

*No man loveth God except the man who has learned that God loves him.*

MISSIONARY BIBLICAL BAPTISTIC PREMILLENNIAL

# The Baptist Examiner

**Baptist Is Our Middle Name**

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

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## THE DOCTRINE OF LOVE

By Pastor Hershael W. York

Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, KY

As published in the Mar. 11, 1994 edition of the Ashland Avenue Baptist

**"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."** (Matthew 22:37-40).

Someone once told me that there is no distinction between God's commandments. He argued that all of God's commands are major, that there are none more important than others. I did not respond to his comment at the time, because I wanted to mull it over and "search the Scriptures" to see if there was merit in his remark.

What I found is that there was a correctness in his zeal to be obedient to God in all things, but according to Jesus, there is indeed a priority of commands. In fact, when Jesus was asked "Which is the great commandment in the law?" He neither hesitated nor equivocated, but flatly stated that there is a commandment that is greater than all others. That commandment is to love.

This love has two directions. First, it is love for God, a devotion to Him and to His will, and to His Word. It is a love that is to absolutely consume the individual heart, soul, and mind. The second direction of love is that it is to be manward. This love of one's neighbor is to be as great as the love of self.

### Why Don't We Love?

If Jesus said that this is the greatest commandment, then why do we care so much more about other aspects of life and ministry? If Jesus taught that love is the central theme, the keystone in the arch of all the prophets and law, how have

we missed it so desperately?

I have seen pastors fired by their churches for bad judgment, bad sermons, bad morals, and bad leadership skills, but I have never heard of a pastor being so much as rebuked for a lack of love. On the



Pastor Hershael W. York

other hand, I have heard pastors get into a church and immediately begin to "straighten out" the people on some doctrinal issue, some pet peeve, some tradition, some Bible version, or some social issue. But it is a rare pastor who assumes the mantle of leadership and says, "I must teach these people how to love better."

Is it possible that our priorities are confused?

### Why Don't We Teach Love?

I spent many years in theological training and have read many theological works. Yet in none of my theology books or classes has there been so much as a section on love. We debate the finer points of the order of God's eternal decrees (are you infralapsarian or supralapsarian?). We take great issue over the precise meaning of Biblical metaphors (who do you think is in the Bride?). Our churches are divided over methods and manners (Do you believe in having a children's church?). Why don't we teach more about how to love God in an intimate way and how to love each other with an unconditional love?

Our colleges and seminaries are to blame, as well. They have classes in Greek and Hebrew, but in the student ghettos young wives are abandoned by their student husbands for books and studies. Student preachers are trained in how to increase giving in their churches, but are stingy with their own affection. Professors teach them how to

(Continued on Pg. 6, Col. 5)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

### THREE NAILS AND A CROWN OF THORNS

**"And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own**



**raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him. And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross. And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull. They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted**

(Continued on Pg. 2, Col. 1)

## GOD MADE A WAY

By Deacon Earl Wooten,

Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, Catlettsburg, KY

In Exodus Chapter 14, the children of God found themselves in what appeared to be a catastrophic circumstance. It no doubt appeared to them that certain annihilation was coming from the hand of Pharaoh and his war machine. The children of Israel were cornered between the Red Sea and the impending doom of the approaching Egyptian army. No where to run, no place to hide, and no way to stand and fight and be victorious. All is lost. It is often that we today, the redeemed of God, find ourselves, at first glance, to be in similar circumstances. When our backs are to the walls our means are exhausted and all self-sufficiency is frustrated it is then as Moses voiced to Israel **"Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord."** (Exodus 14:13). Yes, it is now when all hope is gone that God can operate and orchestrate and receive the credit and praise due Him, because there is no other explanation but one, and that is; this is God's hand, reaching out to His children providing a way when it seems there is not a way.

My family has just experienced such a circumstance when God worked providentially in our lives and in meeting our needs; that it was without a doubt, "God's doing!"

On a Thursday morning, my wife and I received a phone call from our single daughter, Lori, in Ft. Worth, Texas. She had a tumor on her back surgically removed and it had been diagnosed malignant, ...cancer.

Our hearts sank, we realized that

one of us had to go to our daughter, but there was a very serious problem. I had lost my job at Armco Steel and had only worked six weeks the previous year, so we didn't have the funds for such an expensive plane trip. Immediately I became frantic, trying to generate some revenue for the trip but only found frustration, it seemed that there wasn't a way. At 3 p.m. that afternoon a close friend of ours, a brother of Christ, called us. He was aware of the tumor but not that it had been diagnosed malignant. He took it upon himself to schedule us a flight on an Ashland Oil company jet from the local Worthington, KY airport to Houston, TX, free of charge. Where there was no way, GOD MADE A WAY.

A fact still remained, we did not have finances for the trip. My wife and I decided that only she would go and I would stay home, to be here for our other daughter who is enrolled at nearby Morehead State University. The next day, Friday, my wife Connie went to work with only five dollars to her name. The news of our circumstance moved quickly through the community and God moved on the hearts of people, many of which were fellow past and present employees, church members and many dear friends. People began to help monetarily. By Sunday afternoon, Connie's co-workers at the Catlettsburg Courthouse and our church family contributed \$1,200.00 for Connie's trip to Texas. How wonderful is our Father, for GOD MADE A WAY!

That same afternoon, after taking Connie to the airport and putting her on the Ashland Oil jet heading for Houston, Connie arrived in Houston and was very concerned about how and where to catch the commuter flight out of Houston to Dallas/Ft. Worth, but God was ahead of her. When she went through the Ashland Oil private terminal doors a lady called her name. Astonished, to hear her name called, Connie turned and realized she knew the lady, who is from our hometown. Our daughters had attended high school together. They reminisced for a short period, but Connie had a plane to catch at another terminal. Dismissing herself she told the lady

(Continued on Pg. 8, Col. 1)



## THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

Eugene P. Helton  
Editor

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## THREE NAILS

(Continued from Page 1)

thereof, he would not drink. And  
they crucified him, ..." (Matthew  
27:29-35).

A question: What put Jesus on  
the cross and what held Him there?

Some might say His rejection by  
the Jews and the prescribed pen-  
alty of Roman law put Him there.  
They might also say that He was  
held in place by three large nails.  
To understand spiritually this  
matter, let us look closer at the  
crown of thorns and the three nails  
for the true reason why Jesus was  
put on the cross and what really  
held him there.

Let us look first at the crown of  
thorns. It is needful to see a sym-

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APRIL 9, 1994

PAGE TWO

## Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Many people have expressed an interest in the spiritual welfare of  
the Calvary Baptist Church. Many people are praying for our  
spiritual prosperity. Because of the interest and the prayers, I feel  
a responsibility to keep you informed as to our progress. We've had  
three new additions to our membership in the past two weeks.  
We're having visitors in nearly every service. Yesterday, March  
13th, even with some regular attenders not in services, our morning  
attendance was 40 and our evening attendance was 27. We've been  
in high 20's and low 30's for the past month. A sweet and loving  
spirit fills the sanctuary each time the church meets. The Lord is  
blessing exceedingly.

