with us; or whether you remain in your Hardshell heresy. Yours for Bible and Missionary Baptist truth. Yours against Hardshell heresy.

## ATONEMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

of Life before the foundation of the world. Revelation 17:8 states the same thing. So, we see plainly that in the mind of God, Jesus was slain from the foundation of the world for a people that was chosen from the foundation of world, and all this is coming to pass in reality in time; in fact, His time and the working of His power. We believe that God works in perfection and cannot fail or make a mistake. If this be so, and it is, then there will be no one in hell that Christ died for.

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE ATONEMENT IS LIMITED.

The Free-Willers even limit the atonement. They limit it to who-so-ever makes a commitment - that is, coming to the altar, mourner's bench, or being baptized. Yet, they jump us for saying the atonement is limited. They say, "I believe in whosoever will" and quote John 3:16. John 3:16 limits the atonement - "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 atonement only covers the whosoever believeth in Christ, and the whosoever believeth is a work of the Spirit and not of the flesh. Paul says in Philippians 2:13 that it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. John 1:13 says of those that are saved, that they were not born again of blood (that is, they did not inherit it), nor of the will of the flesh (not of the works of the flesh), nor of the will of man (that is, not of man's will), but of God (that is, salvation is of the Lord, all of grace). Paul said in Romans 9:16 that it is not of him that willeth, but of God who showeth mercy. Jesus, our dear Saviour, said in John 5:40, "Ye will not come to me that ye might have life." Jesus said again in John 6:44 that, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him."

The atonement is limited to those given to the Son by the Father from the foundation of the world. The Bible states in Ephesians 1:4 that we (Christians and those yet to be saved) were chosen in Him (elected in Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (through Christ's imputed righteousness and of course in the rapture of the glorified body) and without blame (not one sin laid to our charge). We will stand before Him in love. Jesus, our Redeemer, said in John 6:37, "ALL that the Father giveth me shall come to me." He said again in John 17:2 The Lord's Prayer, "As thou hast given him (Jesus) power over all flesh, that he (Jesus) should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given Him."

In other parts of this chapter,

our Lord speaks of those given Him of the Father. Beloved, the atonement is limited to those given to the Lord Jesus. We found in Revelations 13:8 and 17:8 that their names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life from the foundation of the world, and in the mind of God, Jesus was a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

THE ELECT OF GOD

The elect have always been called sheep. Jesus said in John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." Beloved, the saints of God have never been called goats, even before they were saved. Ephesians 2:3 says, "By nature, we (the elect) were the children of wrath even as others." However, we, the elect of God, were the children of God, to be called in God's due time. Jeremiah 31:3 says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love..." Beloved, there has never been a time that God has not loved those He gave to the Son. Jesus told one group of people that they were not His sheep see John 10:26 and 8:37, Jesus said, "My word hath no place in you." He told this same group of people in the 44th verse, "Ye are of your father the devil." He told them again in verse 47, "Ye are not of as was not God." Beloved, these people were not included in the atonement as Pharaoh or Esau. So why should we be so ignorant and reason that Christ died for everyone from Adam down through time, when rightly dividing the Word, it does not teach it?

Yet some will say. Christ died for everyone and the only reason people go to Hell is because of the sin of unbelief. Beloved, if Christ died for sin, the sin of unbelief would be included. God loved His people from all eternity and bought them with the blood of His dear Son. You can be sure that He is going to redeem those He paid for. Beloved, it stands to reason; if God does not save all, He did not die for all. He works in perfection and without hindrance. In fact, Ephesians 1:11 says He "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." Daniel 4:35 says, "He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand." This does not say God will save you if you will let Him, as I have heard so many preachers say. Beloved, these Scriptures tell us that God is sovereign and works when He wants to, where He wants to, and how He wants to. Who are we to reply against God (Romans 9:20)? The Father elected, and the Son redeemed. The Holy Spirit calls through irresistible power, at the appointed time those that the Father elected and the Son redeemed.

The atonement is not a failure. Not one drop of blood was wasted. Every drop of blood that was shed was for those given to Christ Jesus; and since God works in perfection, there was

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## The Baptist Examiner Forum I

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

Explain our voting people into the church in the light of  
Acts 2:47.

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There is a dangerous heresy that is getting stronger and stronger every day. It teaches that all believers of all time will make up the Bride of Christ. It is the universal church heresy. You never hear them speak of the Lord's true churches; instead, they speak of "the church." You never hear them talk of the rapture of the saints; rather, it is the "rapture of the church." Consequently, they cannot make any distinction between the Bride and the rest of the the saints of God.

No, there will not be two separate raptures. All saints living and dead will be caught up together in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall they ever be with Him. However, after the rapture, the saints will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, and be judged according to their works in the flesh; their carnal work will be burned, and they will be rewarded for their good works. This is made clear in I Corinthians 3:10-15, Romans 14:11,12, and II Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." This is where the Bride is separated from the rest of the saints. John saw the New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven in Revelation 21:2. This is, of course the Bride. Verses 10 and 11 of that same chapter tell us that New Jerusalem has a light. In other words, the city is lighted like no other city has ever been lit. We have already seen that the City is the same as the Bride, now look at Revelation 21:24. "And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it." The nations of the saved shall walk in the light of the city, but the Bride is the City.

I believe that the nations of those who are saved in Revelation 21:24 are not the Bride, but the rest of the saints which could not be numbered with the Lord's true churches. Paul spoke of the Corinthian church as a chaste virgin belonging to Christ. All saints will have access to the Holy City, and worship therein, Read Revelation 21:24-27; Isaiah 52:1-7. However, the Holy City,

the New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ which will dwell in His presence. You must think of the Holy City as a people rather than a place in order to make a distinction between the Bride, and the nations of the saints. Thank you for your question.

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Revelation 21:2. "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

Indeed the mysteries of God's Word are many and deep. I wish I had all the answers to all the forum questions I receive. I sometimes think that on many of them I might be better off just saying I don't know and moving on. This is a question that I must confess I do not know the answer to. I am not sure that anyone knows the answer to this question. There are many guesses, but I personally am not convinced the Bible gives us a clear answer to this question. In fact I am sure the Bible does not give a clear answer. I will speculate as to who I think might dwell in the Holy City.

Let me point out first of all that we know there will be some people who do not live in the city. Some commentators place all the saved in the city, I reject this theory completely. We know that there are those who "walk in the light of the city." We know there are those who will "bring their glory and honour into the city." This makes it clear that not all the saved will dwell in the city. Now the question is, who will dwell permanently in the Holy City? We know that God will dwell there. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I believe, will all dwell there. The first group of people I mention who I think will dwell there is the bride of Christ. Surely Jesus will not live separated from His eternal bride. (I believe the bride will consist of faithful members of true Baptist churches.) When I say bride I certainly do not mean all the saved. I believe this is implied when John describes the city adorned as a bride. I have no doubt at all that the bride of Christ will dwell in that Holy City.

The question arises, will anyone else dwell in the holy city? I personally believe that there will be a portion of Israel that will dwell in the new Jerusalem. I cannot imagine the bride of Christ dwelling in the city, and not the bride or wife of the Father. I believe this first of all be-

cause God the Father will dwell in this city. Secondly, because we have twelve gates bearing the name of the 12 tribes of Israel. I believe this implies that some of Israel will dwell there. The question arises; who from Israel will dwell there? Again I mention that this is speculation, but I feel that faithful, saved, Israelites will dwell in the Holy City. I hope that I have been of some help. I repeat that I think this is a question to which there is no clear Biblical answer. I have given you my thought: May God bless you all.

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"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." (Revelation 21:2) Please read also Revelation 21:9,10.

I suppose that I am one of a minority who is regarded as holding a strange and narrow view of who will live in the holy city prepared by our blessed Lord. It is my conviction that all of the family of God, all of His saints will have access to the city of the eternal ages, the New Jerusalem; but only the the Lord Jesus and His bride will dwell there permanently.

I realize that the majority of Christians today teach that the Bride of Christ is the church which comprises all of the saved; but the majority teaching is in error, as all true Baptist people know.

There are, as you are aware, many in our own ranks who believe that the bride is composed of all the born-again members of a true local New Testament Baptist church. It is my conviction, however, that the Lord will choose His bride from this group and that all are not necessarily included. Certainly the bride is not chosen from the entire family of God, for the majority are not in the Lord's church, and most hold to various errors, or perhaps we should say they are ignorant of some truths not revealed to them.

The bride will dwell permanently in the City and the rest of the vast multitude of the saved will be able to come and go, but apparently dwell outside the city. "And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it." (Revelation 21:24) These multitudes are the guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb. They are in a blessed state. They shall have joy untold. They shall

have no envy or covetous desire of the bride, for those things do not exist in the eternal state; but they dwell outside the city. The bride, of whom it is said, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." (Revelation 19:7,8), has the special dwelling place within the city; the half cannot be fancied.

Those within and those who come and go will need no sanctuary then for the Object of worship will be there, the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. All will be according to God's will and preparation. And all we, whatever place we are accorded, can sing and rejoice in the hymnist's words, "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shinning as the sun, we'll have no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

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"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God," (Rev. 21:9, 10).

A city is identified by its inhabitants. Here the Lamb's wife is identified with the city, which shall be her eternal dwelling place with the Lamb and with God. They are the ones who make up the city. It is for this reason the new Jerusalem is called the Lamb's wife. Therefore, we can say, all who are in the bride of Christ will reside in that holy city. This brings up the question, Who or what is the bride of Christ?

In Ephesians 1:22, 23 we read that Christ is "head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." The relationship of husband and wife is to be like that of Christ and His church, as the husband and wife are one; so is Christ and His church (Eph. 5:21-33). "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:30, 32). These passages, as well as others which could be quoted, show that the church is the bride of Christ. The next question to be asked is who is in the church? On the day of Pentecost, after Peter had preached, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them." (the church)

"about three thousands souls" (Acts 2:41). "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body," (I Cor. 12:13).

These passages show that the new Jerusalem is to be the home of "the bride, the Lamb's wife." They also show that the bride is the Lord's churches, which are composed of baptized believers. In Revelation 21:24 we are told that the light from the city, the Light being the Lamb, will give light to the nations of the earth, "And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it." This raises another question as to who are the people of these nations, and why are they not residents of that city. To quote J. Willard Willis in his book "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" Page 267, "Who are these people and why aren't they in the New Jerusalem? The answer is that these are the Old Testament saints and all the New Testament saints who were not members of the Lord's Bride, the church. The Old Testament saints will not be there because the Lord Jesus had not established His church when they were here. The New Testament saints who will not be there are those foolish virgins who took no oil in, nor for their lamps. These will be privileged to behold the Lamb, but not continually as will be true of His Bride."

The Holy City is the place that Christ told His church, "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). Christ not only prepares a place for His bride, but He also prepares the bride for the place. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27). The apostle Paul wrote, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Cor. 11:2). To be a "chaste virgin" is to follow the teaching of Christ as is recorded in His Word. It is only those who are faithful to His Word that will dwell in that Holy City.

