

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches (Proverbs 22:1)

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. 21 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, OCTOBER 8, 1994 WHOLE NUMBER 2693

A GOOD LOOK AT FAITH

By Pastor Edward G. Graff

Grace Central Baptist Church, Mansfield, Louisiana

Faith, like gold, must be tried by fire to be pure, as well as to be certain of its authenticity. Faith is the spirit's eye, which must be fixed on Christ. Faith is the spirit's hand, by which to hold the hand of Christ. Faith is the spirit's mouth, that enables us to take nourishment

which do appear." Faith is the confirmation, the title deed of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see. The conviction of their reality. By faith we understand that the worlds, that we see, were put in order, and equipped by the Word of God for their intended purpose, and that they were not made out of elements which are visible.

So then, faith is our proof of things not seen. Faith is a living, and acting entity. Faith is an understanding that God is all in all, and nothing exists, nor will exist unless God orders it. Faith does not, and cannot originate within ourselves, nor can we produce faith by ourselves. Faith is a holy gift, the result of God's (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) gracious work in the soul of man, by which man is inclined to repentance. God grants us faith, and repentance!

FAITH COMES FROM CHRIST

Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." We must hear the Word of God, the same words, the same message that

Christ, and His faithful followers have spoken for almost two thousand years. It is by hearing God's Word that we know Him, and receive the gift of faith. There is no other way, faith is a gift of God, through the hearing of His Word.

FAITH HAS A CHARACTER

Faith is not forgetful, and is obedient to the law of liberty. James 1:25, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." Faith, real faith, brings with it works for God. Faith is not a forgetful hearer. A person that has real faith is one who obeys, and is active in God's work. Faith is the root and tree, of which, works are the fruit. We are not saved by faith and works but by a faith that works. We are saved by faith alone, but by a faith that does not remain alone. It is through this obedience, and active work for God that we are blessed. Jesus says, "Who hears my sayings, and does them is like a man that is wise."

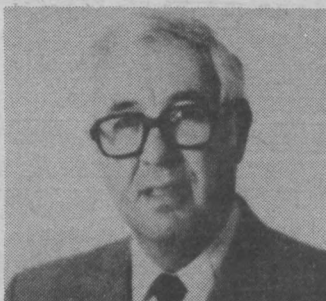
(Continued on Page 6)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

A NATION IN TROUBLE

"...When ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.



Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the

(Continued on Page 2)

MARRIAGE: A GOD CENTERED UNION

By Pastor Robert Barkman, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Marengo, Ohio

"Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine" (Ezekiel 16:8).

In Ezekiel 16:8 we have a picture of God's relation with the nation of Israel. God is describing His relation to Israel in terms of a marriage between two people. There is much we can learn about marriage by looking at this verse.

I. Marriage Involves Choice - "I passed by thee and looked upon thee."

A. A choice to be married or not I Corinthians 7:7-9, 17 "For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn. But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches."

The Word of the Lord clearly states that some of us are called by God and gifted TO BE MARRIED. Others of us are both called and gifted TO REMAIN SINGLE. It is our responsibility to discern the Lord's will for our life in this matter.

B. A choice of who to marry

Proverbs 18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

If we decide the Lord would have us to be married, the Word of the Lord is equally clear in teaching us the need to "find" (choose) the proper spouse. How do we know who a proper spouse would be? The Bible gives us clear standard to use when choosing a spouse.

If we are living in accord with His Word and if we pick a spouse who is also in accord with His Word, marriage can be truly wonderful.

II. Marriage Involves Love - "thy time was the time of love"

Ephesians 5:28 "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself."

In the above verse we find that the bond of marriage is love. The perfect marriage is made up of a three-fold type of love. The husband is to love the wife, the wife is to love the husband, and both husband and wife are to love the Lord.

When this three-fold love is present, the right priorities are followed in the marriage and the Lord honors and blesses this type of union.

III. Marriage Involves Sacrifice For Each Other - "I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness."

Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."

We previously saw that marriage is to be bonded by a three-fold type of love. When this love is present, self-sacrifice will take place. Each partner in the marriage will be willing to sacrifice themselves for each other and for the Lord. There is nothing greater than a couple willing to give their all for each other and the Lord.

IV. Marriage Involves A Promise Witnessed By God - "I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee."

Malachi 2:14 "Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion

(Continued on Page 3)

from the Word of Christ, as well as proclaim the Word. It is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Faith is the positive aspect of true conversion, the human side of regeneration. True repentance cannot exist independent from faith. Faith is a gift from God, because we cannot have faith by, nor of ourselves. Faith is good, but in mankind there is no good. Therefore, we must be given faith, as a gift, from the Most High God.

We have been told, "Fight the good fight of faith," and to, "Hold fast to our faith." But first, we must not only know what faith is, but also know how faith works in our lives, and our service for Christ. For this knowledge we must turn the pages of, and learn from, the Word of God.

FAITH

Hebrews 11:1-3, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things

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 ASH-
LAND, KENTUCKY, where all subscrip-
tions and communications should be sent.
Address: P.O. Box 60, Zip Code 41105-
0060.

PUBLICATION POLICIES: All mat-
ter for publication should be sent to the
editor. All manuscripts sent should be
typed and double spaced. All such mate-
rial 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 pub-
lication. **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 oth-
erwise 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 pub-
lished for profit. If we are not on ex-
change list with the publication copying,
it is requested that a copy of the issue
containing the articles be sent to our ad-
dress. All copyrighted materials, may not
be copied without written consent.

PUBLISHED EVERY 2 WEEKS at
3339 13th St., Ashland, KY, with paid cir-
culation 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.

NATION

(Continued from Page 1)

Lord hath spoken it. How is the
faithful city become an harlot! it
was full of judgment; righteous-
ness lodged in it; but now mur-
derers. Thy silver is become
dross, thy wine mixed with wa-
ter: Thy princes are rebellious
and companions of thieves: every
one loveth gifts, and followeth
after rewards..." (Isaiah 1:15-23).

At age five, I fell in love with a
nation. It was 1944; I would stand
in the back yard of our home on
Henton road in Lexington, Ken-
tucky. A few hundred feet away
troop trains would pass and I with
everyone living along the railroad
tracks would wave until the troops

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

OCTOBER 8, 1994

PAGE TWO

Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Today is Labor Day, September 5, 1994 and business goes on
around the Calvary Baptist Church building in preparation for
our upcoming Bible conference. Charlie Carroll is outside
working on the church steeple and cleaning the gutters. Betty
Carroll is inside cleaning and polishing the pews. All who attend
our conference will see a church moving forward and a church
building being improved so the Calvary Baptist Church can
better serve our Lord.