We've received numerous new subscriptions to The Baptist Ex-  
aminer and numerous favorable comments by telephone and letter.  
Much work and effort is required to produce the kind of paper which  
the Calvary Baptist Church has determined to print. I would like to  
take this opportunity to recognize and thank five people whose  
names never appear in print in the paper, however, much of the  
quality of the paper is due to their diligent efforts. Shari O. Ellison  
is the office manager of the church office. Shari is an employee of  
The Baptist Examiner and works at the direction of the editor. Shari  
inputs the various parts of the paper into our computer and then she  
proceeds to lay the paper out or format the paper in such a way that  
the available space will be efficiently utilized and the paper will  
have eye appeal. I refer to Shari as our layout editor. Two other  
ladies have the responsibility to proof and correct the mistakes that  
Shari and I make, as well as errors made in other manuscripts, which  
we did not catch. These two ladies are church members, Judy Rule  
and Alma Whitt. I can assure you that the quality of the paper would  
diminish tremendously without the efforts of these two wonderful  
Christian ladies. They serve their church so very well. The fourth  
person is Patricia Smith. Trish is a young Christian college student.  
Trish, like Shari, is also an employee of The Baptist Examiner. She  
comes in on alternate weeks to prepare the paper for mailing.  
Trish's efficiency and work habits have reduced the mailing prepa-  
ration time in half. The fifth person is church member, Jimmy  
Swindell. Jimmy has the most physically laborious task in putting  
the paper out. Jimmy must collect and load all of the mail bags;  
transport them to the post office; unload them so the postal people  
can send each of you your own personal copy of The Baptist  
Examiner. My heart felt thanks to these five people for a job very  
well done.

Until next time, may our wonderful Lord bless you richly. I can  
tell you from experience, the Calvary Baptist Church has a capacity  
to love that surely includes YOU!

bolic relationship between thorns  
and sin. Placed upon the Lord  
Jesus Christ were all the sins of all  
the redeemed from all the ages.  
"For he hath made him to be sin  
for us, who knew no sin; ..." (II  
Corinthians 5:21).

Thorns are a result of original  
sin in the garden of Eden. After  
Adam had sinned in disobedience  
to God's command, God spoke to  
Adam: "And unto Adam he said,  
Because thou hast... eaten of the  
tree, of which I commanded thee,  
saying, Thou shalt not eat of it:  
cursed is the ground for thy sake;  
in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all  
the days of thy life; Thorns also  
and thistles shall it bring forth to  
thee; ..." (Genesis 3:17-18).

Thorns are relative to sin as  
recorded by the writer of Hebrews.  
"For the earth which drinketh in  
the rain that cometh oft upon it,  
and bringeth forth herbs meet  
for them by whom it is dressed,  
receiveth blessing from God: But  
that which beareth thorns and  
briers is rejected, and is nigh  
unto cursing; whose end is to be  
burned." (Hebrews 6:7-8).

Solomon spoke of sin resulting  
in thorns. "I went by the field of  
the slothful, and by the vineyard  
of the man void of understand-  
ing; And, lo, it was all grown  
over with thorns, ..." (Proverbs  
24:30-31).

Our Lord Jesus Christ had placed  
on Him all of the sins of every

person who ever has repented of  
sin and trusted Him; all of the sins  
of every person who ever will  
repent of sin and trust Him. He had  
to suffer; He had to die to pay for  
every sin of every one of God's  
elect. He had placed on Him a  
crown of thorns. He had placed on  
Him the sins of everyone who will  
eternally live in God's heaven. It  
was sin that put our Lord on the  
cross.

Let us look now at the three  
nails; one through each of His  
hands, and one through His feet.  
They must have been very large  
nails to hold a human body on a  
cross standing erect.

The first nail, the one in His right  
hand, we'll call Love. "Hereby  
perceive we the love of God,  
because he laid down his life for  
us..." (I John 3:16). "... and the  
life which I now live in the flesh  
I live by the faith of the Son of  
God, who loved me, and gave  
himself for me." (Galatians 2:20).  
"Greater love hath no man than  
this, that a man lay down his life  
for his friends." (John 15:13).  
"... Jesus knew that his hour was  
come that he should depart out  
of this world unto the Father,  
having loved his own which were  
in the world, he loved them unto  
the end." (John 13:1). The love of  
Jesus was and is so great for His  
own that He was willing to endure  
the agony and pain; the intense  
unequaled suffering of Calvary's  
cross. With such a wonderful  
example of love, why can't we as  
His redeemed love as He taught us  
to love. Every church of the Lord  
Jesus Christ should abound in love.

The second nail, the one in his  
left hand, we'll call Compassion.  
"But when he saw the multitudes,  
he was moved with compassion  
on them, because they fainted,  
and were scattered abroad, as  
sheep having no shepherd." (Matthew 9:36). "And Jesus went  
forth, and saw a great multitude,  
and was moved with compassion  
toward them, and he healed their  
sick." (Matthew 14:14).

A leper came and knelt in the  
presence of Jesus and expressed  
his faith: "If thou wilt, thou canst  
make me clean." (Mark 1:40).  
The response of the Saviour is in  
the following verse: "And Jesus,  
moved with compassion, put  
forth his hand, and touched him,  
and saith unto him; I will; be  
thou clean." (Mark 1:41). Imme-  
diately the leper was cleansed. The  
compassion of Jesus our Lord, for  
this man, brought about his cleans-  
ing from leprosy.

A widow was weeping one day  
because her only son had died.

"And when the Lord saw her, He  
had compassion on her, and said  
unto her, Weep not." (Luke 7:13).  
The scripture goes further to re-  
veal that the Lord raised this young  
man from the dead. Once again the  
compassion of the Lord made a  
difference. Oh, dear friends, know-  
ing the compassion of our Lord,  
why are there some going today in  
the name of the Lord substituting  
arrogance in the place where  
compassion should be and is  
needed. Oh Lord, please help us to  
have compassion like that of our  
Saviour.

The third nail, the one in his feet,  
we'll call mercy. "Nevertheless  
for thy great mercies' sake thou  
didst not utterly consume them,  
nor forsake them; for thou art a  
gracious and merciful God." (Nehemiah 9:31). "The Lord is  
merciful and gracious, slow to  
anger, and plenteous in mercy." (Psalm 103:8). "He hath not dealt  
with us after our sins; nor re-  
warded us according to our in-  
iquities. For as the heaven is  
high above the earth, so great is  
his mercy toward them that fear  
him." (Psalm 103:10-11). Oh the  
mercy of the Lord; it cannot be  
measured. Thank you Lord for  
extending your mercy to me. Please  
Lord, to this one who has known  
your great mercy, let me also know  
how to be merciful to others.

