

The way to avoid great faults is to be aware of small ones

MISSIONARY BIBLICAL BAPTISTIC PREMILLENNIAL

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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.

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THE RICH FOOL

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



"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said

unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:16-21).

Our Lord, in Luke 12:15 said: "...Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

The Lord, in convincing us of the truth of the above statement, has given us the example of a man who had an abundance and trusted in that abundance.

Let us, in the outset, consider that the ground of the rich man, to another person, could be stocks and bonds, or other kinds of investments. It, in other words, is the abundance that is to be considered rather than the source of the abun-

dance.

The rich man in our text had invested in the "ground" and his investment had paid him with a rich dividend. The dividend, in fact, was so great that he had more than he could handle. The reason for his not being able to handle his dividend was because he had received special help from the God of the universe. God, in fact, had sent just the right amount of rain and sunshine upon his investment. God had even gone so far as to supply the ground within which his investment had been deposited. God had gone a step further and given the man the health and strength to deposit and cultivate his investment.

We may say, then, that the man in our text, rather than being the giver, was a recipient of the goodness of God. God, in fact, accord-

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HOW'S YOUR TONGUE?

By Edwin B. Fountain, Garfield, Georgia



"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:8).

Man has a long way to go to master the tongue. In fact, we never do in this life completely gain control or tame our tongues. We will have to wait for Christ to tame it for us when He comes again.

Our ability to speak opens up wonderful opportunities for good—and fearful probabilities of evil.

Words have no substance as we think of substance yet they have the power to destroy the reputations of others, to destroy their happiness and their peace. In many households today it is the words that are allowed there that destroy the peace and joy of that home.

How's your tongue? How would God rate you today if you were tested by the Scriptures?

THE WRONG USE OF THE TONGUE

Our language adds up to a pretty good index to what's in our minds

and to our dispositions. The Word of God tells us that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

The book of Proverbs tells us of just some of the ways that man misuses his tongue.

1. Deceit, flattery (Prov. 20:19; 28:23; 29:5)

Both of these are based on insincerity, or falsehood, but it often goes unrecognized by the person on the receiving end, usually because they would rather believe the lie. There's absolutely nothing wrong with a just and sincere compliment, or words that will encourage, or a criticism meant to help. But flattery is simply lying and usually for personal gain. It is obnoxious to God for God cannot tolerate the false and artificial.

2. Slander or talebearing (Prov. 10:18b; 11:13; 18:18; 20:19)

What is slander? Legally speaking it is a false report about someone circulated with malicious purpose, that purpose being to destroy a reputation.

Slander is gossip, the telling of the unfavorable story that could as well be kept secret. It's often done simply to make oneself the center of attention.

What we really should do instead is ask ourselves, (1) is it true, (2) is it kind, and (3) is it necessary to tell this.

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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.

"For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" (I Corinthians 4:7).

From our text, we're going to be looking at three words found in the first sentence. The three words are, in reverse order "differ," "maketh," and "who."

The word "differ." This implies a difference in people. There was a difference in the two thieves that hung on crosses on either side of Jesus. What is this difference?

The first difference we can see

in the experience of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid them-



The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

"WHO MAKETH THEE TO DIFFER FROM ANOTHER?"

selves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast

thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" (Genesis 3:7-11). "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them" (Genesis 3:21). We see in the events of the Garden of Eden that the lost sinner stands naked and exposed before God. Though he may try to cover his nakedness with the fig leaves of religion, good works and reformation, the lost sinner is still spiritually naked. Only by the shedding of the blood of the innocent can a covering be provided for

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WHO MAKETH

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sins of those guilty of breaking the laws of God. **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23). Adam and Eve could not cover their nakedness with fig leaves, but God covered their nakedness by killing the innocent animal to make them **"coats of skins."** The innocent died to provide a covering of the nakedness of the guilty. How beautiful, in type, is this of the great salvation that has been provided to the spiritually naked by the Lamb of God. He has provided, to all who will repent of sin and trust Him and His sacrifice of himself, garments of salvation and

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DECEMBER 17, 1994

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Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This will be the last edition of *The Baptist Examiner* for 1994. With this in mind, I want to briefly glance back at 1994 and look forward to 1995 in the life and ministry of the Calvary Baptist Church. This has truly been a very good year for Calvary. The Lord has added eighteen new members to the local membership this year. Ten came by baptism. Five came by transfer of church letter. Three came by statement of experience and faith. Three of the eighteen were lost to the membership, leaving a net gain of fifteen new members for the Calvary Baptist Church in 1994. As a former accountant, I can truly say, the bottom line looks great for such a small church.

More importantly than numerical growth was the great spiritual growth which Calvary was blessed with in 1994. There is in the Calvary Baptist Church a unity of the Spirit and a harmony which is absolutely essential for future success as one of the Lord's churches. My how great our Lord has worked in our midst.

So much for looking back. We now must be looking forward; we must be about the Master's business. I truly believe the Calvary Baptist Church has the potential to be a great church in Ashland, Kentucky. If we are committed; if we are good stewards; if we are faithful; if we are true to God's Word; and if we are Christlike in Spirit, then possibly the eighteen of 1994 will be thirty-six in 1995. **MY GOD CAN DO THAT!** I believe in my heart He can do that. **"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"** (Hebrews 11:6). If we just serve Him, I know our Lord will bless beyond measure in 1995.

May our Lord bless you and your church in the coming year!



a robe of righteousness. **"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness..."** (Isaiah 61:10). When he has clothed us, we will not be found naked. **"If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked"** (II Corinthians 5:3). The saved sinner is clothed in the righteousness of Christ and covered by the blood of Christ. Such a person has sanctuary in, through and with Christ. **"...your life is hid with Christ in God"** (Colossians 3:3).

