

Joys are our wings; sorrows our spurs

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.*

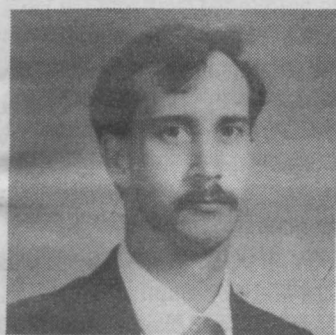
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OBJECTIONS TO EVOLUTION

By Pastor Rick Presley, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio

"...Ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect...For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges" (Deut. 32:3, 4, 31).

For years evolutionists have been challenging Christians to justify



their beliefs by providing a scientific explanation for Biblical creation and Christians have felt obliged to wage battle on the evolutionist's grounds. We need to stop letting the evolutionists dictate the terms of the conflict and take the battle to them. There are a number of questions we need to ask evolutionists because they can't give any adequate answers, even from the best of them. These are not problems that creationists are making up in order to cause trouble but there are serious difficulties that evolutionists themselves are having trouble dealing with. Christians need to realize that defending the Biblical position is not the only stance to take but to consider that the evolutionists must also be forced to defend their position. This article will focus on a few of the questions that need to be asked of any seriously thinking evolutionist who is willing to honestly consider the weaknesses in evolutionary theory. Hopefully, this will cause them to question their position in a fair and critical manner. At the very least, the Christian will be armed with sufficient ammunition

to put loud-mouthed, arrogant evolutionists on the defensive.

The foundational presupposition of cosmic evolution is a belief that the earth is at least six billion years old. Such a vast stretch of time is necessary for all the evolution to take place that they believe occurred. Evolutionists will cite all sorts of data to prove that the earth is old such as carbon-14 dating and potassium-argon dating. The reason that creationists cannot effectively debate evolutionists on the interpretation of this data is because the evolutionists have stacked the deck against us by choosing only test methods that will give them results that favor their theory. If you think about it, it is the only sensible approach that evolutionists can take. If they were to find a test method for dating the age of the earth that shows the earth is only 6,000-10,000 years old, the evolutionists will claim it is a faulty method and cannot be trusted. A die-hard evolutionist will reject any data that indicates a young earth as somehow flawed, yet they will not allow creationists the opportunity to do the same

with their data that indicates an old earth. A challenge to evolutionists would be for them to design a test or a category of data that would prove to them conclusively that the earth is young. Ask him, "What sort of data would absolutely convince you that the earth is young?" Challenge any evolutionist you meet to give you a test that is scientifically sound that would convince him beyond doubt that the earth is young. It is pretty certain that no evolutionist will suggest a conclusive way of proving absolutely and unquestionably a young earth. But these are questions they must be forced to answer. Any good scientist could suggest tests that would challenge their theories and would actually welcome challenges because a good theory will withstand any number of objections and still be sound. Evolution isn't sound, so it cannot withstand close scrutiny and challenge. It certainly will not accept any form of data that will challenge their position even though the Creation Research Institute in California has many such

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

THE REPUTATION OF A CHURCH

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold. The rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all" (Proverbs 22:1-2).

I. A Good Reputation is to be Desired

My how a church needs to have a good reputation, i.e. "a good



name." Many things are needed to result in a church having "a good name." Some pastors and preachers believe that if you preach and practice the truth of God's Word, you can't possibly have a good reputation in a world that is for the most part unsaved. I say a church can preach and practice the truth in an uncompromising fashion and

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WORLD WIDE WITNESSING

By Earle E. Cummings, Rusk, Texas

Special text: Ezekiel 33:11 "SAY TO THEM, as I live saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked: but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn, turn from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

Ezekiel 33:17 "Son of man I have made thee a watchman for, unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word of my mouth, and give them warning from me."

Acts 17:30-31 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at (overlooked) but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he has appointed a day, in the which he will judge the WORLD in righteousness by that MAN whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he raised him from the dead."

General text: Ezekiel 3:20-21 "Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the righteous MAN, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul."

Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach (disciple) all nations..."

Mark 16:15 "...Go ye into all the WORLD, and preach the

gospel to every creature."

Luke 24:47 "...repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations..."

Acts 8:4 "...they (the body of the church) went every where preaching the word."

When persecution broke out in Jerusalem, led by the Lord, believers were guilty of neglecting the work of WITNESSING to lost souls, that they went everywhere proclaiming the Gospel, as they were well instructed in their home church. May the Lord be pleased to do likewise with us for His glory.

DEFINITIONS

Warning - Give notice in advance of impending danger or peril.

Witnessing - To bear witness to one's religious convictions.

Notice Ezekiel 33:11, it is first applied to Israel after they were in bondage for 70 years. A new generation needed to be warned. It is also addressed to the world of the wicked. There seems to be a certain urgency in this chapter to warn the wicked that are lost, and the wounded that are saved. We must take this declaration dead serious because of its dangerous consequences.

In this outstanding text, two of God's most important attributes are set forth: mercy and justice. Thank God for them, because He would not be a God of love if He did not show "mercy" nor a God of "justice" if He did not punish sin.

This message was so important to Ezekiel, for God has him write it twice. First, in 3:17-21 and second in 33:1-16. If God says something once it is absolutely true, but when He has it repeated, He is emphasizing a truth that demands our total attention.

I. The Preacher's First Priority - Warning the Lost

"Hear the word at My mouth and give them WARNING from Me." Preachers have a higher calling than other men, therefore the greater responsibility. They are especially precious as they preach His glorious Gospel, and bearers of His wonderful Word of life. However, sad to say, this is not true with the majority of preachers today.

