

*A believer's happiness should not be based on happenings*

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# The Baptist Examiner

**Baptist Is Our Middle Name**

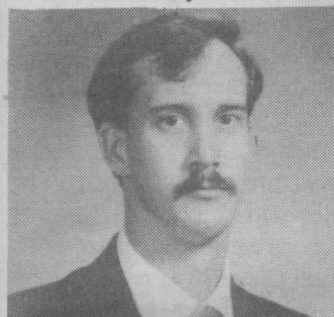
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*"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" — Isaiah 8:20.*

VOL. 66, NO. 25 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, DECEMBER 3, 1994 WHOLE NUMBER 2697

## BAD ADVICE FROM A GOOD FRIEND

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



Hardly any of it was good but amazingly nearly all of it was modern. Job is the oldest written book in the Bible, yet the answers that his friends supplied are astonishingly similar to the answers that are given today by well meaning individuals to people who are going through trying times in their lives or who are experiencing challenges to their faith. Nearly everything that Eliphaz tells Job can be heard on many "evangelistic" radio and television broadcasts today. Let's look at the advice of Eliphaz and how it compares to the modern health and wealth gospels and see how Job responded and what that means for us.

The first promise Eliphaz makes to Job is wealth if he will return to the Almighty. His contention is that faithfulness begets prosperity. Eliphaz begins by telling Job in verse 21 that his heart will be at peace if he acquaints himself with

God and in verse 22 he admonishes him to get into the Word. How often have we heard from well-meaning people that all we need to do to be at peace with ourselves and the world is to simply draw closer to God? Eliphaz continues by telling Job that if he will simply get the sin out of his life, God will prosper him with all sorts of riches. One doesn't have to listen to the radio for very long before hearing some modern preacher state that the path to financial security and contentment comes from doing what's right in God's sight. Or even worse, how often have we given advice to others in desperate straits that is similar to what Eliphaz told Job, that God rewards the good and punishes the evil? While this may be true in many cases, it is not always instructive, useful or pertinent.

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"If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust...and thou shalt have plenty of silver...Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee...Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways" (Job 22:23-28).

As Job sat upon the ash heap and was comforted by his friends he received a great deal of advice.

## THE GROWTH OF SIN

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

Throughout the Scriptures, we find a basic principle: SIN WILL GROW WORSE WHEN LEFT UNOPPOSED. We find a striking example of the growth of sin in a local assembly in I Corinthians 5:6-8 "...Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened...neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness."

Here, sin in a church is pictured as leaven in a lump of dough. Once leaven enters the lump, if it is not purged, it will gradually grow and spread throughout the entire lump. In other words, once sin enters its host, it will automatically spread and worsen; simply by allowing sin to remain will result in its growth and spreading.

How can we stop the automatic spread of sin? Only by purging (removing) the sin from the local assembly. These principles not only apply to a local assembly but they also apply to each of us as Christians. ONCE SIN ENTERS OUR LIFE IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY SPREAD AND INCREASE. This is one of the dangers of allowing unconfessed sin to dwell within us. It will most certainly spread and worsen.

The premier example of the spread of sin in the life of a Chris-

tian is found in Matthew 26. Within this chapter, we find the story of the apostle Peter and the result of unconfessed sin in his life. The events surrounding Peter's denial of Christ give us a picture of what was taking place in his life on a spiritual level.

### Step One: THE ENTRY OF SIN INTO HIS LIFE

Matthew 26:31-35 "...Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee."

Here, we find the entrance of sin in the life of Peter. Peter was guilty of pride. With a prideful, arrogant attitude Peter said "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended." In other words, Peter was saying, "I am better than everyone else," "Even if everyone else becomes offended, I am so much better than

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## NOTICE

Beginning January 1, 1995, The Baptist Examiner will be published on a monthly basis. There will be twelve editions each year. This action is necessary to make The Baptist Examiner a more manageable missionary endeavor for the Calvary Baptist Church. In this decision, both time and money were considerations. All time remaining on present subscriptions will be doubled. Beginning January 1, 1995, new subscriptions will be \$5.00 per year.

As a long time and I trust a faithful member of Calvary Baptist Church, as a loyal and faithful supporter of The Baptist Examiner long before Calvary Baptist was a church, as a Landmark, Sovereign Grace, Premillennial, Baptist for more than three score and ten years, I feel qualified to answer the charges made against Calvary Baptist, her pastor and editor of The Baptist Examiner.

As soon as it became known that the Lord had called Brother Gene Helton to become pastor of Calvary Baptist Church and editor of TBE sticks, stones, and brickbats

began to be hurled against him, the church, and the paper. Brother Helton was charged as being weak on the local church, wrong on the elements of the Lord's Supper, weak on the doctrines of grace, soft on a stand against abortion and homosexuality, plus many other doctrines for which Calvary has long contended. One need only to read TBE and listen to Brother

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Message by Clyde T. Everman, Deacon, Calvary Baptist Church

### STICKS, STONES, AND BRICKBATS



Helton's sermons (all are available on tape) to see the only thing wrong with these charges is that "there is not a word of truth in them."

The claim that Calvary, in using men in the church and the paper who have views on certain issues that are opposed to those of the church, has never been done by the former editors, is also false. One only needs to read back issues of

TBE of any of the former editors and see that they used men who had different beliefs on certain issues. Each of them realized, as well as we, that while all cannot agree on every subject, we can have fellowship on that which we do agree and there is far more on which we agree than on that which we disagree. This was proven to be true in our last Bible Conference, the theme of the conference being: "Fellowshipping with and growing to love churches of like faith and order." All the sermons were great and there was sweet

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## THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

Eugene P. Helton

Editor

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## BAD ADVICE

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Eliphaz also instructs Job about his prayer life in verse 27 by telling him that God will hear his prayers if he will just get his life straightened out. He even says in verse 28 that whatever Job decrees shall be established and God will bless everything he does. This smacks of the "name it, claim it" school of prayer which teaches that every promise in the Bible is applicable to every Christian and all we need to do in order for something to come true is to lay a claim to it. The idea is that God is bound by His Word to honor all his promises (even if we are not the ones who are the direct recipients of them)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

DECEMBER 3, 1994

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## Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

You've probably read by now our notice on page one concerning the new publishing schedule of The Baptist Examiner, beginning January 1, 1995. At that time you will begin receiving your copy of The Baptist Examiner each month, approximately three to seven days before the first of each month. The remaining time left on your current subscription will be doubled to compensate for the decrease in frequency. All new subscriptions will cost \$5.00 per year. All renewals will also cost \$5.00 per year.

