

Being good only on Sunday is bad

## JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

by Tim Lee

In the book of I Corinthians, we begin reading in chapter 15, verse 51-58; the Bible says, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

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## THE TONGUE

A Biblical writer said, "The tongue can no man tame." A Greek philosopher asked his servant to provide the best dish possible. The servant prepared a dish of tongue, saying, "It is the best of all dishes because with it we may bless and communicate happiness, dispel sorrow, remove despair, cheer the faint-hearted, inspired the discouraged, and say a hundred other things to uplift mankind." Later the philosopher asked his servant to provide the worst dish of which he could think. A dish of tongue appeared on the table. The servant said, "It is the worst, because with it we may curse and break human hearts, destroy reputations, promote discord and strife, set families, communities, and nations at war with each other." He was a wise servant. Solomon said, "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."

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SOVEREIGN GRACE

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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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## "SAIL ON"

By John R. Gilpin, Sr.

"Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him" (Isa. 43:7).

I don't believe that any man is capable of expounding some portions of God's Word. There are some portions of it that I am sure every preacher would say that he wouldn't feel himself capable of expounding. Nearly fifty years ago, I preached from the 10th verse of the 43rd chapter of Isaiah, "Ye are my witnesses....," and I remember that I pushed this 7th verse aside, because I said that it was too deep for my comprehension. For nearly fifty years, I have been thinking and meditating in terms of Isaiah 43:7; "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."

Three verbs stand out in this text, which are most unusual--"created," "formed," "made." I do not consider myself an Hebrew

scholar. I studied Hebrew, but I do not consider myself to be an Hebraist in any sense of the



John R. Gilpin

## NO FORUM COLUMNS FOR THREE ISSUES

In an effort to get our forum writers ahead, we have omitted the forum columns, both I and II for the past three issues. As soon as possible, we will again be carrying the forum as we realize how popular this is with our readers.

Please bear with us and we are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

word. However, I have studied these verbs most carefully through the years--and what a blessing they are to me!

God says "...I have created...", as if to say, "I have produced out of nothing." "Formed" -- I have given him that particular form and shape which are best suited to his situation in life. If you are long, if you are short, if you are tall, if you are skinny, God has given to you that particular form and shape which are best suited for your situation in life.

Then He says "...I have made him." In other words, "I have adapted him to the accomplishments of my counsels and my designs."

So God created us. He made us in the shape, the size, and the form that we are, and He has adapted us to carry out His counsels and His designs. Now that is the meaning of those three verbs: "created," "formed," and "made".

This was spoken primarily to the Jewish nation. God created them out of nothing. He took a Gentile by the name of Abraham and made a Hebrew out of him, and all Hebrews--all Jews--today

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## STUDIES IN JUDGES

by C. T. Everman  
CHAPTER 15

"BUT it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest that Samson visited his wife with a kid: and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in" (v.1).



C.T. Everman

We saw in our last study how that Samson's wife betrayed his trust by revealing the answer to his riddle to the thirty Philistine companions. Samson paid off his wager by going to Ashkelon where he slew thirty men and took their garments. But Samson in his anger did not go in to his wife but returned to his father's house. (12:19,20).

But after some time had passed Samson's anger had cooled off and he decided to go back to his wife. Therefore taking her a present of a young goat he went back to the house of his father in law, intending to go in to his wife but he was stopped by her father. Her father, thinking Sam-

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## IT TAKES COURAGE

To refrain from gossip when others about you delight in it.

To stand up for an absent person who is being abused.

To live honestly within your means and not dishonestly on the means of others.

To be a real man, a true woman, by holding fast to your ideals when it causes you to be looked upon as strange and peculiar.

To be talked about and yet remain silent when a word would justify you in the eyes of others, but which you cannot speak without injury to another.

To refuse to do a thing which is wrong, though others do it.

To dress according to your income and to deny yourself what you cannot afford to buy.

To live by one's convictions.

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Jack C. Whitt

## THE LOGIC OF THE NATURAL MIND WILL NOT STAND

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual

things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:12,13,14).

In the strictest sense, we can say there are only two kinds of

men (or people) in the world: the natural man and the spiritual man. The natural man is the unsaved, the man (or woman) who belongs to the world. He cannot receive the things of the Spirit (the word of God) because he does not have spiritual discernment to do so. He does not have the

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## LOGIC

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Spirit dwelling within his mind and body. In fact the Bible tells us that the things of the Spirit are foolishness to him. In Chapter 1 verse 23 of I Corinthians, Paul states that the Greeks thought the gospel was foolishness. The Greeks were great philosophers, and their philosophy could not explain a God who died on a cross, or for that matter, a God who even cares about men.

Times have not changed since Paul's day. People are no different today. They still must think in terms of the human, logical explanation to their existence. Even those who make claims to some form of religion belong to this category of the natural, unsaved person. Case in point to this, a man writing a letter to the editor in the local paper to which I subscribe, was adamantly speaking out against Christianity. That it was a shame for Christians to want prayer in schools. He was opposed to Christians for believing in a monotheistic God. This meant

discrimination against the other religions and cults of the world. He cited many of the downfalls to being a Christian, the wars, the unrest in many parts of the world had been directly related to Christians who would not yield to other religious beliefs. This man stated he believed in reincarnation. Perhaps he has been reincarnated once too many times. But he is perhaps typical of thousands who would agree with him.

There are the great teachers of the world today who laugh and mock at the teachings of the Bible. Who say it is utterly ridiculous to believe that man is a sinner and must one day face a God who will judge and send



Jack Whitt

them to a burning hell. Oh, but if they only knew just how true that is. It is just as when Jesus was hanging on the cross before those thronging beneath, when He said "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). but these will not be forgiven unless they turn from their wickedness and Christ should save them. Many of such mockers and haters of God have been saved. May we who believe and are saved be more mindful of these wretched souls who are in desperate need to be saved from the burning flames of an eternal hell.

It is the logic of the natural mind that keeps men from God. And only and if the natural way of thinking is super-imposed upon by a force much stronger than nature, will this person ever be saved. It is not man's will to be saved. He can never with human intellect decide in favor of God. We read in Romans 9:16 "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy." All who have ever been saved can only praise God for his marvelous grace and mercy.

The unsaved man or natural man, the man of the world has a great deal of knowledge, but he lacks spiritual wisdom. In Proverbs 1:7 we read "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Oh how true this is. It is this old natural mind

again that thinks it knows everything and will not listen to sound instruction. Solomon is bold enough to tell it like it is. He doesn't mince his words when he calls such people "fools".

Let us consider the other kind of man, the spiritual or we might even call him un-natural, in contrast to the natural man. Verses 15 and 16 of chapter 2 in I Cor. says thus: "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man for who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." This is the believer who is controlled by the Spirit. The spiritual man is a man of discernment, he is able to judge and evaluate things. This is true wisdom. The Apostle Paul writes again in I Cor. 2: 4&5 these words: "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power. That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." Verse 15 may be explained in this way: the spiritual man understands the things of the Spirit and has wisdom, but the man of the world cannot understand the spiritual man. We are a puzzle to the unbeliever. This would explain the problems often encountered in families and homes, with neighbors and even in churches. It is the conflicts between the worldly and the spiritual men or women. But did not Jesus prophesy of such? (Read Luke 12:51-53). It is light versus darkness, good versus evil, godliness versus ungodliness.

The spiritual man has the mind of Christ. "But we have the mind of Christ" (verses 16b). In Phil. 2:5 we are commanded to "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." This means that the Spirit through the Word helps the believer think as Jesus thinks. Down through the ages, spiritual men have predicted things that the men of the world said could never happen, but they came to pass. The spiritually minded saint understands more about the affairs of this world from his Bible than the man of the world understands from his human information. Yes, the President of the United States does not understand the things of this world as does the true believer in Jesus Christ. Unless of course he too is saved, of which I must give serious question with regard to our current commander-in-chief.

