

SOVEREIGN GRACE

LANDMARK

PREMILLENNIAL

The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries

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

VOL. 65, NO. 14

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, JULY 31, 1993

WHOLE NUMBER 2662

THE ATONEMENT OF OUR LORD

by Willard Willis

The subject before us relates to whether or not our Lord's atonement at Calvary was for all people or some people. Most of you who are reading this message will probably agree with me, but others will be inclined to disagree. All of us however want the truth. We are all aware that only the truth will stand. We are all aware that all the doctrines of men will one day prove to be no more than a puff of wind. Those, therefore, who may disagree with me, should still give me a good hear-



Willard Willis

ing, since you may find that I and thousands of others are right re-

garding our belief relative to the atonement of our Lord. Those who are in error regarding this doctrine or any other doctrine, will find very a solemn passage in Matthew 15:9, "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Time is running out for all of us. We therefore should make every day count as the time nears for us to face our God. The brevity of our lives can be seen

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 3)

THE SACRIFICE OF THE FATHER

by David Goetz

I John 5:7, 8, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one."

When I came upon and started studying this subject (the sacrifice of the Father), immediately

the example of Abraham and Isaac came to mind. But even in this, the emotion that was shared between the father and son could not shed any light on the magnificent love that was shared between the Father and the Son. We look at the Father and Son through human eyes, trying to understand the emotion that was shared there, and we cannot. A lot of people will say that God is not an emotional God; God has no emotions, but part of His attributes are emotions, where He

says that I have loved and I have hated. I cannot understand, nor explain the emotions of God. I know that those emotions are perfect, in whatever ways they are expressed.

Man, today, pictures God as a God that wants to throw all sinners in hell. Then they picture Christ as His Son that came to do battle against God to save some of those that God wanted to throw in hell. They picture the work of Christ as an arrangement

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 3)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Ray Waugh, Sr.

O FOOLISH AMERICANS

"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?" Gal. 3:1.

What was said concerning the Galatians by the Apostle Paul more than 1,900 years ago can as easily be said about Americans today. Here we are in a land that is relatively free. In most in-

stances, one doubtless can find a copy of the Bible or a copy of some portion of the Bible in perhaps every home in this land. Yet, it is obviously evident that few, if any, ever read the Word of God. Some studies have been accomplished by pollsters of various sort in the last few years. In every poll it seems to be indicated that the Ecclesiastical (Church) situation and the Biblical (Bible Study) situation become worse with every account-

ing. We still hear some men speaking of this land of ours as a Christian nation. Yet, we can know that this is not true and that it never has been true. Yet, on occasion, we sometimes hear those who are called pastors, preachers, and religious professionals giving us this word about America being a Christian nation when it is not. One of the famed

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

DOWNTRODDEN

by Ted Gower

Been to any Christian awards ceremonies lately? Have you been asked to be on national television, to receive an award for faithful service to our Lord? What about the newspapers? Have they been running articles about your dedication and service to our Master? No! Well surely you have seen editorials after the death of a faithful Christian extolling his or her life as a child of God.

Do you want awards and praises in this life? If so, you must for the most part become ungodly. I know there are rare exceptions, but in the main, the world, awards and rewards its own. We see them at their award ceremonies, they dress in the finest money can buy, they ride in the finest automobiles made, they praise one another with the most elaborate speeches that can

be written, and when they die, the eulogies themselves should receive an award.

One of my cousins died recently, he was a vile man, one who hated Christians, and doubled that hatred for preachers. He was four square against anything right, whatever was good and honest and upright, he made fun of, and belittled. Anything morally wrong, or God dishonoring, he was for. He was a good writer, and interesting to read on some subjects, but hatred for God and His people dripped from his articles. Just today I read the second editorial since his death, and if you didn't know the man you would think he was the most upright of our community.

Another man that I knew all my life, ran a pool hall, loved to

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 1)

STUDIES IN JUDGES

by C. T. Everman

"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and



C.T. Everman

the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years" (13:1).

After the death of Jephthah Israel had lived in peace for twenty-five years under three minor judges (12:8-15). But it was during this period that they again departed from serving God and turned to false gods. Again God delivered them into the hand of their enemy. This time it was the Philistines. As we saw in our last study the Philistines went

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 5)

DIVINE PARADOXES

We are impressed with the fact that He who was the Bread of Life began His ministry by hungering, and He who was the Water of Life ended His ministry by thirsting.

Gregory of Nazianus has beautifully developed this idea in these words:

"Christ hungered as man, and fed the hungry as God;

He was hungry as man, and yet He is the Bread of Life;

He was athirst as man, and yet He says, "...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink";

He was weary, and yet He is our rest;

He pays tribute, and yet He is a King;

He is called a devil, and cast out devils;

He prays, and yet hears prayer;

He weeps, and dries our tears;

He is sold for thirty pieces of silver, and redeems the world;

He is "...led as a sheep to the slaughter...", and is the good Shepherd;

He is mute like a sheep, and yet He is the Everlasting word."

MOM'S TRANSLATION

There is a story about four clergymen who were discussing the merits of the various translations of the Bible. One liked the King James Version best because of its simple, beautiful English.

Another liked the American Revised Version best because it is more literal and comes nearer the original Hebrew and Greek.

Still another liked Moffatt's translation best because of its up-to-date vocabulary.

The fourth minister was silent. When asked to express his opinion, he replied, "I like my mother's translation best."

The other three expressed surprise. They did not know that his mother had translated the Bible. "Yes, she did," he replied. "She translated it into life, and it was the most convincing translation I ever saw."

--The Christian Digest

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

John R. Gilpin, Jr.

Interim Editor

Office Phone 606-325-2012

Owned, authorized and published by Calvary Baptist Church, Ashland, Ky.

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

PUBLICATION POLICIES: All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts sent should be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of TBE and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication. Church news items must reach us one month prior to publication.

The publication of an article does not necessarily mean that the editor is in complete agreement with the writer nor does it mean he endorses all this person may have written on other subjects.

COPYING PRIVILEGES: Unless otherwise stated, any article published in the paper may be copied by other publishers, provided they give a proper credit line stating that such was copied from this publication, and the date of publication, provided that such materials are not published for profit. If we are not on exchange list with the publication copying, it is requested that a copy of the issue containing the articles be sent to our address. All copyrighted materials, may not be copied without written consent.

PUBLISHED EVERY 2 WEEKS at 3339 - 13th St., Ashland Ky., with paid circulation in every state and many foreign countries. Subscription rates are \$6.00 per year.

PLANNING TO MOVE? - Notify us three weeks in advance. The post office will only forward second class mail for 60 days at no charge to us. After this time the paper is returned to us at a 35 cent charge for each paper returned. Please save us this expense and the post office time.

Second Class Postage paid at Ashland, Kentucky.

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

FOOLISH

(Continued from Page 1)

ministers of our time has said, "I would like to simply review with you some of the evidence to the fact that this is a Christian nation..." This one goes on later to quote Charles Hodge saying, "the proposition that the United States of America is a Christian and Protestant nation is not so much the assertion of a principle, as the statement of fact."