I suspect the number attending our Bible conference may be
slightly less than previous years, however, I fully expect a very
spiritual and edifying Bible conference. Our theme this year is:
"Fellowshipping with and growing to love churches of like faith
and order." If the Lord gives us a conference of fellowship and
love, we truly will be a people greatly blessed.

The Lord has blessed the church in a great way once again. The
Lord has saved little Miss Jamie Smith. Jamie is 10 years old.
The Lord willing, we will baptize Jamie this coming Sunday,
September 11th.

We are continuing to have visitors in our services. One such
visitor is Jill Porter. Jill attends every service including Sunday
school. Jill is a dentist and was saved when witnessed to by a
friend while attending the University of Kentucky Dental School.
Jill would be a wonderful addition to any true church.

I'm receiving so many encouraging letters about the Baptist
Examiner. Typical is the letter I received today from Mrs.
Patricia A. Walser of Seagraves, Texas. Mrs. Walser said: "Your
paper is the best in my opinion! It's so easy for a layman like
myself to read and understand." That's exactly the effect and
response that we desire. We don't want the Baptist Examiner to
be a paper to impress pastors and preachers. We want it to be
understandable, instructive and edifying to all Christians and a
witness to all who are lost. Thank you Mrs. Walser for helping
me to realize that we are accomplishing our purpose, by the grace
of God.

Until next time, may our Lord bless you richly!

P.S. On Wednesday night, September 7th, Jill Porter pre-
sented herself to the church requesting scriptural baptism and
membership. Yesterday, September 11th, the church baptized
Jamie Smith and Jill Porter.

had passed from view. I fell in love
with a wonderful lady. Her name
is America. But something has
gone wrong.

I. The One I Love Has Changed

"Ye did run well; who did
hinder you that ye should not
obey the truth?" (Galatians 5:7).
"Ah sinful nation, a people laden
with iniquity, a seed of evildoers,
children that are corrupters:
they have forsaken the Lord, they
have provoked the Holy One of
Israel unto anger, they are gone
away backward" (Isaiah 1:4).

The nation I love had a good
start. She did run well, but my how
she's changed. Our nation is ill.
Our nation is sin sick. We treat the
symptoms and never give thought
to treating the illness.

II. The One I Love Has Be- come a Harlot

"How is the faithful city be-
come an harlot! it was full of
judgment; righteousness lodged
in it; but now murderers" (Isaiah
1:21). "...They shall commit
whoredom, and shall not in-
crease: because they have left
off to take heed to the Lord"
(Hosea 4:10). "The spirit of
whoredom hath caused them to
err, and they have gone a whor-
ing from under their God"
(Hosea 4:12).

The nation I love was begun by
God fearing, God loving and God
serving people. The oracles of
God were the basis for writing the
founding documents. Those docu-
ments have now been misinter-
preted and grossly applied con-
trary to the intents of the writers.
My nation was a nation founded to
serve the true and living God. It
was a faithful nation; righteous-

ness did lodge in her at one time,
but now she has forsaken her roots
and has become a spiritual and
moral harlot.

III. Many of Her Preachers
Refuse to Tell Her She's Sinning
"They eat up the sin of my
people, and they set their heart
on their iniquity. And there shall
be, like people, like priest..."
(Hosea 4:8-9).

One very famous preacher was
asked about abortion. His reply
paraphrased: "I'll leave the an-
swer to that question to the scien-
tific community." I say to that
preacher and to our government
and to the world, the Word of God
provides the answer to the ques-
tion of abortion. We don't need to
seek the answer to such questions
from the scientific community,
especially when this area of so
called science is like that of evolu-
tion; it is: "science falsely so
called" (I Timothy 6:20). The
question of abortion is not a scien-
tific question. It is a spiritual and
moral question. It is a theological
question. One must seek the an-
swer to this question from the mind
of God and the will of God which
comes through the Word of God.
Abortion is murder! The famous
preacher won't give an answer to
the question. He should because
God's Word says abortion is
murder! "If men strive, and hurt
a woman with child, so that her
fruit depart from her, and yet no
mischief follow: he shall be
surely punished, according as the
woman's husband will lay upon
him; and he shall pay as the
judges determine" (Exodus
21:22). Oh famous preachers; oh
all preachers, tell our nation she is
sinning.

IV. The One I Love Has Blood On Her Hands

"And when ye spread forth
your hands, I will hide mine eyes
from you: yea, when ye make
many prayers, I will not hear:
your hands are full of blood"
(Isaiah 1:15).

If anyone should destroy an egg
of an American eagle, that person
would be in a great deal of trouble,
if caught. Many labor diligently to
save the whale and the spotted owl.
Our laws provide much protection
for the American eagle and its egg.
Our laws provide no protection for
the unborn human baby which was
made in the image of God. The
innocent blood of millions of
aborted babies are on the collec-
tive hands of Americans. Oh God
please help our nation to stop kill-
ing little precious wonderful beau-
tiful babies.

V. The One I Love No Longer

Believes in the Biblical Family

The Biblical family unit would
be made of one man and one wife
and children if the Lord so blesses.
Two men or two women living
together in a sexual relationship,
with or without children do not
constitute a Biblical family. To the
contrary; any such arrangement is
an abomination unto God. The
walls of cities and empires have
crumbled because of people al-
lowing this sin of homosexuality
to permeate a society.

"Wherefore God also gave
them up to uncleanness through
the lusts of their own hearts, to
dishonour their own bodies be-
tween themselves: Who changed
the truth of God into a lie, and
worshipped and served the crea-
ture more than the Creator, who
is blessed forever. Amen. For
this cause God gave them up
unto vile affections: for even
their women did change the
natural use into that which is
against nature: And likewise
also the men, leaving the natural
use of the woman, burned in their
lust one toward another; men
with men working that which is
unseemly, and receiving in them-
selves that recompense of their
error which was meet" (Romans
1:24-27).

VI. The One I Love Has Cho- sen Leaders Who Rebel Against God

We have chosen men to lead our
nation who promote abortion on
demand. They pass laws to permit
it and in some cases provide funds
to pay for it. Collectively as a
nation we have permitted this to
happen. As a nation we stand
guilty before the Almighty God.

We have chosen men to lead our
nation who condone and sanction
homosexuality. They pass laws to
encourage it. Collectively as a
nation we have permitted this to
happen. As a nation we stand
guilty before the Almighty God.

We once were a nation that
chartered its course and made its
decisions based on Bible principles.
Now we are a selfish people and
personal gain has replaced the Bible
in determining our actions.

"Thy princes are rebellious,
and companions of thieves: every
one loveth gifts, and followeth
after rewards" (Isaiah 1:23).

