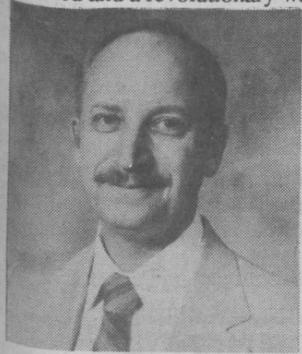


AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL?

Bible Reading Judges 2:6-13
II Timothy 3:1-9

by John Pruitt

On July 4, 1776 a document was drawn up to declare the independence of thirteen colonies from the tyranny and iron grip held by the United Kingdom of Great Britain. Fifty-six men who were willing to give up all, including their own lives, signed the document formally charging the King with deliberate mistreatment of the people of these thirteen colonies for the purpose of full and ultimate control. It was after much suffering and bloodshed and a revolutionary war



John Pruitt

that a great nation was born called the United States of America.

These people desired something other than a state-owned and controlled church. They desired to have the liberty to teach and preach the truths of the Word of God and to have a form of government that would be willing to enforce laws which were based on the Holy Law of God.

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STUDIES IN ACTS

by Willard Willis

"MEN, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you" (Acts 22:1).

Paul had just been beaten by the "men, brethren, and fathers", yet he began his defense by showing the utmost respect for his accusers. He, no doubt, remembered when he had been like them. He knew that it was only by the grace of God that he was



Willard Willis

not still in the business of beating believers.

The "men, brethren, and fathers" had charged Paul, as noted in Acts 21:21, with teaching the Jews to forsake Moses and the temple. They also accused him of teaching the Jews not to circumcise their children and not to walk after other Jewish customs.

Paul, as he stood on the stairway which led into the castle Antonia, "beckoned with the hand unto the people". His purpose was to have them be quiet while he made his speech. It

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SALVATION - A WORK OF MAN OR A WORK OF GOD!

by Pastor Alfred Smith
Flora, Indiana

"...Salvation is of the LORD" (Jonah 2:9). Salvation from inception to consummation "...is of the LORD." If the Word of God is true in this proclamation (and it is) any who dares to attempt to infuse some work of man is most assuredly under the curse of God (Gal. 1:8).

Salvation is not wrought by some decision of man nor is it at

any point dependent upon the decision of man although in a true salvation experience a decision is made. There is no such thing as decisional regeneration for no decision made by any man apart from the enabling grace of God can be made to experience salvation. One never procures salvation. It can be experienced only by the grace of the living God. Not every decision is the result of man-made efforts. When salva-

tion is wrought by God a decision results on the part of man simply because God is the one who enabled the decision.

In misguided efforts to procure a decision for Christ, this generation has been guilty of creating a decision mill through which are pushed, pulled or shoved many confused sinners who have been rushed by Calvary

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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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THE APOSTLE PAUL COULD NOT PASTOR TODAY

by Paul Jackson

Would you believe the Apostle Paul, one of the greatest missionaries that has ever lived, could not be pastor of your church? Would you like to know why? If you would, read the rest of this article.

The Apostle Paul could not be pastor of your church because he was too sound doctrinally. The first time he taught that Christ

only instituted one kind of a local church, he would be escorted to the door by your deacons. The apostle wrote fourteen books of the New Testament and the only kind of church he wrote about was a local, visible assembly. This fact alone is denied in 99% of the assemblies today. Your pastor teaches that the church is universal (catholic) and is an invisible body of which every per-

son is a member. The Apostle Paul stated in First Corinthians that the Corinthian church was the body of Christ. "Now ye (Corinthians) are the body of Christ, and members in particular" (I Corinthians 12:27). Paul taught that each church was a functioning body of Christ and Christ was the Head of

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THE SIMPLICITY OF THE BAPTIST FAITH

by T. T. Martin

Baptists are a widely misunderstood people. Many think that Baptists teach that only Baptists will be saved; many think that they teach that only those who have been immersed, "...Buried with him in baptism..." (Col. 2:12) will be saved; whereas, they have ever stood for the teaching that all Romanists, Protestants, Baptists and all who are on the outside of all churches, who repent

and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15); who really receive Christ as Savior, as having died for their sins (I Cor. 15:3); who trust the whole of their salvation to Him (Rom. 4:5); are sure of heaven; proving their teachings on this point by the Scriptures. Acts 16:31: "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." and John 6:47: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath ever-

lasting life." But Baptists teach that, because Christ died for our sins, and because we are made sure of heaven the moment we receive the Savior (John 5:24,10:28,29), we should, from love, from gratitude to Him for having suffered in our place for our sins, do just what He would have us do as to baptism and church membership, as well as concerning everything

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"THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING"

By Waldo Whiddon

We believe that the coming of the Lord is imminent. We are not talking about the rapture as much as the second coming back when He will actually put His feet upon the ground again. We would like to say a few things concerning this coming again.

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things



Waldo Whiddon

be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for

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STUDIES IN JOSHUA 1:1-1:8

by C.T. Everman

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through pa-



Clyde Everman

tience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4).

As we begin a study of the book of Joshua we need to keep in mind that this book as well as all the other books of the Bible were written for our learning. Many important lessons can be learned by studying the experiences of others. Is not Abraham given as an prime example of one who believed God and it was imputed to him for righteousness? Is not Job given as one who persevered in spite of all the troubles that came his way? Is not the eleventh chapter of Hebrews full of examples of men and women who accomplished great deeds because they walked and worked by faith? As we study Joshua we need to learn the lesson of what can be accomplished if we, as children of God, walk by faith.

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

THE WORLD'S THREE GREAT ERRORS ABOUT THE CHURCH

"...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt.16:18).

The most important thing in the world for any man is to be saved. The second most important thing is to be a member of a true church. The third most important thing is to be the right kind of member of that church. These things are beyond any proper or successful dispute. One

can not be the right kind of church member without being in a true church. He can be a good member of a false church, but still is not the church member he ought to be.

Therefore, it is very important that one have some understanding of church truth. This will require a Spirit led understanding of the Word of God, for there is probably more error in the religious world about the church than about any other religious subject.

Let us look at the three most popular of these errors.

1. The world says that there is not much difference between the churches. Now, it is true that there is not much difference between many of the organizations in the world that call themselves churches. One is off on some things, and the other is off on other things; it would not matter much which of these so-called

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JOSEPH M. WILSON, EDITOR
Office Ph. 606-325-2012
Home Ph. 606-329-1758

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churches was a member of. But when we bring into the picture the true churches of Jesus Christ, even Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptist churches; this is most certainly not the case. There are many very important differences between the false churches started by men and the true churches of Jesus Christ. There are many important differences between, for instance, Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Holy Rollers, Campbellites, and others on one hand; and true Baptists on the other hand.

There is a major difference as to origin and history. True Baptist churches were started by Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry, and have been perpetuated by His power from then to this present hour; and they will be so continued until His coming again. Other churches, all other churches, were started by men, and started since the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. Many churches have come upon the scene of history, and then disappeared. Many others may yet be started by men. Some now in existence may cease before the coming of the Lord. Yes, there is a great difference between other churches and true Baptists as to origin and history.

There is a great difference as to headship and control. Baptist churches have Jesus Christ as their only Head. They march at His orders. They are under His control. Other churches have human heads who tell them what to do and what to preach. Roman Catholics have the Pope as

supreme head. Some churches are controlled by human governments such as the Church of England. Some churches are controlled by General Assemblies of the men who head them, etc. There is a great difference between the church that has Jesus Christ as Head and those churches



Joe Wilson

who have human heads.

There is a big difference between the practices of true Baptist churches and the churches started and headed by men. There is the matter of Baptism. There are four essentials to true Bible baptism: 1. A Scriptural candidate; a professed believer. 2. A Scriptural mode; immersion. 3. A Scriptural purpose; to obey Christ and show forth the gospel. 4. A Scriptural authority; a true Baptist church. Only Baptist baptism meets all four of these requirements for baptism; therefore, only Baptist churches have Scriptural baptism. Surely this is a major difference between churches - Baptist churches have Bible baptism; other churches do not.

There is the practice of the Lord's Supper. In order to Scripturally observe this precious ordinance there must be three things: 1. A Scriptural authority, a true Baptist church. 2. Scriptural elements, unleavened bread and real wine. 3. Scriptural participants, members of the one local church observing the ordinance. Consequently, only true Baptist churches can observe this wonderfully precious ordinance. Understand me clearly; none but Baptist churches can observe this ordinance. All other churches can go through the motions and make pretences, but they can not observe the Lord's Supper. Is not this a great difference?

What about the matter of practicing church government? Baptists practice the Biblical teaching of congregational government of each local church. Other churches practice different forms of government. Is not this an important difference?

There are many very important differences between the churches as to the doctrines taught. Baptists teach the truths of the Word of God - I speak of true Baptist churches. They teach the precious truths of the sovereign and saving grace of God - oh, how blessed are these five wonderful truths - Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, and the Perseverance of the Saints. Baptist churches teach many other precious truths of the Bible. Other churches teach the traditions of men. Oh, yes, they do teach some truth - truth they got from Baptists. But, along with the truth they teach, they teach much error - some less, some much more. I have often said, why dig through the garbage cans of false churches for a small portion of truth mixed with much error, when you can go to a Bap-

tist church and sit down at the table heavily laden with the precious food of the pure Word of God? There is a vast and important difference between what Baptist churches teach and what other churches teach. Baptist churches teach more truth than all other churches put together. Baptist churches are commissioned by the Lord to teach all the truth. Baptist churches are the pillar and ground of the truth. Baptist churches are the candlesticks from which the light of God's Word shines forth upon the spiritual darkness of this world. Is this difference not important enough that every saved person should forthwith become a Baptist?

2. The religious world says that one church is as good as another. Well, of course, if there is not much difference between churches, one church would be at least almost as good as another. I have already shown that there are many important differences between churches; therefore, one church cannot be as good as another. Is a church started by man as good as the church that was started by Jesus Christ? Oh, how dishonoring it would be to the Lord Jesus Christ to say this. My friend, as high as Jesus Christ is above all men, so high is His church above the churches of men.

Is the church governed by men as good as the church governed by Jesus Christ? It would be blasphemy to say so. Is the church that disobeys the Lord in its teaching and practices as good as the church that obeys the Lord? Surely not. Is not obedience to the Lord a matter to be highly valued? I assure you that the Lord makes much of obedience, and looks at this matter as He looks at the organizations claiming to be churches.

Is the church that teaches the true doctrines of the Word of God as good as the churches that deny those doctrines and teach the false doctrines of men and demons? Oh, let us not even imagine such a blasphemy. The Lord prizes His truths. He has gone to great lengths to provide these truths to men. What a terrible sin it is for that which calls itself a church of Jesus Christ to teach the false doctrines of men and to war against the truth of the Word of God. How could one even imagine that such a church is as good as the church teaching the whole counsel of God? We are urged to buy the truth and sell it not. But false churches spend much for error and refuse the truth of God.

Oh, how foolish it is for men to say that one church is as good as another. Men forsake, not only godly counsel and wisdom, but even common sense when they so argue. Men would not thus argue in even the things that apply to the physical and only to this life. Men do not say that one woman is as good as another. They do not say one man is as good as another. They do not say that one car is as good as another. They do not say that one house is as good as another. They do not say that one country is as good as another. They do not say that one brand is as good as another. Why, oh why, then, do they dare to say that one church is as good as another? Men of average common sense will forsake all this when it comes to reasoning about spiritual things. Oh, how this shows us the depravity of man.

3. The third great error of the religious world about the church is when they say that it does not

matter what church one joins. This, of course, is a result of the other true errors. Of course, if there is not much difference between churches, and if one church is as good as another; it does not matter what church you join. I have shown that there are many very important differences between churches. I have shown that it just is not true that one church is as good as another. Therefore, I have proved that it makes a vast difference as to what church you join.

It matters greatly what church you join. This is the most important matter in your life, next to the matter of salvation. Oh, you should give much thought to this matter. You should pray much about this matter. You should study God's Word carefully in seeking the true and proper answer to the matter of what church to join. I thank God that this is not a matter that relates to salvation. Understand me clearly; what church you join, or even if you join no church, has nothing to do with salvation. The church question is one to be settled after one is sure of personal salvation. I am not one of these "be or become a Baptist or go to hell" men. I detest this heresy with all my soul. I believe

the matter of which church you join to be very important, but I will not lift it above its true Biblical importance.

Which church you join matters as to giving proper honor and glory to God. Every truly saved person should greatly desire to glorify the Lord with His life and service, and the Bible tells us, "Unto him be glory in the church...." (Eph.3:21). I do not believe that God only gets glory in the church, I believe that God gets glory out of all things; but I do believe that the proper place for a child of God to glorify God by his life and service is as a member of, under the authority of, in and through a true Baptist church.

Which church you join matters as to your obeying or disobeying the Lord. Hear and understand what I say; God never led any person to be a member of any church except a true Baptist church. God never led anyone to be a Methodist, a Lutheran, a Presbyterian, a Holy Roller, or anything else. People may be saved and be in other than Baptist churches, but they are disobedient believers. I stand adamant here. I do not, and will not, budge an

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FROM THE EDITOR

"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican" (Matt.18:17).

