

*Sin is the willful continuation of a fractured relationship with God*

"...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. 3 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, MARCH 1, 1996 WHOLE NUMBER 2713

## HOW MY BELIEF IN THE RETURN OF CHRIST AFFECTS MY LIFE AND MINISTRY

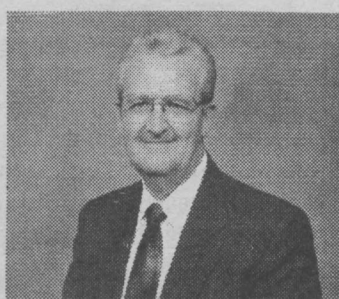
By Larry J. Robbins, Assistant Pastor Trinity Baptist Church, Richmond, Kentucky

The apostle Peter states so clearly in II Peter 3 that the return of Christ reveals the practical life for God's people. In order to escape the dissolution of the present order and enjoy dwelling in a new order, Christians are to live like foreigners who want to go home (v. 11-13). Since Christ's return is imminent, Christians are reminded that the right kind of conduct is urgent; and ignorance can lead to destruction (v. 14-16). Since Christ's soon return is certain, saints are warned about falling into the error of the wicked on the one hand and of the need to respond with holiness on the other (v. 17-18).

The central teaching of the return of Christ is the moral and spiritual effect upon the life and conduct of God's people in the present. The present age is one marked by pragmatism. The question asked everywhere is: Does it work? What are the practical effects of the return of Christ in my life? II Peter 3:11-12 says, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversations and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

The New Testament writings of Paul, Peter, and John are filled with references that indicate a healthy regard for the final accounting for conduct, life, and character. These eschatological implications of the New Testament speak to these issues in a way that should bring tremendous courage to the Christian.

The imminent return of Christ



affects my life and ministry in the following ways:

1. The New Testament indicates that God is sovereign and in control. W.T. Conner says, "God is perfect in His moral qualities; He is also perfect in every other respect in which we can think of Him." It is possible to sum up God's perfection in His "natural attributes" in the word "absoluteness." The absoluteness of God means that He is not dependent on anything outside Himself; by His infinity we denote the unlimited fullness and perfection of His being.

We can understand more fully what is meant by the absoluteness of God if we apply the idea in

certain definite respects to God; that is, if we consider it as applied to God in His relation to the world order.

(a) His presence in the world order. How is God related to the world order in which we live? Man's experience in the world order is always subject to the law of space and time. There are three terms used to denote God's relation to space and time: omnipresence, eternity, and immensity. The omnipresence of God means that He is everywhere present in space and time. There is no point of space, no moment of time where God is not present. Eternity is used to mean that God transcends all the limitations of time. The immensity of God means that God transcends the limitations imposed on man by the spatial order. God is not limited by space.

(b) His knowledge of the world order. This is denoted by the term omniscience. By the omniscience of God we mean His perfect knowledge. This can be summed up in

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## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

### 1996-2000 - A LIKELY LAUNCH WINDOW

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Cor. 15:51-52).

"For the Lord himself shall



descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"

(Continued on Page 2)

## CALLED

By Ted Gower, Onia, Arkansas

"Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ. To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:6, 7).

As I begin, words are not sufficient to describe the blessedness of being one of the called of Jesus Christ. I would think that shouting would be more appropriate, along with being flat on the ground with your face in the dirt, thanking Him for grace and mercy.

No greater thing has ever happened to anyone, than being "called to be saints." Beloved of God, would you trade your calling of God for anything this world has to offer? If you could be assured you could rule the world, that every person on the earth would be subject to you. All the wealth, all the fame and honor that could be imagined would be yours for all your time here on earth. Would you trade your calling for all this? NO! NO! NO! A thousand times, NO! Would be the reply of everyone called to be saints. For how could we even for a moment consider giving up the calling of God for such weak and beggarly things.

On the other hand, those who have not been "partakers of the heavenly calling" would trade their religion, would compromise their position for worldly gain, and do every day. Because they know nothing of being called "into the grace of Christ" they have only responded to another gospel. There is a vast difference in being called of God, in being born of the Spirit, and religious conversion.

For all of recorded time there

have been religious conversions into all the many hundreds, or even thousands of religious movements. Some religions are known world wide, some we have never heard of. Some with untold thousands of members, some with less than a hundred. Religious movements, all with the same goal, more converts, whatever it takes. Catholicism has said convert or die. Pentecostalism says we'll give them something they can see (no matter the fraud involved) then they will join us. Campbellism says we will give them five simple steps, that way they will know they are saved when they complete the fifth step, or is the sixth step of holding out till the end? Then some say just live a good life and do the best you can, all will be well in the end. In all these and the multitudes we have not mentioned, there is one common thread, works for salvation. It is religious conversion, converting from nothing to religion, or from one religion to another.

We could make many comments about all the religions of the world, but it is a weariness of mind, and so is a portion of the task set before us.

Of all the religious groups the one I am involved with is Baptist. Of all the religions in the world, Baptist should know better than to preach works for salvation. What? You say, I have never heard a Baptist preach or teach works for salvation.

There are only two things that have ever been taught for salvation whether they be called Christian or a religion that is non-Christian. Only two things, no exceptions, you are told you are saved as a result of something you do, or you are saved by the grace of God. Nothing else has ever been taught in any religion, and you believe one or the other, what do you believe?

There was a time when Baptists believed and preached you are saved by grace through faith (and that faith is a gift of God) plus nothing. Baptists believed one had to be called of God or he could not come to Christ. After all they had read where Jesus said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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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.

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Subscription rates are \$5.00 per year.

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Second Class Postage paid at Ashland, Kentucky.

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

## LAUNCH

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(I Thess. 4:16-17).

Launch window defined: A period of time when all data supports a launch into space in order to arrive at the desired destination.

We often hear NASA use the term "launch window" in regards to one of its' many launches of space vehicles and satellites. There is a time when conditions are right for launch. This is a launch window.

The rapture of the saints of God is the launch we speak of today. The conditions seem to be right or soon to be right for the launching of the saints of God to heaven.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

MARCH 1, 1996

PAGE TWO

## Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Today is January 10, 1996, and Ashland, Kentucky, like most other places east of the Mississippi River and north of Georgia, is covered with a deep snow. As I write, snow is falling again and as much as six inches more of snow is expected in the next two days.

Already, I'm longing for spring to come to Ashland. I do look forward to the warm pleasant days of spring, with the birds singing, the trees in bloom, the grass green and the farmer in the field preparing the ground for planting. Somehow to me this seems like a preview of heaven. Heaven surely is far more pleasant than any day on earth. I'm sure singing will abound. The beauty and fragrance of blossoms will be ever present. The temperature will always be perfect. Most wonderful of all, Jesus is there, and will always be there. I do long for spring to come to Ashland, Kentucky, but more than the coming of the earthly spring, I long for that eternal spring with Jesus in Heaven.

The Lord is still blessing the Calvary Baptist Church. We had a wonderful New Year's Eve Service. We were blessed with much special singing, a great time of fellowship, and an excellent fellowship meal. Brother Larry Robbins preached a great and timely message on the several aspects of change.

I certainly do pray that the Lord is blessing you and your church as you serve Him! If we serve Him faithfully, He certainly will bless us. That's the way God is!

Scripturally speaking, the event called "the rapture" will come as a thief in the night to a lost world, however, it should not be so for the true child of God. The Lord has given His saints many signs that when fulfilled or looming on the horizon of fulfillment herald the coming of Jesus Christ. Coming first in the air to snatch away His saints and later to the earth to rule and reign on earth for one thousand years. The rapture should not surprise God's children. Any child of God, who is a student of the prophetic Scriptures and knowledgeable of world events surely must believe that the rapture of God's saints is very near. The Lord's coming will surprise the lost world that lives always in darkness but will not surprise His saints who live in the enlightenment of His Word. **"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night...But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief"** (I Thess. 5:1-2, 4).

The Word of God has given us many prophecies which are being graphically fulfilled in this present age. There is an abundance of

evidence that supports an imminent rapture of the saints of God. In this message, we shall limit our remarks supporting an imminent rapture to only four points.

I. In the fulfillment of prophetic Scriptures, there is a general declining of moral and economic conditions across the entire earth.

In prophesying about the conditions that would exist on the earth just prior to His second coming, Jesus said: **"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold"** (Matt. 24:12). Never in my fifty-seven years on earth have I seen and heard of so gross and so much sin. Truly iniquity does abound. We live in an age where anything goes.

Paul prophesied about the end times. He accurately described the conditions that exist on planet earth this very day. Paul said: **"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but de-**

nying the power thereof: from such turn away" (II Tim. 3:1-5).