Dear Friends, it was sin that put  
the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross;  
not the rejection of Him by the  
Jews or the power of the Roman  
government. It was your sins and  
my sins; all of the sins of all of the  
redeemed. The three nails could  
not have held Him there. He could  
have called 10,000 angels to aid  
Him, but He didn't. He was held  
on the cross by His great love; His  
unequaled compassion and His  
immeasurable mercy. You add the  
three together and the sum must be  
"Amazing Grace".

Father, help us to be more like  
your only begotten Son. Help us to  
have love for others. Help us to  
feel compassion for others. Help  
us to extend mercy to us. Help us  
to be true ambassadors of Christ;  
that others would see in us what we  
have seen in Him. Thank you  
Lord!







## The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

By Clyde T. Everman, Deacon  
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### Genesis 1-3, Review

While we have studied the first three chapters of Genesis, yet because of their great importance, before going on in our studies we need to review and expand our study of these chapters. In these three chapters there are revealed to us at least seven very important facts. The first is:

#### THE ETERNAL GOD

**"In the beginning God."** Here we have a revelation of God as the Creator of the universe. The Creator of the universe is brought forth without explanation, without argument, **"In the beginning God."** God, Who is the Author of the Bible does not have to explain His existence. There is only one man who says there is no God and he is called a fool by the Scripture.

#### 2. CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE

Creation of the universe is a revelation of God's power. And assures us that He lives and one who denies God is without excuse. **"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."** (Rom. 1:20). Genesis one tells how the world was made. Genesis 3 tells how it was lost, John 1:29 tells how it was redeemed, **"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."** In Isaiah 11 and Romans 6:19-23 we are shown how it will be renewed.

#### 3. THE ORIGIN OF THE HUMAN RACE

The third fact revealed in these chapters is the origin and the unity of the human race. Both the Old and the New Testament clearly state that all human beings came from the same source, from the man and the woman whom God created. In Genesis 10 and 11 we shall see that the human race was divided into nations, but the Scripture clearly teaches these divisions all came from the one human family, **"God that made the world and all things therein —**

**hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation."** (Acts 17:24-26).

#### 4. THE ENTRANCE OF SATAN

In Chapter 3 we have revealed to us the enemy of God and man—Satan, the primary cause of sin. The Bible reveals that there is one in God's universe that is a powerful, cunning creature that is in rebellion against God. Satan is a bitter enemy against the human race. He seeks to (1) blind them (II Cor. 4:4), to beguile them (11:13), to buffet them (12:7). His work is one of deception and violence. He sometimes works as "an angel of light", and at other times "as a roaring lion."

#### 5. THE ENTRANCE OF SIN

The book of Genesis begins with the four words, **"In the beginning God."** The book ends with the four words, "a coffin in Egypt." It begins with a living God it ends with a dead man. In between these two expressions lies the great event that brought about the death of man, the event that effected all mankind and the world in which he lives - the fall of man and the entrance of sin. **"By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."** (Rom. 5:12). Genesis 3 shows us the effect sin had upon one man. Chapter four, the effects upon the family and Chapter 5 and 6, how it effects the human race.

#### 6. THE FIRST PROPHECY

In Chapter 3 we have what has been called the fountainhead of prophecy. The statement, **"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed,"** reveals the conflict which has ever existed between man and Satan. **"It"** (the seed of the woman) **"shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel,"** reveals the effects of the first and the second coming of Christ. Satan bruised

the heel of Christ at His first coming at the cross. Christ will bruise Satan's heel when He comes the second time.

The One Who was to bruise the heel of the serpent was to be the Seed of the woman. Tracing His lineage, He was to be of the line of Abraham (Gen. 12:3), of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10), and of the family of David. (II Sam. 7:16). A study of the Scripture shows this to be fulfilled as was prophesied.

#### 7. REDEMPTION

**"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them."** (Gen. 3:21). Here we have the "fig leaf aprons" made by Adam and Eve replaced by robes provided by the Lord. These robes were provided by the shedding of blood. These robes foreshadowed the shedding of the blood of the "Lamb of God". The fig leaf aprons which represent man's works of righteousness are unable to cover man's sins, **"All our righteousness are as filthy rags."** (Isa. 64:6). For one's sins to be covered they must be covered by the robe which God has provided, **"He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness."** (Isa. 61:10). The robe with which the Christian is covered is the righteousness of God. As the poet has said: *"When we stand before Thy throne, clothed in beauty not our own, The Lord shall we fully know, not till then how much we owe."* (McCheyne).

Read  
the Word  
each day,  
then  
kneel  
and pray.

## AIMING HIGH

By Jack Whitt

**"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth."** (Col. 3:1,2).

Work hard, study hard, set goals, be ambitious, if you would be successful in this life. I'm sure this advice is familiar to most of us from early childhood and on into our adult life. Parents, educators and successful business people all likely would agree to this premise. Aim for a high goal and you will reach it. We see much of this philosophy applied in training young children to become outstanding athletes. Often it demands hard work, long hours and sacrifice on the part of the student, the parent or trainers.

This same philosophy is also common among so many young adults in this age of high-tech living with married couples often committing themselves to working two jobs and long hours in order to achieve their goals and desires to be successful, or in some cases, simply trying to make a decent living and pay the bills.

The idea behind working hard and setting goals is basically a good one. Yet there can be, and many times is, a negative side to this philosophy. It is when we are motivated by selfishness, lust and greed, to get ahead, that ambitions and goals become wrong, misguided and harmful. We may be making sacrifices, in other words, for the wrong reasons. It is possible to be so entrenched in our goals and aims to get ahead in this world that we forget or neglect a far more important goal. With these thoughts now given, I would turn our attention to the text verses. As Christians, risen with Christ, what should our goals be? Without doubt, it is good to set goals and aim high to achieve them. But is it not true, too often our aims are not high enough? We may too readily accept an attitude of mediocrity in our faith toward the heavenly things. I believe most Christians generally settle for far less of the available spiritual blessings God would have us receive. Why is this? It is because our aim is not high enough. It is good to be the best at what you set out to be; a ball-player, a marathon runner, a school teacher, a plumber. How much more should we not aspire

to be the best Christian possible? If our aims to achieve successes in secular activities are warranted, should not our aims to achieve and succeed in the Christian life be even more warranted? We may easily miss out by becoming idle or slothful in our earthly responsibilities. It is just as true in our opportunities for spiritual progress. Christians ought to distinguish the eternal from the temporal. This earth and all its glamor and man-made devices will one day be destroyed. Listen to God's Word on the subject: **"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."** (I Jn. 2:15-17). There is nothing wrong with working hard in achieving success in earthly goals, such as a vocation, or even in athletic skills. It becomes wrong and even sin however when we seek these things to the exclusion of God and Christian goals. Let us again return to our text verses. **"Set your affections on things above, not on the things on the earth."** (Col. 3:2). We would like to expand upon four words from this verse of scripture: they are, "Set", "Affections", and "Things above." (1) First, what is meant by the word, "set", as is used in the text? One translation from the Greek states that it is to, set one's eyes intently upon. Certainly this should be true of all who claim Christ. The word also means to be "fixed." Yes, our eyes should be fixed and intent upon Christ and heavenly things. (2) Secondly, let's think about the word, "Affection". This word is synonymous with the heart's greatest desires. (3) Thirdly, "Things above". What is meant by "Things above"? The verse tells us it is the place where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. It implies our need to commune with God through Jesus Christ. It means then that we should pray (Continued on Pg. 4, Col. 4)

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PAGE THREE



## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum I

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

### What is dichotomy and trichotomy?

Does it really matter much either way? Which do you believe?