What is a church? A church is a local visible assembly of baptized believers - men, women, and children. What church are matters of offence to be told to? A church that includes men, women, and children? What church is to exercise disciplinary authority? A church that includes men, women and children. Why is it that some men will answer the first question of this paragraph just as I have, but will answer the last (maybe the last two) differently?

I speak of two ways of defeating the God-ordained way of church authority in the conducting of church business. We all say that we believe in church authority. I suppose that we would all say that we practice church authority in the business of the church; but some of us do not do this.

When some members of a church are not allowed to vote on the business of the church, the church is not practicing church authority. Some churches will not allow children under a certain age to vote. This is practicing adult authority and not church authority. Some will not allow the women to vote. (Do they allow young male children to vote? I suppose so; what a slam on the women if they do). When the women are not allowed to vote, the church is not practicing church authority. They are practicing male authority. If I am wrong on this, I wish some who practice either or both of the above, would write me and explain this matter. If someone will write an explanation of how they can forbid some members to vote and still practice church authority in their business, I will print such in this paper.

Baptists have always believed (at least I thought so) in congregational government. I submit to you that when part, often the majority, of the members are not allowed to vote, this is not congregational government. There is no use in anyone even attempting to argue this. It is simply an undeniable and indisputable fact that you cannot forbid some of the members to vote, and still practice congregational government. Come on now, don't argue with me on this; just admit that you do not believe in congregational government. Of course, by congregation one refers to the members and not to non-members and unsaved ones who are in the congregation; everyone knows this.

A second way of defeating church authority in the business of the church is by demanding more than a simple majority in the voting. Some churches insist on a two-thirds, or a three-fourths majority on some issues. I heard recently of a church that demanded a unanimous vote in the calling of a pastor. I have heard of churches demanding a unanimous vote in the receiving of a member. This is not the practicing of church authority in church business. You will say to me that a church can do as it pleases in these matters. So be it; I am not trying to tell other churches what they have to do. I am just telling them that doing things in these ways is not practicing church authority.

Anytime and in anything when a church insists on more than a simple majority in settling church business, that church is allowing a minority to run the church. Say that a church insists on a two-thirds majority in voting on a certain matter; that church sets the stage for one-third plus one person to run the church in that matter. Say a church insists on an unanimous vote in calling a pastor (or anything else), the church is setting the stage for one person to run the church. Suppose a church has ten men and twenty women in a business meeting. They do not allow the women to vote. They set the stage for one-third to run the church.

The Bible way of doing church business is for every member to have the right to vote, and for the simple majority to rule. I believe that every member should exercise his or her right to vote, but that is another subject, and maybe for another time. I invite comments for or against what I write here; in fact, I challenge such.

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inch on this matter. You might as well not join any church as to join anything other than a Baptist church. You are no more a disobedient child of God by just not joining any church at all than you are by joining other than a Baptist church. Years ago, when I was just a boy preacher, shortly after leaving the Holiness church; I held a funeral with a Holiness preacher. I did not then own a car, he offered to drive me back to town, and I accepted his offer. He told me that he used to be a Baptist and that God had led him to be a Holiness (he lied). I told him that this was very strange, for I used to be a Holiness preacher and God led me to be a Baptist. Now, one of us lied, and I know which one it was. God would never lead men in such contradictory ways. God never led him to be a Holiness preacher. He was a Holiness preacher because he disobeyed God in this matter.

Which church you join matters as to what you hear, learn, and believe. Baptist churches are the pillar and ground of the truth; they teach the truths of God's Word. Other churches teach for doctrines the traditions of men. Oh, they may teach some truth, but along with that, they teach much error. If you join anything other than a Baptist church, you will hear much, very much, false doctrine. Most likely you will believe this; if not, why would you stay in such a church? My friend, as you value the truth of God's Word (and you certainly should) get out of false churches which are teaching false doctrines (and all of them do this). My friend, do you love the truth? Do you desire to learn and believe the precious truths of the Bible? Well, you must join a true Baptist church in order to do this.

Which church you join matters as to what you support with your presence, prayers, and financial giving. If you are a member of a true Baptist church, you are supporting the truths of the Bible;

you are supporting the true and proper work of the Lord. If you are a member of any other church, you are supporting the false doctrines that church teaches. Is not this a very important matter?

Which church you join matters greatly as to the matter of rewards. Now, I am not one of those who teach that there are no rewards outside of the church. I am sure that the Lord gives rewards for good works to saved people who are not members of a true Baptist church. I really think that the Bible is very clear as to this, and wonder why some of my dear brethren think otherwise. The Bible tells us, "...then shall every man have praise of God" (I Cor.4:15). Of course, this is every saved man. I do believe that God will find something to reward in every true child of God. If a non-Baptist gives a cup of cold water to a disciple in the name of a disciple, he will in no wise lose his reward (Matt.10:42) However, I will say that one will not have nearly as many rewards outside of the church as he would have, or at least could have, inside a true Baptist church. One can do things in a false church for which he will receive no reward (tithing, for instance) that he would get reward for if they were done in a true church.

Which church you join will matter to the utmost as to whether or not you will be in the Bride of Jesus Christ. Our Lord will take His Bride from among true, clean, and faithful members of true Baptist churches. All Baptists will not be in the Bride, for it takes more than just being a member of a Baptist church for this; but non-Baptists have no possibility at all of being in the Bride of Jesus Christ. Oh, my brother, my sister, this should be an important matter to every saved person. Every saved person should greatly desire to be in the Bride of Christ. The devil has invented the doctrine that all the saved will be in the Bride in order to keep saved people from giving the consideration to this matter that they should. The devil does

not want you to be the kind of Christian that will be rewarded by being in the Bride; so He teaches you to not give this a second thought; that as long as you are saved, you will automatically be in the Bride. Dear friend, do not believe the devil's lie as to this. None but Baptists will be in the Bride of Christ.

Can you not now see that the matter of which church you join is a very important matter? As I have said; there are three great errors that the religious world (many true believers) believe about the church: 1. There is not much difference between churches. 2. One church is as good as another. 3. It does not matter what church you join. These three lies all go together. If you believe one of them, you will most likely believe all three of them. These three lies do much damage to the Lord's true Baptist churches, and do very much damage to multitudes of saved people. You will never be the Christian you ought to be so long as you believe either of these three lies.

I go back to where I started. 1. The most important thing in the world is to be saved. 2. The second most important thing in the world is to be a member of a true Baptist church. 3. The third most important thing in the world is to be a good member of that church. You can believe one or all of the three errors I have dealt with in this article and be a saved person. If you believe one of them, you probably believe all of them. If you believe these errors about the church, you likely will not do the second or third of the most important things in the world. Oh, my friend, I plead with you; study this article. Compare it with the Bible: they will match. Get right on the church question. It will mean much to you in this life and in the life to come. May God bless you all.

JOSHUA

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Not only are we saved by faith, but the apostle Paul tells us that, "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17). The apostle John wrote, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4). Can Christians gain victory over the world? John tells us faith is the victory. When we have faith we have the victory.

Not only does the book of Joshua give us a record of a very important period in Israel's history, but also gives us examples of God's sovereignty and His mighty power. It also shows victories won by God's children when they faithfully followed Him. It shows the failures that resulted when they failed to walk by faith. As we study this book we need to remember we are serving the same God that the Israelites were serving, that as He led them He will lead us as we walk by faith in Him.

"NOW after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead, now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all the people, unto the land which I do give to them, even the children of

Israel" (Josh. 1:1, 2).

The children of Israel had been in bondage in Egypt four hundred years, when God called Moses to lead them to the land that He had promised Abraham that He had given him. By God's mighty power they were brought forth from Egypt, across the Red Sea, and out into the wilderness until all the men who had left Egypt who were twenty years old and older, died; all except two, Caleb and Joshua, "And the LORD's anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying, Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me: Save Caleb... and Joshua...; for they have wholly followed the LORD. And the LORD's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed" (Num. 32:10-13). Because they did not believe God they were not permitted to enter the land. At the end of forty years in the wilderness, all the adult men having died, including Moses, God was now ready to keep His promise made to Abraham.

"NOW after the death of Moses..." Moses had died, but God's purpose had not changed. It was very much alive. From time to time God removes his servants, but His purposes are carried out by others whom He calls. Moses is dead, a new leader is needed to lead Israel conquer the people and take possession of the land which God had given them. Joshua is the one chosen by God for this task. Who is this man, Joshua? What are his qualifications for the job? There is not much said of Joshua before this time, but what is said shows that he is a man of courage and a man of faith. We know that he was about forty years of age when he left Egypt, therefore he was born a slave. He spent forty years in the wilderness, therefore he was now about eighty years old. From I Chronicles 7:27 it would seem that he was the eldest son of Nun. This tells us that he escaped the judgment of God by having the lamb slain and the blood sprinkled upon the door posts. We need to remember that it is only as the blood of the "Lamb of God" is applied for us that we escape the judgment of God. The first time we find Joshua mentioned in the Scripture is in Exodus 17:8-13 where it is said, "Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek:" Here we find him a man of courage, a man of war, leading the children of Israel into battle against Amalek, faithfully following the command of his leader. There is a lesson in this event for us. Remember that while Joshua and his army were down in the valley fighting the enemy, Moses was on the mountain top interceding for them. This is a picture of Christ and His followers, while they are on the earth fighting their "Amaleks", Christ is on the right hand of God making intercession

for them, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25).

Again we read of Joshua in Exodus 24:13 where he is referred to as a minister of Moses. It would seem that he faithfully held this position for forty years. All during this time he served Moses and the Lord for we are told, "As the Lord commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua, he left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses" (Josh. 11:15). Again we read of Joshua in Numbers 13 where he was chosen by Moses as one of the twelve sent to spy out the land. He alone with Caleb, upon their return reported that they could take the land, the other ten reported it would be impossible. So here we find him a man of faith, believing that God would keep His promises.

From other passages it would seem that Joshua a "minister of Moses" was loyal and faithful to him as the leader of Israel. In Numbers 27 we see the account where the Lord instructed Moses to ordain Joshua as the one who was to take the place of leadership after Moses' departure, "And the LORD said unto Moses. Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him: And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation and give him a charge in their sight. And thou shall put some of thine honor upon him, and all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient" (Num. 27:18-20). After the death of Moses it is said, "And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom: for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses" (Deu. 34:9).

From this we see that Joshua had been a faithful follower of Moses, and under his leadership had been trained to lead the people. He had been called by God to this office. He had learned to obey; now he was ready to take a place of authority. For forty years in Egypt as a slave he was subject to task masters. The next forty years he had learned obedience as God's minister under Moses. Now God speaks to Joshua, "Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even the children of Israel" (Josh. 1:2).

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 5)

Lovingkindness

"I will mention the lovingkindness of the Lord." Awake, my soul, in joyful lays, And sing thy great Redeemer's praise; He justly claims a song from me, His lovingkindness is so free.

He saw me ruined in the fall, Yet loved me notwithstanding all, And saved me from my lost estate, His lovingkindness is so great. When I was Satan's easy prey, And deep in debt in bondage lay, He paid His life for my discharge, His lovingkindness is so large.

Through mighty hosts of cruel foes, Where earth and hell my way oppose, He safely leads my soul along, His lovingkindness is so strong.

When earthly friends forsake me quite, And I have neither skill nor might, He's sure my helper to appear, His lovingkindness is no near.

So, when I pass death's gloomy vale, And life, and mortal powers shall fail, O may my last expiring breath His lovingkindness sing in death.

--Samuel Medley (1738-1799)

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SUBSCRIPTIONS
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NOVEMBER 23, 1991
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The Baptist Examiner Forum I

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

How should a believer treat a Mormon, a Jehovah's Witness, or other cult religionists who come to his or her door?

SAM WILSON
1490 North
Spring St.
Gladwin, MI
48624
PASTOR:
Grace
Baptist Church
Gladwin, Michigan



JOHN PRUITT
Rt. 1 Box 452B
Williamson, GA
30292
PASTOR:
West Griffin
Baptist Church
Griffin, GA



II John 10; "If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed."

Let me first state that I am in agreement with the statement that these are "cult" religions. I am not saying and would not say that none of these people are saved. I would say that they are not saved if they believe fully what their religion teaches. I do not believe a person can be saved and not believe in the Trinity, the deity of Christ, or the inspiration of God's Word as the only authority here on this earth. These are most dangerous heresies.

Secondly, let me say that I believe we have an obligation to be kind to all men. We often times lack in Christian character. One thing that we can all be is kind. I am not saying we should be kind to the point of compromise. I am not saying we should be kind to the point of allowing them to bring their heresy into our homes. I am simply saying that we should treat them with some degree of kindness. If we allow them into our homes, it should be on the terms of them listening to us and not vice versa.

Thirdly, I have found a way that will usually send these people packing without being rude. When they come to my door, I immediately change the subject to salvation and their need of it. Rather than let them be the aggressor, I try to turn the conversation to more important and truthful things. If you cannot get them to talk about salvation, then I will begin to talk about the doctrines of grace or church truth. I have found that this will usually take care of any long visit or of any desire on their part to come in and continue the discussion. I have also found that it keeps them from coming back again and again. I remember being insulted when a Jehovah's Witness came to my door with our church sign in our front yard. It did not take me long to get rid of them. The main thing to remember is that most of these people are lost and need the gospel. Turn their visit into one of your own and do not let this opportunity pass to witness to them. Be honest with them. Tell them they are in error. Be able to defend the truths that you believe. I might also add that it would not hurt to imitate their efforts. May God bless you all.

