

*Happiness adds and multiplies as we divide it with others*

"...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*

VOL. 68, NO. 2 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996 WHOLE NUMBER 2712

## PRESSING AHEAD? OR WATCHING OTHER RUNNERS

By Pastor John R. Lenegar, Walnut Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Delaware, Ohio

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness which is of the law, but...of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:7-14).

Certainly we cannot deny that secular history, as well as the Bible, give us help through knowledge and example, that is both needful and beneficial. Although most people do not avail themselves of either source, valuable information and instruction await any who will seek it. History, while being a look at the past, benefits the present in a vast number of ways and often presents many aspects of life and its problems. History usually points us to the fact that man is always the same in his nature, desires, and actions. We hear people say that history repeats it-



self. This is almost always (apart from God's intervention and direction) because man pursues the same desires and behaves in the same ways as he always has. Humanly speaking, man should be able to look at history and see the errors in thinking and action and profit thereby. Man should be able to see the overall plight of man and avoid the same mistakes and situations. Unfortunately most do not do this. The Devil finds most men easily snared and tricked into the same situations. That is because men and women do not change as to their natures, understanding, and actions. People never change, only the scenarios. The Holy Spirit says

in Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10 "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before me."

It is also of benefit to you and me to stop and reflect on the past in order to assess our present situation and perhaps avoid future mistakes. The Word of God is given to us who are Christians for several reasons, one of which is to learn by example. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4). The men and women of the Bible were not unlike us, but were people with the same problems and circumstances. Of course, believers all have one thing in common: we are His children and under His care and guidance. All things work

(Continued on Page 6)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

### TRIBUTE TO CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Editor's Note: Because of *The Baptist Examiner*, the Calvary Baptist Church has been a high profile and a high visibility church for many years. It was difficult for this pastor and this editor to adjust to this store front window condition, however, I have adjusted. We receive much correspondence, direct and indirect, having some comment about the Calvary Bap-



tist Church and/or *The Baptist Examiner*. Most correspondence is complimentary and encouraging. Occasionally, but rarely, we receive a criticism that is justified. Since I've been on board at Calvary, a few folks have made un-Christian, unkind, and unwarranted comments about the Calvary Baptist Church and *The Baptist Examiner*. (Continued on Page 2)

## THE BRIGHT SIDE

By Ray Waugh, Sr.  
(Now with the Lord)



Some years ago, I was privileged to be very near and very close to my beloved wife during the final years, months, days, and moments of her earthly life. Since she had been a most dedicated and committed Christian from the time of her redemption as a young lady in a missionary Baptist church in East Texas in 1935, she was very confident of the truth of the Word of God and the eternal provision that Jesus had made for her both for time and for eternity.

Consequently, when her eyes could no longer focus, and she was no longer able to read the Word of God that she loved, she delighted to have me read especially from portions of the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John wherein the love of God for His own is so very prominent, and from the Psalms. Then, at times she wanted to hear again and again about the glory that is ahead for all of us whose faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

She was perfectly content with the reality that God had a purpose in her sickness, and that it would be all for her good because of His love for her and because of her love for her Savior. At times, she would lie back in bed and say in effect, "Is it not wonderful just to be able to rejoice in Him and to wait in faith." As a result, we often would rejoice and then rejoice again in the wonder of the truth: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did fore-know, he also did predestinate to

be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first-born among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified" (Rom. 8:28-30).

Occasionally, we would come across some so-called Christian radio or Christian TV program wherein some supposed man of God, preacher, or pastor was appealing for people to send in their prayer requests on the pretext that these men had a better access to God, and that they could act as intermediaries between God and men and cause God to effect healing, prosperity, or worldly ease. Even in her dying condition—some of which was interspersed by hepatic comas—she was able to recognize all such ungodly men as frauds. In fact, more and more, as the long days and the sometimes even longer nights came and went, she became more and more conscious that she had immediate access into the very presence of God, knowing that very soon she would be fellowshiping and conversing with her Savior personally.

Just one time, during all of the agonizing four and one half years when morphine and dilaudid could not ease her pain, she asked me to pray that our Lord would take her on home to heaven. Thankfully, I was able to explain to her that I could not do this as her departure was best left in the love, the wisdom, and the purposes of God. She never broached the subject again. And, in the hour of her passing, we saw the wisdom and the purposes of God.

Throughout her long ordeal, she had one continuing prayer; namely, that she might witness effectively to each one of the many who came (Continued on Page 3)



## THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

Eugene P. Helton

Editor

Office Phone 606-325-2012

(USPS #042-340) (ISSN #1082-1147)

Owned, authorized and published by Calvary Baptist Church, Ashland, KY Editorial Department, located in ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where all subscriptions and communications should be sent. Address: P.O. Box 60, Zip Code 41105-0060.

**PUBLICATION POLICIES:** All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts sent should be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of TBE and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication. Church news items must reach us one month prior to publication. The publication of an article does not necessarily mean that the editor is in complete agreement with the writer nor does it mean he endorses all this person may have written on other subjects.

**COPYING PRIVILEGES:** Unless otherwise stated, any article published in the paper may be copied by other publishers, provided they give a proper credit line stating that such was copied from this publication, and the date of publication, provided that such materials are not published for profit. If we are not on exchange list with the publication copying, it is requested that a copy of the issue containing the articles be sent to our address. All copyrighted materials, may not be copied without written consent.

**PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH** at 3339 13th St., Ashland, KY, with paid circulation in every state and many foreign countries.

Subscription rates are \$5.00 per year.

**PLANNING TO MOVE?** - Notify us three weeks in advance. The post office will only forward second class mail for 60 days at no charge to us. After this time the paper is returned to us at a 50 cent charge for each paper returned. Please save us this expense and the post office time. Second Class Postage paid at Ashland, Kentucky.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Baptist Examiner, P.O. Box 60, Ashland, Kentucky 41105-0060.

## TRIBUTE

(Continued from Page 1)

iner. It has been our policy not to respond to such attacks and this policy will remain in effect. However, just this one time, I want to write about the real Calvary Baptist Church. The real Calvary Baptist Church is so much different than what these few critical folks have portrayed her to be.

**"And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch"** (Acts 18:22).

The word "salute" defined: compliment, respect, or the like; to honor in some prescribed way.

As a military man since I was

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

FEBRUARY 1, 1996

PAGE TWO

## Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I come once again praising the Lord for His wonderful blessings.

