MISSIONARY

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

PREMILLENNIAL

# The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word,

it is because there is no light in them" - Isaiah 8:20.

VOL. 66, NO. 17 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, AUGUST 13, 1994 WHOLE NUMBER 2689

#### THE SALVATION OF MAN

By Pastor John M. Alber, Mid Continent Baptist Church, Wichita, Kansas

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

Perhaps the greatest subject in



the Word of God is the salvation God has provided for us; for without it, man would not only be lost, but damned forever and cast into the lake of fire. It should not surprise us that the Scriptures are full of this subject; indeed, it is saturated from Genesis to the Revelation — a scarlet colored line can be traced from Genesis three throughout the pages of both the Old and New Testament Scriptures. Volumes have been written concerning this subject, and many a sermon has been preached; but its subject has never been completely investigated, nor are we going to in this short message, cover all its bases. We shall, in the time permitted today, consider a few details as to our wonderful salvation.

I. Our salvation is of the Lord—Jonah 2:9, "Salvation is of the Lord." Psalms 3:8, "Salvation belongeth unto the Lord: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah." Psalms 37:39, "But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble." Jeremiah 3:23, "Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the Lord our God is the

salvation of Israel."

A. Many have failed to recognize that our salvation begins with God; indeed, the average person has never been told that it was God who arranged and planned the redemption of sinners. As you read the Word of God, however, it becomes very clear that God, from the foundation of the world. planned the redemption of sinners. Adam did not catch God off guard when he sinned in the garden; for the divine record is this: Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If man is to be redeemed, then, God must be the One that does the saving.

B. Many have failed to give God credit for not only the planning, but the enabling work of bringing sinners to God. Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Some have felt that man could, all by himself, come to God and be saved; notwithstanding, the order of the Scriptures is this: John 5:40, "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." It is for that one reason, if for no other one, that God must call us unto Himself. We must understand that

man will not come unto God for salvation, for he has not the power in himself, much less the desire for God. Romans 3:11, "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."

C. Many have failed to acknowledge that our salvation is by the divine purpose of God -- II Timothy 1:9, "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling. not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." Without the work of God, from start to finish, our salvation would be a hopeless cause; but thanks be unto God, for He has provided for our redemption. This is called, of course, election; but do not let that doctrine scare you; indeed, it is a Biblical doctrine that gives God the glory for our salvation. Many have suggested that the Bible knows nothing about election; nonetheless, the Scriptures speaks of it often. Acts 13:48, "And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eter-

(Continued on Page 8)

# THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

By Pastor Edward G. Graff Grace Central Baptist Church, Mansfield, Louisiana

One would think by listening, and reading to so much of what is preached, and written, that election, predestination, head covering, woman's place, etc, are the central message of the Bible. They are to be taught but, they are not the central message.

The definition of central is constituting that from which other things proceed, or upon which they depend—dominant; essential, or something basic, or indispensable, absolute; undiluted.

What is the central message of the Bible? That from which all other things proceed, and depend



upon the basic, indispensable, absolute, undiluted component of God's Word? THE CROSS — THE VERY CROSS OF CHRIST.

Paul said it all in Galatians 6:14, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" and I Corinthians 1:23, "But we preach Christ crucified..." Paul says, to all that will hear, "Far be it for me to glory in anything, or anyone except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world

has been crucified to me, and I to the world. I Paul preach Christ crucified." Has this happened to you?

Yes, and yes again, the cross of Christ is the central message, the central fact of Christianity. The cross is our hope; the cross is our peace; the cross is our summons to service; in the cross we glory. "Glory to His name, Glory to His name" we sing, but do we really mean it?

#### IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

Because, at the foot of the cross I found redemption, and reconciliation. Galatians 3:13, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

"At the Cross, At the Cross" we sing, yet we can not find time to preach the cross. Yes, at the cross I was redeemed, and was reconciled to Christ. Ephesians 2:16, "That he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby." Reconciled to God: glory to His name! Christ purchased our freedom from the curse (doom) of the law's condemnation, by becoming a curse for us. It is written in the Scriptures, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree—is crucified. Deuteronomy 21:22-23, "If a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God); that the land be not defiled, which thy Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance."

#### REDEEMED AND RECON-CILED—AM I

In the cross of Christ I glory, because the cross is the sign, and measure of Christ's love. I John 3:16, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: (Therefore because he loved us, we are to love) and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." That is preach Christ, and Him crucified, and risen from the dead.

(Continued on Page 3, col. 5)

# The Baptist Examiner Pulpit A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

### **INSPECTING OUR FRUIT**

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can



a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them' (Matthew 7:15-20).

The above verses have to do with determining if a prophet is a true prophet or a false prophet. Generally we Baptists like to think

(Continued on Page 2)

# THE BAPTIST EXAMINER Eugene P. Helton Editor

Office Phone 606-325-2012

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

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

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

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

PUBLISHED EVERY 2 WEEKS at 3339 13th St., Ashland, KY, with paid circulation in every state and many foreign countries.

Subscription rates are \$6.00 per year.
PLANNING TO MOVE? - Notify us three weeks in advance. The post office will only forward second class mail for 60 days at no charge to us. After this time the paper is returned to us at a 35 cent charge for each paper returned. Please save us this expense and the post office time. Second Class Postage paid at Ashland,

Kentucky.

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

### INSPECTING

(Continued from Page 1)

that all false prophets are of other persuasions and not other Baptists of supposed like faith. False prophets, i.e. preachers and pastors, come in many shapes, colors and sizes. They also come under many names. They very well may come in "sheep's clothing." The difference between a true prophet and a false prophet is the fruit produced. A true prophet will produce good fruit. A false prophet will not produce good fruit. 'Evenso every good tree bringeth forth good fruit...A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit...(Matthew 7:17-18).