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DEACON:  
Calvary  
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Dichotomy in the study of the Scripture is the theory that man is made up of two parts. The body being the material part and the (soul or spirit) being the immaterial part. This theory holds that the spirit and the soul is one and the same. This view holds that while there is a distinction made between the soul and spirit, yet the distinction is not between different elements of human nature but merely speaking from two different points of view. T.P. Simmons in his "A Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine" said that, the spirit is man's nature looking Godward, and capable of receiving and manifesting the Holy Spirit: the soul is man's nature looking earthward, and touching the world of sense. The spirit is man's higher part, as related to spiritual matters, the soul is man's higher part as related to the body. The dichotomy theory holds that man's nature is like "a two-storied house, with windows in the upper story looking in two directions - toward earth and toward heaven. The lower story is the physical part of the body. But man's upper story has two aspects; there is an outlook toward things below, and a skylight with which to see the stars." (Strong, Systematic Theology, p. 246).

The trichotomy theory teaches a three-fold division of human nature into body, soul, and spirit. This theory teaches that the soul and the spirit are two distinct elements in man's nature. The apostle Paul taught this, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and

body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thess. 5:23). The writer of Hebrews also expressed this view. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing assunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12).

The only difference I see between the two theories is that while dichotomy maintains that the soul and the spirit is one element of man's nature, trichotomy maintains that the soul and the spirit are two separate elements of man's nature.

Regardless of which of these is true, either one kills the theory that man's nature is composed of only one element, that the body, soul, and spirit, are all one. The Scripture teaches that man can kill the body but not the soul. (Matt. 10:28). At death the body is separated from the spirit. When Stephen fell asleep (died) (Acts 7:59) his spirit was received by Jesus Christ.

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"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thessalonians 5:23)

Dichotomy is the view that man is a two-part being which consists of body and soul only. The non-material part of man is the soul. However, spirit is also mentioned in the Scripture, but the Dichotomous view sees soul and spirit as the same substance and hence are interchangeable, although some see them each as having a different function.

Scriptural support for this view is found in Genesis 2:7 where man becomes a living soul. Other Scriptures seem to interchange "soul" and "spirit" with each other as in Genesis 41:8 and Psalm 42:6. Matthew 10:28 is used as are some other references to prove body and soul are all that constitutes a person.

Trichotomy is the theological view that man is a three-part being which consists of body, soul, and spirit. The Trichotomous view says man's non-material part is soul and spirit. Soul and spirit to those holding the Trichotomous position are different as to functions and as to substance. In Trichotomy the body is conscious of the world, while the soul is conscious of itself, and the spirit is conscious of God. The soul consists of man's personality: understanding, memory, and imagination. It is said that the spirit consists of reason, conscience, and man's will and is oriented God-ward. It is given of God and communes with Him. The higher animals are called "living creatures" and man is called a "living soul" in the OT. Both of these terms are the same Hebrew word "nephesh". The difference in man is the spirit which animals do not have. When the body dies, the spirit returns back to God Who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

Scriptural support for Trichotomy is found in the verse quoted at the beginning of the question, i.e. I Thessalonians 5:23. Hebrews 4:12 seems to make a distinction between soul and spirit.

I hold to the Trichotomous view. Is that bad? Only to those holding to the Dichotomy view, but then we haven't even mentioned the Multi-faceted position. Some questions only God will answer when we cross over to the other shore. Let us love one another with a pure heart fervently and let us disagree in an agreeable manner. May God bless you in all your material and non-material parts.

WITNESS.

## AIMING

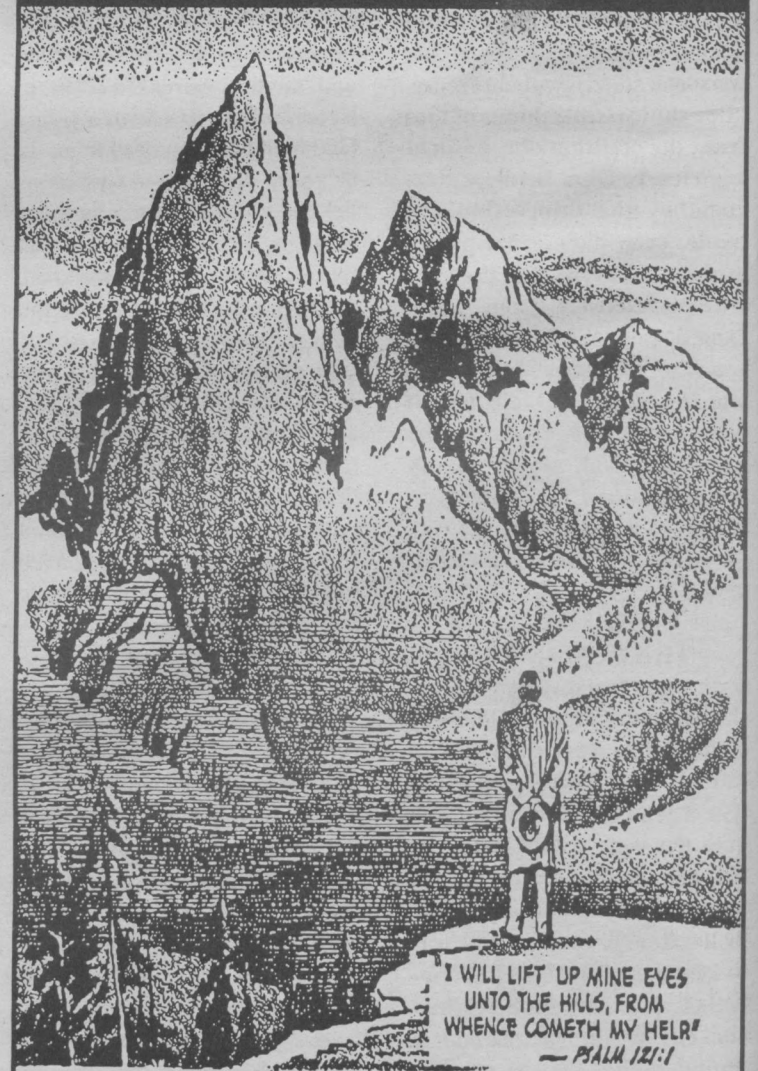
(Continued from Page 3)  
without ceasing. It means we ought to think and meditate on heavenly things, such as: the great sacrifice Christ made for our salvation, the love He has for us and our love for Him. Thus it is that our affections are to be directed upward not below. I have a great affection for my wife, my children and grandchildren which is right and proper. And yet great as these affections are for my earthly loved ones, my love and affection to Jesus and the things above should be even greater. As a dedicated Christian, my affections should also be great for my church, my pastor and my brothers and sisters in Christ. I am to love sweet fellowship, which I find in going to church. We summarize the verse then to mean, our affections are to be fixed upon Christ and all things that are right and holy and make for peace and joy through the Holy Spirit. We are warned not to set our affections on the things on earth. This warning is to Chris-

tians and there must be obvious reason for the Holy Spirit placing this here for our understanding and obedience. Verse one again says: "seek those things which are above." Christians are to be "seekers". We ought to seek to please God, not man. To do this we must be led of the Holy Spirit. We must be reminded that spiritual things come to us only as we seek them.