Brother John R. Gilpin, Jr. is making a remarkable recovery from two very serious surgeries. John will have some more surgery, however, it will not be as serious or as complicated as the previous surgeries. The hand of the Lord has truly been upon Brother John R. Gilpin, Jr. and his family.

The Lord has also blessed me through a time of surgical experience. My surgery was not so serious and not so complicated. I had prostate surgery on November 21, 1995, and was hospitalized at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (Ohio) Medical Center for four days. The Lord has been so good to me. My surgery did not correct everything. I still can't sing, nor play a musical instrument.

As time passes, I realize more and more what a great and wonderful people that the Lord has blessed me to pastor here at Calvary Baptist Church in Ashland, Kentucky. I've enjoyed wonderful blessings in pastoring other churches, however Calvary Baptist Church has become special to me. The Calvary Baptist Church of which I am pastor is so different than what I had heard and anticipated. The people of Calvary Baptist Church are spiritual, loving, kind, and benevolent. These are honest, hard working people desiring to serve the Lord with a Christlike spirit. Please read my article in this edition of TBE entitled "Tribute to Calvary Baptist Church."

May our Lord bless you and your church as you commit to serve Him according to the directions given in His Word.

age 17, I understand what it means to salute someone or something. It is my desire in this writing to salute the Calvary Baptist Church in Ashland, Kentucky.

I've known about the Calvary Baptist Church for approximately twenty years. Since I didn't really move in the same circles as folks from Calvary moved in, I didn't know much about the goings on at Calvary. While I was pastor of the Gethsemane Baptist Church in Marengo, Ohio, from May 1984 until July 1993, I would occasionally hear someone make mention of Calvary in conversations between preachers. I don't remember the details of any particular conversation, however, I do remember the nature and tone of many remarks. I decided long before being contacted by Calvary that this was a church that the Lord would never lead me to pastor and a church that I had absolutely no interest in serving.

In August of 1993, I was contacted by Calvary Baptist Church to come and preach in view of a call. My immediate response was: "I'm not interested and coming to preach would be an exercise in futility." After brief considera-

tion, I decided that I should come to Calvary to preach since the circumstances relative to Calvary seeking and finally locating me were unusual to say the least. Calvary was under the impression that I was still the pastor of the Gethsemane Baptist Church in Marengo, Ohio. They tried to contact me in Marengo, not knowing I had departed Marengo in early July 1993, after pastoring Gethsemane for nine years. I had moved to Lexington, Kentucky, where Calvary finally located me.

When I came to preach at Calvary in August 1993, I was both surprised and pleased to find that the few in attendance on that hot summer day were friendly, warm, kind, and gracious. The people had obviously experienced a time of great discouragement and yet there existed a wonderful spirit and a positive attitude. I really didn't expect what I found at Calvary.

I came back to preach in September. At that time, we enjoyed a Saturday picnic at the Rule home. I could see even more clearly that the few people that made up the church on Sunday mornings were some of God's choicest saints.

After the September visit, Calvary extended a call for me to become their pastor. I asked for a week in which to make a decision. I tried to reconcile what I heard with what I saw and experienced for myself. After my week of prayer and deliberation, I decided that two good visits to Calvary was not reason enough to disregard my previously formed feelings and attitude that I had about the Calvary Baptist Church. I still felt there was a difference between myself and the church; not a doctrinal difference but a difference that I could not define. Others who also didn't know Calvary very well, felt that there was a difference. As Calvary sought out people to inquire concerning my doctrinal positions and background in the ministry, one man gave a good recommendation but added, "He won't come to Calvary." My decision was just that, I could not become the pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Ashland, Kentucky.

That should have ended the matter, but it didn't. I couldn't forget Calvary and apparently Calvary still had me in mind to become her pastor. I telephoned Jack Smith and as time passed the church extended another invitation for me to preach at Calvary, in early November 1993. On that Sunday in November, Clyde, Mildred, and Betty Everman had come from Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky to be in the service. After the service, we enjoyed a fellowship meal in the basement of the church building. After the meal, Brother Clyde Everman took me into what was then the bookstore. He said to me, "I think you should take the church." It was at that time I knew that the Lord wanted me to be the pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church and the editor of *The Baptist Examiner*. I had not been able to walk away from Calvary and say with finality, "Thanks, but no thanks." Calvary had gotten a hold on me.

My ministry at Calvary has been a time of learning and growing. It has been at times a very difficult ministry, but has been the most rewarding of all the years I've pastored.

When I came to Calvary in November 1993, I knew that my previous impression of Calvary was all wrong, but I still was not fully aware that the Lord had made me the pastor of a very special church; indeed a people that have blessed my heart beyond description. Time, circumstances, and experience have taught me that

I'm blessed to be the under shepherd of one of the Lord's choicest flocks.

In the December 3, 1994, edition of *The Baptist Examiner*, brother Clyde T. Everman wrote an article entitled, "Sticks, Stones, and Brickbats." That article was written to be a defense of me and my ministry because some few people had made some statements that were false and unfounded in an attempt to discredit my ministry and impede the work of the Calvary Baptist Church and *The Baptist Examiner*. They failed to do so then and they fail to do so now.

Several times since I have been the pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, these same few people have fired volleys of venom and malice toward the Calvary Baptist Church. On these occasions, the wonderful saints of Calvary have remained silent and Christlike.

Just this one time, I want to tell you of the real Calvary Baptist Church, the one I know and love. A lesser church than Calvary would have quit and died when faced with great times of discouragement. There is something inside the people at Calvary that produced strength and endurance when the road was rough and all uphill. It surely must be the Holy Spirit of God. The Calvary Baptist Church hasn't just become a good church. The Calvary Baptist Church has been a good church since its inception. There has been no great change in the Calvary Baptist Church under my ministry. The change has been in the way people see us. They now see what I had to come to see, a loving, kind, and gracious people known collectively as the Calvary Baptist Church. Calvary was a good church when I came to be the pastor, but Calvary was a discouraged church. The noticeable difference is that the lines of discouragement which once characterized our faces have been replaced with lines of smiles and laughter.

The members of the Calvary Baptist Church in Ashland, Kentucky are:

God loving!  
God fearing!  
God serving!  
Hard working!  
Honest!  
Loving!  
Kind!  
Gracious!  
Caring!  
Benevolent!

I say to those who aforesaid and sometimes still speak unkindly of and about the Calvary Baptist

(Continued on Page 8)





## 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

### Abraham's Supreme Test Genesis 22:1-19

**"And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham...And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of" (22:1).**

The word "tempted" is better translated "tested" or "tried" as it is translated in Hebrews 11:17 **"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac..."** God tests His children to bring out the good in us. Satan tempts us to bring out the evil (James 1:12-15).