VII. My Love Is a Nation In Trouble. Is There Any Hope For Her?

Her only hope is to repent and
turn back to the Lord. If she doesn't,
then at some point in time she will
be as Sodom; she will be as the old
Roman Empire. God will pour out

(Continued on Page 8)



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

A JUST MAN FALLS Genesis 9:20-24

Noah had found grace in the eyes of the Lord. It was said of him that he was a just man and that he walked with God (6:8, 9). He was a preacher of righteousness (II Peter 2:5). For a hundred and twenty years he faithfully followed the commands of God in the building of the ark (Gen. 6:22). He had been placed in the ark, a safe place from the storm of God's wrath upon the world. Upon leaving the ark, Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices unto God. God then made a covenant in which He promised that there would be no more world wide flood. This was a new beginning. Man was now to go forth and fill the whole earth having received the blessing of God. What more could man ask? He had the whole world before him to fill and subdue, the control of the animal kingdom was delivered into his hand. What was the result?

"Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard...And he drank of the wine, and was drunken, and he was uncovered within his tent" (9:20, 21).

The first of Noah's sins was that of drunkenness. There was nothing wrong with him becoming a husbandman and planting a vineyard but the drinking of the wine and becoming drunk was his down fall. Through out the Word of God warnings are made against strong drink. The Apostle Paul includes drunkenness as a work of the flesh along with the fornicator, the covetous, the idolater, the railer, and the extortioner (I Cor. 5:11). The story of Noah's drunkenness is the first recorded

account of a sin which is now common over almost the entire world.

Connected with drunkenness was that of immodesty. Hebrew scholars tell us that the phrase, **"he was uncovered within his tent"** indicates that it was deliberate act and was not a mere unconscious action. Drunkenness and impurity quite often go together. As the Scripture states that **"whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning"** (Rom. 15:4), this account of Noah's sad fall is given in the Word for our learning. There are several things to learn from this account. First, it is a striking proof of Divine inspiration of the Scripture. Here as well as in other places in the Scripture, human nature is shown in its true form. If some man had been writing the history of Noah, no doubt the fall would have been glossed over or omitted altogether. But the Holy Spirit inspired the writer to record the events just as they happened with out excuse.

In the second place, we learn from Noah's fall that man at his best still has a depraved human nature. In chapter 9 we see a new beginning for the human race, but like the first beginning, it also began with failure. Man cannot stand any test given to him. Noah had been placed in a world that has been swept clean of all evil. He had been warned of judgment for evil doers. He had received the blessing of God. The reigns of civil government were placed in his hands. He had control of all the animal world, yet he could not control self and fell into open wicked sin.

In the third place we learn from Noah's fall that the sin of drunkenness often leads to other sins. In Noah's case it led to shame and a curse. Someone has well said, "Drunkenness is a sin against God, for it is abusing His mercies; it is a sin against our neighbors, for it deprives those who are in want of their necessary supplies and sets before them an evil example; it is a sin against our self, for it robs of usefulness, self-government and common decency. Moreover, drunkenness commonly leads to other evils. It did in Noah's case; Noah's sin gave occasion for his son to sin."

In the fourth place we learn we ever need to ever watch and pray lest we fall into sin. The Apostle Paul wrote, **"...Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"** (I Cor. 10:12). This tells us that regardless how blessed we are of the Lord, regardless of our standing before God, we still are subject to falling into sin. Therefore we must ever be on guard. **"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation"** (Matt. 26:41).

In the last place Noah's fall is a warning that each of us should heed. After giving the prophecy concerning his sons and their seed we find that the last 300 years of Noah's life is a blank. The Apostle Paul said of himself: **"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway"** (I Cor. 9:27). It would seem that Paul was watching lest he fall into sin which would cause him to be no longer used of the Lord. Is this what happened to Noah? It would seem so.

Ham's Sin Genesis 9:22

While Noah's drunkenness and immodesty were acts of unspeakable shame, the conduct of his son Ham was still more shameful. He had no love or even common decency for his father. We see depravity here in Ham. Not only was he guilty of the sin of failing to shield and cover his father's shame, but he was also guilty of the sin of calling attention to the circumstances and attempting to persuade his brothers to share in his sin. Ham's two brother refused to share in Ham's sin (v. 23). With, no doubt, a deep love for their father, they immediately took steps to cover up their father's shame. After all he was their father and they owed every thing to him, and regardless how deep he had fallen into sin, their only course was to cover him and his unspeakable shame. How ashamed Noah must have been when he awoke and realized what had taken place. When he realized what he had done as well as what his son had done, how filled with shame and sorrow he must have been, this one who had **"found grace in the eyes of the Lord"** (6:8), the one of whom it was said that he was the only upright man of that age (7:1). It is that one who now awakes to the fact of the shameful sin which both he and his son had committed.

IN
EVERYTHING
GIVE THANKS!

MARRIAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

ion, and the wife of thy covenant."

The "covenant" being described here are the promises that the spouses make to one another. This is a very important point which cannot be overstressed. A marriage is a promise made between the man and woman. They made these promises to each other NOT TO THE LORD. What role does the Lord play in the marriage covenant? He is the WITNESS to the covenant.

In other words, when the marriage promise is made, the husband is making an agreement with the wife that he will fulfill certain responsibilities and vice-versa. The Lord is watching them as they make the promise of marriage to each other.

If the marriage covenant is broken, God sees the breaking of it (just as He saw the making of it) and He will deal with the unfaithful spouse. Why is it important that we understand marriage involves a promise made to one another and witnessed by God? It stresses the need to be faithful to the promises we have made. Why? We have publicly made this promise to our spouse. Also, the Lord has witnessed this promise, He will uphold the innocent and oppose the guilty if the promise is broken.

V. Marriage Involves Union With One Another - "thou becamest mine."

Genesis 2:23-24 **"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."**

II Corinthians 6:14 **"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"**

In today's society we think it is horrible to say that one person can own another. However, Biblically marriage is a joint ownership, each spouse owning each other. It is a type of union where all independent goals and

(Continued on Page 5)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
OCTOBER 8, 1994
PAGE THREE

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 _____

ADDRESS _____

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



The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



To what degree should Christians try to witness to their unsaved family? Should we witness even though they are offended by it?

CLYDE T. EVERMAN

108 Burdsall Ave.
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017

DEACON:

Calvary Baptist Church
Ashland, KY



Two definitions for the word "witness" as given by Webster are: (1) "a person who saw or can give a first hand account of something" and (2) "something providing or serving as evidence."

For one to be a true witness to the saving grace of God, that one must have both of the above qualifications. For one to be a witness for Christ that one must have a first hand knowledge of the saving grace of God. That one must also be the evidence of that truth.