Christians are to aim high and when we do, God will bless us. The hymn entitled, "Higher Ground" says: "I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining every day, still praying as I onward bound, Lord plant my feet on higher ground."

In closing, may I say again, to have goals in this life and to work hard is commendable, but we should remember our highest goal is to be the Christian God wants us to be. Let our aim be toward higher ground, where one day we will be in the presence of Him who loves us with an everlasting love. May God bless you.

## HIS STRENGTH STILL AVAILABLE





## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum II

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

### Must a church have a mother church?

**Can a church be a true church if it was not organized on the authority of another church? If a man believes that a church can be organized without a mother church, would you consider him to be a "Landmarker?"**

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**TEACHER**

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Some Missionary Baptists may not be in total agreement as to what constitutes the true Church. I personally believe that a true Baptist Church is a Landmark Church. By this, I mean the perpetual existence of the same kind of church Christ instituted with His disciples during His earthly ministry, and new churches have been organized since in what we refer to as "Chain Link Succession." The Mother Church has authority to organize the daughter church. We take the logical inference of the scriptural teaching on the church, as reasonable grounds on the doctrine of Landmarkism, Matt. 16:18, being one of the primary verses.

While Landmarkism is a long held and important doctrine to our Baptist churches, I feel there are other elements of equal or even of greater importance to our churches (some may disagree). I speak of what exists within the church. Yes, today, right now! A present faith, in a present Savior. There are churches and pastors who may proudly proclaim their church heritage as being Landmark and yet show very little evidence of life within. There are some Baptist folk around the country who have broken fellowship, that have been arguing over church organization uncertainties for years. Some of these churches are dead (or at least appear to be). If a church's organization is in question, every effort should be made to determine her scriptural birth, but it should be determined by the church, pastor or prospective pastor. (That is in my opinion). How many churches definitely trace their heritage back to Jerusalem? There may be some

but I doubt there are many. We can only hope that our Baptist forefathers acted rightly on this matter. As a church, we ought to be concentrating on displaying our marks more than our Landmarks; just as a doctor is more beneficial when he practices medicine by curing diseases than to know he graduated from medical school.

What are the marks of a true Landmark Missionary Baptist Church? We of course agree an important and necessary mark is that of being doctrinally sound: To preach the precious doctrines of grace. That which we refer to as "TULIP". Another is the belief and practice of our church ordinances, baptism and the Lord's supper. And yet there is a greater mark to be evidenced within our churches. It is the mark of love. Love to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and love for brothers and sisters in Christ (see I Cor. 13). I believe this is to be extended to not only our churches of like faith and order, but to Christians of any denomination. This does not mean we are to compromise to the heresy of others but we can love them and pray for them. Love also should be shown to the lost sinner. Love, in fact, is the only thing that the Christian owes. The Bible says: **"Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."** (Rom. 13:8).

I have strayed a bit from the question that heads this article, but I felt led to answer in this way. Is church succession necessary to be a true church? I believe so. And yet even so, we may not be able to trace this from church records. The surest way to know is to give evidence by what we believe and practice. Brethren, we ought to mind the Lord and be more like Him in humiliation, compassion and love.

Love for the lost should make Baptist churches to be missionary. This is another mark that

cannot be underestimated. This is what Jesus told His disciples in Mt. 28:18-20, to go and teach all nations, to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Thus we must see that it is our marks that people see in our churches that are as important as being scripturally organized. May God bless you.

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Yes! The Lord Jesus Christ started (organized) the First Baptist Church with the material prepared by the first Baptist preacher by the name of John the Baptist. John 1:6 tells us that John was sent from God. Malachi prophesied the coming of John, also Isaiah 40. So Malachi 3 and Isaiah 40 tells us John is coming, and John 1:6 tells us that he came and went right to work at God's due time to prepare the material in which our Lord built the church.

John was given authority from heaven to baptize, but did not have authority to establish churches. This was left to the head of the church, to do at His due time. When that time came we find in Matthew 16:18 that He said, I will build My church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

This was our mother church as Adam is our federal head. We all came from Adam, and all true, real, churches came from the church that Jesus built. We find in Acts 13 where the church at Antioch ordained Barnabas and Saul and sent them out as missionaries and churches were born and set in order. This was the way our Lord would keep His line pure in doctrine and practice.

(Continued on Pg. 8, Col. 2)

## THE ANSWER TO LIFE'S GREATEST QUESTION

By Pastor Jim Orrick,  
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**"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."** (Acts 16:31).

The Psalmist wrote, **"The entrance of Thy words giveth light."** (Psalms 119:130). This being true, we should ever be thankful that God has given us His Word. Without the Bible we would grope about in darkness concerning many great things. We can look at creation and know that there is a God. (Note Psalms 19:1). But we would not know about His attributes of love, grace and mercy were it not for the revelation of them in the Bible. We would also have doubts and questions concerning creation were it not for the Bible. Hundreds of books have been written about various theories of creation, but how simply God answers the question of creation when He tells us in His Word, **"In the beginning God created the heavens and earth."** (Genesis 1:1).

But of all Scriptures, we should be most thankful for those that deal with the subject of salvation. Although the doctrine of salvation is one of the deepest doctrines taught in the Bible, the way of salvation is so simply set forth that even a child can understand it. Our text is especially precious because of the clearness of the answer that Paul and Silas gave to the Phillipian jailer when he asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

### WHAT THEY DID NOT TELL HIM TO DO

Before noting how they answered his question, we want to note some of the things they did not tell him to do.

First, they did not tell him to do good works in order to be saved. There are many people who have the mistaken idea that if they perform enough good works, when they die God will receive them into heaven. But even if it were possible for a person to begin living a perfect life and not commit one single sin for the rest of his life, he would still not be saved by his works. He would still be lost, because of the sins he committed before he began to live perfectly. **"God requireth that which is past."** (Ecclesiastes 3:15b). Mankind needs a means of forgiveness where by all their

sins, past, present, and future can be forgiven. Some of the clearest scriptures in the entire Bible are those that teach that people cannot be saved by their own good works. Note Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 4:5, and Titus 3:5.