It is not too difficult to tell the difference between the worldly man and the godly. Remain in company with either for very long and the true colors will be seen. The worldly person will

never speak of godly things unless it is to criticize them or make light. The true godly person will be careful to maintain his testimony before others. He will seek opportunity to speak of God with reverence and godly fear. He will also seek opportunity to witness of God's saving grace to any who might listen.

The natural mind will not receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Listen to what Jesus says in John 5:38-40: "And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." The unsaved, natural man is dead while he lives, while the spiritual (saved) man has life though he die. It is easy to see why the world hates Jesus and all who take a stand for him. Jesus speaking in John 15:18,19: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." Thus it has always been this way. But my Christian friend, let us be glad that Jesus chose us out of this world, that we will not have to face God's wrath in judgment of this world. Let us be faithful to live for Him who died for us and pray for and witness to those who are lost. "The logic of the natural mind will not stand in the day of judgment".

## JESUS

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In nineteen hundred and forty -- most of America had never heard of such places as Saipan, Somalia, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Bataan, or Corregidor; these were just the names of a few Godforsaken places in the South Pacific. America was rolling along; it was the day of electronics, it was the day of invention after invention being introduced to the American public. There was no doubt about it -- God had blessed, and God had been good to America.

At the same time, there was a man by the name of Adolf Hitler marching across Europe, making strange alliances with Austria, Italy, and other nations. Then, he went back across Europe, breaking every promise that he had ever made. We then realized that war would be inevitable.

Halfway around the world, there was another man by the name of Hirohito, who said, "I

believe this would be a good time for Japan to find her place in the sun." Hirohito sent troops down to the South Pacific, and made his first attack upon the Philippine Island. When the Japanese attacked the Filipinos, they attacked us. The Filipinos were our friends, and our allies. General Marshall was the Chief of Staff of the entire Army. General Dwight Eisenhower was chosen to oversee the entire war effort. He appointed a man by the name of General Douglas MacArthur to go to the South Pacific to try his best to save those islands, their dignity, and their independence.

On April 6, 1942, Bataan fell. MacArthur simply did not have enough men nor enough material to win the war. He went to the island of Corregidor; that island became known as "The Island of Crimson Blood," thousands upon thousands of Americans shed their blood upon this island. The Japanese bombed our water supply, and our air filtration supply, till we simply could not hold out any longer.

General MacArthur realized that it was hopeless to hold out any longer. He decided to go to Australia and regroup, and then come back when he knew that he could win the war. It was a day when America fought wars to win wars! The Filipinos were scared. They looked to General MacArthur, who was leaving, and whose men were leaving. He was their hope, and now he was leaving their nation. General MacArthur was leaving behind a few dedicated nurses and doctors to care for the injured and the sick. General MacArthur stood on the flight ladder of that DC-3, and he made a statement that the entire free world remembered, and still remembers today; he looked in the troubled faces of those Filipino people and he said to them, "I am going away, but I shall return!"

From that day, they trained their eyes and their ears, looking, listening, and wondering when the return of MacArthur would come. They believed him when he said, "...I shall return!" These people were beaten by the Japanese, many were put in concentration camps, and many literally died at the hands of the enemy. But those that were alive did not give up; they remembered a promise that General MacArthur had made to the people, and they simply did not give up! Finally, one day, it was not a thunder, but it was a crescendo of hundreds and hundreds of planes -- great big blue stripes and red stars! Their General had returned, just as he said he would! Deliverance was theirs; for the Filipino people and their nation.

Two thousand years ago a group of followers stood around

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# JESUS

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their "General," all the world was trying to do away with them. The Roman Empire was trying to crush them beneath its heel; they were full of terror, and these followers were scared to death. Their "General," the Lord Jesus Christ, stood upon the top of a mountain, and said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:1-3). Our great "General," made a promise, and neighbor, for these nearly two thousand years there has been a group of people who have had their eyes and their ears trained, looking and listening for the second coming, looking for the rapture, looking for the "catching away" of the church of the living God!

Jesus made a promise, saying "I will come again!" Now, I don't know whether you believe it or not, friend, but I believe that Jesus meant every word that He said! When He said "I'm coming again," I believe He's coming again! I believe that His Word was even more true than the words that General MacArthur gave to those Filipino people when he said, "I shall return!" But, neighbor, those Filipino people believed him, they had confidence in him, they knew that he was a man of his word, and that someday, deliverance would be theirs! I'm here to tell you, neighbor, that more important than the world of General Douglas MacArthur, or any other leader, or any president, is the Word of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Jesus said, "I will come again!", and neighbor, you can mark it down, you can count on it, because if He said it, it is going to take place.

You say, "Preacher, I don't believe that stuff!" It doesn't matter whether you believe it or not, He's still coming. There might have been some unfaithful that didn't believe MacArthur was coming, but he came anyhow. Well, Jesus is coming! I don't know whether you get very excited or not, but I get a little excited about that. I get thrilled just thinking about it! He left behind a few dedicated, "nurses and doctors," a few disciples, and a church that has been beat on, a church that has been lied about. Governments have tried to destroy the church of the living God, but the church is alive and well, and we're looking for Jesus

to come back! You say, "You're a bunch of fanatics, if you believe something like that." Well, you can call us what you want to, and you can understand about it what you want to, but it won't diminish my faith in believing that Jesus is coming just like He said that He would!

There are some things about His coming that we need to understand. First of all, how is He coming. In Acts 1:9-11, the Bible says that, "and when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Now, common sense tells me that if we can figure out how Jesus went away, we'll be able to figure out how He's coming back. How did He go away? Neighbor, while He was there, and those disciples were there, He had just told them in Acts 1, that He was going to send another, that the Holy Spirit is coming; the Holy Ghost of God was going to come.

Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Then, right after He made that statement, notice: "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight." I believe

the disciples saw Him ascending up into heaven! I believe they saw Him leave; bodily, physically, and, neighbor, He is coming back the same way that He went away! One of these days, that trumpet is going to sound! Jesus Himself "...shall descend from heaven with a shout (and you may as well get used to it, you are gonna' do it when you get to heaven, you may as well get a little practice down here), with the voice of the archangel..." Bodily, physically, Jesus is coming in the clouds, He's coming in the air! He's coming again!

We don't hear much preaching about the second coming of Christ. We don't hear much preaching about the return of the Saviour -- like we used to 15 or 20 years ago! Do you know why? I think people have quit believing

it. You say, "Well, preacher, we've been preaching it now for 2,000 years." Yes, and He's still coming, just like He said He would! He hasn't ever lied, He hasn't ever broken a promise, He hasn't ever deceived anybody, He said it and He's coming -- bodily, and physically -- He's coming!

I'm telling you, folks, Jesus is coming. We ought to begin to live like He's coming. We need to get ready for it. He's coming back, just like He said He would!

Why Is He Coming?

Something else that we need to consider about His coming; why is He coming? He's coming to get you and me! Did you ever stop to think about it? This world is not our home; that mansion we sing about, is that real to us? Or is it just another song? Does it mean something to us? We have a lot of Christians today "driving a lot of stakes down" on this earth, and getting attached to this old earth, but I want you to know, this old earth is not my home. I'm just passing through, my treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue! I'm not getting attached to this old world. I'm not looking for the undertaker, I'm looking for the "uppertaker!" He's coming, and He's coming for me! He's not sending a band of angels after us either. I'd be disappointed if He sent angels down to get us. I'd be disappointed if He sent Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob singing in a trio to get us. I'd be disappointed if He sent Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, singing in a quartet to get us. you say, "Well, don't you want to see all of those people?" Sure, I want to see them, but not nearly as bad as I want to see Jesus! Jesus said that He Himself was coming. He said that He was going to come and get us. I would be disappointed if He sent somebody in His place. Did you ever stop to think what it is going to be like? "When I look upon His face, the One who saved us by His grace..."