The second difference is a difference in heart. Indeed the sinner who has passed from death unto life is a new person. **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"** (II Corinthians 5:17). One who has trusted Jesus

and Him alone for salvation is a new creature; a new man, having a new mind and possessing new knowledge. **"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness"** (Ephesians 4:23-24). **"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him"** (Colossians 3:10).

The third difference is that some are sheep and some are goats. We all know how great is the difference between sheep and goats. Some are saved sheep; some are lost sheep. At some point in time, those that are lost sheep will become found sheep, i.e. saved sheep. The goats will always be goats. Some call themselves sheep but live like goats. Spiritually they look and smell like an old billy goat.

The word **"maketh."** The word

"maketh" in the Greek is *diakrinei*. **"Maketh"** (*diakrinei*) is defined as follows: to separate; distinguish; prefer; to confer a superiority; to make a distinction or difference. This implies an exercise of some outside force. Someone causes or makes the difference. There is a difference between asking for a change and making a change. In salvation, the Lord doesn't ask for a change; He makes a change. A lost sheep becomes a saved sheep. One spiritually dead becomes spiritually alive. **"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins"** (Ephesians 2:1).

The word **"who."** In salvation there is a great before and after difference. **"Once I was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see."** My, what a difference between being lost and saved; between spiritual blindness and spiritual vision. The process of sanctification brings about a great difference in a life for Christ. Who is it that makes the change, i.e. the difference? **"Who maketh thee to differ from another?"** Notice in the following verse how God causes us to triumph in Christ and makes us make known the knowledge of Christ to a lost and dying world. **"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place"** (II Corinthians 2:14).

There is much misunderstanding in the world about the way of salvation. Many believe in a doctrine of the "free will" of man. The Bible does not teach "free will," but instead teaches "free grace." The Bible also teaches without a doubt **"whosoever will may come."** However, the Lord said **"...ye will not come to me, that ye might have life"** (John 5:40). Man left to himself will not come to Christ for eternal life. How can man then have a will to come to Christ and be saved? Paul told the Philippians the answer to this question. **"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"** (Philippians 2:13). It is God that works to change our will; to make us willing to respond to the Gospel call. It is a work of the Holy Spirit that changes us and makes us different in our will and in our spiritual condition. **"Salvation is of the Lord."**

God is the **"who"** that makes the difference in salvation. **"...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"** (Acts 2:47). Man may increase the numbers, but only the Lord can

add a true disciple to one of His true churches. Take note also in Acts 2:47 that the Lord added not those who would be saved, but **"such as should be saved."** **"...As many as were ordained to eternal life believed"** (Acts 13:48). One is not ordained to eternal life because he believes. One believes because he was ordained to eternal life. In Acts 13:48, it is clear that ordination to eternal life was first and belief in Jesus Christ for salvation came later and came as a result of being ordained to eternal life.

Who maketh thee to differ from another? It is the Lord Jesus Christ that makes the difference. The only eternal difference in people is Jesus. One dies and goes to heaven; another dies and goes to hell. What's the difference? The difference is Jesus! Are you trusting Him to save you?

May our Lord richly bless you!

In But Not Out

I remember when I was a little boy, how my mother would draw me to her knee and speak to me so solemnly of the importance of trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, and I would say, "Well, Mamma, I would like to do it, but the boys will all laugh at me." Mother used to say, "Harry, remember, they may laugh you into hell, but they can never laugh you out of it." And, oh, how that used to go home to me, and it stayed with me all through the years! Yes, men may sneer and ridicule and not understand us as we come out for Christ, but after all, His is the only approval worth having.

H.A. Ironside



The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

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Abraham's Test of Faith Please read Genesis 12:10-13:4

In our last study we saw how Abraham after his father's death left Haran and moved on into Canaan where God appeared unto him and told him, **"Unto thy seed will I give this land."** Abraham pitched his tent on the west side of Bethel **"and there he built an altar and called upon the Lord"** (12:8). He had now come into the land to which God had called him. He had taken God at His word and had gone 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"** (Hebrews 11:8).

But now comes a real test of Abraham's faith. **"And there was a famine in the land"** (v. 10). What was Abraham to do? He had gained much substance (cattle and sheep no doubt) and many servants (12:5). Was he to stay in Canaan and lose all that which he had gained or should he go down into Egypt where there was an abundance of food? God's promise to bless Abraham had not changed but Abraham failed to trust God in this time of need. Therefore he decided to take matters into his own hands. He picked up all he had and along with his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot went down into Egypt (v. 10).

It would seem that as they entered into Egypt Abraham thought of a danger which they faced. Sarai, his wife was **"a fair woman to look upon"** (v. 11). Knowing that the Egyptians were a cruel and immoral people he realized

that when they saw his beautiful wife they might kill him in order to take her for themselves. What was he to do? If he acknowledged her as his wife he might be killed and Sarai taken by the Egyptians in to who knows what kind of moral degradation. In order to save his own neck he told Sarai to tell the Egyptians that she was his sister (v. 12, 13). This was a half-truth. She was his half-sister (Genesis 20:12). While this was true in a way, yet it was a lie.

It seems strange that Abraham would be willing to sacrifice his wife in order to save himself. It seems strange that although God had led him all the way from Ur of the Chaldees to the land of Canaan yet he could not trust God to protect his wife or his own life. It only goes to show as someone has said, "How small great people can be! How weak strong men can be! How bad good people can be."