Our subject in this sermon is

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
AUGUST 13, 1994
PAGE TWO

# Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Today is July 11, 1994. The Lord reigns supreme and all is wonderful at the Calvary Baptist Church.

Last night the Lord added to us Stella Sark, an eighty-one year old wonderful Christian lady. Stella came by statement of experience and faith. This is another small step in the forward direction.

This coming Sunday morning, July 17th, we're planning to baptize little eight year old Jessica Dickerson, based on her profession of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This will be another small step in the forward direction.

This coming Sunday evening, July 17th, we're planning to ordain brother Jack Smith as a deacon of the Calvary Baptist Church. Jack has been a deacon in deed; now he will be a deacon indeed. This will be another small step in the forward direction.

The steps may be small and slow, but the direction is clear. When a church truly is committed to serving Christ, then the direction will always be forward. The Lord never went back; He always moved forward. He is the One we follow. He is our Example. He is our Leader; the Captain of our salvation. To follow Him is to go forward.

Many times churches are content to "mark time"; just stand in place. Sometimes churches will call themselves advancing the cause of Christ as they march to the rear. We here at the Calvary Baptist Church are committed to advancing the cause of Christ by marching forward. "Marking time" is not good enough. Going backwards is a retreat from the mission; or should I say "the Great Commission." Our steps may be small; our steps may be slow; but the direction is forward.

May our Lord bless and keep you!

INSPECTING OUR FRUIT. Some folks consider themselves to be qualified fruit inspectors of everyone else's fruit while never giving any thought to examining their own fruit. We must be fruit inspectors of our own lives.

I. The Bible Teaches Self-examination.

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves..." (II Corinthians 13:5).

Notice Paul says "Examine yourselves..." This admonition is to inspect one's own fruit; not the fruit of another individual or church. He further says "prove your ownselves..." He didn't say prove another person or church but prove yourself and prove your church. The purpose of this selfexamination is given. It is to find "whether ye be in the faith ..." Yes dear friends, self-examination is a Bible doctrine. We should inspect our own fruit in light of what the Bible teaches concerning fruit bearing.

II. The Nature of Fruit Bearing.

A. Spiritual fruit can only be grown on good spiritual ground.

"But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixty fold, some thirty fold" (Matthew 13:8). "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty" (Matthew 13:23).

The ground must be Holy Spirit prepared ground. The ground must not quench nor grieve the Holy Spirit. Under such conditions good fruit will not be produced.

This one must hear the Word, understand the Word; the same will bear and bring forth good fruit. Not all will produce at the same level, but all will produce good fruit.

B. Spiritual fruit must have spiritual water.

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:3).

The Word of God is the water one must have to produce good

fruit. The Word of God brings spiritual growth and spiritual growth produces the good fruit that comes only from a mature Christian life. We must grow of the Word and in the Word. Some go to seed on one or two doctrines of the Word of God. Because they go to seed, they do not and can not produce good fruit. Spiritual prosperity and good fruit results from spiritual maturity gained from acquiring and practicing with a Christlike spirit all of the wonderful truths found in the oracles of God. Spiritual prosperity is bearing fruit. Those who spend their lives inspecting and finding fault with the fruit of all others believe themselves to be fruit bearers. No one was ever called by God to a full time ministry of inspecting the fruit of every Christian and every church.

C. Spiritual fruit will be produced continually.

"And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine" (Ezekiel 47:12).

Notice that the fruit never ceases to be produced and is produced in relationship to the waters which flow from the sanctuary. Fruit production results when the Word of God (the water) is heard and heeded through the ministry in the sanctuary (the house of God). Notice also that the fruit is for food and the leaf is medicine to bring healing. What a beautiful picture, in type, of bearing fruit through the ministry of the Word in and through the local church.

D. Spiritual fruit will only result from a continuous abiding in Christ.

"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 15:5).

When we follow God's plan for fruit production, we do not have to be content with just a little fruit. Jesus Himself said: "the same bringeth forth much fruit..." He tells us: "without me ye can do nothing." With Him, doing it His way, not only can we produce fruit; we can produce "much fruit." What potential for the child of God! What potential for a local church committed to serving Him! Much fruit is possible!

III. Let Us Do Some Fruit In-

specting (Our Own Fruit).

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Did I read these two verses of Scripture and miss something. Is vindictiveness not there? Is vengeance not there? Is malice not there? Is unnecessary and unscriptural criticism not there? These are not there because they are attributes and attitudes of men who become fruit inspectors and not attributes and attitudes of fruit bearers. I look again at Paul's words concerning the "fruit of the Spirit." I didn't miss anything. It really does speak of "love." Is that the word "joy" I see? And then, he speaks of "peace." My, our fruit should include "longsuffering." there's "gentleness," what a lovely word. Now I see "goodness." Now coming into view is "faith, meekness, temperance." God never gave a law forbidding these attributes and attitudes. To the contrary, He commands us to possess them. Oh dear Lord, please let others see the "fruit of the Spirit" in me for I know if they do then they'll see Jesus in me.

IV. Is Your Fruit Acceptable? (Continued on Page 8)

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 has 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. Send comments and suggestions for The Baptist **Examiner to:** Pastor/Editor Eugene P. Helton P.O. Box 60 Ashland, KY 41105-0060



## 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

# THE FLOOD Please read Genesis 7:18:16

These chapters give us a detailed record of the flood. The extent to which this record is given should tell of the importance of it. We need to study as carefully as possible each detail in order to learn the lessons which God has for us. We need to remember that Christ said that as were conditions before the flood so it would be before His return. What were the conditions before the flood? Two words describe them "corrupt" and "violence." Do not the same two words describe conditions today? Should this not tell us that the return of our Lord is near?

