

The way to get on your feet is to get on your knees.

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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.

VOL. 66, NO. 11 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, MAY 21, 1994 WHOLE NUMBER 2683

RESTORING OUR PASSION FOR MINISTRY

By George R. Sledd

"Command Aaron and his sons, saying, This is the law of the burnt offering: It is the burnt offering, because of the burning upon the altar all night unto the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be burning in it."



Jesus Christ? "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work." I do believe in a divine call to preach, yet I think we need to be careful not to mystify this whole matter of becoming a preacher. I have no problem at all urging our young men and older men for that matter, to preach if they have a true desire to do so. Now with this desire flaming in my heart, I left the university and enrolled in Bible college. (The Lexington Baptist College) Many people tried to counsel me not to leave the university. They told me that there was no prestige in that little college. They told me that ministers were poor. Well, they certainly didn't lie to me on that point! I had two young men in my aerospace science class tell me that I was a fool to leave the university and become a minister. They made fun of me. I counted it a great joy to bear the reproach of the one who loved me so much and had saved my soul. I seemed more determined than ever to serve Him.

In those early days I had a passion for serving Christ. Nothing else much mattered. I didn't really

care if I had any money as long as I had a full tank of gas to get to the next preaching assignment. By God's grace I graduated from school and set out to the first pastorate. Well now it has been eighteen years and this is my fourth church. Many things have transpired. I have a wonderful wife and three lovely children. I have preached about 3,500 messages which includes almost preaching the Bible through twice. I've buried more than I've married! I have read a lot of books, literally hundreds, maybe a thousand. I've traveled all over this country and half way around the world preaching the Gospel. I've seen some folks saved, not multitudes but some, thank the Lord! Yet with all these years accomplished there is something nagging at me. Here it is, DO I STILL HAVE A PASSION FOR THE MINISTRY? If I could go back twenty years ago and do it all again, would I do it all again? I didn't say would I change some things. I think we all would make changes, but would I surrender to the ministry knowing all that has happened? Only God knows (Continued on Pg. 6, Col. 1)

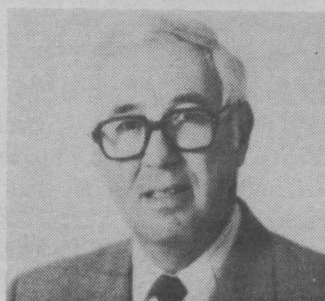
The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Proverbs 29:18).

I'm fifty-five years old. I've been trained and educated in many different areas. I've traveled a good portion of this old earth. I've seen and experienced many things. I've been exposed to many cul-



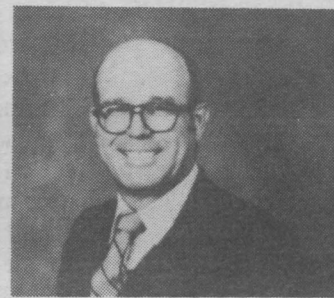
tures. I've acquired a great deal of knowledge in many different areas. I've enjoyed a full life of learning about some attitudes and doctrinal positions that heretofore I had only heard about.

There are in this world Baptist churches, Baptist pastors, and Baptist people that do not have a (Continued on Pg. 2, Col. 1)

A SURE RETRIBUTION

By Charles Lybrook

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" (Hebrews 2:1-4).



Coming judgment is never a very popular subject, but always a needed one! Sinners need to be warned of a wrath to come, and Christians always need to be reminded of a great day coming in which they shall give an account unto God for every deed done in this old body, whether good or bad. Paul said in II Corinthians 5:9-10, "Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be

good or bad."

Dear Brother and Sister in Christ, our text is a sure promise of retribution! It speaks of a great price to be paid, danger and high cost is implied! "HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE?" are words which imply that there shall be no escape! Dear Christian reader, our text presupposes a fact, and that is that many shall neglect their "SO GREAT SALVATION!" THESE WORDS ARE NOT WRITTEN TO THE LOST, BUT TO THE SAVED. These are words of warning to we who have been redeemed at great cost to our Heavenly Redeemer who redeemed us not just to save us from hell, but to serve, and not just to serve, but to be conformed unto His own image. "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." (Romans 8:29).

My people, we are fallen humanity, and as such, we wallow in mortality, but Jesus has come, and He has come to seek and to save that which is lost (Luke 19:10), and, that "MORTALITY MIGHT BE SWALLOWED UP IN THE VICTORY OF LIFE." II Corinthians 5:5a says "Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God..." My dear reader, my Brother and Sister in Christ, God had much more in mind for the heirs of salvation than rescue from the pits of hell when He sent His Son to be our Savior, and our text implies much more than the Bema seat of Christ where works are to be tried and rewards to be passed out or lost in the judgments of God, for the texts speaks loudly of present retribution and with no escape from it. Actually, verses 1-4 are an exhortation, since the word spoken by angels was steadfast, then certainly the word spoken by the Lord Himself is steadfast! And if God dealt with those who disobeyed His Word in the Old Testament times, then surely, He will deal with those who ignore or reject His Word today. And please note my fellow Christians, it does not say how shall sinners escape if they reject, but, "HOW SHALL WE (believers) ESCAPE IF WE NEGLECT THIS GREAT SALVATION"... The word "DISOBE-" (Continued on Pg. 3, Col. 5)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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Owned, authorized and published by Calvary Baptist Church, Ashland, KY Editorial Department, located in ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where all subscriptions and communications should be sent. Address: P.O. Box 60, Zip Code 41105-0060.

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Subscription rates are \$6.00 per year.

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

WHERE

(Continued from Page 1)

vision for the work of the Lord. Because they have no vision for their ministry and their church; they always come to the place where their ministry is a ministry of criticism of those who have a vision and work to see it become reality. In other words, those that do nothing spend all their time being critical of those who do something positive in service to our Lord. I believe this is an attitude which exists to cover up one's own do-nothing spirit. They have no vision, so they don't prosper and grow. They're in the process of perishing.