To what degree are we to witness? To "the nth degree." That is, there is no limit. Christ said, "Ye are my witnesses." As long as we live in this life we are to be witnesses to the cause of Christ, not only to our family but to all with whom we come into contact.

The next question is how we are to witness. Many think that we are not witnessing unless we are talking about salvation and things of the Lord. This is fine for those who will listen. For those who become offended and will not listen to us there is another way to witness that is often effective even if our words fail. The apostle Paul told the Christians at Corinth that they were epistles of Christ and that they were read of all men (II Corinthians 3:2, 4). The apostle Peter, in giving instructions to the wives who were saved but had husbands who were not, told them that if they manifested much grace and humility of spirit, that by their behavior or manner of conduct, that even though the husband resisted the Word he might be won without the Word that is without the wife

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

OCTOBER 8, 1994

PAGE FOUR

witnessing by mouth, but by her manner of life. Her conduct gives evidence, is a witness, as to the truth of the saving grace of God. We often hear the saying: "Action speaks louder than words." This is what Peter is telling us.

There are times when we are to witness by word of mouth and there are times when we are to be silent, but there is NEVER a time when we are not to witness by our lives, our conduct, what we do, what we are. Remember the words of Paul: "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ...written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart" (II Corinthians 3:3). What you do, what you are, may be your best witness.

JOHN R. LENEGAR

126 N. Washington St.
No. 5
Delaware, OH 43015

PASTOR:

Walnut Creek
Missionary Baptist Church
Delaware, OH



"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour" (Isaiah 43:10, 11).

This is a most difficult task to witness to unsaved members of one's family. Perhaps some members are more difficult to witness to than others. For example, it is more difficult to witness to a father, or mother being their child. Brothers and sisters may be somewhat easier to talk to concerning the things of the Lord, but no witness can be effective unless the Lord is directing it and its circumstances. By that I mean, when we want to witness to family, or others, we need to pray about it. Asking God for the right

time and the right witness is imperative. The Holy Spirit will do the applying and produce the results.

Often family members are passed by when a Christian witnesses of his or her faith. We have the example, however, in Scripture of telling our family about Christ and the things of God (as God leads) in John 1:38-42). Andrew witnessed to Peter his brother and brought him to the Lord Jesus. We should witness to our family members to the degree that the Lord permits us to do so. We must pray about it first, asking God to direct the time, the place, and the content. The Lord will always give an opportunity. He has never failed me in doing so.

Some family members and others we witness to may become offended and sometimes angry with us. Thus, it is important to follow God's guidance and direction in witnessing to our loved ones. At times no further opportunity seems to come up. We then need to remember that our life, i.e. our behavior, our conduct, as well as words are a witness also. How we conduct ourselves, as well as how we handle difficult trials and situations, are sometimes louder and stronger and more effective witness than just our words. We need to be extremely careful how we live and conduct ourselves within our families, for they see us perhaps, as no one else does in our daily life. Live as God's child (which is as a witness) and seek God's guidance in opportunities to speak a word, or words of witness to our loved ones. Always be ready to give every man an answer of the hope that is within you.

LEAD ME,
LORD, I
WILL PUT
MY TRUST
IN YOU!

GEORGE R. SLEDD

920 Upsala Rd.
Sanford, FL 32771

PASTOR:

Jordan Missionary Baptist Church
Sanford, FL



First of all we must answer that we should indeed witness to our family. If we don't, who will? In many cases an unsaved person is led to Christ through the testimony of a loved one. It is also true that family members seem to be the hardest people we will ever witness to. They remember your lifestyle before you were saved. Yet they will also see the change in your life and that could be a tremendous advantage to lead them to the Lord. There is no greater testimony than that of a changed life! Of course family members may be offended by your witness to them. Yet, isn't this true of most all people? Sometimes it is possible to be a little over-bearing in dealing with our lost loved ones. They are close to our hearts and certainly we don't want to see them die in a lost condition. We must realize that the Lord is going to have to save them! You cannot save your loved ones. Salvation is of the Lord! I don't believe in badgering people with the gospel. We should prayerfully and earnestly tell them of Jesus Christ. We cannot argue anyone into the kingdom of God. We go to lost souls in love and compassion. We tell them what Christ has done for our own souls and what He can do for them. We seek to show them the eternal peril they are in. If they are offended, all we can do is continue to love them and pray for their souls. All we can do is place them in the hands of the Lord.

I want to encourage you never to give up on your lost loved one. Remember the word of God: "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?" (I Corinthians 7:16). Continue to live a holy, consis-

tent life every day before them. As the opportunity arises, speak to them about the Lord Jesus Christ. Continue to earnestly pray for their salvation. Who knows, perhaps they will be awakened to see their need of Him and trust Him as Lord and Saviour! Don't get discouraged; don't give up on them. It may seem like they will never get saved. You don't know that for sure. What seems humanly impossible with men is possible with God. "...But with God all things are possible." (Matt. 19:26).

JACK C. WHITT

4510 Garden Ave.
Portsmouth, OH 45662

TEACHER:

Calvary Baptist Church
Ashland, KY



"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand" (Ezekiel 3:18). This question, as all questions dealing with Christian responsibility, should always be answered in accordance to the prevailing question: "What would Jesus have me do?"

This question set before us, has for many Christians and non-Christians alike, been a subject of dispute and in many cases led to heated arguments and even family alienation. It is my opinion that every opportunity should be taken to witness to unsaved family members. Some family members are more difficult than others to approach about the Bible and spiritual matters, especially so it is with such who have preconceived religious beliefs about God. Many of these believe that any religion is acceptable as long as one is sincere and lives a good moral life. Others think themselves Christians because of being raised in a Christian home or perhaps they had been baptized. Most of these people resent being

(Continued on Page 8)

IN THE COOL OF THE DAY

By Irene Orrick

Despite my writing about the past, I am a person who loves today. I believe that for a Christian, each new day should be better than the one before. "Say not thou, what is the cause that the former days were better than these? For thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this" (Ecclesiastes 7:10). Way back in Solomon's time, people longed for the good old days. But I think one reason that we like to recall the old days is that we were children with few responsibilities. Our parents bore the responsibilities.

Also, I think that at Stark, where I grew up, we were about fifty years behind the rest of the country. So all the way up to about 1950, life was uncomplicated and unhurried. After all, we probably weren't going anywhere much, and had all day if we did; just so we were back before dark to do up the work. We could do it by lantern light if we were a little late. And we had about four seasons to get everything done in its own time.