In 7:1-6 we have the last week before the flood. The 120 years which God had given man has come to a close (6:3). Noah, the builder and "a preacher of righteousness" (II Peter 2:5), had completed the building of the ark and by it he condemned the world (Hebrews 11:7). At this time God gave the invitation to Noah, "Come thou and all thy house into the ark" (v. 1), telling him that in seven days the rain would fall for forty days and all upon the earth would be destroyed (v. 4).

Of the clean animals that were to enter the ark, there were to be seven pairs, male and female, of the unclean there were to be two, male and female, of the fowls there were to be seven pairs, male and female. In verses 7-19, we have the account of Noah, his family, and all the animals entering into the ark. What a sight this must have been! The people who had seen Noah as he worked on the ark and heard him preach of

the coming judgment, and no doubt, had ridiculed him, considering him crazy, now see a strange sight. They see Noah and his wife leading the way followed by his three sons and their wives. Then behind them came two by two, male and female, all the animals and the fowls marching into the one door which was in the side of the ark. As they gazed upon the strange sight they saw the last creeping thing enter in and suddenly the door was shut! "The Lord shut him in" (v. 16).

In verses 11-17 we have the record of the forty days of rain. Not only did it rain from heaven but we are told that the fountains of the deep were broken up, both combining to bring about the judgment from God.

The chapter ends with the statement that "the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days" (v. 24).

The flood was universal. It covered the whole earth, "And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heavens, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered" (7:19-20). All outside the ark died, "All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died" (v. 22).

While the waters of Divine judgment were being poured upon the wicked world, Noah in the ark was being lifted "up above the earth" (v. 17). He floated in peace on the very waters by which "all flesh" was being judged. He had been put in a place of safety. For Noah there was no judgment. Noah had been placed in this place

of safety by God Himself. God had told him "Come thou and all thy house into the ark" (7:1). And then we read "the Lord shut him in." This implies that Noah was not dependent upon himself for his safety, but upon the Lord. God had charge of the door. Noah need have no fear because he was safe and secure. Those who are in Christ are just as secure from the judgment of God as was Noah in the ark. "There is therefore now no condemnation (judgment) to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1). "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justified. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is ever at the right hand of God, who maketh intercession for us" (Rom. 8:33-34). The words, "and the Lord shut him in" tell us that there is no power in heaven, earth, or hell that could open the door of the ark and let the water in. Christ said of His sheep, "I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:28-29). It is a sad thing for Christians to be in fear of losing their salvation. The Apostle Peter speaks of these as being "blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins" (II Pet. 1:9). The Apostle John said he wrote First John to those who had believed "on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have

eternal life" (I John 5:13).

"And God remembered Noah" (8:1).

While God was sending judgment upon those outside the ark He had not forgotten those whom He had placed in the ark. Someone has said there is only one thing that the Lord forgets in reference to His children, that is their sins. "I will forgive their iniquities, and I will remember their sin no more" (Jer. 31:34). We can rest assured that what God said to Israel is equally true of every one of His children. "O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee" (Is. 44:21-22). With this thought in mind the prophet Isaiah was made to proclaim, "Sing, O ye heavens: for the Lord hath done it, shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel" (Is. 44:23).

Remember, "What He has done for others He will do for you."

THE BIBLE
WILL KEEP
YOU FROM
SIN...AND
SIN WILL
KEEP YOU
FROM THE
BIBLE!

Clip this and send
it in today!
The Baptist Examiner what a wonderful way
to witness
to a friend or neighbor.

#### 10 Subscriptions for only \$20.00

(That's only \$2 per subscription, regular rate is \$6.00 per household, per year)

NAME			

PLEASE, INCLUDE LIST THAT IS TYPED OR PRINTED. THANK YOU.

#### MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

What did Philip preach to the Ethiopian, a man of great authority? Election? No! Head covering? No! Woman's place? No! Philip preached Christ. Philip went down to Gaza, which is desert, and he saw an Ethiopian reading the Old Testament. And Philip asked the question, "Do you know what you are reading?" And the Ethiopian answered, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" (Acts 8:31). And Philip preached to him Christ. Philip used the Word of God. Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

# THE CENTRAL MESSAGE IN THE BIBLE IS CHRIST

In the cross of Christ I glory, because the cross is the banner under which complete victory over sin, and the world is to be won. I John 5:4-5 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." And who is that? "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus in the son of God."

How will a person know this, if someone is not sent to preach Christ?

#### CHRIST IS GUIDANCE, LEADERSHIP, AND CER-TAIN VICTORY

"With the cross of Jesus going on before". In the cross of Christ I glory because of the light it throws upon the unknown future. The cross of Jesus is like a sign in the heavens, it throws a light along the path I am to travel, so that even the valley of the shadow of death has no terror.

Therefore, because of the central message of the Bible, which is the cross of Christ, His shed blood, and that He arose from the grave, God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. "k Glory to His name, Glory to His name k."

#### IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
AUGUST 13, 1994
PAGE THREE



## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



#### When one dies, does it really matter in choosing to be buried or to be cremated?

CLYDE T. **EVERMAN** 108 Burdsall Ave. Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017 **DEACON:** Calvary **Baptist Church** Ashland, KY

which ye have of God, and ye

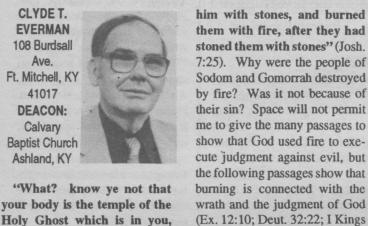
are not your own? For ye are

bought with a price therefore

glorify God in your body, and

in your spirit, which are God's"

(I Cor. 6:19-20).