Spiritually speaking, some have

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MAY 7, 1994

PAGE TWO

Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Today is April 12th and I've been rushing around for a week trying to accomplish two weeks' work in one weeks' time. The Lord willing, Connie and I will be leaving after services tomorrow night (Wednesday) on a one week trip to Warner-Robins, Georgia, where we will visit our youngest daughter, Missy. Missy is the wife of a U.S. Air Force Second Lieutenant, Kevin Hickman. Kevin is presently on temporary duty in Colorado; he's been away for four weeks already and has two more weeks before he comes home. Missy is five months pregnant and has to move from off base into base housing this week. Thus, the reason for our trip to Georgia. Connie and I are so looking forward to being with Missy. We haven't seen her since September 1993.

The greatest gift that Connie and I ever received is the great salvation we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing - nothing compares with that most wonderful gift.

After our Lord, our greatest gifts have been our three daughters, our two granddaughters, and Kevin and Missy's baby which is due in early August. Connie and I have truly been blessed in great and wonderful ways by our Lord. I sometimes believe that I'm the most blessed person on earth.

The Calvary Baptist Church continues marching on. Sometimes when churches prosper and grow, some folks will say: "They must be doing something wrong." I'll just say this: "We must be doing something which is better than doing nothing. My God can prosper and my God can give an increase. My God will bless faithfulness and effort my God will bless love and zeal. My God will bless the truth held in a good spirit. My God is good. Praise His holy name for the good things that are happening at the Calvary Baptist Church. To God be the glory, for great things He hath done.

May our Lord richly bless you. We do love you. God commanded us to do so. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren..." (1 John 3:14).

bad vision and some have good vision. Let us distinguish between the two.

I. Visions of the World (Bad Vision)

Any vision involving sin, i.e. sin that is defined by God in His Word, not sin as defined by legalistic man, is bad vision. Such vision is spoken of by Isaiah in Isaiah 28:7 where he speaks about sin and then concludes with the following pronouncement: "...they err in vision, they stumble in judgment."

Jeremiah speaks of prophets (preachers) who preach false visions and wrongly divide the Word. Jeremiah says it this way: "...they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart." (Jeremiah 14:14). In another place the Lord says through Jeremiah: "Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord." (Jeremiah

23:16). To listen to the likes of these is to become self-righteous and judgmental and then come up empty in service to the Lord.

II. Visions of the Word (Good Vision)

The only spiritually good vision is vision of and through the Word of God. Many times man will try to harmonize his extreme vision with the Word of God and expects a stamp of approval from a loving and kind God on his vision that is totally unlike the Lord Jesus Christ. The precious Word of God must be the basis for our vision, and not the word of some man. In 1 Samuel 3:1 we read: "...and the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision."

The Psalmist tells us that the only way we can move forward in our service to the Lord is to make His Word the light by which we walk; the light that guides our path. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105).

Please read Ezekiel 12:21-28. Some say the visions of the Word

of God have failed and are failing. Some who would not dare say such a thing, indicate the same attitude by their actions; or should I say by their in actions. In Ezekiel 12: 25 we read: "... I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord God." If God said it, it will surely come to pass. If God said sin will be punished; sin will be punished. If God said take the Gospel to the world; then we should take the Gospel to the world. Some folks won't claim the wonderful promises God has made to his children in His Word. If God promised something good; I claim that for myself. It's sure because God cannot lie. I have victory in Jesus. I see defeat in some because they only have a vision of criticism.

III. A Vision for the Lord's Churches and Individual Christians

A vision of faithfulness. The Lord blesses even a little faithfulness. Don't try to tell me a faithful pastor and a faithful church will not prosper. That won't harmonize with the Word of God. The reverse is true. A pastor and a church not prospering is a sure sign of not doing what the Lord said do in the way the Lord said do it. Such a pastor; such a church almost always will resort to a vision of criticism to cover themselves. The Lord said regarding faithfulness: "...Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the lord." (Matthew 25:23).

A vision of utilization. The Lord fully expects us to utilize fully and properly all resources entrusted to our care. To do so is to receive many wonderful blessings from the Lord. We don't have to worry about tomorrow's provision. He will provide. Not to utilize fully and properly our resources is dangerous. The Lord won't bless and chastisement and rebuke will surely come. We see this truth clearly in the parables of the talents and the pounds. "And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come." (Luke 19:13). "Occupy till I come" means do business till I come. Take what I give you and use it to serve Me until I come back.

A vision of watchfulness. Every pastor, every church, every Christian should live every day, serving the Lord faithfully, anticipating His promised return. To be watchful is to be faithful. This is taught so clearly in Mark 13:32-37. Please read this passage. The Lord says:

"watch," "pray," and "work." Then He says: "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." (Mark 13:37).

A vision of Jesus. We shall see Jesus just as He is; someday. John described Him in Revelation 1:12-16 and again in Revelation 19:11-16: "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." This should be our vision of Jesus. We should see Him as He is. All powerful is our Lord. We should see Him as the Gospel writers saw Him. He is loving, kind, and compassionate. Shouldn't we be the same?

A vision of heaven. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 2:4). And best of all, Jesus will be there. It is Jesus that makes heaven so wonderful.

IV. The Ministries of Some Baptist Pastors Are Dying

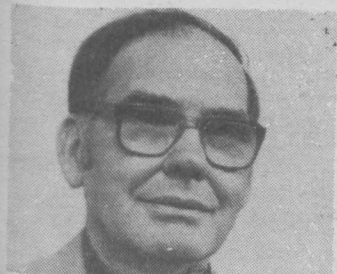
The ministries of some Baptist churches are unfruitful. They have a narrow vision. They have tunnel vision. They have critical vision. On the other side there are pastors and churches that: (1) are faithful over the little things; (2) utilize the resources which God has provided; (3) are watching for His coming; (4) are able to see Jesus in all His glory; (5) contemplate the beauty and wonders of heaven. Such a people will never perish.