Nor in answering the jailer's question did Paul and Silas tell him to go to an altar where he could be surrounded by praying Christians and pray through to God. I know that many churches practice this in dealing with lost souls, and no doubt many people have been saved at an altar service, but such a practice is without scriptural basis. Salvation and the forgiveness of sins are a gift from God (Romans 6:23), and a gift is something that you do not have to beg for, you simply receive it. The problem with "The old fashioned altar" is that it is not old fashioned enough. It is a modern practice that has no scriptural basis to rest upon.

Nor did Paul and Silas tell the jailer to be baptized in order to be saved. We read later in the chapter that he was baptized, but in answering his question about how to be saved, they did not tell him to be baptized.

They did not even tell him to join the church in order to be saved. The church is a scriptural and wonderful organization, but it is not something that brings salvation to someone because they join it. No doubt there will be many people in hell who had their names on some church roll (Note Matthew 7:21-23), and many people in heaven who were never members of any church but who were saved. The thief on the cross is an example of someone who was saved without being baptized, going to an altar, or joining a church.

### WHAT THEY DID TELL HIM

**"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."** (Acts 16:31). They told him that he could be saved, not by doing something himself, but by believing on One who had done something for him.

But for a brief moment, I can (Continued on Pg. 6, Col. 1)

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## THE ANSWER

(Continued from Page 5)

see how this could pose a problem to this man. He lived in Phillipi, a city in Macedonia that knew little, if anything, about the true God, and even less about Jesus Christ. Romans 10:14 asks the question, "How can they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" While this jailer may have never heard about Jesus, he was about to. "And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house." (Acts 16:32). We often hear of people receiving a "crash course" on some subject. This means that they receive a good amount of information in a very short time. I believe that the Phillipian jailer received a "crash course" concerning Jesus Christ. Perhaps they told him about His miraculous birth and perfect life. Certainly they told him about His substitutionary death for him on the cross and of His resurrection and ascension to the Father's right hand. They told the jailer about Jesus so that he could believe on Him. Note they did not tell him to believe "IN" Jesus but rather to believe "ON" Jesus for salvation. A person can believe all that they Bible says about Jesus and still be lost if he does not believe on Him as Saviour.

### WHAT DOES BELIEVING ON JESUS MEAN

To believe on Jesus for salvation means to completely trust Him alone to save you. It means to depend upon Him alone for salvation. It means to commit your soul to Him. It means that you say like Paul, "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (II Timothy 1:12). To commit mean "to turn over to." We go to the post office and commit a letter to the postal department, fully confident that they will deliver what we have committed to them. When a person believes on Jesus for salvation he commits himself to Him, fully confident that He will save his soul, keep it, and deliver it safely to heaven's shore.

It was a happy time in the life of the Phillipian jailer and his family when they believed on Jesus for their salvation. It will also be a happy time in your life if you

believe on Him as your Saviour.  
**BELIEVE ON THE LORD  
JESUS CHRIST, AND  
THOU SHALT BE SAVED.**

### What Does It Mean To Be Faithful?

If your car starts one time out of three, do you consider it faithful?

If the paper carrier skips the Monday and Thursday editions, would they be missed?

If you fail to come to work two or three times a month, would your boss call you a faithful worker?

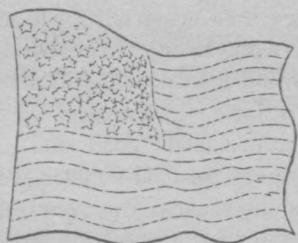
If your refrigerator quits for a day now and then, do you excuse it and say, "But it works most of the time?"

If your water heater greets you with cold water one or two mornings a week, would you be understanding?

If you miss a couple of mortgage payments in a year's time, would your bankers say, "Oh, well, ten out of twelve isn't bad?"

If we miss worship and attend meetings only often enough to show we are lukewarm members, how faithful are we?

Are you - faithful?



I have noticed that folks are generally about as happy as they have made up their minds to be.  
- Abraham Lincoln

## THE GRACE OF GOD

By James Hobbs

"In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence." (Eph. 1:7,8).

One of the most amazing things that we find is the grace of God. When we think of grace we must understand that it is the divine influence upon the heart and it's reflection in the life. Grace is a gift, an unmerited favor. We are not worthy of any gift from God, yet we receive His grace.

The Bible is very clear on the fact that we are not worthy. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). "But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe." (Gal. 3:22). Because of our sinfulness we deserve the "wages of sin" which is death. (See Romans 6:23).

Natural man (man in his sinful condition) will not believe that God is a sovereign being. It is in our nature to believe in a god, but to believe that He has all power is not acceptable in our sinful state. Sometimes we have to be shown like King Nebuchadnezzar was. God caused him to be like a beast and the purpose was - "...till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." (Dan. 4:25).

Many people, even some who have been saved, do not believe that God chose from the beginning those who would be saved, in spite of the Scripture that teaches this to be true. "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." (II Thess. 2:13,14). We are told here that God chose from the beginning, now we read in Ephesians 1:4 that it was before the foundation of the world. "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."

Those who reject the fact that God chose want to get the glory of their own salvation. Most people would prefer to say that they had saved themselves. This includes those who say that God looked into the future and saw who would believe and so He chose them. The first time I heard that, I could not believe that anyone would dare to blaspheme God in such a manner, then I found that a lot of people believe that. They are saying that their God is a glorified fortune teller, that He has power to look into the future but not to control the future. Even the name of God shows us that that isn't true. He is the Supreme Being, not a helpless being. If it were true then we could say that we are responsible for our salvation and it is not the gift of God's grace and we could boast within ourselves. The Bible is very clear and emphatic about that. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8,9). Even our faith is a gift of God.

Because of man's sinful condition, no one can be saved; yet people are being saved. How? By God's divine and perfect grace. After he had talked about how unworthy he was, Paul told us about it. "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." (I Cor. 15:10).

Our salvation is a gift from God, not an award for work. Jesus died for us and we cannot do anything to add to that. He died for His people and all for whom He died will be saved. When we get to heaven we will praise Him for salvation and not boast within ourselves.

## DOCTRINE

(Continued from Page 1)

tell a church the difference between agape and phileo, but they seldom teach them how to tell the church, "I love you."

Is it any wonder that we are not seeing revival in our day?

### Why Don't We Show Love?

When Jesus talked about love, He was not engaging in the popular perception of love as merely a subjective experience that overwhelms us like a wave of the ocean sweeps over the sand. He meant sacrifice, a love that is passionate, willing to suffer, willing to give. He meant a love that results in obedience to God and giving of oneself for others.

We content ourselves to fool around with doctrinal debate and methodological argumentation. I think I have found out why. It is simply too risky for us to love like Jesus loved. It is far easier for me to cravenly criticize my brother than to help him overcome his problem. It is simpler to spread secret gossip than to lovingly confront. It is easier to hate than it is to help, to shout at than to share with, to demand our rights than to surrender them to others.