The Scripture gives us many records of burial, beginning with Genesis 23 of which the entire chapter consists of the details of Sarah's burial. Next is the burial of Abraham's body alongside of his wife (Gen. 28:8-10). Jacob's

15:13; Jer. 21:10; Matt. 13:30;

Luke 3:17; Heb. 6:8).

Although there is no direct commandment in the Scripture that states "Thou shall not have thy body cremated," I believe there is enough scriptural evi-Why should we dence to show that God does not tremble to convey approve of this method for the their bodies to the disposal of the bodies of His children. Many seem to think that it tomb? matters very little what happens There the dear flesh to the body at death, that "it is the of Jesus lay, soul that matters." While it is true And left a long that the eternal destination of the soul is all important, yet what perfume. happens to the body is not en-The grave of all His tirely unimportant. Both the souls saints He blessed, and the bodies of God's people And softened every are redeemed by Christ and one day the bodies will be resurrected. Remember we are not our own Where should the but are bought with a price theredying members rest. fore we are to glorify God is our But with their dying body as well as in spirit. The question, does having the body cremated glorify God?

Isaac Watts

I believe we can find the answer to this question by examining some examples of bodies being disposed of in the Scripture. There are examples of cremation in the Bible, but in examining these examples we find in most of them that it was to show the wrath of God against sin. For his disobedience to God's command Achan and all his family were stoned and their bodies burned. "And all Israel stoned

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER **AUGUST 13, 1994** PAGE FOUR

body was brought back from Egypt and buried in the family burying ground (Gen. 47:20-31). Joseph's body was embalmed and over three hundred years later was carried by Moses through the wilderness and finally buried in Shechem (Ex. 13:19; Josh, 24:32). The body of Moses was buried by God Himself (Deut. 34:5-6). If God Himself buried Moses it must be that burial and not cremation is what glories God.

CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE How was the body of our Lord put away? John gives a detailed

account of how Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus and "wound it in linen clothes with spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury" and placed his body in "a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid" (John 19:38-42).

Note that this was the "manner of the Jews to bury."

SLEDD 920 Upsala Rd. Sanford, FL 32771 PASTOR: Jordan Missionary **Baptist Church** Sanford, FL

GEORGE R.



As far as to ones eternal existence after physical death it would not make a difference. Regardless of what happens to the body at or after death has no bearing upon where one's eternal spirit goes. Mormons and Papists pray for the dead but their prayers or rituals cannot help them. The lost man dies and in hell he lifts up his eyes. The saved man dies and is immediately with Christ in para-

Now as to the testimony of a Christian I think it does make a difference. Perhaps someone could correct me if I'm wrong, but I find no record in Scripture of a born again person ever voluntarily choosing cremation. All godly Biblical characters that I know of were buried. After our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross He was buried in a tomb. I think that alone would lead me to think that the Christian ought to choose burial. A funeral and burial has a proven worth and value for those who mourn. It permits facing openly and realistically the crisis death presents. The bereaved are able to take a step toward emotional adjustment in their loss.

A funeral with a body present gives identity and purpose to the service. Without the body, the expression of sympathy might be forced or unnatural. Seeing body buried is also a sobering reality to the lost friends and loved ones. It would seem more advantageous for evangelism than cremation,

where you throw somebody's ashes in the ocean. Burial is a part of the Gospel. The hope of the believer is that one day he will be resurrected from the grave! So burial would be a picture of the gospel that identifies us with Christ. Of course the ordinance of baptism identifies with Christ death, burial, and resurrection.

I have performed a funeral involving cremation. They put the urn right next to the funeral home pulpit. It felt strange to me to speak of the "dearly departed loved one in this jar!" Of course I did not say this! Some might justify cremation because of the money you save. I doubt that you save a whole lot of money. Most funeral homes still require the body and do many other costly things. By the time you pay all the fees I doubt you really save that much more. With all these factors in mind, I believe it is best for the Christian to choose burial over cremation.

JACK C. WHITT 4510 Garden Ave. Portsmouth, OH 45662 **TEACHER:** Calvary Baptist Church

Ashland, KY



'Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).

Perhaps my brother forum writers may give better answers to this question than myself. I find no scripture directly forbidding cremation, however there are several scriptures that speak of the grave and burial, one of which is above given.

Since Jesus and other writers of the Bible speak only of the grave or sepulchre as the common practice in disposing of the body, it is reasonable to conclude this should be the proper Christian approach to our question. It

is true, no doubt, that many Christians have perished at sea or have been eaten by wild animals and cannibals. Yet we know God is able and will bring them forth at resurrection. These are things we can only speculate upon. Our decision should be based upon what the Word of God evidently teaches and not what it does not speak against.

the

W

"alt

On March 9, 1994 Victory Baptist Church of Courtland, VA during their regular business meeting voted to set up a special song book fund for the purpose of publishing and distributing the songs of Sister Kathryn Parrish. I recommend these songs as being the most scriptural songs in print today. I have made statement before that I could take her songs and preach a revival meeting from them. You that are acquainted with her songs would agree, I'm sure. Many of our churches and individuals have expressed great interest in helping us get these songs out. Anyone wishing to help with this project may send a donation earmarked for the song book fund. Elder Melburn Cockrell has agreed to publish them at cost. The address for donations is: Kathryn Parrish. 20405 Governor Darden Rd. Courtland, VA 23837 or Victory Baptist Church, c/o Don Pennington, 24228 Indian Woods Trail, Courtland, VA 23837

### THE GAY 90'S

By Pastor Carl Morton, First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Kentucky

In today's modern society, The Gay 90's, you can see the homosexuals coming out of the closet for their special rights. They think it is beautiful the way they live in their "alternative lifestyle." Now they are allowed to adopt children to raise in their lifestyle and there are even some churches that are ordaining homosexuals into the ministry. However, no matter what they claim, the Bible has some very strict principles that speaks out against the homosexual "alternative lifestyle."