Comments and suggestions are welcome. Share your copy of The Baptist Examiner with a friend. Send in the coupon on Page 3 with names of others who would enjoy the messages in The Baptist Examiner. Make a difference in the life of others.

The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

By Clyde T. Everman, Deacon
Calvary Baptist Church • Ashland, KY

Direct All Questions & Comments to: Clyde T. Everman • 108 Burdsall Ave. • Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017



"And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord." (4:16).

Cain's offering of "the fruit of the ground" was rejected by the Lord because it was an offering without blood, therefore there was no remission of sin, Cain came not as a repentant sinner depending upon a slain substitute for remission of his sins. Abel's offering was of "the firstlings of his flock" which was offered unto God by faith, showing that he recognized himself a sinner and came before God depending upon the shed blood of another.

Because Abel's offering was accepted by God while his was rejected, Cain became "very wroth", so much so, that he "rose up against Abel, his brother and slew him". Cain's unbelief and hatred drove him to murder. As a result, God pronounced a curse upon him and Cain, unrepentant "went out from the presence of the Lord", becoming a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth.

From verses 17-24 we see that Cain's descendants followed in their father's footsteps. Lamech of the seventh generation was the first recorded polygamist, having two wives, and the murderer of two men (vs. 19-23). The Cain line attempted to build another Eden with a life of social, intellectual, economic, and government improvement. They were given to agriculture, music, manufacturing of iron and brass. They were trying to improve the sin cursed world. Someone has said they were the Modernists of their day. They were making progress, but it was progress away from God. They were self-contained, self-centered, and worked and lived as if there was no God.

They lived and died without God. The Cain-line was destroyed in the flood.

Just as Cain "went out from the presence of the Lord" have not we as a nation, followed the Cain way? We have outlawed God from the classroom, we have become murderers of millions of the innocent. Like the Cainites all our progress is progress away from God. In the New Age Movement, Self-esteem Movement, and all of the other movements, are they not all away from the Lord? Like Cain's civilization the civilization of our day has no use for God. The way of Cain as described in the book of Jude, is the way of religion without faith. It is righteousness based on good works and self-righteousness. Cain built a city and developed a civilization that man could be proud of, yet he lacked one thing - God.

Jude wrote concerning those who have gone the Cain way, "Woe unto them!" (v.11). He also said that Enoch in his day had prophesied concerning these. He stated that the Lord Himself was coming with ten thousands of His saints to execute judgment upon all, for all "their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed." (Jude 15).

The Birth of Seth

Adam and Eve had another son who was called Seth. Adam was 130 when Seth was born (5:3). Seth was born in the likeness, after the image of his father Adam (5:3) which means he was born with the nature of Adam which was sinful. Seth, like Abel was a man of faith (4:25; 6:2). The line of Seth were not only men of faith but they also were men of prayer,

they called "upon the name of the Lord" (4:26). As all of Cain's race was destroyed by the flood all of the human race came through Seth, therefore all have his nature which is sinful. It was after the birth of the son of Seth, Enos, that "then began men to call upon the name of the Lord." It would seem that after the death of Abel there was a lack of worship of God upon the earth. We know that Cain and his descendants did not call upon God for they went out from God, going their own way. But now after the birth of Seth's son, Enos, it is said "then began men to call upon the name of the Lord."

After Adam begat Seth he lived eight hundred years and begat sons and daughters. Critics of the Word ask where did Cain and Seth get their wives? But that is easily explained. Adam and Eve had other children, "sons and daughters". We are not told how many, but they must have married their sisters.

Adam lived 930 years "and he died" (5:5). The man whom God created from the dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life and he became a living soul could have lived forever if he had obeyed God's command. But by his disobedience came death. God told him, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (2:17). The day Adam ate of the forbidden fruit he died spiritually. Nine hundred and thirty years after his creation his body returned to the earth from which it came and his spirit returned to "the God who gave it." Spiritual death is separation from God. Physical death is the separation of the body and soul. The

dust of which once composed the body of Adam now lies somewhere waiting the coming of the Lord for His saints. It is then that His spirit and body will be reunited and so will he "ever be with the Lord," a fellowship that never again will be broken.



"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:4-5)

RETRIBUTION

(Continued from Page 1)

DIENCE" in verse 2 literally means "UNWILLING TO HEAR"...Saints who will not hear and heed and do the commands of God are disobedient, and they will not escape the chastening hand of God. God has confirmed His Word by signs and miracles and wonders. It is His Word, and it is not to be treated lightly, and anyone who neglects His Word is making light of it. In Matthew 22:5 word neglect is translated, "MADE LIGHT OF," AND TODAY MANY CHRISTIANS ARE MAKING LIGHT OF THE DEMANDS OF GOD, BY AND THROUGH NEGLECT, and none of God's children can get away with this. "HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE," simply means there is no hope of escape. The old law of sowing and reaping is still in effect and always will be. "WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP." (Galatians 6:7). So don't be deceived, God is not mocked, and men bring upon themselves their own woe. Now, what are some ways of neglecting this so "GREAT SALVATION" to our own hurt? Before I attempt to answer that question, let me ask and endeavor to answer another. What makes this salvation so great? It is great, first of all, because of its author! God the Son is the "AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH." "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God is our Saviour, He hath wrought our salvation, even on the tree of the cross. Though Him, and by His efforts, by His pain and sufferings, we are purchased possessions, we have been

(Continued on Pg. 5, Col. 4)
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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



Where did Cain's wife come from? Did he marry his sister?

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Who was Cain's wife? This is a question that the critics of the Word of God often ask. Those who believe in the theory of evolution and all those who believe that the Bible contains mistakes and errors ask this question in an attempt to disprove the truth of the account of creation. But in spite of all the attempts of men, in all their efforts, no one has ever proven any errors in the inspired Word. All places that may seem to be mistakes or errors are only in men's minds and not in the Scripture. Critics say that after Cain killed Abel that according to the Scripture there were only three people upon the earth so it was impossible for Cain to have a wife. But we must remember that Adam and Eve had other sons and daughters besides Cain and Abel. "And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years and he begat sons and daughters" (Gen. 5:4). Another thing we need to remember is that before the flood men lived hundreds of years and begat children even in their old age. It is said that "Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth" (Gen. 5:32). In chapter five we find eight men listed that lived from over seven hundred years to nine hundred and sixty nine years and all begat children in their old age.