The plan worked in saving Abraham's life but it created another tragedy, it landed Sarai in the king's harem. When the princes saw her and told Pharaoh about her beauty **"the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house"** (v. 15). It brought riches to Abraham for Pharaoh gave to him **"sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels"** (v. 16). What a mess Abraham had made of his life! He had gone down into Egypt and lying in order to save his own life lost his wife. True he had gained riches but what were they in comparison to the loss of his wife, for it was through her that the covenant which God had

made with him was to be brought to pass. Had he frustrated the purpose of God? NO WAY could he do this. We are often told that man can frustrate the plan of God by refusing to believe on His Son but this is not so. Every move Abraham had only made matters worse. He had dug a pit and had fallen into it, a pit that there was no way in which he could climb out. What was Abraham to do? At this point there was nothing that he could do, but there was something that Abraham's God could do and now He steps in to show His power and deliver Abraham from the pit which he had dug and had fallen in. It is said of a good man **"Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand"** (Psalm 37:24).

God made Pharaoh realize that he had taken another man's wife by sending plagues upon him and his house (v. 17). Pharaoh in turn rebukes Abraham for his deception. We can imagine how Abraham must have felt to have been rebuked by the king of a people who were with all their sins abhorred the sin of lying. Pharaoh told him to take his wife and get out of the country and he commanded his men to see that he did.

"And Abram went up out of Egypt...and he went on his journeys...Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the Lord" (13:1-4).

Note the phrase **"at the beginning"** (v.3) and **"Unto the place of the altar, which he had made at the first"** (v. 4), and **"called upon the name of the Lord"** (v.

4). We read of no altar or prayer in Egypt. Why? Abraham was out of touch with God. One who is out of fellowship with God does not worship or pray. Abraham was out of fellowship while in Egypt, but now he returns to where he was at the beginning. This is what every one must do who is out of fellowship with God. That one must come in repentance and faith back to "Bethel," back to the house of God, back to the place he departed from God. **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"** (1 John 1:9).

What are the lessons we are to learn from Abraham's journey into Egypt? (1) He went aside from the will of God and His leadership. He was concerned with circumstance instead of God. All he saw was the famine not the faithfulness of God. **"He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool"** (Prov. 28:26). (2) It shows us that a child of God can get out of the will of God and become unfaithful. This is clearly taught in the Word of God. This came about on the part of Abraham by fear due to lack of faith in God. This led to selfishness, lying, and deceit. It teaches us that through sin Abraham was, for a time, out of touch with God. (3) This teaches us that Abraham's sin brought trouble on others. Both Sarai and Pharaoh's house suffered because of Abraham's sin. Also we need to note that it was from the heathen Pharaoh that he was rebuked for his sin. It is a sad thing when the Christian must receive open rebuke from the

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TONGUE

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But not only are we not to talk about others but we are not to talk about ourselves, wash our own "dirty linen" in public. And, we are not to listen to such tales. We should not even keep as acquaintances people who tend to gossip but rather let them know immediately that our ears are not ready listeners to their malicious tales.

3. Argumentativeness or contrariness (Prov. 18:6; 10:32b; 25:8)

To be argumentative is to be forward or contrary. The word "forward" can be found in Scripture with great regularity and means "obstinately willful or contrary."

Arguments are like scrambling eggs, once done it cannot be undone. And let's face it, the words spoken in the heat of argument are contrary and cannot be unsaid. Arguments, contrariness has been the cause of many broken homes, lives, and friendships.

4. Boasting or pride (Prov. 8:13; 10:19; 11:2; 25:14)

Boasting is a trouble-maker, even if what the boaster says is true it will eventually cause him problems.

Much of the talk among Christians now-a-days is far from edifying. It is filled with talk about self and personal accomplishments or it's just "small talk" so that no one will be hurt by the personal opinions of others.

Most people today are filled with self, so filled that it has to bubble over into every conversation, and these conversations often become contests of "can you top this?" People today want to impress other people rather than edify. It's "I," "Me," and "Mine," with never a thought that God hears our every word. Our boasting can't make us greater with God it only pulls us down for we will have to answer for those boasting and prideful words.

One of the things foremost on our minds should be the fact that pride was the cause of Lucifer's fall. It could be the cause of a Christian's fall into uselessness.

Lucifer said "I will...I will" ours is "I am or I will be" instead of remembering that we are what we are by the grace of God. He chose us, He called us, His Son died that we might have salvation, we're

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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Are demons and fallen angels the same? If not, where did the demons originate?

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Of the many theories as to the origin and identification of demons, the one that carries the most Biblical support is that demons are fallen angels.

Satan along with all the other angels were created perfect. "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee" (Ezek. 28:15). I believe that in Satan's rebellion against God he drew with him a great number of the angels with him, perhaps a third of them (Ezek. 28:18; Rev. 12:4). I believe that demons made up part of that number. In support of this we note certain passages of Scripture which identify fallen angels with demons. In Matthew 25:41 we read of the "devil and his angels." In Revelation 12:7 "the dragon...and his angels." Also in Matthew 12:24 "Beelzebub the prince of devils." In the margin "devils" is given "demons" and verse 26 "Beelzebub" is interpreted as "Satan." The "prince of devils (demons)" tells us that Satan is the leader of the demons. If their leader is an angel could they not as well be fallen angels with their leader, Satan?

Angels are termed "spirits" (Psalm 104:4; Heb. 1:14). Demons are also called "spirits" (Luke 10:17, 20). In Luke 11:19-26 demons are listed as "unclean spirits" and as "evil spirits" in Luke 8:2.