Many things were considered by the church as a whole and myself as pastor and editor before coming to this decision. First and foremost was my time. The Calvary Baptist Church is moving in the upward direction and all of us want to be the very best church that we can be in service to our Lord. We feel that more of my time personally needs to be spent ministering and preparing to minister. You might say, we have our priorities right. The church must be more important and higher on our list of priorities than The Baptist Examiner. The Baptist Examiner is important, but the Lord's church must come first. Much of our future success as a church will depend upon how much time that I have to pastor. We've had much success in the past year, however, we believe the Lord will bless even more as we become more effective in our service to Him in His church. The second major consideration was financing of The Baptist Examiner in the years to come. The expense of producing and mailing The Baptist Examiner runs far in excess of contributions and subscription income. Monetarily speaking, The Baptist Examiner is a losing proposition. By reducing the frequency of publication, we effectively extend the life of The Baptist Examiner by several years. I personally believe the Lord is going to build a greater church here at Calvary that will assure the continuance of The Baptist Examiner until the rapture of the saints of God.

The Lord must be preeminent. His church and our work in His church must be our foremost consideration. **"Unto him be glory in the church..."** (Ephesians 3:21). If we serve Him faithfully in and through His church; He will receive glory and we will be blessed. It's a matter of putting first things first. We at Calvary want to make sure that we give our full attention to the conduct of the ministry of the Lord's church. That is the reason that we have made the decision to publish The Baptist Examiner monthly instead of bi-weekly.

May our Lord bless you and your church!

because we have exercised the faith necessary to see those promises come true. I cannot say that there is no such teaching in the Bible because clearly, that is the kind of advice that Eliphaz is giving Job. I can say, however, that Eliphaz was rebuked by God for uttering such foolishness and trying to comfort Job with such vain words.

Job makes an interesting response to Eliphaz's instruction in chapter 23:3 where he says, **"Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!"** In other words, Job quickly dismisses the advice of Eliphaz. It's as if he were saying, "If you don't feel as close to God as you used to, check where you are. It's not God that moved." While

this advice may be true in some cases, for Job it was completely wrong. Job never did move away from God, God moved away from Job. This is painfully obvious in the words of the Patriarch who says in essence, to Eliphaz that he would be happy to get close to God if someone would simply point him in the right direction. Job has looked. He can't find God anywhere. Job says in verse 8 and 9 **"Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him."**

Job was in an awful predicament. He had lived the best life

that he had known how. He kept the law to the best of his ability, obeyed God in every way he knew, even offered sacrifices on behalf of his children. Job was obviously a man of faith, so much so that Satan desired to use him as a test case to prove that his faith was shallow and rooted in the blessings and protection God afforded him. God knew better and offered to prove that Job's faith was not based on what he could see and know and understand but was rooted deeper than Satan's ability to pluck up. Ironically, it was Job's great maturity in the faith that led to his greatest test. Job's faith was not tested by a need that was answered by a great prayer, but rather by the fact that no matter how loud Job cried out, God continued to ignore him.

As we study the book of Job, the lessons in a man of mature faith become more startling. Peace and prosperity do not always come to those who have the most mature faith but pain and powerlessness. Answered prayer is not a sign of great faith but prayer in the face of seeming unconcern of the part of God is the mark of the mature Christian. The truly mature Christian is not someone who is rewarded for their good behavior on God's behalf but someone who continues to order his steps in spite of the lack of clear and obvious rewards. Christian maturity is something that defies a concise description and is so individual in its approach to a person's acquaintance with God that it is not easily analyzed and categorized into neat little pigeonholes.

Most of today's Baptists have an adolescent faith. It is a faith characterized by a teenage mentality. Teenagers are able to handle the same types of food as adults such as strong meat, unlike babes in the Word who use milk and are unskilled. They have the look and appearance of adults but lack the experience and the maturity to take an adult view of the world. Adolescent Christians tend to view things much as Job's friends did, in terms of black and white, all or nothing. It is much easier to look at someone like Job and stand with the superior air of a know-it-all and say, "Well of course you're in the situation you're in because of sin in your life. If you would just get right with God, everything would be alright." Unfortunately for his friends, Job's life was not subject to easy answers and platitudes. No one could say to him, "Just read Romans 8:28 and keep your chin up." As a matter of fact,

at the end of the book, God doesn't even fully explain to Job what happened and why. It's hard to conceive of us demanding answers from the same God who refused to answer the accusations and inquiries of the most upright man in all the earth.

Simply put, there is much to learn from the book of Job. The first lesson is that we don't have all the answers. Job's friends didn't have the answers. Job certainly didn't have the answers and God wasn't about to tell everything He knew. We need to be cautious when dealing with other Christians who are going through trials in their lives. It is easy for us to give quick and simple solutions to complex circumstances and then get offended when our advice isn't followed. It behooves us to examine ourselves and see if we are in the faith or simply giving advice that we are neither prepared nor qualified to give.

Second we need to realize that a mature Christian is not someone who has all the answers. If anything, a mature Christian is someone who admits to not having all the answers. A famous coach once said, "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts." At a recent graduation ceremony the commencement speaker told the 18 year old graduates to savor their summer because they were the smartest they were ever going to be. At their age, they had all the answers to life's questions and all the solutions to the world's problems. The speaker warned them that by the time they got to the age when they would finally be in a position to implement the solutions they envisioned, a whole new set of questions would arise and they would never have all the answers again.