Sadly, the statements or the appeals of good men do not make that which is not so to be true, regardless of how sincere, how earnest, and how desirous is the cry of their hearts. Though America has been great, and though America even now may, in some respects, yet be great, the good that some have accomplished as Americans in our land and around the world does not make America a Christian nation. This one whose heart apparently was in the right place but whose facts were awry then went on to pray. "God forbid that we who were born into the blessings of a Christian America should let that

patrimony sift through our fingers as sand and leave to our children the bleached bones of a secularist and godless society..."

Paul Harvey has provided us with some good insight into the fact that some of those who have



Ray Waugh, Sr.

a part in making America great were men of integrity whose lives were in part at least committed to God. His words are, "...even as our nation's founders offered their lives and fortunes to win for our fledgling nation 'freedom' from British rule, in that same eloquent document they sought the guidance and blessing of the Almighty. They appealed 'to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our institutions.'...It was only in recent generations that Americans, mouthing platitudes about 'freedom,' have obscured the very meaning of America...Ignore the 'guidance system' that was built into our Republic and we are, like any unguided missile, inevitably destined to self-destruct" (Odessa American, Tuesday, June 3, 1992, p.4A).

There is, perhaps we may say thankfully, a Christian Heritage to which all who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and all who believe the Bible to be the Word of God can appeal. The Mayflower Contract, for example, opened, "In the name of God, Amen, Having undertaken for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith..." Later, the Continental Congress of 1775 "called all citizens to fast and pray and confess their sin that God might bless them." It is said that every president since Washington has included in his inaugural address reference to his and the nation's dependence upon God. Lincoln, in his Gettysburg address said, "...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Our exiting President has ended all speeches that I have heard with the words, "And God bless the United States of America."

Inscribed on the walls of the Jefferson Memorial, there are these words, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of

God?" On June 14, 1954, the congress of these United States adopted, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Then, on July 20, 1956, the congress adopted a National Motto. "In God We Trust." Yet, how few today really contend, "In God We Trust!"

Though one of the more famed of the preachers of our time has said, "You and I were born in a Christian Nation we can know they did not speak the truth. There has not been a Christian nation upon this earth in any of the past millennia, and there will not be a Christian Nation upon this earth until the Lord Jesus Christ Himself returns to establish His Kingdom which doubtless will be the perfect Theocracy. We need to realize, then, that what Jesus said more than 1,900 years ago to the people of that day, so He would say if He were among us today, "My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom not from hence" (John 18:36).

Most of us doubtless would be sympathetic with the indicated desire of the man who would speak of our nation, America, as a Christian nation. Many of us doubtless would like to suppose that this is true. We can know, and that beyond any question, however, that America is not a Christian nation. Thankfully, there are a few scattered here and there who actually believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that He truly saves us from our sins. But America, as a nation, is very much like all other nations of earth. Paul wisely explains that Satan is "the god of this world" and that he "is the prince and the power of the air" (2 Cor. 4:4 and Eph. 2:2).

In fact, if we are honest with ourselves and with one another as well as honest with our God, we can know that America manifests overtly just about every thing other than a Christian stance. For many long years, we were led to believe that the nation called Russia or "The Union of Society Socialist Republics" really was "The Evil Empire," and most every religious leader in our land joined in with a very solid and sound "AMEN!"

Today, however, something strange is happening. The Supreme Court of our Land and the Courts of our Land have outlawed God and the Word of God from our schools, from many of our Libraries, and even from the Streets in this supposed Land of the Free and The Home of the

Brave. Whereas, today, most every school classroom in what remains of Russia is open to God, open to the Word of God, and the people are crying for any who know God and who know the Word of God to parade in their streets with the Word of God. This, needless to say, is in stark contrast to what is actually happening here in America where "Humanism" is reigning and where "Secularism" seems to be the one controlling power.

Just recently, there was a headline in a paper that caught my attention. This headline seemed to dramatize what I am saying. That headline was:

Analysis: Clinton won most religious votes

In this analysis, it was shown that though President Bush took 46% of the Southern Baptist vote and Governor Clinton 40%, it was different in all other areas. It was said, "Clinton triumphed in all 12 of the nations most heavily Catholic states--from New Mexico to Massachusetts--the first Democratic sweep of those states since Lyndon Johnson in 1964." The analysis continues, Governor Clinton won the majority of all Protestant votes. Then, climatically, Vermont "went Democrat for only the second time in 160 years and gave Bush the lowest vote support, 31%, ever received by a Republican presidential nominee" (Baptists Today, November 26, 1992, p. 1).

What does all of this mean for America?

It probably means that there will come into existence "The Freedom of Choice Act" which will take abortion out of the control of the Supreme Court and State Legislatures. This bill per-

mits no limits "on the killing of unborn babies." The emphasis is, even "a fully viable infant would be fair game even in the eighth or ninth month of Pregnancy." It is anticipated, too, that there will be an effort to ensure all homosexuals and lesbians the right to practice their sexuality openly in all branches of the military. Some have supposed that some effort will be made to make it "illegal for...Christian bookstores...and other religious for profit entities, to refuse employment to homosexuals." It is expected also that "Federal money will be provided for schools to offer gay and lesbian counseling programs for students who lean toward that lifestyle" (James C. Dobson, November 1992 Letter, pp. 1 and 2).

With the JUDGMENT OF ALMIGHTY GOD as the basis of our thinking, we should be able to realize that America is in a very, very serious condition. The Egyptians, as we know from reading Genesis 46 through Exodus 13, experienced a great JUDGMENT subsequent to the infanticide and their abuse of the Israelites for some 300 years, and a little more. First, there were the plagues which climaxed with the death of "the first born" of animals and men in the Land of Egypt, apart from the Israelites. Finally, we have the word, "And the Lord said unto Moses stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

ATTENTION ALL CHURCHES AND PASTORS

You are invited and encouraged to send in your announcements pertaining to special services, revivals and other items of news that would benefit from free publication.

Send all material at least two weeks in advance to:

The Baptist Examiner
P.O. Box 60

Ashland, KY 41105-0060

FOOLISH

(Continued from Page 2)

over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them" (Ex. 14:26-28).

For some 300 years, the Egyptians had arranged for the killing of many of the boy children who were born to the Israelites. The Mother of Moses, under the guidance of God, refused to be involved in that infanticide, which often was just delayed abortion somewhat comparable to that which some are planning for the "unborn" and the "born" ones here in America. We may say that "the wheels of God ground rather slowly, but in finality we can know that He accomplished His Purpose. God sent Moses with the judgment of the plagues. And finally, one of the greatest armies of the time was destroyed in a night. Egypt, even in this hour, is still paying for the sins of those who indulged in their dastardly deeds more than 2,500 years ago.