Thank God there are still a few good men that would rather die

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

Eugene P. Helton
Editor

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REPUTATION

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have "a good name" in the community. There are Scriptural principles that a true church can adhere to that will result in "a good name." If a church begins with the premise that holding to the truth will result in a bad name and reputation, that church is not going to be successful in carrying out the Great Commission. Solomon said "a good name" is to be desired above riches. He also said "loving favour" is to be desired more than silver and gold. It is clear to me that Proverbs 22:1-2 teaches that a church should be so structured and so ordered as to have "a good name" and be viewed with "loving favor." The

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Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Today is October 3, 1994, and Connie and I, along with nine other family members are sitting in the waiting room of Scott General Hospital in Georgetown, Kentucky. Connie's mom, Loith Harlow, is undergoing cancer surgery. She had similar surgery several years ago and everything has been fine until now. We pray for the same result this time and especially do we pray for an abundant supply of God's "amazing grace." Connie's mom is strong in many ways and her trust is completely in her Lord.

As I sit here in the hospital waiting room, the work of the Calvary Baptist Church and The Baptist Examiner is as always on my mind. My thoughts this morning are of two people who contribute greatly to the present and continued success of the Baptist Examiner.

One is Brother Clyde Everman, a man who exemplifies what I want The Baptist Examiner to be. Brother Clyde is uncompromising in his stand for the truth of God's Word; he is loving and kind and has a wonderful Christlike and missionary spirit. Brother Clyde has contributed greatly to The Baptist Examiner for so many years and it is my desire and prayer that his contributions will continue for years to come. Brother Clyde, his wife Mildred, and his daughter Betty have all been great supporters of this pastor and editor.

The second person is Patricia Smith. Tricia's official job title is administrative assistant to the editor. Tricia is a fine young Christian girl and is a member of the Temple Baptist Church in Flatwoods, Kentucky. The manner in which Tricia performs her duties greatly enhances the overall quality of The Baptist Examiner. I don't even like to think of trying to produce a quality TBE without having Tricia at her desk and computer. She has truly been a blessing to this editor.

We're continuing to receive many favorable letters and telephone calls about The Baptist Examiner. We receive many new subscriptions each week. The present style and content of The Baptist Examiner has been received tremendously well. This has been a great encouragement to me personally. We have found that there is a great number of people who respond favorably to the truth when it's presented in love and kindness.

Until next time, may our Lord bless and keep you!

P.S. Home going: Ethel Snoddy, long time faithful member of the Calvary Baptist Church, went home to heaven on September 23, 1994.

Lord made us all and a church should be the coming together of the rich and poor in the unity of the Spirit. "A good name is better than precious ointment..." (Eccl. 7:1).

II. "A Good Name", i.e. Reputation is easily lost

My experience in pastoring churches has involved working to restore a good reputation for a church. A good reputation must be earned. A church must constantly be conscious of the need to adhere to the Scriptural principles that will result in "a good name." When a church fails to apply these principles and the shortcomings and problems of a church are broadcast in a community, a good reputation very rapidly becomes a bad reputation. Bad news travels fast. A bad reputation is hard to overcome. "Dead flies cause the ointment of

the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor" (Eccl. 10:1).

III. What are the Scriptural Principles that Result in a Church Having "A Good Name"?

A. Such a church makes known the name of God; the power of God; and the mercy of God. The building where the church meets is known to the community as the house of God. "Moreover concerning a stranger, that is not of thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake; (For they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm;) when he shall come and pray toward this house; Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee

for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name" (1 Kings 8:41-43).

B. The preaching and practice of sound doctrine is a principle that a true church must adhere to have "a good name." "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you" (Romans 6:17). If a church fails to adhere to this principle of Scripture, then "a good name" is not possible.

C. Love is another Scriptural principle that must be in place to assure "a good name."

1. Love for Christ — "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity" (Ephesians 6:24).

2. Love for the church — "...I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints" (Ephesians 1:15).

3. Love for God's house — "Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house" (1 Chronicles 29:3). "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go in the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1).

4. Love for the lost — "He doeth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Deuteronomy 10:18-19).

D. A true church desiring "a good name" must be a benevolent church.

"Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then

shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in" (Isaiah 58:7-12).

E. "The fruit of the Spirit" is a Scriptural principle that must be in evidence in a church desiring "a good name." "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). "For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth" (Ephesians 5:9). Sometimes pastors and churches claim to hold to the truth and yet have a bad reputation. Possibly some of the aforementioned principles have been neglected. Possibly in holding to the truth, they leave out love and joy; or peace and gentleness. Could it be goodness is absent in their ministry?

IV. By God's Marvellous Grace, The Calvary Baptist Church will have "A Good Name", i.e. reputation.

May all of her members work, by God's grace, that God's people the world over may say: "What a good church is the Calvary Baptist Church in Ashland, Kentucky."

May our Lord bless you and your church.

School Hours

The disciples were not losing thme when they sat down beside their Master, and held quiet converse with Him under the olives of Bethany or by the shores of Galilee. Those were their school hours; those were their feeding times. The healthiest Christian, the one who is best fitted for godly living and godly labors, is he who feeds most on Christ. Here lies the benefit of Bible reading.

--Copied--



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

Noah's Prophecy (Continued)

Genesis 9:27 "God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant."

Two things are predicted of Japheth. (1) He shall be enlarged. (2) He shall dwell in the tents of Shem, which means that he would receive blessings from Shem. History as well as the Scripture give testimony to the truth of this prophecy. The nations which descended from Japheth have been greatly enlarged by God. The Greeks and the Romans at one time dominated almost the entire known world. Today, the Anglo-Saxon race, descendants of Japheth, occupy more of the earth's surface than any other people.

"And he shall dwell in the tents of Shem." This does not mean that he would live with Shem but that he would share in the comfort and blessings of Shem. How truly this has come to pass! Some one has said, "The revelation which we prize is that of the God of Israel, the Saviour in whom we trust is the 'seed' of Abraham; the Old Testament was written principally for Israel; and the New Testament though written in a Japheth tongue, and therefore for us, was penned by Jewish fingers." Then we have the word of Christ Himself "Salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). In Romans 11:17 we read "And thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them (Israel), and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree." From this we can see Japheth "dwelling in the tents of Shem."