We first read about the "alterlative lifestyle" in Genesis 19:4-We read about Lot, Abraham's nephew who decided o live in the wicked, sinful city of odom. And when the Lord sent agels to take out Lot and his mily, some men of the city vanted to have sex with the anlels. Lot, in his depravity offered his virgin daughters to the men if only they wouldn't touch the angels. However, they refused. Secondly, we read about the alternative lifestyle" in Judges 19:16-25. A Levite man traveling through Gibeath lodged in the ouse of an old man of that city who took in the Levite, his concune, and servant. During the 1ght, men from the city, the Bible them vile, wicked men, (sons Belial, or sons of Hell), deanded that the old man give lem the Levite so that they could now him sexually.

Notice the response of the old man. He offered his virgin daughters and the concubine for the men to use, just so they wouldn't do so vile and wicked thing to this Levite. Now the old man did just as Lot did in his day, offer the women. Now, why would they offer the women? This just proves that even in the day of great social immorality, homosexuality was still regarded as the worst form of sexual abuse!

How terrible a form of sexual abuse is it? Read about the destruction of Sodom and Gommorah in Genesis 19:24-28. God's judgment of fire and brimstone not only destroyed the cities, it destroyed the people, all the plains, and all that which grew on the ground!

The moral cancer of the Canaanites had infiltrated the Hebrew society. God knew this was going to happen so He gave His feeling on the matter.

Listen, gays may be coming out of the closet today, but it is just as sinful today as it was in the days of Sodom and Gommorah. They may call it their "alternative lifestyle," but it is abnormal, wicked, and sinful and God's Word condemns it!

In Leviticus 18:22 God tells us His view on this "alternative lifestyle." "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." What should they do with those that are homosexuals? In Leviticus 20:13, God tells us His view on the gays. "If a man lieth with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."

In Deuteronomy 23:17 God gives us their true name. Not gays, there is nothing happy about

their lifestyle. God calls them dogs!

"Now, wait a minute preacher, that's Old Testament stuff." Yes, but it is still Bible! Okay, you need something from the New Testament, look in Romans 1:24-28. God tells us that He has given them up to a reprobate mind to do those things that are not convenient! Brother, if God ever gives you up, you're in trouble!

Now wait a minute! Don't get the notion that I'm prejudiced against the homosexual people. I am not homophobic! It is not the people that I hate, it is their sin! God's Word condemns the sex act of partners of the same sex, just as he condemns sex outside the bonds of marriage. Brothers and sisters, we should love the sinner and hate the sin. Notice what Paul said in I Corinthians 6:9-11 about many people who were "gay," or thieves, or drunkards; he said through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that, "And such were some of you:... but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

Such were some of you! We are all sinners saved by grace and we all need the love of God in our life. However, it is the sin that keeps us from the love of God. If any man love me, he will keep my commandments (John 14:15) and except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish (Luke 13:3-5).

Beloved, the homosexuals can be turned to God. Let's not judge the person, but rather, let's condemn the sin. Pray that the Lord would cleanse the homosexual community so that they may point to the grace of God and praise His holy name.



### **SAVED**

My future was assured today
It made the angels rejoice
The Gospel was heard
In the preaching of His Word
I heard my Saviour's voice

My sins were all covered today I saw my Saviour bleed
On the cruel tree
Him dying there for me
I knew my spiritual need.

I repented of my ways today
Was given a righteous robe
A child and an heir
Now I'll live with Him there
My Saviour who bears my sin load.

By Homer Bailey Portsmouth, Ohio



WAIT ON HIM

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
AUGUST 13, 1994
PAGE FIVE

Dear Brother Helton:

We are having a Back to School Youth Conference at our church August 19-20th. For more information call Pastor Carl Morton at (606) 635-5923 or (606) 635-9029. First Baptist Church, 104 Washington Street, Alexandria, Kentucky 41001.

Carl Mottes

### **OUR NEED TO FORGIVE OTHERS**

By Robert Barkman, Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, Marengo, OH

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15).

Using the above text, we can learn much about the Biblical doctrine of forgiveness.

1. The definition of forgiveness.

In both cases, the forgiveness that is received by man is translated from the Greek word "aphiemi." This Greek word means "to send away" or "to remit." When this verse speaks of "forgiveness" it is teaching us that true forgiveness is the sending away of our sin. To be truly forgiven, our sins must be "sent away" from us, so that our sins no longer remain on our account.

"...but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: FOR THOU HAST CAST ALLMY SINS BEHIND THY BACK" (Isaiah 38:17).

"As far as the east is from the west, SO FAR HATH HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US" (Psalms 103:12).

"He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and THOU WILT CAST ALL THEIR SINS INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA" (Micah 7:19).

2. There are two different types of forgiveness mankind can receive.

In our text, we find the two types of forgiveness that are given to man. The first type involves a man forgiving a man. This is spoken of in the phrases "if ye forgive men" and "if ye forgive not men."

Not only can we receive forgiveness from other men, but we can also receive for giveness from our Lord. Once again, if we turn our attention to our text we find two phrases that refer to this second type of for giveness: "your heavenly Father will also for give you" and "your Father for give your trespasses."

