

*If at first you do succeed, try something harder.*

MISSIONARY 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.*

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## ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

By Willard Willis

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)" (Matthew 24:15).



ing him fulfill his objectives. It is as stated in the following passages of Scripture:

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness: whose end shall be according to their works." (II Corinthians 11:13-15).

Satan, then, has a kingdom that is bent on overthrowing God. The fact that Satan has a kingdom is set forth in the following passage of Scripture:

"And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand." (Matthew 12:26).

Satan, by way of the subjects of his kingdom, has been sowing tares among the wheat. He, according to I Peter 5:8, is "as a roaring lion", walking about, "seeking whom he may devour". The world which Satan rules over, is called the "kosmos", or that which Peter refers to as the "world of the ungodly" (II Pet. 2:5). It is that world which is

opposed to God. It is that world of people and fallen angels who advance Satan's ideals, goals, aims and methods.

Satan, by way of his kingdom, deceived Adam and Eve and tried to deceive the Lord Jesus. He, by way of a member of his kingdom, killed righteous Abel. He also, by way of Pharaoh, tried to destroy all of God's chosen people. We are to understand, then, that Satan's kingdom is much more than that which meets the eye. The Pope, for example, is only one member of his enormous kingdom. It is as stated in the following passages of Scripture:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:10-12).

The main thrust of Satan's kingdom today is by way of false

(Continued on Pg. 2, Col. 1)

## THE GRACE OF GOD - PART III

By C.D. Cole

Practically all professing Christians profess to believe that salvation is of grace. You can hardly find a member of any denomination who will out and out deny that salvation is by grace. The Bible so often and so positively declares salvation to be by grace that few men will boldly deny it. But the trouble is that many think and speak of grace in such a way as to frustrate it. The grace they think of and talk about is not grace at all. It is so mixed with human work and merit that it is no more grace. Rom. 11:6. There is quite as much in Roman Catholic literature about grace as there is in Baptist literature, but there is wide difference as to what the two groups mean by grace. In preceding chapters we have sought to tell what grace is, and where grace reigns, and what grace provides; and in this chapter we shall endeavor to show:

### How Grace Saves

Before coming directly to the question, we shall lay down some principles from which to reason:

1. **Salvation by grace destroys all room for boasting.** No man is sound on grace who boasts of anything he has ever done or can do as the ground of his salvation. If your idea of salvation allows you to boast you may be sure it is wrong. No man can even boast of his repentance and faith, for they are the gifts of His grace. See Acts 5:31; 11:38; Acts 11:17; I Cor. 3:5; Eph. 1:19; I Jno. 5:4. All of our graces are fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22,23.

2. **Salvation by grace means that God is to have all the praise for our salvation.** The Father is to have all praise for providing the

Saviour; the Son is to have all the praise for performing the work of salvation; and the Holy Spirit is to have all the praise for promoting salvation in us by convicting us of sin and bringing us to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Salvation by grace does not give license to sin.** There are two dangers concerning grace: one is the danger of frustrating it, the other is the danger of abusing it. We frustrate grace when we teach that righteousness comes by keeping the law (Gal. 21). We abuse grace when we use it to justify a life of sin. One is the danger of Arminianism, the other is the danger of Antinomianism. The one sets grace aside, the other uses grace wrongly.

He who justifies his sinning on the ground that he is not under law but under grace, does not have the grace of God in him. The child of grace hates sin and strives against it, and when he falls into it, confesses it and forsakes it. Sin is not the habit and practice of his life. There is no sin that he hugs to his bosom and takes to glory with him. There is no sin that is a sweet morsel under his tongue. The man of grace neither boasts of keeping out of sin, nor justifies himself when he falls into sin.

In approaching our question:

### How Does Grace Save?

we make a negative approach:

1. **Grace does not save by enabling us to perfectly keep the law of God.** It is our judgment that this is the way many people think grace saves. They confess that no man can of himself keep the law, but that grace enables him to keep it, and in this way grace saves. To be logical and consistent, and to have any place for grace in their plan, this must be the position of all who believe in salvation by keeping the law. Now, it is admitted, that if God should eradicate every vestige of our sinful nature, and cause us to live without sin, that would be grace indeed - that would be the unmerited favor of God. It would be grace for it would be doing for us that which we do not deserve. But this is not the way grace saves, and we must voice our objections to it:

(1) That would not satisfy justice for sins already committed. God is just as well as gracious, and (Continued on Pg 7, Col. 1)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

### ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT - ONE WORLD CHURCH

Please read Revelation 13:1-18.

Our text verses will be Revelation 13:7-8 which reads as follows: "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of

the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

The world at this very moment is moving full speed ahead towards the establishment of a one world government and a one world religion. The recent N.A.F.T.A. agreement in North America and the G.A.T.T. agreement in Europe are giant steps in the direction of a one world political/economic system.

It seems very likely to me that the leader of such a government and the leader of such a religion are presently alive on planet Earth. In other words, the Antichrist (the first beast of Revelation 13), and the false prophet (the second beast of Revelation 13) may very well be waiting at this very moment to step out on center stage.

(Continued on Pg. 6, Col. 1)

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." (Daniel 9:27).

Satan, throughout the history of the earth, has been striving to be like God. He has made and is making a concerted effort to be worshipped even as God is worshipped. He, in fact, according to the following passage of Scripture, has made it his goal to be like God in every facet of his being.

"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." (Isaiah 14:13,14).

Satan, then, by way of being an imitator of God and by way of gross deception, has been seeking and obtaining worship from the inhabitants of the earth. He has a multitude of people who are help-



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## ABOMINATION

(Continued from Page 1)

churches and false preachers -  
preachers which God refers to as  
false apostles, deceitful workers,  
transforming themselves into the  
apostles of Christ (II Corinthians  
11:13).

Satan, then, in an effort to be  
worshipped as God is worshipped,  
has set himself up a system of false  
churches and false preachers. He;  
however, during the Tribulation  
period will be required to seek  
another means of being wor-  
shipped. This is because the Lord's  
church will be gone and he will  
have nothing to imitate. He, how-  
ever, being the deceiver that he is,  
after three and one half years into

## Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!! As of this  
writing, we're presently in the midst of preparing for Watch Night  
Services on New Years Eve, here at Calvary Baptist Church.  
We're going to have good Bible preaching, good gospel singing  
and a wonderful time of Christian fellowship. We are feeling a  
spirit of revival in the church and we fully expect a revival type  
meeting in these special services.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you who have  
written and telephoned wonderful words of encouragement and  
support. Many pastors of like faith and order have come to visit  
to extend the hand of Christian fellowship. I knew when I  
assumed this awesome responsibility that the Lord's words: **"I  
will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."** (Hebrews 13:5), was a  
promise that I could and needed to claim at this time. However,  
the encouragement and support which has come from so many of  
you was not fully anticipated by me. I thank my Lord for His  
wonderful promise to "never leave nor forsake me" and I thank  
you, my wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ, who have  
spoken to me, words of exhortation to do the work our Lord has  
called me to do.