The activities given of both demons and the fallen angels goes to show demons are fallen angels. Just as demons seek to enter and control men (Matt. 17:14-18; Luke 11:14, 15), so also many

angels such as Satan himself (Luke 22:3; John 13:27). The fallen angels join their leader in warfare against God and man. The demons do the same. I believe that demons are included in the ranks and kinds of Satan's helpers listed in Ephesians 6:10-12.

I believe there is solid proof from the Word of God that demons are fallen angels, that they were part of Satan's original rebellion and are his helpers today and will share in his final judgment.

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"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

I must begin by saying that the Bible is silent on the precise identity of demons. Therefore, as always, much speculation coupled with truth springs up. Superstition usually plays a large part in identifying demons and of course, some doctrines and worship today deceive many and hold them in bondage to the prince of the power of the air.

Many have and do believe that demons are a superstitious explanation of various diseases and conditions. Hence, the demons are explained away. Many, like Mr. Scofield, believe demons are the spirits of a pre-Adamic race from the earth, however, angels are the only pre-existing beings before man as God's Word shows us. Still others believe demons are the unnatural prodigy of angels and antediluvian women. There may indeed have been such a prodigy, but they were not, and are not demons. That is pure

speculation how they somehow became demons.

I do indeed, believe that demons are fallen angels, of which there are two types with which we are concerned. There are those demons who are free to actively move about the earth serving Satan with whom they originally fell from heaven. Then there are those who are bound temporarily in the abyss awaiting their final hour when they shall be let loose upon the tribulational earth as recorded in Revelation 9:1-21.

Satan's fallen angels, or demons inhabit Satan's headquarters which is the heavenly realm, that is the first and second heaven for Satan was cast out from the third heaven where Christ now sits. Hence, Satan is prince of the power of the air. During the tribulation he and the demons will be cast down to earth (Rev. 12:7-12) to do their last wickedness and destruction to the earth and its inhabitants.

Demons, or fallen angels are active today, but modern man usually refuses to recognize them for what they are. They are today much trouble to professing Christians for we read in I Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Therefore, let us stand in the complete armour provided for us to oppose the enemy and his work through the power and discernment of the Holy Spirit. The lake of fire awaits the devil and his angels.

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According to Psalm 148 all angelic beings were created by the Lord. This would include the fallen angels. "For by Him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether

they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him" (Col. 1:16). When Lucifer, a chief angel fell into sin, many angels also followed him in rebellion against God. God then cast them out of heaven. The word "demon" (daimon) denotes an evil spirit. Matthew 8:31 translates it "devils." They are fallen angels who assist Satan in seducing mankind to commit idolatry as well as believe false doctrines. They are permitted to tempt humans with unclean thoughts. They do differ in degrees of wickedness. "Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits MORE WICKED THAN HIMSELF, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation" (Matt. 12:45). Some of these demonic creatures are now being reserved in the lowest part of hell to be turned loose in the tribulation time. Read Revelation 9:1-11. Some believe that demons are different from fallen angels in the sense that some of these angels took a human form and pro-created with women before the flood. They fathered a hybrid generation known as Nephilim (Genesis 6:1-4). So some believe that the giants of this era were demons. I don't think that this can be conclusively proven. Goliath was a giant and exceedingly wicked, yet I do not think he was a demon. As far as I can tell demons are the same as fallen angels.

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"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6).

Angels were created holy by God before His creation of man. After some period of time, a vast number of these angels fell from their state of holiness and became evil beings. It is believed by many Bible scholars that Satan, in his original creation (then known as Lucifer, shining or bright one) because of pride and a desire for self-exaltation, was cast out of heaven (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14, 15). In his fall, he drew a third of the angels with him. This occurrence may be symbolized in Revelation 12:3, 4 where Satan is portrayed as "a great red dragon." "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth" (Rev. 12:4a). It is therefore reasonable to conclude these fallen angels became the demons often mentioned in the Scripture. They may also be referred to as seducing spirits and devils (I Tim. 4:1; James 2:19).

God has allowed Satan limited power on earth to reign as the prince of darkness. He goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8). Yet he is not omnipresent, as God is, and cannot be but in one place at a time. For this reason, he has his own army of evil workers to carry out his mission in opposing God and His kingdom. Satan and his ministers are incorporeal, that is, they are non-materialistic. They are spirit beings who are organized and engaged in a world-wide struggle against God and to seduce mankind to evil and ruin. We see the evidence of such evil forces in our world today. Of course Satan and his demons will ultimately be defeated and cast into the lake of fire (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:1-3).

Still, at this present, Satan under divinely imposed limitations may influence physical affliction, financial loss, tempt Christians to sin, snatch away the Word of God as it is sown in men's hearts (Matt. 13:19). Satan may also be responsible for sowing counterfeit Christians among God's churches, as in the parable of the tares sown among the wheat. He

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GOD'S UNLIMITED SUPPLY

By Waldo Whiddon, Orlando, Florida

"And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah" (I Kings 17:8-16).

Many times Jesus rebuked His disciples for their lack of faith. Upon one occasion He said to them "...Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm" (Matthew 8:26). I am sure all of us could be much happier, and more prosperous in the Lord's work if we would depend upon the Lord to supply our needs, and trust Him to take care of us.

There are five points I would like to share with you at this time.

(1) The Lord saves to the uttermost; (2) The Lord stands behind His Word; (3) The Lord gives peace beyond measure; (4) The Lord provides security that satisfies; (5) The Lord turns despair into joy.

I. The Lord saves to the uttermost. We find a wonderful picture here of God's great salvation. We need to remember the words: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). Beloved reader, God's salvation is complete. It is sufficient in Christ Jesus our wonderful Saviour. He said to the woman at the well "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life" (John 4:14). What God starts, beloved, He is able to finish. He is able to save every sinner that will come to Him in godly sorrow, repentance, and faith. Trusting in Him for complete salvation. Yes, it will be complete, as He saves to the uttermost. In His unlimited supply, He does it all.

