

*When we worry, we believe more in our problems than in God's promises*

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

# The Baptist Examiner

**Baptist Is Our Middle Name**

**Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries**

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

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## OUR DEPARTURE

By Pastor Robert Barkman, Landmark Baptist Church, Collinsville, Illinois

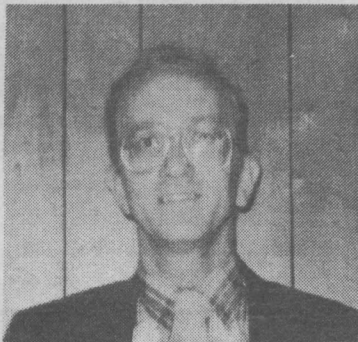
**"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand" (II Tim. 4:6).**

In the context, the apostle Paul, as he wrote to young Timothy, disclosed his realization that his physical life was quickly coming to a close. He described his physical death as an "offering" and a "departure." These two descriptions allude to a singular aspect of death: death is the dividing of the immortal spirit from the mortal body. At death, our spirit must be offered up (released, liberated) by our body; likewise, the spirit must then depart (desert or vacate itself) from the body. Simply put, death is the separation of the spirit from the body.

**"But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you" (Phil. 1:22-24).**

Paul was in a horrible dilemma. He desired physical death that would result in his departure from his body and entering into the presence of his Lord. Yet, he understood that those to whom he ministered still needed him here on earth. He could not do both. He understood nothing short of death would allow his spirit to leave the body and enter the Lord's presence; and life demanded his spirit to remain within the confines of his fleshly body.

In today's society, we think of death as the cessation of existence; and certainly, from a human standpoint, death seems to be the end of our existence. Following physical death, we can observe the body that remains. No longer is there a voice, a smile, a warm touch, there is no sound or movement at all. If



we continue to observe the body, for a longer period, we would find decay setting in and eventually, it would turn back to dust. Based upon our physical sight, death certainly appears to be the termination of our existence. But, oh, how our sight can be deceiving. Although death seems to be the end of our existence, the Bible is plain: death is only a SEPARATION it is not a TERMINATION.

Let us read our text again: **"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand" (II Tim. 4:6).** Remember, Paul said he was going to "depart." Paul was teaching Timothy, and each of us, at death, he would be leaving this temporal existence and entering into a new level of existence. He would

remain, but on a different plane. He would no longer be inhabiting his fleshly body on this earth; he, as a spirit being, would be taking a journey to another habitation where he would continue to exist. **"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the**

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## HERESIES OF INTER-DENOMINATIONALISTS

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

The term "inter-denominationalist" has been used long enough and widely enough for most of us to be somewhat familiar with it. The majority of people probably recognize it as referring to those who believe in and advocate the minimizing of denominational differences and working together as if all of us believed practically the same thing. This writer, being a graduate of two inter-denominational schools; cherishing the friendship of a goodly number of these people; and having spoken and taught in conferences and classrooms for them; feels that he is thereby in a rather good position to understand and speak authoritatively concerning their ideas and practices.

Due to the emphasis of most inter-denominationalists on the "fundamentals of the faith," some may be astonished that we should accuse them of heresy, thinking that such a word is too strong. However, if someone should be shocked at the use of the word, let us ask that the primary definition of the word "heresy," as given by Webster, be considered anew: "Religious opinion opposed to the authorized doctrinal standards of any particular church, and tending to promote schism." As must be perfectly obvious to any fairly careful student of the matter, inter-denominationalists do believe and teach things which are "opposed to the authorized doctrinal standards" of the average church and such teachings do have a tendency "to promote schism." If such is not the case, then why do we have so many

members of our orthodox churches pulling out of them, under the leadership of these inter-denominationalists, and starting what is nothing more nor less than a new denomination which claims to be "inter-denominational" or "non-denominational"?

That some of their doctrines are heresy, according to Webster's definition, and as would be admitted quite readily by practically any authority on the matter in most of the denominations, is very easily seen. Let us take a brief look at four of these inter-denominational "heresies."

First, confusing the church and the kingdom of God. Inter-denominationalists reiterate, to the point of weariness, the idea that all born again people compose the true church, the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, the universal church, and other kindred terms which they use in referring to it. They insist that the church and the kingdom of God are one and the same—that if a person is saved he is not only a citizen of the kingdom of God; he is also a member of the true church.

If this reasoning be true, then there is no such thing as a church on earth! According to clear Biblical teaching, one enters the kingdom of God only through the new birth. **"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God"** (John 3:3,5). A saved person voluntarily asks for fellowship in a local church, and is baptized into that fellowship. There is not a case on record, in the New Testament, where anyone was ever received into church fellowship apart from water baptism.

Second, teaching a present day "baptism of the Holy Spirit." Their teaching along this line is to the effect that each believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, which is the true church, and that each one must experience this baptism in order to be a member of the body of Christ.

If there be any present day "baptism of the Holy Spirit," it is a flat contradiction of Ephesians 4:5 which says: **"One Lord, one faith,"**

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## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

### PROCRASTINATION

**"And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth? Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord God; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, The days**



**are at hand, and the effect of every vision. For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel. For I am the Lord: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the**

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## THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

Eugene P. Helton

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## PROCRASTIN...

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word, and will perform it, saith the Lord God. Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off. Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord God" (Ez. 12:21-28).

There is a very dangerous mood prevailing today. It is the mood of procrastination. To procrastinate

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NOVEMBER 1, 1995

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## Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This pastor is so grateful to all the people who have been instrumental in helping him to "keep on keeping on" in his ministry for the past eighteen years. Many people in many places have been a source of encouragement to me. In my present position, I often times receive encouragement from folks I've never met. Praise God for people who practice the doctrine of exhortation.