Surely, our Christian experience is no different. At the peak of Christian adolescence we have all the answers and everything is perfectly clear to us. We have the tribulation, rapture and millennium all nailed down nice and tight. We can explain election and the local church in intimate and intricate detail. We can answer all the questions except why God let sister Smith's daughter die before reaching her twelfth birthday or how God can let a drunk driver paralyze brother Jones' son who was just starting his senior year as first string quarterback. Even then, we often try. And then we end up inventing all sorts of useless explanations to account for our flimsy theology based on a false

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## The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

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

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

### The Call of Abraham Genesis 11:10-12:9

In our last study we saw how the people under the leadership of Nimrod refused to obey God in that instead of going to the places allotted to them, started to build the city of Babel and the tower. God put a stop to this by confounding their language, **"and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth"** (11:9).

Beginning with 11:10, we have a new beginning in the book of Genesis. Up to this time, the entire human race has been under consideration. But now our attention is directed to one family, to one man as the chosen channel through whom all families of the earth would be blessed. The importance of this man, Abraham is seen by the space given him in the Word. Much is said of him in the Scripture and it would be well for us to study some of the details of his life. He is the only man listed in the Old Testament who was called the **"friend of God"** (Isa. 12:8). In a personal way he was one of the most noble and outstanding figures of the Old Testament. In a spiritual sense he was God's chosen vessel through which redemption for fallen man was to come. Two words describe Abraham's outstanding traits of his life: faith and obedience. He believed God and he obeyed God. We need to only look at three events to see how marvellous was his faith and how complete was his obedience.

(1) He believed when he knew not where - **"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance,**

**obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went"** (Heb. 11:8). He went out so to speak under "sealed orders". He knew not the way but he knew his Guide.

(2) He believed when he knew not how - Abraham had received the promise that Sarah, his wife would bear a son, which at Sarah's age was physically impossible but we read that **"being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead...neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb, he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform"** (Rom. 4:19-21).

(3) He believed when he knew not why - Isaac was the sole link between him and the future blessing of the world of which God had spoken, and the command to sacrifice him seemed to contradict that promise. But without hesitation, **"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom, it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure"** (Heb. 11:17-19).

Abraham's Early Life - Abraham lived at Ur of the Chaldees. He was of the line of Seth. His father was Terah and he had two brothers. His wife was Sarai, who had no children for she was barren. We find in Joshua 24:2 it said, **"Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of**

**Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods."** From this we see that Abraham came from a family that worshipped false gods. It seems likely that Abraham, before the Lord called him was himself an idolater (Isa. 51:1-2).

Abraham's Divine Call - Adam as the start of the human race had failed, the descendants of Noah had failed, now for the third time a new start was made with Abraham. The first two were with the human race, but this one was made with one man as the founder of a nation, the nation of Israel, through which the whole human race would be blessed. It was from this man, Abraham, was to come the Messiah and Saviour.

God's first call to Abraham was while he was in Ur of the Chaldees, **"The God of glory"** called him (Acts 7:1-2). The call was, **"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee"** (Gen. 12:1). We need to note that this call was an individual call. The call was not to Abraham's family or friends but to Abraham alone. The Lord said of Abraham **"I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him"** (Isaiah 51:2).

The second call came while Abraham was in Haran after the death of his father (12:1). God's call to Abram had called for separation from all family ties. But Abraham had taken his father as far as Haran. It would seem that God did not appear any more to him until after the death of his father. Now He again calls him with a threefold promise: a land (12:1), a seed (12:2), a world blessing (12:3). God also prom-

ised protection, saying that He would bless those who bless Abram and curse those who curse him. This was an unconditional promise that included Abraham's descendants, the Jewish nation, which through the centuries has been blessed and protected.

**"So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him"** (v. 4). Abram's immediate response to the Lord's command shows the complete faith of Abraham. In leaving Ur and staying in Haran his obedience was only partial. He did not leave his father's house as commanded. But now at the age of 75 years, he and his wife Sarai, departed out of Haran. His nephew, Lot went with him. It would seem that while staying in Haran Abraham had gained much wealth and many servants (v. 5). All this he took with him to Canaan, **"and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan, and into the land of Canaan they came"** (v.5).

**"And the Lord appeared unto Abram"** (v.7). Abram's faith and obedience is honored by the Lord again appearing unto him and said, **"Unto thy seed will I give this land."** Before God had told him he would show him the land, but now **"I give this land."** Abraham's response was to build an altar thereby testifying to the Canaanites that he was a worshipper of the true God. He pitched his tent thereby declaring that he recognized that he had no continuing city (Heb. 11:13-14). And he called upon the name of the Lord (v.8) thereby showing his dependence upon the one true God.

Someone has said, "These three  
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## GROWTH

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they, I will not be offended." This sin of pride is revealed once again when he says, **"Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee."** Remember, Peter spoke this in direct opposition to his Lord's prophecy of what would take place.

How arrogant! How prideful! For a man to directly contradict a prophecy of Christ based upon a high attitude of ourselves! Oh, how we all must guard against the sin of pride; each of us, apart from His grace, would follow in Peter's footsteps.

### Step Two: A LAX, CARELESS ATTITUDE

Peter's sin of pride was revealed to us through his speech. Peter's speech revealed to us what was taking place in his heart. In the next event, we find Peter's actions reveal what was taking place in his heart as well.

Let's look at Matthew 26:36-45 **"...and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me...And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak...And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy...Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."**

Peter's actions clearly declare to us his attitude: Peter was lax and careless about his Christian responsibilities. Following a direct command of the Lord, Peter, in a state of carelessness, finds himself in continued disobedience to his Lord. In the above account Peter twice was warned by the Lord to be spiritually vigilant, but Peter in response, falls asleep. We are to be spiritually vigilant concerning sin in our  
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DECEMBER 3, 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



### Do you feel that revival meetings have the same impact on churches and individuals today as they did 50 to 100 years ago?

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Having a first hand experience of 81 years of the last 100 years, I must say that the impact that revivals of this day have on churches and individuals is quite different from that of former days. For one thing, I can remember when we had time for two or three week revivals. Now we only have time for one week and often only three or four days. There was a time when a church had a revival people would attend from miles around. Now it is hard to get people next door to attend. As a young man I can remember walking miles to attend a meeting. Back then you could find many unsaved in the meetings. Now there are few unsaved who attend and Christians make many excuses for not attending. At one time it was not unusual to see a large number make a profession of faith, now if one or two come to confess Christ as their Saviour we consider the meeting a great success.