Then, there is God's JUDGMENT upon homosexuality, and it, too, is most definitive and final. It really is no marvel that most of those who today are presenting themselves as homosexuals and lesbians generally are very good looking and intelligent young or middle-aged men and women. The Apostle Paul speaks most specifically: Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image make like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness (a doctor friend of mine who spent his life working with people who had urological problems used to say, "why would any man prefer a dirt road?" RW) through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves; who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up into vile affections; for even their women did change the natural use into

FROM THE APACHE TRIBAL LANGUAGE

HE WHO CONQUERED DEATH

Human history has been the history of death. Men have not discovered any device to escape from death. Scientist cannot give life to dead man. All great men of this world in the human history died and buried. Only the remembrance has been in our mind.

Jesus Christ, the historical personality was crucified by the Roman soldiers influenced by the Jewish people. Roman government took the responsibility to judge Him. When Jesus Christ alive He said that He will be resurrected from the death. Many did not believe it. But on the third day he came out of the tomb without any help from men. Jewish people tried to make the people believe that His disciples took away His body. But the empty tomb was a witness against them. They could not discover and present the body of the crucified in the public. Jesus Christ is one who came out from amongst the dead. Today the world celebrate His resurrection all over the world. The world remember it. It is not possible for men to forget that historical fact even in this 20th century.

The resurrected Christ wants to dwell in the hearts of men today. A real Christian is one who receives Jesus Christ in his heart by faith repenting of his sins and trust in Him for salvation. Jesus Christ said one day that "I am the resurrection and the Life he that believeth in men though he were dead yet shall he live." No man ever said like that. No great men in the human history claimed this. Jesus Christ proved by His resurrection that man who fear death will have a resurrection one day. It will be either to salvation or for the judgment of God.

"Oh death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory." This challenge can be made by a man who put his trust in Jesus Christ who rose again from death. Bible says this can be an experience for any man. Thousands are enjoying this great privilege. The salvation is by GRACE through FAITH in Jesus Christ. Today is Jesus Christ your life??

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..." Romans 1:22-27).

This indictment of the Apostle Paul of what today may be called "the homosexual lifestyle" is yet in force in this very hour. This indictment of what is called the Lesbian "lifestyle" likewise is in effect in this hour of 1992. And AIDS is the plague that is among us that documents that indictment and judgment. More than 1,900 years ago, the JUDGMENT of God was expressed in the words of the Apostle, "...and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet." Another translation or version has put it this way, "They did shameful things with each other, and what has happened to them is punishment for their foolish deeds" (Rom. 1:27, Bible For Today's Family, American Bible Society, 1991).

The New English Bible expresses this emphasis in this manner, "...Males behave indecently with males, and are paid in their own persons the inevitable penalty of their own perverseness." Phillips Modern English gives us this very plain teaching, "Men with men performed these shameful horrors,

receiving, of course, in their own personalities the consequences of sexual perversity." The Kenneth Wuest Expanded Translation shares with us, "...males with males carrying to its ultimate conclusion that which is shameful, receiving in themselves that retribution which was a necessity in the nature of the case because of their deviation from the norm." And in The Amplified New Testament, we find these words, "...men committing shameful acts with men and suffering in their own bodies and personality the inevitable consequences and penalty of their wrong doing and going astray, which was (their fitting retribution)."

Is it possible that God has "changed His Mind" at some point in the last 1,900 years and more? Or, is this judgment yet in effect? God explains that those in that distant day who indulged in sexual perversion received the "inevitable penalty of their own perverseness." Very simply, there apparently was a plague connected with the lifestyle of the women who "changed the natural use into that which is against nature...and...men with men working that which is unseemly." Perhaps, then, it would be wise for all of us to call to mind the truth of the Word, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8).

If this be so, what about the headline, "OPENED DOORS," that was followed by the words, "Gay congregation holds services at new church." Then, it is explained that these services were in "A handsome stone-and-wood sanctuary opened for services Sunday, a temple trimmed in traditional Christian iconography--with a difference. It comes complete with stained glass windows that have pink triangles and lambdas and same-sex couples, the Rev. Michael Piazza told an overflow crowd of more than 1,000 people at the mostly gay and lesbian Cathedral of Hope near Dallas Love Field. The \$3 million church, billed as the largest construction project ever by a gay and lesbian congregation, features those symbols, alien to most churches: The pink triangle--the sign used by Nazis to mark homosexuals, the Greek letter lambda--a traditional symbol of gays and lesbians--and the linked male-female gender symbols for three sets of couples" (The Dallas Morning News, Monday, December 21, 1992, pp. 25A and 30A).

Apparently, most men either have forgotten, or some men just do not care, that God has a word that must be one of warning for America. We read, "And the Lord said, because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me..." (Gen. 18:20-21). This word is followed shortly by an explanation of the nature of the sin of the men of Sodom.

"The men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter; and they called unto Lot, and said unto him, where are the men who came in to thee this night. Bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out of the door unto them, and shut the door after him. And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters who have not known man; let me I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as in good in your eyes; only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof" (Gen. 19:4-8). These men of Sodom, however, heard him not "and came near to break the door."

Then, it was, that the men who had come to visit with Lot "...pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to

the door. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great; so that they wearied themselves to find the door" (Gen. 19:10-11). These men who had come to visit advised Lot, "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee; neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed" (Gen. 19:17).

What was the ultimate and the final JUDGMENT that God brought upon the city of Sodom whose men "burned with lust for other men"? The Word is Absolute. "Then, the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; and He overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground" (Gen. 19:24-25). The plague which follows homosexuality, then, really is just the beginning of sorrows. Beyond the plague in one's person or that which effects individuals, there is JUDGMENT! It has been presumed by many that those cities which were deemed to have been so wonderful by Lot are today the Dead Sea and the waste places that even now surround it.

How very desperate, then, is the foolishness of Americans who can suppose that the God who sent the judgment of fire and brimstone upon the Homosexuals in the days of Abraham and Lot looks with favor upon Homosexuality today. It is positively evident that these who are involved in this perversion which is under God's indictment and judgment even now are responsible for all of those who must endure their plague. Sadly, some who are not Homosexuals have had to endure the plague because of some legitimate transfer of bodily fluids, but this does not alter the fact that Homosexuality is under the indictment of God and the JUDGMENT of God in this very hour.

A \$3 million dollar "Homosexual Church" may get the attention of the press and even the public who are involved in following the latest news. We may be rather certain, however, that those who are involved in that which has come to be known as the Homosexual Lifestyle had the attention of God long before the first stone was ever laid in that which is now being called a "Congregation of Gays"! And we

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 3)

Editor's note: The following appeared in the Portsmouth, Ohio "DAILY TIMES" on Thursday, June 3, 1993. Following Mr. Cundiff's opinion is Pastor Jack Whitt's reply.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, GAYS ARE PEOPLE TOO

My friend Dan is not your run-of-the-mill journalist.

He's a dedicated reporter, always digging up information. He's a superb writer and a stickler for absolute accuracy.

While working in a small Florida town, Dan broke several national stories that were picked up by the wire services. He currently serves as editor of a Washington, D.C. - based science and technology journal, read by decision-makers throughout government.