He's coming for you and me, and some of you are so attached to this world, that you really don't want Jesus to come. You say that you are saved; you say that you are a Christian; you say that you have accepted Christ as your Saviour; but you have gotten so attached to this world. Don't you ever get homesick? Real homesick? I went overseas for three weeks and left my family behind in January, and I'm telling you, I got so terribly homesick for my wife and my three children, I missed them so much. But I want to tell you something, I want to see Jesus. I want to see my Saviour. He's the One that died for me. He's the One that went to Calvary, just for me. He shed His blood for me, and I want to see the One who gave His life for me!

When Is He Coming?

In Matthew 24:36-44, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were 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. 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."

The angels in heaven don't even know the hour, or the day; only the Father knows. I'd be a fool if I tried to tell you that I knew when Jesus was coming back. I think that it is foolish for any preacher or evangelist to try to tell you. I think it is enough to say that Jesus could come at any moment. There does not have to be one other prophecy fulfilled in the Book before Jesus comes back.

Now, I believe in the pre-tribulation, pre-millennial return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I believe that He could come at any moment, at any time. He could come before you've finished reading this message. Jesus could come now. Are you ready for him? If He was to come right now, this moment, would you be ready to meet Him? Christian friend, are there some things that you want to get right?

How many church members would be left sitting in our churches if Jesus came during this message? How many moms and dads? How many young people would be left behind? He's only coming for church members! He's not coming for those that have been baptized, nor for those who have filled out a decision form -- He's coming for the saved. He's coming for the blood-washed crowd. He's coming for those that have been born into the family of God. Would you be left behind? Are you willing to die with what you possess right now! Would you be willing for Jesus to come back?

I don't know when He is coming, but I'll tell you something. He is coming so quick that it will happen in a moment, in the

twinkling of an eye. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thess. 4:16-17). It will be just like that! We will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Bell Telephone says that is 1/20,000 of a second. I don't know how fast that is, but it's fast. So fast, that you won't have time to run down to the altar to get right with God! You won't have time to run to a preacher to get right with the man of God. I know one thing, it will be so fast, that you won't have time to get your marital problems sorted out that you may be having. You won't have time to catch up on your "back tithes." You won't have time to go down the street to win your loved ones to Jesus. Are you listening to me? He's coming! I don't know the hour, or the day, or the time; only our heavenly Father knows that but I know it's going to be soon. I also know that it is a whole lot sooner today than what it was yesterday.

Why did the Lord tell us He was coming? So we would continue to look for Him. Why did MacArthur tell the Filipinos he was coming back? He wanted to give them some hope. He wanted them to know that he wasn't forsaking them, that he wasn't leaving them, but that he was coming back. Jesus told us that He was coming back so that we would know that we had a hope, that we would know that someday all of this misery, and wickedness, and sinfulness would end.

A lady, the other day, asked, "As you travel around, does it seem that things get worse all of the time, and things get more wicked?" Most assuredly, it does. The Bible says that things "...shall wax worse and worse..." and no doubt, we are living in that day. Sin is being flaunted on every side, there is no respect for God, nor for the Word of God, nor for the man of God, or for the church of the living God whatsoever in this sinful world today. It is waxing worse and worse, but that increases my faith, my hope. I'm not going to "throw in the towel." I'm not going to quit on God, because on any given day Jesus could come back. He's coming, just like He

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## JESUS

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said He would. He's coming for you and me; I don't know the day, but He's coming!

I want you to listen carefully, friend; when He comes, the door will be shut. For every positive, there is a negative; for the Christian, and for the one who is in the will of God, His coming is exciting to think about. I don't know about you, but I get tired of this wicked world. I realize that we are commanded to keep on trying to win the lost to Christ for salvation. I get tired of getting out of bed and staring this wheelchair in the face; that doesn't bring me excitement. A fellow told me at a camp meeting several years ago, "Just think, when you get to heaven, you are going to have a gold wheelchair!" I didn't even answer him.

Did you ever stop to think that the very thing that man fights and kills over, the very thing that causes nations to rise up against other nations, the most of the time when war breaks out, it is because of greed. I read somewhere the other day, where a man in the state where I was preaching, shot and killed a gas station attendant, and took \$4 and some change. He shot and killed a man for \$4! We are going to be walking on streets made of pure gold. This gold that you get down here is not pure; I haven't had any of it, but that is what I'm told. They says its .999% pure; but that is not 100% pure. The gold that we are going to walk on in heaven is 100% pure, no impurities in it whatsoever. Can you imagine that? We are going to walk on it! They are fighting over it down here, killing each other over it.

No more sickness, no more pain, no more hurt, no more suffering, no more tears, no more funerals, no more graveyards, because they are negative. I wish I didn't have to preach about it, but I have to be an honest preacher; I have to tell you, if you are not saved, you are going to be left behind. I didn't say, "If you weren't a Baptist." I'm a Baptist, and I'm not ashamed of it. Being a Baptist has never taken anyone to heaven; nor a Methodist, or a Catholic, or a Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Pentecostal, or Assemblies of God. You go to heaven because you have been saved by the grace of God!

As it was in the days of Noah; God told Noah to build that ark. Don't you know that the people of Noah's day must have thought that Noah had flipped his lid? Think about it. They had never had rain before. The water that

had watered the earth had come up from the dew on the ground. Here was Noah, telling his generation, that God was going to send a flood -- don't you imagine that they thought he was crazy? But he didn't give up, he didn't quit, he just kept building; for one hundred and twenty years, he built that ark. Then one day, God said to Noah, "Get on the inside; get in the boat, Noah." Noah got on the inside of the boat, and all of his family, and for seven days they were inside the boat, and it didn't rain a drop. Not one drop! What do you imagine that they said about him then? I imagine the ladies on the outside felt sorry for Mrs. Noah. Can't you see the kids on the way to school, who had been hearing Mom and Dad talk about "crazy-man" Noah for 120 years? They had probably picked up rocks and stones to throw at him while he was working on it, and now that he was on the inside, they probably threw them at the boat. For seven days, they were probably laughing -- the joke of the day, was probably about Noah -- and probably each day there was a new joke. But it didn't deter Noah, it didn't stop him. Then one day it began to rain. The men on their way to work, the children on their way to school -- all of a sudden, someone said: "Could this be what Noah was telling us about? No, this will go away. It's just some freak phenomenon, and it will go away." It didn't go away; it rained, and it rained, and it rained.

A few weeks ago, in Garland, Texas, it rained for 15 minutes. Our backyard was filled with somewhere between 8 to 10 inches of water. In fifteen minutes time, 8 to 10 inches! Can you imagine what would happen if it rained for 40 days and 40 nights like that? All of a sudden, no one was laughing. No one was asking to hear the latest joke about Noah. As a matter of fact, they had thrown their joke books away. They were starting to cry. I can almost see it, as the men rush over to the ark, and they begin to pound upon that ark "Noah! Noah! Open the door, Noah!" Only one problem: Noah couldn't open the door, because Noah didn't shut the door -- God shut the door!

Friend, when God shuts the door, it's shut; no more going in. You are left behind; you'll cry, you'll pray (you may not cry and pray now, but the day will come when you will), "...every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." You may say, "But you don't even know me; I'm an atheist, and I don't even believe that there is a God!" That doesn't change the fact: you are going to spend eternity in heaven or in hell, depending on what you do with Jesus.

What will you do with Jesus? I

pray that even at this moment, you will feel the urging of the Holy Spirit to give your life to Jesus!

It's so simple; it's so urgent, and it's so rewarding. Won't you just now confess your sinful condition to Him, ask Him to forgive your sinfulness, and believe that He had done exactly what you have asked Him to do. That's all there is to it! Then live your life as if He may come at any moment. You'll find that even this life is worth living, if it's lived for Christ.

(Copied from May 1993 issue of Target)

## JUDGES

(Continued from Page 1)

son, in his anger for her betrayal, had deserted her. Therefore he had given her to Samson's best man. Now to appease Samson he offered to give him a younger daughter who, he said was fairer than she. (v.2).