Abraham's life was a series of tests from the time God called him from the Ur of the Chaldees. Two words describe the outstanding traits of the life of Abraham: faith and obedience. He believed and he obeyed. There are three great events in his life that bring out this truth:

(1) He believed when he knew not where. **"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed: and he went out, not knowing whither he went"** (Heb. 11:8).

(2) He believed when he knew not how. He received the promise that Sarah, his wife would have a son, an event, which, because of her age, was humanly an impossibility, but we read **"being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead...neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able to perform"** (Rom. 4:19-21; Heb. 11:11).

(3) He believed when he knew not why. This was the supreme

test for Abraham's faith and obedience. Isaac was the sole link between him and the future blessing of the world of which the Lord had promised. Now the command to sacrifice him seemed to be a flat contradiction to that promise. But without hesitation, **"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac...his only begotten son, Of whom it is said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure"** (Heb. 11:17-19).

**"Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest..."** Abraham is reminded of the dearest thing of his life, and is now asked by the Lord to offer as a burnt offering that which was dearest to his heart. Trials that are put to us without reason given at the time are the most severe tests of faith. They call for complete faith, and this leads us to a higher and closer fellowship with God. **"Get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of."** Moriah is mentioned in II Chronicles 3:1 as one of the mountains on which Jerusalem is situated. Some Bible scholars believe that this mount upon which Abraham took Isaac was Mount Calvary where Christ was sacrificed. Could it be that Isaac, being a type of Christ, was laid upon the altar at the same spot that our Redeemer, many years later, as He hung upon the cross cried **"It is finished"** (Jn. 19:30)?

**"And Abraham rose up early in the morning."** Abraham's response was to obey God's command with no reluctance, no hesitation, no doubting. He **"made hast, and delayed not"** to keep God's command (Ps. 119:60). After traveling three days, accompanied with three of his young men and Isaac, Abraham arrived **"unto the place of**

**which God had told him"** (v. 3). What he told the young men is of great importance. **"Abide ye here...I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you."** This lets us know that Abraham fully expected that Isaac would return with him.

As Abraham, carrying the fire and a knife and Isaac carrying the wood for the burnt offering, went up the mountain, Isaac said to his father, **"Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"** (v. 7). Abraham's reply **"My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering"** (v. 8), tells us two things. It is only God who can provide an offering that would satisfy Himself. Nothing which man can provide can meet God's requirements. If ever there was to be a sacrifice for sin God Himself must provide it. We also need to note that the "lamb" was not only provided by God but also was for God, **"God will provide himself a lamb."** While it is true that Christ died for sinners, this could only be done by satisfying the claims of the mercy and the justice of God. This could only be done by the Lamb provided by God Himself.

**"And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there...and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood"** (v. 9). Abraham was now ready to carry out God's command to sacrifice his son, but just as he **"stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son"** (v. 10), the voice of the **"angel of the Lord from heaven"** stopped him from plunging the knife into the heart of Isaac saying, **"Abraham, Abraham, and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him."**

Abraham had passed the test of faith. **"I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not with-**

**held thy son, thine only son from me"** (v. 12).

Abraham fully intended to plunge the knife into the heart of Isaac, but God intervened to prevent him from killing his son. His word to Isaac, as they went up the mount, **"God will provide,"** is now literally fulfilled. **"Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns"** (v. 13). The ram was offered up as a burnt offering in the place of Isaac (v. 15).

Up to this point Isaac was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ as he went to the cross, but at this point the type passes from Isaac to the thorn crowned lamb offered type **"offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son."** Is this not a picture of the sacrifice which Christ made for lost sinners who are in the place of death, bound as was Isaac? Abraham called the place **"Jehovah-jireh"** meaning the Lord will see and provide.

Before leaving this study we need to look at the faith which Abraham had. First, simple faith is taking God at His word. True faith is nothing more, as it is nothing less. God speaks, man believes. Faith is a trust that relies upon God without question. In the second place we need to note the strength of Abraham's faith. He had received the promise from God about his son and he was absolutely certain that promise would be carried out. With this confidence he went forth with the assurance that **"We will come again to you."** In the third place we see the source of Abraham's faith was his conviction of the power of God: **"Accounting that God was able"** (Heb. 11:17-19). Abraham had faith that although he did slay his son God was able to raise him from the dead. The source of his faith was in the power of God. In the fourth place the secret of Abraham's faith was

(Continued on Page 8)

## BRIGHT SIDE

(Continued from Page 1)

to visit and to work with her. She was wonderfully successful in every instance except for one. One of her nurses that worked only with terminal cases was a Mormon who was always so professional that my wife was never able to witness to her during the last two and one half years of her life.

Thankfully, however, one of the dear ladies who expected to be here during my wife's final moments had to leave to pick up her children. The Mormon lady came then, and was here when my beloved took her last little breath and went into the presence of Jesus. She was in the presence of my dying wife as my eldest son and I, along with my youngest, rejoiced in that moment and gave thanks to God for her life, for her testimony, and for her presence then with Jesus.

We were never able to obtain a positive response from the dear Mormon lady who was there at the moment of her death. Soon, thereafter, however, this very delightful, mature, efficient Mormon lady nurse took on other responsibilities in the community that precluded experiences such as she had with our little family. I, personally, have had one additional occasion to see her in her new responsibility, and she again, however, made it very clear that she did not want any extraneous conversation. I wonder, even now, however, whether she may yet be living in the consciousness of the heavenly reality that was ours around three o'clock on February 17, 1982?

Satan, needless to say—death being our last enemy—means for death to be a very dark experience for all who must participate. Thankfully, however, for all who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ death is not darkness. Rather, it is brightness. In that moment when the saints of God pass from the darkness of this world's trouble, trials, and tragedies, they go immediately into the very presence of God and among the saints of all of the ages.

### Lazarus

In a very dark human moment, in the distant past, there was much weeping because of the death of the man, Lazarus. Jesus so de-

(Continued on Page 5)

**OBEDIENCE is the very best way to show that you believe!**

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

FEBRUARY 1, 1996

PAGE THREE





## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



### Why does the Lord call David "a man after mine own heart" in Acts 13:22? (Submitted by Ruth Rule)

CLYDE T.  
EVERMAN

108 Burdsall  
Ave.  
Ft. Mitchell, KY  
41017  
DEACON:  
Calvary  
Baptist Church  
Ashland, KY



"I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will."