II. The Lord stands behind His Word. As God told Elijah to go there and drink of the brook and depend upon the raven to feed him (I Kings 17:4), he had other things in mind. He had a widow woman all prepared and ready to take care of him. Oh, that unlimited supply. So when Elijah went and found the woman he said to her "...Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink, and a morsel of bread that I may eat" (I Kings 17:10-11). He found that what God told him was so very true. Beloved we find the same today! God is able, and will stand behind His Word. God's Word is like an anvil! The devil can't destroy it. And God does mean what He says. "But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is

preached unto you" (I Peter 1:25). Beloved, God never lies to us! He is truth! "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Yes, beloved reader, God does stand behind His precious, everlasting Word.

III. The Lord gives peace beyond measure. When Elijah asked the widow woman to bring him a piece of bread, the widow woman began to make excuses that she had only a little meal, and a little oil, and rightfully so. Elijah said to her "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said; but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son." What Elijah is telling her here is not to be afraid rather trust in the Lord, trust Him at His Word. Beloved, when we place our faith and trust in the Lord and in His Word, we can and do have peace. Jesus said to His disciples before He left them "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). This is the legacy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He will and does give peace beyond measure.

IV. The Lord provides security that satisfies. Our text says "...The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth" (I Kings 17:14). Here, beloved, is real security. God does the keeping. God satisfies those who look to Him with faith and a hungry heart. There is refuge from the storms of life, from the fears of doubt, because our refuge is the eternal God, the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour, and praise the Lord our keeper. Yes, beloved reader, God gives security that satisfies to the fullest extent.

V. The Lord turns despair into joy. We find in verse fifteen of our text, "And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house did eat many days."

When we really put God to the test, He always comes through because His supply is unlimited. Beloved, when we believe Him and walk by faith in Him, living by His Word, we can and will have great joy. The Lord told us about these things in no uncertain terms. "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11). Again the apostle John tells us: "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (I John 1:4). So if we take God at His precious Word, live by faith, believing what He tells us, trusting in Him, our joy can be full. There is no reason to despair or be afraid, no reason to doubt, trust the Lord, and find that His supply is in fact, truly unlimited.

In conclusion, dear reader, let me say if you have never received our Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of your life then look with me again at verse sixteen of our text: "And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah." Beloved reader, God is still speaking today. Won't you trust Him as Lord and Saviour today? Trust Him today, ask Him to come into your heart as you trust Him by faith. Ask Him to forgive your sins, saving your soul. If you will only repent and believe Him, take Him at His Word, and receive Him, He will save you to the uttermost and lead you in a life that will glorify the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, it was Christ who paid our way to Calvary. He is ever calling, and His blessings are unlimited. He paid it all. Trust Him for life everlasting as He is able to deliver. Amen.

Character is not a single quality but a three-dimensional achievement built on the foundation of decision, direction, and dedication.

TONGUE

(Continued from Page 3)

nothing in ourselves, but we can be all things in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

5. Hatred and anger (Prov. 10:12a, 18; 15:18; 19:11)

This is a subject that is vital in today's society and can't be talked about and taught about too often for there are such tensions in the world today that it sets off anger everywhere. These tensions reach into the home and children are constantly being exposed to angry parents hurling angry words back and forth.

These children drink in impressions for their adult life as they are yelled at, corrected in anger, thrashed in a rage as parents take out their tensions and frustrations on anyone who is within reach.

Homes today are filled with the clamorous noises of anger and the step from anger to hate is so small as to be practically unnecessary.

Christians today should above all things be seeking to walk in His footsteps, that is, in love and service. He has told us that if we love Him we'll keep His commandments. What are His commandments? We are to love God and love our neighbor as our self. But we are not to love our neighbor and forget our wife, children, father, mother, and all those who live closest to us, for love, we are told, will cover a multitude of sins.

"I find in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content." This would not mean so much were it not for the fact that it was uttered by a man who was unfairly treated, unjustly jailed, and finally was a victim to the executioner's axe.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION THIS YEAR??

RICH FOOL

(Continued from Page 1)

ing to James 1:17, is the giver of every good and perfect gift. This fact means that each of us are recipients of the gifts of God.

Our text informs us that the man who had been the recipient of God's abundance "thought within himself." The acts of our hands and feet are greatly restricted, but our minds have wings that can take us to far away places and enable us to see marvelous things. We, by way of our minds, can visit Florida and other vacation resorts. One, by way of his or her mind, can be a champion in almost any sport.

The rich man in our text also "thought within himself." His thinking, however, was all directed towards himself so that only his own selfish interests were involved. He did not bring into his thinking process the fact that God had been behind his great abundance. He ignored the fact that God's rain and sunshine had been perfectly distributed so as to bring about his abundant harvest. His thought process did not prompt him to say, "Blessed be the name of God, from whose hand comes all wealth" or "What shall I render unto the Lord for his benefits to me?"

The rich man, by way of his abundant harvest, had been sitting at God's table—God's table on which the abundant harvest had been laid. The man, however, did not even stop to consider that One who had provided his abundance. He did not even say "thanks." His reaction was that he would "pull down" his barns and build larger ones in order to have a place to deposit his abundance. The man, in other words, planned to hoard his abundance rather than to share it with those who were less fortunate.

We must not think that it was wrong for the man to have obtained wealth. His wealth was not the problem, even though it became a problem to him. His wealth, if it had been used properly, could have been a great blessing to him. He, in other words, could have been God's channel in helping the widow and her hungry children and in aiding those who were preaching the good news relative to the Word of God.