## ATONEMENT

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just enough shed for them - none for those in hell now, or for those who are yet to go there. The atonement was a perfect work, for we read in Isaiah 53:11, "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities". This says that He will be satisfied. If there were one sheep that failed to show up and enter the fold, our blessed Lord would not be satisfied would be miserable, and would be a

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## The Baptist Examiner Forum II

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

Why do Baptists say they will be the bride, when Revelation 21:2, 9, 10 say that the new Jerusalem is the bride?

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Baptists say that they will be in the Bride because the statement is consistent with the teaching of the Bible. However, there are some requirements that must be met to insure this status. Simply being a Baptist or being a member of a Baptist church does not of itself guarantee being in the Bride. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready" (Rev. 19:7). Note the last part of this verse where it states that the bride must make herself ready. Ready signifies the need for specific preparation. It means to be prepared.

Preparation of a bride, according to Biblical standards, requires that she be a chaste virgin. "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Cor. 11:2). It also requires that she remain separate and refrain from that which is unclean. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, Saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (II Cor. 6:17). She must be following righteousness. "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints" (Rev. 19:8). There are other preparations involved, but these should be sufficient to show the necessity of preparation.

The above requirements show that the bride is alive and capable of carrying out acts of instruction from her master. This is not true with a city. A city is an inanimate object and is built or prepared, not a created being. How then, does the new Jerusalem fit in as the bride?

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Rev. 21:2).

Notice that it says prepared as a bride for her husband. The word "prepared" is the same word that is used concerning the bride making herself ready. The new Jerusalem is a prepared place for a prepared people. Christ Himself said that He would prepare a place for His people. "In my Father's house are many mansions:

if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3). The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are in the center of the new Jerusalem. Jesus Christ is the centerpiece in that city which He has prepared for His people.

The new Jerusalem is to be the dwelling place of the Bride. It will be prepared as a bride is prepared for her husband. The word "as" is used to draw a correlation to indicate the equality or sameness of two things. In this case, the equality of the bride and the new Jerusalem. The city is the home of the bride and when the reference is made to the city as being the bride, it is because the terms are interchangeable.

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The first few verses of Isaiah forty and Malachi three tell us of a forerunner that is coming to prepare the way for the Lord. Speaking of John the Baptist Jesus said in Matthew 11:10 "For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I will send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare the way before thee." In the gospel of John 1:6 it says, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." And verse 33 says, "And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." John was a special person sent from God to prepare a people for the Lord Jesus to start the first Baptist Church.

There was not a church in the Old Testament in a true sense. There was no authorized baptism before John. He was the only one up to this time authorized to baptize. John, in preparing a people for charter members of the first church ever, demanded fruits meet for repentance, in Matthew three and verses seven and eight. In other words, John did not baptize every Tom, Dick and Harry. He wanted to see some evidence that they had repented.

Jesus took those who had been baptized by John and started the church He intended to carry out His work here on earth. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon

this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Peter had just confessed in Verse 16 that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus then said, upon this truth that I am the Christ, the Son of God, I will build my church. It was not built upon Peter as the Catholics teach, but Christ Himself, the solid rock. Look at I Corinthians 10:4, "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." This is the rock Jesus built His church upon. Jesus promised this church perpetuity and I believe this implies Brideship. Ephesians 5:25-33 teaches us that the church is the bride of Christ. Beloved, Christ only organized one church and authorized it to carry out His work of preaching the gospel, baptizing, and teaching. All other churches were started by some man and cannot be the Bride of Christ. People make up a city. Since the Bride will live in the New Jerusalem it was introduced to John as the Bride, the Lamb's wife. Jesus told His church in John 14:2 that in His Father's house were many mansions, but He would prepare a place for them. This New Jerusalem is that very place.

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There are many Scriptural facts that point to New Jerusalem as being a Baptist city. God is a Baptist because He sent a man into the world preaching Baptist doctrine and baptizing by immersion in water under His authority and named him John the Baptist. Jesus went to him while he was preaching and baptizing in Judea and commanded him to baptize Him. Thus Jesus is a Baptist (Mt. 3:13-15). Then Jesus took the believers that John had baptized and founded His Baptist church (Mt. 4:18-22; Jn. 1:35-41; Acts 1:21, 22). He commissioned them to make disciples in all the world and teach them to observe all that He had commanded (Mt. 28:18-20). A believer that is taught all that Christ commanded and obeys that teaching becomes a Baptist! (Acts 2:41, 42). The work of Christ and the teaching of the Holy Spirit prepares them for the heavenly home that Jesus called His Father's house (Jn. 14:2). Then, God has a Baptist Son preparing a Baptist city for a faithful people that are members of His Baptist

Churches to dwell in eternity. That city is New Jerusalem.

That is why we believe in a Baptist Bride dwelling in an eternal Baptist City. And if you are saved and you're not a Baptist and don't ever intend to become a Baptist, you have eternal life and are a child of God and a fit subject for the Kingdom of God; and you'll be a guest at the wedding of the Lamb and have blessings untold, and you will go in and out of the Holy City, but you won't abide there, because that is the city reserved for the Bride.

### ATONEMENT

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miserable failure. Thank God, He was not a failure. He said in John 6:37, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me." I agree with an old-timer when he said, "Nuff said".

### JONAH

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but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here" (Luke 11:29-32).

In the Word of God a sign is given or mentioned many different times. Usually, a sign was given to declare a truth or to reveal the promised Messiah to the nation of Israel. Oh Beloved, a sign was not always a good thing, and it often more than not, spoke of Israel's unbelief. A number of times in the Bible we are introduced to various different signs; signs that give to us many lessons and vivid illustrations for the nation of Israel. (1). Moses was God's ordained and called special leader, and God used many signs and wonders to deliver the nation of Israel out of the Egyptian bondage. (2). The wilderness Tabernacle was a sign in itself of the Messiah that was before promised and now pictured as a type of the One that would take care of the sin problem. (3). Isaiah, that Old Testament prophet gave to King Ahaz a great sign; a sign that the promised Messiah would be born of a virgin -- "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). (4). Ezekiel the prophet was made a sign unto the House of Israel we are told in Ezekiel 12:6, "In their sight shalt thou bear it upon thy shoulders, and carry it forth in the twilight: thou shalt cover thy face, that thou see not the ground: for I have set thee for a sign unto the house of Israel." (5). The New Testament Pharisees were sternly rebuked by our Lord because they could not discern the signs of the

time. "... O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matt. 16:3). (6). Daniel, that Old Testament prophet that was taken to Babylon, told King Nebuchadnezzar that the signs of God were great and mighty. "I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation" (Dan. 4:2-3). (7). But, our Lord rebuked those of Cana of Galilee, and that because they could not or would not believe without signs and wonders. "Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe" (John 4:48). The Apostle Peter informed the Church of God that the Lord of Glory was approved of God and that by miracles, wonders and various different signs. "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know" (Acts 2:22).

Our Message Today: Jonah, God's Sign to the Nation of Israel.

As Jonah is God's sign post to the nation of Israel, Jonah is centered around the truth that comes forth from this man and the Old Testament book that bears his name.

I. The Reason the Sign was Given: "Israel's Rebellion."

Luke 11:39, "This is an evil generation." If, and that is somewhat already understood, Israel had been walking with God, then there would have been no reason for these signs. (2). Sin is the reason behind Israel's rebellion. These people, Israel, rebelled because they were sinners. Today, we sin because we are also sinners. Rebellion only tells us that our heart is not right with God. (3). Now, if signs are given as a whole because of sin, should not the Christian be careful about seeking after or requesting of God a sign? (4). Israel had rebelled much like the world is rebelling today. Why is that so? Because the Bible tells us that man is born into this world as a sinner. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psa. 51:5). That is because man is a child of disobedience and a child of wrath. "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others"

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## STUDIES IN PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

by C.T. Everman

**"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"** (Phil. 1:21).

In verse 20 Paul had said that his one chief aim was to magnify Christ in his body, whether it was by living or by dying. **"For me to live is Christ."** If you will notice in your Bible the little word "is" is in italics which means it was not in the original. By **"For me to live Christ"** Paul is saying his life is lived in Christ. In Galatians 2:20 he said, **"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."** Some have said "to gain" is to obtain more of the same thing. If "to live is Christ" then "to die" would be more of Christ. To die would mean to go and be with Him. Paul said at one time, **"For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known"** (I Cor. 13:12). Paul is saying there is a great advantage, much to be gained by dying. It will bring one into a closer relationship to Christ. The apostle John said, **"...we shall see him as he is"** (I John 3:2). The fellowship that we now have to comfort us in this life will then be complete. Paul does not mean that **"to die is gain"** because it will bring an end to his trials and sufferings, but would bring more of Christ. Death will bring him to enjoy the **"unsearchable riches in Christ"** (Eph. 3:8). Others may devote their lives to obtain wealth, fame, or pleasure, but to die for them is to leave it all behind. Not so with Paul, the best was yet ahead, **"to die is gain."** Paul's one purpose in life was to know as much of Christ as it was possible to know. **"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being comfortable unto his death"** (Phil. 3:10).

**"But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I wot not"** (Phil. 1:22).

Paul seems to be saying, On the other hand, to continue to live in the flesh would bring fruit from his labor. If it was left up to Paul to live or to die, he did not know which he would choose. **"For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better;"** (Phil. 1:23). Paul was in a "strait", a narrow place, between two walls. On one hand there is a longing to **"depart and be with Christ"**; but then he thinks of the need of his many friends, how they need his aid, his guidance, his prayers, and encouragement. In thinking of this he says, **"Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more**

**needful for you"** (Phil. 1:24). For your sakes it is best that I continue to live in the flesh.

Note the expression **"live in the flesh."** Regardless of whether it was in the flesh or out of the flesh he would live. To leave the body would be to **"depart and be with Christ."** The word "depart" as used in a military sense means to **"take down your tent and move on."** To the sailor it means to **"cast off the anchor and set sail."** To the jailer it means **"setting free the prisoner."** To the farmer it means **"to unyoke the oxen."** Each one of these is an apt picture of the death of a Christian. At death the spirit is set free from the body and departs to be with Christ. **"To be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord."** To Paul, death was a departure from this life to another, **"to be with Christ."** "Soul sleep" is not in Paul's vocabulary neither is it anywhere else in the Word of God.

**"And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith"** (Phil. 1:25).

After viewing the matter, it would seem that Paul has come to the conclusion that, for the sake of his friends, he would rather continue to live in the flesh, and he has a firm conviction that he is to live and to continue his ministry for the "saints in Philippi." **"I know that I shall abide and continue with you all--"** Not only did he have confidence that he would continue to live, but that he would be free to visit them again. He knew how happy they would be to see him, but warns them to let their rejoicing be in Jesus Christ, **"That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again"** (Phil. 1:26).