Volumes have been written concerning David, the second and most notable king of Israel. Much has been said as to him being a great warrior, a musician and poet, as a man of God, as a prophet, and as a type of Christ. But the expression, "I have found David, a man after mine own heart..." does not refer to any remarkable goodness on the part of David, but indicates that he was the one whom God had chosen to be ruler over His people and it was "of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus" (Acts 13:23). He was the man according to God's special choice. Saul had been the people's choice (I Sam. 8:18) but that proved a disaster. Now God said that He Himself would choose a king, a man "which shall fulfill all my will."

Why did God choose David to be king? I believe it was for the same reason He chose Abraham to be the father of Israel. It was the same reason He chose Jacob instead of Esau, the same reason He chose the nation of Israel to be His own people. It was the same reason He chose certain ones to be heirs of salvation. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure

of his will" (Eph. 1:4, 5).

We find that David was faithful to God all his days. "David did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite" (I Kings 15:5). He became the standard by which later kings of Judah were judged.

JAMES E.  
HOBBS

Rt. 2, Box 182  
McDermott, OH  
45652

PASTOR:

Kings Addition  
Baptist Church  
South Shore, KY



This passage teaches me two main lessons. (1) The security of the saved and (2) the depth of God's forgiveness. We all know that David committed the terrible sin of adultery and then added to that the sin of murder in order to keep the woman. I will not, in my answer, take time to go into details but suffice it to say that David was severely punished for his sins.

For the purpose of this answer let me just point out that God used David in a great and mighty way in spite of his sins. In knowing this I am not encouraged to sin, but I am given the comforting realization that when I do fail my Lord and sin, He can and will use me.

In spite of David, God called him a man after His own heart. David was one who had been stamped God's blessing. "I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him" (Ps. 89:20). In spite of himself, God used him. "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin" (Rom. 4:8).

This passage lets me know that I have security. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life..." (Jn. 3:36). This passage also lets me know that there is no sin so great but what God can and will forgive. "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your

flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses" (Col. 2:13). "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I Jn. 1:9).

JOHN R.  
LENEGAR

126 N.  
Washington St.  
No. 5  
Delaware, OH  
43015

PASTOR:

Walnut Creek  
Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Delaware, OH



Of all the men in the Old Testament, there is probably no one that we are allowed to see into such depths of his inmost thoughts, as well as his outward actions, as that recorded of David—a man after God's own heart. David is one of the greatest figures in the world's history, as well as the most famous ancestor of the Lord Jesus. A consideration of his life at once shows him to be human as we are and he exhibits both good and evil in his life.

David was "the Lord's anointed" as mentioned in II Samuel 19:21 and 23:1. In spite of his sins, both moral and otherwise, David was anointed and guided of God to do God's desire. He was a king, a statesman, a soldier, a poet, and a great thinker. A close examination of what God records of David shows him to be a man of exceptional patience, driving energy, and certainly a great desire to carry out God's plans as His instrument and helper.

We can see many of his inmost thoughts that are directly ascribed to him in Psalm 77. We can see his great and true religious affections to Almighty God. I believe that a close examination of David also shows his concept of God's desires for him and what he was to accomplish, and yet he counted himself as should we all who are saved "a servant of Jehovah."

With this attitude he conquered Israel's enemies, expanded the kingdom, made Jerusalem Israel's capital, and brought the arc to the Holy City.

Because God called him a man after His own heart, many people believe that God condoned his sin. No! God condones no sin. David did God's desire for him and accomplished what God de-

(Continued on Page 5)

GEORGE R.  
SLEDD

920 Upsala Rd.  
Sanford, FL  
32771

PASTOR:

Jordan Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Sanford, FL



"And when he had removed him, (Saul) he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will" (Acts 13:22). There is no other man born of Adam in the Scriptures that was called "a man after God's heart." Yet there is another man who was a "man after God's own heart." He is none other than the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. David is a type of Christ as the beloved king of Israel. Notice in this text it says of David "which shall fulfill all my will." David was no doubt a great man for he had a sincere heart for God. The will of God was the main trend of his whole life. Jeroboam was rebuked for his wickedness. "And thou Jeroboam has not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in my eyes." Yet, from Scripture we know that David was also a man of many faults. He did not perfectly obey the will of God. The Lord Jesus Christ did fulfill the entire will of God perfectly. In fact, our Lord made the claim: "For I do always those things that please him." No other man

has ever been able to do that!

There is a sense in which every child of God is "a man after God's own heart." Just as Jesus Christ was precious to the Father, we being in Christ are also precious to Him. "Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life" (Isa. 43:4). "This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise" (Isa. 43:21). If you are a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ, you are precious to God. He gave His Son to redeem you unto Himself. He chose you to be His own before time began. My friends, that is the grace of God. To be "a man after God's own heart" is not conditioned upon what you can

(Continued on Page 5)

JACK C.  
WHITT

4510 Garden Ave.  
Portsmouth, OH  
45662

TEACHER:

Calvary Baptist  
Church  
Ashland, KY



I recently read of someone who said: "the first, last and closest trial question to any living creature is: 'What do you like?' Go out into the street and ask the first man you meet what his likes are and if he answers candidly, you know him body and soul." I do not know if this is really true or not, but it does seem logical to a point. In fact, Proverbs 23:7 says "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." What a person likes in such things as entertainment, music, how and where leisure time is spent, and the people with whom one associates—all say something about that person.

But too, man has moral as well as physical preferences. What he likes with regard to God and the Bible says much about the person and determines what he/she is as a moral and spiritual being. And it is a sign to others of what they are. One can know himself and

(Continued on Page 5)



## SLEIGH RIDE

By Irene Orrick

Two slow whumps and three short whumps, then repeat all day. Everyone can recognize this as the Saturday rhythm of Wick Leedy's big Delco motor running the grist mill at Stark.

Mamma baked all our bread in the oven of her wood-burning cookstove. We were miles away from any store where "light bread" could be bought and thought it was a mighty poor substitute for real bread the few times we did buy it. We didn't grow much wheat, so we bought flour—Mamma thought Snow Goose brand was the best—and she made a big batch of biscuits every morning, mixing the dough in a large aluminum dishpan and kneading it right in the pan like I have never seen anyone else do. She pinched big biscuits off the lump and baked them in a long pan, blackened with use and age.