What has brought about this change? There may be many reasons for this but I believe the foremost reason is found in the change in attitude toward such meetings. There was a time when a church went about preparing itself for a coming revival, much time was spent in prayer and visitation. I recall about 45 or 46 years ago meeting at the First Baptist Church at Greenup, Kentucky that was truly a revival. As I recall there were 25 to 30 who professed faith in Christ. Before that meeting the women of the church had cottage prayer meetings and nearly every house in Greenup was visited. Back then,

a revival was looked forward to as a time of bringing the Christians to a closer fellowship with the Lord and of the lost being saved. Now it seems that we think having a revival is the expected thing to do. We in our busy schedule, try to find time to hold a three or four day meeting, hoping, but not expecting much in the revival of the Christian and greatly surprised if any lost come to know the Lord.

How can this be changed? The Word of God has the answer. The text of Scripture that once was so often used at the beginning of a meeting is just as true as when it was first spoken and if obeyed would result in a true revival. **"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land"** (II Chron. 7:14). This was written to the nation of Israel but it is also for us today.

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**"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"** (Psalm 85:6).

As a general rule, the impact of "revival meetings" on churches and individuals is not what it has been in the recent past of 50 or 100 years. True revivals are few and far between in our day and time. True revival, which is "a quickening visitation of God to His people which touches their hearts and deepens His work of grace in their lives", is not widely seen less still is its influence on society and sin. We must remember three things concerning today and revival, however, if we are to understand why revival is so absent in our time.

First, we must remember that

the spirit of lawlessness is all around us today in a stronger and stronger guise as we approach the coming tribulation. It permeates our society and has influenced organized religion in a greater way than is generally realized. Secondly, we must realize that the spirit of "too busy, and looking for a shortcut in Christian living" is among us and greatly influences individuals and consequently churches. Most of the intimacy of close fellowship with the Lord Jesus and its fruits is lacking in our present age among many as we near the end of the age. That is evidenced by the number of people attending revival meetings, or even the desire for revival and its results. Thirdly, we need to remember that much of the so-called revival meetings and methods in our time are man made, using basically Charles Finney's (Arminian) methods. God is the Giver of revival as it pleases Him. We may have the meetings, but God must give the results. He is the Initiator and Deliverer of revival.

Revival sometimes seems to  
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I do think that meetings still have some impact on churches and believers today. It is especially true when the church and evangelist prepare for the meeting properly. I think this is the reason that several years ago revival meetings were so blessed. We have to realize that GOD GIVES THE REVIVAL. Back then churches would pray and seek God and often revival would break out long before the meeting and continue after the meeting. When Christians get on their knees and confess their sins, when they get right with one another, then revival will come! When church people get concerned about their lost loved ones and

neighbors and do something about reaching them, revival will come! Preparation is the key! God hasn't changed at all in 100 years, we have! Now, we have meetings because it is just expected that you're suppose to have a revival meeting once or twice a year. We get a preacher that we think will be able to make something happen and nothing happens! No preacher has revival in his suitcase. He can't bring it with him! Many church folks won't even support the meeting by attendance any more. They will come if it doesn't conflict with any of their activities, clubs, school functions, and other such things.

Thank God there is still a remnant of folks that want revival. God will bless such. I have found in my experience in holding meetings that whether the whole church was revived or not, there is always a few people that seem to get revived and blessed. For this reason, I believe meetings are still profitable and ought to be regularly held in our churches. We ought to be burdened for our churches. I sadly feel there is more fighting and bickering going on then there is revival. Pray for real heaven-sent revival! We desperately need it!

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Although I cannot speak from personal knowledge in going back beyond my time with regard to church meetings, revivals, etc, yet I have heard and read about many such events of by-gone days where the Holy Spirit moved in the midst of men and women to bring about soul-stirring conviction and repentance to both saved and unsaved at the preaching of God's Word.

The word "revival" may be a misnomer in our present day. We may schedule a three day or a week meeting and call it a revival

and yet very often it becomes nothing more than another preaching and singing meeting with little or no lasting impact to the church. I do not mean to discourage or infer that these meetings should discontinue. And I feel sure there are exceptions to this. Most assuredly all of God's churches could stand some reviving. But why is it necessary to call an evangelist or another pastor two or three times a year to get our spiritual eyesight corrected and our hearts on fire for the Lord? I am not opposed to guest speakers, in fact, it is often a time of good fellowship and refreshing to have such a brother preach. But let's face it, it's the home folks, the pastor and congregation that must keep the spirit and work of the church effectual and alive. This can only be done through good leadership from the pastor who inspires his congregation as he preaches and motivates love and service to God. The congregation is then enthused at being vital to the church. To me, revival means alerting to an awareness of our need of Jesus, and to each other as members united together in common cause, producing an atmosphere of emotion and excitement about being in church. How many churches are there that have this today? I believe there are a few and I must say we here at Calvary are moving in that direction, thanks to the leadership of our pastor, Brother Helton, and to most of our members trying to do more to show their love to God and the church.

Perhaps revival was more successful in olden days because preachers were not afraid to preach the truth and let the chips fall where they may. Perhaps they were more concerned with obeying God's Word and command to **"Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine"** (II Timothy 4:2). Perhaps there was a greater desire then to hear God's Word, and folks didn't start getting fidgety when the preacher went 5 minutes over his sermon  
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## THE CRY OF THE PERISHING

By Edwin B. Fountain, Garfield, Georgia



Jesus' disciples had been called and had followed Him and heard Him teach and saw Him heal the sick and cast out devils. They had heard Him teach what we call the Sermon on the Mount. They saw Him exhausted as a man and lie down to rest. But their faith was small and weak and when the storm came and they were afraid of the future then they turned to Jesus and cried out, "Lord, save us: we perish." The Lord Jesus arose from His rest and rebuked the storm, and behold, there was an instantaneous calm.

When we apply the passage to spiritual purpose we learn the following things:

### Man is in a Perishing Condition

That all men are sinners and perishing is obvious from the express declaration of the Word of God, "...There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, There is none that seeketh after God" (Romans 3:10-11). "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way..." (Isaiah 53:6).