**"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel"** (Phil. 1:27).

Although Paul was confident that he would be freed from prison, yet he was still in chains, his trial verdict was still ahead of him. As his friend, Epaphroditus, had recovered from his sickness, he was returning to Philippi. Paul was sending this letter by him urging the church there to continue their consistent Christian life.

If he comes to Philippi, as he hopes to be able to, his purpose is to help them in their spiritual growth and to increase their joy. Whether he can come or not, their spiritual growth and increased joy depends upon their steadfastness in their devotion to Christ. In the old English, the word "conversation" means more than just talk, it means conduct or manner of life. **"Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ"** (NASB). Our conduct is the most important thing in our witnessing for

Christ. Our conduct, our manner of life, what we do is as much or more effective in our witnessing as what we say. Paul is saying, **"Behave the way Christians are supposed to behave."** In Philippians 3:20 we are told that **"our citizenship is in heaven"** (NASB). Do we always behave as citizens of heaven? A question each of us should ask ourself, Am I conducting myself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ? We are urged to **"walk worthy of the vocation"** (calling) **"wherein ye are called"** (Eph. 4:1). Paul prayed for the saints at Colosse, **"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord"** (Col. 1:10). Our conduct, our works do not make us citizens of heaven, but we work because we are citizens of heaven.

**"The Gospel of Christ"** is the record that Christ died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose from the dead (I Cor. 15:1-8). This is the only message that will bring salvation to the believing sinner. Any other message is a false gospel regardless of who may bring it. (Gal. 1:6-10). To live a life **"worthy of the gospel of Christ"** is to acknowledge Him as Lord of our lives. As citizens of the country in which we live we are under the rules and laws as set forth by the government. As citizens of heaven we are just as much under the rules and laws of Him to whom we belong.

Paul is urging his Philippian friends not only to live a life that shows their citizenship is in heaven, but a life that is in cooperation with each other, **"that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."** What Paul is saying is that, as a church, they should be united in heart and mind. From the Greek word translated **"strive together"** we get the word **"athletics."** The church is a team working together for the victory. Just as it takes teamwork in basketball or football for a team to be victorious, the church must work as a team, **"striving together for the faith of the gospel."**

In the Philippian church there were two women who were not getting along with each other (Phil. 4:2). We are not told what the trouble was; but what ever it was, it was causing a division in the church and if permitted to continue would cause serious trouble. One of the devil's chief tactics is to cause divisions in our churches and between churches. How often he is able to do this in our churches! It is only as we stand together we can overcome the wiles of the Devil.

The church that has a Diotrephes, one who **"loveth to have the preeminence among them..."** (III John 9) is not a church that is **"striving together."** The important word is **"together,"** standing shoulder to shoulder in one spirit, in one mind. It was said of the early church, **"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: --"** (Acts 4:32). As a result of this unity, in verse 33 we are told, **"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all."** Could this be one of our problems today, lack of unity, lack of being of one heart and soul?

**"And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God"** (Phil. 1:28).

Paul is still emphasizing unity of life and purpose. Here he stresses a steadfast courage, **"And in nothing terrified by your adversaries."** The Christians in Philippi as well as all the other Christians in that day had many adversaries. There were Jews who were very much opposed to the cause of Christ and gave the churches much trouble. Then there were the heathen who also opposed and persecuted them. Paul had suffered many things in that city (Acts 16) and it could be expected that those of the Philippian church were experiencing similar opposition. What Paul is saying is, **"Do not be alarmed at anything which they can do. Be steadfast in your faith regardless of the opposition of these adversaries."** **"Which is to them an evident token of perdition,"** that is, the persecution which they inflict is positive evidence that they will come into judgment, you can rest assured that their time of punishment is coming. **"But to you of salvation, and that of God."** Being steadfast and calm in the face of this persecution indicates a source of divine strength. This persecution is proof that those who are steadfast in the faith are with God and are under His protection and care. This persecution is proof of two things, those who are the adversaries are facing perdition, and to the Christians it is proof that they are children of God.

**"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake"** (Phil. 1:29).

While persecution is proof or **"an evident token of perdition"** for those who engage in it; yet for those who stand fast with courage in the face of this persecution, it is an indication that they are united with Christ. Paul stated that suffering for the cause of Christ is a privilege. It is something granted by the grace of God. Not only is believing a gift of God but also the privilege to suffer for or **"in the behalf of Christ"** is given by God. We may think it strange to say it is a privilege to suffer persecution for Christ, but this is said many places in the New Testament. It is said of the apostles, **"...they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name:"** (Acts 5:41). Paul said, **"Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you:..."** (Col. 1:24). The apostle Peter wrote, **"But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you..."** (I Pet. 4:13, 14). It is not a privilege to suffer, but it is a privilege to suffer for Christ's sake. One should be certain that his suffering is not due to his own fault or sin, but is wholly for the sake of Christ.

**"Having the same conflict which ye saw in me,**

**and now hear to be in me"** (Phil. 1:30).

Paul is telling them they are going through the trials that they saw him go through while he was in Philippi. They had witnessed how he had been beaten and cast into prison. Now they had heard of his imprisonment in Rome, waiting for his trial, not knowing what the outcome would be. These Philippians, who were going through suffering for the same cause, for the sake of Christ, were to be encouraged and comforted by knowing that they had a part in the same conflict for the cause of Christ and the gospel in which Paul is engaged. They are assured that by remaining faithful and steadfast and unafraid to face the enemy they will be victorious in the struggle.

The apostle Paul has written this in order to encourage the church. To be victorious in the war against the enemy three things are required. One, our conduct is to be that which proves to the world that we are what we claim we are, citizens of heaven. This means that our daily walk must be that which shows that we are Christians. The world is to see Christ in our behaviour. Someone has said that the greatest weapon against the devil is a godly life. Second, there must be cooperation, **"stand fast in one spirit, with one mind."** a device which the devil uses is to cause divisions in the church. If there is unity in spirit and mind among the members of a church there will be victory in the conflict. Unity is striving together for the cause of Christ. The third thing of which Paul speaks is confidence, **"And in nothing terrified by your adversaries"**, or don't be alarmed by your opponents. These conflicts show two things; one, that the enemy is sure of judgment to come; second, these battles in which we are engaged show that we are saved. The child of God who lives godly can expect persecution, **"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"** (II Tim. 3:12).

Paul wrote the church at Ephesus, **"and having done all, to stand"** (Eph. 6:13). This is what we need to do in our day. Most of our persecution now comes from within the churches. Jude, as well as Peter, wrote that these false teachers were creeping into the churches. Today, our churches have them in abundance. These are the adversaries which we face today, preachers and teachers who deny the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His resurrection, and many other things concerning the Son of God.

To be continued...

## JONAH

(Continued from Page 5)

(Eph. 2:2-3). That is because man is alien from God, thus he is without hope and is totally helpless. **"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world"** (Eph. 2:12). That is; because man is lost and on his way to hell, his heart being desperately wicked. **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and des-**

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## JONAH

(Continued from Page 6)

perately wicked: who can know it" (Jer. 17:9).

II. The Purpose of the Sign Given: "To Rebuke the Nation of Israel"

Luke 11:29, "He began to say." God has always hated sin; in fact, He still does today! "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8). "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Mal. 3:6). One thing that has concerned my heart in recent years is this: how can we who have right doctrine live so ungodly? If our God is the same today as He was yesterday, then can we not conclude that He still hates sin. God has in the past, and will yet in the future, as He is presently rebuking sin. Our God has not changed. Beloved, do not get caught in this trap: "God will over look your sin." Beloved, believe me, He will not over look your sin. His very nature forbids Him to do so. God rebuked Israel because of her sin, and thus she was delivered into captivity. God will rebuke sin today. He did not permit sin to run rampant in the early church, rather He judged it swiftly and purged it from the church.

Forgive the illustration, but as God judged Israel for her sin in days gone by, He is judging those that think they can live in sin and not feel the hand of God's judgment. The Jim Bakkers and the Jimmy Swaggarts think that they can live in sin and be excused because they have preached the Word of God. It is not my place to judge a person, and yet, if those men really believed what they preached, they, no more than the man in the moon, have God's wonderful salvation. But let me step on toes for a moment; for some of our kind, sovereign grace preachers, think that they can live in sin and commit adultery and it is all right because they preach the truth of God's Word. I have news for them: the Bible tells me that God still hates sin and will judge those that so commit sin.

III. The Desired Results of this Sign: "They Repented"

Israel did not repent, but she will someday in the future. The context, (verse 32), is clearly speaking of Nineveh. Nevertheless, it is still our job today as pastors to cry out for godly repentances. Now understand, the sinner can only repent of sins because he has been born-again by the Spirit of God. There are far too many Biblical examples of a call to repentance to ignore it. However, a dead man cannot repent. Only one that has been made alive by the God of heaven; therefore repentance becomes in part, the evidence of God doing a wonderful work in the heart of a believing sinner. Furthermore, understand this one point, repentance is very necessary for a child of God who is walking afar off from God. The lost sinner can not repent! But once the Spirit of God makes that sinner alive, then the new creatures in Christ can repent.

IV. The Message that is Behind this Sign:

"... behold, a greater than Jonas is here" (Luke 11:32) (1). Jonah; he becomes a picture, a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was sent with an

sage - "Arise, go to Nineveh... cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me" (Jonah 1:2). "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10). "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Jonah was sent to do business for God - "Arise, go" (Jonah 1:2; 3:2). "For I came down from heaven not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent" (John 6:38). He was entombed for 72 hours (three days and three nights). Beloved, Jonah was three days and nights in the belly of a great fish. Jonah 1:17; Matt. 12:40. Our Lord of Glory was also entombed for 72 hours (Wednesday evening through Saturday evening; three days and three nights. No less and no more. (2). Jonah: he is also a picture of the nation of Israel. First, by rebellion - "But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD ..." (Jonah 1:3). Matt. 23:37 tells us that Israel refused to obey the Lord of Glory or follow after His ways; therefore, she was guilty of committing sin nationally. Second, by rebuke. God dealt with Jonah on a very serious basis. The Lord cast him into a dark prison beneath the waters of the sea - Jonah 1:17-2:10. Third, by repenting. When Jonah repented of his evil actions, God delivered him from the place of death - Jonah 2:10. When the nation of Israel will repent (see Deut. 30:2) of their sins, God will return and make of them a great and mighty nation (see Deut. 30:3). Fourth, by redemption. This can only come after Israel's entombment in the nations of the world. For, just as our redemption was made available after our Lord's resurrection from His place of burial, Israel's resurrection from out among the heathen nations will take place at the close of the Great Tribulation.