Though we had to buy flour, we grew a lot of corn and had it ground into meal for thick pones of cornbread. About once a month on Friday night we shelled a coffeesack full of corn. And one Saturday morning Daddy or one of the boys saddled Madge the mare or Kate the mule, threw the turn of corn across behind the saddle, and took it to Stark to be ground into cornmeal. I usually went too. The mill was the male social club, a place to chat and chew. I don't remember ever seeing any of the women cross the road from the general store to the mill; little girls, not yet counted as women, often accompanied their papas.

The mill house was the fifth structure of the Stark metropolis: Leedy's General Store/Post Office, Leedy's barn, Leedy's house, the Methodist Church, and the mill. Sometimes on those Saturdays after I had bought my nickel sack of penny candy from Wick's wife, Myrt, I would run across the road, stick my head in the door and listen to the roar of the whump-whumps, close up. When I think of Wick at the mill, I'm reminded of the old riddle, "Why does a miller wear a white hat?" There could never be any doubt who the miller was at the mill, for after he had worked awhile he would be covered all over with meal dust. Wick really stood out from the rest of the men. But he certainly never purposely sprinkled himself with meal to be identified. The thing he was occupied with just naturally identified him—as Christians can be identified at work, at school, in the neighborhood—they begin after a while to stand out like a miller in a white hat, not purposely perhaps: it's just that their occupation with Christ begins to work from the inside to the outside to the extent that their identity cannot be mistaken.

My family's taste for bread was narrow. We thought homemade bleached wheat biscuits and a pone of yellow cornbread was good enough for anybody anywhere. We never opened our minds to allow for any other bread. However, as the years have gone by, I have tried and come to like store-bought bread: whole wheat, rye, yeast, salt-rising, English muffins, bagels, buns, rolls, and French loaves. As a young Christian, I knew and loved a few doctrines and believed only a few people held to those select teachings. With the passing of years, I have come to see that God has more than a few truths and more than a few people who believe them. Though there is only one Bread of Life, He is not limited to my narrow taste nor my culture. There is so much variety of delight in Him that He is sufficient for many peoples for more than every day of the year.

**"Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentiles, and millet, and fitches and put them in one vessel, and make thee bread thereof...three hundred and ninety days shalt thou eat thereof"** (Ez. 4:9).

## FORUM LENEGAR

(Continued from Page 4)

ired for him to do, but he did not do God's complete will. Sin is never God's will. David's life contained some acts inconsistent and sinful as compared to his overall life and calling. He repented of his sin (Ps. 51) and he also bore the consequences of those acts. As well as never becoming an idolator, David was always loyal to God in his testimony and worship. David, like any person, was subject to the desires of the flesh, and like many of us, he acted unwisely and sinful in conduct. He had to do the same thing which we must do today as God tells us in I John 1:9. Sin in a believer's life has been paid for as to salvation, but our fellowship depends on a right relationship with Him, or chastening and loss of reward will surely come about. David knew,

as we know who are called to God's family today, that God is unchangeable and will do what He has said He will do. He keeps His promises and will complete what He has started (Phil. 1:6).

### SLEDD

do for God. You can't do anything without Christ. Jesus said, **"Without me ye can do nothing."** By grace I am "a man after God's own heart" and the thought of that spurs me to obedience. In fact, that can be the only motive for a life pleasing to the Lord. David understood this grace and that is what so humbled him and made him an obedient and fit servant. Paul also believed the same thing: **"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which as with me."** If you want to know the heart of

God to unworthy sinners (and I mean saved people) look to Christ who is "the Man after God's own heart!" You will find a longsuffering God of compassion and mercy. If you doubt that, take the time to read Psalm 51.

### WHITT

others as well when these tests are applied.

But how does all this apply to David and the question before us? David's own writings in the Scriptures reveal much about his nature, character, and desires toward God. For example, he wrote **"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple"**

(Continued from Page 8)

## BRIGHT SIDE

(Continued from Page 3)

layed His visit to the grave of Lazarus, that everyone would be able to know that he had not swooned or fainted. Then, it was in the very presence of dead Lazarus that Jesus had some wonderful words to share with the grieving sisters of Lazarus. To them, at that moment, death was a time of great darkness and a time for hopeless weeping.

Thankfully, Jesus had a totally different approach. For Him, the death of Lazarus was an opportunity and a time for testimony and for witness. Therefore, we find Jesus saying to grieving and distraught Martha, **"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..."** (John 11:25-26). There in the very presence of death and in the presence of all of those friends and loved ones who knew that Lazarus was dead, Jesus said, **"And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..."**

This, I believe, is the message that David is attempting to get us to understand in the words, **"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"** (Ps. 23:4). This was the confidence to which my dear wife held throughout her dying years, months, days, and moments. She knew that when she closed her eyes for the last time here upon the earth, she would open them in the brightness of heaven's glory. It was her momentary and her continuing desire that she might convince all with whom she came into contact of this wondrous truth.

### Thief

Many, many years after David had expressed himself so wisely, a thief was justly dying by crucifixion for crimes that he had committed. Yet, in the midst of his agony and the tragedy of his experience, this malefactor recognized that Jesus was innocent of any crime, though He was dying with the guilty. This one expressed his repentance with these words to the other dying thief, **"Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this man hath done nothing amiss"** (Luke 23:40-41).

And then to Jesus, the repentant thief cried, **"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom"** (Luke 23:42). The response of Jesus was immediate, just as it is when we pray in faith even today. We learn that Jesus said to this repentant thief, **"Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise"** (Luke 23:43). So, that moment which may have seemed to be very dark for the dying thief there on one of the crosses at Calvary really and actually took on the brightness to which Jesus had directed the heart of Martha when He said, **"Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..."** (John 11:26).

### Assurance

Thankfully and wonderfully, all of us who have ever **"believed on the Son"** (John 3:36) and all who have **"confessed that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh..."** (I John 4:2) can be assured that we will never die. In the midst of the darkness that men reference as death, we have the assurance of the brightness that we shall never die. There may come a moment when we close our mortal eyes in a last human sleep, but we shall immediately thereafter open them in the realms of Glory with the Father and the Son at His Right Hand, and in the midst of all of the saints of all of the ages.

So, in the midst of the darkness of this past year, and in the midst of the darkness of the present year, we who have believed on the Son of God have everlasting, eternal, endless life. Though we may struggle in the process of our living, recognizing as Job of old that **"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble"** (Job 14:1), still every day we get just a little closer to our home in that Heavenly City.

### Brightness

There, **"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall be any more pain; for the former things are passed away"** (Rev. 21:4). There, all darkness will be forever past. We have the assurance, that in that City, we shall have **"no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof"** (Rev. 21:23).