Dan's also a great friend. He's always willing to listen, has a wicked sense of humor, and can converse on a wide range of subjects.

He lives in the Washington suburbs, in a happily monogamous relationship -- with another man.

That's right. Dan's gay.

It's no big deal.

Dan doesn't broadcast the fact that he's homosexual. Contrary to popular stereotype, he doesn't wear dresses, speak with a lisp, or accost strangers in the men's room.

Dan is in no closet either. He doesn't hide his relationship with his lover. That relationship is one facet of Dan's life, just as my relationship with my wife is a facet of mine. It's part of who he is.

Some people might choose not to associate with Dan because of his homosexuality. That's their loss. They'll miss out on a great friendship.

Others will try to discriminate against him in housing or employment. Some might even try to injure or kill him, all because the person he loves happens to be a man.

That kind of prejudice is flat-out wrong.

The recent furor over whether homosexuals should be allowed to serve in the military has whipped up disturbing levels of anti-gay rhetoric. What gets lost in the uproar is the simple fact that gays and lesbians are human beings.

Recent studies have questioned the percentage of homosexuals in the population. Estimates vary from one percent to 10 percent or so.

Numbers don't matter. If there is one homosexual in the universe, that person deserves to be treated with the same dignity and respect as anyone else.

I've known several homosexual friends, both men and women, over the last 15 years or so. Funny thing is, not one of them fits the negative image in which they're usually portrayed.

None has ever tried to "convert" a heterosexual friend.

Not one has ever molested a child.

In fact, every homosexual man or woman I've ever known has been pretty much just like everyone else -- trying to make their way through this crazy world the best they can.

They hold jobs which they perform as well or as badly as heterosexuals do. They pay taxes, go to school, pay the bills, just like the rest of us. The only difference is behind a closed bedroom door -- and that's none of my business.

Some will disagree with me on religious grounds, I know. With all due respect, I find it hard to believe a compassionate, loving God could create homosexuals and then abandon them to be persecuted by the majority.

Besides, even if you're opposed to homosexuality, that's no reason to oppose the person.

Life is difficult enough as it is. If two people can find happiness together on this lonely planet, it's not my place to criticize them, no matter what their sexual orientation. We're all human. What else matters?

Rick Cundiff is a staff reporter with the Daily Times.

PASTOR WHITT'S REPLY

I am writing in response to the article by Rick Cundiff which appeared on the Opinion page of the Daily Times June 3 in which he elaborates the point that "Gays are people too."

While I would agree that gays are people and should not be mistreated, injured or denied basic human rights, yet I disagree with his generalizing homosexuality as "No big deal." I happen to think it is a "big deal."

He and others of his kind would say I'm prejudiced and discriminating. Well, yes, I am. I'm prejudiced against many things in our society today. I'm prejudiced against drunk drivers who kill thousands of innocent people each year.

I'm prejudiced against drugs and the drug-pushers who have destroyed the lives of thousands of people including young kids and they continue to peddle their poison junk even in our schools.

I'm prejudiced against child molesters, and parents who abuse and beat their babies.

I'm prejudiced against women who abort (murder) their babies while still in the womb. I could go on but, yes, I am also prejudiced against homosexuals. Why?

Because of what they are portraying to be a normal alternative lifestyle when it is not. It is they who are pushing the issues and demanding to be heard.

They are bringing their literature and spreading their propaganda into grade schools across the country, poisoning the minds of young children in a massive recruitment effort.

I realize not every homosexual is involved this way and because I am against their lifestyle does not mean I hate them.

Frankly, I would try to help them.

I would tell them they can be forgiven of this sin, if they would look to Jesus. Many homosexuals have been cured and become normal.

Mr. Cundiff also stated in his article that he found it hard to believe that a compassionate, loving God could create a homosexual and then abandon him. With all due respect to Mr. Cundiff, God did not create man to lie

with man or women to lie with women. God is not the author of sin. Man cannot blame God for his sin. God created man and woman for the purpose of procreation.

Why do not people read the Bible before making statements about God?

Mr. Cundiff, listen to what God has to say on this sin of homosexuality: "For this cause God gave them up to 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. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." (Romans 1:26, 27, 28). Enough said.

*Pastor Jack Whitt
Calvary Baptist Church
Ashland, Ky.*

FOOLISH

(Continued from Page 3)

may be assured that though for a time all may seem to be going very well for the thousand or so who were in attendance at the first service in what they are calling their sanctuary, the God of the Bible is not blind or deaf. The wheels of His JUDGMENT may seem to be grinding very slowly, but be ABSOLUTELY ASSURED, His JUDGMENT is certain. Even now, it may be on the horizon!

O foolish Americans! Who has bewitched you that you are not able to see or to understand that America today is in the process of self-destructing, as Paul Harvey has wisely indicated. A people who cannot see that God will not forever endure a practice of infanticide--either before or after birth--is actually in the process of self-destructing. Likewise, a people who cannot understand that God will not forever endure

"women who change the natural use into that which is against nature" and "men with men working that which is unseemly" is certainly and obviously in the process of self-destructing. All who have any spiritual insight whatever should be graphically aware that we today are living in "a secularist" and "a godless society" right herein our America--not in "A Christian Nation"!

Let American's awaken to the awesome, yea the awful reality!

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 5)

JUDGES

(Continued from Page 1)

about taking control over Israel quite differently from those who came before. It was by trade and intermarriage they had slowly gained a strangle hold over Israel. This was done so quietly and well that the Israelites were unaware of what had taken place. Because they were unaware of the danger which they were in they did not repent and call on the Lord for help as they had done before. But God in His mercy again sends a deliverer. In the times before when God sent a judge to deliver Israel, that judge had put down the enemy that was troubling Israel. This time God sent one who "shall begin to deliver Israel" (13:5). This judge was not to put down the Philistines but to keep them in check, to keep Israel from being completely swallowed up by the Philistines.

This judge whom the Lord raised up was quite different from the other judges in many ways. First, he had an unusual birth. In 13:2-23 we are introduced to his parents. "And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not" (13:2).

Zorah, where Manoah lived, was a city on the border between Israel and the Philistines. This man and his wife were godly and had a great desire to faithfully serve God. But they had a great heart ache. They had no children,

the wife was barren. To the Hebrew women this was a tragic and shameful condition. But God in His love and mercy sent a message of good news to the woman. "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, 'behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not; but thou shalt conceive and bear a son' (13:3). This brought joy to the heart of the woman and she rushed to tell her husband, not really knowing to whom she had been speaking. She called him a man of God, who had the face of an angel of God, but she had not even stopped to ask his name nor did he tell her (v.6).

Manoah did not pass this off as a figment of his wife's imagination. He believed her and prayed that the angel would return and tell them more concerning the child... "Then Manoah entreated the LORD, and said, O my LORD, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born" (13:8).