So we cherish those days because of the way of life that we may never see again. One facet of that life was the one room school. Each summer when I hear the jar flies start their racket, I remember that it is pretty near time for school to start at Bunker Hill. I was fortunate enough to attend this one room school from primer through the sixth grade. The school year started in July and ended in early March.

With the exception of one year, I had only one teacher there, Feril Holbrook, whom we called by her first name. (At Stark, every-one was called by their first name). Feril was a teacher, friend, and lady. She enjoyed teaching, and I enjoyed learning.

Early each morning, I walked from my hollow to the top of the hill and gave a dead-raising yell to my cousin in her hollow. (A man from Baltimore, visiting the community and observing the native "communication system," allowed that we really didn't need

telephones at Stark.) She would split the air with an answering call, meet me at the top of the next hill along the road to Bunker Hill, and we would finish the long walk together.

Those walks to and from school were never hurried nor accomplished straightaway, but always interspersed with play and side trips to adventure. For one thing, we usually had a playhouse in some secret location along the way. Many mornings we were laden with broken dishes and other such goodies brought from home that go into the making of a respectable playhouse.

Then there was the old cemetery about halfway to school that required an occasional investigating. We had heard so many scary stories; surely if we kept at it, we could find just one ghost early some morning before he got back into his grave after the night's prowling.

In summer, lunch, which was dinner, of course, was under the huge oak tree in the school yard. In our half gallon syrup bucket, most of us took green beans, topped with a big, red, ripe tomato and corn bread. In the winter, a quart jar of fresh milk and warm combread fixed early in the morning, by noon was cold and delicious, with thick cream settled on top.

There are so many other memories of Bunker Hill—taking turns going the half mile for water, the "IN" and "OUT" card hanging at the door to let it be known whether someone was occupying the out-house. And it wouldn't be possible to forget the fresh scent of skunk, as we sat in the winter around the stove with the boys who had been hunting the night before.

While I was in the lower grades, as I listened to the higher grades read, how eagerly I anticipated the time when I could read "Annabelle Lee," "Evangeline," and "Ichabod Crane." And Einstein could not have been more exhilarated when he uncovered relativity than when I finally got

a sixth grade math book. Those big numbers had impressed me for five years.

I read of great cities, governments, countries, things and ways more complicated and grand than they were at Stark. In a feedsack dress, with mud on my high top brown shoes, I looked at pictures and imagined the fine cities, kings, and people in elegant ready-made clothes. Way back in the hills, in a one-room school, I was preparing to go out, see it all and live in it.

In this little one room school, earth, I enjoy everyday. But in the Bible, I read about a King in royal garments on a fine, white horse, whose kingdom is the universe. There are word pictures of a certain City, glimmering and jeweled. There are descriptions of garments for His people, white and more elegant than I can imagine.

Almost as far back as I can remember, God was reminding me of Himself. And I thought of many ways to justify myself before Him. But when I was 13 years old, I committed my whole case to God the Saviour. He has taught me some thrilling things, but I am impatient with the bounds and limitations of my understanding.

As I sit here in the primer class, clothed in humanness, mud of the world on my feet, blinded by time, I can hardly wait to get into the "upper grade," with a new body and mind, with a heart and unlimited understanding that can love and worship Him. I am almost anxious to get out there, see all His grand, special place and live in it!

(Article taken from: The Storms Creek Baptist Witness, August 1994, vol. 25).

Our prayers and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well; while one ascends the other descends.

MARRIAGE

(Continued from Page 3)

desires have to be placed in subordination to the goals and desires of the other spouse.

In the above verses this union of joint-possession are described by the phrases "cleave unto wife," "one flesh" and "yoked together." Even clearer verses declaring joint-possession are found in I Corinthians 7:1-6. In these verses the following phrases are used: "his own wife," "her own husband", "the wife hath not power over her body, but the husband", "the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife." Each of these phrases clearly presents the union and joint-ownership that takes place in marriage.

Marriage Pictures Christ's Love For Us:

Romans 7:1-6 "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."

Normally, in the confines of Scripture, marriage is used as a living picture of the Father's union with Israel and Christ's union with His local assemblies. The one exception to this is found in Romans 7:1-6. Here, we find the marriage union is a picture of Christ's love and union with the saints (saved). Our communion with Christ we experience once we are saved is beautifully pictured by a marriage.

The five truths we learned about marriage from Ezekiel 16:8 can be applied to our union with Christ at salvation:

1. To be saved choices must be made. Christ must choose to save an individual from their sins. That individual must respond, in faith, by choosing Christ.

2. Salvation is based upon love. Christ must love those who are unlovable if they are to be saved. For a lost person to be saved they must turn from their hatred and bitterness towards Christ and have a love in their heart for Christ.

3. Salvation is sacrifice for Christ and Christ for us. Our salvation from sins is based on the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross for our sins. Once saved, we must become living sacrifices for Christ.

4. Salvation is an eternal covenant that cannot be broken. The Word of God speaks of a "New Covenant", the agreement that takes place between God, Christ and man that results in the salvation of His people.

5. Man coming into union with Christ IS salvation. When we are saved from our sins we become new creatures IN HIM. We truly become joint-heirs with Christ. We become a part of His family. Truly "Christ in us" is the hope of glory.

We have seen what a Biblical marriage involves. For those of us who are saved, let us seek to live these principles out in our day to day walk. Always remembering, our marriage is a living picture of what our Lord did for us when He saved us. Both in our marriage and salvation we can truly say: "To God be the glory, great things He hath done!"

Bear ye one another's burdens



THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

OCTOBER 8, 1994

PAGE FIVE

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION THIS YEAR??

EVERY CHRISTIAN'S DUTY IS TO BE A WITNESS FOR CHRIST

By Roy Mason

Whose business is it to win people to Christ? Is this a duty that devolves upon preachers, and perhaps upon Sunday School teachers? Certainly it is their task—but it is also the duty of every saved person on the face of this earth. The average church member not only never wins anybody else to the Lord—he never even tries to do so! There is no sense of obligation whatsoever on the part of the average church member as regards to the reaching of the lost. “That’s what I help hire the preacher for” is the attitude. Failure on the part of church members in general to talk of their religion to others demonstrates spiritual neglect and lack of concern. Churches that engage in real soul-winning effort with numbers of persons participating, always reach people.

What does the Bible say?

What obligation does the Lord lay upon saved people along the line of witnessing for Christ and the winning of souls?

1. What is our obligation to our own kinfolk? To the converted Gadarene who wanted to accompany Him, Jesus said, “...Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee...” (Mark 5:19). What did the man do in obedience to that command? The answer is found in verse 20. But note! Another good example is found in John 1:41-42, “He first findeth his own brother...And he brought him to Jesus....”