Only One who knew the end from the beginning could give us the outline of the entire history concerning the three divisions of the human race which came from Noah's three sons. But why could He not foretell the events when He the Ruler of the universe is in control of all things? Is it not said of Him, "He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him: What doest thou?" (Daniel 4:35).

Before leaving the prophecy of Noah we need to note that the three divisions of nations are not three "races." Some think that of the Semites, Japhethnites, and Hamites as being three separate races, such as the Mongoloid, Caucasian, and Negroid, but this is not what is taught here. The Bible does not use the word "race" in that sense. The concept of "race" came from the evolutionist who claims that through the process of evolution came new species, or the "races" as they are known today. The next chapter shows that the three streams of the human race came not through the process of evolution but are the direct descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the three sons of Noah. Regardless of whether you are the descendant of Ham, Japheth, or Shem, the blood that flows through your veins came from the same source, Noah.

Noah's Death Genesis 9:28

Nothing more is said of Noah except that he lived after the flood 350 years. We are not told when the events recorded in chapter 9 took place, but it must have been many years after Noah came out

of the ark. At the time of Noah's fall into sin, Ham had four sons, the youngest being Canaan (10:6). Noah died at the age of 950 years. If there are no gaps in the genealogies of chapter 11, Abraham was 58 years old when Noah died. It would seem that Noah was alive during the events of Babel.

Table of Nations Genesis 10:1-32

All, even the "higher critics" admit that the tenth chapter is a remarkably accurate record of the beginning of the nations. Here we have the list of the nations that came from the three sons of Noah and how they were divided in the earth. "These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood" (10:32). The apostle Paul said this division was made by God Himself and had determined before the time and place of each nation. "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation" (Acts 17:26).

In chapter 5 a list of descendants of Adam is given until we come to Noah. In this chapter a list of Noah's descendants are given until we come to Terah the father of Abraham. We need to note that this table of nations is given to show their relationship with the chosen nation, out of which all blessings were to come. After giving a list of the nations that came from Japheth and those from Ham, they are laid aside from the Scriptural record for the time being and attention is di-

rected toward the Semites line.

Verses 2-5 take up the line of Japheth. All that is given of this line is that the Gentile nations came from Japheth. Verses 6-20 give the line of Ham. What stands out in this line is the name "Nimrod" (v. 8, 9) and the word "mighty." In Genesis 6:4 the same word for "mighty" is used to describe the wicked men before the flood. This leads us to believe that Nimrod had the same wicked rebellious nature with no regard for God and His authority. Nimrod is associated with the founding of Babel or Babylon. Throughout the Bible the word "Babylon" stands for every thing that is godless, and for the great enemy of the children of God. In the Old Testament, Babylon is a godless city and empire, in the New Testament it is a godless system. See the destruction of this system in Revelation 17-18.

In verses 21-31 the family of Shem is listed. Shem is listed as "the father of all the children of Eber." The word "Hebrew" seems to come from the word "Eber." In verse 25 Eber is said to have two sons, "the name of one was Pegleg, of whom Abram was descendant."

From this brief but accurate account of the families of Noah and the division of the earth by them, we learn: all people are of one blood. "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26). In the second place, all nations have one need. In this chapter as well as the entire book the thought of sin is implied. "There is no difference, for all have sinned." Regardless of

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WORLD WIDE

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than deny the truth in Christ. How about you? God says to His true watchmen in Ezekiel 3:18 "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him NOT warning, nor speak 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." He must give an account for his failure to obey God. What could the Lord do to him? This brother could lose part or all of his due rewards for being derelict in his duty on this vital subject. Please read II John 1:8.

Now the servant of the Lord that does witness to the wicked and warns them of their coming danger shall be richly blessed in this present time, as well as in eternity.

The preacher that has been obedient and faithful will win the "well done," but the sinner who did not take heed, will die in his sins, at the same time the preacher has delivered his soul from God's retribution. Our Master wants us at least to make an effort to win souls to Christ, by warning them of the consequences. Nevertheless, whether they "hear or forbear," it is our responsibility to sincerely warn them through our personal work, and also in the pulpit.

D.L. Moody-resolved never to let a day go by without talking to some sinner about his immortal soul. Can we say the same in our Calvinistic persuasion?

Sad but so, not enough of us are taking our Lord's injunction to heart. Remember Jesus commanded his disciples to fish for men, Matthew 4:19 "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Is He not our example? It is still true what the Word said through Solomon in Proverbs 11:30 "...he that winneth souls is wise." May God help us to be wise in this way.

Now Jesus first saved souls before He could have a church. Then He proceeded to instruct them as to church policy. Our Lord does not want a worldly, but a worthy church. We thank God for every pastor that warns sinners to "flee from the wrath to come." Moreover, it could be

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NOVEMBER 5, 1994

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



What is the proper Scriptural way to settle any dispute arising between the pastor and the church membership?

CLYDE T. EVERMAN

108 Burdsall Ave.
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017

DEACON:

Calvary Baptist Church
Ashland, KY



For disputes between pastor and members of a church to be solved, it is important for both to see themselves as servants of the Lord, working together, if the job is going to be done. Dr. Charles U. Wagner has written an excellent book, "Labours Together-The Layman and his Pastor." In it he stated, "The church could be likened to a wheel, the hub of which is the Lord Jesus. Everything revolves around Him. Another center—the pastor, a board, church members—will bring devastating unbalance and ruin. With Christ as the hub, the spokes are the members of that church—including the pastor. As the spokes get closer to the center, the Lord Jesus, they get closer to each other. Only when this desired situation exists will there be balance, and the church will move forward with polish, praise and power. 'To God be the glory' should be the desire of pastor and people as they labor together in the vital vineyard of the local church."