3. The necessity of forgiveness.

As we read our text, a very

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
AUGUST 13, 1994
PAGE SIX

striking truth is brought to our attention. It is an absolute necessity that our sins be forgiven by the Father. Note, in context, this statement made by Christ, is being spoken to encourage men to forgive men. What is the motivation behind our need to forgive others? Our need of the Father's forgiveness. Yes, the Father's forgiveness is an absolute necessity for us all, and therefore, is used by Christ as a forceful motive for us to forgive others.

Within these verses we also have revealed to us our need to forgive others. Please notice the link drawn between our forgiving others and the forgiveness that the Father gives to us. If we do not possess a willingness to forgive others, we must question whether we have been forgiven by God. With God's forgiveness comes a desire to exhibit that same love and grace to others.

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, EVEN AS GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE HATH FORGIVEN YOU" (Ephesians 4:32).

Once we are forgiven by our heavenly Father, we are to exhibit the Godly spirit of forgiveness in our dealings with man. This same truth is presented to us in the parable spoken by our Lord in Matthew 18:23-35. In this parable we have a servant who is forgiven of a huge debt by his Master. What should be his appropriate response? He should be willing to forgive others of the much smaller debts they owe him. As we read further we find that he did not accept his responsibility to forgive others and so his Master had to turn him over to the tormentors.

How does this apply to our lives? Think of our huge sin debt that has been forgiven by our Father. Once forgiven, we have the direct responsibility to forgive those who are indebted to us. If we fail in our responsibility we are in danger of facing the chastening hand of the Lord. Oh what a great grace has been bestowed upon us at salvation! Likewise what a great responsibility we have had placed upon us!

How important it is for those forgiven by God's grace to publicly display forgiveness in our lives. As we daily serve our Lord and Saviour we must remember

that we are in continual need of forgiveness and likewise of continual need to forgive others. As those saved by God's grace, we are to follow the pattern of prayer that Jesus set for us in Matthew 6:12, "And forgive us our debts, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS." As we enter each day of service to Him let us both desire His forgiveness for our sins AND seek to forgive those who are indebted to us. As our minds turn to our needy state and desire for forgiveness, let us also think upon our need to glorify Him by forgiving those who are indebted

"For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee" (Psalms 86:5).

OUR CHURCH
The Lord has surely blest

He gave Gethsemane.
But then He gave so
much more to save a
wretch like me.
He gave a beautiful

building, in which we all can share To clean, to paint, to cut

To clean, to paint, to cut the grass,

He left it in our care.

There is a lot of maintenance too much for just a few,

There's something there for all of us,

There's something there for you.

So why not come and take your part, then we can get it done

For as you know if the Lord's our Head, then all of us are one.

By Al Woods, Deacon at Gethsemane Bapstist Church, Marengo, Ohio

### BURNING A HOUSE TO KILL MICE

By C.H. Spurgeon

"If a man should fire a house to destroy the mice in it, we should think him to be fairly mad."



Yet those who consider themselves to be reasonable men will set a church in a blaze about the merest trifle. Meeting after meeting will be called, and angry discussions provoked, and holy work overturned about the smallest mistake of the preacher, or the minutest fault of a deacon. One would think that heaven itself was endangered, and yet it turns out to be a question of infinitesimal importance. Societies which were doing great service have even been broken up by the crazy whimsies of good brethren, who made much ado about nothing, and did great harm in trying to do a little good. But the mice are a nuisance! Of course they are, and we must buy a cat or set a trap, but we certainly shall not burn the house down when a simple means will accomplish our purpose. We aim at reformation, not at desolation. We see no wisdom in so perpetually improving a church or a good society that in the end it is improved from off the face of the earth. Religion has been thought to be sick, and fools have doctored it till they brought it to death's door by their poisons. Prudence is to be used, even when our object is worthiest of zeal; and never ought we to endanger a really good thing for the sake of making it a little better.

Lord, make me wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove, and if I am called to protest against error or sin, help me to do it in the spirit of my Lord!

### **WISE MEN STILL SEEK JESUS**

By Brother Jack Whitt

Now when Jesus was born Bethlehem of Judaea in the ays of Herod the King, behold, ere came wise men from the ast to Jerusalem, saying, There is he that is born King of e Jews? for we have seen his ar in the east, and are come to Orship him" (Matthew 2:1-2). The above Scripture telling of historical and miraculous ent of Jesus' birth and those subsequently sought to find n, is recorded in God's Word our learning. It is of particular lerest that we are told the comby seeking Jesus were called wise men." We are not told of enumber in company, but rather at they travelled a far distance Search of Jesus, and that for the pose of worshipping Him. It With these verses in mind that I w build upon the thought: Wise men still seek Jesus."

We would present two main ints of consideration with reard to our subject. First: NOT WISE MEN SEEK JESUS. his sounds contradictory to our e, I believe the following will ify. It is likely but few wise of the world bow down and Orship Jesus. We find Scripture bear this out (read I Cor. 19-26). In verse 26, Paul says: or ye see your calling, brethh, how that not many wise en after the flesh, not many ghty, not many noble are "Iled." Thus it is when we speak Wise men, a distinction must be

made between the worldly wise and godly wise. Worldly wisdom is as far from godly wisdom as light is from darkness. We read again: 'For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness" (I Cor. 3:19).

There have been in past, present and as far as the future holds. men and women who have and will continue to present themselves wise in a worldly fashion. They go up the ladder of success, make lots of money, become wealthy and even famous; yet only few of such know what it is to be truly wise toward God. The parable told by Jesus in Luke 12:16-21 of the rich fool boasting of his great accumulation is an excellent illustration of many people today. But hear what God said to him: "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:20-21).