After Cain had killed Abel and after "he went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod". It was then said, "Cain knew his wife: and she conceived, and bare Enoch". We are not told who this woman was or at what time in Cain's life that he married her,

but we know it was when there were other "sons and daughters"; of Adam and Eve living. There could have been even grandsons and granddaughters, even great grandsons and great granddaughters.

Who was Cain's wife? We know that she was either one of his sisters or a niece, or even one of his grand nieces. As we well know that all the human race came from Adam and Eve, Cain's wife was a close relation of his.

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"And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch." (Genesis 4:16-17).

This is most certainly a popular question among Bible critics, let alone just the curious. Most people who ask this question are usually of two camps; both anti-Bible. First, there are those who believe there may have been a pre-Adamic race of people around for Cain to choose from. This cannot be, seeing that the Bible says that Adam was the first man as in I Corinthians 15:45 and also other places as well.

Secondly, there are those (evolutionists) who are never willing to believe that God began the human race with just two people in the person of Adam and Eve. No pre-human population of animals, including monkeys, evolved into the present human race. Granted, there are some whose behavior and display of intelligence lend credence to the monkey theory, but it isn't so.

We are told in the verses quoted at the beginning of this question that Cain not only got a wife, but

also built a city about which you can read more in Genesis 4:17-24. From where did his wife come, if only he, Adam and Eve were on the earth? The fact is that there were many more on the earth than just Adam, Eve, and Cain in a fairly short period of time. The Bible says that Adam and Eve had sons and daughters (Genesis 5:4) during the 930 years of Adam's lifetime, the same is true of the other antediluvian patriarchs who are listed in Genesis 5. I will not take time, due to space here, to present a formula, but it can be shown that due to the long life span, family size, etc., it is possible that many millions of people lived on the earth before Cain's death.

We don't know at what period Cain took a wife, or for that matter when he killed his brother. Of course, at least one son and daughter of Adam and Eve had to marry in the first generation to get the race started, but this may not have been Cain. If it was, however, there would have been an ample number to choose from and there would have been no mutant genes (as there are today) in that first generation from the perfect creation of God. Today close marriages are forbidden because of genetic mutations that cause all sorts of deformed, or sickly offspring. This would not have been possible at the first of creation for there were no mutant genes as yet. Whether Cain married one of his sisters, or a woman many times removed (as I believe) the results are the same and within the will of God. There are no contradictions in the Word of God.

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Where did Cain's wife come from? Did he marry his sister?

The scripture tells us that "Adam begat sons and daughters." I believe that Cain married one of his sisters. This took place

around 130 years after creation. Evidently they were married before he murdered Abel his brother. Cain became a fugitive and no doubt his wife accompanied him from the area of Eden. They bore a child and called him Enoch which means, "trained up." He was not trained up in the ways of the Lord but after the ungodly practices of his father Cain. It was through his seed that Lamech was born. He was the first we read of that introduced polygamy, contrary to the first institution of marriage, whereby only one man and one woman were to be joined together, and become one flesh. Even the godly seed took up this practice of having several wives. This practice however was never in God's direct will. God meant for a man to have one wife.

This question also brings up the issue of marriage amongst near relatives. Is it right for a man to marry a sister or cousin? In the beginning it was necessary to establish the human race. Remember though that in those early days the process of sin was just beginning to develop. I don't think it is wise to practice this today. In fact, there are biblical prohibitions against inter-marriage amongst near relations. (Leviticus 18:6; 20:19; 25:49) Medical experts discourage this for effects it has on offspring.

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Church
Ashland, KY



"And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch." (Gen. 4:17). There is no question but that Cain married the daughter of Adam, which would make her his sister. Adam and Eve, doubtless had many children after Cain and Abel. Most likely Cain had not seen his much younger sister until years later after he had left his

parents. We must realize in all this, that God's plan to populate the earth must be seen, and this was the way he chose to do it. No doubt God protected the offsprings of such a relationship from the abnormalities that would come from such close blood-line marriages today.

Many people use this Biblical event to try to refute the authority of the Book of Genesis. True believers in God do not question His will and purposes for this world, even though we do not understand many things that He does. We read in the Book of (Dt. 29:29), "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: But those things that are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

All letters sent to the Editor will be read, some may be selected to be published. Each signature will be scanned and placed with letter when published. If your church as a conference or announcement please write about it in the form of a Letter to the Editor. Postal regulations require us to advertise only our church.

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The Baptist
Examiner to:
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COMPANIONS

By Jack C. Whitt

"I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the Kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Rev. 1:9). The beloved Apostle John was addressing the seven churches in Asia when he wrote this verse of scripture. He tells the churches that he is a brother and companion in tribulation. In essence, he is saying, they each share a common bond and relationship that is unique, brought about by their salvation that is in Jesus Christ, therefore they identify with one another in a very special way. They share mutual joys, sorrows and tribulations. Dear Christian friend, is not this the way we ought to be today? Should we not think of each other as brothers and companions in service to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ?

Let us think about this word "companion", as the above verse declares it and also we consider it from a human point of view. In my lifetime, I have had many companions, especially as I recall my younger days spent in the military and in various other ways, I would become a special friend with someone of whom I shared some common interests, (but for reasons unknown to me, most all my close friends were hillbillies with a weird sense of humor). It is good to have companions. I can attest to it. A good friend can be of great help to a lonesome and homesick boy when he is far away from home in a foreign land. Having someone to talk to and share a laugh or sometimes a sorrow with, was often very helpful at certain times. I recall having such a friend while being stationed in the U.S. Air Force at Ft. Worth, TX. We became good friends and spent alot of free time together. I think it was about 2 or 3a.m., one morning that my friend came to my bunk and told me he had received an emergency phone call stating that his wife had been killed in a car accident. I felt so

sad for him. The only thing I could do was to console him as best I could as I helped him pack his clothes to go home and face the tragic days ahead. I am glad that he felt close enough to me to wake me at that hour and that I could be a little help to him at a time when he needed me. But this is what true friends are for.