### Never Seeks God

All men are in a state of sin, are unbelievers, sinners, "...there is none that seeketh after God..." Man never seeks after God. Man is never the seeker. The Word of God stands firm on this point. In Psalms 14:2-3 we read, "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They were all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

### Devil Possessed

That man is in a perishing condition is evident from the true state of his condition. Man's wretched condition is best described by a good look at the demoniac of Gedara, described in Luke 8:27 as having, "...had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs."

Man is possessed of the devil and is naked, homeless and lives among the dead. In another place, we are told that after he was healed he was in his right mind so that we are able to understand that the sinner is mentally deranged.

In Mark 5:5 we are told that he hurt himself and in Matthew 8:28 that he was "...exceedingly fierce so that no man might pass that way."

The sinner hurts himself and others. His is a perishing condition, wretched, naked, homeless, possessed, living with the dead, hurting himself and others.

### Headed for Hell

This condition involves eternal consequences and irreparable consequences except one be drawn by the Father. John 3:18 says, "He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Revelation 20:14-15 tells us of this eternal consequence, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

The eternal consequence of man's sinful condition is eternal damnation in hell, in the lake of fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels.

### Salvation is of the Lord

"Lord, save us." They went to the right source. There was no other voice in the world that could have commanded the storm to subside. Christ is the only One that can bring peace to the heart of the sinner. Christ is the only

Saviour of sinners from the storms of eternal damnation. Salvation is of the Lord.

Man does not have to strive for salvation. II Chronicles 20:17 says "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord..." Our salvation is in the hand of God.

### Jesus Took Our Place

In His execution He became the surety, He bore the curse of our sin, He endured our shame, He drank the cup that should have been ours, He suffered "the just for the unjust..." "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24).

### No Other Way

This salvation comes through Jesus Christ; born of a virgin, He lived, He taught, He fed the hungry, He healed the sick and then died to save. In Acts 4:12 we read, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Look back to verse 10 and we find that Peter is speaking of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Our salvation is in the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, the only "name given under heaven whereby we must be saved."

### Application to Christ is Necessary to Secure This Salvation

The application to Christ is the application of faith that when He died, He died for you, that He bore your sins on that cross and that He was raised for you and that He is even now our only Mediator between God and man. We need no priest, no man, except the man Christ Jesus.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9). Have faith in His

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## GROWTH

(Continued from Page 3)

life. We are to be aware of our sin and seek to rid it from our life immediately. Yet how many of us, like Peter, are spiritually asleep and unconcerned about the sin in our life. How many of us, against the clear dictates of God's Word can continue in a sleeping state not willing to deal with the sin of our lives.

### Step Three: THE LOSS OF CLOSEFELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD

Matthew 26:57-58 "And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end."

We find Peter no longer closely associating himself with the Lord. We find much of the communion and fellowship with Christ he had experienced is quickly diminishing.

Is this not what takes place in each of our lives when we refuse to be diligent about the sin in our life? Like Peter, once we allow sin to enter and dwell within our being, we soon begin to experience a loss of fellowship and communion with the Lord. Our peace quickly fades and our recognition of His presence soon evaporates.

### Step Four: THE GROWTH AND SPREAD OF SIN

As Peter began to lose fellowship with Him we find that his sin began to spread rapidly.

Phase 1: Denial - Matthew 26:69-70 "Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest."

Here we find Peter denying the very Lord he had promised he would die for.

Phase 2: Denial with an oath - Matthew 26:71-72 "And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man."

Peter's sin now progresses quickly. The sin of denial turns to the sin of denial with an oath. Peter now was not only sinning by denying his Lord he was now

also sinning by making a false oath.

Phase 3: Denial with cursing and swearing - Matthew 26:73-74 "And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man."

His sin now turns to denial linked with swearing and cursing. He now is taking his Lord's name in vain. What began as an inward sin of pride ended in a public swearing, cursing denial of his Saviour Jesus Christ.

Oh how sin's progression is the same in our lives. By allowing a small, unconfessed sin to dwell within; we open ourselves up for a great public fall.

### Step Five: UNCONFESSSED SINS FINAL RESULT—BITTER SORROW

Matthew 26:74-75 "...And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly."

The horrible results of unconfessed sin in Peter's life is clearly brought into view. The Lord, using the cock, now reveals to Peter his rebellious, sinful condition. Once Peter sees his sinful condition he "wept bitterly." Why such sorrow? He had failed his Lord and put His Lord to a public disgrace. Why such sorrow? He had ruined his public testimony as a servant of Christ.

Oh, how we all should bitterly weep at the results of unconfessed sin in our lives. Oh, how we all should seek to submit to Christ's will and rid sin from our life in every area. There should be no sin that is so dear to us we are not willing to put it off for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Let us all apply the truths of I John 1:8-10 to our lives: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

## REJOICE IN HIM

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

DECEMBER 3, 1994

PAGE FIVE

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR  
SUBSCRIPTION THIS YEAR??

## THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD PRODUCES STRENGTH AND PEACE

By Pastor Willard Willis, Northland Missionary Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio

**"...the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits" (Daniel 11:32).**

A knowledge of God's marvellous grace is most certainly a source of our strength and peace. God's grace, in fact, is the source from which God's good-will, love and His great salvation flows to those of His choosing. His grace, after all, is that which we have not earned, bought or won. It is free, free, free, to those of us who have not deserved one drop of it. The following passage of Scripture gives us a clear definition of God's grace. **"And if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace, otherwise work is no more work"** (Romans 11:6).

My furnace, at the present time, will not function because there is about two inches of water in the bottom of the oil tank which feeds the furnace. The furnace would probably function if the water would mix with the oil, but the two will not mix. The same truth applies to grace and works. There is no way that the two can be mixed together.

One, through an examination of God's grace, will find that it has three principal characteristics. These relate to the fact that God's grace is eternal, free and sovereign. It is eternal in that it was planned before one drop of it was ever bestowed upon any one. This fact is clearly stated in the following passage of Scripture.

**"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began"** (II Timothy 1:9).

God's grace is free in that it cannot be purchased, won or earned. This fact is set forth by the following passage of Scripture.

