"... Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty"--2 Corinthians 3:17

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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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CAN GOD BE FEMALE?

By Ray Waugh, Sr., Midland, Texas



Often, we hear today that some of those who are deemed to be religious are praying to what they call their "Father/Mother" God or their "Mother/Father" God. Some years ago, two of the more prominent leaders once came out rather clearly and distinctly in an underground paper about their attitude toward God. Their words were, "Yeah, we know that God is a chick!" About that same time, some others were saying, "when I find myself in trouble, Mother Mary comes to me." Such thinking, of course, has been going on for years. Once, it was the "Beatles" mocking Christ Jesus. More recently, other have become even more violent than these, and they express themselves in the blasphemy that is called "Rock," "Hard Rock," "Pop," or sometimes even "Punk."

All such may be deemed by some to be religious, but we can know that it is violently anti-Christ! The godlessness of these denizens of the darkness are making their presence known and felt especially in what has come to be known as "The Women's Lib" movement, and many of these are literally worshipping at the many shrines of "Sophia." It is no marvel, then, that one has spoken of this thinking as, "The sisterhood of frustrated togetherness" and that they insist on being "anti-family, antichildren, pro-abortion" and that they "view home as a prison and

the mother [therein] as a slave." One group of "Women's Libbers" who have come out of the closet, as they say, have been inquiring rhetorically, "Is God a Woman?" In a mixed assembly some time ago a "seminar discussion" was entitled "Is God He?" In this discussion, there was a priest, a Protestant clergyman, a professor, a theologian, a nun, and an exnun who is a confessed "feminist." Another even claims membership in "The Joan of Arc International Alliance" and she insists on continuing as a Roman Catholic because she believes that "Jesus was a feminist.'

It was reported that these conferees came to the conclusion that "It is not God who is sexist, but the societies which produce the Scriptures and the religious machinery of the time." Whether Catholic or Episcopal, Jew or Gentile, Protestant or just plain "Women's Libber" they seem to be agreed that the Bible is not God's Holy Word.

The Seed

In contrast to all such human reasoning, however, we can know that God's Holy Word, the Bible,

is absolute regarding "Father" and "Son." These enemies of all that is holy and good would have us to suppose that Jesus is somehow "bisexual." Let it ever be noted, nonetheless, that God's references to sexual differences are never confused or confusing. From the book of Genesis through the book of Revelation, "Adam" is always called "man" and "Eve" is always called "woman." Throughout His Holy Word, the Bible, God specifies very clear and very distinct differences and responsibilities for men and women.

In God's prophecy concerning His Son, we hear, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15). There certainly is no question here about the seed of the woman being man! Further, when God made His plans for the coming of His Son into human flesh via the incarnation, we note that He chose a woman. God chose a woman who could and who would bring another life into the world.

(Continued on Page 6)

THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

By Pastor David Mitchell, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Charleston, West Virginia

"And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her. Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise" (Luke 7:13-14).

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd" (Matt. 9:36).

Luke's account of the raising of the widow's son is replete with verbs. I love the verbs in this passage—they are work horses, they describe action. Verbs are in the trenches unafraid to break a sweat or get their clothes dirty. They are love in work clothes. Gerry Craig well taught us to pray "Make me a verb, Lord, make me a strong verb." If Biblical love is to become a reality in our lives, we will have to become involved in personal ministries in people's lives. Jesus did, and the example of His love and compassion for people is a strong motivation for us to reach out to those who are spiritually bankrupt, emotionally shattered, duped and defeated by Satan, and groping in intellectual and spiritual blindness.

I. The Compassion of Christ Described

Luke tells us of a funeral procession coming out of Nain on the way to the cemetery. A widow was burying her only son. For her, in that day, this was the most tragic thing that could happen. She was left alone in the world with no provider and no one to care. When the Lord saw her, "He had compas-



sion on her." This is an enormously powerful word which Luke uses. Matthew uses the very same word to describe what happened within the Master when He saw the multitudes. Douglas McLachlan wrote, "The word that is thus translated in the New Testament documents is so powerful that it approximates the moral equivalent of a physical cardiac arrest." G. Campbell Morgan said of the term that Jesus was "moved to the agony of the physical by the pain of the spiritual." How long has it been since we felt intensely the needs of

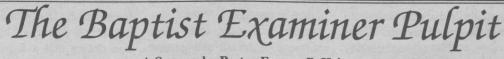
No other thing so clearly explains our lack of fervent soul winning as does our lack of compassion and passion to be like our Saviour. W.A. Criswell has said, "It is the lack of compassion that chills our hearts, that freezes our services, that renders fruitless our hands of appeal, that turns our spiritual heavens to brass, and our earth to iron. It is the lack of compassion, the life without heart and feeling and sympathy and intercession that explains our unspoken testimonies, our unwept tears, our unopened Bibles, our unprayed prayers, our unburdened hearts, and our unsought lost. Oh, that we might have the spirit to care, the compassion of Jesus for the people."

II. The Characteristics of Biblical Love Demonstrated

Someone has well said that love is something you do. In simplest terms, love possesses four great qualities.

It sees. Jesus paid attention to the condition and needs of people about Him. He saw the agony of this widow's heart. He looked with spiritual vision upon the multitudes and saw them as fainting, scattered, and with no shepherd to love them and to lead them. Luke 4:18 gives us insight into how He

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A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

TOUCHED BY THE MASTER'S HAND

"When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed" (Matthew 8:1-3).



Let me begin by saying that I certainly do not believe in faith healers, however, let me also say that I certainly do believe in Divine healing. In fact, I believe that all healing is divine in its origin. From the common cold to the dreaded cancer; when healing takes place, it does so by the will of God.

Three times in my life I have

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER Eugene P. Helton Editor

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TOUCHED

(Continued from Page 1)

been diagnosed as having a very serious disease. Each diagnosis was made after very diligent and sophisticated medical testing. Each diagnosis was confirmed several times by further medical testing. In each instance, there was no doubt that there was within my body a very serious medical problem. I want to tell you about each of these health problems and why I believe that I was TOUCHED BY THE MASTER'S HAND.