When a disagreement arises between a church member and the pastor how is the Scriptural way to handle the problem? The one having the complaint should examine his own heart and pray. One needs to pray as did David, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me." This would settle many problems before they start. If there has been harsh words between pastor and said member; if the matter cannot be settled between the two, Matthew 18:15-17 tells us that others

are to be brought in to attempt a

settlement. If this fails, the church must be called upon to settle the matter.

The apostle Paul tells us how to prevent disputes in the church. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another" (Galatians 5:25, 26). If we "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love, Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2, 3) there would be no disputes in our churches or between churches.

GEORGE R. SLEDD

920 Upsala Rd.
Sanford, FL 32771

PASTOR:

Jordan Missionary Baptist Church
Sanford, FL



You can count on one sure thing...there will be disputes between the pastor and church members. It is better to anticipate the reality of this and have some kind of policy. I commend the person who sent in this question!

We know conflicts arise between individual church members and families. Jesus spoke of how "offences would come." In the case of the pastor and a member you have a situation that is unique in the sense that the pastor is the spiritual leader of the church. He has to exercise leadership as God directs through the Scriptures. Most church members find it harder to resolve a problem with him than that of another member of the church. We must remember though, that the pastor and his family are also like members of the church. The Scriptural injunctions of settling offences apply to him as well as anyone else.

I believe that the best place to start is to go directly and privately to the pastor and tell him about the offence. "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him

alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother" (Matthew 18:15). The member should go privately to the pastor and speak openly and frankly to him about the problem. If the pastor loves the Lord he will appreciate this very much. He will do his best to humbly correct the problem and make things right. If a member gossips about the problem this only makes things more difficult and hurts the testimony of the church. Remember the Scriptures tell us "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses." A believer should not even listen to any accusation against a minister of the gospel unless there are other believers present to bear witness to what is being said. Again this preserves both his testimony and that of the church. Many a good man has been hurt deeply because of the loose tongues of carnal church people.

If the minister is belligerent or unwilling to try to solve the problem then I feel the member should call some of the men of the church together to discuss and try to resolve the problem. If this fails and the minister is wrong, it is then proper for the church to discipline the minister for misconduct. Brethren, we must remember that although we are spiritual leaders of the church, we are still members and as such, we are accountable to our brethren! A minister would do well never to forget this!

JACK C. WHITT

4510 Garden Ave.
Portsmouth, OH 45662

TEACHER:

Calvary Baptist Church
Ashland, KY



The answer to this question should rest upon the nature and degree of the dispute. Does it involve a doctrinal dispute, and if so, what is the doctrine in question? The previous edition of our forum dealt with the subject of fellowshiping with churches of

like faith and order when not all doctrinal issues were in total agreement. This same application may be given to a church and her pastor, however in my opinion, a finer line of unity in this regard should be observed. From the pastor's point of view, his first obligation is to God. I do not subscribe to his compromising the seriousness of standing for the Scriptural or major doctrines long held by our Baptist faith. If, in such case a serious breach exists between the pastor and the church, and if the church refuses to be taught the truth (from the Scriptures), then it seems the pastor would have but one alternative. That is to seek another church. The same order would apply if the church must decide in favor of the same important doctrine or support a pastor in error. It should be pointed out that most of these kinds of problems would be eliminated if closer evaluations and discussions were conducted at the time the church considers a new pastor.

If disputes arise between pastor and church for other reasons than that of doctrinal matters, (i.e. personality conflicts, attitude, setting bad examples, etc.) any of which are levied against the pastor, the question must be asked: how general in the church body are the feelings that the pastor is out of order, and should he be approached about it? Often times a small contingent of the church may find fault, as it is in many churches, with the pastor. In my opinion, it would seem a valid point could be made if the entire church or the great majority had issue with her pastor. Although I do not dismiss even here, the fact that the church could be wrong and the pastor right.

In any case, it is a matter not to be taken lightly. The church should not be persuaded by a few disgruntled members who have had their toes stepped on. In all fairness to the question, I believe there has been situations where churches have dealt wrongly with their pastor. By the same token, there have been pastors who should have been more consider-

ate to their churches' requests to change some area of their ministries.

The most important aspect of the pastor/church relationship has not yet been said. There must be a bond of love between them. A pastor and church can only go forward when they are constrained and motivated by love and a desire to exalt the name of Jesus Christ. Most church conflicts would not exist or would be quickly dismissed if we practiced what the Word of God tells us. If we would be more like Jesus and less concerned for self, how much better off our churches would be. "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vain-glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil. 2:1-3).

Comments and suggestions are welcome.

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Make a difference in the lives of others.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

NOVEMBER 5, 1994

PAGE FOUR

GETTING THERE

By Irene Orrick

When I was growing up in the late 1930's and 40's, our means of transportation were still quite simple: foot, horse, mule, sled, wagon, and once, a log. Often in the hills necessity was the mother of invention, and my daddy was pretty handy at rigging up some sort of contraption to meet necessity. I remember many such projects, but one in particular.

I had the foolish notion that I enjoyed going to school, and my parents were of the persuasion that there was not much that should keep a youngun from attending school. We all know, of course, that snows were much deeper in the old days; could be that our legs were just shorter when we were smaller, but let us still contend that snows were deeper then. One winter when I was about eight years old, there came a deep one and the air was cold as kraut. Yet, I don't suppose it even entered anyone's mind that I should stay home from school. Daddy set to thinking, and with a little mischief and a lot of practicality he came up with one of his simpler contrivances.

Sometime before when he had torn down the "lower room" from

our log house, he kept around (just in case they might come in handy for something someday) some of the wide, hand-hewn poplar logs. Then on this snowy morning he somehow fastened a chain to one of those logs and hooked old Kate the mule to it. He and I hopped aboard, and on the bright new snow, rode the two or three miles to Bunker Hill. Along the way he said, "You will never forget this ride to school on a log." I've never forgotten it!