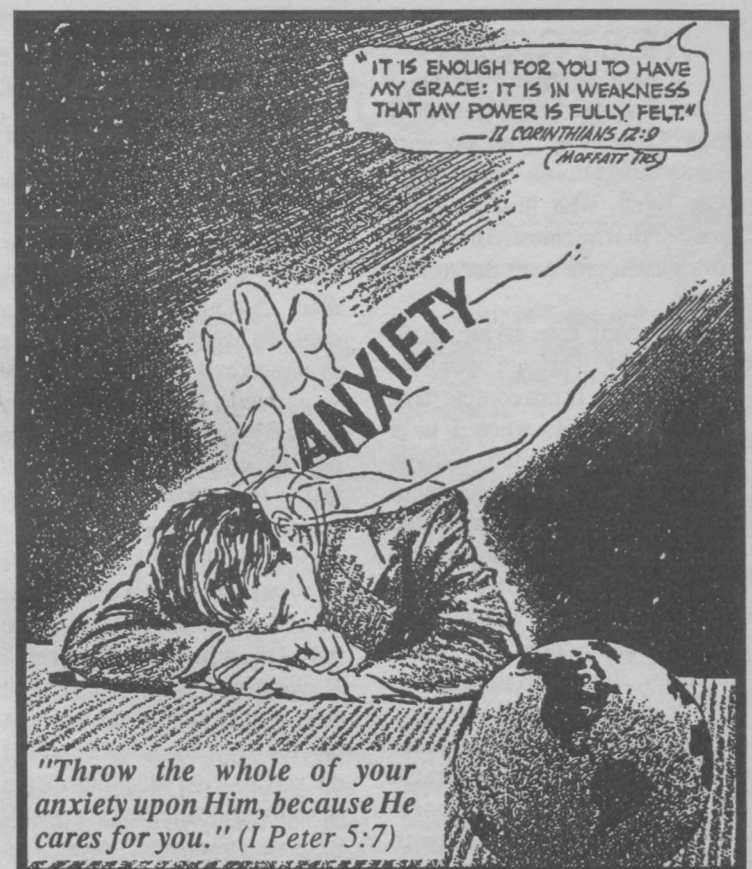
What does the word "companion" mean? According to my dictionary, it is defined: A comrade, an associate, one who accompanies or assists another, one of a pair, a mate. In the Greek, it is translated; partner or partaker. We may think of a companion in various ways. I think of my wife as good companion. How good it is for a man to have a good wife to love and share their together, especially so when both love the Lord and work together to serve Him. The Word of God says: "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord." (Prov. 18:22). Yes, God is pleased when man and woman are joined in marriage and become one flesh as companions to bring honor and glory to Him. It is, however, unfortunate, that so many marriages today are failing, and why is it so? In most cases, likely one or both are unsaved. Often it is because they do not understand the meaning of this word, Companion. They do not become true partners or partakers in their mutual joys, sorrows and tribulations. Sometimes even when both profess to be saved, the companionship is not what it should be. This could be the case with a pastor and his wife. It is unfortunate that some pastor's wives do not share in their husband's enthusiasm and fervency to serve God. The pastor may not have to have his wife's support in church, but it will hinder his ministry if he does not. I thank God for pastors wives and as a matter of fact for all the wives that provide help and support to their husbands. This is what companions are for.

Now, lets think about a companion as a church member. Ev-

ery church member should be a good companion. This is what makes a good church. Not a perfect church, but a good church. In Rom. 12:5, we read: "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." And then in verse 15 of that Chapter, we read: "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Church members may too often think of their inabilities rather than their responsibilities. It is perhaps true at times we do not feel like either rejoicing or weeping, but we should be able to do both. The Word of God, just read, says so. Perhaps some of us need to work at this a little more. Perhaps we should extend ourselves a little further to some brother or sister that heretofore we have had little concern for. I think Jesus would approve, don't you? We should ask God to help us to be a good church member and a companion to those who need us. I think most of us could pray more. Listen: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jms. 5:16). May God help our Baptist churches to pray more.

Finally, we who are saved, are companions of Jesus Christ. This is the best part of it all. We have a spiritual relationship with our Lord that will endure throughout eternity. Listen again to God's Word: "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." (Mt. 12:50). "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." (Jn. 15:13, 14).

May God help each of us to be better companions to one another and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.



RETRIBUTION

(Continued from Page 1)

bought, even by Him, and the price of our redemption was His own life. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:5-6).

My people, our salvation is free, but it is not cheap. We that are saved are saved because we are redeemed, and redeemed at great cost, not at our own expense but at the expense of another. According to I Peter 4:18 we are a people "SCARCELY SAVED" and the meaning is, at the total expense of another, we were sold under sin, lost and destitute of any merit, yet we were loved when we were unlovable, even while we were the enemies of God He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died

for us." (Romans 5:5-8).