The first of the three health problems surfaced in October 1975. I received a very thorough physical exam at the Grissom Air Force Base Hospital in Indiana. The

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APRIL 1, 1995
PAGE TWO

Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST! Since our last writing, we at Calvary Baptist Church have been blessed by another great message by a visiting preacher. On Sunday morning, January 22, Brother Jon Rule, Pastor of the Zion Baptist Church in Taylor, Michigan, preached for us. His message was entitled: "The Two Draughts of Fishes." Jon's message was very edifying and encouraging.

Those of you who have been readers of The Baptist Examiner for a number of years have no doubt noticed that in the past year we have added several new writers. We are also once again publishing some writers who once contributed, but haven't done so for several years. We receive many manuscripts each month. It seems that many folks desire to have their material published in The Baptist Examiner. Since we now publish The Baptist Examiner only once each month, many manuscripts must be placed in file to await the time when need and available space come together. Do not get discouraged and cease submitting your articles because they do not appear in print right away. We want and need your contribution of good doctrinally sound material.

Until the next time, may our Lord bless you as you serve Him!

physical exam was from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet and back again. I was due to retire from the U.S. Air Force on September 1, 1976, and I was given this extensive physical exam, by regulation, to clear me for retirement.

One of the medical lab tests administered to me at that time was a glucose tolerance test. This is a test to detect diabetes. A few days after the exam, someone from the hospital called to tell me my test indicated that I had onset maturity diabetes. I was asked to return to the hospital for further testing to confirm the diagnosis. The glucose tolerance test was once again part of the examination process. The results were the same and the diagnosis was confirmed. I had onset maturity diabetes and would have it the rest of my life. I was placed on a 1,000 calories per day diet. After six weeks, my body weight had decreased by thirty-six pounds, however, I still had onset maturity diabetes. I retired from the U.S. Air Force on September 1, 1976, and my official retirement physical exampapers indicated that I had onset maturity diabetes.

Approximately one year after my retirement, it was time to have my diabetes re-evaluated. I arranged to see a physician in Lexington, Kentucky for testing and consultation. After testing, the physician informed me that I did not have diabetes. Diabetes does

not just go away. What happened to change a condition that had been diagnosed and confirmed by reliable medical testing? Some folks would be willing to offer an explanation, but I have one that I am very comfortable with. I believe that I was TOUCHED BY THE MASTER'S HAND.

The second of the three health problems surfaced in February 1986. After seeing a physician at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Hospital in Ohio, I was asked to take a stress test. I consented to do so. Twelve minutes into the test, the doctor ordered that the test cease. After a short period of time, the doctor informed me that the stress test and the accompanying EKG indicated that I had heart disease. I was given nitroglycerin to take as needed.

Some time later, after some shortness of breath and general chest discomfort, I was hospitalized in intensive care at the Smith Clinic in Marion, Ohio. I was there for three days. I was informed that I had not had a heart attack at that time, however, it appeared that I may have had one sometime in the past. I was asked to undergo a heart catherization. After viewing a video of the procedure, I declined. I was put on the heart medication, cardizem, which I took for several years.

After some time had passed I was directed to take a second stress test. The results were the same as

the first time only worse. The doctor terminated the test after ten minutes. Somewhere in this time frame my heart medication was increased.

After some more time had passed, I was asked to take a third stress test. This time the monitor, showing the condition of the heart, revealed a great amount of heart irregularity eight minutes into the test. The doctor quickly concluded that test and several medical people ministered to me for some time. This third stress test revealed a decreasing capability of my heart to take physical stress.

After a while, I finally yielded and consented to undergo a heart catherization. In December 1991, I entered the hospital at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. I was there for three days. I had the heart cath. Several hours after the test, the doctor came to my room with wonderful news. He informed me that my heart was functioning in a normal fashion. Extensive and reliable testing had indicated a very severe problem. What caused the problem to disappear? Again I believe that I was TOUCHED BY THE MASTER'S HAND.

The third of the three health problems came to light in January 1991. I was given an Upper G.I. Series at the Wright-Patterson AFB hospital. I remember the day so very well. It was the day after our planes had bombed Baghdad, Iraq. Since the hospital is an Air Force facility, there was a lot of excitement over the previous days activities in the Gulf War.

Later, I was directed to return to the hospital for consultation. At that time, I read the radiology report, in which the suggestion of a possible malignancy was mentioned several times. I was then directed to undergo an endoscopy (EGD). This is a procedure where a tube with a light and a camera is inserted down the throat and into the stomach. In my case this procedure was performed by a Christian doctor and a Baptist. The procedure also involved the taking of some tissue for a biopsy. Several days after the procedure, I was called by the doctor and was told that I had Barrett's Esophagus. I was told that it doesn't go away and sometimes will become malignant. My medication, Tagamet, was increased and I was directed to have an endoscopy annually. I was given a series of four photographs, in vivid color and taken from the inside, of my esophagus area. Two were of ulcers which had healed. Another was of a hiatal hernia. The fourth was a clear picture of Barrett's Esophagus. It was there in the photograph for anyone to see.

A little less than a year later the endoscopy was performed again. The results were the same. Retired Master Sergeant Helton has Barrett's Esophagus. Again I was given instructions to have the endoscopy after another year.

Another year passed and once again the tube was placed in my mouth, inserted through my throat and into my stomach. For the third time, the doctor looked at my esophagus area from the inside out. And for the third time the result was the same. This man has Barrett's Esophagus. After an Upper G.I. Series and three endoscopies, there was absolutely no doubt, I had Barrett's Esophagus.

On January 26, 1995, I was scheduled for my fourth endoscopy. I was somewhat anxious because I had gone almost twentytwo months without the procedure being performed. I was expecting the doctor to tell me the condition had worsened. That wasn't what the doctor told me. As I was coming to myself in the recovery room, the doctor came to me and said: "I'm not sure you have Barrett's Esophagus at all." Although there are still some minor problems, the Barrett's seemingly had disappeared. What happened to it? I'm sure the medical people have an explanation. I too have an explanation. Once again, I was TOUCHED BY THE MASTER'S HAND.