Manoah's prayer was answered, again the angel appeared unto his wife. This time she ran and brought her husband who asked how they should do concerning the child. "And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all the I commanded her observe" (13:13,14). We need to note He that appeared unto Manoah and his wife was not just an angel but was "the angel of the LORD" An angel is a created being sent by God as messenger. The Angel of the Lord is none other than God Himself, appearing to announce His will. The Angel of the Lord was Jesus Christ who took on a temporary human form.

The Angel did not add anything more concerning the child that was to be born but He now reveals Himself to Manoah and his wife first by declaring His name, "Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret" (v.18). The word "secret" as used here is "wonderful" in the margin. In Isaiah 9:6 where the same Hebrew word is used it is said, "his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace". Not only is His name Wonderful but He is wonderful. So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and of-

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 1)

JUDGES

(Continued from Page 4)

ferred it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground" (13:19-21). At this point, Manoah realized that he had seen God and trembled with fear, he told his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God" But his wife said, "If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these". All this is told to emphasize that this child was going to be a most unusual child. Not only was his birth be a miraculous one, but his birth was announced by the Lord God Himself. Isaac's birth was the only other child whose birth was announced by the Lord Himself. John the Baptist was born of a woman who was barren but his birth was announced by Gabriel, who was only an angel. Samson the son that was to be born, was to occupy a very special place in the purpose of God since He sent His own Son to announce his birth.

Not only was Samson's birth announced in an unusual way but what he was announced to be was most unusual. The Angel told the woman, "For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head; for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines" (13:5). A Nazarite was one who was set apart or separated himself unto the Lord. The requirements for the Nazarite vow are given in Numbers six. It was to be a voluntary vow as an act of a personal commitment to God. As a outward demonstration of this vow that one was to keep three requirements. (1) He was to abstain from the fruit of the vine, "drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing" (v.4). This was to indicate his dedication to live a simple life. (2) He was not to cut his hair. "no razor shall come on his head" (v.5). This was a public sign of his vow to the Lord. (3) The Nazarite was not to touch a dead body as this act would prevent

him from worship in the tabernacle.

The Nazarite vow usually made to last for only a temporary period of time. But in Samson's case it was to last for his entire life, "for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death" (v.7). Even his mother, while she was carrying the child in her womb, was commanded to "drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing" (v. 4) The conditions required of the Nazarite must begin even while he was in the womb. So we see that Samson's separation unto the Lord was not voluntary but was by a direct commandment from God.

Samson's role as judge over Israel was also quite different from those of the other judges. In the past God called up a judge who raised an army that would go against the enemy and God would deliver the enemy into their had. But Samson's role. "he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines" (v. 5). Note the word "begin". Samson's work would not be completed during his lifetime. This was because Israel had not repented of their sin. God was not yet ready to deliver them from the Philistines. He raised up Samson to only to begin the work. While the other judges had complete military victories Samson single-handed would accomplish only partial victory.

Some one has said that Samson's story was unique in many ways. His birth was not only unique in that he was born of a woman who was barren, but that his coming birth was announced by none other than the Lord Jesus Himself. His life style was unique in that he was to be a Nazarite his entire life. His work was unique in that he was to begin the deliver Israel. His life's work was not to be completed. Yes, we can say Samson was a unique man. We must remember this did not come about by accident. It was by God's sovereign will that He raised up Samson for a definite purpose. There are lessons which we can learn from the story of Samson. As a Nazarite Samson was to live a life of dedication unto God. The great danger of Israel was their compromising with the Philistines. Samson, under the Nazarite vow was to live not only a life of separation from certain things but also a life of separation unto God. It was not only a separation from but also a separation unto. God has called us as His children to live separated lives, separated from the world, separated unto Him. God did not call Samson to a life of isolation. While he was to live in the world he was to abstain from the things of the world. He was

to live a life of dedication unto the Lord. The Lord requires the same of us today. Christ in His prayer for His own prayed, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world, Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:15-17). Verse 17 tells us how this can be done. It is through His Word. A separated Christian is one who believes the Bible, one who is led by the Spirit to do the service of the Lord. He is in the world but is not of the world. It was when Samson failed to live that separated life that his trouble started. It is when we fail to live that life of dedication unto the Lord that our trouble starts.

"And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him" (13:24).

According to the word which the Angel of the Lord had spoken unto the woman it came to pass and the woman who was barren bore a son. No doubt the woman observed all the things which the angel had told her to observe while carrying the child in her womb. Not only was he a Nazarite from birth but even before birth, "and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him". As the child grew from childhood into manhood, no doubt he was told by his parents many times of how the Angel of the Lord had appeared unto them and promised them a son that would begin to deliver Israel from the stranglehold of the Philistines. Samson on his part was to keep the Nazarite vow for his entire life, as an outward sign that he was dedicated to the service of the Lord. It was while Samson was growing to manhood that it is said, "And the spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol" (13:25).

"And the spirit of the LORD begin to move him", it was at this time when Samson first became strong. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him and empowered him with the strength which he later used against the Philistines. He continued to possess that strength until his hair was cut (16:19). In the next study we will see how that strength was used by Samson.

ATONEMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

more clearly if we compare the span of life to a gas gauge on a car. Let a full tank represent sev-

enty years. You only have one-half tank of life left if you are thirty-five, or if you are fifty-two, then there is only one quarter of a tank left. We, of course, have no assurance that we will die at the age of seventy.

The subject before us relates to our Lord's atonement. Was His atonement for all people or for some people? We, of course, in answering this question, must obtain our answer from the Holy Scriptures.

May we, in an effort to stir up your thinking, cite the following example which we will use as an illustration. The example is that of a rich father who built houses on the other side of the wilderness for each of his ten children. He proceeded to build a road to five of the houses. He, however, prepared no way for the other five children to reach their houses. This example can be compared to the atonement in that it is said that our Lord died for all people without exception--that He built a house for every person upon the face of the earth. The question is, has He prepared a way for each person to reach their house, or has He only prepared the way for some? Let me state this question another way. Is it up to the individual to lay hold of the atonement our Lord has provided, or does our laying hold of the atonement depend entirely upon Him? Must He not only provide the atonement, but also the way to the atonement? This question is answered by John 6:44 which reads: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

The five empty houses with no roads to them were of no value. The atonement, in like manner, is of no value unless there is a way prepared for us to receive the atonement. The rich father could stand on his house top and shout that he had built a house for each of his ten children, but his shouting would only magnify his ignorance in that his work was only half done. Those therefore, who preach that our Lord died for the sins of all people upon the earth are obviously not aware as to what they are stating.

Let us cite another example of ten boys who are drowning in a lake. A man runs to the edge of the lake and casts a rope to each of the ten boys. He, however, only draws five of the boys to shore. The other five boys are allowed to drown. The question obviously is--why throw five ropes to boys and not draw them to shore? Keep in mind John 6:44 which informs us that "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..." The big question, of course, is--why would our Lord not die for all without exception. He, in fact,

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

The main passage which is used to refute the above is John 3:16 which reads: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

It is thought that the word "world" in this passage refers to every person who ever lived or ever will live. The fact is, however, that the word "world," as John uses it, has a limited meaning. This word in the Greek is the word "kosmos" and refers to mankind in general, rather than mankind without exception. This fact can be proven beyond the shadow of any doubt by comparing other places where John uses the word "world." The following two examples will clearly show that the word refers to mankind in general.