So yes, our salvation is a great salvation, a great salvation costing heaven's best. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received, by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" (I Peter 1:18-19). All this to save a rebellious people, a lost generation, a generation blind and dead in sin, and unprofitable to God, worthless to God, yet, He loved us and gave His own dear Son for us, and we are now brought from death unto life, redeemed from all iniquity, because God would purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

MAY 7, 1994

PAGE FIVE

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR
SUBSCRIPTION THIS YEAR??**

RESTORING

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the real motive and secret of my heart. I believe I can say with Paul, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

I see many men giving up on the ministry. They are opting for other careers. I must confess there have been times when I have wanted to do the same. Why is this? Well, there are a number of reasons. Some men and their wives become physically unable to continue the rigors of pastoring a church. They have no choice but to retire from active, public ministry. Some men simply burn out or should I say, "blow out." Through the years the pressures of dealing with people, limited financial resources, discouragement, the indifference of church people take their toll on the man to the point that he gives up. This is happening more frequently today! I believe that probably the greatest reason is that the minister loses the passion, the desire to engage in ministry. We have heard much about ministry burn-out. I think more preachers "rust out" than burn out. What's the real problem? Could it be possible that we have lost our focus? What is the focus of the ministry? It is this, namely, the glory of God! I'm not looking at man; I'm not seeking anyone's praise or approval, rather I am performing this ministry as unto Christ. "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:5-6) Did you catch the idea here? "He pleased God" "He rewards those who diligently seek Him." Is that what you're trying to do? If it is you won't burn or rust out! If you are only focused on the people and the problems you are going to either burn out or blow up and one is just as bad as the other!

A few days ago I attended a men's meeting. The guest speaker was one of the prominent minis-

ters in the ranks of sovereign grace Baptists for the past thirty years. He has authored a number of books and is the founder of a school for ministers of the gospel. After the sessions we were given the opportunity for a question and answer session with this man. One minister asked him a question like this: "Can you point to one thing over the past forty years of your ministry that has made what you are today?" Here's how he answered: "I started out at the very first by putting my devotional life ahead of everything else. Before I can minister to others I must first minister to myself. If I want others to be holy, I must first be holy myself." He went on to relate that when he went to his study in the morning that the very first thing he would do was to give attention to the devotional reading of the scriptures and to personal prayer. It is tempting to begin our duties without pursuing devotional activities first. We must resist that temptation!

It takes time and effort to be holy. "Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord; Abide in Him always and feed on His word. Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek. Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone. By looking to Jesus, like Him you will be, your friends in your conduct His likeness will see." The axiom is most true, "As the pulpit goes, so goes the pew." The people will rise no higher than the spiritual leader. A holy life makes for a great leader! An unholy minister is a reproach and hindrance to the church of Christ. "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint." (Prov. 25:19). This kind of man cannot be depended upon. The broken tooth and dislocated foot have one thing in common, both are extremely painful until taken care of. Both can incapacitate you. There is a spiritual application to this to the Lord's work. Mediocrity in the ministry is evidence of mediocrity in a man's fellowship with the Lord. The man in the pulpit is the mirror of the man in the closet! I once read some engaging comments concerning the old adage: "You can't keep birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair." The comments were these: (1) "It may

be used as an excuse to keep flocks of birds passing over the head, and after a time some of them might light, roost, or nest." (2) One may not keep the birds high enough above the head." (3) "Evil thoughts passing through our minds, like the birds, may nest under cover of darkness in the subconscious mind." (4) Accidents do happen, and flying birds might lay an egg in flight that would break in the hair of the man who would never consent to have the bird nest there." "The best thing to do is to move out of the path of those flying birds."

The passion for ministry is certainly maintained by pursuing a holy life. Yet there is one more thing. We must maintain the joy of living if the passion is to continue to burn within us. Richard Baxter said it well, "What an excellent life it is to live in studying and preaching Christ; to be still searching into His mysteries, and feeding on them; to be daily in the contemplation of the blessed nature, or works, or ways of God! Our employments are all high and spiritual. Whether we be alone or with others, our business is for another world. Oh, but were our hearts more suitable to this work, what a blessed, joyful life we should lead!" From reading such a statement I think Baxter knew full well the connection between devotion and happiness. A holy man is truly a happy man! Again Baxter said, "Many a tailor goes in rags, that maketh costly clothes for others; and many a cook scarcely licks his fingers, when he hath dressed for others the most costly dishes." Above all things my dear brethren, let us draw near and stay very near Christ. When the voice cries out within you, "What is the use to go on?" You may answer, I go on because I serve the Lord Jesus Christ! He is the very passion of what I do! Remember that when you stand before your congregation there might be some trembling souls on the verge of spiritual resolve. Every face you look at is infinitely precious. They possess eternal souls. Certainly that ought to light some fire under us, should it not? Well at least you ought to feel your heart "strangely warmed." I pray that God will mightily bless your ministry and that it might be said of you that the "fire shall ever be burning upon the altar: It shall never go out."

RETRIBUTION

(Continued from Page 1)

thee." (Titus 2:11-15).

God would redeem unto Himself, not a bunch of sluggards, not a bunch of shirkers and neglecters, but "A CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, AN HOLY NATION, A PECULIAR PEOPLE," a people that would "SHOW FORTH HIS PRAISES," the praises of Him "WHO HATH CALLED US OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT." (1 Peter 2:9). Oh how great the sin then of neglecting so "GREAT SALVATION." Salvation that began with God and continues with God, salvation that is of the Lord. Now, how can redeemed people be guilty of such sin? How can we, and how do we neglect this "GREAT SALVATION?" Well my people, it is by the slighting of known duties. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17).

Dear Christian reader, the slighting of known duties is the forerunner of some sad and lamentable stroke from the Lord, those things which we know to be duties, and yet slight and disobey, are the forerunners of some sad and eminent act of the displeasure of God, our heavenly Father, we cannot misuse His grace without answering to His government. In Luke 12:47 we read of the "MANY STRIPES" and in Jeremiah 5:5-6 we read... "I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the Lord, and

the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, and burst the bonds. Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased."

Dear Christian Brother or Sister, your lion may be in many forms, but they are all God's chastenings. Be it great loss of property, life, or loved ones, it is yet the stripes of God who will not be mocked... "Be sure your sin will find you out." (Numbers 32:23). "FOR HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE IF WE NEGLECT SO GREAT SALVATION?" My people, we do not escape, therefore we had better learn how to fear God, the children of the King ought to be afraid to sin for "EVERY SIN RECEIVES A JUST RECOMPENSE OF REWARD." Whether it be sins of commission or sins of omission, we reap what we sow, and the loss and sorrow of many a Christian, is after all, the visitation of God upon that person's own sin. We must not get the idea that every time some saint suffers a setback or some tragedy that there must have been sin involved. That would be a terrible travesty of faulty judgment. No one is to judge but God, and God has allowed the best of His saints to suffer greatly. Job is one of those saints to come to mind (Job chapters 1 and 2). But if God were to

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"... Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun..."