Many years ago, in the years 1965 and 1966, I was serving with the U.S. Air Force in South Vietnam. This was long before I was called to preach. I was not involved in combat, however, on three different occasions, I found myself in situations where I thought "this may be the time when I'm to leave this world." It was not the time. Why, because God had something for me to do. He was watching over me. The One who had saved my soul was saving my life so that I could serve Him.

Dear Christian friends, I believe with all my heart that God has preserved my life and given to me a quality life because He had long ago ordained me to serve Him. I know that I am one of His anointed. If faithfulness to the Lord could be rated on a percentage basis, with 100% being perfect faithfulness, my score would no doubt be less than 10%. In my life, God has blessed my feeble efforts to serve Him. Just a little bit of faithfulness on my part has brought great bless-

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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

God's Covenant with Abraham Genesis 15:7-21

In response to Abraham's faith (v. 6) God makes a covenant with him assuring him of the certainty of the Divine promises and at the same time revealing to him more of what the promise will mean to him and his seed. There are several things we need to study concerning this covenant. The basis or the foundation of the covenant. "I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it." The meaning of Lord is Jehovah, "I am Jehovah", the unchanging and unchangeable One in the One Who is over all.

Abraham is then reminded of what Jehovah had already done for him "That brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees." Abraham had already been redeemed and this fact was to be a basis on which God was to deal with him in the future. Next God declared His Divine purpose "to give thee this land to inherit it." Once again God assures Abraham of His purpose in bringing him from his home to this land.

Abraham's response, "Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?" (v. 8). This is not a statement of doubt but a request for knowledge. He wanted some viable sign of the assurance of this promise. Note he did not ask for a sign in order to believe, but it was after he had believed (v. 6) and on account of his belief. It was not lack of faith that he asked, but a desire to know how and When the promise would be fulfilled. The Lord's answer to Abraham's request was by means of a most remarkable ceremony

(vs. 9-11). "Take me an heifer" (v. 9). The idea behind this ceremony was to show that the covenant was by means of a sacrifice. This ceremony was a type of Christ's sacrifice for sin.

In verses 10-11 we see the faithfulness of Abraham in carrying out the commands of the Lord in the preparation of the sacrifice. He "took...divided...laid each piece...the birds divided he not" (v. 10). He did exactly as the Lord had commanded, carrying out to the letter what was required. This should ever be the attitude for all Christians.

Another feature in Abraham's attitude was his patience and his watchfulness while waiting for God's time. He kept watch over the carcasses and kept away the fowls of prey (v. 11). While Abraham was watching and waiting upon God "when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram" (v. 12). It was during this supernatural sleep that the Lord revealed to Abraham the message of the covenant. He is told of what his seed is to endure. They would be exiled in "a land not their own." They were in Egypt a total of four hundred and thirty years (Ex. 12:40), but they were not afflicted all that time.

At the end of that time Abraham's seed will witness a display of God's great power. The nation which caused the trouble would be punished and Abraham's seed will come out of the land with great substance (vs. 13-14).

As for Abraham he is to live in peace, and die "in a good old age" (v. 15). This is the first time that it was revealed to Abraham that he himself would not realize

personally the fullness of God's purpose. God leads us on step by step, not revealing all at once. As the Lord appeared unto Abraham, He revealed more and more of His plan for Abraham and his seed.

In verses 17-21, we find the making of the covenant. The smoking furnace and the burning lamp were symbolic of God's presence. "In that same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates" (v. 18). Note, "Unto thy seed have I given this land" contrast these words with Genesis 13:13 where it is said "all the land which thou see, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." But now a sacrifice has been offered. Blood has been shed, the purchase price had been paid, and now the change from "I will" to "have I given." Here for the first time the boundaries of the land are given. From what is the Nile river to the Euphrates river belongs to the seed of Abraham because God had given it to them. The nations of the world, the United States included, are now bringing pressure upon Israel to give up parts of the land which they now occupy, not realizing that all the land belongs to them. While Israel has never had full control of all the land, yet we can rest assured that there will come a time when they will. The covenant which was made by the unchangeable God with Abraham is absolutely unconditional and it will be fulfilled in God's own

It is important to note that this

covenant is not one of a mutual agreement on equal terms between two parties, but is a Divine promise assured and ratified by a sacrifice of blood. This covenant is one-sided, God promises, God gives, God assures "wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath" (Heb. 6:17).

What was Abraham's part in this covenant? It was simply to receive. God gives; Abraham takes. "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord" (Ps. 116:12, 13). What should be our attitude toward the covenant of grace? It should be one of deep gratitude. It should be one of complete trust. It should be one of thanksgiving, and one of faithful and loyal obedience.

Before leaving this chapter we need to note several expressions used here for the first time. They are: "The word of the Lord came" (v. 1), "Fear not" which along with its equivalent "be not afraid" is used more than 180 times in the Scripture, God is said to be a "shield." Here we find for the first time the word "believed", "counted" or reckoned, and "righteousness."

May we say with David "I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil" (Ps. 119:162).

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COMPASSION

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saw the lost multitude that day in Matthew. He saw them as bankrupt, brokenhearted, bound, blind, and bruised. Is that how we see sinners? These people are not our enemies—they are victims of our enemy. Sinners need our compassion. We need to see them through our Saviour's eyes.

It feels. Love feels very deeply. Such love can be costly and physically and emotionally draining. When we have no feelings for human needs, we will have no zeal to reach out in love. Too often those of us who believe and preach God's sovereign and electing grace tend to blame our lack of reaching people on their reaction to that truth. How often have I heard men say that if we preach the whole counsel of God we won't have very many people. That simply is not so. We use that as a convenient excuse to rationalize our unfruitfulness. I will never be convinced that God blesses error more than He does truth. If anyone says that, he does not really believe in sovereign grace at all. No, our problem is not our doctrine, it is our hearts. All we need to do is recall that our modern missionary movement was launched by men who were firmly committed, as was Paul, to enduring all things "for the elect's sakes that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (II Tim. 2:10). Biblical love has a heart for people—a heart for sinners of all kinds. Modern Pharisaism, like its New Testament counterpart, is what repels people. Christ had higher standards of morality and righteous than the Pharisees, yet sinners drew near to Him, sat at the table with Him, and washed His feet with their tears. Now the scribes and Pharisees "sat in Moses seat" (Matt. 23:2), and Jesus said that their teachings were not their problem-their problem was their conduct. And conduct outwardly is a true reflection of the inner condition of the heart. The great difference in how Jesus and the Pharisees related to sinners is not to be found in their doctrine as much as it is in their love. Jesus loved and received sinners and ate with them (Luke 15:2). The Pharisees had no heart at all for (Continued on Page 5)

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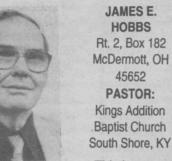
The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



Should Christians participate in chain letters and/or pyramid schemes?