There were other times that he gave me a lift to or from school on the mule-drawn wagon or sled. We usually got our necessities from the Leedy General Store close at hand at Stark. But the Binion Store, much farther up the road, above Bunker Hill, had a little bigger variety of goods. Now and then Daddy would take the wagon and go to Binion's. I now suspect that he always timed his return past the school to be just about the time for school to let out. One of the biggest thrills of my early years was to be sitting at my desk about three o'clock and hear the old wagon come rumbling down the road. All the recesses would be over and things

would have settled down to dull. Maybe after playing hard and studying some, I was tired and dreading the long, muddy walk home. But the day was fresh again when I heard the wagon coming. Daddy just happened by at the right time to give me a ride home.

Sometimes we children of God feel a little listless with not much happening, the excitement gone. We don't feel the near presence of our God; He seems to be way off somewhere on other business. We think He has left us on our own for a while, ignoring us. But then! In the distance, we hear the rumble of His wheels and we recognize the sound. He has timed it just right. Our boredom is gone; we are alive with the joy of His presence! As we ride homeward with our Father, we neither feel the cold nor see the mud. The day is new again.

(Article taken from: The Storms Creek Baptist Witness, Sept. 1994).



WORLD WIDE

(Continued from Page 3)

also true that quite a number of his church members had been led to the Lord because of his burden for souls.

Listen again to what the Lord God reminded Ezekiel to say, "The wicked shall surely die." They MUST be warned, but if not, they will die in their sins, but God will hold us accountable.

The wicked that were NOT warned by us, God will "require his BLOOD at our hand." Do some of us say, "If God has elected him, it is a certainty he will be saved." True, but that does not excuse us. Brother, warn everyone when you are given an opportunity, whether some are saved or remain lost, by doing so, you will have delivered your soul.

II. The Churches' Purpose - Witnessing to the World

What did God say to Ezekiel about the RIGHTEOUS that sin? Study carefully these two key passages located at the beginning of the message (Ezekiel 3:20-21).

Suffer a brief explanation in applying these Scriptures to churches today, as we also address the righteous, under the special leadership of the Holy Spirit, as pastors.

When the righteous sin, it is wise for him or her, to seek forgiveness from the Lord immediately. Do not let sins pile up as this could directly or indirectly lead to the "sin unto death" recorded in I John 5:16. For example, Acts 5:1-11 could result even in the death of the church. Sometimes it is necessary for God to remove some members that turn away from God by failing to read the Word and pray daily, etc. the Lord could justly remove such a person, lest he infects the entire church by his bad habits.

The pastor must look into the matter to prevent the growth of sin in the body. He must warn such to repent, and return to a true Christian life. If he is warned as a believer, the Scripture seems to imply that he will be all right as one with the flock, and back in fellowship. If the pastor is right, and the church is right, they can be used as a great missionary beacon, going out to the four quarters of the globe.

All Christians that follow the Lord will want to see souls saved, and witness to others as how the Lord saved them. God will work miracles through such a soul searching, soul winning, dedi-

cated church, at home and abroad. Brothers, we need to aim to please the Lord, and there shall be power to spare, and blessings galore, in this type of New Testament church.

May it be said about us "They went everywhere preaching the Word." But if the pastor shows his weakness, if he avoids dealing with the issue, and preach against the general sins that are so prevalent in churches everywhere, he might say to himself, "I am content here. I must not rock the boat, perhaps the sins of some members will go away." With this attitude, God is displeased for not facing up to the sins that he is aware of in the church. God holds him accountable for not warning these backslidden Christians, from the pulpit or personally talking to them, in no uncertain terms. In essence, they must shape up or ship out. If they are saved, they must and will repent, and plead for mercy regardless of their position in the church.

Should the case allow, open confession of sins would be in order before the church. God says "he shall surely live." His justice is withheld, the death penalty suspended, and the pastor has delivered his soul, for his faithfulness in "rightly dividing the Word of truth."

Such preachers will be loved for their godly stand, and revival in the church could be forthcoming. Blessed is the leader that cares not for publicity or popularity, but resolves to stand firm in the "faith once and for all delivered to the saints" daring to be different and "obeying God rather than man."

Baptist churches, along with other Christian fellowships, know that this world has become so wicked that it is a good time and perhaps the last time for God to send a Holy Spirit filled revival to reach His elect. In II Chronicles 7:14 is the answer. We need a cleansing from within that will spark a spiritual awakening of no equal, that would turn the world upside down, as it was in the first century (Acts 17:6).

May we be able to say by the help of God in I Corinthians 9:22 "To the weak became I weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means SAVE some." Amen!

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PAGE FIVE

DON'T QUIT

*When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't quit.
Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Success is failure turned inside out--
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell just how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit--
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit!*

EVOLUTION

(Continued from Page 1)

examples. Another basic tenet of evolution is that species change occurs in response to pressure from the environment forcing organisms to adapt gradually over a long period of time. For instance, they would say that the long necks of giraffes result from years of mutations that favored long necked individuals over short necked individuals until the short necked ones eventually all died out. This is an interesting theory but it only accounts for a small percentage of animals on the planet. Only reptiles, birds and mammals could evolve in such a manner. The vast majority of animals (there are more species of insects than all of the other types of animals put together) go through some form of metamorphosis and wreak havoc with this theory of species change. Metamorphosis is the change in body form that amphibians, insects and most other animals without backbones go through in the normal course of their development.

For example, butterflies begin as an egg, hatch out into a caterpillar, change into a pupa and emerge in their adult form. But what form of environmental pressure would cause a caterpillar to want to change form? Either it would become a different species of caterpillar or it would die out. There is no way to account for its transformation into a butterfly. Just consider the massive changes that have to take place. It begins with many legs and changes into a creature with six legs. It starts with chewing jaw parts for eating leaves and changes into a creature that sucks nectar through a recoilable tongue. It changes from a crawling creature with hairy skin to a flying creature with beautifully scaled wings. And these are just the superficial changes. There are many more that occur on a physiological, behavioral, and chemical level.