## REVIVE

(Continued from Page 1)

Babylon to return and rebuild the city, along with the Temple and wall. In BC 455 God appointed Ezra the priest to go back to Jerusalem to re-establish spiritual order and restore worship. 1500 people plus 300 Levites went with him. These things were accomplished in a period of ten years. A total of over 44,000 migrated over an 80 year period. In 455 BC a man named Nehemiah, who was of the tribe of Judah, had been made a close aid to Artaxerxes, the King of Persia at that time. He was the king's cup bearer. Wilmington says this position was equivalent to press secretary. Nehemiah, having been born in Babylon, had probably never been to Jerusalem before this time. Nehemiah received a message from one Hanani, who had brought a delegate from the homeland. The message that the enemies in the land of Judah had destroyed the wall and the people of God were in danger of being overrun, broke Nehemiah's heart. Nehemiah 1:1-4.

Why did this news trouble Nehemiah so? Because he loved his homeland and he loved his brethren. He knew that the people's security was in the wall and

the gates. He also had a burden for the work of the Lord. In process of time, God provided the ways and means for Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the wall. But as always the devil sent in his troops to stop the work. He knew that if the people of God succeeded in building that wall he would not stand a chance of taking over the city. Nevertheless, Nehemiah very possibly had underestimated the greatness of the task; but he would soon learn.

The first things that he did after receiving the urgent plea from his homeland was as proper as anything could be. He called upon his God for help. He knew that his help must come from above. Ch. 1:4, 5. Next, he confessed his sins, and the sins of the people. v. 6, 7. Then, he claimed the promise that the Lord had made to Moses, ch. 1:8, 9. Finally, he asked God to move upon the heart of King Artaxerxes. 1:10, 11. An amazing thing happened; God answered his prayer.

Little did Nehemiah realize that the great enemy of God was lying in wait with his weapons of subtlety to do everything he could to prevent the wall from being built. What do you suppose old Satan could do that would be most effective in halting the work of God? What would it be

that would cause me damage, not only to the wall project, but to the workers themselves? The answer is discouragement.

Now before a doctor can begin to find a cure for a disease he must first find the source of the ailment. The source of this ailment was the people themselves. They allowed the threat of failure to weaken their faith and lower their morale. Ch. 4:10, 11, "And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall. And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease." First of all, they said, "there is too much to be done, and we will give out before we can finish." Have you ever felt that way about a project you had started? Perhaps you need to get your eyes off the rubbish and get them on God. The second thing you may notice is that they were listening to the outsiders who wanted to see them fail. The world would be delighted to see you fail and the devil would love to see you fail.

One of the questions I dread most from people whom I visit is, "How many people do you have?" It seems like some people can't wait to ask that question. Sometimes the small number in our church discourages me. Sometimes it is tempting to go the way of the religious world. Sometimes I am tempted to compromise the doctrine and practice so that more people will come and more will stay. But I am always encouraged by the Word and by God's people.

Discouragement does not happen all at once. It is not like something snaps one day inside your head and all at once you are discouraged. It is very subtle and usually very gradual. A person doesn't become discouraged in their marriage in one day. It usually happens over a period of time. There is a tale about the

Devil who advertised his tools for sale in public auction: however one tool had a sign, "not for sale." The devil's reply when asked about that one was, "I can spare all my other tools, but this one I cannot. It is the most useful implement that I have. It is called discouragement, and with it I can work my way into hearts otherwise inaccessible. When I get this tool into a man's heart, the way is open to plant anything I may desire."

One of the most serious symptoms of discouragement is lethargy. The word lethargic means "deficient in alertness or activity." It comes from the word "lethal" meaning deadly or pestilent. Some relating words are dormant, idle, (park-neutral, not in gear), inactive, inert, (taking up empty space), passive, (taking no part), apathetic, (not caring), spiritless, (no zeal), lackadaisical, (neither cold nor hot), and listless. When you get discouraged, you lose your drive to do things that you should be doing. Sometimes when I go into my study I just sit there unable to think. Discouragement can put you out of fellowship with the Lord. Read Revelation 3:15, 16. Someone has said that a church that has no enthusiasm and no sense of urgency is repugnant to the Lord. A woman asked her friend, "What is the definition of apathy?" The friend replied, "I don't know, and I don't care". That's right! the other exclaimed."

Beloved, have you come to the point where you do not even care for the work anymore?

There are four things that can help you cast off discouragement. One, we can just give up and stay home and we can let that made-up story come true. Nehemiah could have said, "What's the use? there is just too much. I have plenty to do back at Shu-Shan. Things were much better there." One very dangerous thing about discouragement is that the devil can always give your life a false sense of fulfillment by filling it with other things. If you get discouraged at church, just find something else to take its place. Some folks will leave one church and go to another. Some Pastors do this. When people get discouraged, they tend to turn their attention to themselves. Has this happened to you?

The second cure is to do what Nehemiah did. He turned to the Lord and cried out to Him for help. Chapter 4:1-5. This, beloved, will give you a new spirit so that you have a mind (spirit) for the work. Ch. 4:6, "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work." Let us turn the enemies guns on them as these Jews did Ch. 6:16, "And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God." Don't ignore the condition. It's not going away until you deal with it. It would be like trying to ignore a flat tire. You can fret, you can get mad, you can walk away from your car, but the flat tire isn't going away until you fix it. Next, turn to the word of God as your encouragement. The way to combat discouragement is to find

a source of encouragement, and there is none better than the Word of God. You are not a failure, you are the people of God! In the Word of God, you will find as these Jews did, the "joy which is our strength." Ch. 8:8-12, "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading, And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. Then he said unto them, Go you way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength. So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved. And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them." Oh, that the Word of God would cause us to weep! Yet it should also cause us to be encouraged once we surrender to it and believe it.

Thirdly, revival must be sought. Without true revival you cannot have any lasting results. You may be charged with enthusiasm for a few days, or a few weeks, but without a true personal revival in your heart, it will not last. Ch. 9:1-2.

Finally, you must have something to fight for. Ch. 4:13-14, "Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows. And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses." In these verses we see that Nehemiah gave them a purpose, and a motive for hanging in. If there is no purpose and no goal what is there to get excited about. Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish..." What better purpose is there for urgently and enthusiastically contending for the faith than for our brethren, our sons, our daughters, our wives, and our houses? Do you have any vision of the work? Do you have any vision of the goal? Do you want to end up like so many other sovereign grace churches? Will you fortify? Will you sacrifice? Will you revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish? Certainly this is a great challenge for all of God's people, and all of His churches.



## STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF PAUL - PART 3

by John R. Gilpin

**"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5).**

I am sure, beloved friends, that there is nothing quite as important as faith. I believe I could truly say after studying the Word of God carefully and daily for a number of years, in a very systematic manner, that there is nothing more important than the doctrine of faith, and the teachings of the Word of God relative to faith. We read: **"But without faith it is impossible to please him..."** (Heb. 11:6).

Not only does my text say that we are to examine ourselves and see whether or not we be in the faith, and the only way we can know whether we are reprobates is by knowing whether we are in the faith -- not only does my text teach this, but Paul tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. This would lead me to say I doubt seriously if the majority of people have ever pleased God one single day in their lives. You may be able to please your friends, and your loved ones, and your relatives, and those you associate with and work with, but without faith it is impossible to please God. I would remind you that the majority of people in this world have never pleased God one single moment of their lives. The man who has failed to put his entire faith in Jesus Christ stands with the sentence upon him that he has never pleased God one single time.

To show you how important faith is, listen: **"...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin"** (Rom. 14:23).

Now, beloved, you can't read verses like these without realizing that faith is one of the most important things in your life. As I have been reading of recent date and making a special study of the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul, I have been especially impressed as to what faith accomplished in Paul's life. In fact, it is the first time I ever studied it from that standpoint, and I have been especially impressed as to what was accomplished in the life of Paul through faith. Therefore I would like to mention some things that took place wholly, solely and entirely by faith.

I. We are made children of God by faith. We read: **"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus"** (Gal. 3:26).

May we remember that no individual was ever born a child of God. You may take your little babe up into your arms, and you may think how sweet and wonderful he is. You may think that little babe is virtually a little angel, yet I would remind you that that little babe, regardless of how dear and precious he may be to you, was born a child of Satan rather than a child of the living God. Jesus Himself said: **"Ye are of your father the devil..."** (John 8:44).

Every person who is born into this world is born a child of Satan, and the only way he can become a child of God is by faith in Jesus Christ. As the Word of God says, **"Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."**

Oh, how many there are in this world who are children of the devil, and how few there are who are children of God! When you narrow it down to the question of faith, you can mighty easily see, depending upon which side of faith that you stand, whether you are a child of God, or a child of the devil. I wish that I could say that everybody in this world is a child of God.



JOHN R. GILPIN, SR.  
(NOW IN GLORY)

I wish I could say, "We'll stand and repeat the Lord's Prayer." If I did so, we would start out by saying, "Our Father, which art in Heaven." When we did, beloved, we would be lying, because God is not our father. I wish that I could do that. I wish that I could lead people to say, "Our Father, which art in Heaven," but, beloved, let's just face facts. The Word of God in no wise indicates that a man can call God his Father or that a man can say that he has become a child of God until by faith, Jesus Christ becomes his Saviour. So I say, first of all, that by faith we become the children of God.

II. We are saved by faith. We read: **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast"** (Eph. 2:8, 9).

Notice, not only are we made children of God by faith, but we are saved by faith. I don't mean to say that we are saved by a sense-knowledge faith. The majority of preachers preach a sense-knowledge faith. I heard a man say sometime ago that faith is the simplest, commonest thing in this world. He said we exercise faith when we sit down in a chair. He said that we exercise faith when we eat our food. He said we exercise faith when we get in an automobile. He said that faith is the commonest thing in this world.

Now, beloved, the kind of faith he is talking about is a sense-knowledge, head-faith; and that kind of faith will send men to hell. That kind of faith will save no man. Beloved, the faith whereby you sit in a chair believing that chair will hold you up, is only the kind of faith that grows out of your mind. That kind of faith will not save. The faith that saves is a gift from Almighty God. The Word of God says, **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."** Believe

me when I say that we are saved by faith, but the faith that saves is a faith that is given to us as a gift from Almighty God.

I might say, in the light of this, about ninety percent of professing Baptists are just cut off so far as salvation is concerned. The majority of Baptists have joined churches under false heretical preachers who have told them that all one has to do is just believe, but they are never told what they must believe. Never are they told that the faith whereby they believe is a gift from God. Never are they told that the faith which saves is a faith that comes from Jesus Christ unto our hearts, miraculously given unto us of God. Rather, evangelists and preachers over and over again have said that all you have to do is to just believe, and people with a head-knowledge faith -- people with a sense-knowledge faith -- people with a faith like they exercise every day as they go through life, have come forward with dry eyes and have said, "We believe."

Beloved, if you were to ask them what they believed they couldn't give you an answer. Sometime ago I was talking to one who had made a profession under circumstances similar to this. He told me that he was saved and I asked him, "Who saved you?" He said, "I guess the same guy that saved you." I said to him, "My brother, your language betokens to me the very fact that I had in mind to start with, that you are an unsaved sinner and have never believed upon the Son of God as your Saviour, for if you had, you would at least have had a reverence when you spoke of the Lord Jesus Christ who died for your sins."