I also want to thank each of you who contribute in writing and  
in monetary support for The Baptist Examiner. I can assure you  
that this pastor and editor values your support and desires that  
with regard to this wonderful work that your support will con-  
tinue. Above all else, please continue to pray for this ministry.

I want to close this writing by telling you my impressions of the  
membership of Calvary Baptist Church. Without exception,  
every member that I've met has been warm, kind, compassionate  
and loves the Lord. They also love one another and the love  
extended towards Connie and myself has been a great source of  
inspiration and strength.

Until next time may our Lord bless you richly. Please pray for  
me. I love each of you in the Lord.

the Tribulation, will seek to be  
worshipped by way of an image of  
the Antichrist which is to be set up  
in the Temple. He, before setting  
up the image, will cause the "obla-  
tion to cease" (Daniel 9:27). The  
"oblation" refers to sacred sacri-  
fices which Israel will be offering  
to God. Satan will cause the sacri-  
ficing to cease. He will then step  
between the worshippers and God  
by way of his own image.

Satan, down through the annals  
of time, has been hard at work in an  
effort to set up an image for all to  
worship, or bow before him. He,  
from the beginning, has desired to  
give mankind a visible image to  
replace the invisible image of God  
as such is described in the follow-  
ing passage of Scripture.

**"Who is the image of the invis-  
ible God, the firstborn of every  
creature?"** (Colossians 1:15).

We are to worship Jesus Christ,  
the image of God (Hebrews 1:3, II  
Corinthians 4:4), not Antichrist,  
the image of Satan. God, in fact, in  
the following passage of Scrip-  
ture, has given strict orders for us  
not to have anything to do with  
image worship.

**"Ye shall make you no idols  
nor graven image; neither rear  
you up a standing image, neither  
shall ye set up any image of stone  
in your land, to bow down unto  
it: for I am the Lord your God."**  
(Leviticus 26:1).

Israel, as you will recall, was not  
always obedient to God's com-  
mand. You will recall, for ex-  
ample, that they, while Moses was  
on Mount Sinai, worshipped the  
image of the golden calf. They, at  
a later date, even worshipped the  
image of Baal and other idols. God,  
of course, due to their transgres-  
sion of the second commandment,  
laid His heavy hand of judgment  
down upon their heads.

We have, in Daniel 3:1-3, an  
interesting story relative to image  
worship. These passages of Scrip-  
ture inform us of an image which  
Nebuchadnezzar had constructed  
in the plain of Dura, in the prov-  
ince of Babylon. This particular  
image was the center of the state  
religion which required the sub-  
jects of Nebuchadnezzar's king-  
dom to worship the image, or idol.  
Those who refused to worship the  
image were to have been cast into

the fiery furnace. You will recall  
that three of the king's officials  
(Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-  
nego) refused to bow before the  
image (Daniel 3:12,15-18). You  
will also recall that the stand taken  
by God's beloved children put an  
end to that particular image wor-  
ship. They resisted the devil and  
he had to flee and set up shop  
elsewhere.

We, however, are to see much  
more than those three Jews and the  
fiery furnace in the subject story.  
We are to see in the image and the  
fiery furnace a prophecy of that  
which awaits the Jews during the  
Tribulation. Two thirds of Israel,  
in fact, will die while one third will  
be preserved through the fire. It is  
as stated in the following passage  
of Scripture.

**"And I will bring the third  
part through the fire, and will  
refine them as silver is refined,  
and will try them as gold is tried:  
they shall call on my name, and I  
will hear them: I will say, It is my  
people: and they shall say, The  
Lord is my God"** (Zechariah 13:9).

The future king of political  
Babylon will also make an image,  
as did Nebuchadnezzar. He will  
demand, as did Nebuchadnezzar,  
that all fall before his image and  
worship it. Those who refuse to  
worship the image of the Anti-  
christ will be killed. The Anti-  
christ, as was true of Nebuchad-  
nezzar, will have no religious tol-  
eration.

You will recall how that those  
who cast the Jews into the fiery  
furnace were killed. The same will  
be true of those who persecute  
God's people during the Tribula-  
tion. The Lord will destroy those  
who are remaining of them when  
He returns. Those, on the other  
hand, who do not bow to the image  
of the Beast, will enter in their  
physical bodies into the Millen-  
nium, that is, those of them who  
will not be killed during the Tribu-  
lation.

We also have in Daniel 11:21-  
35, another prophecy regarding the  
image that is to be set up during the  
Tribulation. Daniel's prophecy  
relates to the rise of a ruler named  
Antiochus Epiphanes. The record  
shows that he reigned during the  
last days of the Syrian empire, or  
just prior to the rise of the Roman  
empire. The historical record  
shows that Daniel's prophecy has  
been fulfilled in minute detail.  
(Daniel 11:30-31).

Antiochus, when returning, af-  
ter being defeated in Egypt, vent  
his wrath upon the Jewish people.  
He, in fact, while on his way home,  
took Jerusalem by force. He pro-

ceeded, without mercy, to kill a  
great number of Jews and to plun-  
der the city of Jerusalem. He even  
desecrated the Jewish temple by  
offering a sow upon the altar. He  
proceeded to order that no sacri-  
fices be made for three and one  
half years. He proceeded to add  
insult to injury by ordering the  
Jews to erect an idol of Zeus Olym-  
pius in the holy place. This, in fact,  
is the meaning of Daniel 11:31,  
where we read: **"They shall place  
the abomination that maketh  
desolate."**

All of these events were prophe-  
cies of future actions which will be  
taken by the Antichrist-actions  
which are to be taken in the midst,  
or middle of the seventieth week  
which has been allotted to Israel.

It is important for me to point out  
that the "abomination of desola-  
tion" cannot occur unless Israel, at  
some point in the future, erects a  
temple - a temple in which animal  
sacrifices can be made. We, of  
course, know from the following  
passage of Scripture, that a temple  
will be built.

**"Who opposeth and exalteth  
himself above all that is called  
God, or that is worshipped; so  
that he as God sitteth in the  
temple of God, showing himself  
that he is God."** (II Thes. 2:4).

**"And there was given me a  
reed like unto a rod: and the  
angel stood, saying, Rise and  
measure the temple of God, and  
the altar, and them that worship  
therein. But the court which is  
without the temple leave out, and  
measure it not; for it is given  
unto the Gentiles: and the holy  
city shall they tread under foot  
forty and two months."** (Revela-  
tion 11:1,2).

I understand that temple bread is  
now being baked in Jerusalem and  
that young men from the tribe of  
Levi are being trained to conduct  
temple worship. This training in-  
cludes the offering of sacrifices.  
There is also much talk today re-  
garding the building of the temple.