Samson, instead of seeking revenge against just his father in law, did what would get revenge against all the Philistines. "And Samson went out and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put firebrand in the midst between two tails. He had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives" (vv 4,5).

The Philistines, learning that it was Samson who had done this, took revenge, not against Samson himself, but against his wife and her father by burning both "with fire" (v.6). It was now Samson's turn for revenge. "And Samson said unto them, though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease. And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam" (vv 7,8). The term, "hip and thigh" means all the "great and mighty". Samson having completed his revenge of the Philistines, instead of returning to his father's house went to dwell in the top of the rock Etam.

The Philistines could not let this cycle of revenge cease, it was now their turn, so taking a large army of which there must have been thousands they went up to Judah seeking Samson (v.9). This great army struck terror into the hearts of the men of Judah and they ask, "Why are ye come up against us?" "What

is the problem?" they ask. The answer must have been received with relief. It was not against all of Judah which they had come but only one man, "To bind Samson are we come up, to do him as he hath done to us" (v.10). The men of Judah, in order to save their own skin and to appease the Philistines must have said, "We know where Samson is hiding we will get him for you". So "three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them" (v. 11).

The action of the men of Judah show the condition of Israel at that time. The questions "Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us?" and "what is this that thou hast done unto us?" tell us that they were content to be slaves of the Philistines. They were content to compromise with the Philistines in order to live in peace. They were willing to let the Philistines rule over them. They were filled with anger against Samson for causing trouble. Is that not true with many Christians today. Let some one speak against the sins of the day and of the grave danger which we face and some will object, willing to compromise the truth rather than stand up for the truth of God. Judah had the best of opportunities at this time of becoming free from the rule of the Philistines. They had the leader in Samson who had been chosen of God. They had an army of three thousand men. They had God's promise to give them victory. They only needed to recognize God's leader and follow him. They had the chance of becoming free. But Israel had become so intrenched with compromise that instead of standing behind Samson they accused him of being the trouble, "What you are doing is causing us trouble with the Philistines with whom we must live". They were so conditioned with their manner of living under the rule of the Philistines that they would rather see Samson dead than to change. It is sad that today when one warns of the dangers facing us, that one is often hindered by others who do not wish the boat to be rocked.

Another thing to be noticed in this account is that the Philistines had no quarrel with the men of Judah, they were not a threat unto them. Satan is not concerned with the Christian who is complacent and goes along with the tide. It is the Christian who is striving to serve God, one who is on the firing line for his

Lord is the one that Satan is trying to overcome. A man came up to a preacher after a service and said unto him, "What is all this talk about Satan? I have never met him in my whole life". The preacher answered, "Of course not. You never meet anyone when you are walking in the same direction as he is. But if you turn around and start going in that other direction you will soon meet him".

Also we need to notice that the men of Judah were willing to fight the battle for the Philistines. In the warfare against Satan there can be no middle ground. If we are not in the heat of the battle we become a hindrance to the cause of Christ. The men of Judah not only did not come to the aid of Samson but three thousand of them went up to the top of the rock to bind Samson and deliver him unto the Philistines. "And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee unto the hand of the Philistines" (v.12). There are many Christians today who are on the side line, who not only refuse to help those who are contending for the faith but even are helping to bind those who are in the front line in this spiritual warfare.

When the men of Judah saw Samson the purpose of their visit, Samson could rightly have opposed them, but upon their promise that they would "not fall upon me yourselves" (v.12), he submitted to their binding him with two new cords and let them lead him unto the camp of the Philistines (v. 13). Does this not remind us of Another Who instead of calling twelve legions of angels to His aid, meekly submitted to be bound and led away? (John 18:12,13)

"And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from his hands. and he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith" (vv 14,15).

The shout of victory against Samson by the Philistines was short lived. When the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson the cords binding his hands "became as flax that was burnt with fire". Samson's hands were now free, he looked around for a weapon with which to fight. On the ground before him there "just happened" to lay a fresh jawbone of an ass. The

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## A DECLARATION OF FAITH BY THE CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH Ashland, Kentucky

The following is a statement of what we believe the Bible to teach. These doctrines are constantly taught both from out pulpit and in our Bible classes and are believed by our members. We have not changed, but those who criticize would lead you to believe we have.

### I. THE BIBLE

We believe that all Scripture was given by verbal inspiration of God, by which we mean the sixty-six books of the so-called Protestant canon (II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:21); that this inspiration was accomplished miraculously by the providence and power of God, and is not to be compared with the inspiration attributed to works of human genius (I Cor. 2:13,14; 37; Acts 1:16,3:21); yet not in such a way as to impair the reality of human agency, which is abundantly manifest in the revelation of personal peculiarities in temperament, style, and vocabulary (I Pet. 1:10-12; Psalms 68:11); that it is not in different degrees, but extends equally and fully to each part of the Bible whether it be historical, legal, poetical, prophetic or doctrinal, extending even to the words themselves as found in the original manuscripts (Mt. 5:18; Gal. 3:16; Isa. 34:16); that this inspiration covers historical and scientific references as fully as matters of doctrine, so that the Bible is free from error as to fact as well as being free from error as to doctrine (John 10:35; Psalms 12:6); that the Bible therefore has God as its author, truth without any mixture of error as its matter, and the salvation of men as its end (II Tim. 3:16; Prov. 30:5,6; John 5:39); that it is and shall remain the true center of Christian unity, the only authoritative standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried (John 17:17; Isa. 8:20).

### II. GOD

We believe that there is one and only one true and living God (Deut. 6:4); one infinite (Job 11:7); eternal (Psalms 90:2); self-existent (Isa. 40:28), immutable (Mal. 3:6), holy (Isa. 6:3), just (Psalms 89:14), omniscient (Psalms 147:5), omnipotent (Psalms 62:11), omnipresent Spirit (John 4:24), whose name is Jehovah (Psalms 83:18), the creator and supreme ruler of Heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1; Dan. 4:35); that in the unity of the one essence, nature, and being of the Godhead there are three eternal distinctions that are revealed to us under the figure of persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:26; Mt. 3:16,17; John 14:16,15:26); that these are equal in every divine perfection, executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption, being worthy of precisely the same honor, worship, and obedience (Rev. 4:11; Mark 12:30).

### III. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

We believe that God is an absolute sovereign (Psalms 115:3), having mercy on whom He will and hardening whom He will (Rom. 9:15-18), doing according to His will of purpose in the army of Heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth (Dan. 4:35), working all things after the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1:11), efficiently causing all good and wisely and holily permitting all evil that comes to pass for reasons known fully to Himself only and overruling it for His own glory and the good of the redeemed (Rom. 8:28; Prov. 16:4).

### IV. GOD'S WILL OF PLEASURE

We believe that whereas God's will of purpose, comprehending all things in relation to the whole, is accomplished infallibly and cannot be prevented, hindered, or delayed in the least by men, devils, or impersonal forces (Isa. 14:24,27); His will of pleasure concerning each thing abstracted from the whole, being set forth in the Bible by way of commands, exhortations, and assertions concerning what God is pleased with, is often violated (Deut. 29:29); that it is God's will of pleasure that fixes man's duty and responsibility (James 1:22).

### V. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine personality and not a mere emanation, influence, or force (John 14:26; 16:13); equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same essence and nature (II Cor. 13:14); that He was active in creation (Gen. 1:2); restrains that wicked one until God's purpose is fulfilled (II Thess. 2:7), and convicts of sin (Acts 2:37); that He is the agent of God in the new birth (John 3:6; 6:63); that He comes into the heart in regeneration there to dwell continuously, sealing (Eph. 1:13), witnessing (Rom. 8:16), counseling (I John 2:20), teaching (I John 2:27), guiding (John 16:13), and sanctifying (I Cor. 6:11); that the believer, therefore, is not to pray or seek for the Holy Spirit, but to surrender to Him so as to be filled with Him (I Thess. 5:19; Eph. 5:18).