**"Being justified freely by his grace..."** (Romans 3:24).

God's grace is sovereign in that God bestows it only upon those of His own choosing. This fact is set forth in Romans 5:21 where we read: **"...Even so might grace reign...."** Grace, in order to reign, must come from God's throne

where He reigns over all. We, in fact, in Hebrews 4:16 read of **"the throne of grace."** We also read from Exodus 33:19 **"...will be gracious to whom I will be gracious."** God, then, is under no obligation to any of His creatures.

It follows that eternal life is the gift of God and who ever heard of anyone purchasing, winning or earning a gift.

Let me, however, point out that God's grace does have a channel through which it flows to unworthy sinners like you and me. The Lord Jesus Christ is that glorious channel. This fact is set forth in the following passages of Scripture.

**"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"** (John 1:17).

**"...Much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ...much more they which receive abundance of grace, and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ...so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord"** (Romans 5:15,17,21).

How is it that God's grace is proclaimed to us? It is by way of the Gospel. Paul, in fact, said **"...to testify the gospel of the grace of God"** (Acts 20:24).

The Gospel, because it proclaims that we are saved by God's grace and not by way of works, is a "stumbling block" to the Jew and "foolishness" to the conceited Greeks. These people, in fact, believe that they must earn, purchase or win God's favor. It is for this reason that the Gospel is either a stumbling block or foolishness to them. The Gospel of God's marvellous grace does not gratify their pride. It therefore, to them, becomes a "stumbling block" or "foolishness." The Gospel declares that sinful man, left to himself, cannot take one step toward God. The Gospel of God's grace, therefore is the only hope for humanity.

Let us now consider the fact that God the Spirit is the Communicator of God's marvellous grace. God the Spirit, in fact, in Zechariah 12:10 is referred to as **"the Spirit of Grace."** God the Father, on the other hand, is the fountain of all grace, since He has

purposed it. God the Son, as I have already pointed out, is the only channel of grace. The Gospel is the publisher of grace and God the Spirit is the bestower of God's marvellous grace.

G.S. Bishop, when speaking of God's grace, said: "Grace is a provision for men who are so fallen that they cannot lift the axe of justice, so corrupt that they cannot change their own natures, so averse to God that they cannot turn to Him, so blind that they cannot see Him, so deaf that they cannot hear Him, and so dead that He himself must open their graves and lift them into resurrection."

We, then, by meditating upon that which has been said and read, can understand why Daniel said: **"...the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."**

Let us now seek a greater knowledge of God by an examination of His mercy. We, in our examination, will find that God's mercy has at least three categories. These fall under the categories of His general mercy, special mercy, and sovereign mercy.

God's mercy to many is only of a temporal nature. It, in other words, like the sand that falls from an hour glass, is gradually being depleted. God's mercy to many, is of a temporal nature, because it will not be extended beyond the grave. We, in fact, read from Psalms 9:17 that **"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."**

God is merciful to multitudes today even though these same people despise His authority and trample upon His laws. Multitudes today are trying to remove any reference to God from every facet of society. Multitudes are ignoring God's Word and doing that which they consider to be right in their own eyes. God, however, is still merciful to them in that He is sending them rain, sunshine, food, etc. This fact is set forth in the following passage of Scripture.

**"...He giveth to all life, breath, and all things"** (Acts 17:25).

There is also a special mercy of God which is only bestowed upon certain people. Certain people, in other words, have been given the ability to obtain great wealth, or to be great leaders. Others have been given special gifts relative

to art, music, etc. Bing Crosby was most certainly a recipient of God's special mercy.

God's sovereign mercy, on the other hand, relates to mercy which extends beyond this life. God, in other words, has bestowed His sovereign mercy upon those for whom His Son died. This kind of mercy knows no end. It is this kind of mercy to which the following passage of Scripture makes reference.

**"For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion"** (Romans 9:15).

We, then, by understanding God's mercy can better understand why Daniel said: **"...the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."**

Let us now examine God's love and note too that it is also a means for strength and peace.

The Bible, on at least three occasions, uses the phrase "God is." We, on one occasion, read that **"God is light"** (I John 1:5) and on another occasion we read that **"God is Spirit"** (John 4:24). These statements speak to us relative to God's nature. The third reference to "God is" relates to the fact that **"God is love"** (I John 4:8). It is not simply that God loves, but "God is love." Love is His divine nature.

There are many who confuse God's love with that which we refer to as sentiment. They think of God's love as one thinks of one's emotions. God's love, however, has nothing to do with sentiment or emotions, since His love cannot be influenced by anything in the creature. His love, in other words, is not caused, but is spontaneous. This fact is set forth in the following passages of Scripture. **"The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: but because the Lord loved you..."** (Deut. 7:7, 8).

The following passage of Scripture forever settles the issue relative to whether or not God's love is spontaneous or caused.

**"We love him, because he first loved us"** (I John 4:19).

God, then, loved us when we were loveless. One only must read the third chapter of Romans

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## FORUM

(Continued from Page 4)

### LENEGAR

come in cycles when we review history. However, it is not praying, pleading, and man's initiatives that start revival. God may produce these things in His own at the beginning of revival, but it is He who is the Origin. True revival has a great and lasting impact on churches and individuals that spreads into society and deals a blow to the powers of darkness. Only when God moves in our hearts and gives us a desire like David, will we desire revival. **"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee"** (Psalm 51:12-13).

### WHITT

time. Perhaps in the olden days church members took their responsibility to be in church services more faithfully. Maybe they were more loving and forgiving of one another.

The question may be asked: Is it possible for churches to be revived today as in the days of old? I believe it is. The conditions for revival have not changed. We may easily blame our spiritual decline on apostasy or "falling away" in the last days, but will this hold up at the Judgment Seat of Christ? We will have revival when we are ready—ready to pray, ready to humble ourselves, ready to be unselfish, ready to forgive, ready to love, ready to do His will. Why not be ready for revival every time we go to church?

## BIBLE STUDY

(Continued from Page 3)

things—worship, pilgrimage, prayer—are the distinctive marks of all who, like Abram, look for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." The altar signifies that Abraham's worship was based upon sacrifice; the tent, that this is not his final home; prayer, that the name of the Lord is a strong tower, into which the righteous may run and be safe (Prov. 18:10).