In Matthew 24:7, concerning the conditions just prior to His second coming, the Lord said **"there shall be famines."** A recent widely distributed report in the print and television media stated that in the calendar year 1995 that there was a net increase of one hundred million in the earth's population. Considering that millions of unborn babies are murdered each year while living in their mother's womb; considering that AIDS, cancer, heart disease and other health problems kill millions each year; considering that many die in accidents, wars, and as murder victims, an increase in the earth's population of one hundred million people in one year staggers the imagination. Surely the world faces great economic problems.

II. The nation of Israel has long been the key piece of the prophetic puzzle that has to do with the second coming of Jesus to the earth. Since May 14, 1948, all the events in and concerning Israel speak of the soon coming of Jesus Christ to rapture His saints.

A recent event in Israel was surely another step toward the tribulation period, the installation of the anti-Christ as world leader and the second coming of Jesus Christ. On December 21, 1995, Israel turned the city of Bethlehem over to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (P.L.O.). Israel gave away Bethlehem, the place that God had chosen to be the birth place of His promised Messiah. It was reported that Arafat made the following statement upon taking custody of Bethlehem: **"Bethlehem this year, Jerusalem next year."** Surely God's wrath must be just about full.

III. The New World order is prophesied in Scripture and is rapidly emerging. Chapter 13 of the Revelation describes the coming of the new world order. We see in this chapter a world wide political/economic system headed by one man. This man is the first beast of Revelation 13. This is the anti-Christ. We see in this chapter a world wide religious system designed to worship the anti-Christ. This system will be headed by the second beast of Revelation 13. This is the false prophet.

The world is now ready for the new world order. Many of the powerful and influential are working to that end. The problems of the world are begging for leadership and control. Man when left to his own devices always seeks humanistic solutions to his problems. The problems of the earth

are approaching the overwhelming point. Desperation and frustration is increasingly more in the air. What will we do! What will we do! Along comes a great leader, a leader with solutions. This leader seems to have the answers to the great problems facing planet earth. He is described by John in Revelation 6:2 **"And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."** The world will see this one as a Saviour on a white horse. This is a counterfeit Christ. This is the anti-Christ.

The events of the world when understood in the light of Bible prophecy speak of a soon to be new world order with a great political/economic leader and a great religious leader. Surely the launch of the saints of God into glory must be upon us.

IV. The system to distribute the mark of the beast is now being installed. **"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name"** (Rev. 13:16-17).

Without going into great detail, let us suffice to say that the high technology of the 1990's computer systems has put into place a method to accumulate data on and control every single person on earth. This system is being updated and improved even as I write. Millions of times every day the systems that control debit and credit card information, exchange and accumulate data on millions of people. These exchanges and accumulation of data take place in only seconds in real time.

Both the private sector and the military are devising plastic cards, some with computer chips implanted right in the card, to be used in a number of ways. These cards will contain an unlimited amount of information about an individual and/or will access a centrally controlled system that grant approvals and disapprovals and will accumulate, store, and reveal even more information about a person. It has been said by some that the computer chip could be implanted directly into the person instead of the card. This method would preclude the loss or theft of one's card (computer chip).

The world is fast moving towards a cashless society. With the

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## The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

By Clyde T. Everman (Now In Heaven)

Brother Clyde T. Everman went home to heaven late in the afternoon of February 7, 1996.  
The April 1, 1996 edition of *The Baptist Examiner* will provide more information.

### Death of a Loved One Genesis 23:1-20

After the great test of his faith (Gen. 22) in the next twenty-five years of Abraham's life, three events are recorded: (1) news from his family from the the old country (Gen. 22:20-24); (2) death of his beloved wife (Gen. 23); (3) the marriage of his son (Gen. 24).

Death of Sarah (v. 1-2) - About forty years after the birth of Isaac Sarah died, being one hundred and twenty-seven years old. She is the only woman whose age is recorded in the Bible. There are many things in reference to Sarah's death that we need to note and meditate upon.

Sarah's death was the death of a believer. It may be true that her faith may not have been as strong as that of her husband, but at the same time it is evident that her faith in God's promise was strong. The apostle Peter gives Sarah as an example for the Christian wife to follow (I Pet. 3:5, 6).

Her death was the death of a lifelong companion. For sixty years Sarah had lived in Canaan with Abraham. With the exception of the event of Hagar and her son, which was brought about through Sarah herself, it would seem that these two shared a close relationship all during those long years. Their married life offers a picture of what a married life can be where both husband and wife are in the Lord and are devoted to each other.

Sarah's death was that of a mother. The death of Sarah was a great loss to Isaac. Although he was nearly forty years old he lived at home and had always had the love and care that only a mother

could give. Genesis 44:67 tells us Isaac was comforted over his mother's death only by his marriage to Rebekah.

The death of Sarah created a void in the home. A death in a home, especially if that one is a beloved wife and mother, leaves a void in that home that can never be filled.

**"Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her"** (v. 2). This is the first record in the Scripture of man's tears. They were the expression of his deep sorrow upon the death of his beloved wife and companion. There is nothing wrong with weeping over the death of a loved one. While it is only right and proper that we should weep and grieve, yet we are told to **"sorrow not, even as others which have no hope"** (I Thess. 4:13). While we mourn over the loss of a loved one, we have the assurance that those **"which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him"** (I Thess. 4:14).

**"And Abraham stood up from before his dead...."** While Abraham grieved over the death of his beloved wife, there was work to do, so he arose up and went to the children of Heth to obtain a burial place.

Abraham's desire to obtain a proper resting place for the body of his wife gives testimony to the care we should give the body. Note the possessive pronouns **"his dead"** (v. 3), **"my dead"** (v. 4), **"thy dead"** (v. 6). The body of his dear wife was precious and was regarded by him and others as his own property, of which he was to take careful and loving care.

The discussion Abraham had with the children of Heth in regard to obtaining a resting place for the body of Sarah reveals several interesting things about Abraham. Abraham acknowledged that he was **"a stranger and sojourner"** (v. 4), yet his request for a burial plot for his dead is a testimony of his faith. It shows that he fully intended to remain in the land. It was proof of his faith that God had given the land to him and his seed, and because of this he desired a burial place for his wife.

Abraham turned down an offer of a burial spot as a gift from the children of Heth. He was determined that Sarah be buried in his own plot of land. It must be a land that was bought not given.

The worth of the field in which was the cave of Machpelah was determined and payment was made in the presence of witnesses (v. 4-18). While God had given the entire land unto Abraham, the first foot of land of which he owned was bought by him.

**"And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre: the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan. And the field, and the cave that is therein, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession of a burying place by the sons of Heth"** (v. 19-20).

This funeral brings us to the first grave of which is recorded in the Word of God. After paying his last respects to one who had been his loving and devoted companion and wife for more than sixty years, Abraham, the now lonely old man returned to an

empty home.

The purchase of the field and cave was **"made sure"** for a perpetual possession. Today visitors in Hebron are shown what is said to be Abraham's Tomb. Could it be true that this is the plot of land that Abraham bought from the children of Heth and the bodies of Sarah, Abraham, and the others, still lie in that cave, waiting for the resurrection of the body?

In this simple and touching account of the death of Sarah, there is a lesson for us in how we should react to the loss of a loved one.

1. The expression of love in sorrow is only natural and right. The realization of the loss cannot fail to bring sorrow, it would be very unnatural if death did not produce sorrow.

2. While we sorrow for our dead we need, with care and love, place their bodies in a place that shows our love. (Does disposing of the body by cremation show that love?)

3. Like Abraham, we should lay the body of a loved one to rest with the sure and steadfast hope of a joyful resurrection. It was this hope that upheld and straightened Abraham as he looked for the last time upon that one who had shared his joys and sorrows for those many years. **"Christ is our Hope"** is what makes it possible for us to look upon death without fear. That one whose faith is in that One who is the **"Resurrection and the Life"** can say, **"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"** (I Cor. 15:55).

## CALLED

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the last day" (Jn. 6:44). They believed what Jesus said and preached it.

In our day preachers have laid aside the truth, they are telling lost men and women it is up to you, you decide, you make the decision. They say, "God has done all He can do, now it is up to you." God pity the person who thinks there has ever been, or ever shall be a time when God has done all He can, as though God has any limitations.

They will not tell lost people they cannot come to the Lord Jesus except God draw them, they have dispensed with the truth in favor of religious conversions. They have placed man's salvation in his own hands (or so they think), they have eliminated the calling of God and filled their churches with lost men and women who know nothing of the power of God in calling sinners to repentance. Lost unrepentant people who think they have eternal life because of an intellectual decision (works). Lost men, women, boys and girls, who have been led down the Roman road to ruin.

The call of God is specific, personal, and powerful. No one has ever rejected the effectual call of God, for God makes those He calls willing to come.

The audible call of the Gospel that all men hear with the natural hearing has been rejected down through the years. So we have the stories of the man who rejects the Gospel over and over and God finally quits dealing with him. With this story they paint a picture of almighty man rejecting this pitiful little god who is doing all he can to save men but they just will not let him.