But Jesus was different. He didn't just talk a good game, He lived it. He did not condone the sin of the adulterous woman. He forgave her and encouraged her for the future. He was willing to be falsely accused of being a drunkard and a glutton because he spent much time with sinners. He knew that sinners are not the enemy; they are the victims of the enemy.

I am convinced that one of the reasons that Ashland Avenue is growing is that we are trying to learn how to love God and one another better. The visitors to our church tell me they are immediately struck by the atmosphere of love and warmth in this place. A young man in our church recently considered leaving here. He visited other churches in the area, all of which are doctrinally sound, but he received a rude awakening to find them often devoid of love for people. That showed him where he should be.

It is time that Baptist churches stopped making a false distinction between love and doctrinal truth, as if they were competing interests mutually exclusive of one another. We need to quit worrying about what some other group or denomination is doing (Continued on Pg. 7, Col. 5)



## THOU GOD SEEST ME

By Pastor Robert Barkman, Gethesemane Missionary Baptist Church in Marengo, OH

"And she called the name of the Lord that spake unto her, Thou God seest me:..." (Genesis 16:13).

"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my down sitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it." (Psalms 139:1-6).

"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee." (Psalms 139:17,18).

Here, in our texts, we have clearly declared to us that our Lord is a Lord that sees us. This same truth is presented to us in many different texts throughout the Bible. (see Pro. 5:21; II Chr. 16:9; Job 31:4; Job 34:21; Psa. 11:4; Psa. 17:3; Jer. 16:17; 17:10; Jer. 23:24; Hos. 7:2; Heb. 4:13; Rev. 2:18,23).

This truth, when believed by all mankind, will have a two-fold result:

### 1. Encouragement

"I have kept thy precepts and

thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee." (Psalms 119:168).

Here, we find David presenting a very simple, yet important truth. When we, as Christians, realize our Lord is watching over us with care and love, we are encouraged to serve Him in greater ways. His concern for us brings about a sense of confidence and trust as we serve Him.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Heb. 13:5-6).

### II. Dread

"If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee." (Psalms 139:11-12).

In these verses King David shows us that it is impossible to hide from the Almighty God. Our Lord knows all the works of man; no man can be covered from His sight. For those that are lost this is a dreadful thought.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The Lord

looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the Lord. There were they in great fear:..." (Psalms 14:1-5).

As we realize the Lord does see us, we will undergo a life changing experience. For those of us who are saved, we should see our need to serve our Lord in greater ways. We should be encouraged knowing He is ever watching us, He sees our needs and our trials we face, and He is constantly there to aid us in our walk of life.

If those that are lost graciously have this truth applied to their hearts, they, too, will have a life changing experience. They will see their need to turn from their sins and turn to Christ as their Saviour. They will see their need to submit to the Lordship of Jesus and become His servants. Oh, how we all need to realize He is watching us.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalms 139:23-24).

## A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



*Stop whatever you are doing! Take a break. Come and join me. Let's talk. You know!... girl to girl, woman to woman, sister to sister. "Sister"... that's our word for the day.*

### Two Sisters And Their Saviour

**Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-45, 12:1-8**

Now as Jesus and the twelve traveled, teaching and preaching, they would come to a little village town called Bethany. Now, in this village, there lived two sisters, Mary and Martha, with their brother Lazarus. Our Lord had been welcomed into this home on at least one occasion, though one might get the impression, from other portions of Scripture, that He was a frequent visitor in this home, whenever He was passing through. We are told that "Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus." Remember how He wept at the tomb of Lazarus, before He called him forth. Remember how He commended Mary and defended her, when she anointed Him with a very expensive oil, before His death. Now, let's take a peek inside this home, in which our Lord is the special guest. We see Martha, busy rushing about, putting the finishes and touches on the meal, which she has slaved over for hours. But, wait a minute! Where is her sister, Mary? She cannot be seen bringing dishes to the table or stirring over the hot fire. There is the Lord sitting and teaching. Wait! Who is that at His feet? I believe it's Mary. It is, it is Mary! What is she doing, letting Martha do all of the work, while she just sits? Did not Martha ask the Lord this very same question? And do we remember His answer? "Martha, Martha... careful and troubled about many things: ... and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." The Lord very gently, and kindly, rebuked Martha. Jesus knew of Martha's love for Him, realizing her concern to do what was right. Martha had misplaced her priorities and needed this loving, but firm reminder from the Lord. One sister wanting to give her best, went

about the house in a scurrying rush, preparing for their special guest, the other, sat at His feet, listening intently to every word that He spoke. Both loved Him. Every godly woman should have a little Martha and a little Mary in her. She will want to be active in serving her Lord, yet not neglect to spend time in His Word, the quietness and the stillness of time spent in prayer and meditation.

The difference between these two sisters can also be seen at the time of their brother's death. Though they both met the Lord with the same greeting ("Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."), it was Mary who fell at His feet. It seems that Mary always knew the proper place to be.



"And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of

them. And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. and whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me."

(Matthew 18:3-5).

## DOCTRINE

(Continued from Page 6)

and start devoting ourselves entirely to the business of loving God and each other in a greater way.

Love is a doctrine. That means it can be taught and learned and practiced. Isn't it time that we became obedient to the greatest commandment?

**Pray for one another.**

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

APRIL 9, 1994

PAGE SEVEN

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## GOD MADE

(Continued from Page 1)

she would love to talk but had a plane to catch and a short period of time to get there. The lady replied; "Well, I'm going to take you to the terminal, my car is just outside." Again, GOD MADE A WAY.

The next day, Monday, I received a call from Carl Crooks a clerk in Masonry, the department I had worked in at Armco. He related to me that the men were giving a sizable amount of money on behalf of Connie and myself, but it was not apparent yet how much it would be. He said that men were coming in on their days off to give. Carl also stated that he had never seen so much from so few men. Immediately my heart sank; I thought "Oh no!" I had seen God supply our needs. This must be for me, to provide a plane trip to Dallas. I felt that our daughter Lori was probably going to get worse and this is how the Lord is supplying.

Our daughter Lori, three months earlier lost her job at an environmental firm in Dallas, and at that time she had also lost her hospitalization insurance. Here is a young woman, only 23 years of age, facing cancer with no insurance. No insurance company in the country, as you're well aware of, would take a young woman with cancer. Then God answered. The next day, Tuesday morning, Connie called and said, "You're not going to believe what's just happened here!" "Yes, I will, what?" I asked. Lori's previous insurance company had called and informed her that if she was willing to pay the three months premium since she was terminated, plus the existing month she could receive full medical insurance! Praise the Lord, what a blessing. GOD MADE A WAY! Joyously, I then explained to Connie the situation at home, how my co-workers in the Masonry department had given so freely. I then realized what God, through those men, was supplying those finances for; it was to pay Lori's four months of insurance premiums. Again, GOD MADE A WAY!