Secondly, WHO ARE THE WISE WHO SEEK JESUS? Our text tells us the wise men said. 'For we have seen his star in the east." They were led by this most unusual star in the sky. Many people base their entire faith or belief in God upon an unusual or mysterious sighting in the sky, or of visions presumed to be revelations from God. The wise men were not content with having seen His star, they must see Him of whom they sought, and seeing, they worshipped Him. Who are the wise who seek Jesus? They are those who are convinced of their need to be cleansed from the defilement of sin. Those who realize it was their sins that put Jesus to death on the tree at Calvary. The wise men of old were led by a star to Bethlehem where the young child was. Men and women today are led by the Holy Spirit to Jesus, no longer a babe in a manger, but a reigning King, the living Messiah, the One who died, was buried and rose and now lives in glory on high and will one day, perhaps soon, return for all those who have trusted him as their personal Saviour. Who are the wise who seek Jesus? Those who believe the Bible is God's Word as it reveals man's need of Jesus. Just as the Apostle Paul told Timothy: "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ. Jesus" (IITim. 3:15).

In closing may I say again; Wise men and women still seek Jesus. Dear reader, I ask; Are you one of the wise? Are you seeking Jesus? "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" (Is. 55:6).

# A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman

#### CONDEMNED BY THE WORLD FORGIVEN BY THE LORD

"And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them" (Luke 15:2). Jesus was criticized by the religious leaders of His day for His association with sinners. His response to this attitude was 'They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matt. 9:10-13; Mark 2:15-17; Luke 5:29-32). Our God came to earth, and sat where we sit, associating with sinful men, even becoming a man Himself, Jesus Christ, though He Himself was without sin (Ezek. 3:15; Luke 10:33; Phil. 2:7-8; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15).

The religion which our Lord practiced was that which is "pure...and undefiled before the Father..." (James 1:27). James, the half-brother of our Lord, gives the two distinguishing characteristics of this religion (visiting the fatherless and widows [Psalm 68:5], keeping one's self unspotted from the sins of the world [James 1:27]). Children without fathers and women without husbands are the most needy people on earth. Christ came to earth so that we who are spiritually needy might have salvation. Of course, we must realize our spiritual poverty, before we can accept His offer of salvation (Isa. 55:1-3; Matt. 5:3). Unless we come to Him for salvation, we are like children without their fathers and women without their husbands. We find, in His Word, that a Christian's relationship with his Lord is like a father and a child (John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:14-17). A marriage between a man and a woman is a picture of Christ's relationship with His church (Eph. 5:22-33). So, in order to practice this religion, which our Lord practiced, we must join one of His local New Testament churches. Also, we are told that true religion involves not letting the sins of the world around us influence our lives. Christ kept Himself unspotted from the sins

of the world (Heb. 9:14; I Peter 1:19). We, too, must keep ourselves, as God's grace is with us, separated and untainted from the sins of the world. It was this religion that brought much criticism in the life of our Lord (Matt. 11:19, 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23; Luke 7:34-35). The Bible tells of two pitiful women who were very grateful that Jesus came where they were, offering forgiveness of their sins.

#### She Was A Sinner (Luke 7:36-50)

Jesus had accepted a dinner invitation to a Pharisee's house. A woman referred to as "a sinner" heard that Jesus was there. Many authorities believe that the word for "sinner." used to describe this woman, implied that she was a prostitute. Whatever sin or sins we are talking about, we know one thing for sure. She needed the Saviour. This woman washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, wiping them with her hair. She kissed His feet and anointed them with ointment. Jesus, knowing all things, knew that the heart of this Pharisee was full of hatred, and that he sat in harsh judgment against this woman. On this occasion, Jesus told the parable of the creditor and the two debtors, and attention was directed back to the woman as one who had many sins, was forgiven, and loved much. "And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven." "And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

#### Caught In Adultery (John 8:1-11)

Jesus was teaching in the temple one morning, when the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman to Him, accusing her of adultery. Humiliated and embarrassed, she was placed in the midst of the crowd of people, with all eyes and attention focused on her. Looking for an opportunity to accuse Jesus of not obeying the law, they brought this poor woman to Him. Jesus knew this. He ignored their accusations, as He

(Continued on Page 8)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER **AUGUST 13, 1994 PAGE SEVEN** 

## EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

311 FIFTH STREET

BENTON, ARKANSAS 72015

EPHEN G. RAINES, PASTOR

Phone: (501) 778-8443

ear Brother Helton,

AST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH holds an annual one-day Bible conference each Fall, the ord providing.

The Date:

Saturday, 15 October 1994

Morning session begins at 10:00 A.M. The Times:

Afternoon session begins at 2:00 P.M.

The Place:

EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH 311 Fifth Street (Corner of 5th and Hoover)

Benton, AR 72015

The Preachers: Pastor Lindy Davis, Plumerville, AR

Pastor Garfield Foster, Heber Springs, AR

Pastor Orval Heath, Mena, AR

Pastor William Peacock, Lynn, AR

Pastor-Emeritus Earl Smith, Plumerville, AR

A NOON MEAL WILL BE SERVED

Anyone desiring further information should feel free to contact me at either the umber above or at my home: (501) 776-8537.

Totalon & Romes

#### SALVATION

(Continued from Page 1)

nal life believed." Ephesians 1:4, "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."

II. Our salvation is to be shared with others — John 15:16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

A. The God of heaven that redeemed us unto Himself expects us to witness and share our salvation with others. While it is true that we cannot redeem anyone, it is equally true that we are told to witness to others. The Scripture says: Proverbs 11:30, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." Just because some have used this truth in a wrong way does not suggest we should abandon it altogether; indeed, the tenor of the Holy Scriptures is clear: we are to be God's watchman and warn the sinner of the impending judgment of God -Ezekiel 3. The work of redeeming belongs to our God; however, God makes it clear that we are to be His mouth piece. C.H. Spurgeon felt that this truth alone gave him strength to enter the pulpit and to witness concerning the salvation of man.