One person, more than any other, has been a constant source of encouragement to me for a very long time. My wonderful wife Connie knows better than anyone else just how discouraged I have become at times. When things are not going well; at times when it would be so easy to quit, Connie is always there to bear with me the hurts, the disappointments and the resulting anger that comes at times to every church pastor. She is always there to support and encourage me.

On November 26, 1995, the Lord willing, Connie and I will celebrate our thirty-seventh wedding anniversary. (I suppose I'm going to have to stop telling people that I'm only thirty-nine years old.) We married young, I was nineteen and Connie was eighteen.

I had been in the U.S. Air Force for 2 1/2 years when we married and we continued in the Air Force for another eighteen years. We didn't make much money and living conditions were sometimes difficult. We didn't own an automobile for the first five years we were married. During that time period, we lived for 2 1/2 years in Stephenville, Newfoundland, Canada. During the winter months, we would often take our two daughters (two at that time) and go to the grocery store, through freezing cold and deep snow, on a sled; a round trip of approximately three miles by sled.

Many times I would have to leave Connie and our daughters for long periods of time in order to carry out my Air Force duties. In 1965 and into 1966, I left Connie and our daughters for a full year of service in South Vietnam. She had to carry a much heavier load during that time, but still she was a constant source of encouragement for me.

As difficult as serving in the military was for both of us, the ministry has been even more difficult. Through it all Connie has been there being the good supportive Air Force wife and a wonderful pastor's wife.

Our lives and our marriage have been blessed with three wonderful daughters. Now we are blessed with three beautiful and wonderful granddaughters. I first met Connie when she was twelve years old. She was a little squirt of a girl. I've loved her since then. It seems to me that since that time there has always been a little girl for me to love. The Lord has been so good to me. He's given me seven little girls to love and to love me. Thank you Lord! Thank you Connie! I love you!

is to put off or delay. There is great danger in procrastination. The lost soul who waits for another day may not have another day. The saved one who waits for tomorrow to serve the Lord may have to face Him tonight.

Many people today are like the people of Israel in Ezekiel's time. Many make light of the message of zealous evangelical Christians which are speaking more and more about dramatic and climatic events and specifically the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. Current world changing events, when understood in light of Bible prophecy, are reasons to shout to

the world the message of Amos the prophet: "...prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12).

The nature of fallen man is to deny the truth and accuracy of God's prophetic Word. It is sad to say, but seemingly many professing Christians are procrastinating even though many end time Bible prophecies are almost certainly on the verge of fulfillment. World changing events and ever increasing technological advances make possible the rapid and complete fulfillment of many end time prophecies. Some may be fulfilled before the rapture of the saints of God; and many will be fulfilled

after the rapture of the saints of God. The world has suddenly been made ready for: (1) the rapture; (2) the Anti-Christ; (3) the false prophet; (4) the new world order; (5) a time of tribulation like the world has never seen; and (6) the second coming of Jesus Christ to rule and reign on this earth for one thousand years.

As we look at the procrastination of Ezekiel's time, we find that they're no different from those of today. In Ezekiel 12:22, the Lord brought into question a saying which revealed the attitude in the hearts of the people. **"The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth."** Folks today may use a different saying, but the attitude of the heart is exactly the same. The lost world surely doesn't believe Jesus Christ is coming in the air to suddenly snatch away His saints from the earth and into heaven. Sadly to say, many Christians aren't excited about the rapture and aren't talking about the rapture. Many Christians hold to beliefs that deny that many of the events and changes in the world around us are actually the fulfillment of ancient end times Bible prophecies or are at least making ready the circumstances to bring about fulfillment in the not too distant future. In doing so, these folks contribute to the spirit of procrastination and fail to deliver to a lost and dying world a loud and clear warning that the signs of the times herald the second coming of Jesus Christ in the air to rapture His saints to heaven. The signs of the times also herald the new world order of the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet.

In Ezekiel 12:23, the Lord responds to the procrastinators of Ezekiel's day. The Lord says: **"The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision."** This is a message that we should shout from the mountain tops. Some don't want to preach about or talk about end time events. Some don't want to hear about it. Call me an end time evangelical if you like, but my Bible is telling me that what I see happening in the world and about to happen is conveying the message: **"The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision."** Our world is fast being made ready for some great event. I sincerely believe that the much talked about "new world order" will soon be a reality and when it is, can the rapture be far behind? Possibly the rapture will occur before the "new world order" is completely in place.

In Ezekiel 12:27, Israel says (and so does most of the world today), **"The vision that he seeth is for**

many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off." I understand completely why the lost take this attitude. I do not understand completely why many professing Christians are procrastinating about Bible prophecy and the signs of the times. Why are we not crying out to the world about the urgency of the hour?

In Ezekiel 12:28, the Lord responds to the procrastinators of all ages. **"There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord God."** Ezekiel's entire prophecy covered a very long period of time and clearly some of it covers the immediate time period surrounding on either side the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. Clearly Ezekiel 36-39 are of this nature. The events of these 4 chapters have been happening and those that haven't happened yet are now possible with the technological advances that our providential God has allowed mankind to achieve. For instance, in Ezekiel 38 and 39 my experience and training while serving in the United States Air Force helps me to see the effects and aftermath of at least a limited nuclear exchange in the Middle East and elsewhere. This has been possible only for no more than the past fifty years and probably for a lesser period of time. However, it is very possible today. The remainder of Ezekiel's prophecy, that portion yet unfulfilled, could very easily be fulfilled any time, when one understands how His prophecies are relative to events, circumstances, and technology of the age in which we are living.