"For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world" (John 7:4). "The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world (kismos) is gone after him" (John 12:19).

A further proof of how John used the word "world" can be seen by considering John 1:29 which reads: "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (kosmos)."

You will observe that this passage goes further than John 3:16 in that it states that He "...taketh away the sin of the world" while John 3:16 only states that He "...so loved the world..." If the word for world means all without exception then our Lord has taken away the guilt of every person upon the face of the earth. It becomes very obvious that the word "world" refers to mankind in general (kosmos) otherwise there will be no one in hell.

A close study of the Scriptures

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 1)

ATONEMENT

(Continued from Page 6)

will show that they speak of two worlds--the world of the believers and the world of the unbelievers. The above passage (John 1:29) refers to the world of believers, while the following passages refers to the world of the unbelievers. **"And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly"** (II Peter 2:5).

You will observe that Noah and his family were not a part of the world of the ungodly and neither do I belong to this particular world which is in existence today.

There are passages which appear to refute a limited atonement, but such is only an appearance. One of the passages I have in mind is John 12:32 which reads: **"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."**

It is assumed that the word "all" in this passage refers to the entire human family. The thing to note, however, relates to the word "all," as it is used in the Scripture, is that it can refer to great number, or it may refer to all kinds of classes. You will find the following passages to be excellent examples--Matthew 3:5, 4:27; Luke 2:10; Romans 15:14; II Thessalonians 2:9 and I Timothy 6:10.

If we take the word "all" in John 12:32 (above) to mean all without exception, then we are going to have all without exception going to heaven, since the word "draw" as used in this passage, does not refer to an attempt to draw, but to an effectual drawing.

We may also cite II Corinthians 5:14 for dynamic proof that the word "all" does not necessarily refer to all without exception. This passage reads: **"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead."**

This passage makes it very clear that those for whom our Lord died, died in Him, and are thus dead to sin.

We have another excellent passage in II Corinthians 5:19 relative to the extent of our Lord's atonement. This passage states: **"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath com-**

mitted unto us the word of reconciliation."

The world in this passage can only refer to the elect. It can refer only to a certain number since He does not impute repasses or sins to those for whom He died. We know that He does impute sins to all others. Those who believe to the contrary could not consistently believe in hell.

I have found many well meaning people who appeal to II Peter 3:9 in an effort to prove that our Lord died for all without exception and that He is trying to save all people without exception. This passage reads: **"...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."**

This passage can only be understood if it is studied in the light of the rest of this chapter. We, in fact, will find that the expression **"...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance,"** is only a part of II Peter 3:9. The first part of this passage stated that **"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise..."** You will observe that the word "promise" is in the singular form. The question then relates to what promise is our Lord referring to? Is it a promise to save all people? Where is there a promise from God to save all without exception? The promise we are seeking is found in II Peter 3:4. This passage reads: **"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."**

The promise, then, according to this passage, is to the Lord's return to this earth rather than to a promise to save all people. The context refers to God's promise to send back His Son. Many long years, however, have passed and the promise has not been realized. God, however, informs us that the delay is not due to any slackness on His part, but is due to His longsuffering to usward (II Peter 3:9). Who are the "usward"? do they refer to the entire human race? The answer is stated very clearly in II Peter 3:1 which says: **"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you..."**

The "usward" then, in II Peter 3:9, are the "beloved" in II Peter 3:1. The "usward" are the ones to whom the epistle is addressed. Let us now read again II Peter 3:9: **"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."**

It is very obvious that this passage has reference to the fact that our Lord will not return

until all the elect have been gathered in. Those who teach otherwise have a big problem on their hands in that the passage states that God is **"...not willing that any should perish..."** Let all know that our God does as He pleases and that His will is never defeated. This fact is evident from Ephesians 1:11 which states: **"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."**

Beloved, if I build a house for my son on the other side of the wilderness, I will also build a road to that house. The same applies to the atonement our Lord has made. This fact is made evident from John 6:37 which reads: **"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him the cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."**

May God richly bless you with the message He has set before us. Amen.

SACRIFICE

(Continued from Page 1)

to save us from God. That is the average thought on God, instead of Christ coming to save His people from their sins. They ignore the gift of God, and that gift was a certain people to His Son (John 6:39-44).

There are not any differences in the Trinity. The triune God is in perfect harmony, even to the point of the Father sharing in Calvary.

I like to look at this and five points of the Father sharing Calvary.

1. The likeness of the Father and the Son.
2. The closeness of the love between the Father and the Son.
3. The manifestation of God's love in His Son.
4. The Father's giving of His only begotten.
5. The Father shares Calvary with the Son.

In our text found in I John 5:7, 8 we see the likeness of the Father and the Son.

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one."

First of all, we see the triune God that agrees in heaven. God the Father, God the son, (or the Word) and God the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. God has three different distinctions but yet one -- God the Father, God the

Son and God the Holy Spirit. Everything that is done is in agreement with one another. They cannot and will not disagree with one another, for they are one. They cannot and will not be separated one from another, for they are one.

We worship one God in the Trinity of the wholly divine, magnificent God, the triune God. We worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity is in unity. The three personal distinctions in the one God is that they never confound the persons nor divide the substance. **"Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD"** (Deut. 6:4).

We see here in verse 8 of I John (I often run through verse 8 and never contemplate the real meaning) **"...And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood..."**

We see when we look at a few references -- the harmony of the Trinity as one. Verse 1 of chapter 5: **"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God..."** We see that we have to be born of God. John third chapter tells us that we have to be born of the water and the Spirit. **"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."** Then we find in verse 8, speaking of the Spirit, **"...so is everyone that is born of the Spirit."** We have to be born of God, worship God in spirit. We find that in chapter 4, verses 23, 24: **"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him."**

God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

In these Scriptures, we see that we have to be born of God, born of the Spirit and born of the water which is the next word that is used in I John 5: We must be born with the **"...spirit and the water and the blood..."** In God's great salvation, we have to be born of God, We have to be born of the spirit, and we have to be born of the water and the blood -- the water being the Word of God. John 15:3, **"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."** We find that in James 1:18, **"Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a**

kind of firstfruits of his creatures." I Peter 1:23, **"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."** Then we see the sacrifice of the blood in verse 18, **"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ..."** The blood is the sacrifice of Christ Jesus.