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him", (II Cor. 11:4) (with me -- Cambridge center reference). "Cult religions" are exactly what they are, and must be recognized as such. We must not give the slightest indication that we view them any other way. There can be no spiritual fellowship or communication with someone who denies that Jesus is the Christ, God the Son, and the only Saviour of men. You cannot fellowship with someone on the basis of "religion" alone. Jesus told the Samaritan woman in John chapter four that God is Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. If there is no Spirit there is no truth. It is Spirit and truth. There is no truth whatsoever with a false cult.

When one of these false prophets come to my door I usually give them about three minutes to give their well rehearsed speech, and then I ask them what they think or Jesus. Their answer is always basically the same; "Well, we believe that he is God's son--and God has many sons. "But do you believe that He is God the Son?" is my response. "Well, he is a god among many gods." If they will stay around long enough I will show them from the Word of God who Jesus really is. Then if they are still there, I will, as kindly as possible, warn them of the coming judgment and the burning flames of hell which they do not believe exists. I compassionately explain to them that, if they cannot recognize the Jesus of the Bible as being the Almighty, Sovereign Lord and Saviour, that they will spend eternity in that awful place, knowing in my heart that they haven't heard a word I have said.

I refuse to discuss any other doctrine with them if we cannot agree on who Jesus is. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). "WHOSOEVER believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him." (I John

5:1). "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). I suggest that if you have any conversation with these false prophets--these cult religionists, let it be about who Jesus is. That is the only message that will save the sinner. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Thank you for your question.

JOHN LENEGAR
126 N.
Washington St.
No. 5
Delaware, OH
43015
PASTOR:
Walnut Creek
Missionary Baptist
Church
Delaware, OH.



"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (II John 10,11).

There was a time when I believed that Jehovah's false witnesses, Mormons, and other cults should be invited in, or at least spoken to at the door. I thought that they could be corrected, or at least, exposed to the truth. Having given up that idea and practice, I no longer believe it is right Biblically to do so. There are several reasons why I believe it is neither prudent, nor wise to go beyond Christian politeness in dealing with cultists who come to the door in order to spread heresy and falsehoods.

First, I believe that II John 10,11 which was just quoted, applies to inviting any of the false professing cultists into a believer's home. Certainly believers should do nothing to encourage, or sympathize with any of these people. I know we live in a very ecumenical time when what I am saying sounds bigoted to many in the Christian world; but to invite them in, or to show them sympathy is wrong. A believer should never ask a cultist to present his beliefs no matter the reason. We are not to accept them, or to try and find a common ground of agreement. Certainly, a believer should not deliberately offend, or antagonize a cultist, but if it is unavoidable because of circumstances, so be it. Why should we not argue with them?

Secondly, I believe that a believer should not argue with cultists because argument produces nothing but strife and trouble. Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:23, "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes." I believe

that we could sum up most of what the cult representatives teach as "vain and profane babblings". We need to remember that they are usually well trained and hardened through experience to their task and its purpose. After Paul told Timothy to study the Word in II Timothy 2, he told him in v. 16 of that chapter, "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness." Our time is valuable and we surely are to exercise ourselves unto godliness as Timothy is instructed to do in I Timothy 4:7 which says, "But refuse profane and old wives fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."

Thirdly, a believer should not argue, try to persuade, or apologize in these situations for in so doing, he, or she, may open themselves to greater attack and trouble while presenting thoughts and feelings that only anger a natural person unable to understand the things of the Spirit. The words of the Lord Jesus are appropriate to use here which are found in Matthew 7:6. Casting our pearls before swine only brings ungodliness and hurt.

It is best to turn the cultists away from our door and have no dealings with them to the extent of becoming involved with them in unprofitable and ungodly disputations. Let us take Paul's words to Timothy in I Timothy 6:20,21 as our model: "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith."

CLYDET. EVERMAN
108 Burdsall Ave.
Ft. Mitchell, Ky
41017
DEACON
Calvary
Baptist Church
Ashland, KY



There is no better way to answer this question than to let the Apostle John answer it. In writing to the elect lady and her children in Second John, he said, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an anti-Christ, look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (vv. 7-9).

John must have been inspired to write this that we might be warned against the Mormons, the Jehovah's Witnesses, or any of the other cults who come to our doors bearing their false doctrines. John states that if they have not the doctrine of Christ they have not God, and all of these cults deny Christ in some way. How are we to deal with these? John gives us the answer in no uncertain terms, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine" (the doctrine of Christ) "receive him not into your house,

neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (vv 10, 11). Whether this means we are not to invite them into our houses under any circumstances I do not know. We need to be courteous and kind toward them yet firm in our attitude toward their doctrine. Many years ago my father-in-law invited such a one in out of a storm but let him know he must leave his false doctrine on the outside. He would not permit it in his house. The man refused these conditions and went on through the storm.

JOSHUA

(Continued from Page 3)

Under the leadership of Moses the children of Israel had wandered in the wilderness. Now under new leadership, a leader chosen by God, the new generation of the children of Israel were commanded to go into the promised land. This was, humanly speaking, an impossible task. Here they were camped near the river Jordan which was in flood stage (Josh. 3:15) with no way of crossing it. On the other side there were walled cities, giants, and great trained armies experienced in warfare. What could untrained, unequipped men do against such odds? In order to take the land it must be done by faith. Every step they were to take must be taken by faith. This is just as true for Christians today as it was for the Israelites in Joshua's day. We must take God at His word. "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses" (Josh. 1:3). God had given them the land, by faith they were to go in and take what God had given them. God had given them the entire land of Canaan. Now it was up to them to believe God and act upon that faith.

Although God had given Israel the entire land of Canaan, they have never possessed all of it. In fact, they only took a very small portion of it. We Christians, like the Israelites, take possession of very few of the spiritual blessings promised by God. While Israel had physical enemies to fight and overcome, our enemies are, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). As it was only by faith that Israel gained victories, only by faith can we gain victory over our enemies.

"From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast" (Josh. 1:4).

The land given to Israel by God totaled about 300,000 square miles. They never took possession of more than about one-tenth of that, about 30,000 square miles. God has promised us "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). How many of those blessings have we claimed? Is it not about the same percentage? When will Israel come into full possession of all (Continued on Page 5, Col. 4)

The Baptist Examiner Forum II

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

Is it wrong to call your earthly male parent "father"?
(Matt. 23:9).

DAVID S. WEST
2829 South
Live Oak Drive
Moncks
Corner, SC
29461
PASTOR:
Landmark
Missionary
Baptist Church
N. Charleston,



We are living in a time when men in higher offices love to have a title whereby they can be looked up to. Some men love to have authority just for the sake of authority. Many like to exercise lordship.

Most preachers and pastors loved to be called "reverend." The Bible says God's name is revered. Psalms 111:9 "...holy and reverend is his name." No preacher should be called reverend.

The Pharisees loved to be called Rabbi or Master. Men are the same way today, they like to have some distinguishing title. We should not strive to exercise lordship over others.

God is our Father. A father is a householder, meaning a caretaker. God is the Father of His children by creation and by adoption. He therefore has the right of rule over us.

When Christ said to call no man father upon the earth, He did not mean that children could not call their male parent "father." But, what Christ was teaching His disciples in Matthew 23:9 was that they were not to exercise lordship over God's people or over each other.

The husband and father is the head of the home. Being the householder, the father is to rule his house (I Tim. 3:4, 5) "Rule" in these verses means to care for in the way of management.

When children call the male parent "father" this shows respect and honor. This shows that they look to him as manager of the home. Besides, God gave the commandment to Moses to tell the children to honor father and mother. We read in Ephesians 6:2 "Honour thy father and mother..."

There are several places in the New Testament where Christ makes mention of the male parent as father as in Matthew 19:19. and in Mark 9:21, 24; 10:7.

No, it is not wrong to call the male parent "father."

JAMES A. CRACE
1862 St. John's Rd.
Crescent Springs,
KY 41017
PASTOR:
Bethel Baptist
Church
Crescent Springs,
KY



Jesus is addressing His disciples and the multitude, condemning the religious leaders of the day. (The Scribes and the

Pharisees) He upholds the law and the prophets as He reveals the corruption of their leaders. He said do as they say not as they do. They were hypocrites of the worse kind. They knew and taught the law, yet they obeyed it not. They loved the praise of men for their titles as if their position excluded them from the responsibility of keeping the words they taught. They felt as if they were above the law because of the religious position they held; Rabbi, master. "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren." v.8. "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." v.9 Jesus is referring here to the Father of Spirits, and there is only one Father in the Spirit. Call no man father in this respect. Father means originator, founder, progenitor. God alone holds this position concerning your spirit. Your earthly father is your progenitor in the flesh. Christ is not setting this aside or condemning this. To call him your father is correct when referring to the flesh.

Paul referred to himself as a father to those that believed the gospel he preached. Not that he had begotten them and had authority over them. but that God had begotten them, and he loved them like a father loves a son. Nowhere did he call for their reverence concerning this. He did seek their respect as an Apostle of Christ and the authority connected with that office, but never as their spiritual father. To reverence some man as your spiritual father is wrong, and that is what Christ is warning against here.

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DAN PHILLIPS
865 Bethel Drive
Bristol, TN.
37620
PASTOR:
New Testament
Baptist Church
Bristol, TN



I take for granted that this question was brought up because some believe that it dishonors their priest or their head priest who is called the most holy Father. Some might even think that it dishonors God, the real most holy Father. The Jews called Abraham "father". The Catholics call their priest "father." Most Christians call their pastor or preacher reverend, all such titles are wrong.

Jesus, the Son of God said in Matthew 23:9, "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." I think that this is plain enough to prove that we are not to call earthlings father in the spiritual sense. The word Father in the spiritual sense can only be ap-

plied to God the Father.

Psalms 111:9 says. "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant forever: holy and reverend is his name." From these Scriptures, to use Father or Reverend to a mere man would be a sin, because it would be taking a title which belongs to God and applying it to man. Spurgeon said in his exposition on Matthew 23:9, "In the Church of Christ, all titles and honours which exalt men and give occasion for pride are here forbidden." So you see that we are not to call men, in a spiritual sense, father or reverend.

Should we call our earthly male parent father? In creation, God is the Father of us all. However, He is not our spiritual Father until we are born again, then we can call Him our heavenly Father, and we can pray: "Our Father which art in heaven."

Speaking of Melchisedec in Hebrews 7:3 Paul says, "Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually." Our earthly fathers bring us into the world by God's providence, therefore we call them father but not in a spiritual sense. Yes, it is right to call your daddy, "father."

JAMES O. WILMOTH
1747 Fullington Rd.
Toledo, OH 43614
TEACHER:
Grace
Baptist Church
Toledo, OH



"But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither ye be called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ" (Matt. 23:8-10). These verses were spoken to the disciples by Christ concerning those that had authority over them relative to earthly matters. For the most part, these men were scribes and Pharisees and desired to be greeted by and shown public respect for the position that they held. Christ forbids His people to show this kind of special respect for men. There are three terms that He specifically mentions: Rabbi, father, master.

Rabbi usually denoted one that was a master in contrast to a slave. It was used mostly as a title of respect for teachers in the time of Christ. In most cases, it is used as a title of address to signify a special position. On an individual basis, when Rabbi was used, it meant "my master" by

the person using it. Christ told the disciples that they were not to use this term because they only had one master or teacher (Rabbi), and He was that one. There is also a word, Rabboni, which means "my great master," that should only be applied to Christ.

In respect to calling a man father as a mere title of honor, Christ also forbids His people to do this. The title of father to show honor to someone other than one who is an ancestor is not according to the plan and purpose of God. God is our spiritual Father, and He alone is to be accorded that honor; it is not to be applied to men, or a man in particular. The use of this title of honor has been usurped mostly by the Catholics and Episcopalians. The same can be said of those that use the word "reverend" as a title of honor. Reverend is a term that belongs to God and is not to be used to honor man. "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name" (Ps. 111:9).

Master is used as a term of address for Christ, therefore it is not to be used relative to the addressing of any man. The most usual use of the term master places one in the position of being a slave. We are not to be slaves to men, but slaves (bond servants) to Christ.

It is not wrong to refer to our parent as father. He is our ancestor, he is the one that has given us our physical life. The same Scripture that forbids giving special honor to a man as father and not an ancestor tells us that we are to honor our father and also our mother. The most notable reason for giving honor to our parents is the promise of a long life. "CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3). As old as we grow, we will still be someone's child, and in a physical sense, we are to, with love and affection, show honor and call that parent father. In fact, the earthly father should be a type of our heavenly father, one to which we, as children, can look to for help, and accept correction when we do wrong.

JOSHUA

(Continued from Page 4)
that God had promised them? There is much world pressure applied today to Israel to give up much of the land that they now possess, and that pressure will only come to an end when Christ returns to earth. At that time He will conquer all and Israel will then come into complete possession of the land which God gave to Abraham.