(Continued on Page 8)



## PRESSING

(Continued from Page 1)

together for our good.

One thing is certain, however, and that is the fact that it is harmful to DWELL, or continually RETURN to the past for any length of time. As a tool, the past can be helpful, but as a continual dwelling place it can be detrimental. This is especially true if the past holds unpleasant or harmful memories. Not practising forgiveness and prayer concerning those things can cause a person to be useless and stalled. Old ties and acquaintances that are malevolent, or hold unpleasant memories must be severed and put from our minds. The present must be uppermost in our minds, for we have only today to do God's work and to please Him. When tomorrow comes it is today and soon we will be where time is no longer relevant. We need to compare ourselves with God's Word and not with each other or what others are doing. II Corinthians 10:12 says, **"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."** The standard of Scripture is all that matters as we examine ourselves and seek to move ahead. We should give ourselves to that as we seek to better serve the Lord. **"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all"** (I Tim. 4:15). As we begin a new year, let us think of some things to which we should not look back and dwell upon and likewise some things to which we should be looking ahead. Let us not look at others and dwell on them and what they are doing, or not doing, but let us look to Jesus; Him with Whom we have to do. To please Him, to do His work, and to live lives that are pleasing and acceptable in His sight should be our primary concern and God will take care of His children as He sees fit.

### I. Those Things To Which We Should Not Look Back

There are three areas of the past to which, I believe, the Lord would not have us to return, or to dwell any length of time therein. These are areas that will affect each

individual in a different, but undesirable way. We must let go of certain things in the past. We must let go of certain situations in the past. We must not watch the other runners of the course set before us. We must count all things as loss as we strive to gain the knowledge of Christ Jesus and seek to do His bidding.

(1) We must not look back to past failures and mistakes. We must never sit and say: "If I had not..., If I could only have known..., If I had just done thus and so." NO! We must remember first of all, that the Lord permits all things to pass into the lives of His children. Nothing takes place as an accident, or by chance. God permits the unpleasant thing to come to pass for our good and His glory. Are we to questions and lament over something the One who loves us and cares for us has chosen, or permitted to come to pass in our lives? Look to the One Who permits the circumstances, not at the circumstances. Remember our relationship to Him as His child. Beloved we live by faith, not my sight. The Devil will always use sight, feelings, or circumstances to trouble us. God promises that all things will work together for our good. Romans 8:28 says **"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."**

We must remember secondly, that past failures and mistakes were for our good and they were, and are, a part of His plan. We must realize this and look above their affliction. Look to Him Who said that He would never leave us, or forsake us. Let us set our eyes on those things which are not seen by the natural eye. **"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal"** (II Cor. 4:17, 18).

We must remember thirdly, that we must never dwell on past sins as many do, because our sin and the manifestations of the disease (sins) have all been paid for by the Lord Jesus once and for all and will NEVER be brought up again concerning our salvation. The Lord Jesus Who was and is the only perfect man/God gladly

laid down His life for the redemption of many. He died for All of our sins past, present, and future and then graciously imputed to us who are saved, His righteousness in place of our filthy rags. He forgave us, cleansed us, and gave us His righteousness, indeed became our righteousness as we are told in I Corinthians 1:30. We are most blessed among all people on the earth. **"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered..."** (Ps. 32:1). God is for us. Who can be against us? **"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth"** (Rom. 8:32, 33). We must note before passing on that even though our sin is paid for its dominion broken, we still commit sin and yield to temptation and are troubled by the pollutions of the world. Therefore, we must confess our sins and then He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us, that our fellowship with Him not be broken (I John 1:9).

(2) We must not look back to unpleasant or unjust experiences. The flesh, the old ways of our past nature, easily carry a grudge and become bitter at the unfair and unjust experiences we may have suffered at the hands of the wicked, or more likely than not, at the hand of "Christian" people. It is natural to the flesh to lash out or retaliate, but here again we are not to do such. We have the power of God to enable us. The desires of the Lord Jesus are opposite of those things that seem right to the flesh. We, by the power of Jesus, must be the opposite of the world. **"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you"** (Eph. 4:30-32). We should pray for grace to be in this state and never to look back to past injustices. To dwell on such can cause us to do foolish and sinful things. Bitterness can likewise creep into our lives and behavior, if we allow ourselves to dwell on past injustices. Beloved we have the blessed assurance that each of God's children will be vindicated

by God the Father. **"To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste"** (Deut. 32:35).

(3) We must not look back to the losses of the past. All of us have probably lost something of value at sometime in our life because of someone else. Wickedness, misunderstanding, or our sin may have cost us something, or someone because of the unjust behavior of someone who should have been punished, and rightly so, in our minds. Most of the time, whether we lost a friend, or something of real value and importance to us, the overwhelming sense of unfairness and loss was very heavy to bear. "Why, Lord, would this happen?" "Punish them!" "Cause them pain and the same sense of loss or worse!" Beloved we must put those things in right perspective and leave them with the Lord to do with as He sees fit. Remember that He is the One Who permitted those things to enter our life, our Christian course. In fact, our text tells us what our attitude should be concerning all such things in our life, past and present. **"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ"** (Phil. 3:7, 8). Of course, we have certain financial obligations and responsibilities as to family and provision, but all of these things are to have their priorities. The Lord Jesus is to be first.

All that will count in this life, when we reach the other side, will be what things have been done by us for Him, and by Him through us, as He guides and directs us. We need to labor in this attitude and always be remembering to hold fast. **"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward"** (II John 8). As we are delivered from the world and all it holds, we are not to look back, or become again entangled in its affairs. Even as Lot's wife, having been instructed not to do so, looked back and became a pillar of salt, we are not to look back and dwell on the past. We are salt and we are to be sprinkled about so that we can

have influence all about us. A block of salt is in only one spot and its users must come to that place to benefit from the salt. Most do not.

### II. Those Things To Which We Should Look Ahead.

Unlike the three areas of the past that the Lord would not have us to look back upon, or dwell upon, I believe that there are three areas that He would have us to dwell upon continually. These are three areas that we should ever be mindful of and the contemplation of which will only mean a better servant and child of God are all extremely important.

(1) We must look first to Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ is the beginning and ending of all things to us who are His. He is the Instigator of our faith. It was Jesus Who for the joy before Him, gladly laid down His life and sits now at the right hand of the Father for us. **"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"** (Heb. 12:2).