What is the water and the blood? We find the meaning of that in I John 5:6. The water and the blood is Jesus Christ. **"This is he that came by water and blood... And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth."** We see the Trinity that bears witness here on earth is, first of all, the Spirit; the water and the blood as it refers to Christ Jesus. How does it refer to Christ Jesus? The water refers to the diety of Christ Jesus where the blood refers to Him as a Godman or the sacrificial lamb that was slain. We find that in John 1:1 where it says, **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** Then you find, also, in John 4, speaking to the woman at the well, verse 11, **"The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."** This is referring to the washing of the water of regeneration -- the washing with the Word used by the Spirit of God that springs up into everlasting life. This is brought out in John 7:37. **"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man**

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 1)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Elder Wade H. Miles, 2610 Trinity Circle N.W., Winter Haven, FL 33881 is available for a church to pastor. You may contact him at the above address.

SACRIFICE

(Continued from Page 6)

thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given...)" This is speaking of the Spirit using the water (word) in regeneration.

Then you find in John 8:31,32 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, (speaking of Christ) and the truth shall make you free."

We remember in our Scripture reading of I John 5:6 -- the Spirit is truth or leads us into all truth.

Now we see the blood (also a representative) as the God-man. We find in Galatians 4:4-5, (speaking of Christ) "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." We find also, we that are born again, must be partakers of His blood. In John 6:53-57, "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye shall have no life in you. Whosoever eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, (meaning Christ) and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me."

We see three agree in one in heaven, concerning God's great salvation. We must be chosen in heaven before the foundation of the world, if we are to be born in the earth. The three that agree in the earth are the spirit, water, and the blood. We must be born again of the Spirit, the Word, and redeemed by Christ Jesus' blood. These three that agree in one cannot be separated in the earth. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him

that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14). There is not such a doctrine as spirit regeneration without word regeneration; you cannot separate them.

You have not been regenerated by the Spirit and the Word without the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. John 19:34, "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." The water and the blood flowed from the same place and flowed together, and therefore if a man would be saved, he must have the three in one. Numbers untold would like to escape from hell, but they wished not to escape from sin. John 16:13-15, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you." I brought this out to say that God was still in heaven when Christ Jesus came in the flesh. That was not to say that God was not manifested on the earth because He was manifested in the person of the Lord Jesus. His apostles worried and wondered about this. But Christ Jesus put them to ease in John 14:9, "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."

In that, we see the likeness of the Father and the Son, "If you see me, then you see God. The work that I do, I do of God." In other words, we see Christ as the manifestation of God in the flesh, although God was still in heaven. I Timothy 3:16, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

We also see the closeness of the love between God, and the Son. John 15:9, "As the Father hath loved me, so

have I loved you: continue ye in my love." We find also in John 17 the closeness of the Father and the Son. When He talks about the closeness here, He included us that are regenerated by the grace of God. We find in verse 22, "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." We see the closeness of the love in that they are one. We see the closeness of the elect in that we are one with Christ Jesus in God. In verse 23 we see the Trinity of God's love, "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." In the Trinity of the love of God, we are in Christ Jesus, Christ Jesus is in God and we are made perfect in that unity of love.

We find in verse 24 the eternal love of God, "...for thou hast lovedst me before the foundation of the world." We have been loved in Christ Jesus. In verse 25, we find the closeness of the Father and Son. "Oh righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me." The world does not know God, but we who are called by His marvelous grace know God through the person of Christ Jesus. Then He sends it with verse 26, with the prayer of the Saviour "...I declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." So we see the closeness of God's love between the Father and the Son in that they were completely perfect, and are one.

Do you not think that, that love so great has no feelings? Do you not think that the Father delighteth in the Son and the Son in the Father? Do you not think there were emotions that were shared one toward another? Yes, the Scriptures bear this out. Matthew 3:17, "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And the words of Christ Jesus in John 12:49, 50, "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak, And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."

The Son glorified the Father,

and the Father glorified the Son. The delight was in one another. In this we see the manifestation of God's love toward His children. God cannot be in the presence of sin; God cannot look upon sin. It tells us in our Bible that the whole creation groaned and travailed in pain because of sin. It also tells us that we who are regenerated have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan within waiting on the day of redemption.

God hates sin continually, but His hate magnifies His love. Hate that was so deep that He spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up. "...how shall he not with him also freely give us all things." (Rom. 8:32).

Then you see the love that was manifested toward us. Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." We see the giving up of His Son shows us the greatness of His love, but it also shows us the severity of sin. I cannot comprehend a God with a love so great, that He would actually give of Himself. The most precious thing that He had He gave. That is, the sacrifice of the Father. I cannot put this in the terms that can be understood by our minds; I can only look at it on a human level.

But let me ask you fathers; would it be easier for you to die or to watch your son die? Mothers, would it be easier for you to die or to watch your daughter die? Oh, what great love God had for the elect children!

In I John 4:9, 10 we see the manifestation of God's love toward us, God loved us and gave His only begotten Son, so that we might live. "We love him, because he first loved us" (Vs. 19). Herein is the manifestation of God's love that He loved us and sent His Son to be a payment for our sins.

Isaiah 53:10, 11, "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."

It pleased or satisfied God to bruise His Son for His chosen. God saw the travail of His Son, declared the penalty paid. What does that amount to? The sum of it is that He turned his back on His own Son, for His chosen. Oh! never doubt the love of God for His love is sacrificial -- giv-

ing of His Son.

This brings us to our fourth point, the giving up of His only begotten.

John 19:11, "Jesus answered, thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivereth me unto thee hath the greater sin." Acts 2:23, 24, "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."

We find the purpose of the giving up of His only begotten. The purpose was the crucifixion on Calvary.

John 17:4-6, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word."

We see in verse six the Son praying for the ones the Father gave Him. Giving up of His only begotten was so that the elect would be kept and preserved in Christ Jesus. I Peter 1:19, 20, "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

We aren't saved by a death that happened centuries ago, but we are saved by the death that is eternal. His death was manifested in these last times for you.

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 1)

WE
COVET
YOUR
PRAYERS

SACRIFICE

(Continued from Page 7)

This brings us to our fifth point -- the Father sharing Calvary. We see the suffering of the Father in that He suffered at the expense of sin. Suffering was giving up of His Son to die. He suffered inexpressible pain at the suffering of His Son. The Father was in sympathy with His Son. In a deep sense, God suffered death before there was a cross on Calvary. There was a cross in heaven, where the sword of suffering pierced the heart of the heavenly Father, long before it entered the heart of Jesus Christ.

Father, mother, would you turn your back on your son for an enemy? His love was to the greatest degree, for this is what the Father did -- turn His back on His only begotten for sinners and enemies.

John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

For God so loved -- don't take that as a light statement. For God's love wasn't a weak emotion that couldn't fulfill its purpose. It was a love that found its object and preserved them for eternity. Such is God's everlasting love for His chosen people.

DOWNTRODDEN

(Continued from Page 1)

tell little boys dirty jokes and show them pornography, died. The town proclaimed a day in his name to honor him for his service to the community, and to this day his name is mentioned with the highest regard and respect by the world.

I knew other men, Abram Hedges, Bill Zinn, L.M. Gower, Frank Copeland, and many more. Dear old Saints of God, men who feared God, were honest and upright, steadfast in the faith. They died, and their names were never mentioned, nothing in their honor. Why? Because they were Christians, you see, the world only honors its own.