I say to you, beloved, we are children of God by faith, and we are saved by faith.

III. We are justified by faith. We read: **"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law"** (Rom. 3:28).

**"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"** (Rom. 5:1). **"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith"** (Gal. 3:24).

Now, what do we mean when we speak of justification. Beloved, justification is just the opposite of condemnation. Every sinner stands condemned before God; every saved man is justified before God. Every unsaved man stands condemned because of his sins; every saved man stands justified by his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Beloved, what do we mean when we speak of justification? Simply this: It means that when a man is justified, he stands in God's sight just as if he had never sinned one time in his life. When justified, one can say, "I'm just-as-if-I'd never sinned."

To me, the doctrine of justification is one of the most precious truths in all the Word of God. We can't put ourselves in that position. You and I who stand as sinners in God's sight, could never at all justify ourselves. We could never put ourselves back in God's sight, and in God's standing, as though we had never sinned one time. Rather, Jesus Christ came to the Cross of

Calvary and there died for our sins, and by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ He marks us up as if we had never sinned a single time.

Beloved, I thank God for this doctrine of justification. I rejoice for this truth, that I stand in God's sight as though I had never sinned one time. I have sinned hundreds of times, and I have sinned thousands of times, both positively and negatively. I am sure I stand as a great sinner before man, but in the sight of God I am justified. God sees me just as if I had never sinned one time. And how does it come about? By faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. We have access to God by faith. We read: **"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand..."** (Rom. 5:2).

Beloved, access just means that that is how we get in. That just means that we get into God by faith. Mark it down, it is by faith in Jesus Christ that we get into God.

As you enter through a door into a room, or as you walk through a gate into your yard, or into a pasture field on your farm, or as you get into a car and drive down the road by making your entry into that car through the door, so we make our access to God, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are children of God by faith, we are justified by faith, and we have access to God by faith.

V. Our righteousness comes by faith. When I say that our righteousness comes by faith, I don't mean the righteousness that you were born with. I don't mean the righteousness that has been yours, and that you have been proud of, all along through life. I don't mean the old self-righteousness that you are the possessor of outside of Jesus Christ. Beloved, the righteousness that you have in Christ comes by faith. Paul said: **"...that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith"** (Phil. 3:8, 9).

Beloved, the day that I was saved a remarkable transaction took place -- the most remarkable transaction that I can think of. When I was a boy I learned to trade, and I have been a trader at heart all the way down to this hour. I still love to trade and traffic. But the best trade I ever made in my life was that trade I made as a boy seventeen years of age when I traded sin for righteousness -- when my sins were laid on Jesus Christ and the righteousness of the Son of God was laid on me. At Calvary, God treated Jesus just exactly like Gilpin ought to have been treated; for God took my sins and put them upon His Son at the cross, and when I was saved God took the righteousness of Jesus Christ and put it upon me. How did I get it? Listen: **"...the righteousness which is of God by faith"** (Phil. 3:9).

I didn't work out my righteousness, I am not saved by my righteousness. I am not saved by anything that I have done. But, beloved, today I am clothed in the righteousness of the Son of God

by faith.

I'll never forget the fellow who a few years ago heard me preach concerning righteousness, and he became highly angry. He went out of the church, saying he didn't want to go to heaven in another man's coat. Well, beloved, if he ever goes there, he'll go in another man's coat. He'll go there clothed in the righteousness of the Son of God. He'll not go there clothed in his own righteousness. He'll not go there in his own self-righteous rags. The day we saw that Jesus was our Saviour by faith, that day the righteousness of God came to us and we were clothed in His righteousness.

Beloved, that is why it is that when God sees me, He doesn't see me as a sinner. How could God see me as a sinner when all of my sins have been laid on Jesus? How could God see me as a sinner when God had clothed me in the righteousness of His Son? Beloved, I stand today just as holy in the sight of God as the Lord Jesus Christ, because I am clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ Himself.

Yes, beloved, we are children of God by faith, we have access to God by faith, and the righteousness that we possess comes by faith.

VI. Our hearts are purified by faith. We read: **"And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith"** (Acts 15:9).

This was that first great Bible conference that was ever held. This was the first outstanding conference of religion. It was held at Jerusalem. It came about because at Antioch some false preachers had said that a man had to be circumcised -- that he had to live righteously under the law in order to be saved. That, beloved, just isn't so. It isn't so today, and it wasn't so then, and it never was so. God never did save a man by righteous living nor by his righteous acts. When these false preachers came to Antioch and preached thus, the church at Antioch decided they had better send to Jerusalem and get the church at Jerusalem to decide some things for them. Among other things were these; Did you send out these preachers? Did you send out these men who came with this message? Is this message a message that we are to believe? Is this message God's message? So the church at Jerusalem held a conference and they discussed the matter of whether a man had to be circumcised, whether he had to live according to the law, and whether he had to live righteously before the Lord in order to be saved, like these preachers had said. While they were discussing it, Simon Peter said in substance, it doesn't make any difference whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, God put no difference between us and them, purifying our hearts by faith, as if to say that from the very dawn of creation until the final act of this world -- from the beginning of time until the end of this world, Jews and Gentiles alike have their hearts purified by faith.

Beloved, listen, you have an old heart that is mighty impure. You have a heart that is just as full of sin as it could be. Do you want to know how bad it is? Then listen: **"For from within, out of the heart of**

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## PAUL

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men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." (Mark 7:21-23).

Beloved, you have a bad situation so far as your heart is concerned. Believe me when I tell you that you have a mighty bad heart. You may be able to do several push-ups athletically, and it may be that you are able to "cavort" on the gridiron or on the athletic field. You may not have a thing wrong with your heart physically, but you have a bad heart spiritually, and out of that heart comes an awful lot of sin and evil. I tell, you beloved, your heart is in a bad shape.

Occasionally you go to a photographer to have your picture made. When the photographer takes that picture, he takes a little brush and makes a lot of marks on the picture, removing blemishes, and when you see it, you say, "My, this is the first time that a photographer ever did me justice."

No, beloved, he hasn't done you justice; he has just given you mercy. That picture looks nice but it doesn't look much like you. It is far better looking than you are in every respect, but you buy it because the artist has taken a little brush and touched up the picture.

Let me ask you something. Suppose you go to that same photographer and ask him to take a picture of your heart, ask him to develop that picture, and show you what your heart is like. Do you suppose you would buy one of those pictures? I'll tell you what you would do. You would break the camera over the head of the photographer before you got out of there, if he were to dare to show you what your heart looks like.

Beloved, listen to me, you are a mighty bad lot in God's sight. The only way that we can have our hearts purified is by faith. Peter said that the Jews have their hearts purified by faith and that the Gentiles likewise have their hearts purified by faith. Beloved, your heart will never be changed unless it is changed by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

VII. Everlasting life comes by faith. The Apostle Paul makes it very clear that we have everlasting life by faith, for he says: "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting" (I Tim. 1:16).

Beloved, I thank God for everlasting life. I am glad when God saves a man, He saves him forever. I am thankful for this doctrine of eternal security. I am glad to know when God saves a man, all hell can't take that man out of God's hand.

I know there are lots of Arminians who will say that after a man is saved he has to watch his step. I know that there are lots of Arminians who will say that when a man is saved, there begins a foot race between him and the devil to see which gets to heaven first. If the devil gets

*Wolfish hunger of covetousness increases with the quantity which it has devoured.*

there first, the man has lost his salvation, but if the man gets there first, heaven is his home and he has salvation.

Beloved, listen, there is not a word of truth in such preaching. When God saves a man, that man is saved forever; he has everlasting life. Paul says that we believe on Him to life everlasting. My life that I have is an everlasting life. God didn't save me to make me a Christian today, and to turn me loose, and let me go to hell tomorrow.

I often think of the fellow who worked on the railroad and every time he sent in his report he would make it long and drawn out. He would tell all the things that happened in regard to the wrecks, and accordingly his supervisors sent back word for him to shorten his report -- that it took too much time to read his report. The next time there was a wreck he sent in his report as follows: "Off again; on again; gone again," then signed his name.

Well, there are a lot of people who have an idea of salvation like that. They have that "off again, on again" type of salvation. They get "religion" at every revival meeting, and lose it as soon as the revival meeting is over, and then get it at the next revival meeting. They are "off again, on again, and gone again."

Beloved, that is not the salvation of the Bible. That is not the teaching of the Word of God. God's Word teaches us specifically that when a man believes on Jesus Christ, that man has everlasting life, and all hell can't take it from him, Paul said: "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).

Notice, Paul has named nine agents and agencies -- infernal, internal and external -- and he says that none of these, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Every time I read it I like to look down in the pit of hell and say, "All right, Old Splitfoot, come on! I challenge you! You can't take a saved man out of the hand of God." Beloved, when God saves a man He gives him everlasting life.

VIII. We are to live by faith. You say, "Brother Gilpin, why did you say that we are to live by faith? The rest of it sounded so good. Why spoil a good sermon by talking about living by faith?" Beloved, I am trying to show you the work of faith in the life of Paul. I am trying to show you that faith is the most important thing in this world so far as your life is concerned. Beloved, listen, if you are saved, God wants you to live by faith. Listen: "Now the just shall live by faith..." (Heb. 10:38).

Are you justified? Have you been saved? Are you one of the just? If you are, then Paul says that you are to live by faith. Notice again: "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (II Cor. 5:7).

Beloved, I ask you as a saved person, how much faith are you exercising? Before you do anything, are you looking to God in

faith? Before you make a business move, do you look to God in faith? Before you start out at the beginning of a day, do you look to God in faith and say, "Lord, I am a poor helpless sinner; I need your direction and blessing today?" I ask you, do you look up into His face every day with a realization that you can't do anything unless you do it by faith? How I thank God for this blessed truth, that we are to live by faith, we are to walk by faith, and that faith is to characterize the life of every child of God every day of his life.

CONCLUSION: I am not saying that all these things that came in the life of Paul came because of a sense knowledge faith. I come back to pay my respect to a head-faith -- to a sense-knowledge faith. I want to remind you that the faith that saves, and the faith that keeps and gives us everlasting life is a faith that comes as a gift from Almighty God to us through Jesus Christ. Listen: "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Gal. 2:16). "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Heb. 12:2).

Beloved, your faith doesn't begin in your brain. Your faith

doesn't begin in your head. Your faith is not a sense-knowledge faith. The faith that saves -- the faith that keeps you saved -- the faith that you are to walk by -- the faith that I have been preaching about is a faith that doesn't come through any power of yours, but it comes through Jesus Christ as a gift from God. He is the author and the finisher of our faith, and all the faith that we exercise that is pleasing to God is a faith that comes as a gift from God.