### VI. THE DEVIL

We believe that the Devil or Satan is a personal evil spirit, formerly a holy angel, from which estate he by transgression fell, drawing a host of angels with him (Ezek. 28:12-18; Isa. 14:12-17; Rev. 12:3,4; II Pet. 2:4); that he now presides over these evil angels as their leader, being the prince of the power of the darkness of this world. (Eph. 2:2;

II Cor. 11:13-15); that he is the enemy of God (Mt. 13:25), the tempter and accuser of the saints (I Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:10), possessor of the power of death (Heb. 2:14), author of all evil and of all false religions (I Tim. 4:1), the chief power back of the present apostasy (I John 4:1-3; II Thess. 2:3-7); and that he is destined, however, to final defeat and eternal destruction in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10).

### VII. CREATION

We believe that the Genesis account of creation is to be accepted literally and not figuratively or allegorically (II Tim. 3:16); that man was divinely created by direct act in the image of his maker (Gen. 1:26,27; 2:7), and not by or through the process of evolution from lower species (I Tim. 6:20); that all animal and vegetable life was likewise directly created and placed under God's inviolable law that they should bring forth only after their kind (Gen. 1:20-25).

### VIII. THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell from this holy and happy estate by disobedience (Gen. 3:1-7), in consequence of which disobedience the threatened death was then and there inflicted (Gen. 2:17), so that his moral nature was not only grievously injured (Rom. 3:10-18); but he totally lost all spiritual life (Rom. 5:12,18,19); becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and subject to the power of the Devil (Eph. 2:1-3; II Tim. 2:26).

### IX. TOTAL DEPRAVITY

We believe that the spiritual death of the natural man, or total corruption of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire race of man (John 3:6; Rom. 5:12), the man Christ Jesus alone excepted (Mt. 1:18-25; John 1:14); and hence that every child of Adam is born into this world with a nature which not only possesses no divine life, but is essentially and unchangeably evil, being at enmity against God, and incapable of being brought into subjection to the law of God by any process whatsoever (John 8:44; Rom. 8:7).

### X. FREE WILL

We believe that man by nature possesses free will or free agency, by which we mean that in relation to God he always acts without compulsion and in accordance with his own dominant desires and inclinations, being impelled from within in all his actions (John 3:19; Mark 7:21-23); that this is true while he is yet a sinner under the power of the Devil, even though he cannot of his own strength free himself therefrom (Eph. 2:1; 4:17-19; John 6:44,65); that it is also true in the exercise of repentance and faith under the regenerating power of God and in service to God after regeneration as God works in us both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Eph. 2:8-10; John 6:37; Phil. 2:13).

### XI. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

We believe that the elective purpose of God, according to which He predestinates (Rom. 8:29), calls (Rom. 8:30), regenerates (II Cor. 4:6), sanctifies (I Cor. 6:11), saves (II Tim. 2:9), and glorifies (Rom. 8:30) sinners, is eternal, personal (II Thess. 2:13), and unconditional (Rom. 9:11); that it is the most glorious display of His sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable (Eph. 1:1-14); that it comprehends all the means in connection with the end (II Thess. 2:13,14); that it utterly excludes boasting, promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, and the active imitation of His free mercy (Eph. 1:4); that it is perfectly consistent with the free agency of man (Rev. 22:17); that it is to be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel (I Thess. 1:4-10); that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves utmost diligence (II Pet. 1:10,11).

### XII. CHRIST AND HIS MEDIATORIAL WORK

We believe that Jesus of Nazareth was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, without human father (Mt. 1:18-25; Lk. 1:26-35); that He is therefore both the Son of God and God the Son, that He by the appointment of the Father freely took upon Himself our nature (Heb. 10:5), yet without sin (II Cor. 5:21), honored the divine law by perfect obedience (Gal. 4:4,5), and by His vicarious death made full atonement for all the sins of all who shall ever believe, together with those who die in infancy and native idiocy (John 10:15); that having risen from the dead (Lk. 24:46), He is now enthroned at the right hand of God, making intercession for believers, uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, being therefore in every way a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Saviour (Heb. 1:3,4; 4:14-16; 7:25-27; 9:24-28).

### XIII. THE EFFECTUAL CALL

We believe that those and only those accountable persons whom God has elected and predestinated to salvation He does in His appointed and accepted time in this life effectually call by His word and Spirit out of that state of sin and death in which they were born, to salvation through the sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth, regenerating their hearts, enlightening their minds, renewing their wills, thus drawing them and giving them to Christ in repentance and faith (John 6:37; 10:16,26,27; Acts 2:39; 13:48; Rom. 8:28-30; II Thess. 2:13,14; II Tim. 2:9,10).

## JUDGES

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was not much of a weapon with which to fight an army that consisted of thousands of well equipped men, but Samson under the empowered might of the Spirit of God slew a thousand of them.

I can see the shout of victory on the faces of the Philistines turn to shouts of terror as the cords binding the hands of Samson fell off and as he picked up the jawbone and began to mow down men right and left as he came to them. The whole army must have fled in terror with Samson chasing them and slaying them in heaps as he caught up with them. Samson in telling of this said, **"With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men"** (v.16)

Some men have accused Samson of taking the credit himself for this victory but a careful study of this account and what he later said shows that Samson's faith was in the Lord, giving Him credit for the victory. It was during the hot summer when this battle took place, during the **time of the wheat harvest**" (15:1). After the chase and the slaughter of the Philistines Samson **"was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"** (v.18).

This is the only prayer of Samson's recorded except that of his death prayer. It expressed the high point of Samson's life, showing his faith in the living God. But it also shows the low point of despair. Note that he realized that it was God who gave him the victory, **"Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant"**. He knew his power came from God. He knew he was God's servant, "thy servant". He knew that God had called him to fight the enemy.

While this prayer was one of faith in the living God yet it was also a cry of despair. While God had given him victory over the Philistines was He to let him die of thirst? Samson gave God credit for the victory. But now the battle is over and he seems to be dying of thirst he wonders if God is going to let him die and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised. In his great need he

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## DECLARATION OF FAITH

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### XIV. SALVATION OF INFANTS AND IMBECILES

We believe that whereas all men by nature are **spiritually** incapable of coming to Christ (John 6:44,65), infants and imbeciles are **naturally** incapable of such, in that they have not the necessary faculties of mind and heart to comprehend and receive a sense of right and wrong or the gospel; therefore we believe that those who die in infancy and native idiocy were included in the atonement and will be saved by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit and the sovereign application of the blood of Christ; that the salvation of these will be accomplished in essentially the same way that accountable adults are saved (Rom. 11:5,6). That is that they are brought to repentance and faith through the sovereign working of the Spirit through the word supernaturally revealed to them (I John 5:20; John 17:3).

### XV. THE CONDITION OF THE HEATHEN

We believe that no accountable person can be saved without hearing and receiving the gospel in this life (John 14:6; 17:3); therefore we hold that the heathen without the gospel is lost and will be judged by the light of conscience which is given to every accountable person (Rom. 2:12-16).

### XVI. THE NEW BIRTH

We believe that because of human depravity, involving spiritual death, no one, whether infant or adult, can enter into the kingdom of God either here or hereafter without the new birth (John 3:3); that the new birth consists of the purification of the soul or spirit and the implanting of a new nature (II Cor. 4:6; 5:17); that it is accomplished in the region of the soul below consciousness in a supernatural manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the Word of God (John 6:63; I Cor. 4:15; I Pet. 1:23), so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life (Rom. 6:17,18).

### XVII. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations (Lk. 13:3; Acts 20:21; 17:30) and also inseparable graces wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God (Acts 5:31; I Cor. 3:5; II Tim. 2:25; Eph. 2:8,9); whereby being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, helplessness, and way of salvation through Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition and acknowledgement of sin; at the same time receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our only and all-sufficient Saviour and submitting to Him as our Lord (John 20:28).