The rich man failed to realize that his life, as Jesus said, did not consist in the abundance of the things which he possessed. Jesus, after all, made us and therefore knows of what our life should consist. We may say, then, based upon the words of our Lord, that wealth, if not properly used, can ruin a person's life. It, in some cases, can be worse than a fatal disease. It was so with the man in the text before us and it was also true of the rich man who ignored the needs of Lazarus.

You and I should take a lesson from the case of the rich man in our text—the lesson being that the tomorrow we are looking and planning for may never come. There have been billions of people who have found such to be true. Let us, in fact, hear that which God has to say regarding our tomorrow.

"Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:13-17).

Let us now observe what the cares of the rich man were. His cares, in fact, centered around the fact that his barns would not hold the abundance which God had given him. His barns had been sufficient for previous years and would, no doubt, be sufficient for next year's crop. It was therefore his present harvest that concerned him. His concern prompted him to say: "What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits."

The poorest beggar in the world could not have said "What shall I do" in a more perplexing manner. We are to understand, then, that riches, to some people, bring on frustration just as poverty does to the poor. The frustration of the rich centers around the manner that they should save and spend. They become greatly concerned relative to thieves and places where they can safely deposit their wealth.

The rich man, who had received his abundance from God's table of blessings, erred greatly by

calling his blessings, "my" fruits and "my" goods. He failed to consider the fact that he was only a steward of God's fruits and God's goods. We, too, fall into the ditch with the rich fool if we fail to consider that we are stewards of those things that God has given to us.

The man in the text before us would have done himself a favor if he had given his abundance to the less fortunate. It, after all, would cost him a lot more to store his abundance than to have given it away. It, after all, costs a lot of money to build barns. It also requires a lot of time and trouble to build a barn. He should also have considered the fact that larger barns would only be a larger plate from which to serve the mice, rats, and thieves. There, of course, was always the possibility of a fire which would consume his abundance in a very short period of time.

The man, in his thought process, said **"And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry"** (Luke 12:19).

Our Lord, in Luke 12:15, had said **"...A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."** The man, however, in our text, did not believe that our Lord knew what He was talking about. The man, in other words, believed that a man's life did consist in the things which he possessed.

It is to be noted that the man placed his comfort in his abundance even though he, at that point, had not yet entered into his comfort. He did not know that aside from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no certainty for the future. He did not know from where he was sitting that a hurricane or tornado would not blow his abundance into oblivion.

We may also say that the man was a fool for counting on certain ease due to his abundance. Did he not know that there are numerous diseases which an abundance cannot cure? Did he not know that a mattress filled with one thousand dollar bills would be a miserable place to lay on if a loved one had just been taken.

The man was also a fool for saying what he did to his soul. It would have been a less weighty matter if he had said such to his physical body. The soul, however, is an immortal spirit and is never interested in a barn full of corn or a bank full of money.

Let us now weigh well that which God said to the man in our text. Let us also keep in mind that it is by way of the judgment of God that we either stand or fall.

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:20).

Keep in mind that up to this point, the man had only been making plans. He had not as yet acted upon any of his plans. We are to understand, then, that God judged him based upon that which he had intended to do and not upon that which he had done. There has been a popular song around since about 1948 which relates to "Standing on the corner watching all the girls go by." The song emphasizes that "you can't go to jail for what you're thinking." The songwriter, of course, does not even acknowledge that God exists. The songwriter, by way of his song, encourages people to do their thing. He says, in essence, "If it feels good, do it."

The rich fool, in a sense of speaking, looked into the future and planned for a trip, or perhaps many trips to Florida. His plans included luxurious hotels where he would eat, drink, and be merry. His neighbors, no doubt, envied him and wished that they could walk in his shoes. They, no doubt, spoke of him as an excellent manager and one who "had the world by the tail." The rich man, no doubt, had the utmost respect from all who knew him. God, however, saw him only as a fool, and it is by the judgment of God that we either stand or fall.

The rich man had completely ignored that which Jesus said in the following passages of Scripture. **"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"** (Matthew 6:19-21).

The Lord Jesus, in verse 21, proceeds to say: **"And so is he that layeth up treasure for himself...."** We may say, then, that there are multiplied millions of people who fall under God's category of "fools." They are fools because they, through the Lord Jesus Christ, have not opened up

a bank account in heaven. All the banks in which their wealth is invested are run by such men as Marvin Warner, who stole the wealth of those who trusted in him.

God said to the rich fool: **"...This night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"** (Luke 12:20).

Conway Twitty, who I hope was not a rich fool, left multiplied millions that are now being fought over by his children and their step mother. Conway did not take one cent of his wealth to the grave with him. I hope that he, through the Lord Jesus Christ, had opened a bank account in heaven. He, of course, is bankrupt in the worst way if the righteousness of Christ had not been imputed to him.

We may say that poverty is bad, but riches have destroyed many more souls than has poverty. This is because covetous people live only for themselves. They, in a sense of speaking, build a very high wall around themselves. It is a wall that seeks to block out God and man. The person's life becomes life unto the Dead Sea in that nothing flows out, but only in, that is, nothing is given to God or men. The result will be that many millionaires in this life will be beggars in the next world.

Let's now observe the surprise
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THAT YOUR FAITH AND HOPE MIGHT BE IN GOD

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

I Peter 1:18-21 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."

In the above verses, we find one of the reasons why God worked greatly in the life of Christ. God wanted us to place our faith and hope in Him.

The preceding context reveals to us three of the ways that God worked in the life of Christ: (1) God foreordained Christ's earthly ministry from eternity past, (2) God raised Christ from the dead, (3) God gave Christ glory. All these were done so that we might have faith and hope in Him.