God's order to Joshua was, "Moses my servant is dead, now therefore arise and go over Jordan." While God gave the order to go over Jordan, at the same time He gave a promise. "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (Josh. 1:5). Someone has well said, "God never

gives a command but that He gives a promise." God not only made this promise to Joshua but He has also given a like promise to all His children. In Hebrews 13:5, 6 we are commanded to let your "conversation" (our way of life) be without covetousness and to be content with such things as ye have, for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

"Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them" (Josh. 1:6). While God had told Joshua He had given the land to Israel yet there was a task for Joshua and the people that would take strength and courage to perform. This task was one that humanly speaking, was one of an impossibility; overcoming giants, walled cities, trained armies. It could only be done by the Lord, and Joshua, having faith in God's Word, was to go forth with courage. Three times the Lord told Joshua, "Be strong and of a good courage." He was to be strong and of a good courage because God had promised the land for their inheritance, and Joshua was to lead them in the taking possession of it and to divide the land among the tribes.

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt have good success" (Josh. 1:7, 8).

Joshua was to be strong and of a good courage because of the power of the Word of God. This passage shows very clearly that there was at this time a written Word. Critics may say it was hundreds of years before God gave a written Word, but Joshua was to not let the "book of the law" depart from his mouth. For him to succeed in battle the law was not to depart out of his mouth. He was to talk about it. Not only was he to talk about it but he was to meditate on it day and night; he was to continue to think about it. He was not only to talk and meditate upon the Law, but he was to live according to all of it. He was to "observe to do according to all that is written therein" This was the secret of Joshua's "prosperous" and "good success" in taking possession of the land.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage, be not

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 1)

JOSHUA

(Continued from Page 5)

afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Josh. 1:9).

Joshua was to be courageous because of the promise that the Lord would be with him. Joshua faced an enormous task, a seemingly impossible task, and no doubt he felt weak and frightened; but God knowing all about these doubts, said three times, "Be strong and of a good courage." Joshua had the assurance that every step he took the LORD God was with him. Remember, the God that was with Joshua is the same God who is with us, and we can "boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb. 12:6).

APOSTLE

(Continued from Page 1)

each. This great Apostle did not recognize every religion as belonging to God. This thing would surely cause him to be run off from your church.

Approximately one year ago, a preacher I know quite well was told that he must go because he would not recognize every religious assembly as belonging to God.

The Apostle Paul would take a strong stand for the doctrines of grace. He would teach that God chose His children in Christ before the foundation of the world and only calls them to salvation. This would get him a sure escort to the door by your deacons. Your church has been taught that man has control over his own destiny and that God only reacts to man's decisions. This great Apostle never gave any indication this is true. To the contrary, he taught, "According as he hath chosen us (saved) in him before the foundation of the world, that we (saved) should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us (saved) unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Ephesians 1:4-5). You will accept a pastor who teaches that you have the power to accept or reject, but you would reject this apostle's doctrine. The same preacher I spoke of previously was criticized because he taught the same truth this apostle taught. It caused him to have to leave. Apostle Paul would have to go too! This apostle would have a difficult time finding a "Baptist" college or a "Baptist" church with which to fellowship.

The Apostle Paul could not pastor your church. He would surely have to take a stand against some of the things that go on in your church. He would take a strong stand against men letting women take the lead. What if this apostle taught the same doctrine in your church as he instructed young Timothy to preach? He instructed Timothy to teach: "I will therefore

that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting" (I Timothy 2:8). Why "men"? He explains that in the next verses. He says, "Let the women learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (I Timothy 2:11-12). Why must this be? "For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (I Timothy 2:13-14).

I can imagine what would take place if the apostle came to your church and took a stand against your women praying aloud before the congregation, speaking out in the service, and teaching men in Sunday School. The next deacon's meeting would be chaos. The tongue wagging to the deacons against this apostle would be something to be heard. It would be time for this apostle to go. He would more than likely tell the deacons that these women should wear a headcovering (see I Corinthians 11) when they enter the worship service, and this would surely upset the deacons whose wives would refuse to do the same. Your church would surely get a new Pastor, one that could explain away these teachings to your deacons' satisfaction.

This apostle would teach you to exclude from your midst all that are living in open sin. You would rise up and say, "Who am I to judge?" The apostle would direct you to the incident in the book of First Corinthians, chapter five. The church had a young man who was committing fornication (having an affair) with his stepmother. The church was instructed, "...that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. Purge out therefore the old leaven (sin), that ye might be a new lump ... But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man is called a brother be a fornicator (sexually perverted), or covetous (thinks more of the material things), or an idolater (puts other things before God), or a railer (gets on the phone or in the beauty shop to carry rumors to hurt), or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such a one not to eat (Lord's Supper)" (I Corinthians 5:2; 7; 11).

Now about the judgment question, you ask. "For what have I to do to judge them also that are without (the church)? Do not ye (church) judge them that are within?" This would include some of your best friends and you would be very upset.

The Apostle Paul could not pastor your church. He would surely have to take a stand against some of the things that go on in your church. He would take a strong stand against men letting women take the lead. What if this apostle taught the same doctrine in your church as he instructed young Timothy to preach? He instructed Timothy to teach: "I will therefore

that would upset the highminded, the heady, and the deacons. Look what he would teach. "Obey them that have the rule (authority) over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account ..." (Hebrews 13:17).

How would your church handle this situation if confronted with it? Just suppose you called a Pastor and he taught as if your church was to respect his authority as the overseer of your church. What would be the response from your congregation? I can imagine! I can hear this one saying, "He ain't gonna tell me what to do!" Another would say, "What does he think he's doing, taking over!" Then your deacons would be riled and say, "That's what the church ordained us to do," because this is what most deacons think they have been set aside to do. But this apostle would set them in line. He would direct them to the Scriptural meaning of "deacon". He would show them this word means "server" and not "run-the-whole-show". It's sad how far your church has gone from God's Word concerning pastoral authority and deacon service. The first church in Jerusalem set the deacons aside to be helpers to the pastors and not overseers of the pastors. Look what is recorded in God's Word. "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables (deacons' work). Wherefore brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business (of serving tables)" (Acts 6:2-3). Serving tables meant helping the pastor with visiting, seeing the congregation's needs are met to the best of their ability, backing the pastor in his authority as overseer, and, not letting the pastor do all the visiting, and not lam-blasting the pastor every time someone is unhappy and, not overseeing the pastor, especially not coming up with schemes to get rid of the pastor. This is what the apostle meant when he warned the deacons not to bring blame upon the office.

Now, knowing the preceding information, how long would this apostle last in your church? "Not long", you say.

This apostle could not pastor your church. The Apostle Paul had a very bad reputation in the community as a troublemaker. Your church would not tolerate a pastor who causes trouble in the community. Your outside (of the church) friends and family would always be calling you and letting you know that your pastor is a troublemaker. Your deacons would quickly escort him to the door when you went to them about your upset friends or family. Your friends and family would demand that you get away from this dangerous apostle so that you may not become like him. They would make up accusations against this apostle so as to weaken your trust in him. I know because I have experienced it myself.

Was the Apostle Paul a troublemaker in the community? I believe the Scriptures will back this truth all the way. Look at some of the events in this man's life. The people were out to kill

him in Corinth. Paul had raised so much disturbance in Corinth with his preaching and his strong stand for the doctrines of God's Word that the people set out to murder him. This was God's response to this troublemaker: "Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak (keep on preaching), and hold not thy peace. For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee ..." (Acts 18:9-10). How long would your church tolerate a man the community wanted to hurt?

"And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul drew him out of the city supposing he had been dead" (Acts 14:19). Here were two cities which hated this man of God. You wouldn't have a pastor that two cities hated. Your church has been taught that the pastor you call must be loved by all the community, and when you get him, he is going to do everything in his power (even deny the Word) to see that he doesn't irritate any of your friends or family.

"And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison..." (Acts 16:23). Paul and Silas were cast into the inner prison for doing the work of the Lord. You wouldn't call a jailbird to be your pastor. Your deacons would recommend against him because he would be too troublesome for them. They wouldn't know how to handle him. They are too weak in the faith themselves. They would be afraid for their own families and friends. Your church would never recognize that God saves His men and calls them to preach the unadulterated Word of God at any cost. You only know the cowards in the ministry.

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all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." (Matt. 24:3-8).

When we look at the answer to His disciples, we see much of these things in the making, already coming, or here already. One of the first things we see is the troubled world. May He spare us from any worse trouble than we are in today. There have been wars, there have been rumors of wars. There have been earthquakes, and there has been pestilence and famine in divers places. These things are always in existence, but what makes them more distinct is Matt. 24:8, where it says; "All these are the beginning of sorrows." Beloved, birth pangs get closer, and closer, until the birth itself. These things we read of here are getting much closer together! She knows that she is getting very close to delivery! This is what Jesus is talking about here. This is the context of His meaning. We notice that at His time of coming the world will be troubled greatly. Beloved, there is no

rest today!

As we look at war, we see the world in great trouble even now, and in all directions. War has taken on new dimensions. When you consider nuclear power of today, and how that some leaders who have no thought or care for human life may have access to nuclear weapons, it is a frightful thing indeed! Does the Bible describe a nuclear bomb? Yes, we believe it does. "And the heavens departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places." (Rev. 6:14). Beloved, this is talking about tremendous power! All these things are descriptive of our day! It will be more frightening just before His coming. Times of today have already taken that shape.

Then we read concerning famine. It is said even now that half the world population does not get enough proper food. Thank our heavenly Master for His blessings upon the United States of America! Consider the population explosion, and what it portrays for the future. They calculate that by the year 2000, it will double what it was as close back as 1975!

Let us look further at the subjects of travel and knowledge. Notice further, in the time before Jesus comes back to earth, the world will be a place of increased travel and knowledge. "But thou, O Daniel, shut up thy words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Dan. 12:4). This is certainly characteristic of our day as we are running to and fro like we never have done before. Travel has increased much, especially with the coming of air transportation. Only a few years ago very few had ever been even to Europe. Now it is nothing, a trip started and finished between the regular meal times of the day. Thousands are on the move the whole year around.

Knowledge has certainly increased. Look at the advancement of science look where we are today! Knowledge has increased much in our day. A very good sign of the soon coming of our Lord. We like to study the book of Daniel. Strange to say, but the book of Daniel was not studied as much in years past as it is being studied today. It was more or less a closed book. There were very few commentaries written on it, not many to be found.

The Bible says this will be characteristic of the book of Daniel until the time of the end. In Daniel 12:9, we read, "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end." He is saying; "Daniel this is going to be a closed book, this book is sealed, but not forever, only until the time of the end." As we near the end, we find the book of Daniel will be, and is, a more open book. It will be preached on, and there will be many commentaries written on it. It will be studied more, and that is so today. Most ministers of today that I talk to are of the same opinion. We hear preachers preaching more about Daniel today than ever before. We realize that it is no longer a closed book.

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WHY I BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT USES THE GOSPEL IN REGENERATION

Some who once believed this truth have departed therefrom. Some are not willing to take a stand on what they believe as to this matter. Well, I believe what I have believed on this ever since I was saved. I am not ashamed to let it be known what I believe on this; I suppose that this fact is well known by now. I believe that the Holy Spirit does use the gospel in regeneration. Let me give a few reasons why I believe this.

1. The Bible says so, and that should be good enough reason for believing anything. "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). This verse is very clear on the subject. It teaches exactly what I believe about the gospel being used in regeneration, and anyone who does not believe this does not believe this verse of Scripture. One foolish person who is determined to not believe the truth about the gospel being used in regeneration tried to explain this verse by saying that "father" refers to "teacher". The Holy Spirit was very careful in doing away with this false perversion by contrasting instructor and father. Teachers do not beget those whom they teach. One man said that this verse means that the preacher assists in the birth (contrasted with conception), but the father is not necessary at birth, while he is necessary at conception.

"Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth...." (Jms.1:18). "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (I Pet.1:23). These verses plainly teach that the gospel is used by the Spirit in regeneration. No man can successfully get around this. I wonder why some men try so desperately to get around the clear teaching of these verses - and there are others. If men would just read and believe the Bible, they would not become the believers in and teachers of heresy that many become.

I assure you of one thing: no man was ever led by the Holy Spirit in his mis-interpretation of these verses - interpreting them in a way that denies the usage of the gospel in regeneration. The Holy Spirit would not inspire verses such as these to teach the use of the gospel in regeneration, and then lead men to understand them differently. Oh, no, this interpretation by these heretics is not of the Holy Spirit.

These men who deny the plain teachings of these verses came to their mis-interpretation in the following way. They were influenced by someone (likely demon influence was involved) to believe that the gospel is not used in regeneration. They approached these verses with their minds already made up on this subject. They were unwilling to believe what is actually taught in these Scriptures. Therefore, they invented for themselves ways of getting around the plain and true meaning thereof.