### Some Ways That People Procrastinate

I. "I want to be saved, but not today."

Many folks have good intentions to someday get right with God. Many even acknowledge that what we preach and teach about salvation being totally in Jesus Christ, just may be true, however, it's something that will have to wait for another day and time. Those who take this attitude never seem to come to grips with their own mortality. They never seem to understand that the world as we know it is in the process of winding down. **"Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth"** (Prov. 27:1). **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF TOMORROW!** **"Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away"** (Ps. 144:4).

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## The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

By Clyde T. Everman, Deacon  
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### An Old Sin Repeated Genesis 20

In this chapter we have an example and warning that regardless of how long a believer may live or how close he may be to the Lord he is always in danger of falling into sin. In His visit with Abraham, the Lord had revealed that the time had come for that promised son to be born. He revealed to Abraham the judgment that was to fall upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham being in close fellowship with the Lord made intercession with the Lord to spare the cities for the sake of the righteous living there.

It would seem that after this close encounter with the Lord that Abraham could trust Him to deliver him from any situation. But the events only go to show that justification of the believer does not remove the old sinful nature of man. Abraham was "justified by faith" yet we find him repeating the same old sin which he had committed while in Egypt. In 15:1, God had told Abraham "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." But when Abraham moved into Gerar, fearing he would be slain because of Sarah his wife, said "She is my sister" (v. 2). Not only did Abraham lie but he caused Sarah to back up his lie, "she herself said, He is my brother" (v. 5). With the assurance that Sarah was only Abraham's sister Abimelech took her (v. 2). At this point God, like He did in Egypt, intervened. In a

dream He told Abimelech, "Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken: for she is a man's wife" (v. 3). Abimelech told God that he did not know she was another man's wife as both Abraham and Sarah had told him she was his sister. God's reply was "Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her" (v. 6). Then God told him to restore the man his wife and the man being a prophet would pray for him and he and all of his people would not die (v. 7).

Early the next morning, Abimelech called all his servants and "told all these things in their ears; and the men were sore afraid" (v. 8). Abimelech then brought Abraham on the carpet and rebuked him for what he had done. "What hast thou done unto us? and what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done" (v. 9).

Abraham's only excuse was that he thought "Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake" (v. 11). Besides, Abraham said it was partly true, "she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from

my father's house, that I said unto her, This is thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He is my brother" (vv. 11-13). By concealing part of the truth, he made an out and out lie.

There are three points in Abraham's statement by which he attempted to justify his conduct. (1) He thought there was no fear of God in this place. We can see that he was mistaken in this. (2) Sarah was really his sister; that is, a half-sister. This is what is called a half-truth. By concealing the whole truth he indicated that which was plainly a lie. (3) It was an old plan made thirty years before. This intensified his sin, for it meant that all the thirty years of fellowship he had with God while in Canaan, this old agreement had been in existence and had never been broken. How often we as believers find this to be true in our own lives. How often a believer finds an old sin cropping up causing trouble and sorrow.

Abimelech, it would seem in order to acknowledge the wrong that may have been done, gave gifts to Abraham and restored to him Sarah his wife. He then told Abraham, "Behold, my land is before thee: dwell where it pleaseth thee" (v. 15). "So Abraham prayed unto God and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children; For the Lord had fast closed up all the wombs

of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah Abraham's wife" (v. 17-18). There are lessons to be learned in this chapter.

#### Sins In Believers

Even though Abraham had just before encountered the experiences as recorded in chapters 15 and 18 yet he now sinned against God. Note the elements of this sin: (a) the fear of man; (b) selfishness; (c) a deliberate lie; (d) his fear of man showed his distrust in God. Old sins often break out in the lives of believers, proving the truth that the old nature abides in the believer as long as he lives in this life. We are told, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" (Rom. 6:12). We are also told "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). God taking Abraham's part against Abimelech shows us that the believer's standing is secure before God even though he sins. While Satan accuses us before God, Christ "who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Rom. 8:34). How can we prevent sin reigning in our bodies? We are told "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25).

## HERESIES

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**one baptism.**" This passage must refer to water baptism, and our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to His disciples in the Great Commission that they were to continue making disciples and baptizing them until the consummation of the age. The "baptism of the Holy Spirit" was something which was accomplished once for all for the Jewish believers on Pentecost, and for the Gentile believers in the house of Cornelius. Believers now are not baptized with the Holy Spirit; they receive Him in the experience of salvation.

This so-called "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is based almost exclusively upon a faulty translation and a definite misinterpretation of I Corinthians 12:13 "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." The argument of the inter-denominationalists, based upon this passage, is that each believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body, or true church, at his conversion. It sounds good and conclusive, doesn't it? However, a more careful study of the Greek will lead to a different conclusion. The preposition "en" would be more properly translated "in" and not "by." Too, the Spirit referred to in the verse does not necessarily refer to the Holy Spirit, notwithstanding the use of the capital "S." As all Greek students know, there are no distinctions in capital and small letters in the original; that had to be decided by the translators. It is this writer's firm conviction that the verse would be translated better as follows: "For in one spirit (the spirit of unity) are we all baptized into one body." As is shown conclusively by the context, the "body" in this chapter can refer only to a local church, and it is by means of water baptism that a believer is received into the fellowship of a local church or body of Christ. The church as an institution is simply the sum total of these local bodies.

Third, accepting Roman Catholic "baptism." When these inter-denominational churches accept into their membership people who have been "baptized" by sprinkling or pouring, they are accepting Roman Catholic "baptism"!

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## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

NOVEMBER 23, 1995

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations"

Psalms 100:4-5





## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



**God's Word mentions several gifts of the Spirit including speaking with divers kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues (I Cor. 12:10). What role do these gifts play in the Lord's churches today?**

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**"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant" (I Cor. 12:1).**

In the church at Corinth there was much ignorance concerning spiritual gifts especially the gift of tongues just as there is much ignorance today. The apostle Paul wrote the Corinthian church in order to explain why and how this gift was to be used. He did not encourage the use of the gift of tongues but to refrain in its use. If it was to be used at all, it was to be limited in its use. **"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church"** (I Cor. 14:4). He goes on to say that in the church he would rather speak five words **"with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue"** (I Cor. 14:19). Five compared to ten thousand!