What then did our Lord mean  
when, in Matthew 24:15, He made  
reference to the "abomination of  
desolation"? His reference is to  
the fact that the Antichrist, at the  
middle of the Tribulation (Daniel  
9:27), will set up his own image in  
the temple and demand that the  
entire world worship it. The word  
"abomination" comes from Deu-  
teronomy 27:15, which reads as  
follows:

**"Cursed be the man that maketh  
any graven or molten image, an  
abomination unto the Lord, the  
work of the hands of the craftsman."**  
(Continued on Pg. 3, Col. 5)



## The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

By Clyde T. Everman, Deacon  
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### Genesis Two

#### THE CREATION OF MAN

Read Genesis Two: In chapter one we have been given the account of creation as a whole. Chapter two gives us in detail one portion of that creation - the story of man. As we stated in our last study, 1:27 states that God created man, while chapter two gives us the details of that creation.

**"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."** (v. 7).

God first molded or shaped the body of man. The word "formed" is the word which describes the work of the potter in Ezk. 18:2. God then breathed into that body the breath of life. Man now became a combination of the material and the spiritual. From I Thes. 5:23 it would seem that man is made of three parts, body, spirit and soul.

#### THE HOME FOR MAN

Verses 8-15 describes the home which God had provided for man. Everything that grew in Eden was beautiful (pleasant to the eye), and was good for food (v. 9). **"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."** (v. 15). The place which man was placed to be in charge of was one of perfection. Man's dominion was to be over all which God had created (Psa. 8:5-9). This

dominion lasted until sin came into the world. The first recorded act of man was the naming of all the animals and birds brought to him for that purpose. Where did the man get the knowledge to name all these? It could only come from the Lord God who created him. When God created man He created him with a knowledge that could give a name to **"every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air."** (v. 19).

#### THE ONE RESTRICTION

**"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."** (vv. 16,17).

Adam was placed in the garden to dress and keep it (v. 15). There were no restrictions placed upon him except one simple test of obedience. This test involved no restrictions upon his needs nor happiness in any way. He was at liberty in every way except one. There was one and only one thing which he was not to do (v. 17). **"In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."** This was not a threat. It is not a challenge. It is a warning. If a parent tells a child not to touch a hot stove or it will be burned, it is not a threat but a word of warning given in love.

There are three trees mentioned in the Bible of which there is a great contrast, the tree of death (Gen. 2:17), the tree of Calvary (I Peter 2:24), and the tree of life (Rev. 2:7).

#### MAN'S HELP MEET

Verses 18:21-24. In verse 18 we are told that God said, **"It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."** Verse 20 states that all the beasts of the field and fowls of the air there was not found a help meet for the man. In Verses 21-24 it is revealed how this help meet was formed. Someone has said that "when God made woman He did not take her out of man's head to lord it over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, from under his arm to be protected by him, from near his heart to be loved by him." Adam called his help meet "Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

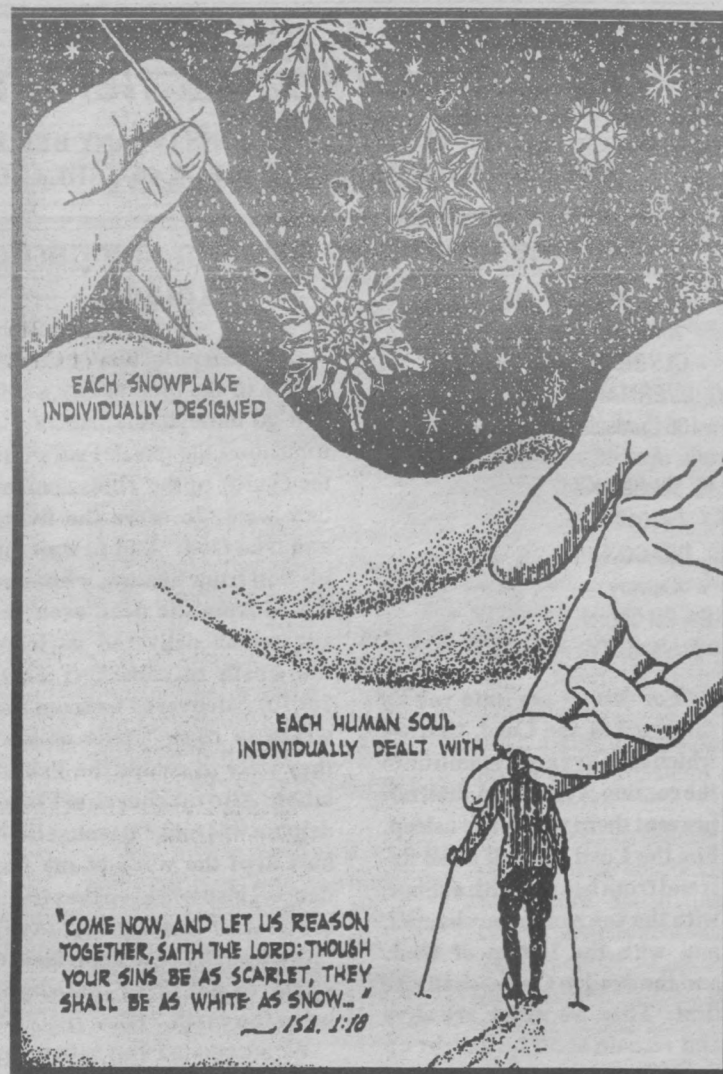
**"And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."** (v. 25).

This brief statement adds one more detail to the picture of perfection as God had created it. There was nothing that had occurred to cause a sense of guilt in man. Everything was at harmony. Man was in complete harmony with himself and with God. In this perfect state there was no cause to be ashamed.

### ABOMINATION

(Continued from Page 2)

and putteth it in a secret place..." We are to understand, then, that the Jewish temple is to be built; that it is to be built in Jerusalem; that it will have the holy place within it; that an idol of Antichrist will stand in the holy place making it desolate of all worship. The inhabitants of Jerusalem, according to Matthew 24:16, will **"see the abomination of desolation"** and, as a result, will flee to the mountains. It will be at this point in time that the Great Tribulation (the last three and one half years of the Tribulation) will begin (Matthew 24:21). A



glimpse of the Great Tribulation can be seen from the following passage of Scripture.

**"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."** (Revelation 13:15).

Let us now read of those who will be like the three Hebrew children in that they will not bow to the image of the beast.