What we see in God's Word is vastly different from the teachings of men. In the Bible God calls and men respond, they come to Him as He calls to repentance. They come to Him when He calls for service, and go as He bids.

Most Baptist preachers today believe the only calling God does is through the preacher as he speaks the Word. And the hearing with the ears on the side of the head is the only call you will receive.

Folks, if God does not work a (Continued on Page 5)

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MARCH 1, 1996  
PAGE THREE



*"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."*

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

If parents don't teach the Bible and Its values to their children, who will?  
Parents, let's obey the Lord by raising our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.



At the profoundest depths in life, men talk not about God, but with Him



## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



### Will lost sinners go into the millennium?

(Submitted by Mary Speck)

CLYDE T.  
EVERMAN

Now  
in  
Heaven



The millennial reign of Christ here on earth is to be one of righteousness, peace, joy, and truth. Before this can take place, the influence of Satan must be removed from the earth. This is to be done by binding and casting him into the bottomless pit for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3).

In Daniel 7:18, 22, 27 we are told that this kingdom is for the saints: "And the kingdom and dominion and the greatness of kingdom, under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Dan. 7:27). Since the kingdom is only for the saved no unsaved person can enter it. All those who have been saved during the great tribulation, both Jews and Gentiles, who are living at this time will enter in the kingdom. There are a great number of passages of Scripture which tell us that there will be great numbers of Jews saved during the tribulation (see Rom. 11; Isa. 1: 27, 4:3-4; Jer. 24:7; Ezek. 11:19).

There will also be Gentiles saved during this time and those saved will be separated from the unsaved as we are told in Matthew 25 of the judgment of the Gentile nations. For those whom are saved it is said unto them, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (v. 34). As for the unsaved, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment" (v. 46).

From these passages as well as many, many more we see that no unsaved person shall go into the millennium. While only the saved

living at this time will enter the millennium we might add that the children born to them during the millennium will need to be born again.

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"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea" (Rev. 20:6-8).

This is a question that has been asked and even argued over by many people. Frankly, I don't understand why. I can see discussing a subject that is hinted at or implied, but not one that is as clear as this one. The three verses above make it clear that there will be glorified saints and unsaved people on earth during the 1,000 year reign of Christ.

Zechariah 14:17 also says: "And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain." Yes, there will be people who rebel against God even as there are today. While Satan will be restrained during the 1,000 year reign, he will be released for a short period of time. He will then gather together those who rebel and march against Jerusalem at which time they will be destroyed. This is called the battle of the nations.

Yes, lost sinners will go into

the millennium.

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Please read Matthew 25:31-46. Please note verse 46: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

I believe that only the "saved" shall enter the millennial kingdom. A study of the millennium will reveal that many of the children of those entering the millennium who are born during that 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth, will not be saved or converted and will indeed rebel during that time and at the end of the 1,000 year period. They will have example and instruction, but their end will be destruction. I believe that Matthew 25:31-46 is the judgment prior to the opening of the millennium and is not to be confused with, or thought the same as the Great White Throne Judgment. Here are some reasons and things to remember.

The time of this judgment is stated in Matthew 25:31 just after Christ returns to the earth. The place is the earth, not heaven, as all the people are gathered before Him and are living. None of these are resurrected, but still in their natural bodies. This obviously is a different judgment than that of translated believers which is in heaven and the resurrected wicked dead of the White Throne judgment which takes place after the present heaven and earth have been destroyed.

The "all nations" of this judgment are living Gentile peoples. "Ta ethne" is the Greek used to name peoples who are not Jewish and are upon the earth. Thus, these are not national or political entities, but Gentile individuals living on the earth at the coming of Christ. This judgment includes

no living Jews, translated saved, or resurrected saints in general. "Ta ethne" never refers to the dead, but to living peoples on earth.

The "brethren" in this passage are the Jews (tribulation Jews) and the treatment of them by the Gentile assembly of sheep and goats is in view here—how they treated Christ's brethren (the Jews). The ancient principle for the treatment of the Jews applies here. While their works are in

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I do not believe that lost people will enter the kingdom of God. In fact, our Lord plainly said "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" (Jn. 3:3, 5). When our Lord returns to establish this one thousand year kingdom only saved people will enter into it. Now it should be pointed out that some of these saved people, particularly those of Israel, will survive the tribulation. These are saved people who still have mortal bodies. They will enter the millennium. They will also bare children. Some of these children and their children will not receive Christ. This accounts for a multitude of people who will make up rebellious nations that come against Christ and His saints at the end of the millennium (See Rev. 20:7-10). Satan will be let out of the bottomless pit and be permitted to gather these rebellious people at the very end. This rebellion will be immediately stopped by the Lord Jesus Christ and will precipitate the final resurrection and judgment of the unsaved dead.

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My understanding of God's Word tells me the unsaved will not enter the kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth (the millennium). I believe, however, Scripture will attest that sinners will be born and inhabit the earth during the millennium (see Isa. 65:20). It seems evident that flesh and blood bodies will cohabit together with those of glorified bodies during this time. Apparently this natural population will be believers of many nations who were converted at the preaching of the 144,000 Jews during the great tribulation period. These people bear children who will in turn bear children continuing the cycle of generations until the end of the millennium age. After the one thousand years have ended, Satan who had been bound will be loosed for a season returning to his work of deceiving the unregenerate inhabitants of this natural population, once again proving that man, though living in the glorious, blissful surroundings of the millennium (even with Satan removed) demonstrates his depraved nature to do evil.

The millennial reign of Christ is God's final indictment against man proving that man does not desire righteousness of his own accord and he fails once again just as in the previous ages.

May God in His mercy save many more lost souls that they may rejoice at Christ's coming and live in perfect peace in His eternal kingdom, escaping the wrath of His judgment and eternal punishment in hell.

Pray without  
ceasing!



## DON'T BURN THE AMERICAN FLAG!

*Editor's note: The following letter was written by Jack Whitt, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, and was published in the Portsmouth Daily Times on Tuesday, January 2, 1996.*

To the Editor: The recent failure of an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the desecration of the American flag, voted on by Congress, is indicative of the diminishing values our country places on patriotism, morality, and the general attitude that nothing is sacred anymore. That the first amendment to the Constitution allowing freedom of speech would be denied, should the amendment be passed, is a preposterous assumption, and I am sure was in no way remotely considered by those who enacted the constitution.

The vote to allow the burning of our flag is a slap in the face to all the men and women of the military and especially to those who fought and died on the battlefields to preserve the sovereignty, honor and dignity of our nation. The red stripes in our flag symbolize the blood that has been shed by our soldiers in battle since the founding of this country. Need we ask what the reaction of this congressional veto would be by those who fought and died at Iwo Jima, the deserts of North Africa, in France, Germany, Korea, and Vietnam?

I think also we can see the liberal tendencies and viewpoints of our current government administration. I know of no other president, up until now, Republican or Democrat, who would have been party to allowing our flag to become a symbol of shame and ridicule in the name

of freedom of speech. And what message is this sending to our youth? There was a time in our schools when children would stand, holding their right hand across their heart and recite the Pledge of Allegiance as they looked upon the flag of our country.

They were taught in the classroom that this is, "One nation under God with liberty and justice for all." But today it is not so, God is not allowed in the classroom but instead, replaced with a religion of humanism and evolution.

We may well ask why things have degenerated to this low level of morality and godlessness. In large part I think it is due to what I would call "the ostrich syndrome." We have become like the ostrich, burying our heads in the sand rather than see what is going on about us. We have lost sight of what it was that made our country great and few seem to care. This is not being fatalistic, just realistic. I recall an old song from my childhood days sung by Gene Autry that is still a good message for today: "With the Bible on the table and the flag upon the wall, neighbor that's the answer to it all."

It would behoove all of us who want to preserve or restore dignity and honor to our nation, to take a good look at those now in political positions and others who will be seeking public office in the coming year. Should we vote for men like John Glenn who voted against the amendment to protect our flag? Freedom of speech is not the allowance of our flag being burned; it's the exercise of what I'm doing now—writing this letter.



## NOT WASTED

A young woman who was a great lover of flowers had set out a rare vine at the base of a stone wall. It grew vigorously but it did not blossom. Day after day she cultivated it and watered it and tried in every way to coax it into bloom.

One morning as she stood disappointed before it, her invalid neighbor, whose back lot adjoined her own, called over and said, "You cannot imagine how much I have been enjoying the blooms of that vine you planted." The owner looked and on the other side of the wall was a mass of bloom. The vine had crept through the crevices and flowered luxuriantly on the other side.

There is a lesson for every Christian here. So often we think our efforts thrown away because we do not see their fruit. We need to learn that in God's service our prayers, our toil, our crosses are never in vain. Somewhere they bear their fruit and some heart will receive their blessing and their joy.