In I Corinthians 14:22, Paul tells us that the purpose of the gift of the unknown tongue was **"for a sign."** While the New Testament was being written, there was a need for signs to show that the speaker was from God. The miracles which Christ performed were signs which proved that He was from God. Likewise the miracles and wonders which were performed by the followers of Christ were signs as to them being followers of Christ. We are told in Hebrews 2:4 **"God also bearing them witness, both signs and wonders, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will."** There were four sign gifts

bestowed upon the witnesses during the Apostolic Age, while the New Testament Scripture was being written. The gift of speaking in tongues was one of these. When the New Testament was completed the sign gifts ceased to be given. There was no longer a need. They had served their purpose. Paul stated that **"whether there be tongues they shall cease"** (I Cor. 13:8).

Today we have the whole Bible. We now have God's Word in plain language, an understandable language. There is now no longer a need for signs. The need is to believe what God has written.

The unbeliever today is called to have faith in God, not by signs, wonders, or miracles, but by His Word. He speaks clearly and understandably by His Word. Unsaved friend, God does not call you by tongues, not by signs, not by miracles. He calls you to repent and trust in the shed blood of Christ.

**"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool"** (Isa. 1:18).

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**"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away"** (I Cor. 13:8-10).

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is the giving of gifts to believers for primarily two purposes.

First, gifts are given to glorify the Father (Rev. 4:11). Secondly, gifts are given to edify the church (Eph. 4:12-13). I believe that the Holy Spirit through Paul lists eighteen separate spiritual gifts for believers. They are found in Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. I believe that these eighteen gifts can be divided into two groups: the permanent gifts and the sign gifts which are temporary. In this question we are interested in the second group; the temporary sign gifts.

The seven temporary sign gifts are apostleship, prophecy, miracles, healing, tongues, interpreting tongues, and knowledge. These gifts were given before most of the New Testament was written. They were a proof of the genuineness of the message and the one bringing the message in early New Testament times. Jesus and the apostles were accompanied by sign gifts (John 3:2; II Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:4). The gifts validated their authority prior to the writing of the New Testament. There is, of course, much to say about each of these seven gifts such as their requirements, their supernatural manifestations, and particular aspects of each. We have no space here to do that.

Of these gifts, probably none has generated as much confusion and division as tongues. Some believe tongues are purely a supernatural ability to speak an unknown human language. Others think that the gift is ecstatic, or angelic language. Some think the gift is a manifestation of both. Much confusion, disunity, anger, and unbiblical behavior has resulted. None of these original seven temporary gifts are in operation today. Can God heal? Yes! Does God give knowledge? Yes! Through His Word it is given. Does God give prophecy today? Yes! He gives it through His Word.

We now have the canon of Scripture complete. We no longer need sign gifts. Much of what is practiced today has been changed and its purpose changed, while

referred to as these seven gifts. As the Scripture I quoted at the beginning tells us, that which is perfect, or complete no longer requires validation or support. The sign gifts are no longer needed and have ceased.

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**"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues"** (I Cor. 12:7-10).

No doubt these gifts were operating in the churches of the New Testament era. They were an integral part of the development of the church before completion of the New Testament canon. Do such gifts operate today? Are we to pursue such gifts? Consideration of this leads to other questions: (1) Do apostles still exist today?, (2) Does God give additional revelations beyond the Bible as we have it today? Well, I do not believe that apostles exist today. They are no longer needed because the Lord's church has fully developed and has the very government and order that Christ intended they have. The Word of God is complete. There are no "new revelations" from God. I'll never forget what one of my professors in Bible college said: "If it's true, it's not new; if it's new, it probably isn't true!" In fact, Paul taught the church of Corinth that these supernatural gifts would indeed pass away. They would serve their developmental purpose for the church and simply cease by themselves. **"Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things"** (I Cor. 13:8-11). These gifts were only partial revelations. They needed these gifts to get firmly established. The phrase "they shall cease" in the original indicates something that simply fades away or quits by itself. In the Old Testament, God spoke to men in dreams, voices from heaven, angels speaking and so on. Even that ceased when the Old Testament was completed. In the New Testament, whenever you see miraculous gifts of healing, speaking in foreign languages that were never learned, and supernatural discernment of demonic activity, two things are always present:

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The important issue is not a question of how many gifts of the Spirit I might gain, but does my life show gain as I strive to be more like Christ in living above sin and leading lost souls to Him. So many people have the false notion that a spiritual Christian is one who possess unusual gifts: healing and speaking in tongues.

If tongues were supposed to be evidence of a mature Christian, it was not so at the church at Corinth which was the most carnal church the apostle Paul ever had to deal

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## "BROKE!"

By Irene Orrick

In 1914, two year old Barb Kirkman toddled back and forth in front of the cabinet radio pointing to it and squeaking out a high-pitched, "Broke! Brrrooke!"

"Broke? What's broken, Barb?" asked her father. But the two year old's vocabulary allowed only another excited, "Broke!" It took short investigation for her father to find that it was not the radio, but the guitar lying on top of it that was broken.