**"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."** (Revelation 20:4).

*"God is our refuge  
and strength a  
very present help  
in trouble."  
(Psalm 46:1).*

#### Looking At Our Prayers

By Charles H. Spurgeon

**"Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer."** (Psalm 66:20).

In looking back upon the character of our prayers, if we do it honestly, we shall be filled with wonder that God has ever answered them. There may be some who think their prayers worthy of acceptance -- as the Pharisee did; but the true Christian, in a more enlightened retrospect, weeps over his prayers, and if he could retrace his steps he would desire to pray more earnestly. Remember, Christian, how cold thy prayers have been. When in thy closet thou shouldst have wrestled as Jacob did; but instead thereof, thy petitions have been faint and few -- far removed from that humble, believing, persevering faith, which cries, "I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me." Reflect also, how uninfrequent have been thy prayers, unless thou hast been in trouble, and then thou has gone often to the mercy-seat: but when deliverance has come, where has been thy constant supplication? Oh, it is marvellous that the Lord should regard those intermittent spasms of importunity which come and go with our necessities.

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## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum I

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT  
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### Will the church go through any part of the tribulation? Explain.

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"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and 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 Thes. 4:15-17).

These verses tell us that one day Christ is coming for His saints. Both those who have died as well as those who are alive will be caught up to meet Him in the air. Although we know that God has a set time for this to take place, we have not been told when, but are told to watch, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:18). The apostle Paul as well as the other apostles looked for Christ's return in their day. In Hebrews 9:28 we read, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." The apostle John said, "And little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." (I John 2:28). The apostle Peter said, "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." (I Pet. 5:4).

As further proof that the church or any of the present day saints will go through any part of the tribulation, the apostle Paul wrote the church of the Thessalonians they were "to serve the living and true God: And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." (I Thes. 1:9,10). "delivered us from the wrath to come." tells us that they were to escape the Tribulation. Also the church of Philadelphia was told, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation," (trial) "which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth." (Rev. 3:10).

We are commanded to look for the return of Christ at any moment and we have the promise that we have been delivered "from the wrath to come" (I Thess. 1:10). This, I believe is proof that the saints of this present age will not be here when the Tribulation begins. As the church at Philadelphia was told that they would be kept from that which would try all that dwelt upon the earth, so shall all of God's children be kept.

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"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him." (I Thessalonians 5:9,10).

It is my firm belief that the church will not go through any of the tribulation. the church has not been appointed to wrath, or to suffering during the tribulation for the Lord will have taken her

and every believer away before the start of the terrible day. This conclusion is reached by taking a stand as to the literal interpretation of Scripture. No spiritualizing of any passage is necessary to understand the pre-tribulational position of Scripture. If we spiritualize portions of Scripture, or misplace individuals, or interchange terms, we can make the Scripture appear to teach other than it does. For example, some say the "sain", the "elect" are people found only in the Lord's church. We know that is not so, for the saints, or elect of God are found outside true churches, as well as in them. If we make the words "church" and "Israel" synonymous, then we can misinterpret and cause the other false ideas, or schools of thought that are around us seem to make sense.

It has always been the general plan in Scripture for God to deliver His children before judgment, or punishment is brought to pass upon earth. Lot is an excellent example of this. Lot escaped the judgment. The angel even said to Lot in Genesis 19:22, "Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou become thither... Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar."

The church is always admonished to look for the coming of Christ, not the Tribulation, or the revelation of Antichrist. The admonitions are always to watch, pray, and be ready. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 that the gates of Hell would never prevail against His church; thus it cannot go through any or all of the Tribulation. The only church that will be in the Tribulation is the false church of the harlot.

"But ye, brethren are not in the darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (I Thess. 5:4-6). May God help us to do so.

God Bless You

## TEN BIBLE PROOFS OF BAPTIST PERPETUITY

By Rosco Brong  
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If God's word is true,  
the church that  
Jesus started  
still stands, has endured.  
"The church of the  
living God,  
the pillar and ground  
of the truth." (I Tim. 3:15).

Recorded history often reveals more of historians' prejudices than of actual events, and the history of Christianity has been written mostly by the enemies of Baptist. Even so, there is historical evidence for the continued existence of what would now be called Baptist churches from the days when Jesus was on earth in the flesh down to the present time. This evidence is not beyond dispute, but it is more than sufficient if we are willing to believe the promises of God's word.

My purpose here is to show from the Bible, APART FROM ALL HISTORICAL EVIDENCE, that we must believe in Baptist church perpetuity if we believe that God's Word is true.

### 1. THE GATES OF HADES

His Promise of Perpetuity  
"Upon this Rock," said Jesus, referring to Himself, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell (Hades) shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18).

We may find various interpretations of this statement of Jesus, but despite a great variety of ideas in detailed interpretation it is fairly clear to all that we have here a PROMISE of our Lord that His church would not be overcome by the powers of evil. Whatever this church was, it could not fail if Jesus spoke the truth. We believe that this church was what would now be called a Baptist church, and anyone who will honestly examine the organization and doctrines of this New Testament institution in comparison with the organization and doctrines of Baptist churches today will reach the same conclusion.

If the church that Jesus built was not a Baptist church, then we need to find out what kind of church it was, and join that church, if we want our service to be pleasing to Him. One thing we can be sure of: if Jesus spoke the truth - and what real Christian would deny this? - the church that Jesus built has been in the world ever since and will be here till He

comes again.

The popular Protestant dogma in this connection speaks of an "invisible" church to which all Christians belong. More on this as we go along, but for the present note a few simple facts:

a. Neither the expression "invisible church" nor the idea of such an expression can be found in the New Testament.

b. The whole purpose of the "invisible church" dogma is to justify the Protestant splits from Roman Catholicism. But since Baptists are not Protestants and were never a part of the heretical Catholic system, we have no need of any such dogma to justify our existence.

c. Most Protestants and many ignorant Baptists suppose that Christ built two churches; that is, two kinds of churches: the "invisible church" of their own vain imagining and the organized assemblies that they cannot help recognizing in the New Testament. Then, to add insult to injury, they call their imaginary monstrosity the "true" church. But the Bible says that there is only one body (church), that is, one kind of body, just as there is only one baptism, that is, one kind of baptism. (Eph. 4:4,5).

d. Since there is no just reason to do otherwise, we must understand that Jesus used the word "church" (Greek "ekklesia") in Matt. 16:18 in the same general sense that it has everywhere else in the New Testament: that is, an assembly, almost always an organized assembly. The word here is used abstractly; that is, it expresses an idea whose realization is to be found in a particular organized assembly.

### 2. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

"If he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." (Matt. 18:17,18, AV, with corrected tenses of verbs in verse 18).

This text suggests three simple questions that believers in an "invisible" church might try to ask (Continued on Pg. 5, Col. 4)



# The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum II

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, P.O. BOX 60, ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

## Does tithing apply to increase only, or also to capital holdings? Is "all that I possess" proper in Luke 18:12, or should it be all I acquire or gain?

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First let me say it is the duty of every person in this dispensation to tithe. Tithing did not cease with the ushering in of the "age of grace". Tithing was practiced long before Sinai and should be preached, propagated, and practiced even today. For proof of these truths see Genesis 14: 17-20; 28: 20-22, I Corinthians 9: 13-14; 16: 1-2, and Hebrews 7: 1-8.