Oh, how important faith and hope must be! For God to send His Son to a death on the cross, then to resurrect Him, and grant Him glory, all so that we might have faith and hope in Him!

To begin our study, let us study the Biblical definition for faith: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Faith is defined as (1) "the substance (assurance, essence, confidence) of things hoped for"; (2) "the evidence (proof) of things not seen"—FAITH IS THE ORIGIN OF OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE RECEIPT OF FUTURE BLESSINGS FROM GOD.

There are many promises God makes to us that we have yet to receive. Faith allows us to be assured we will receive the promises of God.

Hope is defined as "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Romans 8:24-25). Hope is always exercised in those things which are promised by God and are not yet received. HOPE IS THE CONFIDENCE

WE HAVE THAT WE WILL RECEIVE THE PROMISED BLESSINGS OF GOD.

If we combine the above definitions for faith and hope we can easily see that faith is the foundation of our hope. Hope (the assurance of future receipt of promises) can only be exercised when we have faith (reliance and trust upon God). IF GOD CANNOT BE TRUSTED WE HAVE NO REASON FOR HOPE. It is only because God is trustworthy and faithful that we can have hope in our future.

Let us look at several verses that link "faith" with "hope." In each, we will see that hope springs from faith. Hope is the fruit borne during our walk of faith.

Acts 24:14-15 "But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust." Paul, here, is linking his faith with his hope of a future resurrection. Paul is clear in saying the foundation of his hope in the coming resurrection is rooted in his faith in God's Word. As Paul exercised faith in the Word of God (he trusted or relied upon it as being true), he began to have hope that the resurrection of the dead would take place (he began to be confident or expect certainly the coming resurrection). If Paul had not trusted in the Word, there would be no reason for him to hope in the coming resurrection.

Romans 15:13 "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Once again we have a clear declaration from the Holy Scriptures that FAITH BRINGS ABOUT HOPE IN OUR LIVES. Note what Paul is saying in our verse. Paul is desiring for God to work in a certain way in the Roman saints' lives. He is desiring for God: (1) to fill them with joy, found in believing (faith); (2) to fill them with peace, found in believing (faith). Once through belief they receive joy and peace they will then be overflowing with

hope. Why? because the faith they exercise, along with the joy and peace they have will naturally result in hope. Note the phrase "that ye may abound in hope" this is teaching us that one reason why the Lord grants faith (belief) is so that we might abound in hope.

Galatians 5:5 "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." How can we be patiently confident of the righteousness to come? "By faith."

II Corinthians 10:15 "Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly." When do we begin to have hope in new areas of our life? Only when our faith is increased.

Colossians 1:23 "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister." How can we have "the hope of the gospel"? Only by continuing to be grounded and settled, by faith, in the message we've heard.

Romans 5:1-5 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

What are the results of faith in our lives? (1) Justification; (2) Peace with God; (3) Access into the state of grace; (4) Rejoicing (due to hope of future glory with God); (5) Glorifying in tribulations. How can we glory in times of trouble and oppression? We know the results of that tribulation. We gain in patience, experience and hope. All of which are given to us by grace through the ministry of the Spirit in us.

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A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman

Midwives and Nurses (Part 2)

Deborah (Rebekah's Nurse) - (Genesis 24:59, 35:8) - Deborah moved, with Rebekah, from Mesopotamia (city of Nahor) to the land of Canaan, when Rebekah married Isaac. The Hebrew word for nurse, used to describe Deborah's relationship to Rebekah, means "to suck, to give milk." Deborah's tenderness in her care for Rebekah must have been much like that of a mother toward her sucking infant. It is also quite possible that Deborah had cared for Rebekah from the time that Rebekah was just an infant. Now, we find Jacob travelling, with his family, from Mesopotamia, and Deborah is with them. The nurse who had so faithfully looked after the needs of Jacob's own dear mother was now looking after and caring for the needs of his family, which included Rachel, Leah, Bilhah, Zilpah, and all of their children. Apparently, Deborah had served this family for at least two generations. Deborah never finished this journey, for she died and was buried in Bethel, under an oak tree. The name of Deborah's burial place was called Allonbachuth meaning "oak of weeping." Her death was a cause of great sorrow and mourning for Jacob and his family.

Mephibosheth's Nurse - (II Samuel 4:4) - Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan, the oldest son of Saul, king of Israel. After hearing that Saul and Jonathan had died, at the hand of the Philistines, this nurse attempted to carry Mephibosheth, who was five years old, to safety. She feared that the Philistines would continue their attack upon the rest of Saul's family. Fleeing in such haste, the child fell, injuring both of his feet, crippling him for the rest of his life. This little portion of Scripture gives us the human explanation for David receiving the kingdom. Saul and Jonathan both being dead, Mephibosheth was next in line, but was physically unable to reign as king, and Saul's only other remaining son, Ishbosheth, was murdered. The people recognized David as a great leader, made him their king,

and pledged all their loyalties and allegiance to him. Our Lord used these set of circumstances, taking the kingdom from Saul's family, giving the kingdom to the family of a little harp playing shepherd boy (Prov. 8:15-16; Dan. 2:21, 4:17).