A lesson in meanings, please. There is a Greek word,

"exegesis." It means to take out of the Word that which is in it. It applies to taking out of the Word of God that which is truly in it, and believing it, and teaching that to others. This is the true and proper business of the preacher. There is a Greek word, "eisegesis." It means to put into something that which was not there. It applies to men putting into the Bible what is not there, what is in their own mind. These men who interpret the above Scriptures to teach that the gospel is not used in regeneration are not exegetes - they are not getting out of the Bible what is truly there; they are eisegetes, they are putting into the Bible what is not truly there. I say it most emphatically, these men who deny the gospel in regeneration would have never imagined that the above verses teach what they now say it does if they had not already made up their minds as to what they were determined to believe on this subject. They did not get their Hardshell heresy out of the Bible; they got it out of their own minds, or from someone else (I believe there is demonic influence behind all false teaching). Had these men read the Bible to see what it actually does teach instead of trying to twist it to teach what they already believed, they would believe just like I do on this subject. I believe that the Holy Spirit uses the gospel in regeneration because that is what the Bible teaches. There is absolutely no verse anywhere in the Bible that teaches the contrary on this subject.

Let me lay in the dust one more time the lie that is often told on me. It is said, and said repeatedly, said by men who know better, and said by men who would rather lie than to tell the truth; that Joe Wilson believes in "Gospel Regeneration." I have denied this false charge, in person and in print, many times. I do not believe in "gospel regeneration." I do not believe in "Spirit regeneration." I believe in "Gospel and Spirit Regeneration." This charge will not again be made against me by any honest man. The Spirit does not regenerate without the gospel. The gospel does not regenerate without the Spirit. The Spirit uses the gospel in regeneration. Now, is it not very clear what Joe Wilson believes about regeneration?

2. I believe that the Holy Spirit uses the gospel in regeneration because the Bible repeatedly pictures the relationship between the saved person and the one who preached to him the gospel by which he was saved as "father - son." "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). You will say that Paul could not "born-again" anyone. Paul knew that. Paul simply meant that he had preached the gospel to them which the Holy Spirit had used in their begetting. Note the "father" relationship of the one who gives the gospel to the one regenerated by the Holy Spirit using that gospel. "I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my

bonds." (Phile.1:10). Note again the "father - son" relationship. Let Hardshell heretics explain the meaning of this "father - son" relationship in any other way than that one gives to another the gospel which the Holy Spirit uses in that one's regeneration. I challenge them to do this.

3. I believe that the Holy Spirit uses the gospel in regeneration because the Bible teaches this, and because there is not a verse in the Bible that teaches the contrary. I have not yet had any takers on my five hundred dollar (\$500) offer to anyone who would show me one verse in the Bible teaching that one could be regenerated but not saved. Well, I will just leave that offer standing, and will make you the same offer to show me any verse in the Bible teaching that one can be regenerated without the gospel. Come on now, hurry up and get your money.

4. I believe that the Holy Spirit uses the gospel in regeneration, because there is not one living example of a person who is regenerated who never heard the gospel. There is no such example in the Bible. Someone might mention children. I believe that infants dying in infancy are saved. I believe they are regenerated by the Spirit, using the gospel. There is no way of proving that they are saved without hearing the gospel; but anyway, I am not including them in this statement. There is no example in history of one being regenerated who never heard the gospel. It does look like, if every one is regenerated without the gospel, that there would be some examples to support this - but there are none.

5. I believe that the Holy Spirit uses the gospel in regeneration because this has been the historical position of the vast majority of Missionary Baptists on this subject, and I am a Baptist. I know there are a few Baptists in this day who deny this, but even one of them admitted to me that my position had been and is the position of the great majority of Baptists.

6. I believe that the Holy Spirit uses the gospel in regeneration because this doctrine is the foundation doctrine of missions. Whoever heard of a Hardshell Baptist being missionary minded? I know that some Missionary (?) Baptists have taken up with this false doctrine, and I suppose that some of them are missionary in practice - but what is their mission?

Why are they being missionary? What do they expect to accomplish thereby? This teaching that the gospel is not used by the Holy Spirit in regeneration cuts the nerve of true missionary activities. I ask those who still wear our name, and still say they are missionary - what is your mission? Do you give the gospel to the unsaved? Why?

Well, I am sure that I could go on and on, but this is enough for now. I hope that you clearly understand where I stand on this subject. If not, I will tell you one more time; I believe that the Holy Spirit uses the gospel in regeneration.

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Therefore, dear readers, we must be living in the end-time.

Another fact of today is the widespread use of the automobile. In Nahum 2:3, we read these

words; "...the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken." (Nahum 2:3). Have you ever sat up on the hillside, or in some other open public place and watched speeding traffic at night? Flaming torches, and a lot of them to be sure. The modern aircraft could be considered in this lightning speed also, along with the night lights. We see yet more of the automobile. "The chariots will rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings." (Nahum 2:4). This prophecy was in 713 B.C. Do you know what this is saying? Cars rage in the streets, traffic congestions, over crowded streets. Jostle against one another, automobile accidents in the broadways, the streets and highways. Interstate highways, wide roads, a network of highways, it goes on to say, they shall seem like torches.

Nahum, who was used to nothing faster than a horse at best, was prophetically able to see an automobile streaking along at 65 to 80, or 90 miles an hour, maybe more, nearly 800 years before Christ, gives us something to think about as we approach the end-time. As you look at our generation, you quickly see this prophecy fulfilled.

The automobile will be in widespread use when Jesus comes again. I do believe that we are certainly living in the last days before His coming.

We see another sign in the times of today that casts a bright light toward His soon return. That is so much unrest among the nations of the world.

There always was some amount of unrest among men, seemingly since creation. Today unrest is prevalent throughout the entire world as we know the world today. The Bible says in many places that nations will be filled with unrest when Jesus comes again. "And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come...." (Haggai 2:7). Today, nations are being shaken. There are riots, demonstrations, unrest in all nations of the world. That is the way it is supposed to be in the generation that exists on earth when Jesus comes again.

There will be instability in government. "I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him." (Ezek. 21:27). Here, we believe, he is talking about world governments, how that they will overturn, one after another. We find that so very true in our modern age of today. New faces, new regimes, yes, world-wide.

How about the false prophets of today? We certainly see an increase in that field like never before. We find that there will be a great increase in the false prophets, and false religions. "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." (Matt. 24:11). There will be an increase in new religions and there will be many rising up as leaders, who people will follow them, and they will be deceived. This also is characteristic of our age. All we have to do is listen to the daily news-

casts, listen to the preachers, how diverse they are, read your newspaper, see how few are preaching from the Book, the Word of God. There will be yet a greater increase in so-called prophets, false prophets, just prior to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note the conditions in Christendom. What are the conditions today inside professing Christendom? "This I know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." (II Tim. 3:1). Here he is talking about the last days. This is written to a preacher, and it is concerning what is going on behind stained glass windows today, what is going on where the name of Christ is professed, where it is preached. The Bible says that church members will be; "...lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God:" (II Tim. 3:4). This is not talking about out in the world; this is talking about in the pew. Beloved, this is talking about in the places of worship. What is it going to be like? The majority of people that worship will love pleasure more than God. "Having a form of godliness; but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (II Tim. 3:5). Our concern should be godly instead of worldly.

We have reached a state where there is little or no interest in God, nor belief of His coming. Before His coming, there will be general disbelief of His coming. "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (II Pet.3:3-4). Many are going to scoff at His second coming. What does the world itself think of the message of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ? Just prior to His coming, what will they think of it? "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For in the days that was before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come, But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matt. 24:37-44).

Noah preached for 120 years. He preached a long time, and he preached faith and trust in God

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and His righteousness as the only hope. Jesus is that hope and trust that Noah was preaching at that day and time also. The Bible says Noah was a preacher of righteousness, and that is righteousness, our One and Only Lord Jesus Christ! He preached on the coming judgment, how that God was going to judge the world and pour out His wrath upon it, and few believed him. They were too busy! Not necessarily doing bad things, just simply too busy with world affairs. Just too taken up with the world, no interest in the message, no interest in God, most of all, no interest concerning the safety of their own soul. Beloved, does that not characterize the world today? The day in which we live? The Bible says it will be like that just prior to the coming of Jesus Christ.

Dear readers, I trust that you do not fit into this last category of unbelievers. Please do not be left outside the ark of safety. Jesus, today is that Ark. Please trust Him today. He is your only hope to escape that dreaded tribulation period that is certain to come. May God reveal Jesus to you before then, is my prayer for you.

"Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth." Drive through the territory in most any area of today. Never before have we seen such house construction in our over eighty years of life in this world. We are seeing it today just as the Bible says! Yes, the times are really fulfilling fast, even as the Bible teaches us that they would and will. Dear readers, please take heed. Our Lord and Saviour, we believe, is so very near, much nearer than we want to believe. Amen.

AMERICA

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For two hundred and fifteen years we have enjoyed the benefits and freedoms which were secured and sealed with the blood of those thousands who died willingly. We have since grown from thirteen to fifty states.

For two hundred and fifteen

TO YOU WHO BELIEVE, HE IS PRECIOUS I Peter 2:7

The doctrines of God's sovereign grace are sweet and valuable; they are guidelines that hedge us about and keep us from error. The promises of God are precious to my soul and keep me from despair. But neither the doctrines of grace nor the promises of God is the Saviour; CHRIST IS! John said, "To as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." I fear if we miss salvation, it will be right here. Salvation is in a person, not in an accurate system of doctrine. I must know HIM, the Christ of the Bible, the Christ of God. The man who has

years God has shed His grace upon us. No other country in all the world has prospered such as we have. No other country has enjoyed the freedom and civil liberties that we have. No other people have had the security and safety that we have. No other civilization has advanced in technology as we have. No other nation has been blessed in such a way as to be able to feed all of her people and peoples of other countries in need. No other single military force can match the protecting forces of our armies. No other form of government has existed for as many consecutive years as the Democratic government of the United States. Truly God has shed His grace upon America!

Many, including myself, are proud to have served our country in one way or another. A number of threatening circumstances have arisen which required the lives of our men and women as a sacrifice for our freedom. This sacrifice we willingly gave without reservation or hesitation. It is in remembrance and respect to these that we raise the United States flag with our throats tight and our eyes misty, and our hearts swelled with pride. There is no other country in all the world in which I would rather live and raise my children!

However, my heart and yours is saddened as we see the people and the government of the people of America drifting farther and farther away from the shores of freedom as it was designed to be and declared in the seven articles of the Constitution on September 17, 1787 and signed by representatives from DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, NH, MA, CN, NY, NJ, PA. Later this document was reformed by the Bill of Rights on Sept. 25, 1789.

In the past fifty to seventy years, the sinsick imaginations of depraved men and women have sought to undermine this great republic for which many of us today are yet willing to die.

Their goal is a free society. That is, a society of people free to do whatever seems right in their own eyes. A society who is not restricted by any law and has no absolute principles. They desire a freedom which allows any and all to express their depravity in any way they please, while disposing of the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.

These enemies of true freedom

seen Christ has seen covenant electing love in person; he has seen sovereign grace in operation; he has seen the cleansing blood that makes atonement for the soul; he has seen God's just forgiveness; he has seen the wrath of God and what his sins deserve; and to him Christ is more glorious and bigger than anything else. A man who has seen the ocean is not interested in a mud hole. The man who has seen Christ has lost his appetite and interest in the things of the world. He is not playing with toys anymore; he has seen Christ! Christ is so awesome and so great that if you ever, by the power of God's Spirit through the preaching of the gospel, see Him, the world, family, wife, children, job, friends, health, or whatever can all take a backseat to HIM. Though such things are valuable and enjoyable, Christ is my life; and to you who believe, to you who have really seen Him, HE IS PRECIOUS!

--Copied

have been successful in gaining positions of power in high places, thereby undermining the representatives in our government who are responsible for making our laws. Consequently, God and His law has been legislated out and the law of the jungle has gradually taken its place.

They have become lovers of self more than lovers of God. Those who seek the free society are neither ignorant, nor stupid. This is evident by the fact that their plan is working quite well. For years preachers have been warning that a plan was being orchestrated to bring about a "pure" and godless society. The only way to bring this about is to change, alter, wrest, or pervert the law of God, to make the law of God seem ineffective and obsolete. I believe that the plan was first initiated through the movie industry and gradually woven into society through every other median as it was made available. Music, news, and religion have utilized every method of communication to preach this damnable doctrine of freedom of expression. In recent years the devil has been using another avenue to channel his doctrine through the fresh, young, open minds of our children; education, entertainment, and mystical religion are some examples. It would take a great deal more time than we have today to itemize all the different ways in which these channels are being used. Let it suffice to say that there is absolutely no limit to the devices of Satan, nor to the imagination of the evil hearts of men.

Old Satan is smart, and he knows that the only way that these things are going to be accomplished is to do away with the Word of God. It stands to reason that a society without the Word of God will swiftly become a godless society. There have been so many ungodly amendments attached to the Constitution that the Constitution itself has lost its identity. Congress and the so-called Supreme Court have pushed the Word of God right out the back door. The Supreme Court has forgotten who the Supreme Judge of all men is.

We have said for years that if America continues down this path of godlessness, she will sooner or later meet up with the judgment of God. It is obvious that she is going to continue down the path of godlessness, and we are beyond the point of no return; and God's judgment is sure to be sooner rather than later. In fact, I believe that the wheels of His judgment have already begun to turn.