In response to the question before us, I first must point out that the man quoted in our text was a lost man. Though he being a Pharisee would have known the law in great detail, he being lost lessens the weight of his words. To inquire about the doctrine of tithing or any other Bible doctrine we should always listen to what inspired men have said. After listening to all inspired write about a subject we are then, and only then, able to draw conclusions as to what God requires of us.

In reference to tithing the Bible is very clear that we are to tithe of all we acquire or gain. Yet, it is not wrong to say we tithed of our possessions because we had to gain our possessions, and we should have tithed on the possessions we gained. And, if the possessions we have gain, we should tithe on them.

Nehemiah 10:35 and 37 says, "And to bring the first fruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the Lord: And that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priest, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites

might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage." Notice the words "our", this shows possession. The people of Israel were to tithe on the increase of their possessions. The possessions might be land, dough, animals, wine, or anything else. No matter what it was, if it increased or if they had a gain as a result of it, they were to tithe on the gain.

An example of modern day gain might be like this: If I received one thousand dollars the tithe I would owe the Lord would be one hundred dollars. Now say I place the remaining nine hundred dollars in a money market account. This remaining money would gain interest. A tenth of the interest gained would then need to be tithed unto the Lord.

Remember Christian friend, God demands "all the tithes." (Mal. 3:10). It belongs to him. Don't hold back what is rightfully His. He will reward those that are obedient to Him.

For a deep yet condensed booklet on the subject of tithing I suggest reading "The Bible Key to Prosperity" by E.J. Daniels. This booklet would do a lot of good for a child of God if read and practiced.

I hope I have been of some help. May the Lord richly bless you.

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Only devout Christians tithe in such a way that pleases God. Some tithe because they feel obligated since they belong to the church. Some tithe because they can count so much off of their income tax. Some tithe because it eases their conscience. Praise God, some tithe because God in His Word told them to. They believe Malachi 3:10 that God would pour them out a blessing.

Of course, this is one of God's commandments. Without the tithe, the preacher would not be paid, the church bills would not be paid, and the Missionaries would have to be called home. So this is God's way of carrying out His work here on earth.

Those who love God and the church that Jesus built in order to carry our God's work will gladly tithe, and do it cheerfully. I have always stated that all of my members tithe, they may not give directly to the church, but our Lord will see that they will not use that tithe for their selfish motives, something will happen that they will have to spend it in a way that they had not planned, therefore they will not profit by it.

I have always thought that the tithe is to come from the pay before anything else is taken out. After all, God should come first, if this is done, God will bless the nine tenth far and beyond expectation. He says, try Me. Everything I own was bought after the tithe was taken out. However, if I sell anything that I have bought with a profit, the profit should be tithed also.

The Bible tells us that God loveth a cheerful giver, however your tithe is not a gift, the tithe belongs to God. Now, anything you give above the tithe is a gift if you give it cheerfully. I have practiced this for many years, I have never missed a meal, I have never been on welfare, and God has by His grace supplied my needs. Try it, it will work for you.

Brother Jack Whitt,  
Former Interim  
Pastor/Editor  
of Calvary Baptist  
Church,  
announces  
his availability to  
assist churches in  
supply preaching or  
special meetings, etc.  
As the Lord would  
lead. He may be  
contacted by writing  
The Baptist Examiner.

## TEN BIBLE PROOFS

(Continued from Page 4)

swer:

a. How can a wronged brother tell his grievance to an "invisible" church?

b. How can an "invisible" church decide an issue, make known its judgment to a trespassing brother, or execute that judgment "if he neglect to hear?"

c. Is it not the authority to "bind and loose," whatever this means, in verse 18 given to the same church that is in view in verse 17?

Obviously the reference here is to an organized assembly; and obviously such organized assemblies must always have existed from that time to this in order that faithful followers of Jesus might obey His instruction here given.

### 3. BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY

"For also in one Spirit we all were baptized into one body ... And ye are a body of Christ, and members in particular." (I Cor. 12:13,27, corrected translation).

Verse 27 of this quotation tells what kind of body is mean in verse 13: the kind of which the church at Corinth was an example. I Cor. 1:13-17 shows what kind of baptism is mean: namely, baptism in water. In fact, there is only one kind of baptism recognized in the New Testament as an ordinance of Christ: all other so-called baptisms are figurative or symbolic, deriving their significance from this baptizing in water to declare the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and all that this means to us.

Almost all Christians recognize baptism, or some substitute for it that they call baptism, as sprinkling or pouring, as a church ordinance. But if it is a church ordinance, then there must always have been churches to administer the ordinance. If the church to which Jesus entrusted the ordinance passed out of existence an institution, then the ordinance lapsed with the church, and nowhere in the Bible is anyone authorized to start it up again.

### 4. "TILL HE COME"

"As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come." (I Cor. 11:26)

Again, practically all Christians recognize the Lord's Supper as a church ordinance. But how could the ordinance be continued if at any time there were no true churches to observe it? Note that

the Scriptures give no hint of any possible lapse or failure of our Lord's churches to declare or show forth His death by eating this bread and drinking this cup "till He come."

### 5. CHURCH OFFICERS

"If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work...They that have used the office of a deacon well, purchase to themselves a good degree." (I Tim. 3:1,13).

The context of the two verses shows that bishops and deacons are church officers, and to this fact practically all Christians agree, however far they may depart from Scriptural ideas of the duties of these offices. Even believers in an imaginary "invisible" church become at least temporarily realistic and operate in some kind of organized assembly in naming bishops and deacons.

But if bishops and deacons were officers in the kind of church that Jesus built, and if this kind of church passed out of existence, as Protestants allege and as ignorant Baptists admit, then by whose authority are such officers named today?

### 6. A HOLY TEMPLE

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." (Eph. 2:19-22)

Paul was writing to the church at Ephesus and he reveals here the glorious fact that a true New Testament church is a holy temple in the Lord, and that one purpose for which the Lord built His church at Ephesus, and, we believe, every other true New Testament church, is that God in the Spirit might dwell therein.

Can anyone believe that God, having chosen to manifest His presence in a special way in the churches of the Lord Jesus, allowed His purpose to be frustrated, so that for centuries He had no such habitation on earth? But Protestants do declare, and (Continued on Pg. 7, Col. 5)

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JANUARY 29, 1994

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## ONE WORLD

(Continued from Page 1)

### I. The Government and Its Leader

Many organizations exist that have in mind a one world government. Organizations have come about to respond to a one world government. When you hear and read of organizations such as the Tri-Lateral Commission, The World Bank, Planetary Initiative, and those that come under the broad umbrella that is the new age movement, consider their goals and aims. You will find plans for a new world political/economic order. The United Nations may still exist to be an instrument to bring into existence a one world government. Who will be the one man to assume the role of leader of this government? I don't know, however, I believe if he begins to come to power before the Rapture, that true saints will recognize him.

