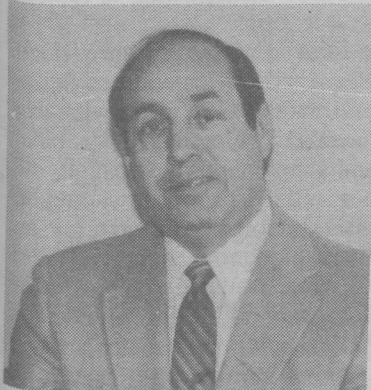


## "THE NECESSITY OF REGENERATION"

by James O. Wilmoth

"THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus



James Wilmoth

answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:1-6). If any man is ever to enter and see the kingdom of God, he must follow these implicit and exact instructions as they have been given to Nicodemus. There is one exception and one exception only for entrance into the kingdom of God; a man must be born again. Man, as he is in the natural flesh, cannot and does not understand this. Nicodemus was a master of Israel and he did not understand. What does it mean to be born again? In verse three the words "born again" are stated. They mean to be born anew, but not of the flesh, they mean to be born from above. The word born comes from the Greek word *gennaō* which means to beget. John uses the word concerning those to whom God has imparted spiritual life. It is a spiritual birth, a new beginning. The word for birth is likened to being born by the word *genesis*. Taken one step further, we find another word, *palingenesis*, from which we get the new birth, spiritual regeneration. Jesus is teaching Nicodemus the necessity of regeneration.

Why is regeneration necessary? Because man, in his natural state, has no way to understand spiritual things. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). Flesh is flesh. A man will only know the things of a man because he has in him the spirit of a man. The

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

## THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT OR NOTHING

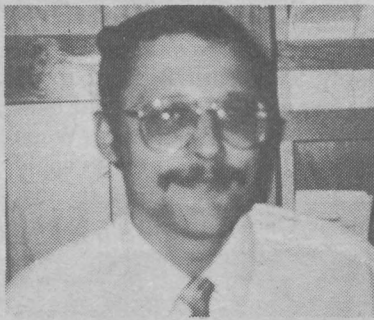
by Steve Swiney, Appalachia, Va.

Matthew chapter 16, verses 13-19: "When Jesus came to the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which

is in heaven. 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. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

There is much in these words of our Lord, much more than many realize. We can receive many blessings in our studies of these few verses. Blessings that only a true Baptist can understand. My hope is that God may make alive our understanding, and bring us closer to His love for His churches

with this message. I told you there are many blessings in these verses for the true Baptist. But what about the rest of the religious world?



Many of the so-called churches of the world today have this belief, that Peter was the rock Jesus would build his church upon. Could Peter have been this rock spoken of in verse 18? "And I

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 2)

## HOW GREAT THOU ART

By Waldo Whiddon

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:13-14). Man's conception of God not only colors and conditions his spiritual condition, it also effects his behaviour toward other people. One will only rise in his ideals of life consistent to, and in relation with, his concept of God. If we have a concept of the great-

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 5)



Waldo Whiddon

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

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## WILD BEASTS ARE AFTER OUR CHILDREN

by Sam Wilson

Leviticus 26:22: "I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children...."

I hope to conclude in this article the series on wild beasts being after our children. I have very little doubt that since the first part of this article came out there have been some families who have lost their children to wild beasts. I wonder if any parents have taken heed to any portions of these articles. Why does it so often take a great tragedy before we wake up and act upon things? Why do we always have to learn from experience rather than heed clear Biblical warnings? How many children will we lose before we start to act upon these wild beasts: before they get a

grip on our children? My dad had a saying when I was growing up. It went like this; "If you won't listen then you will have to feel." Why don't we listen instead of feeling? It seems as if our children are of so little importance to us. This is a great shame. Let me quickly mention the beasts that



Sam Wilson

have already been mentioned in previous articles. These are the beasts of alcohol, drugs, illicit sex, hard rock music, uncaring parents, humanism, and the beast of television. Let us now continue to examine some other beasts that are after our young.

The first beast I mention in this article is the "beast of attitudes". I have heard many say that it is natural for teenagers to go through a change of attitudes. I disagree with this. Just because they do it, does not mean it is natural and to be accepted by parents. However, I am not referring mainly to the attitude of rebellion or of being mouthy and talking back. There is an attitude that I feel is much more dangerous than

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 3)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

## BEGOTTEN THROUGH THE GOSPEL, PART II

"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).

Let us note again the difference, and the agreement, between the Old and New Hardshells as to the matter under discussion in this article and the preceding one in the last issue. The Old Hard-

shells say that the gospel is not used in regeneration or eternal salvation. They say that one might be saved; live and die without ever hearing the gospel, without ever even knowing there is a Jesus Christ, without ever knowing anything at all about the true God; and go to heaven when he dies. The New Hardshells - (I refer especially to those who teach Hardshell doctrine on the gospel and still wear the

Missionary Baptist name) teach the same as the Old Hardshells as to the gospel not being used in regeneration. But they do teach that before a regenerated person dies, he or she will hear the gospel, repent of sin, and trust in Jesus Christ. Please note that both believe that the gospel is not used in regeneration - in the giving of spiritual life - and that

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

## "WHY"

by Fred C. Beard

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1-5).

I set my title for this message; "Why" and I wish to ask you a question, in fact, a few questions, and all of them begin with "Why".

1. Why did Christ Jesus, the Son of God, and God Himself, (as we are told here in our text) come from His home on high to this perverse and wicked world; that man with all his evil imaginations, has polluted and laid waste? Why did He have to?



Fred Beard

After all, He is God; and as God Almighty He could have chosen another way, couldn't He?

John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." Here we have a Scripture that every one is sure to recognize. John 3:16 is quoted by millions every day, and misunderstood by most of them. Why did Christ come? Because God loved the world; that is, the world of His chosen, those who believeth on Him that God sent.

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 4)



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## BEGOTTEN

(Continued from Page 1)

is what I am combating in these two articles. Did I say combating? That is a poor choice of words. The truth is that I am totally demolishing, utterly destroying this heresy in these two articles. And hear this, all who truly believe the Bible will agree with what I say and will believe that the gospel is used in regeneration. A man cannot believe the Bible on this subject and be a Hardshell, Old or New.

In the last article I gave several Scriptures that unequivocally teach the doctrine I am espousing. I think I left out one I meant to use. "I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds" (Phm.10). I know some Hardshell heretics say that the preacher only assists in the birth; that the preacher and the gospel have nothing to do with the begetting. But they do this because they don't believe the Bible. They have adopted (only the Lord knows why - I have often thought the cause to be that of pride of intellect that will not humbly bow to God's Word) the heresy that the gospel is not used in regeneration, and they are not going to give it up no matter what God says. So they go to great lengths of absolute absurdity - of totally perverting the Word of God - to hold on to their pet heresy. No man can believe Philemon 10 and be a Hardshell. No man can properly expound it without teaching Missionary Baptist doctrine.

Now, I want to deal with the matter of what the Hardshells, New and Old, do in their attempts to get around - pervert - explain away the Scriptures that clearly teach that the gospel is used in regeneration.

The Old Hardshells have adopted an unbiblical distinction of eternal salvation and time salvation. This is their key. They apply it to every case where the Bible speaks of salvation. They arbitrarily apply it. They apply it to suit themselves. They do not apply it to learn Biblical truth; they apply it so as to hold onto their pre-conceived heresy. When the word "word" is used to apply to eternal salvation, they say that this is Christ, the living Word,



Joe Wilson

and not the written or preached Word. Of course they ignore a plain rule of Biblical interpretation, that is, that a word has its plain and usual interpretation unless there is something that demands that it be interpreted differently. I will deal with this awhile, for the New Hardshells also use this false argument.

Of course, I will not deny that in a very few places in the Bible the word "word" refers to Christ. This is very clear to all Bible readers. I will state that it is very doubtful that any writer except John ever uses "word" in this way. Mr. Hardshell, show me an exception. I will state, as already indicated, that "word" means Christ in only a very few Scriptures. I will say that, when "word" means Christ, it is very, very clear that this is so. There is absolutely no room for argument. Every spiritually minded believer can easily see this. The fact that "word" refers to Christ in John 1:5 is no proof that it does so in I Peter 1:23. Understand that it is a rule of Biblical interpretation that we must take a word in its usual meaning ("word" usually means word and does not refer to

Christ) unless there are clear, very clear, matters that demand that we take it in an unusual meaning. The Old and New Hardshells do not follow this rule when they make "word" used in reference to salvation to refer to Christ. They have invented their "no gospel in regeneration" doctrine (I really should say that the devil invented it, and they learned it from him), so they have to deny the usual meaning of "word" and give it a meaning that it rarely has. Understand that there is nothing in the context or in the statements, when the Bible speaks of being born again by the Word of God, that forces them to give "word" the rare meaning of "Christ." No, it is not a principle of sound and proper interpretation that causes them to do this; it is their determination to defend their pet heresy of regeneration without the Word, the gospel. In the Scriptures where they do this, no Bible reader would have ever thought of such an interpretation had he not first adopted a heresy that needed that false interpretation to bolster it.

The Old Hardshells, when "word" clearly does not and cannot refer to Christ, and when it is

connected with salvation, they apply their eternal time salvation key. They say that it is not eternal salvation that is being spoken of, but it is salvation in time. You see, according to them, you can have eternal salvation and never have time salvation. You can die and go to heaven and never obtain time salvation. The ingenuity of man in inventing ways of getting around Biblical truth and holding his own heresies is simply amazing. The Bible is clear, the Bible is plain; but men reject the clear, simple, and plain teaching of the Bible; and exercise depraved ingenuity in coming up with the most unbiblical and absurd things to support their heresies.

I talked with a preacher friend. He would read a verse of Scripture, and say, "I wonder what that means." The meaning was clear and simple, but that meaning did not satisfy him; he wanted to discover some deep, dark, mysterious, hidden meaning. I wonder why men do this. Again, I wonder if it is not pride of intellect. I have known men who seemed

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 4)

## FROM THE EDITOR

"A righteous man hateth lying...." (Pro.13:5). I am constantly amazed at the number of (I believe) true Christians who will lie, and it does not seem to bother them at all. I would urge every reader of this paper to examine himself as to this matter, and seek to be truthful in all things.

I suppose that some might interpret this verse as teaching that true Christians will not lie. I cannot do that. I know too many who profess to be saved, and I believe many of them are saved, who do lie; some of them repeatedly. Oh, I hate to say these things. I know some unsaved people whose word I can believe more readily than some Christians. Beloved, these things ought not to be. I guess we will sort of have to get around what this verse, which at first sight, seems to say a true Christian will not lie. I guess we could say that, even though a Christian lies, he hates it; though one would wonder why some do so much of it. I suppose we could say that the verse is not talking about all the saved who have justifying righteousness, but about one being actually righteous in deeds at the time of lying. We could say that he is saved, but he is not being righteous in life at the time of his lying. At any rate, I, for one, do not want to judge every professed Christian who lies frequently, and does not seem to be at all bothered thereby, and never tries to straighten out his lies - I would not want to judge all such as being unsaved. I am very, very careful about saying that a professed Christian is not truly saved.

A little less than a year ago I wrote about making up with a brother. I wrote with joy about this. I always delight to make up with a brother. I would go a long way to get a friend, and a longer way to keep him. I would go much further to make up with a brother than I would to break up with him. I do not have a friend that I want to lose. I do not have an enemy that I would not like to have as a friend. I do not have a person who was once a friend, but is now an enemy, with whom I would not like to have restored friendship.

I do not want to become hard and cynical (may the Lord deliver me from this), but one does wonder about a one time friend who is now an enemy and who is not willing to even try to make up - was he really a friend to start with?

Anyway, I wrote about my joy in making up with this brother. Here is the story: I learned of a preacher who was planning to go to the mission field. We are looking for a missionary to support, and help in any way we can. I wrote this man and invited him to come to our church, speak for us, tell us about his planned work. He agreed to come. I very specifically, and in clear detail set up the time for him to come, and he agreed. If he had an engagement about which he had been asked (this fell through), he was to come on a specified date. If that engagement fell through (and it did) he was to come here at that time.

Time went by. The specified date was drawing near. I learned that the proposed engagement had fallen through. I began to look for this brother to come at that time, and to announce it to my church. He did not contact me at all. On that date, he was somewhere else. Well, he was asked on Sunday night if he had not been supposed to be at Calvary Baptist Church that Sunday morning. He replied, "No, that is Wednesday." I had heard nothing from him. He told this brother that he was to be here Wednesday. On Monday or Tuesday, I got a letter from him stating that he had a conflicting date and would be somewhere else on Wednesday. Remember, he had told this brother on Sunday that he was to be here on Wednesday. But, even when he told him that, (almost of a certainty) he had already mailed me a letter that he was going somewhere else. I had invited him long before this other church. He had told me he would come. He did not let me know anything about this until one or two days before he was due here. I later learned that some (dear, fine, wonderful preachers) had warned him against getting involved with Joe Wilson or Calvary Baptist Church. I wish he had been honest and told me this, and that he was going to follow their

advice. He admitted this to me in our (make up?) discussion.

It looks like a Christian would be honest and truthful. It surely looks like a preacher would be like this. And it certainly looks like a preacher seeking support to go to the mission field would be honest and truthful.

Well, we were at a conference. I got him off and talked with him about this matter. He denied that he had lied about anything, and kind, gracious, stupid me; I tried to take him at his word, even though deep inside I knew he had lied. He admitted that he had been influenced by some (super sanctified) preachers against me and our church. I wish he had just told me this, and dropped the matter.

At our (make up?) meeting, he admitted that he had wronged our church, asked me to present his apologies to our church; and stated that he would be happy if I would still have him to come and preach for us and discuss his work. He told me that he would prefer to set a time to preach for us when he would be in the general area; that he would keep in touch with me and let me know when he was in our area. He repeatedly assured me that he wanted this opportunity, and would appreciate it. Poor, kind, gracious, trusting, stupid Joe Wilson I swallowed all this, made up with him, told him I looked forward to his being with us, and to let me know when this could be. I suggested that he might make it during our conference as I thought this might be helpful to him.