(Deut. 33:13-14)



SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

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

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing." (John 9:1-7).

In the above account, we are confronted with one reason why the Lord performs miracles in the lives of men. The Lord clearly stated the result of this young man's blindness, and the giving of sight, was that the works of God would be manifest (clearly revealed) to others. THE MIRACLES OF GOD REVEALED HIS WORKS TO MANKIND. He reveals His works through miracles in two different ways:

First, the miracles of God revealed the PHYSICAL workings of God in His creation. The restoring of this young man's sight shows all of us the Lord's great power, wisdom, grace and love as He overcame the blindness in this young man's life. Everytime our Lord performs miracles we can see His attributes revealed in this physical life.

Secondly, and more importantly, most of the miracles our Lord performs reveals His SPIRITUAL workings in our heart at the time of salvation.

1. Blindness

In this example of the young man whose sight was restored, we can see a clear picture of the opening of a lost man's eyes to the truth of God's Word. The Bible is clear that all of us are born blinded to the truth of our Lord and His grace. Let's look at I John 2:11... "But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

We see this same truth in II Cor. 4:3-4... "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

However, when God's grace touches a lost man's heart we find II Corinthians 4:6-7 proclaims that the lost man is given spiritual sight... "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

This same principle, the Lord's physical miracles picture the spiritual salvation He gives by grace, can be applied in many instances.

2. Deafness

When the Lord heals those that are deaf (Mark 7:31-37) we again find a beautiful picture of our salvation. Lost mankind suffers from spiritual deafness... "To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the Lord is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. (Jeremiah 6:10).

Yet, at salvation the spiritually deaf are given the ability to hear... "Mine ears hast thou opened;" (Psalm 40:6).

3. Dumbness

The Lord, at times, healed those who could not speak (Mark 7:31-37) this too, pictures the salvation experience. Those who are lost cannot glorify God with their mouths... "Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness;" (Rom. 3:13-14).

But once the Lord intervenes in a lost man's life they are given tongues that can truly glorify God... "O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise." (Psalm 51:15).

4. Impotency

The Lord healed a man's withered hand in Mark 3:1-5. This is a clear picture for us of a lost man's inability to labor for the cause of Christ... "But we are all

as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." (Isaiah 64:6).

After the Lord's grace touches a lost man's hands he is given the ability to serve the Lord and please the Lord with his life... "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." (John 15:4).

5. Leprosy

Christ's healing of leprosy is another picture of salvation (Luke 17:11-19). A lost man is in a state of terminal decay/corruption. Like leprosy that eats and rots the flesh, so too, sin in a lost persons life gradually worsens and continually corrupts his life... "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own heart, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves;" (Rom. 1:21-24).

However, at salvation, the Lord intervenes and restores purity to a life corrupted by sin... "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." (Acts 15:8-9).

6. Summary: Resurrection From the Dead

We have examined 5 types of miracles performed by our Lord and we have seen how they present to us a picture of salvation. If we study the above five miracles closely we will see that they all have something in common. All 5 miracles take place when one is raised from the dead. When a body is dead there is no seeing (blindness), hearing (deafness), nor speaking (dumbness).

Also, a dead body can do no work (impotency) it is only in (Continued on Pg. 8, Col. 3)

A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



Remember!

We are told, many times, in God's Word, to pay attention to, take heed to, and remember how God has punished (judged) and chastened sin in the past. The punishments and chastenings brought on individuals, cities, and even whole nations, are told to us, in His word, for the very purpose of getting our attention... restoring fellowship with Him for the saved, convicting the hearts of the lost... The Christian can rejoice, when he reads how the Lord chastens one of His own, the end result being forgiveness and restored fellowship, King David being a perfect example of this (Psalm 51:1-19). The lost individual can become convicted, as he reads how severely the Lord judges a lost heathen city, Sodom and Gomorrah being the perfect examples of this (Jude 7). Tears come to our eyes, as we read about some of His own who disobeyed, and were denied blessings, because of their disobedience. Though Moses, Aaron, and Miriam were faithful servants, their stubbornness and pride often got in the way, thus they were denied entrance into the promised land of Canaan, but by His grace, found themselves safely in His arms, when their task was done. God's dealings with the nation of Israel are told to us, that we might be made aware of sin and its consequences (I Cor. 10:1-12). We find also, in the Scriptures, two women we are to remember. What are we told to remember about these two women? We are told to remember their disobedience to God and the results thereof.

"Remember Lot's Wife"

(Gen. 19:15, 16, 26; Luke 17:28-32)

Her sin, what was it? Looking back. What was it that made her look back? Was it curiosity? Was it unbelief? Was it a yearning for and a desire to return to the things which she had left behind (her home, worldly possessions)? Could she not let go of the past? Our Lord tells us to "remember Lot's wife", when teaching concerning His return (its suddenness, and the sinfulness of the world, prior to His return), and

comparing this time to the time in which Lot and his wife lived, before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The phrase "let go and let God" seems to apply, as we examine the sin of Lot's wife, as we learn to let go of our past and let God have everything (past, present, and future). (Exod. 16:3; Num. 11:5; Luke 9:62; John 6:66; Philip. 3:13,14) "Remember...Miriam." (Exod. 2:4-8, 15:20-21; Nu. 12:1-15, 20:1, 26:59; Deu. 24:9; I Chron. 6:3; Micah 6:4).