**"I...saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and his heads the name of blasphemy."** (Revelation 13:1).

We see here a charming, charismatic, powerful leader with beast like characteristics. A wolf in sheep's clothing it seems. He will rise to power out of a sea of people. He surely must be the little horn of Daniel 7:8. I like to call him "Little Big Horn." Daniel 7:7-8 speaks of ten horns, of which, three must be militarily subdued; bringing all ten under his control to form his base of political/economic power. It will be from this power base that he will gain control of much of the world.

This one will be a blasphemer of God. **"and his heads the names of blasphemy."** (Rev. 13:6). **"And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name..."** (Rev. 13:6). **"And he shall speak...against the most High..."** (Daniel 7:25)

**"The dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."** (Revelation 13:2)

His power to carry out his evil plan of conquest will come from the dragon, as John identified him: **"the great dragon, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan..."** (Revelation 12:9). **"His seat,"** that is his high political/

economic position will be a gift from the Devil. He will have **"great authority."** **"He shall...think to change times and law; and they shall be given into his hand..."** (Daniel 7:25). This man will truly lead a global empire. **"Power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."** (Revelation 13:7).

A well known preacher and religious leader made the following statement on a morning talk show: **"I no longer think of myself as just a citizen of the United States but a citizen of the world."** This person shall go unnamed in this sermon.

### II. The Religion and Its Leader

Many organizations exist that have in mind a one world religion. Consider the goals of The World Council of Churches, Roman Catholicism, the ecumenical movement and the new age movement. All would like to put religion of all kinds under one tent. Who will be the one to assume the role of leader of this religion? Again I don't know, however, if he comes before we go, surely we'll recognize him.

**"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a Lamb, and he spake as a dragon."** (Revelation 13:11).

Another charmer; another wolf in sheep's clothing. **"And he...causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast..."** (Revelation 13:12). **"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the lamb slain from the foundation of the world."** (Revelation 13:8).

The world will have a religion to worship a man who multitudes will believe to be a saviour of mankind. He is a counterfeit of the real Saviour. He will come imitating the real Saviour. **"And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer."** (Revelation 6:2).

The real Saviour will come later. John describes his coming as follows: **"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse: and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."** (Revelation 19:11). Praise the Lord! We that are His can distinguish a counterfeit from the real thing.

This will not be just a mandatory state religion; this will be a mandatory global religion.

This religion will be of man to worship a man and to worship the source of his power; Satan himself. For a season Satan will receive what he long ago sought. He will receive worship. But take heart dear Christian; Satan's days are numbered. A victory has been won at Calvary by King Jesus. Satan has received a mortal head wound. He has been defeated. Victory is assured. Even Satan knows that, but he'll grasp at every straw to be worshipped.

The world will someday, probably soon, become that "new world order" that we so frequently hear about. Someone will lead that government. That person is the antichrist. Along with the government will come a unification of the religions of the world. Someone will lead that religion. That person will be the false prophet. Anyone living on the earth must become committed to that government and that religion.

If a person refuses to do so they won't be able to obtain employment, social benefits, medical care or operate a business. **"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."** (Revelation 13:17). There will be no place for those who cannot present the proper identification. Those, during the Tribulation period, who will go so far in opposing this "new world order"; refusing the "mark of the beast," and believe the "everlasting gospel," trusting Jesus Christ for salvation will surely die for the cause of Christ. However, in doing so they will enter in to everlasting life in the presence of Jesus.

The true saints will be gone with the Lord when the worst of times come upon the earth. Where will you be my dear friend? Will you be in the Kingdom of God in Heaven, or will you be in the Kingdom of the Antichrist here on earth? Jesus said: **"I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father but by me."** (John 14:6). If you haven't already done so, won't you repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ to save you today. May God Bless You All.

Read the  
Bible Each Day.

## My Diary

**October 2:** Today my life began. My parents do not know it yet. I am as small as the pollen of a flower, but it is I already. I will be a girl. I will have blonde hair and blue eyes. Nearly everything is settled already - even that I shall love birds.

**October 9:** I have grown a little, but I am still too small to do anything by myself. My mother does everything for me, although she still does not know that she is carrying me under her heart. But I am a real person just as a crumb of bread is still real bread. My mother exists, and I do too.

**October 23:** My mouth is just now beginning to open. Just think - in a year or so I'll be laughing, and later I'll start to talk. My first word will be "mama."

**October 25:** Today my heart began to beat. It will beat softly for the rest of my life, never stopping. After many years it will tire and stop. Then I shall die.

**November 2:** I am growing continually. My arms and legs are taking shape, but I must wait a long time before these tiny legs will raise me to my mother's arms; before these little arms will be able to conquer the earth and befriend people.

**November 12:** Tiny fingers are beginning to form on my hands. How small they are. One day I'll stroke my mother's hair and tell her how nice she is.

**November 20:** Only today the doctor told my mother that I'm living here under her heart. How happy she must be! Are you happy, mother?

**November 25:** My mother and father are probably thinking about a name for me. And they don't even know that I am a little girl, so they are probably calling me "Andy." But I want to be called Barbara. I am growing so big.

**December 10:** My hair is growing. It is as bright and shiny as the sun. I wonder what kind of hair my mother has.

**December 13:** My eyes are almost fully developed, although the lids are still shut. When mother brings me into the world it will be full of sunshine and overflowing with flowers. I have never seen a flower, you know, but more than anything I want to see my mother. How do you look, mother?

**December 24:** My fingers and toes are fully formed. Even my nails are beginning to develop.

**December 26:** I wonder if my mother hears the delicate beat of my heart? Some children are born with sickly hearts, and then the gentle fingers of the doctor perform miracles to make them healthy. But my heart is healthy. It beats so evenly: tup-tup, tup-tup. You shall have a healthy daughter, mother.

**December 28:** Today my mother killed me.

God says, **"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward."** (Psalm 127:3).

The Psalmist wrote, **"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvelous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."** (Psalm 139:14-16).

Isaiah said, **"The Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name...And, now, saith the Lord that formed me from the womb to be his servant..."** (Isaiah 49:1,5)

God said about Jeremiah, **"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee."** (Jeremiah 1:5)

God says, **"Be sure your sin will find you out."** (Numbers 32:23)



## GRACE

(Continued from Page 1)

grace never acts contrary to justice. If the sinner should quit sinning justice would condemn him for sins he had committed in the past.

(2) That would rob Christ of any part in our salvation. If grace saves by making us sinless in character and conduct, then salvation would be by grace, but apart from Jesus Christ, for "... if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." (Gal. 2:21).

(3) If grace saves by enabling us to keep the law then the Holy Spirit would be the Saviour rather than Christ. The Holy Spirit is the Administrator of inward grace; it is by His strength we worship and serve God. The Holy Spirit, through the word, shows us the Saviour, and makes Him precious to us, but the Holy Spirit is not the Saviour. In announcing the birth of the Saviour, the angel said, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21).