## LOOKING UNTO JESUS

The cost of discipleship very often lies in turning the eye from the better to the best. Dr. Henry Jowett once described how, at the coronation of Edward VII, he sat in Westminster Abbey and watched the honorable assembling of princes, princesses, earls, dukes, and so on. He said: "There was much bowing and respect shown as these people of high degree entered, but when the king arrived all eyes left the people of lesser rank and were fastened on the king." "So," said Dr. Jowett, "literature, music, art, and science hold our respectful attention, but when Jesus Christ comes into our heart and our life, He must be King, and all lesser subjects must take a lesser place."

## A STRANGER

An earnest Christian woman was engaged in her ministry to doctors, nurses, and patients in a hospital. A doctor facetiously said to her, "Do you believe God will hear your prayer? I'm hard up. If I asked Him would He send me \$25?" The good woman answered, "If you were introduced to the president, would you put your hand in his pocket at once?" "No" he said, "not until I know him better." "You will need to be a great deal better acquainted with God before you can expect such an answer as you wish."

## CALLED

(Continue from Page 3)

work in the heart of lost people, there will be no response to the call of the Gospel. If God does not bring about the new birth, there will be no new birth no matter how long you keep a person on his knees praying.

This calling of God is not a fleshly calling but a supernatural calling. We who are saved are "called to be saints" (I Cor. 1:2). Paul said we were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. We are called with a holy calling, called out of darkness into His marvellous light.

We are called to suffer for His sake, called to glory and virtue. Paul said that God has "...called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, (decision making, praying, inviting Jesus into your heart, accepting Jesus), but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (II Tim. 1:9).

Dear reader I would ask you today to do what Peter said we should do in II Peter 1:10 "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."**



## MY BELIEF

(Continued from Page 1)

several statements.

(1) God's knowledge is not limited by time. A.H. Strong says, "God did not begin in time, but time began in God." The whole temporal order of events is grounded in God; He knows the temporal order as a whole. Mankind must consider time as past, present, and future. However, to God time is now, not past, present, or future.

(2) God's knowledge is not limited by space. What has been said about time also applies to the spatial order. God's omnipresence in both the spatial and temporal order would carry with it His perfect knowledge of that order.

(3) God foreknows directly the free acts of men. Since man's existence as a free agent is grounded in the will of God, all of the acts of man's will are known directly to God and man's consciousness, as religious, assumes that the future is known to God.

(c) His power over the world order. This power is described by the term omnipotence. This means that all the power there is in the universe has its source in God. He can do anything that power can do, which is not inconsistent with His nature.

God's presence, knowledge, and power in the world order gives every Christian great consolation concerning eschatological events.

2. The New Testament is equally clear that evil will be judged.

(a) The certainty of judgment. The principle of judgment runs all the way through the Bible and through human experience and history. The fact of judgment is involved in man's moral freedom and his responsibility to God. The full reward of our deeds does not follow immediately upon the commission of a deed right or wrong, nor is such reward fully evident to the world.

The Scriptures are full of examples showing how God bestows His blessing upon the individual or nation that does right or His curse upon the one that does evil.

Just because God does not immediately judge an individual or nation for sin does not mean He has forgotten or is ignoring it.

Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

As a born-again Christian, it is a joy to know my sins have already been judged at the cross of Calvary. Therefore, when He returns the second time, it will be to take me home to be with Him—not to be judged as a lost person will be at the Great White Throne of Judgment.

(b) The purpose of judgment as shown in Scripture is to reveal the true nature of every man's character as revealed in his words and deeds in relation to his fellow man. These indicate character and character determines destiny.

The second purpose of judgment is to assign one a destiny in accordance with his character. The final and complete possession of such rewards for good or evil does not come until the end of time and the consummation of the historical order. Therefore, man does not come to this final destiny this side of the second coming of Christ and judgment.

Thirdly, another purpose of judgment will be to bring the affairs of human history to completion and to vindicate God's dealing with the race as well as His dealings with the individual. God created man as a race, not as isolated individuals. The race as a race fell in the sin of Adam. God provided redemption for the race in the last Adam. God's ways with man will be vindicated.

(c) The ground of judgment. The ground of judgment is that man is responsible to God as the Creator of the world and of man's being. Acts 17:28 says, "In him we live, and move, and have our being."

The gift of salvation by grace to sinful man does not deliver man from responsibility to God; it increases his responsibility. All of God's dealings with man have been in and through Jesus Christ. Therefore, Christ will be the judge of mankind. In Christ the race was created, preserved and redeemed. In Christ the race will be judged (Mt. 25:32; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:16).

3. The Bible is equally clear that the New Testament church is the instrument in the hand of God to accomplish His eternal purpose. God has committed to the church the responsibility of propagating the Gospel. Christ has no other way to carry the Gospel message but through His church.

The mission of the church is clearly outlined in the commis-

sion of our Lord as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20. There are three elements in this commission.

(a) Make disciples. The phrase "teach all nations" may be translated "disciple all nations." The meaning is that disciples are to be made by the preaching of the Gospel. Mark 16:15 says, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

(b) Mark disciples (baptizing them). (1) The church is the proper administrator of baptism. It is a church ordinance as is clearly shown by the commission in Matthew 28:18-20. Christ was speaking to His apostles as constituting the church. (2) There must be a proper subject for baptism. Personal saving faith is a prerequisite to baptism. There is no indication in Scripture that any person was ever baptized without faith. Also, the symbolism of the ordinance demands faith upon the part of the subject. (3) There must be a proper purpose or design of baptism. This purpose is to show forth the believer's death to sin and his resurrection to righteousness. (4) There must be a proper mode of baptism. The meaning of the Greek word "baptizo" is to dip in or under water, to immerse. The symbolism of the ordinance demands immersion of a believer under water as a burial requires.

(c) Mature disciples. The church is not through when she has made and marked disciples. She must teach them and teach them all that Christ has commanded.

This threefold commission of making, marking, and maturing disciples is to be done until Christ returns for His saints.

In conclusion, much more could be pointed out how the return of Christ affects my life and ministry. However, these three major areas—the fact that God is sovereign and in control, the certainty of God's judgment, and that His church is the instrument to accomplish His eternal purpose on earth—gives me calm assurance and motivation to serve Him faithfully until He returns for His saints.

**"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."**

## MARCH CROWS

By Irene Orrick

On the farm, March was the month to burn the plant beds. This burning was needed to kill the weed seeds that would otherwise come up and take over the beds. In the daytime these dirt beds, about six feet wide and one hundred feet long, were piled high with dry tree limbs and brush, then were lit into a bonfire at night when the smell of burning leaves and wood mixed with the cool night air. The excitement and good feeling of starting the spring work might be shared by a neighbor or two who would come by to watch the beds burn and talk late into the night. March was also the time to start the plowing. Yet before the hills could be plowed, the corn stalks left from the previous harvest and the ever-hopeful tree sprouts that came up every year, persistent in their efforts to reclaim the fields, had to be cut. This was a job for the whole family and took several days.

After the stalks and sprouts were cut, Daddy harnessed up the mules, Kate and Mirt, and hooked them to the turning plow. I liked to follow him as he plowed, hopping on the large, smooth, shiny chunks of earth as they were laid over, still cold and damp from the winter. Later there would be the disking and harrowing of the ground, and still later the furrowing and the planting.

I remember that the crows were usually present for all these proceedings. They sat in nearby treetops or on fence posts urging, cajoling, instructing. After all, they had large interest in the whole thing, for they were going to take up part of the corn as soon as it was put into the ground, snatch more as the tender shoots came up, and really banquet when the ears came on the stalks.

I'm grateful that God, spiritual Plowman, has chosen my heart as one of His little fields. He took such care in turning, disking, harrowing, and furrowing, getting it ready for the planting of His Word. And how sweet are the gentle spring rains of His presence. Too, I am right fond of crows and admire their glistening black beauty and intelligence. So I hesitate to use them as an illustration of Satan, but it fits right here. For even when God is preparing the heart for rebirth, the devil takes up his post. He harangues, intimidates, and harasses the person to keep him from hearing the Word. Then, after the Word has taken root and sprung up, he works all day and into the night to prevent an abundant harvest. He harasses in our private study and adoration of God. In church, he keeps up a running conversation in our mind's ear about trivials. At home again, he swoops to steal things from our minds that we have studied, received, and rejoiced in.

As we often had to put a scarecrow in the cornfield on the farm, Christians can use the tactics of Ephesians 6:10-18 to rout the devil from spiritual fields.

**Sorry we goofed...Irene Orrick's article last month was entitled "Sleigh Ride." It should have been entitled "Our Daily Bread."**

"A modern fable relates that a hen and a hog were traveling together. They passed a church that displayed the sermon subject for the coming Sunday: "How Can We Help The Poor?" After a moment's reflection the hen ventured: "I know what we can do! We can give them a ham and egg breakfast." The hog promptly replied: "You can say that because for you that's just a contribution, but for me it's total commitment."