Well, he lied again. I have never heard from him from that day to this. He, shortly after this (make up?) was just a few miles from our church. He never bothered contacting me at all. I am hurt. I am offended. Why could not this man just tell me that he did not want to get involved with me, The Baptist Examiner, or our church? Why couldn't he be honest about the whole matter? Why did he feel that he had to lie to me?

Well, that has been a long time. This brother is now on the mission field, I gave him a year's subscription to The Baptist Examiner. We are still sending it to his USA address. I don't know if he will get this or not. If he does, I would say to him, as I would say to all such; time and distance will not wipe out the guilt of sin. Some people seem to think that because some time has gone by since they did wrong, maybe lied to or about a brother; that it does not matter any longer. They can just forget about it and go on their way as if they had never committed such sin.

Not so, not so. Sins against God must be confessed and forgiveness received, or God will deal with them eventually (I speak of the sins of saved people). Sins against a brother or a church must be faced, confessed to the Lord, and effort made to straighten things out with those sinned against. Time will not just automatically take care of such things.

If this brother reads this, or learns of it; it is my sincere desire that he will truly repent thereof (not the fake repentance of last time), confess his sins to the Lord, receive the Lord's forgiveness (Praise God this is always the result of repentance and confession); and then contact me, confess his sins to me and to our church and seek forgiveness. I will tell him that my forgiveness is here in my heart, just waiting for him to repent so I can gladly give him that forgiveness.

Well, the sad thing is that this is just one illustration of a terrible wrong that happens so frequently. Brothers and sisters, deal with this matter if you are guilty. Few things are more hurtful than lies. Few people are more dangerous than liars. Lying is a growing sin; it gets easier to do the more you do it. I say again that I am greatly troubled by the fact that I know many (I believe genuine) Christians who lie, some of them repeatedly, and it does not seem to bother them. I would plead with every reader to examine himself as to this, and to faithfully deal with this matter. Yours for more truth, especially among Christians, especially where preachers are involved.



## NECESSITY

(Continued from Page 1)

spirit that man has within him is totally wicked. "For from within, out of the heart of 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). Because of the state of man's condition, God has declared him totally depraved. And since man is totally depraved, his thoughts and intents are only evil continually. God saw the existence of this condition during the time of Noah and it brought about the destruction of all men from the earth, except the eight who survived the flood. In his natural state, man is totally and helplessly lost, unable to save himself.

Where is regeneration necessary? On the inside. Regeneration does not bring one into being, it brings about a change upon one already in existence. It is the second or new birth. Unless man is born from above, he is restricted from seeing or entering the kingdom of God. The word "cannot" in verse three means to have power by virtue of one's own ability or resources. Cannot carries a negative meaning. Only through the act of regeneration can we see the kingdom of God. Only through the act of regeneration can we enter the kingdom of God.

How does regeneration take place? An outside force. Regeneration requires the work of two powers. Look at verse five, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit", he will not have the ability to enter into the kingdom of God. Those powers are the water and the Spirit. The Spirit is clearly the Holy Spirit. "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). The Spirit is the effective power in regeneration. Nothing or no man has the ability to resist the power of the Holy Spirit. After that statement, I would assume that some Arminians will begin to quote Acts 7:51, "Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as Your fathers did, so do ye." The people that the verse speaks of are stiff-necked and uncircumcised, in heart and ears. They have not heard, neither have their hearts been circumcised. "For he is not Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom. 2:28-29). Now, back to the other power which is the water. The water does not refer to baptism. The companion of the Spirit in regeneration is the Word of God. It is the Word that the Spirit uses to cleanse the sinner. Paul presented the same analogy concern-

ing the church. "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Eph. 5:26). The reception of the Word in regeneration brings about a separation and a cleansing from the world. We are begotten by the Word. "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures" (James 1:18).

What are the final results of regeneration? We are changed, never to be as we were before. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 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" (Eph. 2:1-3). This description fits into the life of each person that has been born again. It accurately describes the nature of all men, including those who will not hear the gospel message. Those who never hear will remain alienated and without hope and will be without God in the world. "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 1:13). The heart that hated and abhorred God, now loves him. Alienation is changed to communion. Those minds that could not understand the things of God, now know and understand because they are led of the Spirit. The old nature is not removed, we are given a new nature, and now have within us two; one perfect, one sinful. The gift of this new nature brings a new conflict into the life of the believer. The conflict of the old sinful nature of man with the new nature imparted by regeneration. "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Gal. 5:17). Be assured that this conflict will take place for the devil will readily place stumbling blocks in the path of one that has been born again. You cannot fight the powers of darkness by yourself, but when you are born again you are assisted by the One who has overcome all things in this world. With His power, you can overcome all things. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

## CHURCH

(Continued from Page 1)

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. For this answer let us look at the life of Peter. Peter was but a mortal man like you and me. He had many faults, and he, many times, would jump to the wrong conclusions. In other words, Peter, being only a man did

not look before he leaped. I do not want you to get the wrong idea about Peter, for he was a good and just man, but the point is he, like all of God's elect, was made just only by the blood of Jesus. We could give God nothing if He had not given it first. So again, we ask, could Peter have been the rock Jesus was speaking of? Some say the name Peter means rock or stone; therefore, Peter was the rock. Let us look at the name Peter in the Greek. The name Peter is pronounced Petros, and it denotes the apostle, meaning a piece of rock or a detached stone or boulder, that might be thrown or easily moved. The definition itself ought to answer our question, but let us look at the word rock in verse 18 as well. The word rock here in the Greek is pronounced Petra, and it denotes a mass of rock, or type of sure foundation, and I find it very easy to see, very easy to understand that this rock spoken of here was Christ Jesus! Peter was a man of many faults just as all men are, but the only foundation there could ever be must be found without any fault. Our conclusion can only be Christ Jesus! If Peter were here today, there is no doubt in my mind that he, too, would amen this truth.

The rock Jesus was speaking of was not the apostle Peter. The rock and founder of that first church was He of whom Peter professed! "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Thou, oh Lord Jesus and only Thou art the Solid rock; the true founder of thy own churches, the sovereign grace, landmark, missionary Baptist churches in existence today. Oh, if only all who know Jesus would study and meditate on God's Word as He so commands us. If we would take and eat of it with the "want-to" God has given His saved elect; we would all be a member of one of His churches. And when we say church we speak of a Sovereign Grace, Landmark, Missionary Baptist Church for there is no other. The Lord's churches, which were founded upon the only rock, the Son of the living God, Christ Jesus. The rock was and still is Jesus, my Lord and Savior. Peter knew that and that was what he professed. No foundation other than the true foundation will ever stand in glory with the Lord.

We cannot go any further until we speak more upon the profession made by Peter. What was Jesus' answer to this profession? Look at verse 17. "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Oh, this makes us wonder about the salvation of any Christ-professing man that would call Peter, a mortal man, the founder of the Lord's church. "For flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Even the profession Peter made or the profession any of God's elect has made or will ever make is not our own, it is the gift of God. He is the rock of ages. Our Rock of strength. The rock of the church. The Rock Peter made a profession on. The only Rock that will stand the fiery trials of the world. The Rock that will endure till the end of the world as we now know it. Listen by the Spirit of God to these words again. "For flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father

which is in heaven." These words are precious loving words by the grace of God to the Lord's churches. Yes, to the Lord's churches. For the self-righteous, self-called churches of the world it is like an earthquake ripping and tearing them down to what they truly are, nothing. Taking away the glory of the flesh and putting it where it should be, with God. It is ignorance of God's Word, and yes, of the devil himself to call any mortal man the founder of the Lord's church. Peter never made the claim nor did he intend for any other to.

If Martin Luther is the founder of the Lutheran church, it is not a church of the Lord Jesus Christ. If John Calvin founded the Presbyterian Church, it is not the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. If Benjamin Randall is the founder of the free-will Baptist church it is

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 4)

## BEGOTTEN

(Continued from Page 2)

bound and determined to see something in a Scripture that no one else had ever seen - whether it was there or not. Then when they found this dark and mysterious meaning that no one else had ever seen - though godly men have been studying the Bible for thousands of years - but they just don't have the ability to see what these super exegetes can see - they told this to their duped and deceived followers; and the followers would say, "Oh, he is deep." Yes, I think that it is pride that causes these men to seek to find in Scripture what no one else has ever seen, whether it is there or not. I said to this aforementioned preacher, "It means what it says, why can't you just take the clear, simple, and plain meaning, why do you always try to read between the lines and see something else?" He would not listen to me; and though he is a very able man in so many ways, since that day he has gone further and further into heresy.

What do the New Hardshells do in their efforts to get around the Scriptures which plainly teach that the gospel is used in regeneration? (You might want to read those Scriptures again which I gave near the close of the first article on this subject in the last issue) They make the distinctions that I gave in the first article: they speak of regeneration and conversion, they speak of quickening and birth, they speak of conception and birth. They speak of regeneration and the new birth - they make these unscriptural distinctions; and then they say that the first is without the gospel, and the second is by and with the gospel. They nearly always postulate a time lapse, long or short, between these two things. So, they wind up with one who has spiritual life but is an impenitent unbeliever at the same time. They have one who is a regenerated child of God and an unconverted unbeliever at the same time. They have one who is a regenerated child of God and an unsaved unbeliever at the same time. They have one who has spiritual life but has not yet been born again. Would you believe that grown men would play at games like this? Especially, would you believe that preachers, probably saved men (I seldom judge as to this matter), sometimes very big preachers, would play at such absurdities as these?

Would you believe that preachers who are able speakers, who preach much truth, would put forth such absurdities as described above, and put them forth as being sober, important, serious truth? Would you believe this? Well, there are many who do this. Shall I call their names? I probably should, but I desist for the present. Beware of these men. They have destroyed many true churches. They have ruined many good men. They have brought about situations in churches that are causing many good men great trouble and serious problems at this very hour.

I give my text again and expound upon it, "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" (1 Cor. 4:15). One might say that one person cannot "born again" another person. I know that. Paul knew that. Yet Paul wrote this under inspiration and it means something. There is something that one person can do as to another person that the Bible calls begetting that one through the gospel. Deny this at your peril. I heard one preacher say at a conference (won't tell you what conference or where) that this verse (1 Corinthians 4:15) (he was trying to get around the plain meaning of this verse so as to hold his Hardshell heresy) meant that Paul assisted at the birth. He said check your Greek. He said that preachers were God's mid-wives who assisted at birth (a new doctrine never thought of before). Well, you can check the English, check the Greek, check every translation and version - and you will never come up with the meaning of "assisting at the birth" for the word "begotten." It is not in the Greek any more than it is in the English. It exists only in the mind of a man who has rejected the Biblical truth that the gospel is used in regeneration, and is trying to find some way to get around the plain meaning of Scripture and uphold his heresy.

The text says "begotten," and that is exactly what it means. The true meaning is indisputably established within the verse itself. How does Paul explain the relationship between himself and those who had been saved under his preaching? Read it and weep, ye Hardshell heretics. Read it and rejoice, ye true Missionary Baptists. Does Paul say that he was a mid-wife who assisted at their birth? Does any verse in the whole Bible even hint at such a thing? Paul says, "ye have not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel." Paul says that the relationship between the preacher and the person saved is that of father and child. He says the same thing in Philemon 10. This is the unvarying representation of the Bible. The preacher is never referred to as a mid-wife. He is frequently referred to as a father. Mr. Hardshell, face this fact that the Bible frequently refers to the relationship between a preacher and those saved under his ministry as that of father and son.

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 1)



## 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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"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

In order to see the connection between this passage and that of voting to receive members into the church we must remember that just before Christ returned to heaven He gave His church a commission that included preaching the gospel to the whole world, baptizing believers and teaching them all things which He had commanded them, and He promised to be with them unto the end of the world (age) (Matt. 28:19, 20). In other words, His churches today are His representatives here on earth. Now, one who is a representative of another means that he is acting in the place of that one and what he does it can be said that the one whom he represents has done it. Therefore, as true churches are acting as Christ's representatives, what they do in His name, is the same as if He had personally done it. In John 4:1,2 we read, "...the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples)".

Next, we look to see how believers are added to the church as recorded in the Scripture. In Acts 2:41 we find that, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them (the church) about three thousand souls". How are they added to the church? It was by baptism. To whom had Christ given the authority to baptize? Was it not His church (Matt. 18:19, 20)? Therefore, is not the church, being led by the Holy Spirit, to decide (vote) whom to baptize and thereby add the baptized ones to the church? Christ told His church that whatever they bound or loosed on earth would be bound or loosed in heaven (Matt. 16:19; 18:18). That is, as His representatives, they had His authority to act as they were led by the Holy Spirit. One example of the binding and the loosening of members is given in the Corinthian church, where Paul told the church, "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." (I Cor. 5:4,5). Note this was to be done, "with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ", or by His authority.

Again, Paul wrote this church concerning this man, who had repented of his sin, "Sufficient to such a man is the punishment, which was inflicted of many" or "Which was inflicted by the majority" (N.A.S.). "So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ" (II Cor. 2:7, 10). Note that the apostle Paul tells the church that this forgiveness is to be in the person of Christ, or by His authority.

The Scripture teaches that the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ were sent into the world as His witnesses (Acts 1:8) and whatever they did, as they were led by the Spirit, it was the same as if the Lord Jesus had done it Himself. This includes voting to receive members for baptism and into fellowship of the church, selecting deacons (Acts 6), sending out missionaries (Acts 13), or any other matter concerning the church.

I might add a word of warning to those who try to harm the Lord's churches. True churches acting under the authority of the Lord are under His protection, therefore those who persecute His churches and attempt to do them harm is persecuting the Lord Jesus Himself. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me" (Acts 9:4) the Lord asked Saul on the road to Damascus as he went about persecuting the church.