**OUR GOD  
REIGNS**

## THE INESCAPABLE QUESTION

By Jack Whitt

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Phillipi, he asked his disciples saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" (Matthew 16:13). Man is inquisitive. It is his nature to seek and search out answers to things that are hidden. If there is a question, there must be an answer. And so it is with the great mystery that has puzzled and perplexed the minds of millions down through the ages. It is the question: "Where did I come from and where am I going?" Many of the world's most intellectual and scientific minds have set forth their theories and explanations for man's existence on earth. It is this unceasing quest by man to know his origin that has prompted such vast amounts of time, energy and money be devoted to a cause that can only be reasoned from God's Word:

"And God said, let us make man in our own image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26).

While mankind hungers for knowledge and answers to this and many other questions, yet he remains oblivious and unconcerned to a far more crucial question. A question more important than "Where did I come from and where am I going?" Jesus asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" This question and its response is greater than all others in importance. It is a matter of life and death. A matter of heaven or hell. Listen to the next three verses following Jesus' question: "And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist, some Elias, and other Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, but whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter an-

swered and said, thou art the Christ the son of the living God" (Matthew 16:14-16). My dear friend, who do you say that Jesus is? Is He simply a prophet, a good man, a person you heard about in Sunday School? Dear friend, Jesus must be as real to you as He was to Peter and the disciples. He is the Christ, the anointed One, the One who came to seek and to save that which was lost. To you, He must be the one who died upon the cross, shedding His precious blood to secure your eternal salvation. Thus, the inescapable question: Who do you say that Christ is? Do you know Jesus as your own personal Saviour? If you know Him this way, you will not have to worry about the other questions "Where did I come from and where am I going?" You will have those answers. May God bless you.

### AND GOD SAID "NO"

*I asked God to take away my pride and God said "No." He said it was not for Him to take away but for me to give up.*

*I asked God to make my handicapped child whole and God said "No." He said the body is only temporary.*

*I asked God to grant me patience and God said "No." He said patience is a by-product of tribulation. It isn't granted, it's earned.*

*I asked God to give me happiness and God said "No." He said He gives His blessings. Happiness is up to me.*

*I asked God to spare me from pain and God said "No." He said sufferings draw you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to Him.*

*I asked God to make my spirit grow and God said "No." He said I must grow on my own but He will prune me to make me fruitful.*

*I asked God if He loved me and God said "Yes." He gave His only Son who died for me and I will be in heaven someday because I believe.*

*I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me and God said "Ah, finally you have the idea."*

---Copied---



## A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



### Midwives and Nurses (Part One)

It is hard to imagine the world without its hospitals, its doctors and nurses, those who have dedicated their lives to helping others. God's Word tells of some women whose duties and obligations involved this very idea.

Shiphrah and Puah (Exodus 1:15-21) - Now the new king of Egypt (Pharaoh) was not friendly toward the Israelites, unlike the Pharaoh who had shown much kindness to Joseph and his family. Afraid of the strength and of the number of the Israelites, Pharaoh afflicted the Israelites and made them work and labor beyond their ability. Pharaoh then gave the order, to those women who were midwives for the Hebrew women, that any son should be killed, as soon as it was born. This, of course, was to prevent the male population from growing and maturing, allowing the Israelites greater military strength and power. Shiphrah and Puah, two of the midwives (there were probably others), "feared God" and did not obey the king's command, but spared the lives of the Hebrew baby boys. Because of their great faith, the Lord blessed these two women. Much more can be said concerning the nationality of these two women. Were they Egyptian? Were they Hebrew? Arguments have been given for both sides. What about the liveliness of the Hebrew women? We are told that God "dealt well with the midwives" and that He "made them houses." What does all of this mean? Let it suffice, for now, to say that these two women chose "to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). They were blessed and taken care of, by God, because they feared and obeyed Him.

Rachel's Midwife (Genesis 35:17) - "Fear not; thou shalt have this son also." All we know, concerning this woman, are the words of comfort that she spoke to Rachel, who was in hard labor and dying (the birth of Rachel's second son, Benjamin).

Tamar's Midwife (Genesis 38:28-29) - This midwife, who was assisting Tamar in delivering her twins, knew the importance

of the rights of the firstborn. Knowing this, she tied a scarlet thread around the hand of the twin, which she believed was about to be born first. His twin brother, Pharez, ancestor of David and of our Lord, was born first. The twin son with the scarlet thread wrapped around his hand, and the one born second, was named Zarah.

Women Attending Ichabod's Mother (I Samuel 4:20) - The wife of Phinehas, one of the two wicked sons of Eli the priest was about ready to give birth. Her husband and brother-in-law had both been killed, in a battle against the Philistines. It was not the news of the death of his two sons that caused Eli, who was 98 years old and blind, to fall backward, breaking his neck and killing him, but it was "the mention of the ark of God," which represented God's presence, for the Philistines had taken it. God had allowed His favor, His mercy and grace, to be removed from Israel. It was the news that the ark of God was taken, and that her husband and father-in-law were both dead that caused this woman to begin her labor pains. "Fear not; for thou hast born a son." These were the comforting words of the women, aiding Eli's daughter-in-law, during her hard labor. The dying woman ignored what had been told to her concerning her newborn son, naming him Ichabod (the glory is departed from Israel), because of what had happened to her country and in her own family.

To Be Continued...

**"My brethren,  
count it all joy  
when ye fall into  
divers temptations;  
knowing this, that  
the trying of your  
faith worketh  
patience."  
James 1:2-3**

## STICKS

(Continued from Page 1)

Christian fellowship among all who attended.

While there has not been a change in doctrine, there have been changes in the church. There are many new faces to be seen in the services. Members are being added to the church both by baptism and by letter. There is a warm Christian fellowship and love among the members of the church. Visitors are greeted by a warm and firm handshake and may even receive a hug or two. Yes, in spite of its past reputation of being a cold unfriendly church, visitors will find it to be a warm friendly church where everyone is made welcome.