(4) In the new birth the sinful nature is not eradicated, but a sinless nature is implanted. In the saved man there is a warfare between two conflicting natures; "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Gal. 5:17). And Paul said, "I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me." (Rom. 7:19). And this is the testimony of every true child of God, for "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 Jno. 1:8).

2. Grace does not save by overlooking our sins. If God took no account of our sins, that would be grace indeed but in doing that He would abdicate His throne in favor of His enemies. Our sins deserve punishment, but if God overlooked them and never punished them, that certainly would be grace - that would be the unmerited favor of God. But this is not the way grace saves, for several reasons:

(1) Because it would be at the expense of justice. There can be no sacrifice of justice in salvation. Sin must and will be punished. If God overlooked sin He would be gracious, but at the same time unjust.

(2) There would have been no

need of Christ's coming to earth and dying on the cross. There is forgiveness with God, but it is on the ground of satisfied justice. Grace saves by satisfying justice. "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." (Eph. 1:7).

(3) It would cause man to admire one attribute of God and despise another attribute. If grace saves apart from the satisfaction of Divine justice, the sinner would naturally admire the grace of God, and at the same time despise His justice. To deal with sinners in such a way, God would be putting a premium on sin. We would not think much of a human judge who would overlook the crimes of men and let them all go free. Such a judge would be despised and deposed. Such procedure would be an imputation for everybody to commit all the crimes he pleased, because they would be overlooked, and no harm would come to the criminal. How would you, dear reader, like to live in a country like that?

3. Grace does not save by giving us ordinances to observe. The ordinances or ceremonies of Christ are for those already saved. They are declarative and symbolical; not procurative and sacramental. They are for the saints; not for the world. The most terrible heresies have come from a false conception of the ordinances. Millions of men have lost their lives because they would not subscribe to these false conceptions. I quote from an article on "The Sacraments," as found in the Roman Catholic Mass Book, published by the Paulist Press, New York City:

"The sacraments are the ordinary means whereby God's grace is brought to one's soul. We depend on the grace of God not only to reach heaven after death, but to lead a life well pleasing to God on this earth. What the winds are to the sailing vessel, grace is to our soul."

"The sacraments are seven different ways by which special graces are applied to our soul. They are all instituted by Christ. By His death on the cross our Blessed Lord created a great reservoir of grace. From this reservoir there are seven channels, each carrying grace of a special quality, and when we need a particular kind of Divine help we go to the Sacrament which provides it. Baptism regenerates the soul and makes us children of God. It has

the effect of washing away the sin we were born in, as well as any other sin we have committed. Confirmation strengthens the soul so as to enable it to fight valiantly. Holy Eucharist, being Christ Himself, the Living Bread, is the Food and Nourishment of the soul. Penance brings us God's pardon. Extreme Unction gives us grace to die well. Holy Orders raises men to the dignity of God's service and gives them strength to persevere. Matrimony gives grace to husband and wife to love each other and bring up their children in the grace and knowledge of God. Throughout our life on this earth the sacraments provide spiritual nourishment without which it is impossible for us to merit the happiness and the glory which God has prepared for us in heaven."

What a strange medley of truth and error! What a frustration of the true grace of God! What an awful misrepresentation of grace! What a travesty of the truth! The article speaks of grace enabling one "to merit the happiness and the glory" of heaven. To merit a thing is to deserve it, or to get it by way of debt, and whatever is reckoned as a debt is not of grace. Rom. 4:4. The Bible says that salvation is of faith that it might be by grace (Rom. 4:16). The Bible says, "By grace are ye saved through faith." (Eph. 2:8), but this article does not have the word faith in it.

We will now attempt a positive answer to our question: "How Does Grace Save?" What is the "modus operandi" of grace? What does grace do in salvation?

1. Grace saves from the guilt and penalty of sins by placing them on Christ. Grace saves by punishing Christ instead of the sinner. He put away the guilt of our sins by the sacrifice of Himself. Heb. 9:26. He bore our sins in His own body on the tree. 1 Peter 2:24. He died as the Just One for the unjust ones that He might bring them to God, that is, into His favor. 1 Peter 3:18.

Justice says that my sins must be punished, and they have been punished in my Surety, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Surety of that better covenant (Heb. 9:22). It was in matchless grace that the Lord Jesus liquidated our sin-debt, and He shall have all the praise. "Our sins, our guilt, in love Divine, Confessed and bourn by Thee; The gall, the course, the wrath were Thine, To set Thy members free."

"Grace," cried Spurgeon, "is everything for nothing; Christ free, pardon free, heaven free."

2. Grace saves us from the love of sin and from a darkened understanding. This may be called internal salvation, and is the work of the Holy Spirit in us. In this work the Holy Spirit opens the soul's blinded eyes to see the truth of the Gospel. Paul said that his gospel was hid to the lost because their minds were blinded. II Cor. 4:4. The death of Christ does not benefit the man who lives and dies without faith in it. And every man of us would so live were it not for the light-giving and life-giving work of the Spirit. Spiritual truths are foolishness to the natural man, even though he be a university professor, and none but the Holy Spirit can make a man spiritual.

By nature and training Saul of Tarsus was a proud, persecuting, self-righteous Pharisee, but grace wrought in him the graces of repentance and faith. It was grace that made him sick of self and fond of Christ. He had been depending for salvation upon his Hebrew ancestry and the rite of circumcision, and upon his orthodoxy as a Pharisee, his zeal as a persecuting patriot, and his law righteousness; but when grace revealed Christ to Him in all His worth, he counted all these things as "dung," rejoicing in the righteousness which is by faith in Jesus Christ. Phil. 3:1-9.

Conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit, and His work in us is as much of grace as was the work of Christ for us on the cross. Christ wrought for us on the cross to liquidate our sin-debt; the Holy Spirit wrought in us conviction for sin, and faith in the blood of Christ as the one and only remedy for sin. "Grace," said Spurgeon again, "is the morning and evening star of our experience. Grace puts us in the way, helps us by the way, and takes us all the way."

Anna Steele, (1760), has memorialized the gracious work of the Holy Spirit in the following lines: "How helpless guilty nature lies, Unconscious of its load; The hear, unchanged, can never rise, To happiness and God. Can ought beneath a power divine, The stubborn will subdue? 'Tis thine, eternal Spirit, thine To form the heart anew. 'Tis thine the passions to recall, And upward bid them rise, And make the scales of error fall, From reason's darkened eyes. To chase the shades of death away, And bid the sinner

live; A beam of heaven, a vital ray, 'Tis thine alone to give. O, change the wretched hearts of men, And give them life divine; Then shall their passions and their powers, Almighty Lord, be thine."