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"...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

In this verse we have the fact that the Lord Jesus added to the local assembly at Jerusalem those that were being saved daily. He led those that were receiving the gospel, who had birth from above, and were being baptized into the local Jerusalem assembly. Often times men forget that it is the Lord Who adds to His churches as it pleases Him, then it pleases Him, and for His own pleasure and purpose. It is not the preaching, the zeal, or the effort of the preacher, or anyone, that adds a true believer to a true church. It is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He may be pleased to use what has just been mentioned, but it is Him, that after all leads, or adds a person to one of His local churches. Those added to the church at Jerusalem were easily recognized because of the great difference between Judaism, their former lives, and the state to which they now came. What a great joy and blessing to see so many added by the Lord to local

assembly there. It is not so easy to discern the difference in today's churches in those coming for membership. I believe there are many with their names on true Baptist Church rolls today who have not been added by the Lord to those assemblies. Both the saved and the unsaved are among this group. Many may eventually be disciplined and others many continue on, but I am convinced there are some that the Lord has not added, but the efforts of men, or some other impetus has done so. Some are discipline or leave for unfaithfulness to the church, or the Lord, and continue in that way. Of them we must say, "They went out from us, but they were not of us for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (1 John 2:19). I believe that today it is necessary that the church be satisfied (within reason) as to the soundness of a prospective member. If they are coming as a previously baptized believer, the church needs to know of their baptism former membership, and standing. I believe that some assemblies today are often too lenient and quick in accepting a member. I believe that each member should have the chance to express his, or her feelings. A simple vote of yes, or uplifted hand is sufficient for this. There is a great deal of difference between the Lord adding, or leading a person to one of His assemblies and a person coming for some other reason. May He be pleased to add many to His assemblies in these days just before His coming and the beginning of the tribulation of all the earth.

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Acts 2:47: "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

As far as I'm concerned, no explanation is necessary. Simply because the Bible does not record a vote does not mean such a vote was never taken. It does not mean that these people were never discussed or presented to the church for membership. I know there are some who oppose voting people into the church. To me this is a most foolish opposition. The church must have control over our door. A pastor should not be able to baptize someone and say they are members of the church without the churches permission. So far as that goes it would not have to be the pastor, It could be any member of the church. The Bible teaches that all things are to be done decently and in order. Someone asked me recently for one argument in favor of having a business meeting. I answered them with the preceding verse. "Let all things be done decently and in order." Let us imagine; and it does not take much of an imagination that someone wanted to join the church, an someone in the church knew of a reason they should not become a member.

Are you telling me that this should not be voted on, surely not. Baptism into the church has given us a safeguard over who gets into the Lord's church. That safeguard is the job of the whole church, not just a few in the church.

I ask the question in reverse. If we are not to vote people into the church, (by baptism or statement, etc.) then are we going to vote them out of the church. Would you argue that there should not be a vote then people are being excluded. It seems to me that these ideas greatly slight church authority. They put authority in the church in the hands of a few select people and rob the rest of the people of any say in church matters.

I believe to try and make an issue of not voting people into the church based on this verse of Scripture is to violate the meaning and purpose of the verse. This verse is not teaching us not to vote on receiving members. This verse is teaching the importance of being baptized into a true church after the Lord has saved you. This verse is teaching that such should cause people to praise God. We had the privilege of baptizing two into the church here in Gladwin last week. I assure you this was voted on by the church, and I assure you that we praise God for His honor. If your church does not vote to receive members, so be it. I do not, however, believe this verse supports that position. I certainly would not fail to recognize these people as members of your church, but I think voting is good and often necessary. May God bless you all.

## WHY

(Continued from Page 1)

Had God loved all, without exception, then all would be saved. There would not have been any reason to send anyone to do anything, there would have been no need, no reason, no sense in the death of the Son of God. The sooner we understand this truth, the sooner we will understand why Christ came.

Isaiah 53:4-12 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin,

he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. 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."

Verse ten of this passage tells: "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him." You want to know why Christ Jesus came from His safe and secure home from on high? He came because it pleased God for Him to do so; that's why!

2. Why did Christ Jesus have to die? Why did He have to suffer as He did? And why was His blood shed as it was?

Isaiah 53:5 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

He came, He suffered, He bled, and He died for the "we" who are healed; and for those only. You see; God's law demanded absolute perfection from the creation of His hand. God said to Adam (the first Adam) "...Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:16-17). God gave His creation one, that's right one, only one commandment, and man did not, could not keep that one demand of God. And listen to me, men. God gave that commandment to Adam, He didn't give it to Eve. Fact of the matter, Eve wasn't even created when this command was given. Sit down and read Genesis 2:16-18. So don't blame the fall on Eve; Adam tried that lie. God wouldn't buy it then, and He hasn't changed, and He never will. That's free, no extra charge. Adam, the man, the first man, from whom all the rest of mankind came; would not, yea I say, could not keep the law of God. And in his disobedience, his transgression of God's law, he separated himself and all of his decedents from the face of God. For God cannot and will not look upon sin. Sin separates, sin brought death, a spiritual separation between man and God.

And God's absolute total and true justice demanded that retribution would have to be made by man; man sinned, and the man must pay for that sin. And yet there never lived a man from the day that Adam sinned, to this very day that would or could qualify to pay for that sin debt. None, apart from Christ Jesus, God's only begotten Son, born not of the seed of man, but by the seed of God the Holy Spirit. Born without sin, apart from sin; such was and is our Lord and our Saviour, Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Luke 1:30-33, "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary:

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 3)



The saddest sight in all the universe is the man in the prison house of selfishness, who sacrifices his immortal soul to the love of pleasure.

## The Baptist Examiner Forum II

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

In John 17:20-26, did Jesus pray for all true believers or only faithful Baptists?

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This chapter is divided into three parts by the petitions of Jesus. In the first part, He prays to the Father concerning Himself and for the work that He had done. At the time of this prayer, that work was, except for His final suffering, complete. The remainder of His prayer centers around those whom the Father had given unto Him.

"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word" (John 17:6). This verse makes reference to the men who had been given to Him for His work. "The men" is a direct reference to the apostles. They were a special group unto the Lord. They were of the elect. They had received and kept the Word that had been taught. They knew that all things were given from the Father. Christ said specifically in verse nine that He was praying for them. Another fact that this part of the prayer pertained to the apostles is in verse twelve where He states that none of them were lost but the son of perdition. The only one to be called the son of perdition was Judas Iscariot, one of the original twelve.

We must also note that this prayer was only for believers. "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine" (John 17:9). Christ did not, in this prayer, pray for sinners. He prayed only for the believers that we refer to as the elect. God already knew who they were. Up to the time of this prayer, we are not told how many had believed, just that all who had believed were God's. "And all are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them" (John 17:10).

Now we come to the third part of this prayer. And in this part, Christ prays for those who would in the future, believe. These, just as those in the past, are already known to God. In all that God does, there is never anything left up to man to accomplish. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word" (John 17:20). His prayer was not only for those who had believed, but included those who would believe in the future. In this manner Christ speaks of them as though they already existed, although not yet born. This is because He knew and loved them before the foundation of the world. He says that they would believe, and believe means to trust by faith, on Him through their word. "Their word" has reference to the commission given to the apostles and

the church at that time to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Their word was to be the message concerning Jesus Christ. These instructions have been followed and the same Word is preached today. And as that Word is preached, people believe on Him through their word.

Christ, when He prayed, prayed for all who would believe. He did not pray for just Baptists, although true Baptists were included in that number.

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I take it that the question refers to one who has actually trusted Christ as Lord and Saviour. Then, I take it that a faithful believer is one who has searched for the truth as is mentioned in Jude 3. That body of faith, that is most assuredly believed among us.

One, after becoming a child of God, should diligently search God's Word for the truth, and not read or search with preconceived ideas.

I cannot conceive of Christ praying for someone who persists in false doctrines. One who teaches works for salvation, in one way or another, is not teaching the truth of God's Word. Such people who are really saved are admonished to come out of the false systems set up by man. They are in no way encouraged to continue in them. They are not blessed to continue in them but rather are admonished to come out of them. Notice this reference, "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4). Besides this we are taught not to bid God speed to any who transgress the doctrines of Christ and of God the Father. (see 2nd John 9). Which doctrine is the descension of Christ into the world, taking upon Him the likeness of man, not his sinful nature, but Christ as God, in His incarnation, to dwell among men and to bring to His people the truth about God and His love to His people, to redeem them from that fallen state into which they fell by the transgression of Adam, and that doctrine of His substitutionary sacrifice by which He saves His people from their sins and will take them to heaven.

As to true believers as is mentioned in the question, I believe that Christ prayed for all His elect. He prayed for all those that were saved at the time that He was on the earth in the days of His flesh. He prayed for all the elect that would be brought into the fold after His sojourn here on earth. Everyone for whom He prayed will come to Him, and none will ever be cast out. It is unthinkable to believe that Christ

prayed for some who will never come to Him. Yes, Christ prayed for all those who were to believe, for they were in the everlasting covenant of redemption.

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Ephesians 1:4 states that we were chosen in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, and without blame before him in love. God the Father chose a people before the foundation of the world to be the recipients of grace and gave them to Jesus the Son, who in turn must die for them. Revelation 13:8 says that He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The ones He must die for were known because their names were written in the Book of Life before the foundation of the world. If you cannot see this from this verse look in Revelation 17:8. Beloved, there is no new name written in heaven, our names have been there from eternity. There will be no more names added, neither will there be any taken away. Brother Joe Wilson preached a sermon on, "God's Pencil Has No Eraser." I agree with him. God works in perfection, He has never made a mistake, therefore, He needs no eraser to make any changes. If He could change, He could not be trusted or be God at all.

Of course Jesus prayed for faithful Baptists. The first church was a Baptist church and Jesus was the first pastor. Jesus said, "I pray not for these alone, but those who would believe in the future." He did not pray just for Baptists then, but for all believers.

John 10:16 says, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." The first Baptist church was made up of Jews only. Jesus, their first Pastor, was a Jew in the flesh. In His prayer He said, "I pray not for these alone, but Gentiles who would later hear and believe the Gospel, and of course other Jews that would believe." Unsaved Jews did not accept Jesus as the Messiah. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not," we find in John 1:11. Jesus prayed that they would accept Him as the only Shepherd. A shepherd is one who leads and protects. So you see, Jesus is not praying for Baptists alone, but all of the elect, or believers, if you please.

## WHY

(Continued from Page 4)

for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Matthew 1:21-25,

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."

The prophesy of Isaiah 7:14 came to pass in the birth of Jesus, "God with us". And now God has provided the sinless one, the only one who has ever lived who could pay the price demanded by God Almighty to bring together the spirit of man and the Spirit of God. Man sinned, and man must die for that sin. So Christ came; Why? Because we needed Him, God wanted Him to come, and He was willing to pay the price for the redemption of our separated souls. Galatians 3:13, "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."

Why did Christ have to die? First of all, because it was in God's master plan for Him to do so; secondly, because that was God's way, and the only way that we who believe could be redeemed.

Which brings me to a third question: Why did Christ return to heaven? You know we so often speak of those who have passed from this life, as we know it, as resting in peace. Now how many times have we commented about some departed one; saying, "Let that poor man rest in peace." You know what? That's foolishness. If that one who has died was of the elect of God, saved by the grace of God, through faith in Christ Jesus; then that one has peace, but surely he is not resting in it. Nay, but walking with and talking with and being taught all things by the Lord Jesus Christ, forever and ever in glory. Praise be to God! This old broken body is not going to keep my soul in the ground with it when I die. These bones may; this flesh may; but not my soul, and not my spirit.

Now back to the subject at hand. Why did Christ have to return to heaven? Why did He rise from the grave? He had paid the price. He said Himself, as He hung on the tree. "It is finished." He had fulfilled the task that the Father had sent Him to do. Why did He rise, and why did He return to heaven? Now I can think of a host of reasons, and I know that you can, too, but let me give you a few. The first of which is simply that we as believers in Christ do not serve a dead god. The world of unbelievers serve their dead gods. But we serve the God, a living God. A risen Saviour, that is from everlasting to everlasting.

Acts 10:39-43 "And we are witnesses of all things that he did both in the land of the Jews, and in

Jerusalem, whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."

God's Word tells us that He arose! God's Word tells us that we preach a risen Saviour, not a dead one.

Romans 14:7-9 "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living." So we see that Christ must rise from the grave. Had He remained in the earth, His kingdom would have been for the dead only. But having arisen, He lives, and His living is for the living as well as the dead. You see, He has been both alive, dead, and alive again, praise God He overcame the grave. Romans 14:11 Repeats that which Isaiah spoke; "...I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." "As I live." Christ lives, and through His living, we live unto Him.

Romans 6:6-11, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

(Continued on Page 11 Col. 2)

## GREAT

(Continued from Page 1)

ness of God-the greatness of the Lord Jesus Christ-then that will affect our attitude toward our fellowman. It is common for those who do not know the God of the Bible to practice the common sins of today, living riotously, and abusing each other. Yet, when we come to know the greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ-then we have a totally different concept, for we see God not only as the great and Holy God of the Bible, we see Him as the God of peace, the only wise and true God, we see Him as love, and as power.

The Bible tells us that we have an able God. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:20-21). He knows all, sees all, and is all! When Israel was ready to march through the Red Sea, our God, the great I Am, rolled back the Red Sea, and that great army, two

(Continued on Page 12, Col. 1)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER  
SEPTEMBER 29, 1990  
PAGE FIVE



## BEGOTTEN

(Continued from Page 3)

Face that, and tell me how it fits into your theory of regeneration without the gospel.

Now, Mr. Hardshell, face this fact: the father is not at all necessary at the birth. I was on an aircraft carrier near Cuba when my first son was born. The father is not at all necessary at the birth. But, hear this, Mr Hardshell, the father is absolutely necessary at conception. The father must give the seed (does not the Bible refer to the Word as the seed?). The father's part is in the matter of conception. I will not hold my breath until some Hardshell heretic comes up with the answer to this one. I have yet to hear one of them even attempt to answer this.