It is the prime business of every Christian to win his own close of kin to the Lord. Very often people live in such a way that they don’t have the nerve to talk to their close kin. They know that their relatives have no confidence in them. Then often people in regard to their own children, have no real interest in their salvation. During a revival meeting for instance, they find excuses for staying away, instead of planning to be with their lost children in the services every night. We have known instances in which parents actually resented people talking to their children about salvation. In many instances the trouble probably is that such parents,

though church members, are utterly lost and just a breath removed from hell.

2. What is our obligation towards our own people? The Apostle Paul set us a good example along this line. Read Romans 9:1-2 and 10:1. He simply states his desire to see his own people, the Jews, saved. He would gladly have doomed his own soul to hell if that could have accomplished the salvation of his people. He did everything in his power to reach the Jews, suffering hate and misrepresentation and abuse of every description.

We have an obligation to our own people, of our own locality and nation that we do not have toward anybody else. Our first obligation is to them. Some people have a glamorous conception of what they call “foreign missions.” They are terribly interested, so they think, in the heathen far away, but they would not speak a word to a heathen here at home for anything. We ought to be interested in foreign missions, but at the same time we should have even a greater interest in the lost right at our doors. Our own church preaches the gospel over more than a dozen radio stations every week. We have in 20 years taken a gospel message in this way into nearly every home in Tampa, and into homes over most of the entire state. Doubtless some regard this as inferior to foreign mission work—or maybe they don’t regard this as mission work at all. It certainly is mission work of the most important kind.

3. What is our first obligation as a church? We are speaking now to church members particularly. The Great Commission was given by Jesus to the church He started. What does that commission say? Read Matthew 28:19-20. The first thing commanded is to teach or disciple the people of all nations. To “disciple” is to make a believer a Christian. The command is not to amuse, feed and entertain. It is not to promote some kind of a program. It is to give the gospel to the world. Mark states it, “...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” This comes absolutely first.

FAITH

(Continued from Page 1)

Like the man who built his house on a solid rock. A person who hears God’s words, obeys, and acts upon them is wise; like a sensible man, building his house on a solid rock. Our solid rock is Jesus Christ!

We must walk by faith; that is believe, while not seeing a physical display of what we hold dear: Christ, and those things hoped for. We can be, and often are, like Thomas who doubted, and said, “Unless I see, I will not believe.” Many are like him, that is why we have so many so called assemblies preaching signs and wonders. They want to walk by sight, not by faith. Take a look at Peter in Matthew 14:28-30 “**And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.**” Peter said, “If it be you, show me, have me do something, let me walk on water, that will be a sign to me that you are Jesus.” Peter walked on the water, at the bidding of Jesus, however, at the first sign of trouble, he took his eyes off Jesus, as we do so many times, and down into the deep Peter went. We, like Peter, say, “Show me Lord if it is you, give me a sign, have me walk on water”: that is, give me faith. Then, at the bidding of Jesus, we step out strong, but we become frightened by the strong winds of the world, and we look at the problems around us. The “If it be you” comes back to our minds, and we take our eyes off Jesus, and we go down into the deep. The problem is simple, we like Peter, have no faith of our own. Our faith comes from Jesus, who is God, and only by keeping our eyes on Him do we have faith. Take our eyes off Jesus, and we lose our faith, and we are in deep water. Doubting will put us in very deep water, and we will begin to look to signs, and wonders instead of faith.

THE SOURCE OF DOUBT

We must know that the source of all doubt is Satan, the prince and power of the air. And he, Satan, will trouble you, if you do not have the whole armor of God. I Thessalonians 5:8, “**Let us, who are of the day in Jesus, be sober,**

putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.” Yes, we must put on the armor needed to fight the good fight of faith. The enemy is strong, and his fiery, stalwart darts are coming at us at every moment. Our enemies are the demonic host of Satan, and they are always assembled for mortal combat with you and with me.

We must, also, take up the shield of faith. Ephesians 6:16 “**Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**” Lift up the covering shield of saving faith, by which we can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked ones.

Along with the breastplate of faith, the helmet of the hope of salvation, and the shield of faith, we must put on the sword of the spirit, with our feet shod with preparation of the gospel of peace and the belt of truth around our loins. With the complete armor of God we can resist, and stand our ground against Satan, and his devilish host.

VICTORY IN JESUS

If we stand firmly, with faith, in our place, there will be victory. Being born of God, faith is our victory, that overcomes the world! I John 5:4 “**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**” Being born of God, we are victorious! And the victory that conquers is our faith! The faith given to us by God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Only by this faith given, can we overcome the world. To have faith in one’s own faith is playing the fool for all that it is worth, and we shall go down into the deep as did Peter. But, when we put our faith in the faith that God gives, we will conquer the world, and be counted, as wise, with the saints of old.

In this, there is no doubt! The saints of old did many mighty things, and are recounted for us in Hebrews 11:32-39. Read these verses, so you will understand what true faith can do. Then take a good look at your faith. Do you have faith in your own faith? Or, do you have faith in the faith given to you by God? Your faith is weak, and of no use. But, God’s faith is strong. Put your faith in God’s faith (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), and all will be well with your soul. Keep your eyes upon Jesus.

ARE WE PROFITABLE FOR THE MINISTRY?

By Pastor Frank Mulford,
Central Calvary Baptist
Church

What a tremendous testimony Paul gives of John Mark, “for he is profitable to me for the ministry” (II Timothy 4:1-11). Paul is telling us that John Mark was very useful in the gospel ministry. We must ask ourselves the question: are we profitable for the ministry? The profit of edifying (Acts 20:20). Paul profits other believers by his teaching and his example. I have showed you (examples) and taught you (teaching). If we are going to be profitable for the ministry, we must like Paul, build up others by our example and teaching. The profit of soul winning (I Corinthians 10:33). Paul sacrificed self that others might be saved. Paul must have sacrificed his time, talent and treasures, so that many others might come to Christ. In a day of convenient Christianity, we need to re-evaluate our soul winning. The profit of godliness (I Timothy 4:8). We are told, godliness is profitable unto all things, and that we are to exercise ourselves rather unto godliness. We do this by being nourished up in the words of faith (v. 6) by trusting in the living God (v. 10), by being an example (v. 12). The profit of Scripture (II Timothy 3:16). We are told that all Scripture is profitable for us. God gives four ways: for doctrine (teaching), for reproof (convicting), for correction (correcting), and instruction (learning). We will be profitable to others, when God’s Word is precious to us. The profit of good works (Titus 3:8). We know good works do not save (Titus 3:5), but after we get saved, we should exhibit and maintain good works. Why? They are good and profitable unto men. Good works are necessary in the gospel ministry, and keep us bearing fruit for Christ (Titus 3:14).