B. So, the Bible doctrine of election not only speaks of God calling us unto Himself, but of our vocation as redeemed ones. It is true, he that speaks a word in defense of the Lord will have fruit. Psalms 126:5-6, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Understand, of course, we are not God, nor are we responsible for the decisions made by man; for if God does not quicken and make alive the heart of a dead sinner, all the effort we put in the work will be to no avail. Psalms 127:1, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
AUGUST 13, 1994
PAGE EIGHT

C. A simple truth that we so often fail to recognize is this: faithfulness to God's simple commands. While we are not responsible for the acts of men, we are responsible for our own acts. A dead, lost sinner cannot turn to God by himself; however, once made alive by the "power of God" (Romans 1:16), we are given new life whereby we can serve the Almighty. Inasmuch as God has redeemed us from our sins and called us to serve Him, we should be faithful to that holy calling.

D. Ezekiel made it clear and plain, the watchman is responsible to warn the people of any coming danger; but herein, his duty stops. We can not coerce anyone into the kingdom of God! That was never our job or responsibility; nonetheless, those of us who believe in the sovereignty of God and proclaim the doctrine of election, should not fail to exercise our duty to warn sinners of the impending judgment of God. You may search the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments. and you will find God's man of the hour, warning sinners of God's wrath and the impending judgment. It was Mr. J. Edwards who preached, "Sinners in the hands of an Angry God" so many years ago; but we would rather preach on election and forget to call sinners unto repentance and faith.

#### CONCLUSION

Thirty-five years ago, the Almighty reached down and saved this poor, wretched sinner by grace. I am thankful that my God saved me from my sin and certain death; but now, it is my duty and responsibility to proclaim the whole counsel of God. Election is part of that truth, but so is our duty to proclaim the good news -Jesus Christ, God's Son, died at Calvary to redeem all who will believe on Him. I do not know who will, and neither do you; but the blessed Spirit of God does! We should be busy witnessing to sinners instead of stealing sheep from other churches. If they can be convinced to leave their church and join your church, then, someone else can convince them to leave your church. The great commission given to the church of God was and is a threefold responsibility: To win the lost, to baptize the converted and to disciple the redeemed.

May God bless.

#### INSPECTING

(Continued from Page 2)

"(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) proving what is acceptable unto the Lord" (Ephesians 5:9-10).

Notice once again Paul's choice of words. The fruit of the Spirit involves "goodness and righteousness and truth." Is my fruit "acceptable unto the Lord?" Is your fruit "acceptable unto the Lord?" Not without "goodness and righteousness and truth."

V. Jesus Chose Every Child of God To Bear Fruit.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain" (John 15:16).

Every child of God was chosen to bear good fruit. We have seen from the Scriptures what constitutes good fruit. How is your fruit? Is it good fruit? Is it bad fruit? I cannot answer for you. I can only answer for myself and the church I pastor. I'm not a fruit inspector. I was called by the Lord to bear fruit. He tells me through His Word when my fruit is good and when my fruit is acceptable. I think I've figured it out. I'm to bear fruit, it is the Lord who is the fruit inspector.

May our Lord bless you richly!

### A WOMAN'S

(Continued from Page 7)

wrote on the ground, and He smote the conscience of each and everyone with the words "He that is without sin among you, let him cast a stone at her." The crowd was soon gone, and Jesus and the woman were left alone. When no accuser could be found, Jesus said to the woman, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

#### "Go"

We are to pay attention to such commands as "go," "arise," and "sin no more," commands which are found throughout Jesus' healing ministry (physical and spiritual) and which seem to indicate the beginning of active service for Him (Matt. 9:6; Mark 1:44, 5:41; Luke 7:14, 8:48, 17:19; John 5:8,14).

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS LIKE JESUS

### 1994 CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### BIBLE CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 16-17, 1994

September 16, 1994

6:30 p.m. Congregational and special singing 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Jim Hobbs, Kings Addition Baptist Church, South Shore

7:30 p.m. Congregational and special singing 8:00 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Clarence Grigsby

Salem BaptistChurch, Grayson, KY

September 17, 1994

9:00 a.m. Congregational singing

9:15 a.m. Speaker: Pastor John Lenegar, Walnut Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Delaware, OH

9:45 a.m. Special singing: The Bluegrass Boys
10:15 a.m. Speaker: Pastor Ronnie Wolfe, First
Baptist Church, Harrison, OH

10:45 a.m. Special singing: The Bluegrass Boys 11:15 a.m. Speaker: Pastor Bobby Lakes, Faith

Baptist Church, Versailles, KY 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Lunch in the fellowship hall

1:15 p.m. Congregational singing1:30 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Jon Rule, Zion Bap

tist Church, Taylor, MI 2:00 p.m. Special singing: The Bluegrass Boys

2:30 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Carl Morton, First Baptist Church, Alexandria, KY 3:00 p.m. Special singing: The Bluegrass Boys

3:30 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Bob Jones, Northside Baptist Church, Lexington, KY

4:00 p.m. Congregational singing

4:15 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Willard Willis, North land Missionary Baptist Church, Dello ware, OH

4:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Dinner in the fellowship hall
 6:30 p.m. Congregational and special singing
 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Charles Lybrook, Waverly Road Baptist Church, Hunt

ington, WV
7:30 p.m. Congregational and special singing
8:00 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Jim Orrick, Storms
Creek Baptist Church, Ironton, OH

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!