We could sight the plague of AIDS and drug addiction as examples. God has already begun to harden the hearts of men and women against Himself, against His law, against ordinary civil law and liberty, and against parents with abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. People are rapidly losing their respect for the most precious thing on earth; human life. Their hearts are being blinded toward common wisdom and prudence; and far sooner than you may think, the door of Biblical evangelism will be closed. Soon we will not have the freedom to openly and publicly discuss the Word of God and tell lost folks about salvation through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, these things are but a foretaste of the coming judgment of God!

We must therefore, work while it is day, for night cometh when no man can work. Let us not waste the time and liberty that we have through slothfulness and apathy. Let us not be discouraged by these things, but encouraged, realizing that the time is short and Jesus Christ our Lord will soon return for His own.

Let us not give up the fight, but continue to boldly speak out against sin and against the perpetrators of evil in high places. In I Samuel, Eli the priest-judge sat idly by while his people sank deeper and deeper into sin. But Samuel, his successor and prophet-judge spoke boldly the Word of God. Samuel exposed the sins of Israel and warned them of God's coming judgment.

Beloved, America is a great nation, and I love her dearly; but she has waxed fat and proud; she has turned from God and His law. Let us pray for America. Let us pray for her leaders.

Let us be a living testimony for righteousness and for Christ's sake. Amen.

SALVATION

(Continued from Page 1)

without experiencing a work of God. Don't misunderstand me. I am for decisions for Christ when God produces them, but I am not for decisions when made by the high pressure tactics of sincere but misguided soul winners. Nor does a pious use of the right terminology or the intonation of right pitches in prayers accomplish salvation. If anything, it only places a triple burden upon the poor head of the sinner to strive by his own effort to live up to the expectation of all the praying and high sounding terms conjured up and over him to lead him in a prayer to achieve salvation. He may even weep tears filled with the milk of humanity, but there is not a spark of divinity in the whole affair. He, with the help of his fellow man, is made twice more the child of hell than before he ever heard anything about Christ.

Man can make a decision for Christ and still perish, if he is the one who made it. If God wrought it in him he will be and is saved. The whole controversy about salvation of sinners in our churches today is the direct result of a failure to distinguish between a work of God and a work of man. I dare say that the line of demarkation is so thin and so often indistinguishable that it comes at us like a battlefield smoke screen. When the smoke clears, which is often years later, there stands Satan with a big grin from ear to ear! He is a master at pitching believers against each other to the hindrance of the work of the ministry. It's a good thing God doesn't wait on us for souls to be saved for some would rather split a hair than to speak the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation. There it is again, wholly of God! God starts salvation, and He finishes it. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Heb. 12:2).

I ask you, dear reader, if you wish to be Scripturally honest, then please show me chapter and verse where man, the sinner, is not dead spiritually unto God. Is it not the doctrinal tenant of the Word of God among fundamentalists, that man is dead in trespasses and sins? If you say

ay, then I am afraid that I must stop and split a hair with you lest God split both our heads wide open. Yes, sometimes it is absolutely necessary to split hairs if it makes room for a lie or a half truth. To maintain that a dead man can make a decision to come back to life is to tell an outright lie against the Word of God.

"And you that he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). Do we not read, "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses," (Col. 2:13). I ask you point blank, Where is there any ability on the part of a dead man to help himself? Can he even wish for life? Can he contemplate it while he is dead? Why did not Lazarus get up and take off his grave clothes and go to Jesus. Do you suppose it was because he was dead. Why was it necessary for Christ to come to him?

To maintain that man must make a decision before he can be saved is to maintain that a dead man has the ability to choose life, and that is a lie! To say that a sinner must or even can weigh the cost of salvation is to tell and preach a lie. Here is just the place where a great multitude of persons rush in to attempt to accomplish what no man can do. One man or a thousand cannot make a decision to be saved any more than a dead man can wish for life. "...Salvation is of the LORD", or there is no salvation.

The whole question about lordship salvation is summarized by asking just one question. Does the sinner make Jesus Lord when he experiences salvation or does God make Jesus Lord when a sinner experiences salvation? Let's go to Scripture for our answer.

In that great Pentecostal sermon which Brother Peter preached we know that he lifted up Christ. He confirmed who He was by the Old Testament Scriptures. When he concluded he never gave an invitation nor did he need to, because Peter told them what God had already done. "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

What was the direct result of such preaching? Peter never said for them to raise their hands, come forward or pray a little prayer, or sit down and consider the cost of being a disciple, or weigh what you will gain against what you will have to give up. He simply shut them all up to what God would do! What did God do? He produced the decision in them by having made Jesus Lord through the preaching of Peter. They cried out, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

What they questioned Peter about was the direct result of God having made Jesus Lord, and because God wrought it they made a decision then and there. We know this is true because verse 41 says, "Then they that gladly received his word

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SALVATION

(Continued from Page 8)

were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." The Word was received and because it was, Christ was received by a repentance which God had wrought.

To illustrate the confusion that prevails on this, let me quote a brother in the faith, for whom I have long held deep respect, although I find myself in disagreement which his position. I quote the following: "...In practical terms, if a man who has smoked all of his life inquires about how he may be saved, should he be told that he must give up his smoking as a demonstration of his yieldedness to Christ and as a condition to his salvation? Does the appeal, "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ..." (Acts 16:31) mean, 'Surrender all of life to Christ' or does it mean, 'rest in the finished work of Christ which was accomplished for you.' We believe it means the latter. The term "Lord" as used of Jesus in these passages is not emphasizing His right to enthronement but to His identity as deity" (Lordship Salvation, E. Pickering p.6).

The whole emphasis in this argument is predicated upon what a sinner is told by a process of rationalization from someone to himself rather than a work which God will produce in him. We do not rationalize sinners into salvation. It is a matter of revelation of the part of God through His Word. When God does this, the sinner will not argue with God or His gospel, but will repent by an act of God in his heart. The sinner will not be arguing for another cigarette before or after he accepts Christ. The point is that God makes Jesus Lord when a sinner is saved or he simply does not get saved. If a man smokes, that isn't even the issue. One thing for sure is he will be made willing to be obedient not only to the gospel but to the whole counsel of the Word of God. "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning; thou hast the dew of thy youth" (Psa. 110:3).

No minister of God, in his right Scriptural mind, would be arguing between the right to smoke or not smoke in attempting to lead a person to Christ. If he finds the sinner arguing for a smoke or making it a condition of his own salvation in his understanding, he has not yet been operated on by the Spirit of God unto salvation. This is not to say that a sinner who smoked before he was saved will not have problems in giving up smoking after he is saved, for when we are saved we are not delivered from our bodies of sin. However, when we are saved God puts within us a willingness to be conformed to the image of Christ. The conforming may be gradual or by a lengthy process, but the heart will by an act of God be made willing to all degrees of conformity simply because when we got saved God made Jesus Lord, to us in our hearts. It was not a matter of us making Jesus Lord, but it is evidenced as a work of God in all of our subsequent experiences. We experience salvation because it is God's particular and peculiar work. We learn sanctification in

daily life, and we discover that Jesus is Lord in all of our human endeavor simply because He has already been made Lord. We discover that He is Lord in us as we live the Christian life before Him. The former is instantaneous, the latter is more-over a process.

Because there is a great uprising in the church today of spurious professions of salvation which gives no evidence of the Spirit of Christ or the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the church is shamefully embarrassed. We are hard pressed to explain why so many among us know the terms of salvation but give no evidence of its fruit.

In our attempts to help God out we have initiated a word of man, or should I say we have substituted it? We have limited God and made His sovereign work hinge on a work of man. We have man-made churches with man-made results, and we are severely embarrassed. Why are we so afraid to let Him be God? Why do we frustrate the grace of God so?

If making Christ Lord to be saved is a work of man then let me be the first to have done with it. If making Christ Lord when sinners get saved is a work of God, then I will preach it until the day I die! To me lordship salvation is exclusively a work of God!

SIMPLICITY

(Continued from Page 1)

else He teaches; that we should not be careless about anything He has taught or commanded; that we should not trifle with anything He wishes us to do by saying, "it is not essential," or "something else will do just as well."

Hence, Baptists believe that it is terribly wrong and misleading to say, "One church is as good as another," or "It does not matter what church you join." Church membership means that your influence is for the doctrines, the teachings, of the church of which you are a member; and to be true to Christ one should not lend his influence to any doctrine not taught by the Bible; and he should not withhold his influence from any doctrine that is taught by the Bible. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." (Luke 16:10).

No one, therefore, should be a Baptist who does not believe what Baptists teach; and no one can be true to the Savior who believes what Baptists believe and yet does not become a Baptist.

It is sometimes said by inquirers after religious truth that the way is difficult; and, indeed, in many things this is true. But God made the path of duty plain, and the difficulties in the way of finding the path have been put there by men. Whatever may be said of the obstacles in the way of understanding the faith of the sects, there is a simplicity in the Baptist faith that commends it to honest inquirers after gospel order.

1. Baptists hold that no one is a proper subject of Christian baptism and church membership who is not already a Christian.

They are the only people who hold this view. This is simple

and the Scriptures that teach it are plain and easily understood. We refer those who are inquirers, and are not familiar with the Scriptures, to the following passages:

John the Baptist refused to baptize any except those who brought forth fruits meet for repentance (Matt. 3:8). Those John baptized confessed their sins (Mark 1:5). Those baptized under the immediate direction of Jesus were disciples (John 4:1). Those who were baptized on the day of Pentecost were such as had gladly received the Word (Acts 2:41). Those baptized at Samaria by Philip first believed (Acts 8:12). The inspired epistles to the churches were addressed to Christians; showing that the New Testament churches were composed of converted people: "...in Christ Jesus, called to be saints..." (I Cor. 1:2); "...the saints which are at Ephesus..." (Eph. 1:1).

2. These were not made children of God by baptism, or by any other ceremony. It is clearly taught that none are the children of God unless they are believers and that such already have the pardon of their sins.

"He that believeth on him is not condemned..." (John 3:18). "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life..." (John 3:36). "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God..." (Rom. 5:1).

We learn, too, that faith and love are united in the same heart, (I Cor. 13:13, Gal. 5:6). "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren..." (I John 3:14). "...everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." (I John 4:7).

3. That baptism was performed by immersion is clearly taught in the New Testament. Christ was baptized in the river of Jordan, and came up straightway out of the water (Matt. 3; Mark 1). The Ethiopian eunuch went down into the water, was baptized, and came straightway up out of the water (Acts 8:38,39). Those baptized were buried in the water and raised from it (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12)

4. The Lord's Supper is placed in the church to be observed by its members, all of whom have been previously baptized.

None were, in the apostolic days, church members without baptism. The order in which the two ordinances were given and commanded and in which they were observed by the Savior and His immediate followers, clearly places baptism first (Matt 26:26; Luke 22:19,20; Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:23-26).

We have in the Scriptures above referred to the leading features of Baptist faith in language that needs no comment. No theologian is required to explain their simple declarations, and it is only man-made systems that require lengthy explanations. Why do some Christians play into the hands of infidels by teaching that God presented the requirements in such obscure and ambiguous language that those required to obey Him cannot understand what He requires them to do? There are great mysteries in the Bible, but not the commands of God to His children.

CONCLUSION

Just a word, reader, before you lay this little article aside. You

shall one day stand before the judgment (I Tim. 6:14,15; John 5:22). If you are unsaved, unredeemed, you will be cast into outer darkness, and there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 22:13). Do not join with a haughty, careless world in meeting this statement with a sullen curl of a refined sneer, for that haughty sneer was never yet seen on the quivering, pale lips of a dying man or woman. On the other hand, if you repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15), if you really trust Christ as your Savior (John 1:12), as the One on whom all your sins were laid (Isa. 53:6); then you are sure of going to heaven. Jesus Himself promised "...him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37).

But reader, should you or anyone else, saved, redeemed, made sure of heaven through Christ's dying for our sins (I cor. 15:3), treat lightly or carelessly our Savior's will concerning baptism and church membership? Should family ties, or social ties, or political ties, or business advantage, weigh more than tender, sacred love for Him who loved us and gave Himself for us (Gal. 2:20), and redeemed us to God by His blood (Rev. 5:9)?

Remember, Jesus Himself said: "...If a man love me, he will keep my words..." and "He that loveth me not keepeth not my saying..." (John 14:23,24); and God's servant of old said "...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice..." (I Sam. 15:22); and the Savior said, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9).

There was one who, facing his duty to the Savior, asked, "...What shall I do, Lord..." (Acts 22:10), who, when he saw the Lord's will, said, "...immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood." (Gal. 1:16); and there was another who "...cared for none of those things." (Acts 18:17).

They represent two great classes today: with which class will you take your stand?

ACTS

(Continued from Page 1)

was at this point that God the Spirit caused a "great silence" to fall upon the great mob.

("And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,") (Acts 22:2).

Paul, by speaking in the Hebrew tongue, showed that he was one of them. The fact that he was one of them caused them to have second thoughts regarding the accusations which had been made. The mob, after all, had gathered and vented its their wrath upon Paul because of some charges which had been made by some Jews from Asia. They were charges which were based entirely upon hearsay.

"I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city of Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was

zealous toward God, as ye all are this day" (Acts 22:3).