I heard the story not long ago when Louise and Paul Kirkman, pastor emeritus of Grace Baptist Church of Fairborn, Ohio visited us. Seeing my old Graybar cabinet radio reminded him of the one his family had when he was growing up in Catlettsburg, Kentucky. Those of us over fifty can remember that in the 1930's and 1940's the radio was the focus of the family's evening entertainment. And in the Kirkman house, beside the radio sat the important radio-chair reserved for the father, from whence he manned the radio's dial. When Mr. Kirkman was not at home the chair was a coveted and competed for post. Therefore, on a certain evening when Mr. and Mrs. Kirkman were away, young Paul had seized the distinguished position and was occupying it. But during a commercial he got up and went to the kitchen for a drink of water. While he was gone sister Ruth got the chair. When he came back: "You're in my chair!" "No. You left, so it's mine."

Little sister Barb stood silently apart and bipartisanly watched the fray that followed. As the conflict intensified, the big radio itself began to topple. Abruptly the combatants abandoned the battle to save the radio; however, their older brother's guitar which had been lying on top of it fell to the floor and cracked. It, seeming in the best interest of both, a pact was expeditiously negotiated that not one word of the whole matter would ever be told. Little Barb, overlooked, had not entered the pact, however and the next day delivered to her parents that fateful word: "Brrrooke!"

Ruth was the first to get home from school that afternoon. Under questioning, she held out only a few minutes, then confessed everything. Later, Paul came home: "Raymond's guitar? Cracked? What a shame!" He stoutly denied any knowledge of how it possibly could have happened. But when his father called, "Ruth, come here," Paul knew it was all over. Confronted with Ruth's confession, he owned up and made a clean breast. Mr. Kirkman took him to the kitchen for the ensuing thrashing. After Ruth had her turn in the kitchen, Paul was called up again: "Son, the first one was for fighting and breaking the guitar. This one is for lying to me."

Our innocent nature broke when Adam fell: we are totally depraved and sin lies in our core. We want to hide our nature and try to look good to ourselves, others, and God. But out of our depraved heart come actions that cry, "Brrrooke!" Yet the Redeemer can give a new nature that is unbreakable: **"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive"** (I Cor. 15:22).

## HEAVEN'S GREATEST JOY

By Pastor Jim Orrick, Storm's Creek Baptist Church,  
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**"And they shall see His face; and his name shall be in their foreheads"** (Rev. 22:4).

When Adam sinned, the curse of death came upon him and all his descendants. Our aching bodies, dimming eyes, and weakening muscles all warn us that we are not long for this world. We must all agree with Job who said: **"For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living"** (Job 30:23). When death comes to a saved person, his body will be placed in the grave to sleep and to return to dust. The body will remain in this condition until that day when the heavens will resound with the shout of the Lord, the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God. Then it will come forth in resurrection, a new and glorious body like the body of the Lord. However, when death comes to a person, the soul does not go into the ground with the body. If the person is saved, the soul goes at once to be in the presence of the Lord in the place He has gone to prepare for us. **"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord"** (II Cor. 5:8). Also note Philippians 1:23. There will be many things in heaven that will be ours to enjoy such as fellowship with the redeemed of all ages, wonderful singing, and many beautiful sights. However, I believe our text tells us what will be the greatest joy of heaven. **WE SHALL SEE HIM.**

Imagine going to some great city to meet a loved one that you had not seen for many years. There may be many great things to see and enjoy in that city such as museums, art galleries, and magnificent homes, but the thing that would thrill you the most would be to see your loved one. Even so, there will be many wonderful things to see when we get to heaven, but the greatest joy of all will be to see Jesus.

### A Scriptural Fact

When we think about seeing Jesus, this is not wishful thinking but a fact that is set forth in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, Job said: **"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in**

**my flesh shall I see God"** (Job 19:25-26). This was also the assurance of the Psalmist who said: **"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness"** (Ps. 17:15). In the New Testament, we not only have our text (Rev. 22:4), but other Scriptures also that teach this great truth. **"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is"** (I John 3:2). This thought which was so special to the Bible saints has been the themes of many of our best known and loved hymns. Who has not been thrilled by singing those beautiful words penned by Carrie Breck?

*Face to face with Christ my Saviour,*

*Face to face what will it be?*

*When with rapture I behold Him,*

*Jesus Christ who died for me!*

*Face to face I shall behold Him,*

*Far beyond the starry sky,*

*Face to face in all His glory,*

*I shall see Him by and by!*

### Why Is This So Special?

Seeing Jesus will be special because it means that we will see the very One who died for us to redeem us. In the Old Testament, God made provision whereby people could approach Him and worship Him at the tabernacle. When a man came with his sacrifice to present to the priest to be offered for him and his family, how grateful he must have been that God had made a way whereby sinners could come to Him. How much more should we be thankful that God has given His Son to die as a Lamb to pay for all our sins. How we should look forward to that time when we will look upon the face of the true Lamb of God. To redeem means "to buy back from bondage by paying the ransom price." The price that was paid for us was the blood of Jesus Christ. **"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"** (I Pet. 1:18-19).

The Guinness Book of Records

is a book that contains lists of many things that are world records. I do not know if it lists the greatest ransom ever paid, but I know what it was. It was the price paid by Jesus when He died on the cross to ransom us from the bondage of sin and set us free.

*See, from His head, His hands, His feet,*

*Sorrow and love flow mingled down;*

*Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,*

*Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

### Worthy of Praise

The Scriptures describe the heavenly saints as praising the Lamb of God and casting their crowns before Him when they see Him. He is worthy of every song ever written about Him and every life ever dedicated to Him. Philippians 2:9-10 declares: **"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."**

There are many stories told about things that happened during the Civil War. One story has to do with President Lincoln's visiting Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy, shortly after it fell to the Union Army. According to the story, the blacks of Richmond, now free from slavery, stopped the President's carriage, unhitched the horses, and then pulled it through the streets of Richmond, singing the praises of the man who signed the Emancipation Proclamation that had set them free from the bondage of slavery.

How much more will we rejoice when we see the One who signed the proclamation of our freedom at Calvary with His Own blood.