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





This is a question that I know Chain letters and/or pyramid very little about. I hope the other schemes are games of chance members of the forum can anwhereby one takes a risk in order swer it for you better than I. The only thing I know about to gain some money or material gain. Therefore these schemes are gambling as the definition of

pyramid schemes is that there is one person at the top making a fortune off of multitudes of people at the bottom. I have been told many times that a person should not get involved with them, but as for the way that they work and what is the danger of them I do

As for chain letters, what few I have seen seem to involve luck. They say it is bad luck to break the chain. Christians do not believe in, nor rely on luck. We have a positive hope and future. Jesus said, "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). Again we read, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6, 7). "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:12, 13).

As God's people we know the One who holds the future. Luck has nothing to do with it. God controls all things. "And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the in-

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Washington St. No. 5 Delaware, OH 43015 PASTOR: Walnut Creek Missionary **Baptist Church** Delaware, OH

JOHN R

LENEGAR

126 N.



"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Ex. 23:2).

My answer to both endeavors is an emphatic "no." Chain letters have been around for some time. The phrase was coined in 1905 and many types of chain letters have been around the world since then. Usually the letters are sent out by one person to several, who in turn are to send out letters to several others and on and on it goes. Some letters ask a person to send money to a certain number of people who in turn do the same and through an elaborate Satanically devised scheme, money, good luck, or good fortune will soon come to the person who does as the letter instructs. If one breaks the chain, some letters warn, terrible disasters and even death often follow.

First, God's people live by faith, not by sight, superstition, or luck (II Cor. 5:7). Secondly, these letters are sinful for they use ungodly principles even though some purport to be Christian. Greed for gain, or fear of what might be lost, or happen govern these letters. The book of Romans reminds us that sin shall not have dominion over us. God provides all we have need of. Don't consider the Devil's devious of-

Much the same might be said for pyramid schemes which surface from time to time. I once had several people try for several hours to convince me to join one scheme that sold a product that made very dubious claims and whose profit was derived from the pyramid which recruited people. "Borrow money from friends, the bank, or anywhere you can to buy one of these mar-

(Continued on Page 8)

GEORGE R. SLEDD 920 Upsala Rd. Sanford, FL 32771 PASTOR: Jordan Missionary





Ashland, KY

I would presume the contributor here is speaking with regard to an easy and quick way to make money through involvement with someone or some organization who seeks individuals to invest in a plan (or scheme) that supposedly promises the participant greater returns as the program escalates or "snowballs." I must say that I am skeptical of such schemes. In fact, I personally know of people in my locality at this very time who have invested thousands of dollars into such a plan which promised so great a return for their money that it seemed too good to be true (and it was). The sad part of it all was that it began with a so-called church pastor in a southern state who sold his program to numerous other church pastors in many states. Many people, including some Christians, invested in the program thinking it must be alright because of its so-called Christian origin. A lot of people ended up losing their life's sav-

ings because the system failed. There are lots of legitimate ways to invest money without resorting to such as described above. I personally think it shows a lack of faith for a Christian to spend time searching for ways to make money. God has promised to supply all our needs. The problem often begins when Christians start thinking like the world and lose sight of God and what our goals and purposes really ought to be. We are told to "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thess. 5:22). I think this includes chain letters, pyramids, state lotteries, and the like. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God" (II Cor. 4:2). We must realize that we are stewards of our time, money and talents. God wants us to render a minute obedience in the matter of what we give our money and time to. Some things are both a waste of precious time as well as money. I will say this and I know it holds true. Any kind of enterprise that tells you that you can get rich with no effort, or hard work, is a con-game. I would include both chain letters and pyramid schemes. The idea of these activities is to invest your money and collect huge sums of money from the people you have never met who have paid into the scheme before you. Usually they promise that "thousands of people will send you a dollar in the mail, if you send the next person a dollar." If you get a letter like this, throw it away!

The pyramid scheme is not to be confused with "direct network marketing." Direct marketing involves purchasing products and services and then sponsoring others to build a business of purchasing products and sponsoring people in a business. This is more legitimate in that it involves goods and services along with time and effort to build a business. A pyramid scheme is usually just passing money down the line from one person to the other rather than having some product to market. A few people get rich in "pyramid schemes;" most everyone else loses money!

In any kind of business ven-(Continued on Page 8)

gambling is "to play games of chance for money or some other stake, to take a risk in order to obtain or gain some advantage." While the Bible does not give a direct command not to gamble, yet it does teach against gambling by teaching the standard by which the Christian is to live. The Christian is to live by faith. This means to trust in God. This rules out "chance," "luck," and "fate" upon which gambling is based. Greed and lust for money is a cause for one to gamble and we are told that "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Tim. 6:10). This verse said that the love of money was covetousness. There is much said in the Scripture about the evil of covetousness. Christ said "... Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's" (Ex. 20:17). "So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain..." (Prov. 1:19). "He that is greedy of gain trou-

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THREE TROUBLESOME TRANSLATIONS

By Dr. R.F. Hallford, Delano, Florida

Most Bible students, including even casual readers, are aware that the New Testament was written originally in the Greek language. Inasmuch as the majority of them do not read Greek, it was necessary for it to be translated into the language of the reader, in order for him to be able to read it intelligently.

It is generally known among those who are even fairly familiar with grammar that many, if not most, words have various, but not necessarily contradictory, meanings. Obviously, some of these possible renderings are clearer and more accurate than others.