The most sad and distressing thing about the charges made against the church and pastor is those who are making the charges. We know that while the charges originated from the mind of our arch enemy, Satan, and that he attacks only those who are doing something for the Lord, it is sad that men of God, who hold to the same truths as we do and should be rejoicing in the way God is blessing His work at Ashland, are being used by Satan to bring these charges. Brethren, we need to pray for these that they may come to see that they are being used to hinder the work of the Lord.

Finally, we ask that you pray for the church, our pastor, and TBE that we may ever be faithful to our Lord and His work. Brother Helton is bearing a heavy burden and prayers and words of encouragement would be greatly appreciated.

## BAD ADVICE

(Continued from Page 2)

perception of how God deals with His people. No, the theological questions are actually the easy ones because God has given us a road map, a book as a guide. Those answers are all in the Bible. It's the questions that God doesn't answer that make life difficult and turn adolescent Christians into mature men and women of faith. It is not the questions we get answered that build our faith but the questions God leaves unanswered that mature us.

Third, we need to realize that often God wants us to trust Him when He is not there. There is

never a time when the child of God is ever truly out of touch with the Father because we live in His world created by Him and imprinted with His indelible stamp. But the mere mark of the passing of His presence is not enough to comfort a Christian going through the pains of growing up. A Christian needs contact with God but the nature of the contact changes over time. Just like children growing up, their relationship changes in seeming contradictory ways. While an infant demands almost constant physical contact with parents and siblings, the older child is less clingy. Yet the relationship with the older child is of deeper and fuller nature than the relationship with the infant. In fact, grown children who no longer live at home, who see their parents less than they ever have, experience a relationship with their parents that is greater and more satisfying than anything a dependent child experiences.

To illustrate this, think of a child learning to ride a bike. At first, the child requires constant support and contact with the parent who runs along beside the bike supporting him. Gradually the parent lets go and the child panics at the sudden and unexpected lack of contact. Eventually the parent will let go for longer stretches of time until the child is riding on his own. But riding a bike on one's own often involves falls, scrapes, cuts and bruises. It's all a part of growing up. The concerned parent wants to spare the child as much pain as possible but realizes that nothing is really broken or even seriously injured in the learning experience. In a short while, the child develops a sense of independence he never had before and is able to do things and go places he was never able to do or see before he learned to ride the bike. Surprisingly though, this newfound independence, rather than taking the child away from the parent (for it has that ability), allows the parent and child to share the joys of bike riding together, something they could never do before. The act of the parent letting loose of the child to learn on his own allowed him to experience a new aspect of the relationship he could never experience without being turned loose.

God deals with us in the same way. Christian maturity involves being turned loose by God on occasion. In those times we often fall and get bruises, cuts, scrapes,

and sores but we are never seriously or irreparably hurt. We are often terrified by the experience of riding alone when we don't have that sense of the closeness of God. But that is all part of the learning experience. Finally, when we do learn to operate on our own without God holding on to us, we find that we have learned something about our own abilities and the responsibilities that God has placed on us. Then we seek to spend our time with God in a way we never knew we could spend it, sharing experiences that we never knew could be shared with God. After all, isn't that the essence of the Christian experience, knowing God in a deeper and fuller way?

And then he wants us to start learning how to drive...

## PERISHING

(Continued from Page 5)

death, burial and resurrection. **"For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...."**

### Call Upon Him

He has promised to save, it is His pleasure to save and He has never allowed any believer to perish, **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"** (Romans 10:13).

No matter how vile, how sinful, the humble and contrite heart that believes and repents, the perishing one who cries out to God in belief will be saved. The storms of life will be calmed even as Jesus calmed the storm for his disciples.

His was the voice that commanded demons, devils, storms, and disease and spoke peace to troubled hearts. His is still the voice that, when it calls, still heals hurts, and brings peace to the storm tossed life.

**"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

## KNOWLEDGE

(Continued from Page 6)

in order to know how loveless we really are.

The fact that our God is eternal and that God is love, means that His love is also eternal. God, if He loved you a million years ago will also love you a million years from now. This fact is set forth by the following passage of Scripture.

**"I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee"** (Jeremiah 31:3).

We know from Ephesians 1:4-5 that God loved the elect before the foundation of the world.

God's love is sovereign in that He loves whom He pleases to love. This fact is forever settled by the following passage of Scripture. **"Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated"** (Romans 9:19).

We are informed by Ephesians 3:19 that the love of God **"passeth knowledge."** We, in other words, when examining God's love for us, are only skimming the surface of His great love. We are only dipping a thimble full of water from His great ocean of love. The song is correct when saying, **"The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen could ever tell...."**

It should become more and more evident to us, as we proceed, why it was that Daniel said: **"...the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."**

You and I, in order to be more acquainted with God, must be acquainted with the fact that He is also the God of wrath. His wrath, according to Romans 1:18, has already been revealed from heaven.

**"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven."**

God's wrath was revealed, first

of all, when Adam sinned against Him. We can still observe the effects of God's wrath by way of tragic storms, thistles, thorns, etc. The great flood that covered the earth and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah are also examples of God's wrath. The Great Tribulation which is yet to come will also be a definite proof that God is a God of wrath.

Most people today and in the ages that are past, have regarded sin too lightly. They have had no conception of how much God hates sin, and how severely He will punish those whose sins have not been covered by the blood of His Son. The best knowledge we can have relative to how much God hates sin can be found at a place called "Calvary." It was at that place that God's Son cried out with a loud voice: **"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"** Those in hell will not cry, **"Why hast thou forsaken me?"** They, in fact, will be fully aware as to why God has forsaken them.

Those who will be required to stand before the Great White Throne will be fully convinced that our God is the God of wrath. They, in fact, will find, as is pointed out in the following passages of Scripture, that their hope for mercy will have fled away.

**"I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"** (Luke 13:3).

It is my prayer that our God will grant to you who have not believed, repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ. This is your only hope of escaping the wrath of God which is yet to come.

You may recall that the rich man who went to hell asked that his five brothers be warned not to come to that terrible place. May I take this opportunity to warn you to flee, through Christ, God's wrath.

**"TO EVERY THING THERE IS  
A SEASON, AND A TIME TO  
EVERY PURPOSE UNDER  
THE HEAVEN."**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