### XVIII. WAY OF SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ (Eph. 2:8,9; Acts 16:31); that the full benefit of Christ's obedience and death are received by faith alone and wholly apart from works (Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16); that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of Christ, who was made to be sin for us, dying in our room and stead (Gal. 3:13), and that no repentance, no faith, no feeling, no resolutions, no sincere efforts, no submission to rules and regulations of any church, no baptism or other ordinance can add the least to the value of the precious blood of Christ (Gal 3:21; Rom. 10:4).

### XIX. FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe that the gospel invitation is for all men without exception (Mk. 16:16); that it is the immediate duty of all who hear it to accept it by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith (Acts 17:30); and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner among these except his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel (John 5:40); which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation (II Cor. 2:15,16; John 3:36; 8:24).

### XX. JUSTIFICATION

We believe that all who believe in Christ are justified in the sight of God (Acts 13:39); that justification includes the pardon of all sin (Acts 13:38), and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness (Rom. 5:17,21); that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness we have done or shall do, but solely through faith in Christ (Rom. 3:28); by means of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely and fully imputed to us of God (Rom. 10:4; 5:1-8); that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God (Rom. 5:1), and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity (Rom. 8:32-34).

### XXI. ASSURANCE

We believe that it is the privilege, not only of some, but of all who are born again of the Spirit to be assured of their salvation from the very day they take Christ to be their Saviour (I John 5:20); that this

assurance is not founded upon any fancied discovery of their own worthiness, but wholly upon the testimony of God in His written word (John 20:31), and the witness of the Holy Spirit (I John 4:13; Rom. 8:16), exiting within His children filial love, gratitude, and obedience (II Cor. 5:14,15; I John 4:10).

### XXII. SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification belongs to all who have been regenerated (I Cor. 6:11); that it is both **instantaneous** (I Cor. 1:30) and **progressive** (I Thess. 4:3); that **instantaneous sanctification** consists of our being objectively separated from the world of unbelievers and set apart or consecrated to God while at the same time we are made holy in the eyes of the law and a new life is established in the soul (II Thess 2:13,14); that this phase of sanctification is accomplished in regeneration and admits of no degrees, being possessed fully and absolutely by all the saved (I Cor. 6:11; Heb. 10:10); that **progressive sanctification** is begun in regeneration and is carried on by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, wherein, by the use of the appointed means--especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, prayer, and the practice of all godly exercises and duties, we are **subjectively** separated from the world to live unto God (John 17:17; II Tim. 2:21); that this phase of sanctification is only relative and never issues in sinless perfection in this life (Phil. 3:13,14).

### XXIII. THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that regeneration is the implantation of a new life (John 17:3; Rom. 6:23) and not the eradication or reformation of the old nature (Rom. 7:18); that the old nature remains in the believer to the end of his earthly existence and is in constant conflict with the new nature, so that the believer is never free from the presence of sin in this life and never able to obey fully the will of God (Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:14-25).

### XXIV. THE CHRISTIAN WALK

We believe that we are called with a holy calling to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and so to live in the Spirit that we should not fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Rom. 8:1-17); but the flesh, being still in us to the end of our earthly pilgrimage, needs to be kept in subjection to Christ or it will surely manifest its presence to the dishonor of His name (I Cor. 9:27; II Pet. 1:3-12).

### XXV. GOOD WORKS

We believe that while good works have nothing to do with saving us (Titus 3:5), yet they are ordained of God for His glory and will certainly follow regeneration (Eph. 2:10); that it is our duty to engage in them under the leadership of the Spirit and the instruction of the Word of God (Titus 3:14); that our eternal reward in the presence of God is dependent upon them (I Cor. 3:11-15).

### XXVI. THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe that those who are truly saved, having been predestinated to both justification and glorification and being born of the Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away and perish (Rom. 8:28-39); but are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (I Pet. 1:5); that they are thereby made to endure to the end (Psa. 89:29), yet not in such a way as to impair their responsibility (Phil. 2:12, 13); and that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark that distinguishes them from superficial professors (I John 2:19; Heb. 6:9; 10:39).

### XXVII. BAPTISM

We believe that baptism is immersion in water (Acts 8:38) of a penitent believer (Acts 8:37) on the authority of a New Testament church (Mt. 28:19,20), in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19, 20), not in order to obtain the remission of sins (Acts 10:43), but to show forth in most solemn and beautiful emblem our death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4); that it is a prerequisite to membership in the church (Acts 2: 41,47) and participation in the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41,42).

### XXVIII. THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that the Lord's Supper is not a sacrament, but a symbolic ordinance (I Cor. 11:24,25) placed in the church by our Lord (Mt. 26:26-30), in which the members of the one church (I Cor. 10:17), by the use of unleavened bread (I Cor. 5:8) and wine (Mt. 26:29) (not mere grape juice), show not their love for one another but their Lord's death till He come (I Cor. 11:26); that the one bread or loaf of the supper points to the unity of the church observing it (I Cor. 10:17), which unity is essential to scriptural observance (I Cor. 11:18-20); that in the supper we commune not with one another, but with the Lord (I Cor. 10:16).

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Grace Baptist Church, 2734 Old Stanford Road, Danville, Ky. will be holding their 14th Annual Bible Conference on September 3-5, 1993.

The theme of their conference this year will be "The gospel of God's Free and Sovereign Grace in Christ" and they invite all to attend and receive a blessing.

For further information, you may call Pastor Donald S. Fortner at 606/236-6856.

## JUDGES

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"called on the LORD" and the Lord being the merciful God that He is provided water for Samson. "But God clove an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived; wherefore he called the name thereof **En-hakkore**, which is in **Lehi unto this day**" (v.19). Not only did God provide water for Samson but it became a source of water as a witness of the mercy of God.

The account of Samson's God-given victory over the Philistines closes with this statement. "And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years" (v.20). This is repeated at the end of chapter 16. It would seem that Samson served as Israel's judge from the time he killed the 1000 Philistines until the events which brought about his death. During this twenty years there may have been events that occurred that are not recorded, but it would seem that in the main this was a time when there was peace between Samson and the Philistines. It is important to note that when Samson trusted in the Lord and walked in His way, God gave him a great victory and for twenty years He gave the land peace, God ever rewards those who trust Him and obey His Word.

## SAIL

(Continued from Page 1)

are the product of that one Gentile, Abraham. He created them out of nothing. He formed Israel and gave them the shape and the size that they have as a nation, best suited to God's purpose and to the situation of the Jew in life. He certainly has adapted them to the accomplishment of His purposes, His counsels, and His designs, and beloved, He has adapted His church for the accomplishment of His purposes and His designs to the end of the age, and He'll never quit until His work with His church is finished.

What is true of the Jewish nation, as this was spoken originally, and what is true of the church that Jesus built, is true of every one of us. God created you and me out of nothing. Tell me, can you explain the procreation of human life? The man or woman, the scientist, the psychologist, the physiologist does not live who can explain the procreation of human life. God has created us out of nothing, and He has given to us the shape, the

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# SAIL

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size and the form that He wanted us to have which was best suited for our particular situation in life. On top of that, He has set you and me aside and adapted us for the accomplishments of His purposes and His designs in our lives.

## I. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

No text in all the Bible magnifies the sovereignty of God quite like the text that I have read to you for it says, "...I have formed...." "I have created....," "I have made." God is the one that is speaking.

Sometimes we think we are sovereign. In the New Testament, of a man who thought himself sovereign, we read: "...this will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee..." (Luke 12:18-20).

Beloved, you are not a sovereign, God is the only sovereign. When I turn to the Word of God, over and over again, I find God's sovereignty taught and exemplified. Listen: "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof" (Psa. 50: 10-12).

Listen again: "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will" (Prov. 21:1).