The Nurse of Little Prince Joash - (II Kings 11:2-3; II Chron. 22:11-12) - The wicked Athaliah reigned, as queen, over the Southern Kingdom of Israel (Judah) for six years. But then something, which she had not counted on, took place. One grandson had escaped being brutally murdered at the hands of his own grandmother. Athaliah believed all of her son's children, and heirs to the throne, to be dead. Little prince Joash, Athaliah's only surviving grandson, had been hidden, by his aunt Jehosheba, who was married to Jehoiada the priest. They had hidden prince Joash and his nurse in a little bedroom in the temple. There they lived for six years. At the end of the six years, Joash was made king and his wicked grandmother, Athaliah, was chased out of the temple and murdered. The nurse to this little prince was used to protect Christ's legal right to the throne, for through Joash, was born "Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ" (I Chron. 3:10-24; Matt. 1:1-16).

A barber was eager to extend his Christian witness. While sharpening his razor on a razor strap,

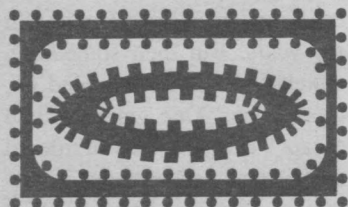


he blurted out to his customer, "Sir, are you prepared to die?"

BIBLE STUDY

(Continued from Page 3)

ungodly. (4) We learn from this that God is to be trusted under all circumstances. God was able to provide in spite of the famine. Also that God is faithful, God had not forgotten His promise to Abraham, neither does He forget His promises to any of His children. We are also taught the lesson of truth. We as children of God must ever be straight forward in all our dealings. Lying and deceit only brings more trouble as in the case of Abraham. Two things are taught here—trust in God and ever be truthful in all our dealings.



FORUM

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WHITT

blinds the eyes of many to the Gospel causing them to believe a lie. "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" (II Corinthians 4:3, 4).

While it is possible that certain of mankind may be demon-possessed, I do not believe this to be true with those who are saved, because Christ dwells in the souls of all His blood bought possessions. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

We are reminded of the words in James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Note well the first portion of this verse says: "Submit yourselves therefore to God." This is an absolute necessity before we can resist the devil and make him flee from us. Yet most people reverse the order of this command by submitting to the devil and resisting God.

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RICH FOOL

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and anguish that the rich fool must have experienced when it was told him that he must die and leave all of his possessions. The rich man, when it was told him that he must die that night, may have said, "I'm not ready to die. I'm just beginning to enjoy life. I'm just beginning to drink deeply of the pleasures of this world." God, however, said to him "This night thy soul shall be required of thee."

Death, to a lost person, is a very tragic event. It is a terrible night of fear and anguish. Death, however, to the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, is a doorway into a glorious and celestial day. It will be a time when we can say good night here and good morning up there.

Let us now note what the God who made us and maintains us has to say to each of us relative to that which has been before us.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

FAITH & HOPE

(Continued from Page 7)

Based on the above our faith results in hope in two ways. First, our faith gives us hope in future glory; secondly, our faith allows us to be faithful in times of trials which results in increased hope. Do we find ourselves lacking in hope for the future? Our need is to absorb God's Word and exercise faith in its teachings. This will bring about hope in our lives. The more we study and place our trust in His Word the more our hope in His promises will grow.

I Corinthians 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." Even today, the gifts of God are still being given. Many of God's gifts have ceased (tongues, supernatural prophesy, etc.) but faith, hope and charity continue on. Why is charity the greatest? Both faith and hope involve our trust and confident expectation in things yet unseen. When we enter eternity no longer will we need either faith nor hope, for all will be seen and experienced. FAITH AND HOPE ARE VERY IMPORTANT GIFTS THAT ARE GIVEN FOR OUR USE NOW! May we all seek the Lord's grace so "that your faith and hope might be in God."

"A real Christian is an odd number. He feels supreme love for one whom he has never seen. He talks familiarly everyday to someone he cannot see, expects to go to heaven on the virtue of another, empties himself in order that he might be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up. He is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passeth knowledge."

A.W. Tozer

WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

(An Outline of Acts 2:41-47)

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

I. IT IS NOT SALVATION, IT IS ONE'S FRUIT (PROOF) OF SALVATION

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

II. IT IS A COMMITMENT TO UNIFY WITH THE SAINTS TO GLORIFY CHRIST

"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people" (Acts 2:44-47).

WE ARE COMMITTED TO GLORIFY CHRIST BY: (Acts 2)

1. OBSERVING HIS ORDINANCES:

- 41 - Then they that gladly received his word were baptized
- 42 - in breaking of bread
- 46 - breaking bread from house to house

46 - and did eat their meat with gladness

2. CONSISTENCY IN LIVING:

- 42 - they continued steadfastly
- 46 - And they, continuing daily
- 47 - having favour with all the people

3. RECEIVING HIS TEACHING:

- 41 - in the apostles' doctrine

4. HAVING UNITY AND FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER:

- 42 - fellowship
- 44 - all that believed were together, and had all things common

- 46 - with one accord in the temple

- 47 - singleness of heart

5. WORSHIPPING HIM:

- 42 - in prayers
- 47 - praising God

6. SACRIFICING FOR EACH OTHER:

- 45 - And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need

7. PUBLICLY TESTIFYING OF CHRIST:

- 43 - And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

REALIZE THE GOODNESS OF GOD'S BLESSINGS THIS YEAR

SOILED GARMENTS

A young woman who was defending her continual attendance at some doubtful places of amusement once said, "I think a Christian can go anywhere." "Certainly she can," rejoined her friend, "but I am reminded of a little incident which happened last summer when I went with a party of friends to explore a coal mine. One of the young women appeared dressed in a dainty white gown. When her friends remonstrated with her she appealed to the old miner who was to act as guide to the party.

"Can't I wear a white dress down into the mine?" she asked petulantly.

"Yes, mum," replied the old man, "there's nothing to keep you from wearing a white frock down there, but there will be considerable to keep you from wearing one back."

--The Christian Herald--