One of my favorite hymn writers is Fannie Crosby. This dear lady who wrote so many of our great hymns was blind, having lost her sight when she was only a few weeks old. Someone once asked her if she resented being blind and never being able to see

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*"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you"*



## DEPARTURE

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Lord" (II Cor. 5:1-8).

Please note when it comes to death, Paul emphasizes the need for us to rely on the faith handed down to us in God's Word. We must not rely upon our human sight when we try to discern the facts about physical death. II Corinthians 5:7 clearly reveals to us the need to "walk (live our life on earth) by faith (trusting in the revelation from in His Word) not by sight (the physical sight we possess in our fleshly bodies)."

Yes, the Bible is obvious in its teachings, death is not the end, but is only a beginning, a beginning in the presence of the Lord. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" (Eccl. 12:7).

"But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah" (Ps. 49:15). Here we read that once physical death claims us, we will find ourselves taken into the presence of God. This is a wonderful and yet dreadful thought. Once dead, we face accountability to the Lord of All. Both lost and saved stand before the Lord in judgment. Those who are saved, by faith in the blood of Christ, receive everlasting life with Christ. At death, unbelievers are faced with eternal suffering and torment for their sins. This is the principle that Daniel brings to our view: "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Dan. 12:2-3). This is why awareness of never ending existence is so very important; we must understand the necessity of preparing our life after death by trusting in Christ while it is possible.

"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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on

him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16-18).

The rich man learned this lesson but it was too late for him. "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent" (Luke 16:19-30).

We must trust in Christ today because we may not be graced with physical life tomorrow.

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).

Once, we trust in Christ and join one of His assemblies, we must also see the need to tell others about Him. Truly the lost world must hear the truth now. "Say not ye, There are yet four

months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together" (John 4:35-36).

The lost are faced with immortal existence; they are facing judgment from God. The truth of Christ and His work, must be told and accepted by faith, while they yet have opportunity.

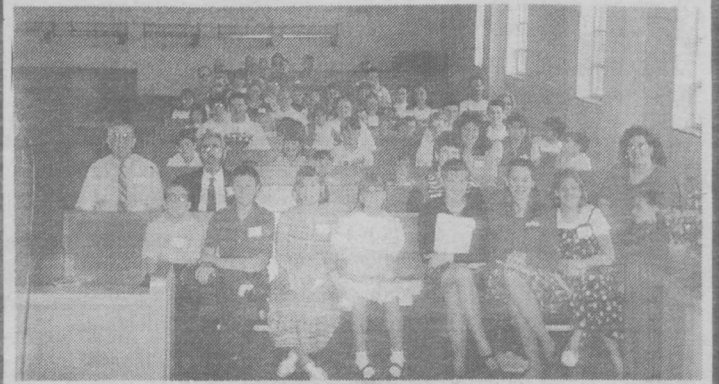
"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:8-17).

Whether, lost or saved, we all can react to the certainty of our immortal existence. This truth should have a life changing effect in all of us.

The lad asked his father,  
"Dad, what is the millennium?" The parent responded, "Don't you know what a millennium is, child? It's just about like a centennial, only it's got more legs."  
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## AREA WIDE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETING

On September 30th, the Calvary Baptist Church was host to an area wide youth fellowship. Youth from Bethany Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Johnstown Baptist Church, and Storms Creek Baptist Church were in attendance. Brother Sidney Fisher was the speaker for the day. For lunch, the youth enjoyed pizza, soft drinks, and cookies in the church fellowship hall. A competition, called "The Bible Quiz Bowl," was held covering the first few chapters of Exodus. The Calvary Baptist Church placed first in the junior division. Johnstown Baptist Church won in the senior division. A wonderful time was had by all in attendance!



## FORUM

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### SLEDD

First, the apostles are always there to direct and observe the activity and secondly, the Gospel is always proclaimed with definite results of people saved and Scripturally baptized.

The charismatic movement believes that we need more revelations than the completed canon of Scripture. This of course has led to many errors, some of which are ridiculous. I refer to the popular practice of "holy laughter," dancing in the spirit," discerning healing over the television and other such nonsense! The apostle Paul would not have made a very good charismatic faith healer. When you read II Corinthians 12 he had an "out of body" experience of going to glory and seeing paradise. He told the church, "I can't tell you anything I saw or heard." That wouldn't sell many books would it? Do you think they would have him on religious television? In that same chapter he spoke of his thorn in the flesh that he prayed three times for

healing. He didn't get healed. "Well Paul, I guess you didn't have enough faith." After Paul describes his thorn notice his next words: he says "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds" (II Cor. 12:12). He was referring not only to himself but to all the other apostles. Paul was seeking to get this church to understand that the signs and wonders were passing away. They needed to put away the things of childhood and grow up. B. B. Warfield stated "These gifts were not the possession of the primitive Christians as such; nor for that matter of the apostolic church or the apostolic age for themselves; they were distinctively the authentication of the apostles. They were part of the credentials of the apostles as the authoritative agents of God in founding the church. Their function thus confined them to distinctively the apostolic church and they necessarily passed away with it."

"Be a witness for Christ. If necessary, use words"--Chuck Colson

## PRODUCING THE FIRST CHURCH

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe, First Baptist Church, Harrison, Ohio

### No Need For Apostles

In Luke 6, Jesus had prayed all night. Then He called out His disciples from which He chose twelve, "whom also he named apostles" (Luke 6:13).

This is important, because the Bible tells us in I Corinthians 12:28 that He hath set some in the church, "first apostles," which means that they were the primary ones in the church. When Jesus called these twelve together and called them apostles, He was organizing His kind of church with a nucleus of men who were to follow Him in doctrine, love, and action.