Again, you might say that one person cannot "born again" another person. I know that. Paul knew that. But this is a part of God's holy Word, and it means something. What does it mean? It means that Paul preached the gospel which the Holy Spirit used in begetting, (regenerating, born again) these Corinthians.

We are not Arminians. We know that we cannot save another person, and that he cannot save himself. But we are Bible believers, and we believe I Corinthians 4:15, which is more than can be said of a Hardshell heretic. I say it boldly, I say it without hesitation; no man who believes that the gospel is not used in regeneration believes I Corinthians 4:15 in its true and proper exposition. Here I go again: If any one will send me an exposition of I Corinthians 4:15, dealing honestly with the words "begotten" and especially "father," I will print this in The Baptist Examiner. Of course do not think that I will print it without note or comment. But I will print it. Mr. Hardshell, here is another opportunity for you to have your heresy in this paper. Better take advantage of it, for such will come very seldom.

What does I Corinthians 4:15 mean? The background of its meaning is that the Holy Spirit uses the gospel in regeneration. It means that one person can give the gospel to another person, that the Holy Spirit may use that gospel in regenerating that person, and that the person who gave the gospel is Biblically (don't deny that the language is Biblical) designated as having begotten that one through the gospel.

Now, this is missionary Baptist doctrine. To deny this is to be a Hardshell. Some might say that they are missionary Baptists because they believe in preaching the gospel. But for what purpose do they preach the gospel, not to win souls to Jesus Christ in an experience of regenerating, saving grace; but to win one already regenerated to true doctrine and to membership in a Baptist church. Wow! Would you believe that some preachers teach that "soul winning" is to get an already saved person into a Baptist church? They actually do. Well, I believe that everyone who is saved should join a Baptist church. I believe in seeking to influence men to do this, but I never even dreamed of calling this "soul winning". I tell you that there is no end to the heresies and

absurdities to which a man will go once he has left truth and started on the road of heresy. Oh, I need someone to write me and article on "The Absurdities of Heresy," or it might take a series to adequately set such forth.

My friend, let me now ask if we missionary Baptists in doctrine are Missionary in practice. It is important; yea, it is necessary that sinners hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is our doctrine even as it is the doctrine of the Bible. We believe that if one does not hear the gospel, he cannot be saved. But do we act like we believe this? Does this belief affect our lives and our service for God? Do we practice this truth, or do we only preach it? I am asking missionary Baptist people, even as I preach to myself; are we faithfully giving the gospel to lost sinners? If we are not, we brand ourselves as hypocrites when we tell how much we believe missionary Baptist doctrine. What kind of monster is that person who believes that one cannot be saved, that one must burn in the flames of eternal hell if he never hears the gospel; and yet that one does not give the gospel to anyone? What kind of monster?

I would not for all of the money in this world be a Hardshell in doctrine. There is nothing in all this world that could even tempt me to join this crowd. But am I faithfully giving the gospel to others? Oh, my brother, my sister, hear me now; one can be a preaching missionary Baptist and a practicing Hardshell Baptist at one and the same time. Is not that a terrible thought? It should send every reader of this paper on to the streets and into the homes, giving forth the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When we have cleared ourselves of the awful sin of preaching Hardshell heresy, we have not gone far enough. We must also clear ourselves of the awful sin of practicing Hardshell heresy. Of how many of us could it be said, "He is a preaching Missionary Baptist, but he is a practicing Hardshell Baptist"? Of how many of our churches (are you listening?) could it be said, "That church is missionary Baptist in doctrine, but it is a Hardshell Baptist church in practice"? Brothers and sisters, this is a very, very serious matter. Which is worse, a preaching Hardshell or a practicing Hardshell? I am not going to answer that.

Well, I am nearly done. I have been hard. Some might say that this sounds like the old Joe Wilson. Well, I desire to have all the sweetness, kindness, and love God will give me. I desire that most of my writing breathe a spirit of love. But, it is hard to be sweet, loving, and kind when you are trying to kill a snake. And Hardshellism is more dangerous than any snake I know of. Frankly, I think we have been too soft on Hardshellism. I think that we are paying for that today in seeing many preachers and churches (once sound men and sound churches) ruined by Hardshellism. I think we are seeing men suffer (I have a dear friend who is suffering in this way, and because of this) because we have been too soft on Hardshellism.

Let me say this: though the Old Hardshell may be farther off doctrinally, I believe that the New Hardshell is doing us far more damage. The Old Hardshell leaves us pretty much alone. He

is not ruining our churches. He is what he is openly. He is not trying to deceive anyone. But the New Hardshell is wearing the missionary Baptist name. He is staying in our churches. He is damaging our churches. He is destroying our churches. Yes, he is far more dangerous than the Old Hardshell, who is at least open and honest about what he is. The men who were with us, and adopted Hardshellism, and finally went on and joined the Hardshells - they are not hurting us any more. But those who believe the same thing, but will not get out and join the Hardshells, and stay in our churches and lead them into church destroying (yes, I said church destroying) heresy; these are the men who are hurting us so badly.

You men, you know if I am talking about you; why don't you take off your mask and get out of our missionary Baptist churches and go join the Hardshells. You churches, you know who I am talking about, why don't you force these Hardshell men out of your pulpits? You will get rid of them, or they will destroy you so far as being a true Missionary Baptist church is concerned.

I very well may have another article or editorial along this line in the near future. I thought about writing it now, but decided to wait a little. I am asking my brethren to write or call me and give me their opinions on these things. I am open to comments about these two articles. I am asking for such comments. Brethren, we need to face this issue, and we need to discuss what we should do concerning it. I know that each church and each preacher is totally independent, and each must decide itself what it will do. But we have in the past sought to encourage and help one another in such matters. We have sought to discuss such things. We have sought the help and advice of others as to proper attitude and action. I would like to hear from many of you before I write further on this.

And if any of those who believe that which I have written against in these two articles feel that I have wronged them, feel that I have been too hard, feel that I have mis-represented them in any way; feel free to write me about such things. All letters will be courteously received, pondered, and prayed about. If any who hold these things desires to write me and to discuss our differences, I will seek to receive such correspondence and answer it with a proper Christian spirit.

Yours for true Missionary Baptist doctrine. Yours for true Missionary Baptist practice. Yours for the soon and effective dealing with the heresies of New and Old Hardshellism. Oh, that such might, God willing, be removed from our circle.

## WILD

(Continued from Page 1)

this. That is the attitude of caring about absolutely nothing and no one. I have talked, in the last couple of years, with other coaches and they are in agreement that this seems to be a problem to all of us. I have had several, myself included, who plan on getting out of coaching in the near future because of this attitude. In the last few years, attitudes of young people have

changed immensely. They seem to have no desire for anything or anyone. It is hard to get them to show any ambition at all. They would rather lay around and sleep or just sit and do nothing. This to me is a frightening attitude. To put it bluntly, children have become fat and lazy. I cannot believe the physical condition of our young people. I go in every year and teach a class in wrestling. There are kids who can do absolutely nothing and are proud of it. Rather than having some pride in themselves and what they can accomplish, they are more proud of what they cannot accomplish. I look at young people and see so many of them overweight and lazy.

To many of you this may not seem like a problem. You might be thinking that I am too sports and physical minded. I do not think so. I know and my children know that their soul is the most important thing in this world. I do, however, think that raising our children to be responsible for their bodies is important. My children are required to exercise. I hope this will aid them in being concerned about how they look and act. I am afraid that many of our children have adopted this attitude of uncaring because we, as parents, show them little concern or care. We live in a day when young people just have an attitude that nothing matters or is important. Let us try to make much of their activities. Let us show them that we care and maybe that will help them to care. I remember when I was growing up, there were cuts made from the football team. In Gladwin, we barely had enough kids come out to have a J.V. team. We did not have enough girls come out for a freshman basketball team. I used to have around fifty kids come out for wrestling every year, now I will have about 25. If you ask young people why, they simply say they don't want to. Parents, don't allow your children to give up their extracurricular activities without giving you a good reason. May God save our children from this wild beast of attitude.

The second wild beast I mention is the beast of no hope or opportunity. I have no doubt that this beast could be the cause of some of the first beast I mentioned today. Perhaps the beast of attitudes comes upon our children because of the effects of the beasts of no hope or opportunity. The world which we have built for our children is a world of lost hope and despair. Take a look at their future. It looks bad on every hand. All they ever hear is how bad everything is and how that it is getting worse. I wonder what my children are going to do for a living. Jobs that pay enough to raise a family are scarce and it's getting worse. How depressing it must be to know that there are so few good jobs available for them when they grow up. They hear so much about a depressed economy. On every hand, their future looks bleak. They hear ecologists talking about pollution and the ozone and how that there may not be any air to breathe when they get older. They hear of all kinds of shortages in all kinds of products. They hear of diseases that are increasing and killing millions. They hear of renewed racial tension: They hear of an increasing crime rate. They hear of a growth in drug and alcohol abuse. They hear how worthless they are and they just give up and say: "what's

the use of even trying." Listen young people, these are not reasons to quit and give up. These are reasons for trying extra hard. These are reasons for studying hard and getting good grades. Indeed you are moving into a competitive world. Make the most of your school time in preparation for this competition. Do not give up in despair. Try and make this world a better place. Do not allow this beast of no hope to cause you to waste your valuable time. Do not allow it to devour you. Work harder than anyone else and it will pay off in the end. Parents, let us not paint such a bleak picture for our young. Let us tell them there are still some good things in this country.

The third beast I mention is the beast of government. Our government and her leaders are going to have to answer to God for the shape they have allowed our nation to get into. Many parents must take some responsibility for this, as they have not voted properly or at all. We have not made our voices to be heard as we should. Why is it that wrong always cries louder and longer than right? This is to our disgrace. No doubt, much of the reason the future for our young is so bleak is because of God's punishment for our nations sins. Our government has passed laws that aid our children in their sins. The most hideous and ungodly thing I can imagine is when the courts of our land say that our young daughters can have an abortion without their parents permission. God have mercy. I could easily take a man who made such a decisions as this and strangle him to his death. As far as I am concerned, people who make such ungodly decisions as this have no right to breathe God's air. Perhaps we as Christians ought to start praying that God will either save these people or kill them. Did you know that many government health departments will give out birth control to young people without consulting parents. Our government is a wild beast that has and is devouring our young. Another way they are getting our children is by their failure to punish breakers of the law. I would be in favor of every drug dealer who sells to a child being immediately and publicly executed. Drug dealers get off with next to nothing. There is no fear of the law. They figure they will pay a fine, go on probation or spend a few months in jail and then go back to selling drugs. Until our government begins to get very, very tough on drug dealers, regardless of their age, our drug problems are only going to get worse. I have heard and read police say that they are after the big guys. If we get enough little guys, then there will not be anyone to sell for the big guys. Our teenagers are being used to sell drugs because they can get off with next to nothing if caught. Maybe I am too hard, but I believe in their execution also. This drug problem must be stopped. We know that the vast majority of drugs come into America through the coast of Florida.

Common sense tells me that if our government knows this, then they should be able to stop it. I have no doubt that we have high

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 3)



## STUDIES IN ACTS

by Willard Willis

**"Therefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Acts 13:35).**

God did not prevent the death of His Son. He, however, did not allow death to feed upon Him. He did not allow the chains of death to hold Him captive. We learn from Psalms 76:10 that "... the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain." This Scripture most definitely explains the Scripture before us. God did not restrain man from the death of His Son, but He did put forth a restraining order when it came to His Son seeing corruption. The fact that He would not see corruption, as the passage before us states, was a promise God had made through David. Paul uses this fact as proof that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was truly the Messiah, since He had risen from the dead. This was not a theory presented by Paul, but it was a fact which many who had seen Him would gladly confirm.

**"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption" (Acts 13:36).**

There may have been those there in the synagogue who thought the Scripture Paul referred to was a reference to David. Paul, however, explained to them how that the reference could not possibly be to David since his body saw corruption. The reference was obviously to someone else. Paul affirms that Jesus Christ of Nazareth had to be the person referred to since He had died and God had raised Him from the dead. There, in fact, had been no one else in the history of the world who had done what Jesus did.

**"But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption" (Acts 13:37).**

The word "corruption" relates to that which has become rotten. Apples, for example, become rotten after a period of time. The same applies to other kinds of food. The human body, in like manner, is quick to see corruption once the life is gone from it. The body of our Lord, on the other hand, did not see corruption even as God had promised. They, in fact, put Him to death; but God raised Him up. Paul used this fact to prove that the Psalm which referred to the Holy One not seeing corruption, referred to Jesus rather than David.

**"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins" (Acts 13:38).**

Paul, having proved to those there in the synagogue in Antioch that Jesus was the Christ, now tells the "men and brethren" there of the benefits which could be theirs. Paul, in fact, as he stated in verse thirty-two, had "glad tidings" for them. The "glad tidings," or the good news, was that they, through Him, could have "forgiveness of sins."

The wages of sin, according to Romans 6:23, is death. The forgiveness of sins, then, was truly "glad tidings." It should

have been the best news they had ever heard. They, in fact, through the Lord Jesus, could move from a state of eternal death to a state of eternal life. It is as stated in Romans 6:23:

**"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

Paul's glad tidings to those there in Antioch was that "through this man is



preached unto you the forgiveness of sins." The key words here are "this man" -- this man who did not see corruption even though He died, this man whom God raised from the dead, yea, this man who knew no sin except our sins.

**"And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:39).**

One cannot reap the benefits from an electrical power line without being connected to it. The power station can generate all the electrical power we need, but it will only pass us by if we are not connected to it. The forgiveness of sins and being justified before God also depend on a connection. The connection is that of believing on the Lord Jesus as our Savior and Lord. No person will ever see heaven aside from repentance and faith. Let me add that repentance and faith are spiritual acts and therefore must be wrought in us by God the Spirit. The natural man, in fact, "receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." They, in fact, "are foolishness unto him."