Lori was diagnosed as having lymphoma, a cancer that attacks the lymph glands. She also already had another tumor under

her arm that was growing quickly. Our church family, friends and others started prayer chains that God would bless the first chemotherapy that was administered to Lori. We met for prayer and prayed that God would grant healing and that the therapy would not devastate her body as it often does. We prayed at the exact time that she was receiving the chemotherapy and she came through, so wonderfully well. I bless the Lord on my soul and all that is within me for his goodness and that he takes care of His own. For when there is not a way, our Heavenly Father will make a way, as He did of old. He does today. Because nothing is impossible with God, therefore our hope and prayer is for a total and complete recovery for Lori! After all God is still in His heaven and His eyes are upon the righteous and His ears are open unto their cry.

*(Editors note: Brother Wooten visited my office March 7, 1994, and shared the wonderful news that it now appears his daughter, Lori, will have a complete recovery. When we commit our burdens and problems to our Lord, we indeed find God is so good and can make a way, when it seems there is no way.)*

## FORUM II / PHILLIPS

(Continued from Page 5)

We have all sorts of churches started by men without authority that are in truth not recognized by our Lord, because they were not started by the pattern our Lord put in motion. We have in our area, many churches that call themselves Baptist that started from a split, or some men got together and organized themselves into a church. Some were of different faith, but through reading the Scriptures found that their sprinkling was wrong, so they voted to become Baptist without being rebaptized or seeking a true mother church.

A man who believes that a church can be organized without a mother church cannot be a Landmark Baptist. True churches are born of a Mother church or it is not a church at all, that is, a true Baptist Church. It may do everything a true church does as to its outward motion, but when it comes to sound practice and doctrine, they fail.

Let the "SON" shine  
in your life.

## FACTS OR FEELINGS?

By Jack Whitt

**"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."** (Prov. 3:5).

Feelings are often a poor judge to facts. As an illustration to this, until a few centuries ago, many people believed that the earth was flat instead of round. Sailors commonly thought and feared that the seas at some point spilled into a bottomless abyss and that venturing out too far, they could be doomed to a fate worse than death. They were guided by their feelings. The fact was that their fears were unwarranted because they based them upon their feelings, not facts. The fact is, the earth is round. In a similar way Christians have fears based upon their feelings. How so? Well, for example, how often do we fear the unknown or uncertainties of life? How often do we question whether or not God will do what He has promised in His Word? Some may question their salvation. Some think of themselves as of little or no worth. Some may feel God does not love them very much, and therefore they have no

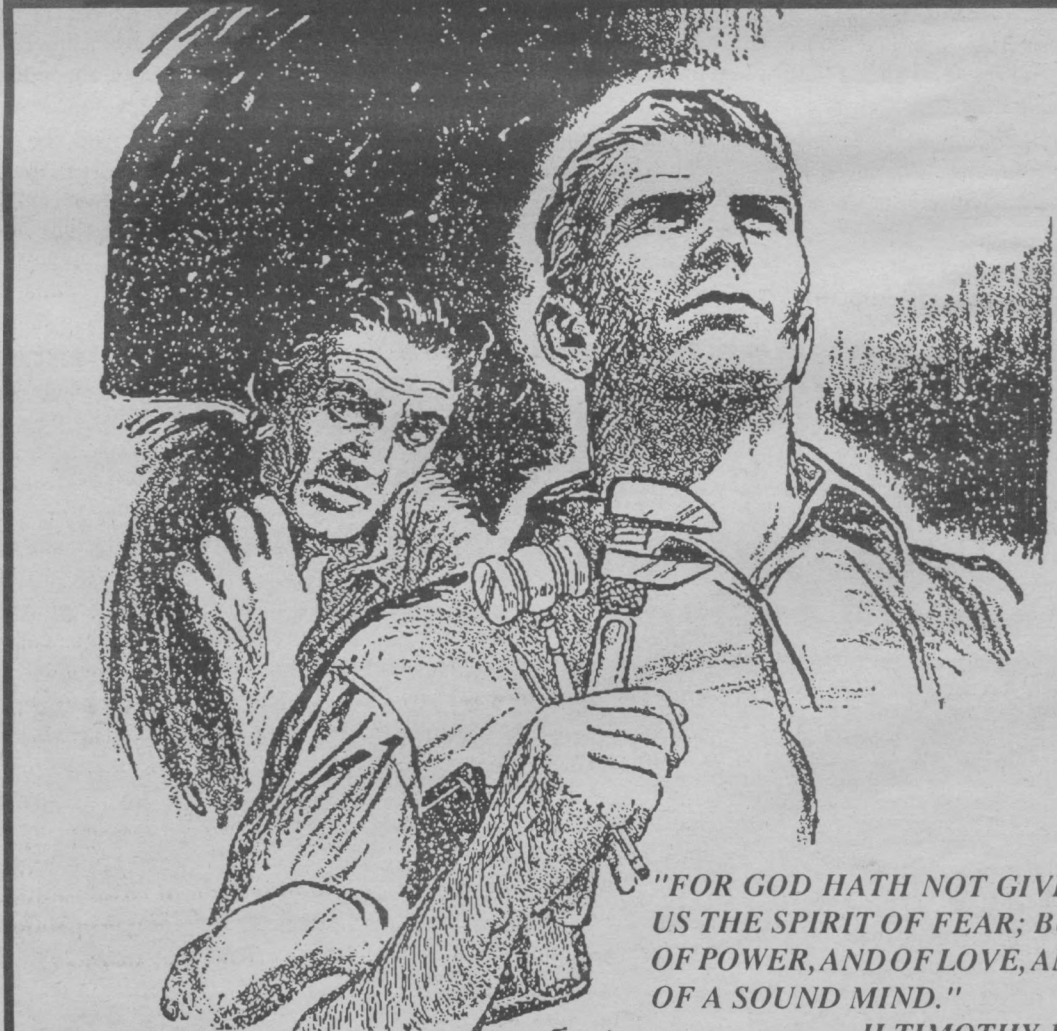
joy in salvation. These are all feelings, not facts.

Now the facts are that God's Word tells us; that He will do what He said He would. **"Yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it."** (Isa. 46:11b,c). To those who think themselves of little worth, Jesus said: **"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"** (Matt. 6:26). To those who feel God does not love them much, listen to the words from the book of John: **"Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end."** (Jn. 13:1). We may count upon this no matter what may be our station in this life, if we belong to Him, He has a great love for us that will never end. Therefore we see our feelings are not to override the facts

of God's Word.

There is yet another aspect to feelings and facts as they apply to the unsaved. Feeling comfortable and safe outside of Jesus Christ is a misleading and false feeling. The fact is you will die in your sins and be cast into an everlasting hell. Not a pleasant thought but nonetheless a fact that cannot be denied according to the Word of God. Listen: **"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."** (Rev. 20:12, 15). Thus we must conclude that feelings are unreliable, but facts may be counted upon. My friend, are you trusting today in your feelings, or are you relying upon the fact of God's Word? **"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not upon thine own understanding."**

## EQUIPPED FROM WITHIN



**"FOR GOD HATH NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR; BUT OF POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND."**

- II TIMOTHY 1:7

Jack Whitt