In I Corinthians 12:27 Paul explains that each member is "particular." The apostles are the first, or the primary functioning personnel in the church. Now, we know that no apostles exist today. No man on the earth today can meet the requirements of an apostle, for the Lord says that he must "have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us" and that he have the "baptism of John" (Acts 1:21-22).

Since all of the apostles died (including Paul, born out of due season), only two office exist in the church: bishops and deacons (see Phil. 1:1).

Anyone who reads about the apostles in the New Testament and tries to produce a church just like the first church, with apostles, is doing the wrong thing. We do not need apostles today. Apostles are not needed today. We do not need a succession of apostles because the Lord promised a perpetuity of His truth (the Word of God) and His churches (Matt. 16:18).

### Jesus Christ Is Absent

We have no doubt that Jesus is the Head of the church (Eph. 5:23). He was Head of the church when He was here in the world, but He is no longer in the world. If we try to reproduce the first New Testament church, then we must have Jesus present in the world.

But Jesus said, "it is expedient that I go away." Jesus' going away was important so that the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, would come to lead us into all truth (John 16:13).

To see Jesus must have been a wonderful experience. To see

Him do His miracles must have been elating to the believer. To hear His messages about God His Father and His parables must have been an experience that would not soon be forgotten.

Some today want to reproduce the New Testament church as it was in the beginning. This is a terrible error on the part of these religionists, because they cannot bring Jesus back into the earth to be here personally and physically.

### We Are Not To Expect Additional Baptisms of the Holy Spirit

There was only one baptism of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2, we read of this wonderful event. The reason for this was to accredit Christ's kind of church and to give that kind of church the power (authority) that it needed to function in the world.

That baptism was effectual for the church on that day and for every day since that time. When you were baptized, did you expect to need additional baptisms to keep you right with God? Of course not. So with the Lord's kind of church. These churches do not need additional baptisms of the Holy Spirit because that baptism was real and effective as long as the church is alive; and the church will be alive and well until Jesus comes again.

Some have tried to duplicate the baptism of the Holy Spirit but just as on the Day of Pentecost, no man produces the baptism of the Spirit. Jesus produced it on that day, and it need not be produced again. I am so glad that my water baptism is good for as long as I live; so the baptism of the Holy Spirit is good until the church dies. The churches have been alive and well since Jesus' day, so we do not need a re-baptism of the Holy Spirit upon the churches of the Lord.

### Not For Jews Only

The first New Testament church was for the Jews only until our Lord saved Saul on his way to Damascus. Then the Lord sent Saul (Paul) to the Gentiles so that they could and would be saved (Acts 11:18).

The middle wall of partition has been broken, and God has accepted the Gentiles through grace into the churches (Eph. 2:14).

If someone today wants to

reproduce a New Testament church just like the first one, he would be required to allow only Jews into the church because at that time that Gospel was preached only to the lost sheep of the tribe of Israel (Matt. 10:6).

### The Church Is To Mature

The Lord Jesus taught Paul for a period of three years in the desert of Arabia (Gal. 1:18). Then He used Paul to teach church doctrine to the churches around the world. He did this because the churches were not to remain just like the first church of Jerusalem. They must mature.

Legalism must not remain in the church. The book of Hebrews is written to those Christians who had a problem letting go of Judaism. Paul tells them just to let go and have confidence in Jesus Christ and their faith in Him (Heb. 3:6, 14; 10:35).

Romans 13:11 tells us that we are nearer to our complete salvation than we were when we were saved. This is true, also, for the churches of the Lord. They are closer to His coming now than when the church was first organized by our Lord.

Paul taught us through his letter to the Hebrews that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together "and so much more, as ye see the day approaching."

So we should understand more now than the first church did. We should have grown in grace through the years after having applied the Word of God to the functions of the churches. Ephesians 4:15 says "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

Therefore, we are more responsible now than the churches of the New Testament. We are more responsible for witnessing, for understanding, for teaching, for carrying on the work of the Lord in church capacity.

If you are looking for a church that is blessed of God, you should not look for a church that is trying to be like the one in the early books of the New Testament.

Those churches cannot be reproduced, and the Lord does not want us to reproduce them. The Lord wants us to be established in the doctrines which the New Testa-

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## A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them" (Gen. 3:21).

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours" (Gen. 37:3).

"Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice" (I Sam. 2:19).

"Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them" (Acts 9:39).

In each of the above Scripture references, we find a coat(s) made and given out of a heart of love. In each instance, the coat was made to protect, cover, and identify the owner in a very special way.

Jacob made for Joseph, the son of his beloved Rachel, a beautiful coat, a coat to cover and protect him from the elements. This coat not only identified Joseph as a son of Jacob, but it distinguished Joseph as the favorite among the twelve sons of Jacob.

Hannah made for Samuel, the son she had prayed and asked God to give to her, a "little coat." Each year, at the time of the yearly sacrifice, Hannah made and took a new "little coat" to the boy Samuel, who was living and working with Eli at the tabernacle. Hannah's growing son needed a coat to protect and cover him from the elements, and it was a constant reminder of his mother's love and affection, identifying him as a beloved member of his family. "See the coat my mom made and brought from home last week!" Can't you just see and hear Samuel's excitement as he proudly showed off his new coat and spoke of his family.

Dorcas made for these widows—poor and unable to provide for themselves—coats to cover and protect them from the elements. It must have been a privilege to own a coat made by Dor-



cas; and each coat identified the owner as a recipient of Dorcas' charity.

The Lord God made for Adam and Eve, in the garden, "coats of skins." This was the ultimate in protecting, covering, and identifying, for God was covering the shame of their naked bodies, protecting them from further harm, identifying them as His very own. The gospel had been expressed in a most loving, tender, compassionate manner. "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, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels" (Isa. 61:10). Some day, our glorified bodies will be covered by pure white robes, a picture of what Christ has done for us.