Those who believe on the Lord Jesus are "justified from all things." The law of Moses, according to Paul, could not have performed this feat. The law says, "Do or die;" but Jesus says, "Believe and live." The law would not forgive a person even though that person had committed but one sin, that is, if it were possible to live a lifetime and commit but one sin. We, however, are always sinning, since the "thought of foolishness is sin" and "he that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

There is no possible way to be justified by the law. This man, however, obeyed the law. The law had no charge against Him. He proceeded to die in the place of all who believe on Him.

**"What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Romans 4:1-3).**

**"Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which**

**is spoken of in the prophets" (Acts 13:40).**

The Jews divided the Old Testament into three parts (Luke 24:44). One of these was that of "The Prophets." That which the prophets had spoken is found in Habakkuk 1:5. It reads as follows:

**"Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you."**

The original reference from this Scripture was to the destruction of Israel by the Chaldeans. This destruction was fulfilled just as the prophets had said. The Jews didn't believe such would ever happen to them, but they found to their own peril that they were wrong. The reason the Jews didn't believe the prophets relative to the destruction vent by the Chaldeans was because it was so unusual, so remarkable, and so fearful.

Paul advises those there in the synagogue in Antioch that the manner in which God had sent them the Messiah was so different from what they expected and so remarkable that they might react in the same manner as those who reacted to the invasion by the Chaldeans.

Paul had given the people all the proof needed that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah. Let them not reject Him simply because such was so remarkable and unusual.

Paul advised his audience to **"Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets."** It was, "Turn or burn." It was, "Repent and believe, or else suffer the dire consequences." The big question, then, was, "What will you do with Jesus?"

**"Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you" (Acts 13:41).**

The work of God which the earlier Jews would not believe was that of judgment by way of the Chaldeans. It, in fact, was a time when their precious temple as well as their nation, was taken from them. The work which God was about to work in what Paul called "your days" would be the destruction which was vent upon Israel in 70 A.D.

The Jews of Paul's day thought that the God who had protected Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, their fathers, would do likewise for them. There was no way they would believe anything else even though they were forewarned.

The Jews of Paul's day did not realize that they, due to how they had treated God's Son, were sitting on a powder keg -- a powder keg that was ready to explode. It is as stated in Luke 20:13-16:

**"Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him. But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours. So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore shall**

**the lord of the vineyard do unto them? He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard it, they said, God forbid."**

The Jews, when our Lord was here in person, had every opportunity to accept Him. He performed numerous works which should have convinced anyone, humanly speaking, as to who He was. The work, then performed by Jesus, was a work in their day -- a work of redemption, which they had despised. They even went so far as to kill the one who did the work. Now God was about to perform a work of judgment -- a work they would not believe, even though they were forewarned.

**"And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath" (Acts 13:42).**

This Scripture is the fulfillment of Luke 20:16 where the vineyard was given to others, that is, the Gentiles. It was after the "Jews were gone out of the synagogue" that the Gentiles were given the message of grace.

There, of course, were many Jews who repented and believed, but not as a nation. The nation shall be restored after the Gentile time frame is completed.

**"Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God" (Acts 13:43).**

Paul and Barnabas had simply walked into the synagogue and sat down. The rulers of the synagogue had asked them to speak if there was something they had to say. Paul had proceeded to deliver the Word of God to them and the result was that "many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas." Paul's message, then, had not fallen on deaf ears to all that were there. The Spirit obviously quickened many to life in Christ. These "many" wanted to hear more, so they followed Paul and Barnabas, "...who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God." They admonished them not to turn back, but to grow in grace and knowledge of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. They could now apply all they had learned about the Messiah to the man Jesus. They could now retrace His steps and apply what they had been reading every sabbath day in the synagogue to Him.

**"And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God" (Acts 13:44).**

The "many" referred to in verse forty-three must have continued in the grace of God as Paul and Barnabas had admonished them to do. The "glad tidings" brought by Paul and Barnabas had been broadcast throughout the town. The result was that "almost the whole city" gathered to learn more from Paul and Barnabas, or "to hear the word of God." Paul had shown how the Word pointed to Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, and they wanted to hear more about this.

man. They had been taught all of their lives that the Messiah was to come to Israel. The excitement therefore was great by the fact that Paul had said that He had arrived, been killed, and raised from the dead.

**"But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming" (Acts 13:45).**

We, through this book of Acts, have found that Satan had thrown up many barriers before the Lord's ministers. Time and again, strongholds have had to be torn down, the reason being that the battle or war is "not against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities in high places." Satan is constantly "walking up and down in the earth, seeking whom he may devour." We have found, however, that Satan had not won one battle thus far through the book of Acts. God, in fact, has used Satan's efforts to advance His own cause. The same can be said relative to the Scripture before us. The contradicting and blaspheming by the Jews gave Paul and Barnabas the opportunity to become bold and to prove themselves to be correct. It also caused the believers to have to take a stand for what they claimed to believe.

It is important to observe that God did not allow Satan to throw up a barrier until nearly the entire town had heard the Word. God, in fact, used Satan's barrier to separate the wheat from the chaff, or to separate the believers from the unbelievers.

**"Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46).**

Paul and Barnabas did not turn and run when confronted by the unbelieving Jews. The Spirit, in fact, caused them to take a bold stand for God's Word. Paul and Barnabas, it is said, "waxed bold," or became more bold than ever. They, in a sense of speaking, stepped forward rather than backward.

Paul informs the unbelieving Jews that it was out of necessity that he had approached them first. God, in other words, had designed it that way and commanded that this was the procedure they were to follow.

A great feast had been prepared, and the Jews had been invited to partake of it. They, however, had refused to eat, so Paul and Barnabas went into the byways and hedges and invited the Gentiles to partake of the feast.

Paul said to the unbelieving Jews, "Ye put it from you," or you excuse yourselves from the feast. You push your chairs back and leave the table. Their conduct, therefore, had made them "unworthy" to partake of the feast -- the feast being "everlasting life." Paul, because of their action, appealed to the Gentiles.

**"For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light" (Continued on Page 8, Col. 1)**



## ACTS

(Continued from Page 7)

of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth" (Acts 13:47).

The work our Lord had set before Paul was far-reaching. His first responsibility was to witness to his own people -- the Jews. He, however, was not to allow their rejection of the Messiah to throw him off his course -- the course assigned to him by his Lord. The big picture for him related to his being a light to the Gentiles -- a light which would reach to the ends of the earth. This light, in fact, has shined on me and you who know the Messiah as our Lord and Saviour.

Paul, when saying, "I have set thee," meant that his Lord had appointed or ordained the work which was set before him. It was not a work he could take or leave, but it was written in stone or iron as to the path he was to walk in. It was "set" that he was to be "a light of the Gentiles." Paul, then, was God's servant, or God's worker. The service rendered, or the work done, was in behalf of God's program for the Gentiles. We, therefore, think too small if we see only Paul and not his assigned work. A man, for example, is employed to carve a great sculpture. The sculpture, in such a case, is to be that which is the most important. The same applies to the pastor of a church. He must take a back seat to the work itself. His every thought and action must be for the work rather than for himself.

Paul's work was that of "salvation unto the ends of the earth." This salvation relates not only to the Gentiles believing on the Lord Jesus as Saviour, but it also relates to His being their Lord. They, in other words, were to forsake everything false and follow after the truth. There are many today who claim to be saved from hell, but it is obvious that they have not been saved from error or false doctrine. Jesus, in fact, said, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?"

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48).

The Gentiles knew their place. The Jews, in fact, made sure they knew their place relative to the temple function, etc. The Gentiles, therefore, were "glad" when they heard Paul, a Jew, announce that salvation from God had been extended to them. The Gentiles, in fact, "glorified the word of the Lord;" that is, they honored it as a message to them from God, or as the Word of God to themselves. They, perhaps, had the same attitude as did Cornelius and his household.

Paul proceeds to say that "...as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." The "as many" clearly shows that not one less or one more, believed. It was only those who were ordained or foreordained to eternal life who believed.

We, in the Scripture before us,

are dealing with the doctrine of election. It is a doctrine which is taught throughout the holy Scriptures. The following, for example, are a few of the Scriptures which teach that God has already, before the foundation of the world, determined or ordained, who will be the recipients of His saving grace.

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:4-6).

("For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated" (Romans 9:11-13).

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thessalonians 2:13-14).

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified" (Romans 8:29, 30).

"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace" (Romans 11:5).

The above Scripture, to some, don't appear to be fair to all people on the earth. We, however, when reading these Scriptures, must keep in mind that God owes nothing to any of us. We have all sinned and come short of His glory. God therefore would be merciful if He only saved one of us.

I, for example, can stop my car and pick up a man who needs a ride; or I can pass him by. I, in fact, may stop and pick up another man farther down the road. I do not owe either man a ride, so I am being merciful if I pick up one of them. Let's suppose that both of the men in question had greatly wronged me. It would be a greater act of mercy on my part, therefore, if I picked up one of them. We have all sinned greatly against God. God owes nothing to any of us. His electing and calling some of us therefore is a great act of mercy, and it is most certainly fair.

The Scripture before us (Acts 13:48), then, is just one of the many Scriptures which teach that God has already elected or determined who He will save, or

who He will pick up along the road of life.

"And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region" (Acts 13:49).

The fact that only those who were ordained to eternal life believed, did not cause them to sit down and do nothing. They, in fact, "published" the "word of the Lord... throughout the region." We today must do likewise. We do not know who the elect are. It is our responsibility therefore to publish the Word "throughout all the region."

## WILD

(Continued from Page 6)

ranking officials on the take as a reason this problem is not stopped. I do not like Bobby Knight, (the basketball coach at Indiana University); but I do like one statement of his. He said: "Every time we go to war, we call on our young people to go and fight for us. Our young people are now in a war and it is time we went and fought for them. It is time that instead of chasing drug boats on the Florida coast that we began to sink them. To that I say, amen and amen. Did you know that many street gangs in big cities are recruiting young children to commit their killings for them, because they cannot according to our laws go to prison. I believe teens must be taught responsibility. I believe they are taught this by punishment. Our society is far too easy on our children. Our government and her laws are a wild beast that is after our children. Our job is to try and change this government. Be informed. Vote properly. Voice your opinion. Let right for once cry longer and louder than wrong. The government, I might add, is a beast after our children with their give away programs such as welfare. I readily admit that there are cases where welfare is needed. But I strongly believe in the "no work, no eat" principle. I believe welfare recipients should be required to go out and do something to earn their money. Even is that something is to dig a ditch one day and go fill the ditch in the next day. The governments give away programs discourage our young people from working. Thus we are producing a society where half of us support the other half.

The fourth beast I mention is the beast of peer pressure. A recent survey showed that when children were making a decision based on what to do; they sided with their peers 74% of the time, rather than their parents. What does this tell us? It tells us that we need to know who our children's peers are! Don't let your children convince you that it is none of your business who their friends or dates are. It is the business of every parent to know who their children's friends are. It is not just a parents business, but it is their responsibility. May we as parents never forget how we gave in to peer pressure. Let us never think that our children are not faced with a terrible beast in this area. They will be made to feel like sissies; loners, cowards, and other things if they do not go along with their friends. There must be times when we forbid our children to have certain friends. It is a fact that the road to many great sins, begins with peer pressure. That first drink, that first drug, that first theft, that

first sexual encounter, most of them begin with peer pressure.

Young people; I urge you; do not let anyone run your life for you except your parents and God (not in that order). Do not let your so-called friends get you involved in things that harm you physically and spiritually. These people are not your friends. If they try to get you to do things you do not want to do; then find new friends. These people do not respect you and will only lead to trouble. If you have to stand alone, then so be it. It is better to stand alone in right than stand with millions in the wrong. May God spare our young from this wild beast of peer pressure.

The fifth wild beast I mention is the beast of late hours. I recognize that late hours in themselves are not a beast. The point I am making is that a large portion of the wild beasts I have mentioned are out in full force during late hours. I am a strong believer in curfews and children being made to abide by them. I also believe in parents knowing where their children are. There are places where children are safe from these wild beasts late at night, but they are few and far between. I recently had one of my wrestler's mother ask me if knew what time her son had been getting home at night. I told her no, but I knew what time my kids were home. She then told me that he had been coming in a two and three in the morning. I immediately told her that was her fault. That young man has since been in trouble with the law. Is it any wonder that our young people get into trouble when they are allowed to keep late hours. May God save our young from these wild beasts.

The sixth and last wild Beast I mention is the beast of suicide. This is an increasing problem. We all think that it would never happen to us. Teenage suicide is now at an all time high. I don't claim to know all the reasons behind this beast. I do think I have some ideas as to why so many teenagers are committing suicide. First, I believe they get to the point where they feel as if no one cares a thing about them. When your parents, who are supposed to care the most about you, neglect and abuse you, it is not hard to feel unloved. When parents will not get involved in their children's lives it is evident that they are not as concerned as they should be. Secondly, I think the feeling of despair often times leads to suicide. Here is a young man with no love at home, no job, no friends. He eventually gives up and takes his own life. Lastly, I know that oftentimes it is through demonic influence that young people commit suicide. Many have left notes to this effect. Many have committed suicide under the influence hard rock music.

May God spare us from this beast. Parents pay attention to your children. If they become overly depressed and despondent, take heed. Talk with them about their problems and be fair to them. Oftentimes we think of their problems as being small and silly. Do not put them down but try to "train them up." Again, may God spare our children from this beast.

Let us now begin to examine a different area concerning these beasts. That area involves the reason, why? Why are these wild beasts destroying our young? I believe that much of the blame

belongs to the young themselves; however much of the blame is in other areas. I think the problem begins with God's judgment on us for our sins and failures to harken unto His laws. Go back and read our text. It tells us that God would send these beasts as judgment against us. First, perhaps this is judgment against our government for their habitual allowance of murder though abortion. We as a nation are wasting one of our greatest assets and that is our young people. Perhaps God is punishing our nation for her leniency in the form of devouring our young.