In the light of that, I come back to my text which says: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5).

I say, the only way you can know whether you are in the faith, or whether you are a religious reprobate, is on the basis of faith. Paul says that you are to examine yourself whether you be in the faith.

Oh, might He give to you who are unsaved the gift of faith, that you might believe in Jesus and receive Him as your Saviour and having received Him, that you might step out on God's side and profess your faith in Him and ask for believer's baptism.

Do you believe in Him? Has He given you that faith? If he has, then you ought to follow Him in baptism and let your life count for Him.

May God bless you!

## WILD

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crying shame when children are uncared for by their parents.

Let us notice some ways in which parents are wild beasts after our children. First, they are wild beasts after our children in the form of child molestation. I recently sat in the office of the Jr. High School guidance counselor here in Gladwin. As I was there a phone call came concerning a seventh grade girl who was being molested by her father. My heart broke for the little girl as she tried to defend her dad. He had lost his job. She said he had been very depressed, and that depression and pressure led him to this act. This young girl loved her father. No doubt there was a time when this father loved his little girl. Somewhere, he turned into a wild beast that has destroyed the precious gift God has given him. He has caused scars that will never heal. He has broken a heart that will never mend. God have mercy on this little girl. It is a shame that children so often have to suffer at the hands of parents! Child molestation is at an all time high and increasing every day. A good portion of this goes on within the family. May we destroy these beasts from among us.

Secondly; parents are sometimes wild beasts after our children in the form of child abuse. This child abuse comes in two forms. It is sometimes just verbal, but sometimes it is physical abuse. Let me first say a few words about verbal child abuse. Beloved, this is something that probably all of us as parents are guilty of from time to time. It can range from what we do say to what we don't say. We are oftentimes critical and degrading. I know of a woman who filed for

divorce from her husband because he constantly berated the children. Parents often will call their children names. Names such as dumb, stupid or ignorant. God forgive us for our lack of sensitivity. We can verbally abuse our children by always criticizing when they do wrong and never praising when they do right or good. Parents will destroy a child's confidence by constant criticism. The child will develop a defeatist attitude and eventually quit trying. May we as parents watch our tongues when it comes to our children. When I said this abuse is sometimes "just" verbal I did not mean to slight verbal abuse. This is indeed a beast that can destroy our children from within.

Then there is the ugly beast of physical abuse. It would probably surprise some of you to know the extent of child abuse or, as I like to call it, child beatings. Have you ever seen young children with broken bones, black eyes, bruises and scars from being beaten by their big tough parents. Many times parents will do this in the name of discipline. This is not discipline; this is brutal punishment. I had a woman come crying to me one time that her neighbor was going to call the police on her for child abuse. This woman was attending the church there at that time on a regular basis. I thought this neighbor is just some busy body who does not believe in spanking children. I was wrong. This woman deserved to be turned in to the authorities. Her young daughter had bruises in many areas. I remember a preacher being at my house in Tulsa visiting. His little 2 or 3 year old girl did something wrong. This preacher took a belt and beat that girl. He must have hit that little girl 30 times or more. I should have re-

moved him from my home and called the authorities. This is no discipline, this is child abuse. No wonder so many kids turn out to be violent when they see so much violence at home.

Thirdly, parents are wild beasts after their children from simple neglect. I see this so often that it makes me sick. Parents and grandparents who will not support their children. I wonder how many of you parents can name your child's best friend? How many of you can name five of their friends?

How many of you know your child's teachers name and have been in to visit with that teacher? I know of kids whose parents never see their report cards. Parents who just don't care about this precious gift God has given them.

Let me give you an example. I coach a high school wrestling team. We had a girl want to come out for wrestling last year. I tried to discourage this. I even called the State to see if we had to let her wrestle. The State said yes. The athletic director and I decided to have this girl's mother come in for a meeting so we could explain to her some things about wrestling. I told her about the indecent uniform she would have to wear, I told her about the haircut rule in wrestling (not on your collar or over your ears) Finally, I told her that wrestling involves a lot of holds across the chest and through the crotch. This mother was not concerned. Her answer was that if her girl wanted to do it, she could do it. Fortunately for everyone involved, this girl only lasted about ten minutes of the first practice.

I see children at ball games and wrestling matches looking for mom or dad and mom and dad never come. I see kids walking or riding their bikes long distances because parents and grandparents are too busy for them. I used to have parents night for my wrestling team. I stopped having it because I did not want to embarrass many of the kids whose parents were too sorry to come. Parents never go and support their children in athletics, music, or other outside activities. These same parents then wonder why their child quit these things and turned to drugs and alcohol. Support your children in their activities. Show an interest in them. They will love you for it and will resent you if you don't. Don't be a beast! Support your child.

Parents can also be beasts when they care about all the wrong things for their children. When parents are overly concerned about the physical and material things for their children; and thus neglect the spiritual needs of their children, they become wild beasts.

Parents are sometimes wild beasts in that they provide no discipline in the home. I had the mother of one of my wrestlers ask me if I knew what time her son had been getting home at nights. My reply was that I had three kids of my own and that I knew what time they were home. I told her if he was coming in late every night that it was her fault, not mine. Later this young man was arrested for stealing. He had no discipline in the home. The Bible tells us that one of the

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## WILD

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greatest examples of love is discipline. We are not helping our children by letting them get by with things. We become wild beasts who are ruining our children.

Parents; I beg of you, give proper time and attention to your children. Hug them. Tell them you love them. Show them you care by being involved in their activities. Be the parent who will volunteer to coach little league. Be the parent who will drive your child and friends around. Our children are God's blessing to us. God will not hold us guiltless if we abuse this blessing. I could share many other stories with you about parents and their failures. I know each one of you probably have a story to tell. Let us try to make sure those stories are not about us. I love to play softball. I quit softball five years ago so I could watch my kids play and support them. I have enjoyed that more than I ever enjoyed playing. I am so glad I did not miss many games. I write this feeling guilty. Last night my son, Steve was playing in an all-star baseball game. It just so happened that I had a softball game last night. (I started back playing softball this year after my kids were finished in sports for the summer, except Steve and the all stars.) I went and played softball and did not get to Steve's game until the second inning. When I walked up, everybody began to tell me about the great catch Steve had made in the first inning. I know that 20 people told me about that catch. I wish I had been there to see it. That is a time in my son's life that I can never bring back. I know it may not sound like a big deal to you, but it was to me. Perhaps I have learned a lesson about my children coming first. Pray for me, that God will make me a better parent.

The sixth beast I mention is the beast of humanism. I guess humanism could be defined as "doing your own thing." It is the philosophy that whatever you want to do, do it. There is nothing right or wrong except what is right or wrong in your eyes. We hear people talk about kid's rights. Kids have the right and responsibility to honor their mothers and fathers. They have the right to obey their parents. They have the right to be law-abiding, behaving children. Humanism is a most dangerous beast. It leads to all sorts of sins. It leads to open and violent rebellion. Children think that they do not have to answer to anyone. They do not realize that there is a sovereign God with whom they must one day come face to face, and give an account. Humanism is being taught to our children in many different places and ways. In some ways it is even being taught in many churches. I personally think that young people's church promotes the idea of humanism. It creates an independence that children do not need. Humanism is being taught in our schools. Rather than wrong being called wrong, young people are being taught to think for them-

selves. Beloved, this is a dangerous lesson.

Young people are not capable of totally thinking for themselves in most cases. They are depraved, and their thoughts and opinions will often get them into great trouble. We find that more and more, in our schools, the young people are being given more authority. Discipline in our schools is almost nil. Humanism is certainly being taught in our homes. Parents who over-protect their children a teaching them humanism. Many parents, rather than defending a teacher when their child is being disciplined, often times defend their child. I have seen this over and over again. Listen, children, I don't care what anyone tells you, you do have a God that you must answer to. The philosophy of doing your own thing will only end up with you weeping in hell. There is right and wrong. This is not determined by whether or not you like or dislike it. It is determined by God's Word. Humanism is a wild beast that we need to protect our young from.

The seventh beast I mention is the beast of television. Television is probably the greatest invention the devil ever came up with. I know of no one thing that has led to greater failure on the part of God's people than T.V. It consumes a great amount of our time that could and should be used in the service of God. Let us however, direct most of our attention to our children.

First of all we will all admit that there are many, many things on T.V. that our children have no business watching. As far as that goes, neither do we. I read a statistic not long ago about the number of murders, rapes, sex scenes, etc. that children see every year on T.V. This number was staggering. It is no wonder that our children think sin and such are glorious. These things are made to appear glamorous in shows and commercials. Isn't it amazing that every person that drinks beer in T.V. commercials is young and beautiful or handsome! Can we blame our children for thinking these things to be grand when they see it so often on the tube. We definitely need to monitor closely what our children watch on T.V. To our disgrace, many parents use the television as a babysitter. Rather than spend quality time with our children we will send them off to watch T.V. Rather than read to or with them, we will have them watch something they probably have no business watching anyway. Families were much closer when there was no television. They enjoyed each others company far more. How many of us parents have not been guilty of telling our child to be quiet so we could hear the television. Maybe this child wanted help with homework, or maybe just wanted to talk; and we were too busy with the T.V. So we have found that T.V. is a beast in that it is watched too often and that it is a beast concerning what is on it. The average child will spend at least five hours every day watching television.

The majority of children will spend around seven. That is absolutely ridiculous. It is no wonder that our children are in such poor physical shape. To put it bluntly, young people today, in the main are fat, and lazy. Television has a lot to do with

that. This beast is robbing our children of their very health. We, as parents, must share the blame for this if we allow them to spend excessive time in front of the television. I believe children should be made to exercise their bodies and their minds; neither of which happens while watching T.V.

Let me mention another area in which T.V. is a beast. That is the area of Nintendo and Atari games. I am not so concerned about the so called violence in these games. I am more concerned with the amount of time that our youth spend playing them. Many young people are obsessed, with these games. They are addicted. Children will spend hour upon hour playing these games. I know some parents are saying; "there are a lot worse things they could be doing with their time. I agree with this, but there are also a lot better things they could be doing with their time. Don't let this beast of television rob you of your children. Adopt some guidelines that will govern when and what your children watch. This is a beast that can certainly have a negative influence on our children.

We will stop here and Lord willing continue next week in examining wild beasts that are after our children. In closing this portion of this article, I urge every parent and grandparent to give serious consideration to what I have written. If anything, I have understated, not overstated the gravity and extent of this problem. If you care at all about your loved ones, then I urge you to act now. Many may have already lost their children to some of the things I have mentioned or will mention. In most cases these children can be brought back. How we need an out-flowing of God's grace upon our young. So long as there is a God, there is hope. May we learn lessons from past failures. May we start now trying to protect our children from these wild beasts. May we realize that they are in great danger. Their body and soul are in great jeopardy. Let us do all we can to protect them from these dangers. There is no hurt like the hurt we feel when it involves our children. Much of this hurt we bring upon ourselves and upon our children. God help us! God help our children! The Lord willing we will conclude this study next issue. May God bless you all.