"And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled" (Rev. 6:11).

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands" (Rev. 7:9).

"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to

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## PROCRASTIN...

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THE LIFE OF MAN LIKE THE SHADOW SOON FADES AWAY!

II. "I want to live and have fun first. Christians don't have any fun."

Oh how attractive and appealing old Satan makes the things of this world. I'm afraid Christians and churches sometimes are guilty of making the practice of Christianity and serving the Lord in a church appear to be a life without pleasure. It is just the reverse. The most pleasure a person can experience this side of heaven comes in a life consecrated and dedicated in service to Jesus Christ. "They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures" (Ps. 36:8).

III. "I must get some things done, then I'll serve the Lord."

My how many Christians at times have trouble getting their priorities right. Any list of priorities that doesn't have Jesus Christ in the number one position is a bad list. "And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:59-62). It is sad, but true, many times we Christians choose our families and the social activities of this world over the Lord. We procrastinate and say: "I'll serve the Lord after I take care of all these family matters."

IV. "I'll get involved in church someday, but now I just don't have time."

We have so much time to work and to play, but when it comes time to serve the Lord, we want to ration our time allotted for that purpose. Sometimes we'll even steal that meager allocation of time and use it for some worldly purpose. "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared

sumptuously every day" (Luke 16:19). "...the rich man also died...in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments...and he cried and said...I am tormented in this flame" (Luke 16:22-24). A rich man who had no time for the Lord while living has plenty of time now—time to regret.

### There Is No Reason For Delay

#### I. In Salvation

"(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation)" (II Cor. 6:2).

#### II. In Service

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

It is dangerous to procrastinate. There is no guarantee that tomorrow is yours. "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). "Why do you wait dear brother? Why do you tarry so long?" There is great danger in delay. Dear lost friend, won't you come to Jesus and be saved? Dear saved friend, won't you serve Him today?

## HERESIES

(Continued from Page 3)

As every intelligent student of church history knows, immersion only was practiced as baptism for the first two or three centuries of the Christian era. The Pope of the Roman Catholic Church officially changed the mode to sprinkling at the Council of Ravenna in 1311. Therefore, when any "church" accepts any member from another group upon such "baptism," that "church" becomes guilty of heresy!

Fourth, ignoring the Scriptural steps to the Lord's table. Almost without exception, these people contend that the only qualification necessary for participation in the Lord's Supper is salvation. Not so does the New Testament teach. The record of the first observance of the Lord's Supper following its institution says: "Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in

breaking of bread" (Acts 2:41, 42). According to this record, before they came to the Lord's table, they were saved; Scripturally baptized; added to the New Testament church; held to true teaching; and were in fellowship with the other believers. Unless a person takes these five steps, he does not really come to the Lord's table, and those who encourage him to come without these steps are guilty of heresy! This the inter-denominationalists do.

## HEAVEN'S

(Continued from Page 5)

many of the beautiful sights of this world. She answered: "Not at all, because the first thing I will see will be the face of my dear Saviour."

Someday we will all see Him. For the saved this will be a time of great joy, but for the unsaved it will be a time of great fear. "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Rev. 6:15-16). How will it be with you? Have you received Him as your Saviour? Will you be among those who will rejoice when they see Him, or will you be among those who will flee for fear but will find no place to hide? Give this serious thought.

(Article taken from: The Storms Creek Baptist Witness, July/August 1995 issue).

## FORUM

(Continued from Page 4)

### WHITT

with. They were "babes in Christ" (3:1-4).

There is every reason to believe many of the gifts spoken of in I Corinthians 12 were only temporary. Prophecy, tongues, and knowledge passed away with the completion of the New Testament. I Corinthians 13:8-13 makes it clear that these gifts would pass away and no longer be needed. They belonged to the "childhood" of the early churches. We read in I Corinthians 13:8 "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be

tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." Then in verse 10: "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." The completed, perfect Word of God did come and this is all that is needed. The study of God's Word along with prayer, when sincerely and diligently applied, will cause Christian maturity and growth. Paul told Timothy: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect [mature] thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

Many people refer to the day of Pentecost as evidence for speaking in tongues today. The day of Pentecost was a one time event, never to be repeated again. It was God's way of spreading the Gospel to all nations. The language spoken then was not an "unknown tongue" but was clearly understood by those who heard in their own native tongue.

It is unfortunate today that the charismatic movement is deceiving many Christians into thinking that spiritual growth can only be achieved in speaking in tongues or the so-called "second work of grace." Some even dare to say, one cannot be sure they are saved until this happens. A Pentecostal movement which is penetrating all denominations today is saying "The gift of tongues ties believers together." One of their rallying cries is: "The baptism of the Spirit will unify believers!" It is an "ecumenical movement" among evangelical Christians. "You don't have to deny your basic beliefs," they say. But did speaking in tongues unify the believers at Corinth? The church was divided! There was discord, division, and dispute yet there

was also the gift of tongues. It is no different today. The so-called speaking in tongues by some who think themselves superior to others too often brings trouble through jealousy and covetousness.

## PRODUCING

(Continued from Page 7)

ment teaches throughout. That is what Paul means in Hebrews when he said that we should "go on unto perfection" (Heb. 6:1).

## WOMAN'S

(Continued from Page 7)

me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:13-14).

"But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet" (Luke 15:22).

### Sidney Fisher available to preach

Brother Sidney Fisher, a pastor in the Tri-state area of Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia for many years is available to preach as pulpit supply or to hold special meetings. Brother Fisher's health has improved and he greatly desires opportunities to preach God's wonderful Word. Brother Fisher may be contacted as follows:

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### Remember our United States Veterans on November 11th!

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Thank you for fighting for our  
freedom!