Secondly; this is a part of God's judgment against us as parents. God gave us a job to do in raising our children. We have failed at that job. Maybe if we were better parents our kids would be better kids. Let not these wild beasts devour our children because of our sins. May we as parents repent and change. Thirdly; maybe this is God's judgment upon churches. One of my major criticisms of parents is that they do not think it important to have their children in church. However, sometimes as churches we have failed to show proper interest in our young. I am not suggesting that we go into the things the churches of the world have gone into. We are not there for the entertaining of children. But I do feel that in many ways we have failed our young people. I remember when I was young that daddy always took us to Bible Conferences. At present day conferences there are very few children present. I believe this is a good experience for our children. May God give our churches guidance as to how we can help our children.

In closing this series of articles; let us talk a little bit about the answer to these beasts. The first answer is the salvation of our children. Oh, may God save our young! If this does not happen, eventually our churches are going to die. As parents and churches, we should work and pray to this end. I know we cannot save them, but we can be a witness and testimony to them of how great God's salvation is. Young people, with Christ on your side, none of these beasts can devour you. God is greater than any of these beasts. Turn to Christ, repent of your sins, and He will deliver you from these beasts. Salvation is not just the answer for the children. It is the answer for our teachers and government officials. Salvation will cause these wild beasts to flee our young.

Secondly, the answer is to have caring, protective and responsible parents. If you haven't been this in the past then start now. Sit your child down and tell him that there are going to be some changes, changes in you and him (or her). Become a parent that gets involved with your children. Support them in their activities. Show and tell them that you care. Be tough in the right areas. Make sure you get up and take your children to God's house. Be an example to them at home. Parents, you are very much responsible for protecting your children from the wild beasts I have mentioned.

Thirdly, we need laws that protect our young and that protect our rights as parents. Get involved in your area politics. In-

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 4)



## STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF PAUL -- PART 4

John R. Gilpin

"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). In this fourth message in the series on the life of the Apostle Paul, I want to tell you something about the Christ that was preached by the apostle Paul.

### I. Christ Is Creator

The Christ that Paul preached was creator of this world. Listen: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: All things were created by him, and for him" (Col. 1:16).

I am blessed every time I read a passage like this. I am blessed to know that the world we live in did not come about through any form of evolutionary process. We are living in a day when evolution is being literally crammed down the throats of the majority of students, not only in grade schools and high schools, but in colleges and universities and seminaries all over the world. I have been impressed in a special way in reading various magazines to notice that the trend of the day is, and has been for a great number of years, to believe in an evolutionary process so far as creation is concerned, but when you turn to the Bible you don't find any such concept as that. Instead, you find words like these - that all things were created by the Lord Jesus Christ. This verse tells us that everything in heaven and earth was created by Him.

Let's think of the angels and the archangel, the cherubim and the seraphim. All of them were created by the Lord Jesus Christ. Then let's drop down out of the heaven of heavens, which is the abode of God and the redeemed, to the heavens that we see above us - the celestial and the starry heavens that are above us. We think about the sun and the moon and the planets and the stars. I say to you, all of these were created by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Long years ago the writer of God's Word declared the number of stars was beyond our comprehension -- that it was impossible for human beings to count them. While modern science can count great numbers of stars and planets and other heavenly bodies, I am sure that there is not an instrument made that is capable of counting, or observing all the bodies that are in the celestial heavens above us. I rejoice when I remind you that all of these have come about as a result of the creative hand of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of God tells us that all things were created by Him and for Him. May I remind you there isn't anything in this world that came about in an evolutionary manner, but rather everything in all of this world's expanse has come into existence because the Lord Jesus Christ spoke, and it was so. He spoke and the stars, the heavens, the moon, the sun, the constellations, and the planets all took their places. He spoke, and the angels, the archangel, the cherubim, and the seraphim all came into existence. He spoke and the atmosphere around the world was formed. He spoke and the waters were peopled with the fish and

with the finny creatures. I tell you, beloved, our God spoke and there was coal and gold and silver and platinum and all the ores placed in the ground -- all as a result of the speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, the Christ that Paul preached was the Christ of creation.

### II Christ Is Head Of His Church

We read: "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:17, 18). "And hath put all things under



his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22,23).

You'll notice this declares Christ is the head of His church. Now, beloved, if the Lord Jesus Christ is head of His church, then He has a right to say what His church shall believe. He has a right to tell us what we shall do, and how we shall carry out His Word. Since the Lord Jesus Christ is head of His church, He has the right to tell us who to baptize, and how to baptize. Since He is the head of His church He has the right to tell us how to observe the Lord's Supper, and who is to observe the Lord's Supper. Since He is the head of His church He has the right to tell us who it is we should have fellowship with, and who it is we are to bar from our fellowship. Since He is the head of His church He has the right to tell us how women shall act in His church. When He says women are to keep silent in the church, it is not for us to complain in any wise at all; it is not for us to say God is being unjust in His method of dealing with the ladies of the congregation. Rather, it is for us to realize that since He is the head of the church it is up to Him to tell us how we should carry on church work. I am not a bit surprised when He would indicate that all mission work is to be done through the local body without any mission board, and without any kind of a missionary organization other than a local church. I say, beloved, He is the head of His church and He has a right to tell us how we shall carry on mission work.

I'll go further and say that since He is the head of His church, He has the right to tell us what a church shall be like. He has the right to tell us what a preacher shall preach. He has the right to lay down all the restrictions that appertain to the doctrine of His church. We have no right to ever decide what we shall believe, or what we shall disbelieve. We have no right to disbelieve. We have no

right to vote on what we shall do, or what we shall not do. Our business is just to come to Him as the head of His church and depend upon the Head to direct us.

Several years ago one of the convention churches here in this area decided that they would vote on whether the women were to keep silence in the church, or whether they were to be permitted to speak. If they were loose enough to think that they could vote on it, and decide among themselves what they would do, you know in advance how the decision went. Naturally, they unbridled the women and told them it was perfectly all right for them to speak, and take public part, on the same basis as the men.

Beloved, I say to you, we have no business voting on what we shall believe. We have no business voting on how our churches shall conduct themselves, and how they shall react to the duties that are laid down before us. I tell you, beloved, Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and since He is the head of the church, it is up to Him to instruct us, and it is our business to accept the instructions that He gives.

So I say the Christ that the Apostle Paul writes about is not only a Christ of creation, but He is also the head of His church.

### III. Christ Is Perfect

The Christ that Paul preached was absolutely perfect. Listen: "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:9).

You will notice this verse tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ was made perfect. He didn't become perfect after He came into this world, but rather He was made perfect. He therefore became the author of eternal salvation. We read: "For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore" (Heb. 7:28).

That word "consecrated" means "perfected," or "made perfect."

Now notice the contrast we have between the priests of the Old Testament and Jesus Christ as our High Priest. The priests of the Old Testament were made priests though they had infirmities, but the Lord Jesus Christ as our High Priest is consecrated for evermore, or is perfected for evermore. What a contrast, I say, between the earthly priests of the Old Testament and the Lord Jesus Christ who is our High Priest today!

You will notice then from these verses that the Lord Jesus Christ is perfect. I am glad to know that the Son of God is positively perfect today. I am glad to know that there never was any sin within Him, but rather He was made perfect from the beginning. I am glad to know that there was no sin within His life, for if there had been sin, then He would have needed a Saviour just the same as each of us. If the Lord Jesus Christ had ever sinned one single time, He would have needed a Saviour to save Him from sin just the same and you and I need a Saviour. Thank God, beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ was absolutely perfect.

I often think how that manufacturers of foods boast that their products are so nearly perfect. The manufacturers of Ivory soap tells how it is 99 44/100 per cent pure. Maxwell House coffee tells us that their coffee is good to the last drop. Well, manufactures of foods

are all boasting of the purity of their products.

I was in a feed mill of recent date where feed is manufactured, and I was impressed how that they have magnets in that mill that remove any particle of metal that might have gotten mixed up in the corn or the other grains that go into the making up of the feed. In other words, we are living in a day when the attempt is to produce the most perfect product that is possible to be had. Well, beloved, I want to tell you about the only perfect product -- the Lord Jesus Christ. My Jesus was made perfect from the beginning. He didn't have to be perfected after He was born. He didn't have to be improved upon after He came forth from Mary's womb, but when Mary gave birth to the Lord Jesus Christ He could say as He looked up into the face of the Father, "Thou art my God from my mother's belly." The only one who could ever make that assertion was the Lord Jesus Himself. So I say the Christ that Paul preached was a Christ of perfection.

### CHRIST GAVE HIMSELF FOR OUR SINS.

The Word of God reminds us of Jesus Christ who gave Himself for our sins. We read: "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" (Gal. 1:4). "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb. 9:22). "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Heb. 9:26).

If you will read these verses you will be convinced of one fact, that Jesus Christ -- the Christ that Paul preached -- was the Christ who gave Himself for our sins. How it thrills my heart to know that you and I, who are sinners, have a perfect Saviour in the Lord Jesus Christ -- not one who is almost perfect, but one who is absolutely perfect. Therefore He is our Saviour and gave Himself for our sins.

Notice again: "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins" (Heb. 10:10, 11). In the Old Testament the priest never sat down. His work was never finished. There were many articles of furniture connected with the tabernacle. There was the altar on which they offered their sacrifice. There was the brazen laver where the priests washed their feet. There was the golden candlestick, and there was the shewbread, and there was the golden altar of incense in the outer holy place. Then there was the ark of the covenant which was typical of God Himself, in the Holy of holies. These various pieces of furniture were for the worship of the Jew. Why? Because his work was never done. He could never sit down. His work was never finished. He could never relax and say, "Well, I have a few moments to myself now. I have finished my work."

Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ went to Calvary and offered one sacrifice for our sins, and when He had offered that one sacrifice He

sat down forever because His work was finished. I tell you, beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Jesus that Paul preached, was the Jesus who gave Himself for our sins.

### V. Christ Makes us Complete

The Lord Jesus Christ that Paul preached makes us complete in Him. We read: "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power" (Col. 2:10).

One individual will tell you that whenever you trust the Lord Jesus Christ you need to go down into the water of the baptism and there in that water meet the blood of Christ and be made complete. No, no, beloved; we are complete in Him. Another individual will tell you that after you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation that you are to come back to an altar of prayer, or to a mourner's bench, and you are to pray again, and this time you will have all your old Adamic nature removed, and all the old carnality will be taken out of you, and you will be complete in Christ. I tell you, beloved, it is not so. The day a man sees the truth that Jesus has died for his sins, that day that individual is made complete in Christ.

You will notice that it doesn't say that we are made complete when we join the church. It doesn't say we are made complete when we are baptized. It doesn't say that by joining the church and being baptized and living a good enough life, when we come down to the end of the way, that we are made complete in Him. Rather, beloved, we are reminded of this truth, that right now every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is complete in Him.

I like to see things that people do of a complete nature. I have known people who were great beginners but poor finishers. I am sure you have known of them likewise. They could begin things but they would never finish them.

Sometime ago I was in a cabinet shop of a man who makes a lot of cabinets and other things in his spare time. I suppose there were at least 25 cabinets, and what-nots, and various articles in that cabinet shop that he had started and not one of the 25 had ever been finished. Some of them were nearly done, and some of them were just barely begun.

Well, beloved, I like to see a person when he starts something finish it. I thank God for this truth, that the Lord Jesus Christ completed our salvation and we are complete in Him. I say then, the Christ that Paul preached was a Christ who makes us complete.

### VI. Christ Has An Unchangeable Priesthood

The Christ that Paul preached has an unchangeable priesthood. We read: "But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood" (Heb. 7:24).

This is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ and it tells us that His priesthood is an unchangeable one. Now let's contrast this with modern day religious terminology and theology.

There is a group of people within the world today who think that they are the church that Jesus built, who tell you that all others are nothing but upstarts, and who would say to us that unless we become members of the Roman

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 1)



## PAUL

(Continued from Page 9)

church, we are completely and entirely on the outside of any hope or heaven. Well, beloved, I don't think much of what they have to say in any respect, but where I think the least of them is, they say that when the Lord Jesus Christ was in this world, He chose Simon Peter as His vicegerent and He gave the commission to Simon Peter, and that Peter in turn handed it over to his successor, and his successor handed it over to somebody else, so that the priesthood has been continued down to the present time. Thus, each individual priest has gotten his priesthood by succession back to the Lord Jesus Christ. Now that would be all right if it weren't for this Scripture in Hebrews which says, **"But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood."** The word "unchangeable" means that it cannot be abrogated, it cannot pass to another. The word "unchangeable" means that the priesthood of Jesus Christ remains firm in Him; it does not pass to anybody else. Then when the Catholics say that the priesthood of Jesus was handed over to Peter, and Peter to his successor, and the various successors handed it down until it comes to us today, that is a positive falsehood made out of the whole cloth without a word of truth in it. This one verse plainly says that Christ's priesthood is an unchangeable priesthood.

I thank God for this blessed truth that the priesthood of Jesus Christ remains the same. It is an unchangeable priesthood. It is a priesthood that does not pass to another. It remains in the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then if that be true, I don't need to go into a confessional and slip up beside a little peephole and whisper my sins through that peephole into the ear of a man on the other side that has just as many sins, or maybe even more, than I have, I don't have to depend upon him for absolution and forgiveness. I am glad that I don't have a priesthood of that type. I am glad I don't need a priest of that type. In fact, I thank God for this truth, that my priest is the Lord Jesus Christ, that I am a believer -- priest under Him, and that I go direct to the Son of God because His is an unchangeable priesthood; it doesn't pass to another. He doesn't hand it down to anyone else.

### VII. Christ Is Our Mediator

The Christ that Paul preached is our mediator. Paul reminds us of this truth, for we read: **"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"** (I Tim. 2:5).