## SWAPPED

(Continued from Page 1)

him, He would have to punish him for his sins. This was Job's problem in the long ago when he cried out, "How then can man be justified with God?" Their reasoning is after this fashion: "If God is holy and righteous, and all men are sinners and deserve punishment, how can they justly go unpunished?" The answer is in the blessed and glorious gospel truth that the Son of God swapped places with sinful men and redeemed them from the curse of the law by being made a curse for them.

In swapping with us, He took our place under the law of God and obeyed the law for us. The sinner is saved by obedience, but not by his own obedience. Romans 5:19 says, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one

shall many be made righteous." If we had obeyed the Holy Law of God, we would have been righteous in our own name and on our own record. God will never punish a good man. If a man can be found who has never sinned, that man will live before God as a matter of justice. He will need no grace or mercy, but only justice. But the truth is that no such person has ever lived except the sinless Son of God. The Bible is very clear on the fact that all have sinned - that none is good - that there is none righteous, not even one.

The chief of police in a Western town received a letter from a woman, asking him to put her in touch with a perfect man with a view to matrimony. The chief did a very sensible thing: he sent the letter to the Bureau of Missing Persons. The perfect man is missing, and there is no kind of bureau that can locate him on this earth. The spirits of the just made perfect are even now in heaven. There once lived a perfect man, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He kept the law for sinners, and all who trust Him have His righteousness -- the righteousness He provided -- and stand justified before God. **"There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus"** (Romans 8:1).

The Lord Jesus obeyed until death; that is, He obeyed all the days of His life here on earth. He never had a sinful thought; He never did a selfish or sinful thing; He never spoke a sinful or even idle word. He did the will of God in all things, at all times, and in all places. When He came to die, He could truly say, **"I have finished the work Thou gavest me to do"** (John 17:4). And let us remember that all that work was for us, to make us right with God. I reject with abhorrence any religion that adds anything to the precious blood of Christ as the ground of salvation. The Bible says that it is the blood of Christ that cleanseth us from all sin. I John 1:7. The Bible says that when He had by Himself purged our sins, He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 1:3. And the redeemed sinner delights to confess, "Nothing in my hands I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling."

The Lord Jesus Christ obeyed unto death; that is, He obeyed at the cost of His life. The word "unto" denotes both time and degree. The time of His obedience was until He died; the degree of His obedience was at the cost of His life. In swapping with sinners, Christ had to settle with the holy law of God for all our sins. As sinners, we were responsible to settle with the law we have broken. But this would have meant our eternal ruin, for the wages of sin is death. As Saviour, Jesus Christ paid our sin-bill, and as believers in Him, we delight to sing, "Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe."

Let us look a little deeper into the meaning of the death of Christ. He died the death that denoted a curse. In His death, He was being cursed by God. In Galatians 3:13, Paul says, **"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."** He adds a quotation from Deut. 21:23 which says, "he that is hanged is accursed of

God." In saving sinners, God had planned that His Son would die the kind of death that denoted a curse. And so Christ died while the Romans were in power. If Christ had died under Jewish law, He would have been stoned to death. But God had decreed that His Son would die on a cross, and the Scriptures had foretold this kind of death; and so in divine providence, Christ died on a Roman cross as a sign that He was being cursed by God. It was more than physical suffering Christ endured for us; He suffered separation from God. On the cross, the Father turned His back upon His Son because He was being made sin for us. The Father was forsaking His Son for a while that He might not, in justice, forsake us forever. If God had been with Christ on the cross to help Him bear our sins, He could not have redeemed us. To save us, He had to be forsaken and punished by God, and this is what constituted His terrible suffering. **"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"** (Romans 8:32).

Jesus was an exile from heaven while here on this earth. Heaven was His proper and rightful place, where He enjoyed all the glory of God the Father. While here, He spake of the glory He had with the Father before the creation of the world. It is to be observed that after Jesus went to Calvary, no word came to Him from heaven and the Father. The heavens were as brass above His head. No help came in response to His cry. It was easy enough for our Lord to hear from home (from heaven) before He went to the cross. At His birth, myriads of angels came from heaven to celebrate the great event. They may have sung the songs He had heard them sing in heaven around the throne. At His baptism, the Holy Spirit came from heaven in the form of a dove, and the voice of the Father was heard, saying, **"This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased."** On the mount of transfiguration, the Father's voice was again heard, **"This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him,"** And all through His earthly sojourn, He was in constant touch with the Father. When He would pray in the silent hours of the night, He could hear the Father speaking to Him. When His enemies came to arrest Him, He told them that even then He could ask the Father and get twelve legions of angels for His defense. But on the cross, He had no word from God. Heaven was silent. The three hours of darkness symbolized this separation from God. God was making His Son to be sin for us, and, therefore, He could not smile or even look upon sin with any mercy. God spared not His own Son when He found Him in the sinner's place. All that a Just and holy God can do with sin is to punish it and pour out His wrath upon it. If God were to give us sinners what we deserve, we would not deserve salvation, but His wrath. Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, came and exposed Himself to the wrath due us that we believers might receive the blessings due His Son. Yes, blessed be His name, He took our place as sinners that we might have the place of sons in

(Continued on Page 11, Col. 1)



## SWAPPED

(Continued from Page 10)  
the Father's house. He took our guilt that we might have right standing with God. Yes, He swapped places with us: He was made to be sin for us that we might be righteous before God. It becomes us to sing with Charlotte Elliot those verses which so beautifully and strikingly set forth the experiences and hopes of the redeemed:

"Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

"Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,

To Thee whose blood can  
cleanse each spot,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

"Just as I am, tho' tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,

Fightings and fears within,  
without,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

"Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,

Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,  
relieve;

Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ  
swapped places with us. He took  
our place in guilt of sin that we  
might have the place under grace  
in Him. Hallelujah, What a  
Saviour!

## A LETTER AND ITS ANSWER

Dear Sirs: Please do not send me any more of Baptist's Doctrine. I am no longer a Baptist...No hell fire. No immortal soul...No tithing...says why I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Come to the Kingdom Hall and find true worship. I'll sign you up for a subscription if you'd like.

Dear Sir: I am so sorry that you do not want any more Baptist Examiners, a paper that teaches true Biblical and Baptist doctrine. You are likely cutting yourself off from any opportunity to hear and learn the truth. Of course, you can learn truth without the Baptist Examiner, but likely you won't. You will certainly not learn truth in the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's False Witnesses, for they do not know the truth. Oh, I wish you would reconsider. I fear greatly for your soul in the step you have taken.

You say you are no longer a Baptist. I beg to differ with you; you have never been a Baptist. A true Baptist would never, never leave a Baptist church and join with Jehovah's False Witnesses. True Baptist churches are the only true churches of Jesus Christ on this earth. You have left the place where the truth is preached, and you are going to a synagogue of hell where you will learn error, and only error.

In fact, your new group is not even a Christian denomination. Everyone who is saved should be a member of a true Baptist church, but there are saved people in other Christian Denominations. However, Jehovah's False Witnesses is not a Christian denomination; it is a cult.

You say "no hell fire." My friend, unless God gives you repentance and saving faith in the true Triune God of the Bible, you will find out by awful and eternal experience that there is an eternal burning hell fire. You may be a Jehovah's False Witness all of your life, but after a few minutes in the burning flames of eternal hell, you will change your mind. You will no longer be a Jehovah's False Witness, but it will then be forever too late to be saved from the hell fire you do not believe in. It will not take much of the scorching, burning fire of eternal hell to convince you of your error as to hell fire.

My friend, you cannot be a saved person. No Jehovah's False

Witness, can, at the same time, be a saved person. You were not saved even when you pretended to be a Baptist. If you had been truly saved, you could never, never have accepted the Devil's lie of no hell fire; and you could never have accepted the other lies of Jehovah's False Witnesses.

You will some day learn that there is fire in hell. You will learn that Jesus is God. You will learn the God of the Bible is a Trinity. You will learn that Charles Russell and Judge Rutherford, and all the rest of the leaders of the cult to which you now belong, were liars, deceivers, and false prophets. They now know that there is fire in hell for they have felt, and are even now feeling, its burning torment. Yes, there is much truth that you do not now believe, that you will learn when you die and go to the hell fire in which you do not believe. You will believe the things that The Baptist Examiner teaches (for they are Bible truths), but it will be too late to experience saving faith. The faith you will then have will be the faith of devils, and not saving faith.

You might ask why I refer to the cult to which you now belong as Jehovah's False Witnesses. Well, because that is what they are. They do not know the God of the Bible. They lie when they claim to be His witnesses. They are Satan's True Witnesses, not that they tell the truth, but that they are like Satan and witness to his lies. They do not know that the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New Testament. They are idolators who worship an idol god - one invented in the laboratory of their own depraved minds. They do not worship the one true Triune God of the Bible. Therefore I call them Jehovah's False Witnesses.

I pray for you even now. I ask God that, if it please Him, He might give you true repentance and saving faith in Jesus Christ (You do not have that now). I tell you that Jesus Christ is God. He was born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life. He died on Calvary for the sins of His elect people. He rose from the dead (I know you don't believe that, but He did). If you repent of your sins and trust Him as Lord and Saviour, you will be saved. If you go on the way you are, be-

lieving the lies you do, you will burn forever in the hell fire in which you do not believe. Your unbelief cannot put out the fires of hell for you. The lies of Jehovah's False Witnesses cannot put out the fires of hell for you or for them.

You had better get out of the Kingdom Hall. You had better get out of the cult of Jehovah's False Witnesses. You are in extreme danger every moment you remain with this cult. I urge you to flee from the wrath to come - even eternal hell fire - flee to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We will stop sending you The Baptist Examiner as you requested. But, sir, I feel sorry for you. You have turned your ear away from hearing the truth, and demons of hell have turned you to the false, lying teachings of Jehovah's False Witnesses. If you begin to see the error of your ways, if you begin to have the least thought of turning to the truth, if you begin to have the least desire to be truly saved; feel free to call on me. I would be most happy to instruct you in the way of deliverance from the lies of Jehovah's False Witnesses, and in the way of the saving truth as it is in Jesus Christ. Yours sincerely, Joseph M. Wilson.

## The Night the Creator's Creation Cried

Up the rocky, winding pathway  
my burdened Saviour went to pray.  
So very dark was that awful night,  
the stars and moon hid their light.  
No man knew the Saviour's suffering,  
no one could see the angels hovering,  
the night the creator's creation cried.

A gentle breeze caressed His brow  
as He knelt to pray, His head bowed.  
The wind tried to brush the tears away,  
to comfort the Son in its own small way.  
But tears touched the grass beneath  
and it knew His agony beyond belief,  
the night the creator's creation cried.