Today men look for salvation in many places, even in this so-called Christian country, but there is only one place it is to be found; only in One Person. Acts 4:12 says **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."**

We need to look to the Lord Jesus with singleness of heart and desire. No one ever cared for us like Jesus. There is no friend or brother like Him. We, like the Psalmist, must say: **"Whom have I in heaven, but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee"** (Ps. 73:25). Do you feel like that? There is no sweeter, truer Provider and Watchman to us than our Lord and Savior Jesus. Certainly we need to be in a frame of mind that moves us to please Him in our lives and actions. **"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more"** (I Thess. 4:1).

We should also be looking to Jesus for His soon return. We live in a day when the spirit of lawlessness abounds. The stage is set. The Scriptural signs are evi-

(Continued on Page 8)



## THE EQUALITY OF THE HUMAN RACE

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

The Bible is clear in its declaration that the races of mankind are on an equal footing with God. The Scriptural teaching of the equality of the races is founded upon a three-prong foundation.

I. All the races of man are equal based upon their physical makeup

Acts 17:26 "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation."

II. All the races of man are equal based upon their physical origin

A. All come from Adam and Eve. Genesis 3:20 "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living."

B. All come from Noah and his wife. Genesis 9:19 "These are the three sons of Noah: and from them was the whole earth overspread."

C. All come from God. Malachi 2:10 "Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?"

III. All the races of man are equal based upon their need and admittance to salvation

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

I Corinthians 15:22 "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ

shall all be made alive."

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

John 3:16 "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."

(Please note "the world" is speaking of all the races of the world. Salvation is granted not just to Jews but to Gentiles as well. Every race of man is represented within those who are chosen to salvation by God.)

Revelation 7:9 "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."

The equality of the human races is a very obvious, Scriptural truth.

Acts 10:28 "And he said to them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come to one of another nation; but God hath shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean."

Here we find Peter, after having been taught by God, coming to the realization that the OT laws concerning the separation of the physical Jew from the non-Jewish peoples was not a proper basis for rejection of those of another

nation or race. Peter had been taught that through Divine revelation, some of all races of mankind are to be recipients of the Gospel message proclaimed from a heart of love.

Our Lord, Himself, during His earthly ministry opposed the common place biases and prejudices that were held by many others in the Jewish community.

Matthew 9:10 "And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?"

Matthew 11:19 "The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children."

John 4:9 "Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans."

Truly our Lord looked upon others as those in need of a work of grace in the heart. He understood that all men must hear the gospel message to be saved. He looked far beyond the man-made divisions of this world. The Lord gives to mankind His love and the truth without regard for skin color or race. Should not we as well?

## A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



Deborah

Genesis 24:59; 35:8

General Information

Genesis 24:59 - She was Rebekah's nurse, and moved with Rebekah from Mesopotamia (city of Nahor) to the land of Canaan, when Rebekah married Isaac. The word nurse in the Hebrew means "to suck, to give milk." It appears that the reason this word is used to describe what Deborah did is because she took care of providing for Rebekah's personal needs and caring for her in a tender, gentle way, as a mother does a sucking infant. This could also imply that Deborah took care of Rebekah from the time that Rebekah was just an infant.

Genesis 35:8 - Here we have Deborah's death and burial. She was buried in Bethel under an oak tree. The name of her burial place was called Allon-bachuth, meaning "oak of weeping." At this time, Deborah was travelling with Jacob and his family from Mesopotamia, and she was still part of this family, possibly taking care of Rachel and Leah and their children. She appears to have served this family for at least two generations. There are a few theories as to how she ended up with Jacob and his family. One theory is that Rebekah had sent Deborah to meet with her son, Jacob, to bring him back home. Another belief is that once Deborah had served her usefulness in the household of Rebekah and Isaac, they gave Deborah to Jacob to help out with his large family. Others believe that Rebekah died; Deborah outliving Rebekah, went with Jacob and his family, proved her usefulness, and stayed on. There are a few who believe that possibly Genesis 24:59 and Genesis 35:8 are talking about two different nurses, for some families had more than one nurse, thus Deborah was another nurse of Rebekah's given to Jacob and his family, and not the same nurse mentioned in Genesis 24:59. There appears to have been a great mourning and weeping at her death. Several authorities wrote that these old nurses were honored and loved as mothers. Some believe that Deborah lived to be very old, even as old as 180 years



old. Most believe that she was at least 100 years old. There is a Jewish tradition that indicated that Jacob heard of the death of his mother, Rebekah, at this time, and that this was the real cause of the weeping at Deborah's death, or at least caused the mourning period and the weeping to be extended.

Name Study

Deborah - a word, eloquent, bee, honey bee, and translated bee in the following verses: Deut. 1:44; Jud. 14:8; Ps. 118:12; Isa. 7:18. Comes from a word meaning to arrange, to speak, to subdue, a word, wordy, thing, a cause, a pestilence, a pasture, reason, suit, or style. The name "Melissa" is a Greek word with the same meaning.

Personal Application

Just about anyone writing about this woman mentions that her name means a bee. They associate the constant activity, industriousness, and care that a bee takes in its work with the industriousness, care, etc., that Deborah must have shown in performing her duties as a nurse. "Busy as a bee."

Practical Application

The following are verses which teach against slothfulness (laziness): Prov. 18:9, 19:15, 22:13, 24:30, 31, 26:13; Eccl. 10:18; Matt. 25:26; Rom. 12:11; II Thess. 3:11; Heb. 6:12. The following are verses dealing with industry and diligence: Prov. 6:6, 10:4, 5, 12:11, 13:4, 11, 20:13, 22:29, 31:13; Rom. 12:8, 11; Heb. 6:11; II Pet. 1:10, 3:14. Proverbs 31 not only talks about the virtuous woman, but the industrious, diligent woman as well.

Just Believe

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

FEBRUARY 1, 1996

PAGE SEVEN

Love your neighbor  
as yourself  
Mark 12:31

For God so loved  
the world...  
John 3:16

Love never fails  
I Corinthians 13:8

Walk in love as  
Christ has loved us  
Ephesians 5:2

Let brotherly love  
continue  
Hebrews 13:1

God so loved us,  
we ought to love one  
another  
I John 4:19



## TRIBUTE

(Continued from Page 2)

Church; some may have believed your message of hate in the past, but only a few, if any, are now listening. You'll hear no more from me on this matter. God only is my judge and the judge of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Our prayer for all of God's true saints and all of God's true churches is that we all will have a Christlike spirit. We exempt no one or no church from this prayer. Let us waste no more time. Let us spend our time spreading the saving Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ! Let us spend our time warning a lost and dying world of the soon coming of Jesus!