## TEN BIBLE PROOFS

(Continued from Page 4)

countless Baptists, ignorant of or indifferent to their blood-bought heritage, are deceived by or are silent in the face of this monstrous lie!

### 7. A DEAD BRIDE?

"Ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead." (Rom. 7:4).

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (Eph. 5:25 - read on through verse 32).

These and other Scriptures compare the spiritual relationship of Christ and His church to the human marriage relationship. That the "wedding" is still future is shown by Matt. 22: 1-13; 25:1-13; and Rev. 21:2.

Was our Lord at any time betrothed to a dead bride? After He gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her by the washing of water in the word, that He might present her to Himself in glory - after all this, was there ever a time when nowhere on earth could be found a church that could be truly called His bride? Was there ever a time when the only "Christianity" on earth was the religion of spiritual harlots? Perish the thought! But if it be so, what are all the churches today but harlots and offspring of harlots?

### 8. "I AM WITH YOU"

(Continued on Pg. 8, Col. 4)

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## SANCTIFIED TO PERFECTION

*Unsanctified Christianity is a mockery of the holiness that God demands.*

By the late Rosco Brong, Former Dean, Lexington Baptist College

**"This is the will of God, even your sanctification."** (I Th. 4:3)

A "Christianity" that has departed from God to make peace with the world, that has abandoned divine revelation for human reason, that has lost its fear of eternal torment and hope of eternal glory in its vain ambition for temporal pleasure, self, and power, is a mere mockery of the faith of the New Testament. The God of the Bible is the God of Holiness, absolutely set apart from all other beings in the infinite perfections of His eternal self-existence, and He demands a measure of His own holiness in those whom He calls His people. This is one of the greatest doctrines of the Bible, and can be approached in many ways. Viewing the will of God for our sanctification in its full range from eternity to eternity, we may think of Sanctification in Purpose, in Provision, in Position, in Progression, and in Perfection.

### PURPOSE

God's perfect holiness is most clearly revealed to us in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. **"For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens."** (Heb. 7:26).

But it is God's purpose from eternity that all His born-again children shall become like Jesus. **"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."** (Ro. 8:29).

**"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."** (Eph. 1:4).

### PROVISION

It was easier for God to create

the heavens and the earth than to redeem His chosen people. In creation, **"He spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast."** (Ps. 33:9). But sinners could become saints only at the cost of the precious blood of the Word become flesh.

**"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate."** (Heb. 13:12).

So Jesus came to accomplish the Father's purpose, to do the will of God, **"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all... For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."** (Heb. 10:10-14).

### POSITION

Faith brings us into the position of sanctification that Christ has provided for us. The Saviour so informed Paul when He sent him to the Gentiles.

**"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."** (Acts 26:18).

Sanctifying faith in human experience is possible only in connection with the sanctifying, regenerating work of the Holy Spirit:

**"God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."** (II Th. 2:13).

### PROGRESSION

**"This is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor... For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto**

**holiness."** (I Th. 4:3-7).

Here we have an exhortation to people already in a sanctified position to be progressively sanctified in practice. Even so, Jesus prayed for those who were already His sanctified disciples: **"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."** (Jn. 17:17).

If we have a genuine experience of divine grace and thus occupy the position of saints, we are under strong obligation to **"grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"** (II Pe. 3:18), **"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."** (Phillip 1:6).

Genuine saints of God learn this practical, progressive aspect of sanctification under the chastening hand of our heavenly Father, Who corrects us **"for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness."** (Heb. 12:10).

### PERFECTION

Unlike the pitiful pretenders to perfection in this present flesh, the Apostle Paul expected to attain his goal in the resurrection:

**"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."** (Phillip 3:12-14).

Only in the resurrection, and then for an endless eternity to follow, shall we bear the image of the heavenly. (I Cor. 15:49). Then indeed we shall be conformed to the image of God's Son. (Ro. 8:29). Then at last **"we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."** (I Jn. 3:2).

**"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly."** (I Th. 5:23).

## TEN BIBLE PROOFS

(Continued from Page 4)

### ALWAY"

**"Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."** (Matt. 28:18-20).

Practically all Christians recognize that Jesus was speaking here to His church. The only real question is, what kind of church was it?

Of course, an imaginary "invisible" church cannot go anywhere, it cannot disciple any nations, it cannot baptize anybody in any way, it cannot teach anybody anything, and being non-existent, it would not know the difference whether the Lord were with it or not.

But an organized assembly of baptized believers, such as Jesus had constituted His disciples, can do what He commanded and in doing so can claim the promise of His continuing presence - and it is the only organization on earth that can do so.

Jesus promised this kind of church that He would always be with it, even to the end of the age. But He could not be with it unless it existed to be with. Therefore if Jesus spoke the truth He has had His churches in the world ever since and He has been with them all the time - and so it will be to the end of the age.

### 9. GLORY IN THE CHURCH

**"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end."** (Eph. 3:21). More literally translated: **"To him the glory in the church in Christ Jesus, unto all the generations of the eon of the eons."**

We have here a Spirit-inspired declaration or prayer. If it was a prayer, as the KJ version indicates, it nevertheless declares an assured fulfillment, for the Holy Spirit does not inspire vain prayers. **"He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."** (Rom. 8:27).

Therefore we understand that God gets glory in the church in Christ Jesus. This was true in Paul's day and it was to continue "unto all the generations of the

eon of the eons," an expression of eternity beyond our comprehension. But He could not get glory in the church unless the church continued to exist. And of course He is far from getting glory in an imaginary "invisible" church whose advocates reject and deny the plain simple, straightforward teachings and promises of His Word.

### 10. PILLAR AND GROUND

**"These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: but if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."** (I Tim. 3:14-15).

Speaking of the church as an organized assembly, as the context clearly shows, Paul here calls it "the pillar and ground of the truth." That is, the church not only, as a pillar or column, upholds the truth, but it is the foundational support of the truth.

Here we have the explanation for the wholesale loss of Bible truth by false churches and unattached Christians. It has pleased God that His church should be the pillar and ground of the truth, and so it has been through the centuries.

**A SOLEMN WARNING!**  
**WHEN MEN REJECT BIBLE TRUTH ABOUT THE CHURCH, and refuse to recognize its rightful place as the body and bride of Christ, the house of God, the pillar and ground of the truth, THEY QUICKLY LOSE OTHER TRUTH AS WELL.**

The truth of God's Word is still upheld in the world today because of the faithfulness and the martyr's blood of the true churches of God through the dark ages, and this truth will still be upheld to the end of the age because there will still be some churches, the true churches of our Lord, to serve as the pillar and ground of the truth.

*God will not  
suffer you to be  
tempted above  
that you are able;  
but will with the  
temptation also  
make a way  
to escape.  
(I Cor. 10:13).*

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41105-0060



**"Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful; and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice, before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth."** (Psalms 96:11-13).