Do you expect a reward in this life? Don't, because you won't get it, for you are not of this world. You see the awards the world gives and receives, are all the reward they will ever have, a very sad thought isn't it? All our rewards, if we receive any, will be after this life, (I am not talking about blessings, which are innumerable).

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." (John 15:18). If the world hated our Lord, why should it not hate His

servants? Jesus said, "...They hated me without a cause." The world needs no excuse to hate us, just the fact that we are Christians is enough. The world is condemned by the testimony of the life of a faithful Christian. When we separate ourselves, when we refuse to take part in, or be associated with their excesses and activities, the world, (and I include churches, so called, and Baptist, so called) hates us without a cause.

We are a very isolated people, some of us more than others and at times more than others. If you have Christians to fellowship with, thank God every day. I have had very good fellowship with God's people from time to time, but it always seems to end. Where we live now, we have no Christian fellowship, except for the times we drive long distances to visit in special services. Then those times are so fleeting, and the closeness of daily fellowship is still missing.

My wife and I visit often concerning our isolation as Christians. Because we are Christians, the world will not associate with us, and because of our stand on the Scripture, the religious world treats us as though we were carriers of the plague. There is a scripture that keeps everything in perspective, in John 15:20, the Lord said, "...The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also." If we are being treated better than was the Lord, perhaps we should take some thought as to our station and stand in this world.

We Christians are the downtrodden of this world. I hate to always have to qualify statements, but it is necessary to point out that all who wear the name Christian, are not Christians. So when we see religious folk being accepted by everyone around us. When we see them sitting at the governors table, and welcomed into all circles of society, we shouldn't think, here are Christians who are not persecuted. Just because they wear our name and use some of our language, that is no proof they are part of us. For if they were truly Christians, and lived like Christians should, they too would be hated and rejected.

To be a part of the downtrodden, is to be a part of the most honored group that has ever lived on earth. Do you remember those Christians in Hebrews 11:32-38? They were tortured, mocked, scourged, kept in bonds and prison. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented. They wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

There are a lot of people who have not decided that the saloon -- whether it be a "beer parlor" or a "cocktail lounge" -- is a bad institution in any community. They are not interested in having these places abolished. They hold aloof from the men and women who are working to eradicate these outlets of booze.

By their attitude these same people say, in effect, that these places are fairly respectable places and see no reason why they should use their influence against them. They seem to think that those who oppose the saloon in its various forms are extremists and that it is better to let the booze places alone rather than to stir up commotion in the neighborhood. These people are indifferent as to whether the saloons remain or go, but they do not want to meddle in the affair.

What do you think of the saloon? (The present day term, "cocktail lounge," is just another name for a saloon). When the question is pressed home to you, can you be indifferent? As a good citizen can you remain inactive? How do you actually consider the saloon, even if it be what you term a "respectable" place? Answer these questions and see if your conscience would permit you to remain inactive:

Would you want to die in a saloon?

Would you want to see your mother in a saloon?

Would you want to meet your wife in a saloon?

Would you want your daughter to frequent the saloon?

Would you admit the saloon keeper into your home as a social equal?

Would you advise your son to spend his leisure time in a saloon?

Would you want a saloon operated next door to your home?

Would you make companions of those who hang out at the saloon?

Would you place the saloon on the same equality with the grocery, the dry goods store and the meat market?

Would you consider it an honor to be known as a saloon patron?

Would it add to your standing in your neighborhood to be known as a saloon sympathizer?

--From The National Voice

in dens and caves of the earth. What saith the Scripture of these? It tells us the world is not worthy of them, isn't it an honor to be a part of a group that the world is not worthy of? There is no boasting here, for I can only say as Paul said, in I Corinthians 15:10, "But by the grace of God I am what I am..." Had it not been for the grace of God, I too would hate God and His people.

So, what are we to do? We are persecuted, hated and isolated by the world, are we to draw up in a shell? Be depressed, and cast down? No! Jesus said, "Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matthew 5:12). And again, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." (Matthew 5:11).

What is to be our reaction to all the persecution? "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not". (Romans 12:14). Jesus said in Matthew 5:44, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." This is perhaps the most

difficult thing we face as Christians, but if we are to be effective as Christians, we must, desire, and strive for the salvation of the soul of our most vile enemy. Not only do we need to be careful not to offend these, but when we are in private, when no one sees, pray earnestly that God might have mercy and save their soul.

All I have said is nothing new to you who are saved, so this is not an attempt to bring some new revelation. It is meant for a reminder to so many of God's people who become discouraged, and sometimes think they are the only ones with these trials. We should pray daily for one another, for only God is able to give us the strength we need to stand in this evil time.

To you who are without close Christian fellowship, as we are. The devil will try to tell you no one cares, you may as well quit, what's the use? You must be teaching and believing the wrong thing, otherwise you would have someone to meet with. Sound familiar? Be encouraged, Paul told the Corinthians that we are, "Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." There is an old song that says, "Shout, shout, we are gaining ground." I believe the more we are persecuted, the more ground we are gaining. Praise God, blessed be the name of the Lord, who hath loved us, and gave Himself for us.

FOOLISH

(Continued from Page 4)

The God of Abraham and Lot, and of Jacob, is yet the same Omniscient and the same Omnipotent God today. His cry of that yesteryear, is still His cry today for America in these latter moments of this 20th century. Namely, "For I am the Lord, I change not..."! Therefore, we may be assured that the God who Judged the Egyptians for their destruction of the little ones and for their abuse of the Jews, will assuredly Judge America for her abortion holocaust. The God who Judged Sodom and Gomorrah and Rome for their sexual perversion can be expected to be ABSOLUTE in His Judgment of America for those same sins which rage in the high places and in the low in that Nation which has been called, "The Land of The Free, and The Home of The Brave"!

O, Foolish Americans! Awaken before it is everlastingly too late!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Troy Sheppard will be preaching in revival services at the Grace Baptist Church of Rincon, Georgia, August 11-15. Services will be at 7:30 nightly. For further information call the pastor, Elder David West at 806-761-1950. You are sure to receive a blessing by attending these services.

Pastor James Green and members of Charity Baptist Church would like to announce their upcoming Great Northern Bible Conference to be held July 29-30. For further information, call Pastor James Green 906-789-4300.

As of June 1st, Brother Edwin B. Fountain retired from his work in the Public Library System of Georgia. He is now available for preaching in conferences, revivals and interim work as needed. Brother Fountain was librarian and teacher at the Lexington Baptist College for 11 years and pastored the Riverview Baptist Church for part of that time, located in Jessamine County, Kentucky. He is currently a member of the Landmark Baptist Church of Lyons, Georgia working with Brother Paul Jackson.

He can be reached at Route 1, Box 152 A2, Garfield, Georgia 30425 or phone 912-865-5460, evenings are best, but a message can be left with his brother, 912-865-2124.

WE
COVET
YOUR
PRAYERS