## BIBLE STUDY

(Continued from Page 3)

in the fellowship which he had with God. Twice in the chapter he answered **"Here am I."** Abraham living in close fellowship with God gave him more and more a knowledge of the character of God. **"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him"** (Ps. 25:14). Someone has said, "When we live in close fellowship with Him our faith grows strong, our love grows deep, our hope grows high." It is then that like Abraham that we **"stagger not through unbelief"** (Rom. 4:20).

We can say with Isaiah **"The Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed"** (Isa. 50:7).

## BRIGHT SIDE

(Continued from Page 6)

There, we shall experience the wonder of the beauty of **"them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified"** (Rom. 8:30).

We shall dwell and abound in the brightness of Heaven's Glory!

We may think on the dark side, but we live on "The Bright Side!"

.....  
**Pray for your  
pastor and  
his family  
today!**  
.....

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER  
FEBRUARY 1, 1996  
PAGE EIGHT

## FORUM

(Continued from Page 5)

### WHITT

(Ps. 27:1, 4). Again he wrote **"Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee"** (Ps. 39:21).

I believe David was a man after God's own heart because he loved what God loved. He hated what God hated. He shared the same grief about the same things God grieved over, that is, his grief for his (David's) sins as well as the sins of his people. David's life serves as a testimony to the reality of how man's depraved, sinful nature can succumb to the lusts of the flesh and bring about God's chastisement. But also David's life shows that God will abundantly pardon when sincere, heartfelt sorrow over sin is confessed and expressed to Him. So much of David's writings in the Psalms attest to his great love for God and gives expression to God's heart and will for His people.

There may be something about David known only to God that such tribute was paid him to be called **"A man after God's own heart,"** yet the things he liked, his choices of things holy and good, his ability to speak boldly against the wicked and to warn of God's coming judgment, all must have contributed to such honor given him of God.

And so it is, with all people everywhere. We are known by what we like. The big question then: Do we like what God likes, as David did, or do we like the sinful things of this world? One day we all will give answer to God for what we are enjoying today.

**We need  
the kind of  
evangelism  
which tells  
a man that  
God is  
indispensable,  
Christ is  
available,  
and eternity  
is inevitable**

## PRESSING

(Continued from Page 6)

dent and we should be watching, but in most cases that is not what is happening. We are closer to His return than even those of us who are looking for Him fully realize. The attitude of the world's people is "things are like they always have been and always will be." God tells us that when people do not receive swift payment of their deeds, they become even more cold and indifferent to the goodness and mercy of God. **"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil"** (Eccl. 8:11). One of these days the Lord will come when He is least expected. As Christians take their ease and the world does business as usual, suddenly the coming of the Lord Jesus will change everything. **"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame"** (Rev. 16:15).

(2) We must look secondly to the work. Jesus has given His children much responsibility and much work to do through His instrument on earth—the local New Testament church. Let me identify the local church further by saying it must be one of His churches, founded and given as an example by Him while He was here on earth. I realize that not all of the children of God (family of God/all saved people) are members of His church, but they should be. Every child of God in His service should be constantly looking ahead, while taking stock of the present situation. Those called to His service and life cannot stop or turn aside, nor look back and wish for the comforts of Egypt. Luke 9:62 tells us: **"...No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."**

God expects us to work with no leaves of absence, retiring for a season, or seasons. The work of serving God in whatever capacity is a continual and steadfast thing. Our service is to be abundant and continual. **"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord"** (1 Cor. 15:58). Likewise we are not to look to tomorrow to the exclusion of today. People who

put off until tomorrow waste years and valuable time instead of redeeming the time for the days are evil. People often worry about doing, and how to do things, to the point of not only wasting time, but causing themselves worry and more trouble than they need or should have. **"Take no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof"** (Matt. 6:34). **WE HAVE ONLY TODAY! LET US LOOK TO THE WORK OF THE LORD TODAY!**

(3) We must look to our home and final destination. We must be ever mindful that we are strangers and pilgrims on this earth. This is not our final home, although you might think that by the actions of some that it is. This earth is not our final home in its present state. We are just passing through. God has made us citizens of the place He has prepared for us. Our journey in this life and its destination are described in several ways in the Scriptures. Our earthly life is described as a course, a race that leads to the time when Jesus will call for us and take us to the place He has provided. Our journey and its end is guaranteed. We will finish the course for we do not run it in our strength. God promises that we will finish it. We should live with this assurance and in such a way that others will see its evidence in us. We should be ever mindful of our spiritual progress and that which is taking place around us. God guarantees our spiritual progress as we travel through this vail of tears. We shall grow stronger and stronger as we run the course before us. **"The righteous also shall hold on his way and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger"** (Job 17:9). God also guarantees our growth and strength. This comes through the Holy Spirit and the application of the Word of God. **"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon"** (Ps. 92:12). This is seen in the New Testament when we are told in the book of Ephesians that we are to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Our sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit. He teaches, He guides, He brings about the applications of God's principles and ways to our lives and our dissemination. We flourish and gain spiritual health only

as we study, pray, and fellowship with the Lord and His people. The work that He calls each of us to is the only earthly pursuit worth lasting value and reward.

We will receive the things done in our body, whether good or evil, that have been done in the flesh in our Christian lives. We must all appear at the judgment seat (bema seat) of Christ and I for one, certainly do not think that it will be a cut and dried experience. I am sure that there will be tears for various reasons. Many of God's children have neglected God's work. Motives, love for God as an initiative, and faithfulness will all come under appraisal and judgment. Not judgment for salvation, but for reward, or loss of reward. Look to the work. The time is short, whether we are taken in death, or by the Lord in the air.

Paul gives us a beautiful example in verses 12-16 of our Scripture portion. Examine those verses closely and you will see that Paul has the right frame of mind and attitude, the right effort, the right goal, and the right reward in mind. Therefore, we say to you who read this article—Press ahead. Press toward the mark! Above all, do not watch the other runners, or judge yourself by them and what they are doing. Do not look back, or dwell there. Look ahead, hold fast, for the Lord shall soon come for us either in death, or in the clouds. Let us heed the Master's admonitions: **"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown"** (Rev. 3:11). **"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us"** (Heb. 12:1). May the Lord bless you each one to His glory and your eternal good.

In Africa, some of the native tribes practice the strange custom of beating the ground with clubs and uttering wild, blood-curdling yells. Anthropologists call this a form of primitive expression. In America, we call it golf.