Now get the picture. Up yonder in Heaven is God the Father, and down here on earth is man, and there is one mediator to come between God and man, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. A priest who would tell you that it is necessary that he come between you and God, and who would tell you that it is necessary that he act in your behalf unto God -- such a priest is two thousand years behind time. When the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, the veil of the temple was rent in twain,

from top to bottom, signifying that henceforth we need not go to a priest, but rather we need to go only to our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, the only mediator that you and I need is the mediator that we have -- namely, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many, many times in life I have tried to act as a mediator with individuals. I have tried to mediate between them when they would fall out. Usually, beloved, it has resulted in both of them getting mad at me. Beloved, the reason for that is that I am an imperfect mediator, and I do my work so imperfectly.

I remember sometime ago a young couple that had some difficulties and I tried to act as a mediator between them. At the request of the young man and some of her relatives, I drove probably a hundred miles over in Ohio, and got her, and drove her back. I thought everything was going to be perfectly all right. I went home thinking what a good mediator I was, that I had gotten them back together. But to get them back, and keep them back, was two different stories. The result was that they pretty soon split up again. In fact, they hardly got back together until they were split up again.

What I am trying to say is this, I am a very poor mediator. In fact, I am the very poorest, I guess, but I have a perfect mediator in Jesus Christ. The Jesus that Paul preached is a perfect mediator. He can reach down and take hold of us, reach up and take hold of God, and thus He comes between us. He mediates between God in heaven and us on earth. How I thank God that the Christ Paul preached was a perfect mediator.

### VIII. Christ Is Our Security

**"By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament"** (Heb. 7:22). The word "surety" is a very interesting word. We can understand it better by thinking of this illustration. If the average person goes to the bank to borrow money, the banker smilingly tells him he is perfectly agreeable to letting him have it. He makes out the note for you to sign and then he suggests that you get a co-signer on that note. Of course, after all he is really lending the money to two of you -- to you and the co-signer as well. That co-signer becomes the surety on that note, and if you fail to pay the note, the co-signer will have to pay it for you. He has become your surety. He has become your guarantor. He has guaranteed that the note shall be paid.

Now, beloved, the Lord Jesus is our surety. He guarantees that you and I are going to heaven when we die. That is why it is when I am saved once, I am saved forever. That is why it is that I can never lose my salvation. That is why it is that I can never be saved and lost by sins that I may thereafter commit. I thank God that I am going to heaven not because I am going to keep myself, or that I do keep myself, or that I live perfectly, but rather I am going to heaven because Jesus Christ is my surety. He "signed the note." In other words, He guarantees my salvation. I thank God for my Co-signer, I thank God for Jesus Christ who guarantees that I shall ultimately, eventually, and finally persevere from grace to glory in heaven.

### IX. Christ Gives Us Eternal Life

The Christ that Paul preached gives to us eternal life. Listen: **"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his**

**own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us"** (Heb. 9:12).

You will notice all the way through the book of Hebrews there are various contrasts. Here Paul is contrasting the fact of our salvation -- that it brings to us an eternal redemption. He says first of all that in the Old Testament they sanctified the blood of goats and calves, but now it is through the blood of Jesus Christ that we are come to God. Then he tells us in the Old Testament that the priest entered into the sanctuary but now Christ is entered into the eternal holy place. Furthermore, the priest in the Old Testament could only guarantee salvation for one year's time, but our salvation is an eternal salvation. In the Old Testament they had annual redemption but with us we have an eternal redemption. Beloved, I say to you, Jesus Christ gives to us an eternal redemption.

Doesn't it help you just to study about the Christ of Paul? We preach, "once in grace always in grace." Our enemies say, "Oh, yes, that old Baptist doctrine, 'once saved, always saved.' Let me tell you, beloved, why that is true. It is not true because we are better than anybody else. It is not true because you and I keep ourselves saved, but we have eternal salvation because Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross, by His blood, obtained for us eternal redemption."

### X. Christ Will Change Us

The Christ that Paul preached was a Christ who ultimately is going to change these bodies of ours. Let me ask you, are you satisfied with your present body? The strength you have, does that satisfy you? The size of it, does that satisfy you? No, no; some of you would like to get thin, and some of you would like to get fat. If you could make yourself over, how many differences would there be so far as your body is concerned? Well, I am sure there isn't a one of us who would look a thing like we do now if we could make ourselves over, but we can't do that. You can go to the barber shop and the beauty parlor -- you can go to the corner drugstore -- you can go to a plastic surgeon and have your face lifted, but that is not going to change you too much. Let me remind you that there is a great day coming for the child of God wherein the Lord Jesus Christ is going to change us in every particular. Listen: **"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself"** (Phil. 3:20-21). **"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly"** (I Cor. 15:49). **"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son..."** (Rom. 8:29).

Some of these days we are going to be conformed to the image of His Son. We are going to be made to look like the Lord Jesus Christ. This, beloved, is the Christ of the Apostle Paul.

### CONCLUSION

May I repeat these ten thoughts: Christ is mediator, Christ is the head of His church, Christ is per-

fect, Christ gave Himself for our sins, Christ makes us complete, Christ has an unchangeable priesthood, Christ is our mediator, Christ is our surety, Christ gives us eternal life, and Christ will change us ultimately. Now in view of this, let me read you one other verse. Listen: **"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus"** (Heb. 3:1).

May you consider Him now, having studied with me the Son of God. May you consider and realize that we have been studying about that Christ of the Apostle Paul and may you consider that Christ.

You that are lost, consider Him as your Saviour. You that are saved, consider Him, how you ought to live. You who are saved and are not a member of a church, consider that the church is His body, and you ought to be a member of that body of Jesus Christ.

May God bless you, and may you consider Jesus Christ.

## WILD

(Continued from Page 8)

involved to the extent that you make your views known to your representatives. We need laws that protect our children from drugs and alcohol and pornography. Fourthly, we need to be praying for our young and everything that involves them. May we pray for them and with them. Lastly, the answer is the rapture. As we see this world getting worse and, worse, we should long for the rapture. However, if you are young and lost, the rapture is not your answer. Your problems will only get worse. Repent, and believe on Christ.

May God bless our young people. May we join together in trying to save them from these wild beasts that are out to get them. Let us pray and work together in the preservation of each others children. You pray for mine and I will pray for yours. May we see these wild beasts destroyed rather than see our young destroyed by them. May God bless you all, especially any young reader out there. I care and hope God will protect you from these beasts.

## CHURCH

(Continued from Page 3)

not a church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and so it goes for any other self-called, self-glorifying church that the devil can persuade out of the flesh of man.

Now that we have shown that Jesus our Lord and Savior could be the only founder of His churches, let us look a little deeper at the church itself. Could it be this so-called universal invisible church that the world speaks so much of? This question seems to be the easiest one yet to answer, for the proof is found wherever you look in the Word of God. Therefore we will look in the verse we are studying. Matthew 16 verse 13: **"When Jesus came unto the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"** Who

was it that Jesus was speaking to? Who were His disciples, assembled there, being taught the Word of God by our Lord? Jesus was speaking to His assembly of local visible baptized believers, His disciples, the church He founded as He yet walked among this world. Anywhere you look in the Word of God you will not find an invisible, universal assembly called the church. The word church comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*; meaning congregation or assembly, and I have yet to see an invisible, universal assembly of any kind come together anywhere. We must therefore, conclude that all of the Lord's churches are both local and visible, such as Jesus spoke to, there at the coast of Caesarea, such as His churches today. The sovereign grace, landmark, missionary Baptist churches.

We realize that most of the religious world will still hold to the belief in this invisible, universal church no matter where we go in God's Word to prove otherwise. I have heard some say that all of the saved are in this invisible, universal church, and we will all be in heaven someday. Brothers and sisters in Christ, all of the elect will be in heaven someday, a day my heart yearns for, but there still will not be an invisible, universal church there. Let us go to Jeremiah 33 verse 11 and see who will be there. **"The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD."** I have chosen this verse because, for me, it is much simpler to understand. If you prefer you can reference it to Revelation 19, verses 5-9. This is a prophecy of the marriage of the Lamb, in which all of the family of God will take part in. Let us take another look at this verse. First we see the voice of the bridegroom. Second the voice of the bride and third the voice of them that shall bring sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. Beloved of God, I would like to point out that God's Word does separate the bride from the rest of His saints. All of God's elect will be there on that glorious day, but only the faithful few members of the Lord's churches will be in the Bride of Christ. Church members, I would like to emphasize the words "faithful few." Being a believing member of one of the Lord's churches is just one step in the right direction, a big one but just one of many. When our Lord told His disciples "follow me" He meant in all things. Nowhere in God's Word does it say keep what you like and throw away the rest. If we have this on our minds we must wonder if we really are saved. We are to strive to be like Jesus, to follow after Him to the end. Some may say, "what does it matter if we are saved we are all going to be there." Yes, all of God's elect will be there, but if you don't have a burning desire to obey God in the fullest, there could be something else wrong. As a matter of fact you may not

(Continued on Page 11, Col. 1)



## CHURCH

(Continued from Page 10)

be there at all.

I believe all of God's saved elect have a desire to obey Him upon salvation. It is a desire given by the grace of God, a desire to hear the truth proclaimed and the desire to obey it. It makes us wonder about all those professing Christians that are not members of one of the Lord's churches, those who say they are saved and continually refuse to be baptized into one of the Lord's churches. Jesus set the example for His people to follow in Mark chapter 1 verse 9: "And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan." He walked

twenty seven miles from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized, and I must point out not just any baptism would do. Not sprinkled upon, not poured upon, but total immersion. I would like to add He did not stop along the way and let just anyone do the baptizing. He walked the whole twenty-seven miles to the man sent from God, John the Baptist. Some may say, "what does this prove, he was just a baptizer." It proves a lot more than that, for John was indeed a baptizer, a Baptist baptizer, the only one at that time sent from God to prepare the way of the Lord, to preach the Gospel and to baptize those who believe, preparing them for the Lord. I would like to point out that John was a preacher as well as a baptizer, for none can believe unless the gospel first be preached. Therefore, this man sent from God was the first Baptist preacher. I know that most of the religious world will scoff at this statement, but that is their problem. For it was not I who named the man sent from God to prepare the way of the Lord, John the Baptist. He was so named in the Word of God.

John's task was simple to understand. He was to preach the gospel and to baptize repenting believers. From these prepared people the Lord founded the first church; the sovereign grace, landmark, missionary Baptist churches that exist today. The church that was founded upon the Rock that will never fail, the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God in heaven, that in these last days, He has restored unto us the name that He proclaimed from the beginning. Sovereign grace; because He is omnipotent and all powerful in all things including salvation. All that we have is by His grace. Landmark; because it cannot be moved, enduring to the end, the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Missionary; because we are sent and authorized to go into all the world teaching and baptizing under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptist; the name given by God the Father. Churches; His local visible assemblies of baptized saved elect.

We trust we have proved in God's Word there is only one type of church to be a member of. But, let us take another look at an even simpler verse to clear up any doubt that you may still have. Ephesians 4 verses 4-6: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." These were the words of the apostle Paul, by the grace of God, to the local visible church there at

Ephesus. Not the so-called invisible universal church of the world, but a local visible body of baptized believers like the first church founded by Christ as He walked among the world. There is one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one Father of all His elect, it must be clear to every believer that there could only be one way to worship. The way that was founded upon the rock of Jesus. His churches and not the world's, and you can prove them by the Word of God. His sovereign grace, landmark, missionary Baptists churches. No matter how much the world persecutes and despises us, God's words are true. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

If there be just one body of believers left upon the Savior's return, if there be just a handful left when Jesus calls us home; they will be of that church founded upon the Rock. The rock that will stand the test of time, Christ Jesus! Amen.

## WHY

(Continued from Page 4)

For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Why did He arise? He arose as the first fruits from the dead, and we who are His, shall likewise arise unto God through Him and to Him.

Now, why did He go back to glory? Why didn't He just stay here upon this earth, ever living, and ever being the king that the nation of Israel even to this day is looking for and waiting for? John 16:28, "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." Jesus came, and Jesus left to return to the Father. When Mary went to the sepulchre, and found it empty, she wept. Then Jesus spoke to her, and when she knew that it was He; He said to her: "...Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father; and your Father, and to my God, and your God." John 20:17. Jesus went to be with the Father; We too, when this sojourn is over, shall go to be with the Father.

John 14:2-3 "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." He went back to glory to prepare my heavenly home; praise God: No more broken pipes, no roofs to fix, no windows to wash, and no lock to lock. He went back to heaven, because as he said to Pilate; "...My kingdom is not of this world..." No! He could not

stay upon this earth. But He will come again. (Jn. 18:36).

Now for the last why. Why will He come again? Well now, that's the easy one to answer. He is coming again, because He said that He would, He said that we would be with Him. He said that He was fixing up our home in heaven. He said that we would rule and reign with Him. God cannot lie; He is coming again.

Why did He come? Why did He die? Why did He arise? Why did He return to heaven? And why is He coming again? Beloved, He did all this and more than we shall in this life ever comprehend, because He as God loved us, and agreed within Himself before the foundations of the world to do for us what we could not do for ourselves; to redeem us to Himself. Oh, the love of God that was put forth on our behalf. God gave His all, He gave His only begotten Son; He gave Himself that we might live, and live unto Him.

If only we could or would see the total price paid for our redemption. Yet not my will be done, but thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. My God, My God, open our eyes, and open our hearts that we might see His love. Why? Because He loved us, He chose us, and He will as He will. Amen.

## STUDIES IN JONAH

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"Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me" (Jonah 1:1-2). Again, the call of God came as found in chapter three where we have these words, "And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee" (Jonah 3:1-2).