Three Greek words in the New Testament, because of their not being translated according to their primary and clearer meaning, have probably caused more trouble than almost anything else in ecclesiastical circles through the centuries since the King James version of the Bible was made. They are:

I. ECCLESIA, which is translated "church."

This translation has left the door open to various interpretations as to what constitutes a church or the church, with all the implications which are an inevitable outgrowth of such interpretation as: the church composed of all believers in Christ, or all who have been baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, which simply confuses the church with the kingdom or family of God; a given denomination of professing believers in Christ; or any man-made religious institution which may see fit to call itself a

Really, the primary and clearest meaning of this word translated "church" is "a called out assembly" of believers in Christ, associated in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, as a group of baptized believers, dedicated to the edification of each other and the evangelization of the unsaved. Regardless of what people may or may not believe about what else may constitute a church, this sort of group is recognized and accepted as such. The uniform translation of "ecclesia" as "assembly" would have preserved this concept, and avoided the others.

II. BAPTIZO, which is translated "baptize."

Actually, this is not a translated but is a transliterated word. Students of grammar are aware that transliteration means picking a word up out of one language and transferring it over into another without translating it. Interestingly enough, only one letter, namely, the last one, is changed. The explanation for this situation is found in the already existing picture when King James I authorized this translation of the Bible, namely, the widespread practice of sprinkling and pouring for baptism, as practiced by the established church. To translate the word literally would have "stirred up a hornet's nest" among the influential clergy of that day!

Which, then, does the Greek word mean: "sprinkle," "pour," or "immerse"? Obviously, it cannot mean all three because they are so contradictory.

As all Greek students, and especially scholars, know, the clear, and indisputable meaning of "baptizo" is "immerse." To contradict or deny this is to discredit or deny one's scholarship. Baptism by immersion is recognized by practically everybody as baptism, whereas baptism by some other method is both questioned

and denied by multitudes. If the Greek word had been translated uniformly "immerse" that would have prevented most of the baptismal heresies of the ages.

III. GLOSSA, which is translated "tongue."

This translation has opened the door to numerous ideas and excesses as: "ecstatic utterances"; "meaningless jargon"; and the claim of being able to speak a "mysterious heavenly language" which is regarded by many as the sole evidence that one has been baptized by or filled with the Holy Spirit.

Actually, however, the word simply means "language" and would have been much better translated accordingly, as that would have been clear to everyone, and at the same time would have prevented most if not all the excesses and confusion which have arisen among professing Christians relative to the "tongues" issue. This is exactly what was done in some of the verses in Acts 2, which records the events of the Day of Pentecost, and it would fit perfectly into the grammatical and historical pattern presented.

It is this writer's firm conviction that giving the primary meaning of the original language, in the translation into the English, would have prevented most of our troubles in these matters, and he, for one, hereby registers his vote to that effect.

I can do **all** things through Christ which strengtheneth me (Phil. 4:13)

Pastor Helton is interested in doing some limited evangelistic work with emphasis on Bible Prophecy relative to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The three day meeting format is most suitable to Pastor Helton at this time. Pastor Helton can be contacted as follows:

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3205 Floyd Street Ashland, Kentucky 41102

COMPASSION

(Continued from Page 3)

them. Who are we most like?

It speaks. "He said unto her, Weep not." There is great power in the spoken word. It can heal, strengthen, and build up; or it can hurt, rend, and destroy. We are not only called to see and to feel and to care, we are called to speak to people about Jesus. Such witness will be received much more graciously if it comes from a heart that is genuinely concerned. People can generally tell if our witness is given because of love, concern, and a desire to be a blessing. Once again remember that Jesus' high standards and pure doctrine were not a problem with sinners because they knew that He loved them.

It acts. "He came and touched the bier." He was willing to get involved in people's lives at the point of their need. Not only so, but He told His disciples to pray that others would get involved. Upon seeing the mutitudes without strength, hope, or light, Jesus told the disciples to "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:38). Here Jesus is teaching us that the problem is not in the harvest field—it is white already to harvest. The problem is in the work force. Our Lord's use of the term "harvest" is filled with hope and optimism. Having served as a pastor in farming communities for many years, I know what an optimistic and joyous time harvest can be. The results of previous labor now is experienced. The crops are gathered, bills get paid, families can enjoy things long awaited. Jesus is showing us that we can expect a blessing if we sow and do not faint. Biblical love sees the hoped for harvest, it acts, and it encourages others to

Our actions, need, however, to be positive. For so long many have felt that they prove their orthodoxy by what they are against. And it is true that we must stand against the rising tide of darkness that seems to be engulfing our land. But let us be known more for what we are than what we are against. Let us learn to earnestly contend for the faith rather than being merely contentious. Let us develop ministries that enable us to "become all things to all men" that we might "by all means save some" (I

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The Master Potter

"Is life really worth the living?"

Sometimes we are tempted to say.

But God is the Master Potter

And we are only the clay.

Perhaps it is seems hopeless

Yet we must fit into His plan.

So let's be yielding and supple

To every touch of His hand.

We cannot see in the future,

The part we are destined to play;

Would the pattern be ugly and broken,

If we should be taken away?

So, let us trust in the Potter.

He knows much better than we,

How precious each tiny atom,

To the finished product will be.

Though the trials of life encompass

Seem more than we can bear,

Perhaps we're now in the furnace,

To test the strength of the

But when the firing is over,

And the finished object we see.

We'll know that the Master Potter

Understands far better than we.

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FEMALE?

(Continued from Page 1)

Though the Son of God eventually was born by Mary and birthed by Mary, she speaks of Him in the following manner, "And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:47). Further, while He ministered on the earth, the Son of God ever emphasized the womanhood of Mary-not her fanciful equality with God or some mystical equality with His masculinity. The religious in our day may speak of Jesus being "effeminate" or "a feminist," but we can know that they received no such word from God by way of His own lips or by the pens of those "...were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Pet. 1:21). Neither did these ever receive their unholy message from Mary.