The challenge to evolution lies in explaining how the process of metamorphosis could have evolved in the first place, let alone why all forms of animal life do not still go through some form of metamorphosis now. Metamorphosis cannot be described or predicted by any evolutionary mechanism. There is not an

evolutionist on the planet who has yet come up with a way of explaining how evolution could cause an animal to change form in such a drastic way. It is not that they have not tried. A search of the evolutionary literature will show that this is one of the most hotly debated areas of evolutionary study. Certainly there is no way to account for an organism devising a way to change its form in order to survive. According to current theory, organisms either adapt or die out, they do not change form part way through their life cycle in order to survive. Feel free to challenge evolutionists to explain how metamorphosis began. They can't do it. The existence of metamorphosis is one of the biggest proofs that refutes all current theories of biological evolution because there is absolutely no way to explain it on an evolutionary basis.

Another major challenge for evolutionists is species change itself. The most basic assumption of biological evolution is that species change over time and evolve into new species. The startling fact, if you can find an evolutionist to admit it, is that species change has never been seen to occur. There are numerous documented cases of superficial changes that occur within populations but these should not be seen as a challenge to creationists. These changes point to the adaptability of the creatures that God has created, not the creation of completely new forms of life. This information can be used by the well informed Christian to prove that creation is true because with all the cases of change within species, there has never been a single observed and documented change of one species into another. This is a more important statement than appears on the surface because of modern developments in biology. Evolutionists claim that species change occurs largely as a result of mutations in the DNA or genetic code of individuals and these mutations get passed on to offspring. Geneticists (people who study the genes of people and animals) have been mutating the genes of the humble vinegar fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) for years. They have mutated nearly every conceivable gene on the four chromosomes of this poor species of fly and have done so in some of the most unbelievable ways. Yet in spite of all this genetic abuse, they haven't created another spe-

cies of fly. Have an evolutionist friend try to explain how nature is going to create a completely new species by accident if geneticists cannot create a brand new, simple little fly on purpose. In fact, challenge your friendly evolutionist to give an example of any organism bigger than one cell that has actually been observed to have changed species. They will most likely refer you to the fossil record, but that is hardly proof. Don't be intimidated by fossils because evolutionists must assume that species change has occurred in order to account for the immense diversity of life in the fossil record. There is no actual observed occurrence of one species being changed into another by anything that man or nature has done. In fact, one of the great fears people have of the genetic revolution is that scientists will inadvertently create new forms of life. No need to worry. They can't even do it on purpose, let alone do it by accident.

By far the biggest trouble evolutionists have is living with the conclusions forced on them by their own theories. Start with survival of the fittest. What determines an organism's fitness for survival to an evolutionist? Why, the fact that it is able to survive. What does this say for organisms that don't survive? Obviously they are unfit. This theory works well when we talk about dinosaurs and mastodons because they are already extinct. But just try to tell them that the California condor is an unfit specimen because it is about to become extinct and they will treat you as if you need to have your head examined. Have them try and give you a good, sensible, and evolutionarily consistent explanation why we should go out of our way to help condors survive if they can't handle environmental pressures on their own. Obviously, by evolutionary reasoning, if condors can't adapt or evolve they deserve to die out. The same thing is true about whales and spotted owls. If they can't evolve, let them die out. Evolutionists will go absolutely nuts if you try to get them to put their theories into practice.

Evolutionists argue that human beings put unnatural pressures on the environment that the forces of evolution can't handle. They say that evolution is a long, slow process and that all the nasty things we're doing to the environment now have accelerated the extinction process beyond the

ability of evolution to keep up. They claim that extinction is happening quicker than evolution can create new species. This is pretty obvious even to creationists because in all of recorded human history we have never seen a new species arise, something the evolutionists will readily admit without realizing they're shooting themselves in the foot. If it's never been seen to occur, how do we know it happens at all? If evolution does happen, why worry? New species will arise eventually and they will be more fit to survive than the ones that die out anyway. Isn't it funny how evolutionists never really count on new species evolving even though they believe it happens all the time? Evolutionists will claim that if species become extinct then we will lose genetic diversity and evolutionary opportunities will be lost. They seem to forget that loss of genetic diversity is no big deal since they claim all forms of life on the planet both living and extinct evolved from one cell to begin with. Where's the genetic diversity in that? In fact, evolution is an excellent justification for extinction with no moral imperative for preventing it nor any rationale for saving any species. Really, if the species is unable to adapt to environmental conditions it is obviously unfit for survival and so it should be left to die out. Any economic benefit or potential in the species is not something intrinsic in the evolutionary process but some value placed on it by man.

There are many other questions that evolutionists cannot answer. Demand of them an explanation how life arose from non-life. The best evolutionist in the world with all the marvels of technology at his disposal can't duplicate what he claims happened by chance. How is it possible for chance to do something that the purposeful design of "brilliant" scientists can't do on purpose? Actually, the creation of life from non-life is infinitely more complex than anything a human has ever designed.

Ask them to give an explanation for why people make a distinction between what is natural and what is artificial or man-made. How is it possible for man, a product of the natural process of evolution, to do something that is "unnatural"? How can anything man does fail to be anything but a natural extension of the process of evolution? Where do evolu-

tionists find a logical basis for making such a distinction? Ask them to logically explain human morality by an evolutionary mechanism. There is absolutely no basis for an "ought" in any consistent evolutionary world view. The very basis for evolution is that things happen by chance and without any purpose. The fact that people look for meaning and purpose in life is inconsistent with a meaningless origin. There isn't an evolutionist alive who can account for people who feel some things are morally right and wrong and that certain behavior is unconscionable. If evolution were true, how could anything that people do be wrong? There is no other animal alive which is capable of doing anything morally wrong so how is it possible for man, a product of evolution, to be any different?