When our God calls one into the gospel ministry as such, that call is often sudden and unexpected by the one that our God is calling. If you would go back and look into the Bible, both the Old and the New Testaments, you will notice that when God called a person into the ministry they were not looking for that call from God. Moses was busy tending his father-in-laws sheep when he saw the burning bush and God called him to lead the children out of Egypt. Joseph was in prison and had no idea that God was going to place him in a place of service that would save his entire family from certain destruction. Samuel did not understand or realize that it was God calling him and placing him into a life-long ministry of serving the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Gideon was hiding from the Midianites when God sought him out and called him to deliver the children of Israel out of bondage. David was taking care of his father's sheep when God called him and had Samuel the Prophet anoint him as Israel's new king. When the Lord of Glory began calling out His apostles, none of them were looking for, much less interested in serving the God of Heaven in that way. The Apostle Paul is a perfect example of one that was called suddenly and unexpectedly.

Now, as the God of Heaven calls and places one into His service, He gives certain authority with that call. In the Old Testament, that call was given to individuals as the need would arise. In the New Testament, God places His authority in His church and the "Man of God" must work within that authority to have God's blessing and approval upon his work.

### I. God's Call is always Sovereign

Understand and know of a certainty, the God of Heaven is the One that elects His own special agents to serve Him. As God appointed their duty and their place of service in Bible days, so today is no different. That is one of the reasons that the Lord's churches need to make sure that God is leading in the choice of their pastor. God gives no account of His matters to man. As He has sovereignly chosen us in Him unto salvation, so our God also places His servants into the ministry as it so please Him. It should be pointed out here that the greater the service brings greater responsibility with that call. Not all have the same call or the same responsibility. The God of Heaven gives to everyone according to his ability, and in that sovereign authority He demands implicit obedience.

### II. That Call was Arduous: Presented Great Danger

When our God calls and places His ministry, the "man of God" does not know the danger that may be his in the service of the Lord. Nevertheless, that is not a reason one should forget the call of God or refuse to answer the call of God. Jonah might have been ridiculed by others because of this call. The world can be very cruel in their ridicule of our belief if for no other reason that the natural man hates the things of God. Oh, the world can be so cruel towards God's people. If you remember, our Lord told His own: "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:14). The world in days gone by has ridiculed God's people in one way or another. Some of God's people have paid with their lives while others could have wished for a nicer end to their life because of cruel persecution.

This call that Jonah received was new and unheard of in his day. Man does not like the idea of something new going on. Let me illustrate, please! Before the days of Columbus man rejected the idea of the world being a globe; they believed if man would go far enough out into the sea, they would drop off the earth. But Columbus changed all of that with the discovery of this world. Now, spiritual things are even more so fitted into that category. How many times have I heard people say, "We have always done it that way." At the time of Jonah, no one had ever taken the message of God to the heathen. Salvation was thought to be only for the house of Israel. Do we not often think that same way today? Of course we do! But that does not make it right.

When God calls into the ministry, that call often requires a certain amount of self-denial. Let me illustrate from the Bible some men that God called into His service. The "man of God" in Bible days was often called upon to sacrifice the finer things of life in order to serve God. How many times

have I heard someone say, "It is God's will for your life to be rich and happy." How far that is from the truth! We live in a country where all have been blessed with more than the average person throughout the world. But most of God's true servants, in comparison to the world, have very little.

### III. That Call that Comes from God is Very Clear

Just as God's call to Jonah was definite, so it has always been the case. Moses understood that it was God calling him into the ministry. Samuel had no difficulties understanding the call of his God. David knew that it was God that had called him and given him the throne of Saul. Elijah had no questions with regards to God's call upon his life. Daniel gave the credit to God for his call and his ability. But as that call was clear and to the point, it was also very urgent. God had told Jonah, "Arise, to to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me" (Jonah 1:20). Why is it so urgent? I am glad that you asked that question. You see, the Bible tells us of the plight of every man born of woman. Man is lost and undone because of his sin nature and his own doing. He is without hope and the enemy of God. The depravity of man is very clear in that because of man's plight he is somewhat in great need. It has pleased our God to reveal unto sinful man his need by the preaching of the good-news. Indeed, our cry is urgent because all of man's deeds are wicked and they stand in need of God's so great salvation. Oh Beloved, it is our duty as God's called servants to cry aloud unto a dying and lost world. It is not our duty to make disciples, for no man can do that, but it is our duty to proclaim the good-news. The Bible plainly teaches us that God so uses the preaching of His Word to touch the life of those for whom Christ died. Thus, that call is clear and very urgent because it has pleased God to save His own.

### IV. The Reason for Jonah's Call

"...cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me." (Jonah 1:2). Oh beloved, great cities are more often than not, filled with great wickedness. Look around and see what I am talking about. The size of the city does not necessarily indicate the greatness of its sin. But it does seem to indicate that the greater number of people in a given area leads to more corruption. We look around today in our cities and what do we find? Drugs, ungodly living, unnatural affections, lust, envy and a whole host of sins that the Apostle Paul would call the fruits of the flesh in Galatians five. The God of heaven sees the wickedness of these great cities. He has not changed any from Bible days. Just as God hated sin then, so today He hates sin and will judge sin for what it is. That is one of the reasons why our God has called His servants into His ministry that they might expose their wickedness.

Has our God changed any? No! In days gone by our God has seen fit to judge those that lived a sinful life; whether they were His chosen redeemed people or lost

(Continued on Page 12, Col. 1)



## IN JONAH

(Continued from Page 11)

unsaved individuals. The wickedness of Nineveh was great and our God told Jonah to cry against her because of that sin. He had judged and totally destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sin. When God sent Israel back into the Promised Land from Egypt, He told them to destroy the people because of their wickedness. Indeed, if Israel had obeyed the Lord in this area they may not have experienced the chastisement of God's hand upon them many years later. Our God has not changed, for He is still the same that judged evil in days gone by. As He told Jonah to cry against the wickedness of the Ninevites, so today God's man should cry against wickedness of his day. Some are not going to understand that, and yet, it is still our duty to cry as did Jonah. Oh beloved, wickedness of every kind must and should be exposed by those that claim that they love the Lord.

### Conclusion:

In our study today we have noted the call of Jonah by our Sovereign God. God's call is without repentance and yet not everyone that is called has obeyed the voice of God. It should be pointed out that God does not call into His ministry those that do not know Him as Lord and Saviour. Many there are today who have entered the ministry because someone else called and sent them forth. My pastor, bless his heart, he is now in glory, once told me, "Johnny, if you can do anything else besides preach the Gospel, do it." For years I did not understand what he meant. I used to think that he was trying to keep me out of the ministry, but the truth of the matter was, he knew that if God had called, I would not be happy doing anything else. The call of God is so very special; yes, unless you have had that call upon your life and have answered it, you will not completely understand what I am saying. The dangers that God's men face are minor compared to disobedience to that divine call. If God has called, don't turn away as did Jonah. You may go in the opposite direction and refuse to follow the Lord's direction, but you cannot ever get away from God. If God has called, then it is God that will place you where He wants and when. God's timing is always right. We do not comprehend that at times, please believe me. We get discouraged, and because of that, we sometimes run ahead of God. But if our God is Sovereign, and He is, then He will place us where He wants and when. May God bless you.

## GREAT

(Continued from Page 5)

million or more strong, walked through on dry ground!

That, my beloved, is the great God that I am talking about. The One who was willing to give His Son a ransom for many. Who also had the power after death to resurrect Himself from the grave. That is God. When we think of the greatness of God and the greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ, we change our concept of God, of self, and of others. He becomes awe-inspiring to the

simple mind of man when we think of our situation before Him lost, doomed, without a leg to stand on, then have Him to show how much He loves us by Him doing the calling, loving, and freely giving the only true solution to total redemption from the only source that it can be had!

"Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him"? (Isa. 40:12-13). None can, of course. As we think about the greatness of Christ, be reminded of the words in Acts 17:28; "For in him we live, and me, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." Also Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, "...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Yes, there is no limit to His greatness.

One day as Jesus stood in a boat in a raging sea. He rebuked the winds and the seas, the crew of that ship said, "...What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41). We serve a great God. We serve a great Lord Jesus. What a marvelous loving God we serve in our Lord Jesus Christ. He who created the universe by the word of His mouth and scooped out the oceans with the palm of His hand. With His mighty finger drew the rivers that crisscross the nations of the earth, and flung the stars into outer space; and that same God became man and our Saviour. Oh, what a great God He is! In II Corinthians 8:9, we read, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." He became as we are in becoming a man, to bear the sins so that we might become as He is, joint heirs with the Father! When we see our total helplessness, then in His precious Word we are given such gems as this one, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14).

There are three important facts for us to consider in this study. First, the awfulness of sin. When you purchase something, usually, the value of the item determines its value. If you buy something for a few cents, it is of little value, and you care little for it. If you dropped a penny you would not look too hard for it. But, if that penny was one of an old date worth several hundred dollars you would value it very highly, and hunt until you had found it. The cost of something establishes its priority. Therefore, I say that sin is awful because of the cost that was necessary to be paid in order to redeem hell bent, hell-deserving sinners. Our Lord Jesus bought you and me from the bondage of our sins, and paid with His own blood. There is nothing more wonderful, or powerful, more expensive or valuable, than the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of the

price He paid, we see the awfulness of sin. He gave His heart in love. He gave His best. John the Baptist called Him, "...the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). We find yet another very interesting reference to the blood of our Lord. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

There is no way for a man to be saved apart from the finished work on Calvary, or the finished work of Calvary. There Jesus paid it all. Yes, there Jesus satisfied the Father in His divine judgment hall of mercy. Beloved brethren, are we worth the price? Is Christ getting a proper return for His investment in His work, in His cost to purchase us? That should be some grounds for serious thinking on our part. Are we trying to be the Christian that He would have us to be? Think about it.

Secondly, The infinite love of Christ. Let us take time to think about His precious love. My brethren, it is so very precious. The Bible says, "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: Yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:7-8). Dearly beloved, Jesus didn't come down to die for His friends! He died for those who were yet in their sins, and enemies of God! Do you recognize anyone here on earth today that fills that line of thinking? I know one that fits perfectly on the sick list that is referred to here. Yes, like all men, I have experienced soul-sickness. I had it unto the threat of death everlasting until the supreme Doctor came on the scene in my life. Yes, by faith in His blood, I am cured. He died for those who nailed Him to an old rugged tree, and He said, yonder on that hill that day, "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." (Luke 23:34). As He manifested that great love, it was holiness dying for unholiness, purity for impurity, sainthood for sinners, love for hatred. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:..." (I John 3:1). He is a great God because of His love.

Thirdly, The value of the immortal soul. You are more than a man. We have a body, but the body is not all of us; the body only houses the intangible part of man. The soul, that part of us which we call the seat of the emotions, is that part of us that can be happy, and has the capacity to appreciate the beauties of the world. It has the ability to enjoy the fragrance of flowers, the majesty of mountains, and the glory of the sunset. The soul is the part that desires and hungers for communion with God. Beloved, no animal has that.

Yes, the soul of man is very valuable to Christ. To Him it would seem, it was worth His sacrifice of Himself on the cross of Calvary. When we think about the eternal punishment in hell, it is beyond our mental capacity. But Jesus said in Mark 9:44, that

hell is the place, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." You may say, "I don't believe in hell!" But that does not alter the fact; it is real. Jesus said again in Mark 8:36, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Yes, there is a heaven to gain for man's soul, and a literal hell to miss.

We would like for you to take note of two outstanding things in our text as we come toward the conclusion of the article.

a. Jesus Christ gave Himself so that He, the Bible says, might redeem us from all iniquity. We are sinners, and if we die lost, it is because of our own sins. The Bible says that He came to redeem His people. How is one saved? He is saved by repenting and believing. No works? Oh, yes, but He has already finished the work. The fact that it is now free to man is amazing.

b. That he might purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14). Then again the Bible says in John 8:36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free

indeed." Sometime we think of the word "peculiar" as being freakish, or eccentric, but what it actually means here is, a people who have been endowed with the richest of God's grace. God has given this endowment of being a peculiar people. People of all walks of worldly, sinful traits have been endowed with this peculiarity by God's grace!

It is beautiful what God can do to a man-not because man is great or good, but because of the greatness of Christ, our Lord and Saviour. We are looking for that "blessed hope and glorious appearing" of the great God, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Are you in that category? If not, then why not? We do not know how far this writing spreads among people, but this great One knows. It may be that there are many lost people that read these words. In view of that, dear reader, if you are one of those who have never met the Lord to know Him as Saviour, let me say to you; trust Him today. Who knows, there may not be a tomorrow to trust Him. Believe in and on Him, trust Him. He came for the sick and lost, not the well people.

Who is sick and lost? All who have not trusted Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour unto salvation! Again, if not, why not? Please reconsider and trust this great One today is our prayer...Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

After being without a pastor for many months, Providence Baptist Church of New Port Richey, Florida voted on August 9th to call Brother Gerald Looney, a member of Brother Wayne Crow's Central Avenue Baptist Church of Tampa, to become our pastor and he accepted our call. He will be ordained on October 20th at 10 a.m. at the Central Avenue Baptist

Church in the monthly Fellowship Meeting of this area. Everyone who desires to come will be welcome.

Providence Baptist Church will be host to a Fellowship Meeting on our premises on Saturday, November 3rd at 10:00 a.m. The building is located at 11830 Pine Forest Drive in New Port Richey, Florida.

## BIBLE

It records the perfect life He lived,  
Fulfilling all of the Laws' demand;  
Imputed righteousness we now receive,  
Justified now, before God we stand.

It tells of His death; story so sad;  
How He lay in the rich man's grave;  
In His raising, our heart is made glad,  
Knowing 'twas needful, His own to save.

It tells of His going back to Heaven,  
Sitting now on His Father's throne,  
With all of His previous glory given,  
And making intercession for His own.

It tells of His soon return in the air  
For His people, both dead and living,  
To meet our loved ones over there:  
What a joy these truths are giving.

The saved of all ages, there to bow  
At the judgment of Christ our Lord,  
To answer for deeds we're doing now,  
Losing or receiving our just reward.

After Christ's marriage to His Bride,  
And the Great Tribulation is past;  
Christ and His own, return to abide  
1000 years on earth, purified at last.

Meditation and composition by  
Claude H. Creech, Feb. 12, 1975