## ONE LITTLE EWE LAMB: CHRIST'S CARE FOR US

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

"But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter" (II Sam. 12:3).

"A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Ps. 23:1).

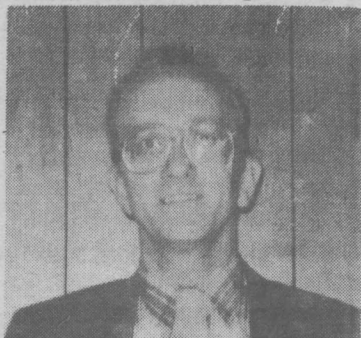
In II Samuel 12:3, we find Nathan delivering a message from God to King David. This message was used to reveal David's sin against Uriah the Hittite, in taking Uriah's wife to be his own.

Specifically, Uriah's affection for his wife, Bathsheba, is pictured by the poor man's love for this small ewe lamb. Many believe this small lamb was a cade lamb, a type of lamb raised specifically for the purpose of being a pet. It had no productive value except for the love, friendship, and devotion it supplied it's owner. In many ways, the cade lamb is much like the pets we have in today's time. They are loved, treasured and cherished although of little material value.

This same type of love is displayed by Christ for us, His chosen people. Just as we are absolutely no value to Him, yet He faithfully and patiently cares for us meeting all our needs.

**"But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb..."**

In our Lord's sight, we are so precious, He looks upon us as if we were a very precious treasure. Despite the fact that He is eternally rich, He was willing to come to earth and seek us out; we are truly most precious in His sight. "And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than



over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" (Lk. 15:3-7).

**"...Which he had bought..."**

Just as this poor man purchased his lamb, making it his very own, so too, are we Christ's purchased possessions. Christ gave Himself for us so that we might be His forever. "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep...My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (Jn. 10:11, 27-28).

**"...And nourished up..."**

This little ewe lamb had all of its needs supplied by the poor man. This is a beautiful picture of Christ's loving care of us. Our spiritual needs, through the gracious intervention of Christ, are always met, as we continue to live amidst His blessings we find ourselves maturing and progressing in the faith.

**"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, though Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Heb. 13:20-21).**

**"...And it grew up together with him..."**

The poor man cared for this lamb its entire life. He did not care for this lamb only to discard it as unwanted and unneeded. Christ promises us that, once we are saved, He will never leave us nor forsake us. He will constantly be with us, guarding and caring for us as a good shepherd should.

**"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:**

**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 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. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever" (Ps. 23:1-6).**

**"...And with his children..."**

The ewe lamb took its place along with the children of the poor man. This ewe lamb was truly surrounded by his family. So too, we take our place before Christ, and with our spiritual brethren as well. All believers truly become one in Christ.

**"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (Jn. 10:16).**

**"Thus shall they know that I the Lord their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord God. And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God" (Ezek. 34:30-31).**

**"...It did eat of his own meat, and drank his own cup..."**

The food partaken by this little ewe was from the poor man's table. The poor man gave of himself so that the ewe might grow to be healthy and strong. As we continue on in our life of faith we constantly receive truth from Him as He shares His Word with us. Many times He uses others to present this truth to us. Our love for Him should drive us to share His truth with others.

**"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest (Continued on Page 8)**

## A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



Azubah

I Chronicles 2:18-19

General Information

I Chronicles 2:18 - She was the first wife of a man named Caleb. Caleb was the son of Hezron, a descendant of Judah. Azubah gave birth to three sons: Jeshar, Shobab, and Ardon. There seems to be some confusion concerning the context of this verse, involving the two women, Azubah and Jerioth.

I Chronicles 2:19 - Azubah died, and Caleb took another wife.

Name Study

Azubah - deserted, forsaken, desertion, deserted desolation. This word is translated "forsaking" in Isaiah 6:12. Her name is derived from a root word meaning to loosen, relinquish, permit, to let go, trade, the place, the payment: translated commit self, fail, forsake, fortify, help, leave, refuse, surely, fair, ware. (Gen. 24:27, 44:22; Ex. 23:5; Neh. 3:8, 4:2, 5:10; Job 9:27; Ps. 10: 14, 37:8, 38:10, 21, 40:12; Prov. 10:17).

Personal Application

One commentator wrote that a person bearing this name, during this time in Israel's history, was a reminder of the Lord's promise not to forsake His people. Another authority believes that this woman was named Azubah, because she was barren and despised, thus the children being named are those of Jerioth.

Practical Application

How often we forsake the Lord and leave off obeying His commandments, yet He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. The first verse that comes to mind, when studying this concept is Hebrews 13:5, a promise to Christians. He made this same promise to the physical nation of Israel in Deuteronomy 4:31. We find the nation of Israel, throughout the whole Old Testament, disobeying the Lord and forsaking His commandments. Yet, He always



protected them and brought them back into their land. Other nations, He destroyed completely. He made this same promise to Joshua in Joshua 1:5. David, in Psalm 37:25, says "...yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken..." The Lord truly does keep His promises. Just as the Lord had to deal with the Israelites and punish them, at times, so He has to do the same in our lives. Through it all, however, He never leaves us nor forsakes us. He always sends chastisement upon us in such a way as not to totally destroy us, but rather to make us the better for it. Just as those nations, that were not chosen by God, were totally destroyed, so those people, who have not accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Way of salvation, will be sent to the lake of fire and forsaken by God for all eternity. However, they will always be conscious of having forsaken the Lord, while they lived on the earth. They will live forever in hell to regret forsaking the Lord. They will constantly be being destroyed without actually going out of existence (Luke 16:19-31). One other thought deals with the Father forsaking His own Son, while the Son was bearing the sins of His people on the cross (Mt. 27:46; Mk. 15:34). Why did the Father forsake His Son? The Holy Father could not look upon sin. Though the Son Himself was without sin, He took the sins of His people, and during those hours on the cross, suffered the wrath of the Father so that we might not have to.

**"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."**

**PRAISE HIM !**

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## LAUNCH

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advent of the new world order, the many different currencies and exchange rates will be a problem of great proportions. Besides, it costs lots of money to print currencies. That money could be saved. We already have seen a move in this direction with the direct deposit program and the direct payment of bills program.

Under such a new world order system, a person will have to be registered in the system and will have to have the one and only means of access to the system in order to buy or sell. Money will be useless. One will be able to buy or sell only if they can access the system.

What does it mean to buy or sell? To buy is the way we obtain shelter, food, clothes, transportation, health care and many other things too numerous to mention. To sell is the way we derive income. We sell our services, our goods, and our products. If anyone holds a job or operates a business, they are in the business of selling something.

In the age of the new world order, a person will have to possess the means to access the system or else they will not be able to buy or sell anything. The ground work is now being laid to fully implement such a system. Surely the launch of the saints into glory must be near.

If you believe as I believe that the rapture of the saints of God may be soon, what should be our response? We should be living our lives in a state of readiness. Jesus said: **"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"** (Matt. 24:44). We stay ready by serving faithfully and eagerly anticipating the coming of the Lord in the air to snatch us away to glory. Part of being ready is to warn others about the things that are going on in the world and to tell them about Jesus. We must tell everyone that we can that the only means to escape tribulation and hell is in the finished work of Jesus on Calvary's cross. In a world of circumstances that are overwhelming there is total, complete, and final victory only in Jesus Christ.

May the Lord bless you as we await His coming!

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## ONE LITTLE

(Continued from Page 7)

**that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep" (Jn. 21:15-17).**

**"...And lay in his bosom..."**

This lamb had a very close and loving relationship with this man. In kindness, this man held her close to his heart, caring for her and gently guarding her from all harm. In the same way, as Christians, we enjoy closeness and an intimacy with Christ that results in our care and protection.

**"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young" (Isa. 40:11).**

**"...And was unto him as a daughter..."**

The relationship between this poor man and his lamb was much greater than that of a man and his pet. This man truly loved the lamb as if she was his own flesh and blood. It was as if she was a member of his family. So too, is our relationship to Christ. We are a part of His household, a part of His family.

**"The Lord is my shepherd...and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever" (Ps. 23:1, 6).**

Yes, truly, this man's love for this little ewe lamb certainly presents for us a very precious picture of Christ's love for us.

This lesson on Christ's love for us was brought into clear view in my mind as I watched my wife, Wendy, as she attended to our pet cat, Punkin. Wendy would love and care for our cat even though, many times, Punkin would seem to not appreciate what Wendy was doing for her. She would be selfish and in many ways uninterested in Wendy. Yet slowly, as time passed, Punkin began to open up and begin to love and serve Wendy in return. As she grew older her love and desire to be with Wendy grew (as did Wendy's love and concern for her). Truly, Punkin grew to become a very cherished part of Wendy's life. How amazing it was that by patiently loving and caring for our pet, Wendy received love and

appreciation in return. We did not fully realize how much a part of our family Punkin had become until we had her put to sleep due to kidney failure.