Rather, as our Lord began His ministry in Cana of Galilee, He spoke most definitively to Mary "...Woman, what have I to do with thee. Mine hour is not yet come" (John 2:4). Long before this moment in time, Mary had heard some earlier words of Jesus, "...How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). Knowing then, of His begetting, His call, His life, and something of His prospective ministry, Mary said in this later day "... Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it" (John 2:5). Understandably, even here Mary recognized that Jesus was God, and perhaps in a measure His omnipotence calling Him her Saviour, as we have noted.

The Simplicity

If we are understanding the Word of God, we can know that in that climactic moment—as in all other such moments—of His earthly life, the Son of God was keeping His message simple. We can know that He kept it distinctive, as "no other man ever spoke as He." Somewhat later, we hear Him declare from the cross "...Woman, behold thy son!" (John 19:26). Then, to the disciple standing there, Jesus said, "...Behold thy mother!" (John 19:27).

Jesus, thereby, resolves His human relationship. Even more, He specified Mary's place, as "woman" and as a human "mother." Failure to understand this simple truth can result and

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER APRIL 1, 1995 PAGE SIX has resulted in a multitude of unholy and unscriptural heresies.

Let it ever be noted, then, that throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus showed Himself to be God. and God the Son-not "a woman" and never by any stretch of anyone's imagination "a female." The Heavenly Father from the very realms of glory was perfectly in accord with this emphasis that Jesus was God the Son. At the baptism [immersion] of Jesus by John, we hear these words of the Father from heaven "... Thou art my beloved Son: in thee I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22). Then, on the Mount of Transfiguration, again there is a message from the realms of glory. God the Father is most specific concerning the person of Jesus. There, God the Father said, "...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (Matt. 17:5).

The Climax

In the climax of His earthly life and ministry, Jesus was shown to be and demonstrated to be God the Son manifested in the flesh of man! Very clearly and climactically, He was both "the Son of God" and He was "the Son of Man." Not once in all of the Word of God is Jesus ever called "the Son of Mary." Therefore, all of the "mother of God" teaching that has deceived the multitudes across the centuries was anti-Christ in its origin, and it is anti-Christ even today.

Anyone who has any question concerning the truth that Jesus was a man and yet is a man in the realms of glory—seated or standing at the right hand of God the Father—need only go to Calvary! One, of course, may go to the words of Stephen and hear, "...Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56). There was no question in the mind of dying Stephen that His Saviour was a man!

Later, the man who held the coats of those who killed Stephen would testify several times concerning the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Son of God. We see in one place "And straightway, he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God" (Acts 9:20). There was no question in the mind of the apostle Paul regarding the sex of Jesus, His Lord, whom he had met on the road to Damascus. Rather, we notice a most definitive specification in the word now He commandeth that all men everywhere repent; "because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the word in right-eousness by that man whom he hath ordained..." (Acts 17:31).

When Jesus, the Son of Man, and God the Son, hung on the cruel cross, He was divested of His human and earthly robes. His human manhood was manifested for a lost and a depraved world of man and women to view. Deluded and deceived religious hosts may hypocritically "caricature a draped man" that they have sculptured in wood, stone, or metal, or painted in some form of portraiture. We can know, however, that every such "device" is not our Jesus. These may do their obeisance and genuflect before such unscriptural idols, but we may be assured that they are not worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ who died on Calvary's cross and who was buried and who arose from the grave.

Despite what mortal men may say and do in the process of fulfilling their religious practices, we can know that Jesus hung utterly naked upon the cruel cross of Calvary. Therefore, it was eternally evident to angels and to men that Jesus, the Son of God, was man. In His nakedness, Jesus was shown to be man-not woman, and never in any sense a female. Those who passed by may have railed upon Him and mocked Him in derision, but not one of them questioned the evidence of His manhood!

The Close

The Babylonians may have had their "Queen of Heaven." The Greeks may have had their "Diana of the Ephesians." The Romans may have had their "Mother of God." None of these, however, can be found in the Holy Word of God. All such devices and religious schemes have been designed by unbelieving men who are in the service of Satan. Understandably, Jesus explains that Satan "...is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44), and all unholy heresies whatever they may be have originated with him who deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden so very, very long ago.

There was no question in the minds of any of the apostles and the disciples regarding the sex of Jesus! Some of them were there at the immersion of Jesus, and they heard God the Father declare "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." At the grave of Lazarus, they had heard Jesus pray to His-heavenly

Father. Later, just a few hours before He would be crucified. some of them would hear Him pray "Father, the hour is come...O Father glorify Thou me...Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom Thous hast given me...Father, I will that they also, who Thou hast given me be with me...O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee..." (John 17:1-25). In their minds, then, there could be no question regarding the sex of Jesus or the sex of His Father.

On several occasions, and in different circumstances, and contexts, Jesus emphasized that He and His Father were One! What, then, was said of one could be said of the other. Just a few hours before His crucifixion, Jesus lifted up His voice in prayer and said "...Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee" (John 17:1). The Scriptural references to the Father/Son relationship and the Son/Father relationship are essentially endless.

Conclusion

Sadly, then, all who rhetorically or even sincerely inquire "Is God He?" or "Is God She?" or "Is God a woman?" or by any stretch of their imagination can reference God as a female have set themselves against the plain teaching of the Holy Word of God, the Bible. Some of these who ask such questions may lead us to suppose that they have the interests of women at heart. We know that this cannot be true for any man and any woman, any priest and any preacher, any pastor and any layman ever benefited women as Jesus the man, the Son of Man, and the Son of God.

Jesus came to provide eternal life for all who will believe that Jesus is the Son of God and God the Son. The words of the apostle John are absolute "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I John 5:5). God makes the truth eternally clear and unmistakable "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). The word for all who will be saved is most wonderful "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (I John 5:11)—not in a woman!-not in a female god!not in any sort of a she!

If I am understanding the Scriptures correctly, all who make it a point to teach to the contrary, "...are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead. plucked up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever" (Jude 12-13).

In finality, then, we may declare without any fear of refutation that GOD IS NOT A WOMAN! GOD IS NOT "A SHE"! God was a man! God is a man! And God will forever be a man. GOD IS "HE"! In His holy and infallible Word, God has spoken for time and for eternity! "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31). All who fail so to do will be damned and condemned to the fires of the lake of fire forever and forever!