"If it is possible, may this cup be taken from me."  
The lily looked up to see, could this be?  
Crimson flowing where no wound was found!  
The lily slowly closed and faced the ground.  
It could not stand to see the Master's pain.  
How could it know this was salvation's plan?  
The night the creator's creation cried.

"Yet not as I will but as you will"  
My Lord could see Golgotha's hill.  
There was more than a cross to bear.  
Even the sky above was moved to share  
unspeakable words written by fingers  
of angry lightning that barely lingers  
The night the creator's creation cried.

All around the trees groaned in pain  
for cruel men made them crosses of shame.  
With every tear and every drop of blood,  
the ground and rocks shouted a flood  
of screams not heard by man or beast.  
Souls in the balance, greatest to the least.  
The night the creator's creation cried.

The light of a hundred torches draws near  
as the night fades and hearts tremble in fear.  
A kiss betrays as his loyal followers flee  
but Jesus knew what He must do for you and me.  
The night the creator's creation cried...  
Halleluia God's salvation draweth nigh!

Mark Harris  
March 2, 1990

## IN TULSA AGAIN

On Monday morning, July 2nd, Katie and I left for Tulsa, Oklahoma. Sister Jeannie Mad-dux, who had been visiting with us a few days, was travelling with us as her home is in Tulsa.

We arrived at the home of Roy and Dorothy Archer in Pacific, Missouri about 12:30 to 1:00 PM their time. Their son, James, and his two boys were there for the service we planned to hold. These three, and a daughter, Mary, and her husband, Tim Witherspoon, are members of our church here. Sister Archer's nurse and a neighbor woman attended the service we had there. First, we had a time of fellowship, then we had a fine meal, and then we had a preaching service. It was the first time Katie had met Sister Dorothy, as she was in the hospital last year when we visited there.

The fellowship was very warm, sweet, and precious. It has been a great joy to me, each year when I have visited this family and preached there. They are fine Christian people. I always feel that I get a greater blessing than I am able to be to them. James fixed me, again as he had two or three years previously, liver and onions, a favorite dish of mine.

James and his family have been able to attend our conference the last two years.

Rhoda Smith, our pianist had played three songs and put them on tape. We used this tape in our song service there, the first time we had had music for our service. We sang two songs, and I sang one myself. Then I preached. Oh, it was a good service. It did seem that the Lord was with us in a special way. I do not know when I have felt the Lord's presence in a more real way than at this time. The people seemed to really enjoy the message. Some men might think it beneath them to preach to a handful gathered in a home, but I have greatly enjoyed each time I have preached for these people. I count it a special honor to have this opportunity.

We fellowshiped a while longer, and then we were on our way again. We arrived in Tulsa about 9:30 PM their time. I took Katie to our daughter's home there, and we unloaded the car. I then took Jeannie home and returned to our daughter's. We

(Continued on Page 12, Col. 1)

## APPRECIATED LETTERS

I herewith enclose a check for \$... to be used for the church as the Holy Spirit directs.

Homer H. Todd,  
Waynesboro, TN

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I feel led this morning to send you \$... to help pay for the Baptist Examiner and your faithfulness in sending it to me so regularly. Every paper is read and passed on to friends. God bless you in this great work. Salvation is a sovereign act of God's grace. Saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus..

Floyd H. Cotton, Elma, NY

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For the Lord's work in Ashland. Your paper is a real joy and blessing to our family here in Boise. It is a good source of Spiritual food, and as always for us who are the Lord's here who love the truth as you proclaim from God's Word. We love you all in Christ, God bless you,

Bryan, Diedre &  
Lindsay Wanman, Boise, ID.

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Please use this check for the publication of TBE. I want to commend you on the taped sermon on John 17. I listened to it over and over and recorded it too. It is so good and I needed it the morning I played it first.

Inis Ingle, Jonesville, Va.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your wonderful paper and I pray all the people on the enclosed subscription list will read and enjoy and learn from the paper as much as we have, for I long to see their souls saved.

Mr. & Mrs. John Wolfe,  
Williamsport, Pa.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER  
SEPTEMBER 15, 1990  
PAGE ELEVEN



The inflation of self-righteousness is an abomination to God. They who justify themselves condemn God, but they who condemn themselves justify God.

## CAN YOU IMAGINE THIS?

Paul teaching that homosexuality was just an alternate life style and was all right?

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their own lust toward one another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet" (Rom. 1:26-27).

## IN TULSA

(Continued from Page 11)

stayed with Linda and family during our time in Tulsa. It was a joy to visit with loved ones. Katie was in "Grandma heaven." We did enjoy spending this time with loved ones; Linda, her husband, Buck, two sons, Daniel and Brian, and daughter, Heather.

We have a mission in Tulsa. The mission meets in the home of Sister Jeannie Maddux at 401 S. 46th. W. Ave. Her phone is (918) 583-5838. They have Sunday School at 10:AM and preaching at 10:30 A.M. Brother Murray Tyler is the mission pastor working under the authority of our church. He lives at 3903 W. 41st Place in Tulsa. His phone is (918) 446-8627. I would urge any of our readers in this area to attend services with these fine people. Brother Tyler is a fine and sound preacher of God's Word. You might call either of these for information relative to the mission work.

I preached for our mission there Tuesday through Sunday Morning. We had very, very good services. I think very much of Tulsa and my Christian friends there. It is always a special joy to me to visit there a few days. Tulsa is one of my favorite cities. It is a joy to see dear Christian friends, and to preach there again for a few days.

We had good attendance again this year. We had 21 at one service, and we had 12 to 15 or more at nearly all other services. We have our own members there, and we had several friends who visited one or more of the services. We have met some people at these services who have become very dear to us, even though they have not seen fit to join with the work there. We appreciate their attendance at these special services.

The people show a good interest in these services. They listen well to the preaching and seem to get a blessing therefrom. I seldom have a more interested audience. I felt that the Lord blessed in our song service. I felt the Lord's leading and blessing on each sermon.

We had prayed at church here several times that Dorothy Archer would be home at this time for the service (she is in the hospital so much), and that Sister Pat Caves would be recovered enough from recent back surgery to be able to be with us in the Tulsa services. Praise the Lord, God answered both of these prayers. Pat missed only one service. Pray for her that she might totally recover from this surgery and be able to return to work soon. Pray for Sister Archer, also for

would like to see saved and come into this work. There are many who are saved, and who believe much as we do, that we would like to see come into this mission work. Oh, we would delight to see this become a strong church in Tulsa in the near future. We would like to see this work organized into a church someday, if it pleased the Lord. Brother Tyler is having many health problems, and he would delight to see some younger preacher come there and help with this work.

Early Monday morning we were on our way home. We brought two grandsons home with us for two weeks. It was a long and tiresome trip. The boys did very well, but such a trip is hard on them, and on anyone. We arrived home about 9:15 P.M. God had been good to us. He gave us traveling mercy over many miles. He blessed us in many ways. We Praise Him for His goodness. Buck and Linda came to spend a week with us, are here now, and will take the boys back home. It is good to see loved ones for a little while every now and then. Praise God for His goodness and His mercy. If you live in the Tulsa area and would like to know more about this mission work, contact me, or either of the numbers above. May God bless those who labor in this work.

Brother Roy Archer, as they have serious health problems.

Brother Tyler has been having many health problems, especially with heart trouble and diabetes. He had to miss one service, and one could tell that he felt badly many times though he came on to the services. Please pray much for him. He is faithfully carrying on this work in spite of many health problems. We do thank God for him and for his faithfulness in the work of the Lord and to the truths of God's Word.

On Sunday afternoon we baptized Sister Cindy Thornton into our church here. The Rim Rock Baptist Church of Mannford, Ok. graciously allowed us to use their baptistry. We thank them for this. It was a joy to welcome another member into our church and into the mission there in Tulsa. There are many others that we



The pastor gives Cindy Thornton the right hand of fellowship.



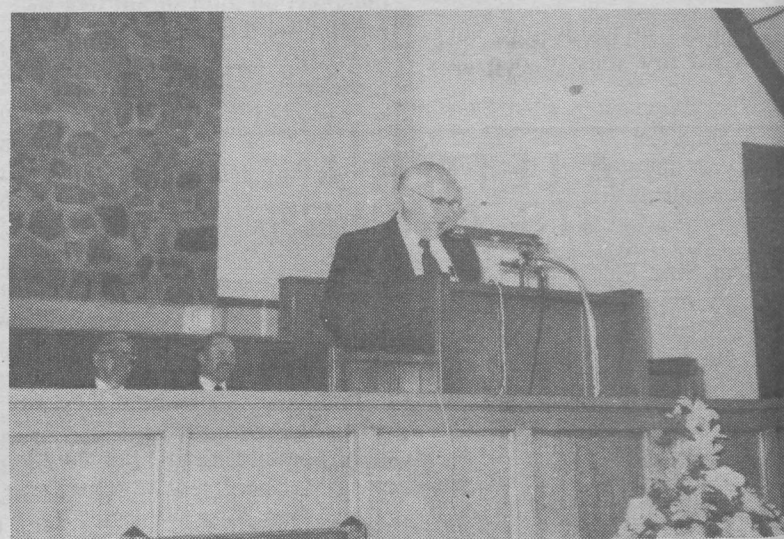
At the parsonage after the conference was over.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Grace Baptist Church of Rincon, Georgia is in need of a pastor. This is a true and sound church, believing the same truths taught in The Baptist Examiner. For further information, contact Carl Drawdy at (912) 826-2031. The church's mailing address is P.O. Box 673, Rincon, Ga. 31326.



Elder Howard Sheppard preaches on election.



Elder Wendell Furlong preaches to us.



Almond Katryon of Guyana, South America preaches at our conference.

## IMPRESSIONS OF C.B.C. 1990 CONFERENCE

A great conference, preaching the Word, singing, sweet fellowship and it was good to see many Christian friends and to meet new ones.

Bobby Blount, Griffin, Ga.

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Outstanding preaching, fellowship, food, and joy with some of God's dearest and most precious people. Thanks to our great God and His dear church for such a great Bible conference where God is exalted and lifted up from the first word to the last word.

John Alber, Hobbs, NM

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The conference was a blessing to me. The preaching was from heaven, the messages inspirational and instructive, the food was very good, and the fellowship was so precious and a blessing to me. Thanks to Calvary Baptist Church, her pastor, and his wife. God bless you in your labor.

Herbert Cole, King, NC

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When good Baptist men expound the great truths of the faith...and when good Baptist people worship and fellowship as we did, then the journey and time are well spent.

Paul Tiber, Kirtland, Ohio

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This being my sixth conference here since 1984. They seem to get better and better. I look forward with great anticipation to this great weekend. This year was no exception. The preaching, as usual, was great and nourishing to the soul. The fellowship was warm, and the hosts did a wonderful job in putting on the program. My hat is off to Katie and the rest of the church women for making the wheels of hospitality turn smoothly: to Brother Wilson and the men for making all the gears mesh.

John Pruitt, Griffin, Ga.