This is a very pale picture of what Christ has done for us. The only reason we loved Him is because He first patiently loved us and worked in our hearts by grace. Truly, when we wanted nothing to do with Him, He patiently worked in our lives bringing us to a saving knowledge of him. Let us not take what Christ has done for us for granted. We all must realize that everything we are, and everything we possess, comes from our Lord Jesus Christ. As we think on this, let our hearts be filled with a new appreciation for all He has done for us in allowing us to be a part of His family.

## FORUM

(Continued from Page 4)

### LENEGAR

view, the works must have come because of faith in Christ and the Word of God. Thus, their works are evidence of and fruit of salvation. That is the reason the sheep are accepted into the millennium, and of course, the eternal kingdom of God. It is always works which are the evidence of salvation. These sheep at this judgment who treated Jews as they did are called "righteous" in Matthew 25:37. We might add that the parables of the wheat and tares and the good and bad fish in Matthew 13 tell us of a judgment at the end of the world (age) that allows only the righteous into the kingdom. Only the saved will enter and only the saved will continue into the eternal ages at the end of the millennium.

Man may  
live by  
bread  
alone...but  
only if it  
is the  
Bread of  
Life -  
Jesus  
Christ!

## THE POOR HUCKSTER

There was once a poor man, a huckster who used to go round the country villages selling his little goods. The poor creature, in going round on his journeys, heard some old woman singing this simple little ditty: "I'm a poor sinner and nothing at all, but Jesus Christ is my all in all."

Jack recollected that. "Ah!" said he, "that just suits me." So he began to hum it himself as he went on his huckstering expeditions, and by God's good grace that little ditty burnt its way into poor Jack's heart. After some time he became a converted man, gave up his swearing and drinking and began regularly to attend the house of God.

At last he determined that he would join the church, so he went to the minister. The minister said, "Well, friend, what can you say for yourself?" "Not much," said he, "only this, I'm a poor sinner and nothing at all. But Jesus Christ is my all in all." "Well," said the minister, "you must tell me more than that." "No," said Jack, "I can't for that is my confession of faith, and that is all I know." "Well friend," said the minister, "I can't refuse you church fellowship, but you will have to come before the church meeting, and the members will have to see you and judge you."

Jack accordingly went to the church meeting, and there sat some good old-fashioned deacons, some of whom began to see whether they could not find fault with him. Jack stood up, and being requested to state his experiences, simply said: "I'm a poor sinner and nothing at all, but Jesus Christ is my all in all."

So one old deacon said, "Is that all you have to say?" "Yes," said he, "that's all." The minister said, "You may ask my friend some more questions if you like." So one says, "Brother Jack, have you not many doubts

and fears?" "No," said Jack, "I never can doubt but that 'I'm a poor sinner and nothing at all,' for I KNOW I am; and I cannot doubt that 'Jesus Christ is my all in all,' for He says he is, and how can I doubt that?" "Well," said another, "but sometimes I lose my evidence and my graces, and then I get very sad." "Oh," said Jack, "I never lose anything, for, in the first place, 'I'm a poor sinner and nothing at all,'—no one can rob me if I am nothing at ALL; and, in the second place, 'Jesus Christ is my all in all,' and who can rob Him? He is in heaven. I never get poorer, for I am always nothing; but I always have everything."

Then another began to question him thus: "But my dear friend Jack, don't you sometimes doubt whether you are a child of God?" "Well," said he, "I don't understand you, but I can tell you I never doubt but that 'I'm a poor sinner and nothing at all,' and that 'Jesus Christ is my all in all.'" "Ay, ay," said the other one, "but sometime I make great advances on the road to heaven, and then I feel a great deal better, but I often go back again, and that causes me trouble." "But," said Jack, "I never go forward, for I'm always 'a poor sinner and nothing at all'; but I cannot go back for 'Jesus Christ is my all in all'; and blessed be God, He will not go back and I am safe."

Always after that in the villages they used to call him "Happy Jack," for he was always happy; and the reason was that you could not drive him from that simple standing point! "There is nothing in me; I believe in Jesus Christ; I deserve punishment! I am lost in myself, but I trust Him Who came into the world to save sinners, and He will not let me perish."

-- Copied --

Westbrook New Testament Baptist  
Church in Indianapolis, Indiana is in  
need of a pastor. Contact Chris Rainey  
at P.O. Box 42051, Indianapolis, IN  
46242 or call (317) 271-5337.



*Hot heads and cold hearts never solved anything*

"...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. 4 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, APRIL 1, 1996 WHOLE NUMBER 2714

## SODOM AND GOMORRAH

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

Please read Genesis 19.

God, by way of the great flood, removed all people from the earth except the family of Noah. One would think that God's judgment via the flood would have kept Noah's descendants in the straight and narrow path. The very reverse, however, is true. It, in fact, was only four hundred years after the great flood that Noah's descendants who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah, reverted back to their old carnal ways and ruled God completely out of their lives. They, by their action, proved once again that the fall of Adam was still manifesting itself in their fallen natures. They proved, as it is stated in I Corinthians 2:14, that **"the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God."** Their action also confirms Romans 3:10-12 where we read: **"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one"** (Rom. 3:10-12).

### Probable Location of Sodom and Gomorrah

The probable location of Sodom and Gomorrah is at the southern end of the Dead Sea. It is a location that is only a few miles from Hebron, the home of Abraham. It is also near the home of Melchizedec in Jerusalem. The people, then, in the subject cities, were very close to God's chosen people, and yet they were far, far away from them.

The name Sodom helps us in determining where it was located. I make this statement because there is a mountain at the southwest corner of the Dead Sea which is called Usdom which is also the



name for Sodom. Many scholars believe Sodom and Gomorrah to have been buried beneath the Dead Sea—the Dead Sea which is forty miles long and ten miles wide. The north end of the Sea, in some places, is one thousand feet deep. The south third of the sea, on the other hand, is no more than fifteen feet deep and in most places it is only ten feet deep. It is believed therefore that the south third of the Sea, at one time, was a plain. Archaeologists have found, at the southern end of the Sea, a great enclosure, which they believe to have been a "high place" for religious festivals. Great quantities of potsherds, flints, and other remains of a period dating between 2500

and 2000 B.C. have been found there too. This fact indicates that the population ended very abruptly about 2000 B.C. or four hundred years after the great flood.

The archaeologists have also found under Mount Usdom (Sodom) a stratum of salt that is 150 feet thick. Above the stratum of salt is marl (lime or chalk; or that containing lime) mingled with free sulphur. This fact indicates that God kindled the gases and caused a great explosion so that red hot sulphur and salt were cast upward into the heavens and rained back down a literal rain of fire and brimstone, as it is recorded in God's Word. You will recall that Lot's wife became a pillar of salt, or that she became encrusted with salt. I understand that one can find many pillars of salt at the southern end of the Dead Sea. These pillars have been given the name "Lot's wife."

### Lot

Lot had migrated with his uncle Abraham from the civilized land of Ur of the Chaldees in about

(Continued on Page 6)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton

### CLYDE EVERMAN NOW LIVES IN HEAVEN

**"For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith..."** (Acts 11:24).

God said: **"...I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will"** (Acts 13:22).

It was said of Barnabas: **"For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith..."** (Acts 11:24). In the entire New



Testament, this declaration **"for he was a good man"** was only made once. That tells us what a rare man this man Barnabas was. Brother Coy Cox during the services following the passing of Brother Clyde Everman used this Scripture and made the same declaration about Brother Clyde: **"For he was a good man."** Many oth-

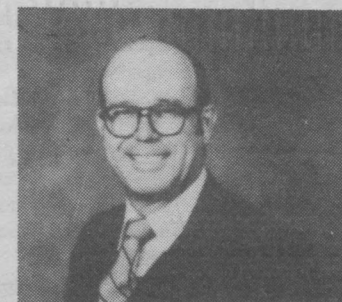
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## JESUS CHRIST, NO OTHER NAME

By Pastor Charles Lybrook, Waverly Road Baptist Church, Huntington, West Virginia

**"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them"** (Acts 8:5). **"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus"** (Acts 8:35). **"The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all)"** (Acts 10:36). **"Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ"** (Acts 17:1-3). **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"** (Acts 4:12).

I believe that all good preaching must be Christ centered preaching. The apostles preached Christ. The prophets of old preached Christ. The sacrifices of Old Testament times, preached Christ, and the Holy Spirit's theme is Christ. Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of every creature. By Him were all things created, and by Him all things consist. Christ is the Head of the body, the church, and in all things He has the preeminence. It has pleased God that in Him should



all fullness dwell (Col. 1:15-29), and our text declares that there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved, and that there is salvation in no other. It is then Jesus Christ and no other name.

The Jews commanded the apostles not to preach in that name. That name stirred the ire of religious zealots and brought the scorn and hatred of the Sanhedrin down upon the followers of the man called Jesus. This name prompted the ridicule of a nation and the scorn of a Man, and yet, it is the most beloved name of all time—Jesus, blessed Jesus.