This daughter of Amram and Jochebed, of the tribe of Levi, was the older sister of Moses and Aaron. When Miriam was just a young girl of ten or so, she hid herself in the bushes, while keeping a watchful eye on her baby brother Moses, wrapped and secure in a little basket, made by their mother's own loving hands, and all in an attempt to save this baby boy from the wrath of Pharaoh. How things changed in later years. The Lord had spared the baby boy's life. Miriam was traveling with her brothers Aaron and Moses, leading the children of Israel towards the promised land, when something happened. Her sin, what was it? Pride and arrogance. She was now angry at this brother, whom she had lovingly and tenderly looked after, so many years ago. Were Miriam and Aaron really angry at Moses, because of his marriage to this Ethiopian woman, or was something else behind the bitterness and resentment towards this younger brother? After all, they were having to follow behind this younger brother. And why did he have all the authority? Were they not as important? Stricken with leprosy, because of her sin (most likely influencing her brother Aaron in this sin). Miriam was made to endure the shame and humiliation of this dreaded disease, being separated from the others for seven days. After this time, Miriam's health was restored, and the Israelites moved on. When instructing the Israelites concerning the plague of (Continued on Pg. 8, Col. 5)

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allow us to see and know we would be astonished at those who fall under the chastening hand of God for sin. See Acts 5:1-11; I Corinthians 11:27-32; James 1:15; and I John 5:16). And why should we expect anything less from a sovereign, holy and righteous God? Please read Hebrews 12:25-29. Our God is a **"CONSUMING FIRE."** Of this scripture John Phillips has said, and I quote, "Moreover, we should be moved by God's gracious favor. **'LET US HAVE GRACE, WHEREBY WE MAY OFFER SERVICE WELL-PLEASING TO GOD.'**" (Hebrews 12:28b.) Out of a deep sense of the favor bestowed upon us by God, we should give Him back joyful service. Far from setting on the fence, as many of the Hebrews were doing, we should be flinging ourselves wholeheartedly into God's works, moved not only by God's gracious favor, but by godly fear as well. We should serve **"WITH REVERENCE AND AWE: FOR OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE."** (Hebrews 12:28c-29). Grace gives us no license to forget God's holiness. He is our Father, but He is also a consuming fire. In the Old Testament, God puts distance between the sacred Ark of the covenant and the rank and file of the people, even when the camp was on the march. The distance has now been removed, but the burning holiness remains."

My people, **"IT IS A FEARFUL THING TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE LIVING GOD."** (Hebrews 10:31). Now, dear saint of God, **"WILT THOU NOT FEAR GOD?"** **"DOST THOU NOT FEAR GOD?"** Do you neglect your great salvation by staying away from the Lord's services? (See Hebrews 10:23-31). Do you neglect your great salvation by failing in your prayer life or in your Bible study? Do you neglect your great salvation by failing to witness to poor lost sinners who are on their way to hell? We are told to pray always and never faint (Luke 18:1). Throughout the Word of God we are told to pray, and yet many Christians fail in their daily prayer life. We are told to **"Study to show thyself approved unto**

God, workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15). We are told to **"Desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."** (I Peter 2:2). Christians are to grow up spiritually and not remain babies in the faith, yet many do not read and study the Word of God. All that do such are neglecting their great salvation. We are told to tell all men of God's great plan of salvation, yet many never speak to warn the lost, they are neglecting this great salvation. The man who steals from God, whether it be TIME, TALENT, OR TITHE, is neglecting this great salvation. We are told in Philippians 2:12-16 to work out this great salvation with fear and trembling to the praise and glory of God, yet many fail to do so, and they do not escape, for they are guilty of neglecting this great salvation. Failure and dismay marks the lives of many of God's people simply because of disobedience which is rebellion, which is as the **"SIN OF WITCHCRAFT."** **"And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king."** (I Samuel 15:22-23).

Many are **'SOWING TO THE WIND AND ARE THEREFORE REAPING THE WHIRLWIND.'** (Hosea 8:7). Many are **'SOWING TO THE FLESH AND ARE THEREFORE REAPING OF THE FLESH, CORRUPTION.'** (Galatians 6:8). Now, what is the remedy? **"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."** (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

So, we shall not escape if we neglect this so great salvation, we will meet it here, and we will certainly meet it at the Judgement Seat of Christ.

SPEAKING

(Continued from Page 7)

continually decaying and entering into a worse state (leprosy). Whenever the Lord resurrects a dead man this is a COMPLETE PICTURE of salvation (John 11:32-46). In one miracle we have the restoring of sight, hearing, speaking, ability to labor and purity (lack of decay).

A lost man is pictured in God's Word as **"DEAD"**... **"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as oth-**

ers." (Ephes. 2:1-3).

When we receive the Lord's salvation the Bible describes this as the receiving of spiritual life (resurrection from spiritual death)... **"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 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."** (Ephes. 2:4-9).

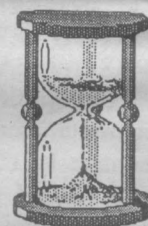
As each of us have read this article we must stop and ask ourselves the question, "Are we still spiritually blind? Are we still spiritually deaf and dumb? Can

we glorify God or are all our efforts simply filthy rags? Are we pure in His sight or are we simply a corrupting body? Are we spiritually dead or has the Lord given us life?" If we conclude we are still in a lost state, our responsibility is plain... Romans 10:8-11 clearly shows us our need: **"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."**

A WOMAN'S

(Continued from Page 7)

leprosy, the Lord reminded them of Miriam. And so it was the sin of pride that brought about Miriam's sorrow. (Prov. 16:18).



*Make time
to pray.*

Dear Editor,

We would like to invite you and your readers to our **Second Annual Great Northern Bible Conference** to be held Thursday and Friday, July 28th-29th. Speakers include; Dr. Jack Green, Pastor Dan Gordan, and Elder Dave Hiers. For more information contact: **Charity Baptist Church • 7266 U.S.2 & 41, Gladstone, MI 49837**

We thank God for your publication and appreciate your work.

In His Name,

Mark E. Blau

Mark Blau, Clerk

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