Paul, in defending himself, far as Jews were concerned, had some very good credentials. He, in fact, was born in Tarsus-one of the great port cities in the Mediterranean. One of the great universities of the ancient world was also located in Tarsus. Paul also informed the Jews that he had been taught by Gamaliel according to the perfect manner of the Jewish religion. Paul, in fact, was a rabbi, that is, one who was ordained to teach the Jewish law and authorized to decide questions relating to the law.

Paul, in making his defense, advised his audience that he had been taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers. He, in other words, was taught to dot every "I" and cross every "T". He advised them further that he not only knew the law, but that he had been zealous in defending it. He had been just as zealous as they were in defending that which they believed.

"And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women." (Acts 22:4).

Paul not only knew the law and was zealous regarding it, but he took definite steps to prevent any one, men or women, from altering it. He, in fact, persecuted unto the death those who did not adhere to the perfect manner of the law. Paul was the policeman for the Sanhedrin which meant that it was his job to search out transgressors and bring them to justice.

"As also the high-priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished" (Acts 22:5).

The "high-priest", to whom Paul refers, is the one who was in authority when he was acting as the policeman for the Sanhedrin. The high-priest, of course, acted in behalf of the entire Sanhedrin. The high-priest, no doubt, convened the blessings on the action which was to be taken. One will find in Acts 9:12 a reference to the brethren and the letters to which Paul makes reference. Paul refers to the rulers

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IN HIS PRESENCE

Is Christ set down on the right hand of the Majesty in heaven? Then with what awful reverence should we approach Him in the duties of worship! Away with light and low thoughts of Christ! Away with formal, irreverent, and careless attitudes in praying, hearing, receiving, and yes, in speaking of Christ Jesus! Away with all deadness and drowsiness in our worship; for He is a great King with whom we have to do - a King to whom the kings of the earth are but little bits of clay. Lo! the angels cover their faces in His presence. He is an adorable Majesty.

--John Flavel

C.H. SPURGEON'S FIRST AND LAST WORDS AT THE TABERNACLE

(The Metropolitan Tabernacle is the huge edifice built to accommodate the crowds which came to hear Mr. Spurgeon.)

"I would propose that the subject of the ministry in this house, as long as this platform shall stand and as long as this house shall be frequented by worshippers, shall be the person of Jesus Christ. I am never ashamed to avow myself as a Calvinist; I do not hesitate to take the name of Baptist; but if I am asked what is my creed, I reply, 'It is Jesus Christ.' My venerated predecessor, Dr. Gill, has left a 'Body of divinity,' admirable and excellent in its way; but the Body of Divinity to which I would pin and bind myself forever, God helping me, is not his system nor any other human treatise, but Christ Jesus, who is the sum and substance of the gospel, who is in Himself all theology, the incarnation of every precious truth, the all-glorious personal embodiment of the Way, the

Truth, and the Life."

Now, here are his last recorded words at the Tabernacle.

"If you wear the livery of Christ, you will find Him so meek and lowly of heart that you will find rest unto your souls. He is the most magnanimous of captains. There never was His like among the choicest of princes. He is always to be found in the thickest part of the battle. When the wind blows cold, He always takes the bleak side of the hill; the heaviest end of the cross lies ever on His shoulders. If He bids us carry a burden, He carries it also. If there is anything that is gracious, generous, kind, and tender, yea lavish and superabundant in love, you always find it in Him. His service is life, peace, and joy. Oh, that you would enter on it at once! God help you to enlist under the banner of Jesus Christ!"

God honors those who honor His Son.

ACTS

(Continued from Page 9)

of the synagogue as brethren, since that is what they were to him when he was their policeman. Paul's reference to the "estate of the elders", in the Greek, relates to all the presbytery, or the entire body of the Sanhedrin.

"And it came to pass, that as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me" (Acts 22:6).

Paul, as he relates in Acts 22:5, had journeyed to Damascus for the purpose of returning certain prisoners to Jerusalem. He, in fact, had letters of authority with him from the Sanhedrin so that his mission could be carried out without incident. The people he was to return to Jerusalem in a bound condition, were common people who believed the Lord Jesus to be the Messiah and their Lord and Savior.

Paul has informed us that it was about noon when the "great light" from heaven shined round about him. We can determine, in part, the intensity of the light which Paul saw by the fact that Paul called it great even though it occurred at noon. I'm saying that a "great light" at noon would have to outshine the sun.

"And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, Why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 22:7).

There is a truth set forth in this passage of Scripture which many may not be fully aware of. It is the fact that one, when persecuting the Lord's saints, also persecutes the Lord. Our Lord, in fact, was persecuted greatly during the Dark Ages when history has informed us that fifty million Baptists were killed. The killers, of course, will answer to the Lord Jesus for having persecuted Him. They, in fact, poured hot lead

into the ears of our Lord when they did it to His people.

"And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest" (Acts 22:8).

It is a shame that even to this day, there are multitudes of religious people, who, as was true of Saul of Tarsus and Nicodemus, must ask, "Who art thou Lord"? Multitudes have been faithful to their cried all their days even as Paul and Nicodemus were faithful to their cried. These same people, however, as was true of Paul and Nicodemus, must ask, "Who art thou Lord?"

It would be good, on the other hand, if all religious people would ask, "Who art thou Lord"? It would be good if they could know that His name is the only name given among men whereby they can be saved. It would be good if they could know that He and He only is the way, the truth and the life. The religious world, if they would learn these truths, would stop persecuting the Lord Jesus by way of their persecuting His children.

"And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of Him that spake to me" (Acts 22:9).

Paul, in an effort to prove to the people that his mind had not been playing tricks on him, informed the mob that those who were with him also saw the great light. The light, in fact, had impressed them to the point of fear. They were full of fear, since this is what the word "afraid" means. Their fear, however, was something which they had to live with, since no explanation was given to them. Paul, on the other hand, was informed that the Lord Jesus had sent the great light.

"And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do" (Acts 22:10).

Those who were with Paul and saw the great light, didn't know what to do. They were afraid, or full of fear. There, however, was

no value in informing them as to what had happened, since they would never have believed the truth. One can be sure, however, that their story was told over and over again. There may have been those in Paul's audience who had been with him and seen the great light.

Paul, of course, responded correctly when he asked, "What shall I do, Lord"? We today are not privileged to speak directly with our Lord, as Paul did, but we have His Word to direct us. The Lord does not say to us, arise and go into such and such a city, but He does say, Arise and go to my Word, or "study to show thyself approved unto God".

"And when I could not see for the glory of the light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus" (Acts 22:11).

The great crowd, in their "great silence", continued to listen to Paul. They had never heard a story as strange as the one they were hearing. They, of course, were debating in their hearts and minds as to whether or not Paul was telling the truth.

Paul, in the text before us, said that the glory of the light caused him to be blinded. The men who were with Paul, on the other hand, were convinced that the light itself had caused Paul's blindness rather than the glory of it. Paul's helpers probably wondered why the light had not blinded them too. They, after all, in their thinking could not rise above the physical world. Their five senses were all that they had to guide them, but Paul had been transported into the spiritual world. He, in fact, was conversing with Jesus of Nazareth. We, in our prayers, still converse with Him.

"And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him" (Acts 22:12,13).

Paul, in Acts 22:3, had appealed to the fact that he had been born in Tarsus and brought up in Jerusalem where he had studied at the feet of Gamaliel. He, in fact, with Gamaliel as his teacher, had learned all about the law of his fathers to the point that he could cross every "T" and dot every "I", when it came to knowing and interpreting the law. He, due to his knowledge, persecuted to the death any one who did not properly cross their T's and dot their I's.

The text before us reveals that Paul appealed to the high-priest and the entire Sanhedrin as his witnesses. They, in fact, had given him letters of authority for all that he had done.

Paul in the text before us, proceeds to appeal to various ones who could have confirmed his story. He appealed to the fact that Ananias, a devout man according to the law, and one who had a good report of all the Jews, was the person he had contacted when in Damascus. The entire operation then was a high level one. It began with the high-priest and the Sanhedrin and continued on with Ananias—a man who was highly respected by all the Jews.

We are to observe, then, that Paul's defense was such that any right thinking jury would have acquitted him of any wrong do-

ing. All of his action, in fact, had been done out in the open with the approval of high level people. Those, in fact, who were with Paul, could vouch for every thing that he had said. It was now up to the people to question those to whom Paul had made his appeal, that is, if they really wanted to know the truth.

There was only one thing regarding which Paul could not call forth a witness. It was the fact the Lord Jesus had called and commissioned him. This was the part of his testimony which they would have to accept by faith. They, before accepting his testimony, would have to be believers, since only a resurrected Jesus could have spoken to him. Their belief was that He had not risen from the dead, but that His body had been stolen.

We must conclude, that due to Paul's great defense—a defense that was leak proof and air tight, the entire matter revolved around whether or not Jesus Christ was the Messiah.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened and hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design and the glory of God its end. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. Let it fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure.

It is given you in life, will be opened in judgment and remembered forever. It involves the highest labor and will condemn all who trifle with its contents.

Psalms 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

The BIBLE is the most important BOOK in the world.

QUOTES

"The mark of a minister 'approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,' is, that he, 'rightly divides the word of truth.' This implies a full and direct application of the gospel to the mass of his unconverted hearers, combined with a body of spiritual instruction to the several classes of Christians. His system will be marked by Scriptural symmetry and comprehensiveness. It will embrace the whole revelation of God, in its doctrinal instructions, experimental privileges, and practical results. This revelation is divided into two parts - the law and the gospel - essentially distinct from each other, though so intimately connected, that an accurate knowledge of neither can be obtained without the other."

---Charles Bridges

"Clearly to understand the distinction, connection, and harmony between the law and the gospel, and their mutual subserviency to illustrate and establish each other, is a singular privilege, and a happy means of preserving the soul from being entangled by errors on the right hand or the left."

---John Newton

I was talking to a fellow once about the danger and detriment of the bad doctrine of false prophets. He tried to assure me that though the possibility of deception is there and many gain a carnal confidence in a false profession, yet "if one soul is saved, it's worth it." Our Lord didn't think so. No less than five times our Lord warned directly of subjecting our souls to the ministries of false prophets. Many times He reproved the teaching of the Scribes and Pharisees and warned His disciples of its danger. In Luke, Christ warned with these words, "Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

Bishop Ryle makes this comment on that warning. "The subject here deserves far more attention than it generally receives. The amount of evil which unsaved religious teaching has brought on the church in every age is incalculable. The loss of souls which it has occasioned is fearful to contemplate. A teacher who does not know the way to heaven himself is not likely to lead his hearers to heaven. The man who hears such a teacher runs a fearful risk himself of being eternally lost."

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Editor:

Enclosed you will find an offering to be used wherever the Lord leads. I appreciate The Baptist Examiner more than I can express. May the Lord's richest blessings be with everyone who has a part in writing the paper. God bless you....

Mrs. J. E. Moxley, Boonville, NC

Dear Brother Wilson:

I am so thankful you are able to be back in the church service again. Use this offering where you think best. I wish it could be more. God bless all there and keep the sovereign grace messages coming....

Mrs. Merle K. Hall, Knob Noster, MO

Dear Brother Joe:

Here is a little to help on TBE. We have received it for years and would really miss it.

Yours in Him....

W. H. Cordle, Minford, OH

Greetings Brother Wilson:

I have been reading your paper "The Baptist Examiner." I really enjoy it and want to subscribe. Enclosed is a check for two years...May God bless you and the work you are doing.

A brother in Christ....

Charles Bryant, Northport, AL

THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character.

MOSES & THE GOD'S OF EGYPT

by John M. Alber

Introduction

We have considered Moses before Pharaoh, King of Egypt. We had noted several things that are important to the whole story. Story, not really, for this event not only happened, but is a picture of the world, the believer and the God of Heaven.

We had noted that God called Moses to serve Him when he was eighty years old. He gave five reasons why he was not the man that God needed for this new job: (1) he had no ability - Exodus 3:11; (2) he had no message - Exodus 3:13; (3) he had no authority - Exodus 4:1; (4) he had no eloquence - Exodus 4:10; (5) he had no inclination - Exodus 4:13.

Five good reasons, but when God calls one into the ministry He takes care of all those objections. As God sufficiently answered the questions to Moses' satisfaction, so, today He also answers the questions. The first objection, "I have no ability," is answered in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me." The second objection, "I have no message," is answered in I Corinthians 15:3, 4, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." The third objection, "I have no authority," is answered in Matthew 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." The fourth objection, "I have no eloquence," is answered by Philippians 2:13, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." The fifth objection, "I have no inclination," is answered in Philippians 2:13 as well. As God answered all of the objections of Moses many years ago, so today, He not only answers ours but as with Moses, gives a demonstration of what He will do when He calls and places into the ministry.

Last week we considered Moses

before Pharaoh and today we will continue the discussion: Moses and Aaron standing before



John Alber

Pharaoh, King of Egypt, asking him to let God's people go. Pharaoh did not believe that he was obligated to do so because he was the god of the Egyptian people and, therefore, did not have to answer to anyone else. Thus, the God of Israel was going to demonstrate to Pharaoh, the people of Egypt and the chosen children of Israel that God was the only true and living God. The ten plagues that were loosed upon Egypt was that demonstration.