In our text in Acts 4:12, Peter is concluding his own Holy Spirit prompted tribute to that worthy name. Peter knew Jesus and had witnessed the manifestations of His power. Peter was a champion of Jesus. He had been with Him in His travels as a personal friend. He had communion with Him by prayer, praise, and conversation. Others took knowledge that Peter had been with Jesus. Peter had not "followed cunningly devised fables" but was an "eyewitness" of the majesty of Jesus, therefore, it behooves us to pay attention to what Peter has to say about the Lord Jesus, and in the text he boldly proclaims that salvation is in that name, and in none other.

What is salvation? It is to be saved from moral ruin; it is to be saved from sin; it is to be delivered from the fears of death; and the snare of the devil; and from the terrors of judgment to come. The word salvation in our text includes the readjustment of man's relations to God, and the restoration of man to his rightful position in the divine economy, so that his will shall be in harmony with the will of God and his conscience awak-

(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.

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Subscription rates are \$5.00 per year.

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

## CLYDE

(Continued from Page 1)

ers that knew Brother Clyde shared this same sentiment. I too was tremendously impressed that Clyde Everman was one of those rare men, like Barnabas, that truly was a good man.

Not only was Clyde a good man like Barnabas, he also was like Barnabas in that he was "full of the Holy Ghost." Clyde was a man who constantly sought the leadership of the Holy Spirit in his life. Once Clyde thought he understood the leading of the Holy Spirit, his actions were bold, yet Christlike. Clyde, like the rest of us, was not always 100% com-

## Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Today is February 14th and it's another cold winter day here in Ashland, Kentucky. Last Saturday, February 10th, was a beautiful day in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. It was sunny and about 60 degrees. On that day we went to the cemetery to lay to rest the body of Brother Clyde Everman. Prior to that day and since that day, the weather has been very winter like, however, God in His marvellous grace gave us a beautiful day on which we could celebrate the going to heaven of a great servant of God. We laid Clyde's body to rest in the cemetery in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, but three days before on Wednesday, February 7th, Clyde had moved out of his body and moved into God's heaven to live with Jesus. Is this not a cause for celebration? I believe it is! "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Ps. 116:15). Please read "The Baptist Examiner Pulpit" for more about Brother Clyde Everman.

The Calvary Baptist Church continues to march on. Jesus is our Head, our Captain, and our Leader. It is to His cadence we march. It is Jesus that we must follow. It is Jesus that we must be like. If all of us would just commit and submit to Jesus, we could do more in His service. Lack of giving Jesus preeminence in all things is surely the reason some Christians, some pastors, and some Baptist churches do not know and enjoy more spiritual success and prosperity. Let us all lay down our selfish pursuits and arguments and enthusiastically declare to the world: "I have decided to follow Jesus." Baptists sometimes work diligently to get everything right and in so doing, many forget the most important truth. We must be like Jesus. We must walk like Jesus and talk like Jesus. We must have compassion and love like Jesus. A Christian, a pastor, and a church can get most everything right and still be all wrong. Please read I Corinthians 13 and decide for yourself just where you are in your service to Jesus. Decide where your church is in service to Jesus. You might be right down the line doctrinally. Your church may have dotted every "i" and crossed every "t." You may believe you and your church are better than most others, however, if you and your church are not in accord and compliance with I Corinthians 13, then something terribly bad is wrong. Spiritual success and prosperity; spiritual joy and peace, all come from knowing, serving, and being like Jesus.

May the Lord bless you as you serve Him!

pletely on target, however, I'm confident that Clyde acted only after seeking the will of the Lord and the leadership of the Holy Spirit in every matter. This good man diligently went about trying to do what the Lord wanted done in the way the Lord wanted it done. Clyde's life, his work, his witness, his deportment and his character were all evidences of him being "full of the Holy Ghost." I came to know Clyde Everman very well and I can say with great certainty that Clyde was one of the most Spirit-filled Christians that I've ever known.

Clyde Everman, like Barnabas, was a man full of faith. He believed in the Lord and he believed the Lord. His faith went beyond pronouncement to practice. That

is, Clyde Everman lived what he believed. His life and his spirit reflected a deep abiding faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. After Clyde became unable to open his eyes and communicate orally, he would sometimes lift his hand and point upward with his finger. In doing so, he surely was declaring his faith in Jesus to take him home to heaven.

Concerning David, God said that he was: "...a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will" (Acts 13:22). In attitude, in spirit, in service, many, including myself, believe that Clyde Everman was in these ways like Barnabas. I also believe that like David, Clyde Everman was a man after God's own heart and spent most of his life seeking and doing the will

of God. Clyde Everman was a man known far and wide for many good attributes, but having a heart like God may have been his greatest attribute. Clyde's heart could be properly described as: loving, kind, caring, soft, compassionate, longsuffering, and benevolent. Truly it can be said of Clyde Everman, that others could see Jesus living in him.

### Clyde Everman and This Pastor

I was Clyde Everman's pastor for almost 2 1/2 years. He was a constant source of encouragement to me. He was always there for needed advice and counsel. Not once did he ever let me down. At times, in my capacity as the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church and editor of The Baptist Examiner, I would come under verbal attack. It was Clyde Everman that would rise to my defense. Clyde believed strongly in what we were trying to accomplish through the church first and The Baptist Examiner second. Clyde served his Lord well! Clyde served his church well! Clyde supported this pastor well! When I think of Clyde, I think of The Baptist Examiner. During my time as editor, Clyde was the heart and soul of The Baptist Examiner. I sometimes have referred to him as "Mr. T.B.E."

### Clyde Everman and His Family Knew How To Live Life

Connie and I were blessed with a close relationship with Clyde, Mildred, and Betty Everman. They have been so good to us. We've grown to love them so very much.

We've both been tremendously impressed by the way the Evermans have gone about living life. With some people, life seems to have control of them to the extent that they do not live life. It has not been this way with the Evermans. The three mentioned above have taken each day as a gift from God and lived it fully with the results being great happiness, joy and a sense of fulfillment.

Clyde Everman lived life to the fullest. He lived it right up to the time he went to heaven. The last week before his downward turn, he took Mildred and Betty out to dinner. Clyde was married to Mildred, the love of his earthly life, for well over sixty years. He and Mildred enjoyed wonderful children, grandchildren, and a great grandchild.

On Sunday, February 4, 1996, Clyde Everman quietly and comfortably entered his last few days of earthly existence. Clyde seemed

to be resting in a peaceful state awaiting the call from Jesus to come on home. On Wednesday, February 7, 1996, about 5 p.m., the call came and Brother Clyde quietly and peacefully crossed over Jordan and went to the promised land. Clyde now lives in heaven with Jesus.

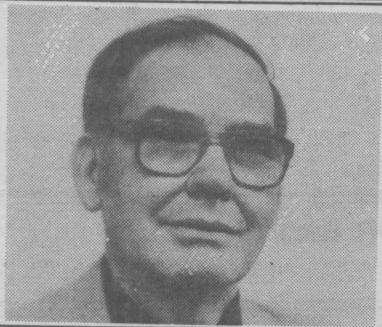
We miss you Clyde, but we're so glad you're now home!

Sometimes you just need to know that someone cares. The Bible says "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (Rom. 12:10) and "Let brotherly love continue" (Heb. 13:1). Remember this and share your love with a brother or sister in Christ.



**The Baptist Tabernacle in Jesup, Georgia is in need of a pastor. Anyone interested can contact Dean Strickland at 2934 Lanesbridge Road, Jesup, Georgia 31545.**





## The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

By Clyde T. Everman  
(Now in Heaven)

### Life's Sunset

Genesis 24:1-9; 25:1-10

Some one has said, "There is scarcely anything more beautiful and inspiring than the calm, bright, peaceful close of a long and honored life." Like a summer sunset, it floods the whole scene with brightness and glory. "The hoary head is a crown of glory" as it sinks to rest after a life's long day spent "in the way of righteousness." This is an exact description of the sunset of Abraham's life that we see from the passages before us.

"The Lord had blessed Abraham in all things" sums up Abraham's entire life and experience, and now in his old age we find this still to be true. He is still enjoying God's fellowship and blessings.

We need to note Abraham's unchanging faithfulness to God's divine will (v. 2-4). With complete confidence in God's promises concerning he and his seed Abraham was determined that Isaac would not take a wife from the Canaanites. The command that he gave his servant shows his desire and determination to carry out the divine will.

We also see that even in old age he fully understood God's divine plan (v. 6-7). When the servant asked what if the woman would not come back with him, Abraham made it plain that Isaac was not to be taken out of Canaan. Regardless of what happened he made it clear that God's will was to be done.