George Matheson the Scottish author and preacher of the 1800's once said "I have thanked Thee a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my 'thorn'...Teach me the glory of my cross; teach me the value of my 'thorn.' Show me that I have climbed to Thee by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow."

THE DIVIDED HEART

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

"Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images" (Hosea 10:2).

"They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak" (Psalms 12:2).

In our above texts, we find a very important Biblical truth: as we seek to serve the Lord, it is possible to have a divided heart. In other words, our motives and desires may be less than pure as we outwardly serve Him. Our outward actions DO NOT prove sincerity within. The Bible is filled with those who served with divided hearts.

Example #1

In Zephaniah 1:5 we are told of men who served by Jehovah and Malcham: "And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the Lord, and that swear by Malcham" (Zeph. 1:5).

Example #2

We read of a man who did right but not with a perfect heart in II Chronicles 25:2: "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart" (II Chron. 25:2).

Example #3

II Kings 17:33 relates to us of those who feared Jehovah and yet served other gods as well: "They feared the Lord, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence" (II Kings 17:33).

Example #4

Finally, we read of those who turned to the Lord in an insincere fashion in Jeremiah 3:10: "And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the Lord" (Jer. 3:10).

All of the above examples, and many more, are present throughout the Holy Scriptures. These examples clearly proclaim to us the need to be on guard against having a divided heart within us. In each of our examples, the men

were pleasing the Lord outwardly. They were worshipping and serving Him. However, their whole heart was not in their worship and service to Him. Therefore, due to their hypocrisy they were gradually led astray into sins of idolatry.

Our Lord, Himself, was clear in condemning this type of sinful service to Him. In Matthew 6:24 our Lord makes it clear that we must serve Him with all our love. We cannot split our love between Him and the powers and temptations of this world: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24).

In James 4:4, James, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, tells us that a love of this world is automatically unfaithfulness to Christ: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

Truly our Lord desires a pure, heart of unity towards Him: "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works" (Ps. 9:1).

"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" (Acts 2:46).

"With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments" (Psalm 119:10).

"The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart" (Psalm 119:69).

"I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord: I will keep thy statutes" (Psalm 119:145).

Yes, we should never excuse, nor accept as "normal" the possession of a divided heart in our service to Him. And yet, all of us at one time or another has possessed a divided heart. We all

have struggled with serving Him in sincerity out of a heart of love and reverence.

By God's grace, He not only warns us of possessing a divided heart but He also gives guidelines in Proverbs on how to develop a proper heart in our service to Him.

Step #1 - We must be honest about our heart's condition, as long as we fool ourselves into thinking our heart is always right, we will never see the need to have a unified heart. "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" (Prov. 20:9).

Step #2 - We are to realize we cannot unify our hearts of our own ability. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Prov. 3:5).

Step #3 - We must willfully give our hearts to God and trust in Him to unify our hearts. "My son, give me thine heart..."
(Prov. 23:26).

Step #4 - We are to carefully observe (with thankfulness) how the Lord is working and leading in our lives. "...and let thine eyes observe my ways" (Prov. 23:26).

Step #5 - We are to use God's Word to guide our hearts and minds. "Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way" (Prov. 23:19).

Step #6 - We are to guard our hearts at all times (as if we are guarding our most valuable possession). "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23).

Yes, as we put the above six Biblical steps in practice in our lives, we will notice a slow, gradual increasing of unity of heart. These things will not take place overnight, but by God's grace, over time, we will begin to possess a truly unified heart in service to Him and we will find our communion with Him will be sweet. "And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water" (Heb. 10:21, 22).



Widows (Part IV)
The Death of the Wicked

"And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him" (I Kings 16:31). And so we have the beginning of sin in King Ahab's (King of Israel, Northern Kingdom) family, his marriage to the wicked Jezebel, his acceptance and worship of her god Baal. "And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the Lord" (II Kings 8:18; see also II Chron. 21:6). Sin touches the next generation and involves Ahab's daughter, Athaliah, marrying King Jehoram (King of Judah, Southern Kingdom). "And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise go down to meet Ahab king of Israel...And thou shalt speak unto him, saying...Thus saith the Lord, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine...Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity...And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat" (I Kings 21:17-24). The Lord, through Elijah the prophet, pronounces judgment upon Ahab's family. This judgment would be the Divine response to the sin in his family, the sin of idolatry. The heathen practice of Baal worship had infiltrated the Northern Kingdom through his wife, Jezebel; his daughter Athaliah introduced her heathenish practices (Baal worship) into the Southern Kingdom. Both Jezebel and Athaliah would become widows as the Lord would begin to send forth His judgment. "And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness...and the king was

the Syrians, and died at even...So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king Samaria...and the dogs licked up his blood...according to the word of the Lord which he spake...So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead" (I Kings 22:34-40). The Lord uses a random act of man, as He begins executing judgment upon Ahab's family, the death of Ahab himself. "And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria and was sick...So he died according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken..And Jehoram reigned in his stead in second vear Jehoram...king of Judah; because he had no son" (II Kings 1:1-18). Notice that we have two kings, the king of Israel and the king of Judah, with the same name, Jehoram. Jehoram, the son of Ahab reigned over Israel, after his brother Ahaziah died. Another Jehoram, who married Athaliah, was reigning over Judah. "And Joram [Jehoram] slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David: and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead" (II Kings 8:24). Notice again that we have had two other kings by the same name. Ahab's son, Ahaziah, had reigned over Israel after his father died (see above). And now, Ahab's grandson, Ahaziah, the son of his daughter Athaliah is reigning over Judah. Enter Jehu the son of Nimshi. "And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot. ...But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he led by the way of the garden house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, smite him also in the chariot. And they did so...And he fled to Megiddo, and died

stayed up in his chariot against

(Continued on Page 8)

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"We have all eternity to celebrate the victories but only a few hours before sunset to win them"

Amy Carmichael

TOUCHED

(Continued from Page 2)

ings from God. Oh that I would be more faithful.

"The Lord is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed" (Psalm 28:8).