The next time you face an evolutionist, have no fear. Their own theories will defeat themselves. Don't be ashamed to admit to being a creationist and certainly do not feel that you have to be defensive around them. Put them to the test. Ask them some of the hard questions that need to be answered and don't feel too bad. These are questions that they are secretly asking themselves anyway and having trouble coming up with good answers as well. We should take the opportunity of forcing them to face the shortfalls of evolutionism because it is only then that we can give them the real answer to all their questions: Jesus. Remember, we have the answers in an area where they are afraid of the questions, such as where we came from, where we're going and why we are here.

Never believe
anything bad
about anybody
unless you
positively know it
to be true; and
never tell that
unless you feel
that it is
absolutely
necessary--and
know that God is
listening while
you tell it.

THE SHINING LIGHT: A GIFT FROM GOD

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

II Corinthians 4:4, 6 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them...For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

In our above text, we find the glorious gospel of Christ is described as a shining light. This light proceeds from God, and is sent to glorify Himself in the eyes of mankind.

The gospel (good news) of Christ is the central theme of the Bible and is the most important message that can be received by man. This same gospel is given to mankind by the gracious sending of God. None of us, apart from His gracious giving can receive or understand His gospel message. This principle is very important for us to understand...THERE IS NO MESSAGE ON THE FACE OF EARTH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST; THIS MESSAGE CAN ONLY BE RECEIVED THROUGH THE GRACE OF GOD.

As we begin our study, let us have open hearts and minds centering on appreciation to our Lord when He revealed the good news of Christ to us.

Let us now turn our attention to II Corinthians 4:3-7 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

How can the gospel be hidden if it is like a great light?

To properly understand these verses, we must keep in mind its context. In context, the gospel of Christ is pictured as a bright shining light. It is not an easy thing to hide a bright light. Paul understood this. Paul is saying it is not the gospel's fault that mankind does not see the gospel message. The gospel is given to us as a bright, shining beacon that is shining for all to receive. The only reason why the gospel is not seen is because we all are blinded

to it.

Just because a blind man does not see a light it does not mean the light is not shining. The Lord has revealed the gospel in His Word; it is shining today. Why doesn't mankind receive the gospel? We were all born blinded to it.

Who caused this blinding of mankind?

The god of this world (Satan) is the one responsible for mankind's blindness. Satan was not only the instigator of man's fall, which results in man's spiritual blindness; but he is also working daily to keep us blinded from the truth of the gospel message.

Why is the gospel described as a "glorious light"?

Light is the opposite of darkness. Darkness must flee when light is present. Darkness and light cannot exist together. Throughout the Bible, darkness is a picture of sin and separation from God. The gospel message, when received in a man's heart, will undo sin's effects and will bring about a union between the individual and the Lord.

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

Why are we to preach Christ and not ourselves?

The gospel message is the only message that will secure salvation for mankind. The gospel message is a declaration of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us. Christ is the only Savior of man. We can save no one. The very contents of the gospel message stops us from exalting ourselves. The true gospel, when proclaimed to others, will result in Christ being glorified only.

In what way are we servants of others?

We as Christians, and especially members of His churches on earth, have the direct responsibility to serve others by taking the gospel message to them. By taking the gospel and proclaiming it to the lost, we are bringing the glorious light into their life.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Once we take the gospel to the spiritually blind how can he accept and understand the gospel

message?

Here is where God's grace comes in. Not only did He grace us in giving us His Word (which contains the gospel) and in having His Word proclaimed to us by a servant; but He has also graced us by opening our blinded eyes to the truth. How great is God's grace!!! Oh Christian, how important it is for us to understand that without the Lord we would be nothing. Without the Lord's intervention in our lives we would not understand, nor even desire to understand, the gospel message. The same holds true for the lost. As we take the gospel to the lost we must remember they will not understand, nor can they, until God's grace intervenes. We are not to be discouraged, nor impatient as we serve Him. We are sent to those who, just as us, are spiritually blind and unable to come to the truth of their own accord.

Once the gospel is received, what is the gain?

There are many things gained by receiving the gospel. However, in our context, we find "the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" is gained when the gospel is received. As we accept the gospel message as truth, and act upon it, we receive, in our minds and hearts, the knowledge of God's glory. This glory of God is revealed to us in the gospel through the person and work of Christ. The more we learn of Christ (His person and work), the more we learn about our God. The face of Christ truly does reveal to us the face of God. Truly, "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself." This is the very essence of the gospel message.

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

What is the treasure and earthen vessels this verse speaks of?

The treasure we are looking at is the gospel message (the light that is shining forth). The earthen vessels are our fleshly bodies. Again, we see God's grace in view. How great it is for us to realize that our loving Father has granted us this treasure; despite that fact we are sinful, wicked beings made from the dirt of this world. What a wonderful thing it is for us to recognize our sinful-

A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



The Unnatural Woman

"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" (Romans 1:26). Who is this woman? What does God's Word say about her sin? She is the woman who has chosen to have an intimate relationship with another woman. We call her a "lesbian." Her lifestyle may be "gay", but in the future, she will most certainly pay. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" (Lev. 18:22). "If a man also lie 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" (Lev. 20:13). The implication, of course, is that women are not to "lie with women." The Lord calls her sin, the sin of homosexuality, an abomination, one deserving of His greatest wrath. The Lord detests all sin, but He has a special hatred for the sin of homosexuality (Jude 7; Rev. 21:27). We must remember, however, that His grace is greater than all of our sins, and He offers salvation to all sinners, even the homosexual, using His Word to convict and show us our need (Rom. 5:20-21; I Tim. 1:8-10). God's Word says that the homosexual can be forgiven. Paul says of those, in the church at Corinth, who had been homosexuals (I Cor. 6:9-10) "...And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Cor. 6:11). And such ARE some of you: but ye CAN BE washed, but ye CAN BE sanctified, but ye CAN BE justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

ness did not stop the Lord from showing us His good news!!!

Why has the Lord allowed all these things to be as they are?