JESUS CHRIST, THE FAITHFUL WITNESS

By Pastor Charles Lybrook, Waverly Road Baptist Church, Huntington, West Virginia

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Revelation 1:5).

The book of Revelation, being the revelation of Jesus Christ, ushers us quickly into the presence of God, the opening chapter is all about God, and particularly, God the Son. The course, the character and the very consummation of the age are seen in Him, God has no plan or purpose for this planet which is not centered ultimately in His Son, He is the center of everything, and our text declares Him to be the faithful witness. Jesus Christ came to earth to be a witness to a dark and degenerate world, and His witness was both unprecedented and unpopular.

First, He witnessed to the name of God, in Old Testament times, God was frequently revealed through His many and varied names, each of which unfolded an aspect of His character. But when Jesus, the faithful witness came, He taught men a new name for God, He taught them the lovely name of Father, and oh, what a witness that is, when a guilty sinner finds out that he or she has been not only chosen in Christ before all worlds (Eph. 1:4), but also predestinated or marked out before hand to be adopted in the family of God (Eph. 1:5), and all this through the redemption that is in Christ (Eph. 1:6-7). What a marvelous revelation that is. My dear reader, to know Him as the devils know Him (James 2:19), do you know Him as Heavenly Father?

Secondly, Jesus, the faithful witness, witnessed to the NA-

TURE OF SIN, the Old Testament had developed an extensive vocabulary for sin, David used three of these words in a single verse in Psalms 32:5, yet the full horror and criminality of sin was not fully revealed until Jesus came to become sin's victim (a living being, offered up as a sacrifice). When Jesus, the blessed LAMB OF GOD became sin for His chosen people, to pay in full all that God's holy law demanded before the guilty sinner could be justly declared just, then it was that sin was depicted as the heinous thing that it is. Sin ploughed His back and crowned His precious head with thorns. Sin hung Him on an old rugged cross. Sin broke His body...drained His life's blood, and broke His heart. Sin wrung from His sinless lips that mournful and pitiful cry, "WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" Yes, dear reader, Jesus the faithful witness revealed sin in all its naked, unmasked horror. Would to God that we could see sin as it is.

Thirdly, Jesus witnessed faithfully to the NEED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. The law of Moses did that too, for the very rocks of Sinai quaked when that law was given, but, Sinai's demands were dwarfed and beggared by the demands for righteousness gently but firmly revealed by our Lord in His sermon on the mount. Sinai dealt with sin's fruits, but that sermon dealt with sin's roots, the law of Moses dealt with the deed: Jesus dealt with the very desire. "THOU SHALT NOT KILL" said Moses, but Jesus said "WHEN A MAN IS ANGRY AGAINST HIS BROTHER WITHOUT A CAUSE HE IS GUILTY OF MURDER IN HIS HEART." "THOU SHALT NOT

COMMIT ADULTERY" said Moses, but, Jesus taught that "WHEN A MAN LOOKS UPON A WOMAN TO LUST AFTER HER, HE HAS COMMITTED ADULTERY WITH HER ALREADY IN HIS HEART." He is the faithful witness.

Fourthly, He was a faithful witness to judgment to come. The Lord Jesus spoke more about hell than He did about heaven, He made hell more real than any of His disciples, truly, where hell is concerned, "NEVER A MAN SPAKE LIKE THIS MAN." Men doubt hell today but they will not doubt it in the last day of accounting. See Revelation 20:11-15.

But now, fifthly, Jesus the Christ was also the FAITHFUL WITNESS TO SALVATION. He brought the news of salvation like none other. Someone asks the question, what is salvation? And the answer is, salvation is deliverance from the penalty and the power and the presence of sin, and all, through the finished work of Jesus, the mighty Saviour and the faithful witness. Jesus bore witness to that salvation to the woman at the well, and a sinful woman was forever saved. He bore witness of that salvation to the religious Nicodemus and saved his soiled soul as well. My dear reader, Jesus "THE FAITHFUL WITNESS" is still convincing men of sin and of judgment, and of righteousness, in the person of the blessed Holy Spirit. Has He spoken to your heart? Has He convinced you of sin in your own life that must be repented of? Have you come to Calvary to be cleansed in the "SOUL CLEANSING BLOOD OF THE LAMB?"

(Article taken from: "The Baptist Missionary"; June 1993).

A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



Only a Servant Girl (Part II)

The Little Maid (II Kings 5:2-4)

This little Hebrew girl dared to speak of a prophet of the Lord to a heathen people, worshippers of the god Rimmon. Taken captive by the Syrians, during war between Syria and Israel, this little servant girl was now living in the home of Naaman, captain of the Syrian army. She was the personal servant of Naaman's wife. Now that great, honorable, and mighty Naaman, as he is described, had one problem. He was a leper, that is, Naaman suffered from leprosy.

This disease which plagued Naaman involved the nervous system, causing loss of feeling in certain parts of the body. A person with leprosy could cut or burn himself without even knowing it. Infection would set in, and the flesh would begin rotting away from his bones. Such people were social outcasts. Chapters thirteen and fourteen of Leviticus tell us how the Lord told the Israelites to deal with the plague of leprosy. A person with leprosy was considered to be unclean. All of this may sound gross and disgusting, yet it saddens the heart. We are told that our Lord actually touched and healed lepers (Matt. 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-14, 17:11-19).

We are told that Naaman was a leper, his physical body suffering from a disease called leprosy. As we read this account, we also find that he was a leper in another sense of the meaning of this word, that is he was spiritually sick, suffering from a disease called SIN. This disease involved the heart, a lack of concern for the truth, no desire to follow His ways. Naaman's heart was insensitive to God's word, for he could, with hesitation, worship another (Assyrian god Rimmon). Such a person sees no need for God. Such a person does not realize how sick he is, nor does he see his need for healing (Matt. 9:12, 13; Mark 2:17, Luke 5:31, 32). His "whole head is sick, and his whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds,

and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment" (Isaiah 1:5, 6). He is guilty and unacceptable in the sight of God (Romans 3:9-18). Such is the condition of the lost sinner. How gross and disgusting, but it breaks the heart. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

This little girl's concern for her master caused her to, one day, speak to her mistress, Naaman's wife, about the prophet Elisha, (back in Samaria, in the land of Israel), "for he would recover him of his leprosy." After being sent to a distraught king of Israel, who could do nothing to heal Naaman of his leprosy, then to the prophet Elisha, who sent a messenger, telling Naaman to wash in the Jordan seven times, angering and disappointing Naaman greatly, Naaman was healed of his leprosy, and his flesh was once again "like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean" (II Kings 5:14). It is also quite possible, though we cannot be certain, that Naaman experienced spiritual healing, for he did acknowledge the God of Israel as the only true God (II Kings 5:15). God had used this little servant girl to humble the pride of mighty Naaman.