The Plagues of Egypt
Ten of them in number. God was going to prove to all in question that He was God! The Egyptians had worshipped many false gods and were very content to live with their religion. But religion has never saved anyone. Religion is man's way of substituting God's ordained way for his own way, which is not a new way, but is the same rebellion that Cain demonstrated in Genesis four. So, in these plagues, God is going to prove beyond any doubt that He is the only true God of the universe.

1. The First Plague -- Moses, by God's direction and leadership, turned the water into blood. Exodus 7:14-25. This was God's attack upon the Egyptian's idols that lived in the river and thus proved that Jehovah God was superior to Osiris, one of Egypt's gods. It was announced in the morning and the results of this plague only caused Pharaoh to harden his wicked sinful heart as God had told Moses what would take place. "And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantment: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the Lord had said," (Ex. 7:22).

2. The Second Plague -- Moses sends the frogs upon Egypt -- Exodus 8:1-15. This was such an awful plague, everywhere the people would turn the frogs were under foot. This was a plague

against the goddess Hekt (a god that had a frog-like head). Again, like the first plague, the Bible tells us that Pharaoh hardened his heart. "But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said," (Ex. 8:15).

3. The Third Plague -- Moses and Aaron send the lice upon the land of Egypt -- Exodus 8:16-19. This was a plague that was directed against the god of the earth, Seb. This plague was announced and in a real way, defeated the Egyptian's Magicians. It is interesting to note that the magicians acknowledged that this plague was the result of God, but Pharaoh still hardened his heart. "Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said," (Ex. 8:19).

4. The Fourth Plague -- This plague was directed against the wife of Osiris Hatkik. It was announced in the morning and God sent swarms of flies upon the land of Egypt. Exodus 8:20-32.

At this point, Pharaoh was somewhat ready to do business with Moses, but not on God's terms. He wanted to dictate to Moses and Aaron what should be. Moses agreed to have a talk with God and to ask that the flies be removed. As soon as they were removed, Pharaoh once again hardened his heart. "and Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go," (Ex. 8:32).

5. The Fifth Plague -- This plague was directed upon the cattle and was against the god, Apis. Exodus 9:1-7. It was announced by Moses and Aaron that if Pharaoh would not listen to God's plea, God would send a disease upon their cattle. All of the cattle in Egypt died except the cattle that belonged unto the children of Israel. Would Pharaoh now harden his heart or turn in repentance? No. Once again we are told that he hardened his heart. "And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go," (Ex. 9:7).

6. The Sixth Plague -- This plague was unannounced and brought painful boils upon both man and beast. Exodus 9:8-12. It was directed upon Typhon. The magicians were defeated because they could not stand before Moses and Aaron because of the painful boils. Again, Pharaoh's heart was hardened, but this time by Almighty God. "And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had spoken unto Moses," (Ex. 9:12).

7. The Seventh Plague -- This plague was against Shu, the god of the atmosphere. Exodus 9:13-35. God sent hail and fire from heaven upon the land of Egypt. It was announced in the morning by Moses and Aaron and carried out by God later in the day. Pharaoh's heart was once again hardened. "And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he let the children of Israel go; as the Lord had spoken by Moses," (Ex. 9:35).

8. The Eighth Plague -- This plague was announced by God upon the Egyptian god, Serapia, protector from the locusts. Exo-

odus 10:1-20. When this judgment came, Pharaoh offered a compromise to Moses (Ex. 10:8-11) only to be rejected. God sent the locusts upon the land and they covered the land causing Pharaoh to call for Moses and made an interesting statement, "I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you," Ex. 10:16. Nevertheless, when God removed the locusts from the land, the Bible tells us that the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart once again. He was bound and determined not to listen to the God of Israel. Therefore, it is not surprising that our God has confirmed his wickedness and unbelief.

9. The ninth Plague -- This plague was upon the sun god of Egypt, Ra. Exodus 10:21-29. It was unannounced and brought darkness upon the face of Egypt. Again, the King of Egypt, Pharaoh, suggested a compromise that would not be acceptable in God's eyes. His heart was again hardened by God. "But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go," (Ex. 10:27). Perhaps it should be pointed out; though we should not have to, but our God is controlling the heart of Pharaoh in all of this matter. Note with me what the Apostle Paul wrote in the book of Romans: "For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth," (Rom. 9:17). It was God's pure pleasure in showing to Israel, Egypt and the Church of God that He is going to bring about His program

regardless of what man thinks or does. Pharaoh had hardened his heart some five times before the God of heaven confirmed his hardness. Do you remember what we had said much earlier in our discussion? Moses was told that Pharaoh would harden his wicked and very sinful heart before Moses ever spoke one word to him. God is sovereign and "he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitant of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Dan. 4:35). That is still true today! Do I understand all of this? No. That is not my business. Does our God know what He is doing? Yes. He does not always see fit to tell us what He is doing or why.

10. The Tenth and final Plague. Exodus 11:1-12:36. In this final and last judgment, God was going to demonstrate to all that He was in control of everything. The death of the first born would cause Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go as Moses and Aaron had asked. While it would be short-lived, God would intervene and deliver the children of Israel out of the hands of Egypt once and for all.

God was ready to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt and the time was at hand. We will learn later in the history of Israel that the people of Canaan had heard what God had done and were therefore, afraid of them. God had shown His mighty hand in the deliverance of Israel even though the people (Israel) had not totally realized what God had done for them. They would have many new lessons to learn in the future.

WHY THE WORLD HATES A REAL CHRISTIAN

by C.D. Cole

John 15:18, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."

Introduction: A Christian is a believer in Jesus as the Christ and Lord. Saving faith is belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a trust in Christ that accepts His Lordship. Saving faith does not say, "I will trust Jesus Christ to save from the flames, but I do not love Him and will to obey Him." Saving faith is accompanied by love and love causes us to keep His commandments. Saving faith is faith that fruits in works. If you tell me you have faith, I will know whether you have saving faith by what I see you do. You do nothing to show that you love Christ and His church and His people and His word, and I will place a question mark after your salvation. What you say, where you go, and what you do are mighty testimonies of what you are. You are not saved by what you say, nor by where you go, nor by what you do; you are saved by whom you trust. But the Holy Spirit who produces the faith in your soul also produces love, so that your faith worketh by love. When it comes to the way of salvation you are saved trusting the Lord Jesus Christ, but when it comes to the evidences of salvation, you are in the realm of works. Here is simple illustration: Take a tree: is it a good tree? How can we know whether it is a good tree? What is the final test? Is it not the fruit it bears? But did the fruit it bears

have anything to do with making the tree good? The tree was good before it ever bore any good fruit. If the fruit had been bad, that would be proof that it was not a good tree.

Who makes us Christians? Do we make ourselves Christians? Then we are our own Saviour. Does the preacher make Christians by sprinkling some water on our heads, or by immersing our whole body in water? No, it is the Holy Spirit who makes us Christians by His regenerating power. The church covenant says: "Having been led, as we believe by the Holy Spirit, to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour, and being baptized on profession of our faith in Him, we covenant do thus and so." The Holy Spirit is the author of repentance and faith in us. It is He that caused us to hate sin and trust the Saviour. We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works -- so that we can do good works.

Our text was spoken by Christ to His disciples. He told them they would not have an easy time in this world. Their bed would not be soft and their path would not be rosy. They would find themselves hated -- hated for His name's sake.

Nobody likes to be hated, at least, I don't think they do. I don't. I would rather be loved

(Continued on Page 12, Col. 1)

SOVEREIGN GRACE

Sovereign grace, conquering my will
Sovereign grace, conquering still.
Conquering the hard and obstinate heart
And purging it of all its devilish art.

Sovereign grace, despising all merit;
Sovereign grace, causing me to inherit.
Causing me to inherit in spite of my sin
And giving me faith my Saviour to win.

Sovereign grace, how sweet the sound;
Sovereign grace, let praises resound.

Grace that takes my sin away,
And prepares me for God's coming day.

--Davis W. Huckabee

CAN YOU IMAGINE THIS?

Paul calling homosexuals "gay"? Or referring to them as "lovers"? Or referring to homosexuality as an alternate life style? Or saying that God made them that way? Or recommending receiving them as church members? Or treating them as normal, decent people? Etc.

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

WHY

(Continued from Page 11)

than hated; and if I cannot be loved, I should prefer to be liked a little -- but I don't want to be hated.

Now we must not be hateful; for there is no remuneration when we are hated because we are hateful. It is when we are hated for His sake that we may find great comfort.

Why Was Jesus Hated?

What did He do to be hated? Did He do anybody any harm? Did He go around stealing this and that? Did He lie on anybody? We find Him going around doing good. He fed the hungry; He opened the ears of the deaf, and the eyes of the blind. He healed the crippled; He called the dead from their graves. He took little children up in His arms and blessed them. And what was His reward? They hated Him. They said, "We don't want a God like you." They wanted a Christless religion. And that is what the religious world wants today -- a religion without Christ, without His sovereign demands upon them. The religious world conspired to destroy Him and one of His own disciples treacherously betrayed Him.

Why was Jesus Christ hated? It

was because the carnal mind is enmity against God, and He was God manifest in the flesh. When was men's hatred of Christ especially manifested? It was at His teaching. John 6:60-66, "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?..."

Why Is The Real Christian Hated?

It is for His name's sake -- because he is identified with Christ. Loyalty to the truth will bring the world's hatred. Stand for the truth by lip and by life and you will be hated.

You may think that if you are kind and gentle like Christ, that you will be loved by the world. Not so. It is for being like Christ that the world hates the Christian. The more like Christ, the more severe will be your witness against the world.

Jesus said, "The world will love its own." Love exists among kindred spirits. "The world will love its own," but, Jesus said, "I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hated you." Stand for the truth and you will be hated.

THANK GOD FOR SOVEREIGN GRACE

Spiritually blind, and deaf, and dumb,
To the Saviour I would not come;
Dead in sin, altogether depraved,
Heavenly things I did not crave.

But even before I was created,
I was chosen and predestinated;
To save my soul was GOD'S decree,
Before He made the earth or sea.

Salvation came by GOD'S own plan,
Not by my will, or the will of man;
How thankful I am to be among
Those people He chose and gave to His Son!

He drew me with His cords of love,
Gave me life from up above;
Oh, I've never known such love as this,
The Spirit of GOD I could not resist!

I saw my wicked, deceitful heart
And knew that from sin I must depart;
He gave me faith that I might see
The Son of GOD who died for me.

Praise GOD! I'm saved for evermore,
Kept by His power, 'til on heaven's shore,
One day in glory I'll take my place;
— Oh, I am thankful for Sovereign Grace!

Kathryn Parrish

MY IMPRESSIONS

I really enjoyed the conference this year. I was impressed with all the new musical talent and young faces. The preaching was refreshing and convicting and it was so good to fellowship with old friends and meet new ones. I can't wait until next year!

Judy Foor, Gladwin, MI

It was great to be back! Thank you for asking me to play the organ. I enjoyed every minute of the conference.

Debbie Schumann,
Mt. Pleasant, MI

It was one of the best conferences I've ever attended anywhere. Brother Wilson and the fine folks at Calvary Baptist are to be commended for their kindness and hospitality. I hope to return again next year!

George R. Sledd, Sanford, FL

A very good conference and one with a lot of close fellowship with all the brothers and sisters. It was a great help to me.

Alma Waddell, Warren, OH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. "Before Bethlehem" I was blessed, it was the first sermon I heard of Jesus Christ before Bethlehem! God blessed, hearing all the preachers, wonderful conference.

Jack Maxwell,
Baltimore, MD

I especially enjoyed the fellowship of the other preachers. Their messages were of great help to me. All those who attended had such a sweet spirit. The Holy Spirit was truly with us all in your conference.

James and Katie Crace,
Crescent Springs, KY

In This world of sin, trouble, evil and pain what a blessing to see the conference at Calvary Baptist Church growing. The attendance at all of the meetings was larger and there was a Sweet, sweet spirit that came and empowered the speakers and permeated every aspect of these services.

Eldon Joslin
Birmingham, AL

Isaiah cried, "Who hath believed our report?" Yet he continued that report. Isaiah 53 begins with his complaint but has in it not only a continuation of the report, but a fuller version of it than he had ever given before. He was sad but resolute, grieved yet persevering, broken in heart but not broken down in constancy. It needs greater grace to go upon a fruitless errand. One had need see the glory of the Lord to be enabled to fight a losing battle. It is ours to abide faithful to our commission whether men will hear or whether they will forebear. Be it ours to serve the Lord gladly and to testify to what we have seen, even though no man should receive our witness.

--C.H. Spurgeon

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SUBSCRIPTIONS
\$10



Some women from Michigan (Grace Baptist Church of Gladwin) get ready to sing.



Fellowship at the parsonage.



More fellowship at the parsonage.



Willard Willis preaches to us.



John Pruitt preaches for us at our conference.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Elder Reggie Moore will be preaching a revival meeting at the Landmark Baptist Church of King, N.C. November 20-24. The church meeting place is located beside the South Stokes High School on the road between N.C. 8 and Mountain View Road. Services will be at 7:00 nightly and at regular times on Sunday. Andy Proctor is the fine and able pastor of this church; this brings together two great men of God in a great church. Attend this meeting if you can; you will be blessed. Pray for this meeting.