This message is by design to give testimony to the greatness, love, and mercy of my Lord Jesus Christ. This testimony is from one of His anointed, who knows with great certainty that he has been TOUCHED BY THE MASTER'S HAND.

FORUM

(Continued from Page 4)

EVERMAN

bleth his own house..." (Prov. 15:27).

Money and material wealth are not in themselves evil, but if they are obtained by covetousness it is sin. It is true that there is ground for wise investment of one's wealth with the hope of a sensible return (Matt. 25:14-30), but in no way could this be said to include the risk of gambling.

The Christian is commanded to love, love God, love one another. Love never allows one to do that which will harm another. In all kinds of gambling, whether it be chain letter, horse racing, lotteries, etc., the winner gains only at the expense of others. The prize, the money that the winner obtains, must come from the pocket of others. The Christian will not participate in a scheme which will cause pain and loss to others.

Therefore, as chain letters and/ or pyramid schemes are forms of gambling, Christians should not participate in such schemes.

HOBBS

habitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, what doest thou" (Dan. 4:35). "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" (Rom. 9:20, 21).

We do not need to rely on the unknown or chances. We need to trust completely in our God.

- PAISE HIM

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LENEGAR

velous devices, and you are on your way to getting other people to do the same." God does not desire His children to do business in that way, let alone work out a scheme for easy gain. "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house" (Prov. 15:27).

Some of the chain letters and pyramid schemes pose as Christian. Anything that promotes bondage, fear, or greed is not Christian in origin or practice. No matter how good, or reasonable man portrays, or tries to sell an idea, or scheme that is not of the Lord, it is a waste of time to listen, or even consider it. Psalm 118:8 says "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." God's way is ALWAYS best for us and brings glory to God.

SLEDD

ture, the Christian needs to be cautious as well as prayerful. Here are some questions to ponder: What kind of people are involved in this? Will this take me away from church or hinder my service to Christ? Will this honor Christ and reflect a good Christian testimony before my family and acquaintances? Is there a definite product or service involved in this business? Will I have to compromise my spiritual convictions to become involved with this?

COMPASSION

(Continued on Page 5)

Cor. 9:22). In his book Reclaiming Authentic Fundamentalism, author Douglas McLachlan asks, "How about establishing a network of evangelistic Bible studies under the auspices of the local church...how about a ministry of rehabilitation for drug addicts and alcoholics that is thoroughly Christian? How about targeting communities of brokenness in our world and developing strategies to meet them-street people, dislocated internationals, unwed mothers, prisoners, children in fractured and uncaring homes? How about implementing a series of 'Hope Conferences' ... and providing for them structured and Biblical resources which enable them to cope and conquer in the midst of despairing circumstances. How about organizing a crisis pregnancy center in your community with other churches of like faith and practice, a ministry which enables you to shine as light rather than merely shout at the darkness."

III. The Consequences Such Love Demands of Us

In Matthew 20:20-28, Jesus was required to deal with a dispute about who would sit in honored positions in His kingdom. No small stir was caused by the request of Mrs. Zebedee that her sons, James and John, be given places of preeminence in that kingdom. In that context, Jesus taught a priceless lesson. Greatness in His kingdom is related to service to others. He who would be great must be the servant (minister) of others, but he who would be chief must be everybody's slave ("servant" translates the Greek word meaning "bond slave"). Then, notice this closely, the Lord said "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many." To minister and to give sums up what love demands. "To give" expresses the very essence of the love that radiates from the cross. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

In fulfilling our Lord's mandate to evangelize, we shall have to give both our substance and ourselves. We shall be required to present our bodies as living sacrifices. Love demands no less. To the extent that we can look upon the lost and hurting and feel no compassion that compels us to minister and to give, to that extent we are very unlike our Lord and Master. Compassion for people is in His heart, let it be in ours as well.

A WOMAN'S

(Continued from Page 7)

there" (II Kings 9:24-27). Two reigning kings, one reigning over Judah (Ahab's grandson, Ahaziah), the other reigning over Israel (Ahab's son, Jehoram) are both assassinated by Jehu, whom the Lord had chosen to use as a vessel in sending judgment upon Ahab's family (II Kings 9:1-13). "And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it... And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot" (II

Kings 9:30-37). The gruesome death of Jezebel reminds us of our Lord's perfect vengeance against sin. "...They took the king's [Ahab's] sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets...Know now that there shall fall unto the earth nothing of the word of the Lord, which the Lord spake concerning the house of Ahab...So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab...until he left him none remaining. ...And Jehu met with the brethren of Ahaziah king of Judah...And they took them alive, and slew them ... even two and forty men; neither left he any of them" (II Kings 10:7-14). More of Ahab's descendants are destroyed at the hand of Jehu. Jehu's family takes over the Northern Kingdom (II Kings 10:35-36). "And when Athaliah

the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal" (II Kings 11:1). Athaliah, in her lust for the throne, massacred all of the male descendants of her son, heirs to the throne, thus, paving the way for her exaltation to the throne. "And they laid hands on her; and she went by the way by the which the horses came unto the king's house: and there was she slain." Once again, we see the Lord's perfect vengeance against sin. Unbeknownst to Athaliah, little Joash (one of her grandsons) had survived her brutal massacre and had been kept safe for six years, hidden in the house of the Lord (II Kings 11-12; II Chron. 22:10-24:27). Through little King Joash was born "Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ" (Matt. 1:16).

Dear TBE Readers,

The annual Forth Worth Grace Conference will be hosted by the Oak Trail Baptist Church, Garland Johnson, Pastor. The conference will be April 24-26 using the facilities of Memorial Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. In the past God has greatly blessed these meetings with heart stirring messages and great attendance. Your presence will help to make this year's conference the best yet. Contact Oak Trail Baptist Church for information at (817) 279-6430 or write P.O. Box 431, Granbury, Texas 76048.

By His grace,

Garland Johnson, Pastor Oak Trail Baptist Church ga

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CHURCHES NEEDING PASTORS:

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Sebring, Florida, is in need of a pastor. Contact Gaylord Brown at (813) 452-6572.

Arbuckle Baptist Church in Lebanon, Kentucky, is in need of a pastor. Contact Frank Hall at (502) 692-6808 or (502) 789-2241.