Your heart is in God's hand, too. If God hadn't wanted to turn you to church, you would not go there. If God didn't put it in your heart, you would be some place else. You would have easily found a reason for being some place else. If God wanted you to hate me, and hate the things that I stand for, He would have seen to it that you hated me. If He wanted you to love me and love the truth that I stand for, He can make you do it. The king's heart, and my heart are in the hands of the Lord and He turns the heart like He can turn rivers of water.

Notice again: "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me; I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of

my hand" (Deut. 32:39).

Beloved, don't read this unless you want to believe that God is sovereign. Talk about the accidents on the highways. The National Safety Council has estimated that so many hundred people are going to be killed over this Thanksgiving weekend, I tell you, beloved, everyone that God permits to be killed will be killed, and everyone that God wants to spare, will be spared. He is a sovereign God today.

Notice another Scripture: "The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: The LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers..." (Nahum 1:3,4).

Don't tell me that God doesn't have His way. I tell you, if a cyclone comes along today and blows your house across the river, you can be certain of one thing, God had His way. Doesn't it thrill your heart today to know that God is a sovereign God?

I am not controlling my life. The infidel wrote the poem in which he said: "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."

I tell you, beloved, in contrast, God is the Master of my fate, and Jesus Christ is the Captain of my soul. God is sovereign.

## II. THE IRRESISTIBLE CALL OF GOD

This text also brings us a truth that is so seldom taught today, and that is, the irresistible call of God, for it says, "...every one that is called by my name..."

Sometimes when the preacher finishes his sermon, he will go down into the audience and "buttonhole" somebody whom he suspects as being under conviction, and drag him down to the front and pull a profession from him just like you take a corkscrew and pull a stopper out of a bottle. Beloved, I don't believe in a man calling men to God. I believe in the irresistible call of the Holy Spirit of God.

We read: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (II Tim. 1:9). "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling..." (Heb. 3:1).

Notice, Paul says that he has a high calling. I thank God for this truth--God calls us--and the man who is saved and on the road to heaven is saved because God called him, just like God called Paul on the roadway to Damascus. If God hadn't called Paul, he

would have gone on to Damascus persecuting Christians. If God hadn't called you, you would have gone right on in your sins without ever trusting Jesus Christ as a Saviour.

Beloved, I am glad that when God does the calling, He never changes His mind afterwards. Listen: "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" (Rom. 11:29).

The word "repentance" means "a change of mind". In other words, this says that when God calls you, He never changes His mind about it.

You have heard of Indian-givers. So many times I have seen people who are Indian-givers--they give you something today, and ask for it back tomorrow. A woman gave me a dog several years ago, and I took the dog home and got attached to it overnight. The next day I loved the dog to death. That night that woman almost cried her eyes out. The next day she called me, and said "Brother Gilpin, I wonder if you would give me my dog back."

Beloved, God doesn't give like that. God isn't an Indian-giver. "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." When God calls you, beloved, you can be certain of one thing, He will never recall that call.

## III. THE COMPLETED WORD OF GOD

This text tells us something about the completed work of God. If you will read the entire text and context, you will find that Isaiah tells how God is going to reach out to the north and south, and the east and the west, and He is going to call the Jews all together as a nation. He is not going to leave them scattered all over the world, but some of these days, every Jew in this world is going to be back in Palestine. That is where he belongs and God is going to take him there. God is going to complete His work. that is what this text says.

What God says concerning the Jew is true of His church, and it is true of you. He is going to complete His work. Listen: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

Thank God, He never puts His hand to anything and then turns aside, until He finishes it. I am glad that He is going to complete the work that He has begun.

Some of these days, God is going to complete the work of redemption in this world. We read: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Isa.

11:9).

I know we are living in a day when we see so much crime, and immorality, and injustice, and war, and raping, and acts of violence on every hand, but the day is coming when the Lord's Word is going to cover the earth, just like the waters cover the sea. Listen again: "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth..." (Isa. 42:4).

Beloved, I get tired sometimes, and I fail. I get discouraged sometimes. But God hasn't given up and God isn't one bit discouraged. He is a sovereign God, and He is not going to quit, He is not going to fail, He is not going to be discouraged until He has set judgment in the earth.

Don't think for one moment that we are on the losing side. We are on the winning side. Some of these days, out yonder in the future, the Lord is going to look out over the host of His redeemed. When He does, "He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied..." (Isa. 53:11).

Oh, what a day it is going to be when Almighty God looks out over the travail of His soul and sees the souls that have been saved the world around! It says that He is going to be satisfied. Why? Because every one that He has called, has been drawn irresistibly by the Holy Spirit, and all of them are going to be in that group that He has called.

Beloved, it thrills my soul just to leave everything in God's hands. In that respect, I am reminded of that old race horse that had become blind and peevish and fretful. One day, when a change of stable hands came about, the young man that was assigned to take care of him, reached over, as he dropped some hay and grain into the manger, and put his hand on the muzzle of that old horse--the first act of kindness that his horse had known for months and months. He strangely responded to it. Instead of biting and kicking, instead of responding as he had in the past to the lack of care and the lack of love, he responded strangely to the affection. The boy began to lead him around, and then later to drive him around, tell the folk that he was getting ready for a race. They laughed at him. But let the poem tell the story:

"The record was this, when the day was done,

Rhythmic, the great blind conqueror won;

He sped in the dark, though the sun rode high,

In the cloudless arch of an August sky.

He knew not where his feet would fall,

To the eye of the driver he trusted all;

And he trusted the hand on the line, and he knew

The hand on the whip was love's hand, too.

Strength and courage, faith and speed,

These won the day for the brave blind steed.

Great is the lesson, O mortal blind,

Christ is your Master, His whip is kind.

Then trust in His wisdom, though dark be the night,

And the hand of the Saviour will lead you aright.

Faith and courage, an even pace,

With God's eye guiding, will win the race."

Beloved, I say to you, God is not going to be defeated. His Word is going to be fulfilled. His work is going to be completed just exactly as He planned, and our business is to submit ourselves into His hands.

## IV. ALL OF THIS IS FOR GOD'S GLORY

My text says, "...for I have created him for my glory..." Did you ever stop to think when you were born into this world, regardless of what your status and your stature is today, you were created for God's glory? Beloved, God does everything for His glory. The Word of God tells us that what God does, He does for His own glory. Listen: "And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud" (Ex. 16:10).

When the seraphims stood in the temple, we read: "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isa. 6:3).

Listen again: "And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts" (Haggai 2:7).

When we come to the night when the Lord Jesus Christ was born, the angels in that first seraphic melody what was ever sung at the birth of Jesus Christ said: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men: (Luke 2:14).

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, he said: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31).

When the Apostle Paul wrote

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# SAIL

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to the church at Ephesus, he said: "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen". (Eph. 3:21).

Thank God, He is going to be glorified. He is a sovereign God. Yes, beloved, He calls us. Yes, He is going to complete His work, and, yes, it is all for His glory.

Doesn't that give you something to make you humble today? Can you think of anything that would make a man more humble than the sovereignty of God--the fact that He sovereignly chose us; the fact that He irresistibly called us; the fact that He has promised to never quit until the job is all done; that fact that it is all for His glory? Can you think of anything that would make you any more humble than that?

How thankful we ought to be! Talk about Thanksgiving, I tell you, a child of God has something to thank God for when he thinks about this text of Scripture.

Yes, personally, how much I have to thank God for! I go back to the day when God saved me. I thank Him today because He saved me. I thank him because He called me to preach. You know, if you had been looking the whole country over for a practice in that day, I would have been the last fellow that you would have called. I will say this, if you had gone out hunting that morning with a shotgun and was going to shoot the first preacher that you found, I would have been the last fellow that you would have ever shot. But God called me. To think that God would call me into His ministry! I am thankful for it.