Rhoda (Acts 12:1-19)

Now Herod was persecuting the Christians of the church at Jerusalem, having killed James, the brother of John, and also imprisoning Peter. The church gathered together to pray for Peter. They were meeting in the home of Mary, the mother of John and Mark. As Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound by two chains, guards stationed at the prison door, the angel of the Lord appeared. The chains fell off and the angel led Peter safely through the gates of the prison. Peter was free; the angel was gone. Peter went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where

(Continued on Page 8)

THE BEST CURE FOR SLEEPLESSNESS

By Jack Whitt

"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou Lord, only makest me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8).

Say, do you ever have trouble sleeping? Do you have difficulty removing troubling thoughts some times that just hang on no matter how hard you try to put them out of mind? Many people have difficulty in getting proper rest today because their minds are not at peace with God.

The Psalmist says he could both lay down in peace and also sleep. The first part is easy, that is to lay down. But to have peace and sleep is not easy for many. Dear Christian friend if this be your case, may I suggest for your reminding that you have a God that wants you to get a good night's sleep and He will provide rest for a troubled soul. Let us not therefore doubt God's Word. The next time you become restless to sleep, consider this verse, better yet read the verse before you lie down. Only God can give real peace and sleep.

THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE

By DeWayne W. Austin, Hamilton, Ohio

"Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil" (Joel 2:12-13).

Joel, a prophet of Judah, lived and preached during the reign of Joash (II Kings 11, 12). He surely knew Elisha, whose school of the prophets exerted a strong influence. In the early part of Joash's reign (still a young boy) the old priest Jehoiada was in active control of the government. Athaliah, like her mother Jezebel, had destroyed the faith of God's people. Jehoiada was doing his best to rebuild a kingdom on godly principles. The locusts, the famine, the drought and the poverty that followed in the wake of these disasters, prepared the minds of the people for thoughts about God. It was a tragic hour. Boldly Joel faced the frightened people with the divine call to repent. This small book is a literary gem and Joel has been called the "prophet of religious revival."

Devastation, the sign of judgment (Joel 1:1-2:11). Joel describes and interprets the national calamity. They faced utter ruin. He was concerned that the people might miss the real meaning of the calamity. To get sinners attention, God doesn't always use an earthquake, a flood, tornado, lightning, forest fires, volcano eruption, or tidal wave—but a little locust (many thousands though). These locusts can be described in three ways.

Allegorical — symbol of enemy armies attacking Israel. **Apocalyptic** — description of the end time when supernatural creatures shall attack earth (Revelation 4). **Historical** — very real locusts that actually devoured their vegetation.

Joel's people were guilty of sin, and that sin must bring punishment. He wanted them to see God's hand holding the rod and not just the chastisement being inflicted. He quickly suggested the remedy. Fasting, prayer and

repentance could be counted on to bring God's forgiveness.

Supplication, the call to repentance (2:12-17). Joel challenged them to reality in prayer and repentance. There was still time to turn back from their self-chosen course of sin, but all must do it to be spared. Rend the hard and stony heart, and make it pervious to Godlike thoughts and emotions (Psalm 51:17).

Restoration, the vision of blessing (Joel 2:18-3:21). Surely the people must have been on their faces before God. We see the immediate answer of God. The locusts are to be destroyed, the gentle rains will come to refresh the cracked earth, the Lord will do great things in their behalf (anti-Christ has done great things against the people of God), and the people will rejoice again in the renewal of God's favor. These blessings to Israel will then flow out to all classes in the world. "My people shall never be ashamed," let everyone know that if they call on the name of the Lord, He will receive them, and they will all reign with Him in glory. But before this time the forces of anti-Christ will make one last desperate effort against the Lord and His people. The Lord will gather all ungodly forces together for their final destruction. Praise His name. Lord hasten the blessed time!

PRAY NATION

(Continued from Page 2)

His wrath upon her.

"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hosea 10:12). "...Return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips" (Hosea 14:1-2).

Oh God, please give America grace and wisdom to repent, then God please bless America again!

A WOMAN'S

(Continued from Page 7)

the saints were praying for him. Peter knocked at the door, and a damsel (female slave, servant, maid) named Rhoda went to answer the door. Now Rhoda recognized Peter's voice and became so excited that she neglected to open the door of the gate, but ran to tell the others that Peter was at the gate. They mocked Rhoda, implying that she was crazy, beside herself. But Rhoda's faith never wavered, for she kept insisting that Peter was standing at the gate. It must be his angel, they told Rhoda. What did they mean by Peter's angel? It was his guardian angel. A messenger had been sent from Peter. An angel (messenger) had been sent to give notice of Peter's death. This angel, who looked like Peter, but was not Peter, had come with a message. Whatever the case, they were certainly amazed, beside themselves, when they opened the door of the gate and saw that it was indeed Peter. A little maid had put to shame and humbled these Christians. They had prayed for Peter (his safety, his release), but they did not believe that God had done what He had done. Rhoda never even doubted that it was so.

FORUM

(Continued from Page 4)

told they are sinners yet without believing and receiving Jesus Christ as their Savior, they must face eternal damnation in Hell. I know this to be true from personal experience. I cannot say, even though I have been rejected and rebuked and yes, even for a time known family alienation, that I am sorry for having witnessed to certain members of my family. A real love and compassion for our family and even strangers, ought to override any criticism or rejection we may receive. No one wants discord within the family. Of course witnessing methods can make a difference. We should show love for the person and set a good example of Christian behavior. Pray for their salvation and resign that only God can open blinded eyes. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

PRAISE HIM

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton

What must I do to be saved? Many people ask this question and many different answers are given in response. Some say a person must just be good and moral. Others say a person must be a member of a particular kind of church. Still others say a person must be baptized. Then there are those who believe one is saved by confessing their sins to a mere mortal man. All of these responses are incorrect. The correct answer to this most important question comes from the WORD OF GOD. This very question was put to Paul and Silas by a jailer in Philippi. The BIBLE records the event as follows: The jailer's question to Paul and Silas: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). The answer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31). The BIBLE further records that: "they spake unto him the word of the Lord..." (Acts 16:32). This man heard "the word of the Lord" proclaiming the wonderful BIBLE TRUTH that salvation is in JESUS CHRIST and Him alone; upon hearing this man believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to save him and he was saved. After being saved, he was then baptized. He was baptized NOT TO GET SAVED, but because he had already been saved.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

"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" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

"As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul panteth after thee." (Ps. 42:1)