Absolutely everything has taken place for His ultimate glory; the fall of man, the gospel given to man and proclaimed by Christians to the lost, and God's grace in saving us. They all have one root purpose: God's glory. God has allowed all these things to be as they are so that He might receive all the glory and honor. We, as sinful mankind, cannot claim any goodness. All we can claim is the grace of God in our lives. Adversely, God cannot be accused any sinfulness nor wrongdoing. All we can claim is that He is the Perfect, Holy, Good One who has never been unjust to anyone.

Oh, how we should praise Him. Oh, how we should thank Him. Oh, how we should serve Him. Why? Because He allowed us to see the glorious gospel He had shined upon us.

THY WORD IS A
LAMP UNTO MY
FEET AND A LIGHT
UNTO MY PATH

Mother's Covers

When you were
small and just a
touch away, I
covered you
with blankets
against the cold
night air.
But now that
you are tall and
out of my
reach, I fold my
hands and
cover you with
prayer.

GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE

By Edwin B. Fountain, Garfield, Georgia

"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad" (Psalm 126:3).

The saved of the world are the most blessed people of the world but too often they fail to recognize this fact. They grumble and look around at the world and wonder why the "wicked flourish." What they forget is that the wicked only flourish in the present, the now, that the time will come when they must answer to Almighty God for their lives.

Instead of grumbling every Christian should make it a habit to stop occasionally or daily and count their many blessings, for God has opened the windows of heaven and poured us out blessings without number.

We Are Chosen

Ephesians 1:4, 5 tells us **"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: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will."**

I think that we can fairly safely say that this is the first thing that God did for us, for it took place before He laid the foundations of the world. He chose, He elected His own down through all the centuries of time and did it for His own reason, **"according to the good pleasure of his will."** He not only chose us but decided that the chosen would be adopted by Him as His own children and would share with His Son in the inheritance of all things. This action on the part of God, choosing us and adopting us as children promises us, guarantees us eternal life with Him, **"whereof we are glad."**

He Has Called Us

Another action of God which should indeed gladden the heart of every Christian is that He not only chose us but He called us, called us out of the world. Romans 8:30 says, **"Moreover whom he did predestinate them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."**

God set an appointed time in our lives when the chosen would

be called out of the world into His service, and at that call we were justified and glorified, for God sees all things from the beginning to the end and therefore in His eyes all these things have taken place. We are declared righteous by God because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ and glorified in the eyes of God right now even though it won't actually take place until the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ **"whereof we are glad."**

He Saved Us

1. The Past Tense of Salvation
Titus 3:5 says **"Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us...."** He saved us from the penalty of sin, the past tense of salvation. He saved us by His mercy or else our portion would have been to suffer the fires of eternal hell. He saved us.

2. The Present Tense of Salvation

In the present tense of our salvation He saves us from the power of sin. I Corinthians 1:18 states **"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."** The power of God is also the power of the Gospel. Romans 1:16 tells us **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...."** Though we sin yet we are not under the power of sin, for our salvation given us by our Lord has given us a new nature that cannot sin, though our old nature does sin, and in this situation there is a constant warfare between the two.

3. The Future Tense of Salvation

We shall be saved from the very presence of sin. Romans 5:9, 10 **"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."** He will take us from the very presence of sin when He comes to claim His own and we meet Him in the air away from this old sinful world, away from the wrath He has ordained for the tribulation period **"whereof we are glad."**

He's Coming For Us

As we have mentioned above He is coming again and when He does it will be for us. I Thessalonians 4:16-18 reads **"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."** With this knowledge of His soon coming, any day, any hour now, we should be spurred to live godly lives. He loves us, He's coming for us **"whereof we are glad."**

He's Going to Change Us

And, finally, the great thing that He is going to do for us is, He is going to change us so that we will be like He is. When He rose from the tomb He was given a new and glorified body, one that could not age and could not die, a perfect body. He has promised in His Word that one day we will be like Him with a body that will not age, ache, or die. I John 3:2 is our promise for this great thing that he will do for us, **"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."** We shall be like our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ **"whereof we are glad."**

Our God has done great things for His own, He chose us from before the foundation of the world, He sent His Son to die for us, He called us out of the world to serve Him, and by the blood shed by His Son on Calvary He saved us, He is coming back for us and when we see Him **"we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is"** **"whereof we are glad."**

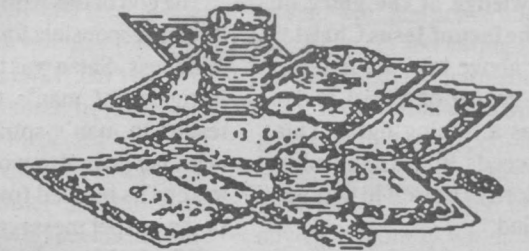
Can you be glad for these things? If not, if you have not yet come to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ then I beg you to search for Him diligently on your knees **"for He is not willing that any should perish"** **"whereof we are glad."**

(Article taken from: the Ashland Avenue Baptist, June 1980).

REJOICE

MONEY

Luther used to say that each one needed a three-fold conversion, that of his heart, his head and his pocketbook. Some one has said that the book with the seven seals that no one could open was the pocketbook. We need to feel that every dollar in our keeping belongs to God and must be used so as to best promote the interests of His kingdom. The greatest thing you can do for God and yourself today, is to consecrate everything to the Lord.



BIBLE STUDY

(Continued from Page 3)

family, circumstance, place, or time, one great fact is revealed, man is a sinful creature. Therefore, all have need of the Gospel. In the third place, all people have only one way of salvation. While God's method of redemption was to be through the line of Shem, yet it was to include the descendants of Ham and of Japheth. It was through the promised blessing given to Abraham that **"all families of the earth shall be blessed"** (Gen. 12:3).

**PRAISE GOD
FROM WHOM
ALL
BLESSINGS
FLOW!**

Matthew 5:14-16

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