And to think that God gave me a love for His Word. I love the Bible, beloved. It has been my desire and my delight to study it through the years. I have gone through the Bible two different times and read every word of every verse in the light of every other use of that word in the Bible. In other words, I started in Genesis 1:1 and read "In the beginning God..." and I took that word "beginning" and I studied it every place that it was found all the rest of the way through the Word of God. I took every word in the Bible and studied it that way. I studied through the Word of God twice, word by word, of every verse, in the light as it is used in every other verse in the Bible. Beloved, I love His Book. It means something to me today. I hug it to my bosom as

the greatest thing in this world as far as information and inspiration is concerned, and I thank God that He has given me this love for it.

I thank God that He has kept me from being a modernist. God could just as easily have made a modernist out of me, as a Baptist preacher. Of course, I had one advantage that a lot of fellows don't have in that respect. They say that modernists are all nice looking, handsome men, and I had one advantage. I had one thing in my favor to start with.

I remember a man was preaching, years ago,--even a good while ago. He said, "I have noticed that all the modernists and the rationalists of the country are handsome men. That is why it is that they attract everybody." He turned and looked down at me and said, "Brother Gilpin, you are immune. You will never be a modernist."

Well, the Lord kept me from being a modernist. He has given me a good time these fifty years. He has given me a lot of fun. I tell you truly, I don't believe there is anybody in the world that has had more fun than I have had in these last fifty years. I have had a good time. Talk about suffering, I have had a little. Some of it, I have brought on myself by my own stupidity. But, beloved, I have had a good time in the ministry of our Lord. I have had some of the funniest experiences, and I think I will take time to tell you what I consider the funniest experience that I ever had.

I began to preach at Bon-Jellico, Kentucky, a coal camp out of Williamsburg, Kentucky. It is not even there anymore. It is out of existence. But I began preaching there in a little schoolhouse, high upon a mountainside. We had some benches--not seats, but benches, with slats in the back and a slat or two in the bottom. There was a lot of open space in those seats. I remember one night right in the midst of my sermon an experience. There was a boy that came to the services, whose name was Jim Henry. He just wasn't bright, and all the boys picked on him. One night, right in the midst of my sermon, those boys had been sticking pins in him, and the mother rose up and said, "Brother Gilpin, if you don't make these boys sitting behind me quit sticking pins in my Jim Henry, I am going to quit coming here to hear you preach."

I remember also, the time that I was riding on a bus over in Harlan County, Kentucky. A fellow tapped me on the back, and I looked back into the business end of a revolver that was pointed at my face. He got out by the side of the bus and stood there with a couple of guns which he held on everybody as they passed out. People had to put their watches and their money in his hat. It

came my turn and I thought, what is the use of being accused of being a big talker and not being able to use that ability when you get in a tight place? So as I came along, and with my hands held high and shaking, I said, "Brother, would you take a watch from a poor little preacher when that is all that he has?" he said, "What kind of a preacher are you?" I said, "I am a Baptist preacher." He put his gun down in his pocket and said, "Put it there, boy, I am a Baptist, too."

As I say, I have had lots of problems and I have had lots of fun. I thank the Lord for His goodness. I thank the Lord for the heartaches and the headaches that I have had. A lot of times I could have run away, I could have quit. I think my son has paid the highest compliment to me that was paid to any father when, years ago, he said, "Dad, I know God called you to preach, because you would have quit a long time ago, if He hadn't." And that is true. I think I would have. I think I would have quit lots of times. I could have run away. I could have gone away some place else.

I have had many problems. I have had many headaches and many heartaches. Some of them have been caused because I lanced a carbuncle down to the core. You know what I mean, don't you? There have been some heretics that I had to handle like you would lance a carbuncle down to the core. It has caused a lot of difficulties and a lot of problems, but I have had a good time these fifty years.

A man wrote to me the other day and sent me \$50 and said, "I want to join the 'Fifty year--\$50 Club,' and I want to make application now for the 100 year club." Well, I am in favor of taking him in. I'll not vote against him. I'd like to live another 50 years to preach His Word.

I have had a hard time physically in the last couple of years. Two years ago I invited Brother Jon Rule here for a revival meeting and I never even attended the services one night. Can you imagine a Baptist preacher inviting a man to come hold a revival and then not even attending the service on time? That is right. Well, I got sick, was the reason. I went to the hospital and was operated on, and was there for twenty-three days. Eight times within the last two years I have been in the hospital. Some of you didn't think I was going to live. Several times I thought I wasn't going to live. When the tractor ran over me a little over a year ago, I am satisfied that there were some angels around that held that tractor and the corn-picker and the wagon up to keep them from mashing me. There was no reason in the world why I shouldn't have been killed. I

think I can say as I look back across these years--as I look back across the last two years particularly, in the eight times that I have been in the hospital--I think I can truly say with Ezekiel, "I was spared."

Beloved, I thank God today for all of His goodness and for His purpose in my life. I think how grateful I am to God for His goodness to me. Beloved, I am urging everyone of you to stand fast for the Word of God.

I remember one of the earliest stories that I read in English literature was of the time when Napoleon had lost a battle--not the battle of Waterloo, but another battle. One of the officers under Napoleon said to the drummer, "Beat a retreat." The lad stood immobile. He never moved. He never flinched. That order was repeated, "Beat a retreat." The boy said, "I can't beat a retreat. Napoleon never taught me to beat a retreat." But he said, "I can beat a march that will wake up the dead." History says that he beat that march and the result was that they won the battle that they appeared to have lost.

Beloved, I am asking you today never to retreat, but to move forward and to stand fast for the things of the Lord.

I am a Baptist. I thank God because of it. I believe in the five cardinal truths of grace. I believe in the premillennial, pre-tribulation return of the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that God created this world. I believe in the inspiration of the Bible from beginning to end, and after fifty years, I thank God that I believe in it more strongly than I believed in it when God called me into the ministry fifty years ago. I would urge each of you to stand fast in the things of the Lord.

I often think of the time when Columbus was trying to discover a new route to the Indies. I often think what difficulty it must have been. What a problem it must have been! Nobody believed the earth was round. Everybody believed that if you went out so far you would sail to the edge, to a precipice, and just fall off. What a problem it must have been. Suppose we let the poet tell it:

"Behind him lay the gray Azores,

Behind the Gates of Hercules,  
Before him only shoreless seas.  
The good mate said: "Now must we pray,  
For lo, the very stars are gone  
Brave Adm'r'l, speak; what

shall I say?"

Why, say: 'Sail on! sail on! and on!'

My men grow mutinous day by day;

My men grow ghastly wan and weak.

The stout mate thought of home, a spray

Of salt wave washed his swarthy cheek.

"What shall I say, brave Adm'r'l say,

If we sight nauth but seas at dawn?"

Why, you will say, at break of day:

"Sail on! sail on! and on!"

They sailed and sailed, as winds might blow,

Until at last the blached mate said;

Why now not even God would know

Should I and all my men fall dead.

These very winds forget their way,

For God from these dread seas is gone.

Now speak, brave Adm'r'l; speak and say

He said: "Sail on! sail on! and on!"

They sailed. They sailed. Then spake the mate:

"This mad sea shows his teeth to-night;

He curls his lips, he lies in wait,

With lifted teeth, as if to bite.

Brave Adm'r'l, say but one good word,

What shall we do when hope is gone?"

The words leapt like a leaping sword:

"Sail on! sail on! and on!"

Then, pale and worn, he kept his deck,

And peered through darkness, Ah, that night

Of all dark nights! and then a speck--

A light! A light! A light! A light!

It grew, starlit, flag unfurled!

It grew to be Time's burst of dawn,

He gained a world! he gave that world

its grandest lesson: "On, sail on!"

That is my appeal to you today as God's children--no return, nor retreat, but sail on! sail on!

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**Editor's note:** This sermon along with 12 others are available in Book form from our bookstore, priced at \$3.95, Ky residents please add 6% sales tax.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Eatonville, Washington is sponsoring a Bible Conference over Labor Day weekend, September 4th-6th.

The church is located at 44108 State Route 161 in Eatonville, WA 98328 and they invite everyone to attend.

For further information about the conference, please call Tim Works at 206/832-8278. Housing, transportation needs and meals will be provided.