We also can see Abraham's absolute confidence of God leading in the matter selecting a bride for Isaac (v. 7-9). After telling his servant how God had brought

him from his father's house, promising to give the land unto his seed, Abraham told him that this same God would send **"His angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence"** (v. 7). He told the servant that if the woman refused to accompany him on the long journey back to Canaan he would be relieved of his oath. But at the same time he again stated that Isaac was not to be taken off the land.

The remainder of chapter 24 deals with the journey of the servant seeking and finding the bride for Isaac of which we will look into in our next study.

In chapter 25:1-10 is given an account of Abraham's closing years. After the marriage of Isaac as recorded in the latter part of chapter 24 Abraham took unto himself another wife, Keturah. But from verse 6 and I Chronicles 1:32, it is evident that she was not considered in the same rank of equality as was Sarah. The descendants of Midian, one of the sons of Abraham, born of Keturah became bitter enemies of the descendants of Isaac.

Before his death, Abraham made it very clear what position Isaac was to have. He did this by giving **"gifts and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country"** (v. 6).

**"Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years: and gathered to his people"** (v. 8). At the age of 175 years, seventy-five years after the birth of Isaac and thirty-five years after the marriage of Isaac, Abraham's life came to a close.

The phrase **"gathered to his people"** refers to him joining those of his people in the realm of the dead, not as to where he was buried, as it was only with the body of Sarah in the tomb where his body was laid.

**"And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave Machpelah, in the field of Ephron...The field which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth; there was Abraham buried and Sarah his wife"** (v. 9-10).

In looking back over Abraham's life, we see many outstanding points in his character that should be in every child of God. First, we note his faith in God. At every step he took God at His word. He trusted God to do what He promised.

In the second place we see his faithfulness. He is referred to as **"faithful Abraham"** (Gal. 3:9). He not only believed God but by his life he proved that he believed. His works testified as to his faith. Can anyone deny that Abraham had faith?

Also, a review of Abraham's life reveals that not withstanding the close relationship he had with his Lord, he never lost sight of how great was God and of his own smallness.

Then, we can not fail to see the sweet friendship and fellowship Abraham had with God through out his life. We might add this same friendship and fellowship is there for every child of God. **"Ye also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ"** (I Jn. 1:3).

In studying the life of Abraham, we see God's Divine pur-

pose, in relation to Abraham, was that His will was to be done. From the time God chose Abraham from among his kindred until his death God's purpose was that through him the chosen nation was to come and the promised Messiah was to come. Just as with Abraham every child of God is placed here on earth to do God's will. He has a purpose for each of our lives. Each of us should pray, **"Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."**

God not only has a Divine purpose in our lives but He gives the power to carry out that purpose. God never commands except He gives the power to carry out His purpose. He gave Abraham strength when humanly speaking it was absolutely impossible for him to carry out the command. For the child of God today it is just as true, that **"As thy days, so shall thy strength be"** (Deut. 33:25) as it was for Israel in that day.

The question may be asked how may I know the Divine purpose and by what means may it be accomplished. By looking at the life of Abraham we find this can be done by believing God. His Word is to be received and believed. As W. H. Griffith Thomas has well said, "When faith responds to the Divine promise the Divine power is at once given, and through that power the Divine purpose is perfectly accomplished. On the one hand God assures the believer, **"My grace is sufficient for thee"** and on the other the believer responds **"I can do all things through Him Who is empowering me."**

## JESUS

(Continued from Page 1)

ened to every call to duty, and his heart receive and love Jesus as the Lord of his life and the Saviour of his soul. And now my dear reader, we come to our text and the very heart of this message. Our text informs us that this salvation is in the name of Jesus and in no other. There is much in a name my people, a name stands for something, the destinies of nations have been decided by the significance of a name. Armies have been inspired by a name. When we hear the name Moses, we think of the lawgiver of Israel. The name David brings to our minds the sweet psalmist and king. When we think of the name Paul, we think of the great apostle to the Gentiles. Our own children, upon hearing the name Washington, think of the father of our country. And when we hear the name of Jesus, who is the Christ of God, we think of salvation, and salvation only by His wonderful name.

We have no access to God by any other name, and certainly not our own name. But according to Romans 5:2 we have access **"into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God"** through this name.

So let us now behold that name, the only name whereby men may be saved, and let us endeavor to describe that name from the Bible, the Word of God.

First, let me say that the name we are considering is a transcendent name. **"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 thing in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"** (Phil. 2:9-11). So this name is above every name in heaven or on earth. (THERE IS A NAME I LOVE TO HEAR, I LOVE TO SING ITS WORTH, IT SEEMS LIKE MUSIC IN MINE EAR, THE SWEETEST NAME ON EARTH, JESUS, BLESSED JESUS). In the book of Hebrews, we find that through His sufferings, Jesus became the Author of eternal salvation, and the Author

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APRIL 1, 1996

PAGE THREE

**"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him."**

**II Corinthians 5:8-9**





## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT  
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Does a saved person already in heaven know what is happening here on earth?  
(Submitted by John R. Gilpin, Jr.)

CLYDE T.  
EVERMAN

Now  
In  
Heaven



I believe that there is Scripture that indicates that the saved already in heaven are aware of events which take place on earth. In Luke 15:7, Christ, after telling the parable of the lost sheep and how there was rejoicing in the finding, said "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." And after telling the parable of the lost coin He said "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Lk. 15:10). In verse 8, we are told there is joy in heaven over the repentance of a sinner. In verse 10, we are told that joy is in the presence of the angels. Who may I ask are now in the presence of the angels of God? Are not those who have died in the Lord, now with the Lord and His angels? Could there be joy in heaven and those saints who are now there not know and share in that joy? I think not.

In Hebrews 11, we have given the great roll of faith of men and women who in ages past believed and served God faithfully. After stating that all these had received a good report through faith, the writer said "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

The picture presented here is a stadium filled with spectators (witnesses) in which a race is being run. Those who are in the stands are the saints who have completed their course and are now fans encouraging those who are still in the race.

"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).

JAMES E.  
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We don't need to look very hard for the answer to this question, at the same time let me add that there are many who do not believe that they do. I, frankly, can't see how anyone could not believe that they do. Let me explain my position.

"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" (Heb. 12:1). The answer is found in this verse. To find the answer we must evaluate this verse and determine who composes the cloud of witnesses. Note if you will the first world of this verse "Wherefore." The Greek word "toigaroun" is a word that means therefore or consequently. It has been said that if you see the word "therefore" you must look at the verses before to see what it is there for. Chapter 11 is the chapter that tells of those saints who lived such great lives of faith and who died before the promise was fulfilled. After naming all those and pointing out the many others not named, God then said to us "Wherefore (or therefore, consequently) seeing we have such a cloud of witnesses." Obviously the cloud of witnesses are those saints. Remember when Peter, James, and John were on the Mount of Transfiguration they saw and knew Moses and Elias talking with Jesus (Mt. 17:3). Please note two things here: (1) The disciples knew who they were, even though

they had been dead hundreds of years, and (2) They were talking with Jesus as if they knew what was going on.

Who are the cloud of witnesses, besides of course our heavenly Father Who sees all things? They are the angels and all the saints who have gone on to heaven. Hebrews 1-11 talks of angels and the saint of old so Hebrews 12:1 speaks of all these witnesses.

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"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (Jn. 14:2-3).

We are here speaking primarily about the saints who have died since Jesus came or saints of the church age. The heaven we are here speaking of then, is where we go at death—the presence of Jesus. We are with Him in this place until we return with Him at the resurrection of our bodies. When we then enter the ultimate heaven which is the creation of all things new and the eternal ages, we are told that God will wipe away the memory of all former things.

Do those already in heaven know what is happening here on earth? In my opinion, no. I have heard some preachers and others comment on how man, dad, wife, husband, or someone was looking down on their lives and was or are cheering them on to finish the course and come up to heaven. Others have attested to the belief that they have great comfort in knowing those gone on are looking over the "ramparts of heaven" and are observing all that they

do. "I know that so-and-so is looking down on me, and so they are 'with' me." That has been the testimony of many, but is it Biblically true? It makes an interesting picture, but I do not believe that it is Scriptural.

I personally feel that there are several reasons why this is not the case. First, In Christ's presence is peace and joy, bliss. Would it be so if we could see what is happening to loved ones and friends? I think not. There would be nothing we could do to help them. Second, the idea of cheering us on to the finish smacks of Arminianism. WE WILL COMPLETE THE COURSE, because the One Who is the Author and Finisher of our faith guarantees it. He will finish what He has started (Phil. 1:6). Third, the idea that these viewers are witnesses to our life, works, etc. is not needed. God sees us and knows all about our daily lives. We are totally manifest to Him with Whom we have to do (Ps. 139:1-4). He keeps the books. He rewards everyone according to his works. Fourth, when we are with Jesus, our full attention will be to Him and the wonder that will surround us. We will not know (unless told) about what is behind us, nor will we want to know. All the things that were heartaches, hindrances, and sorrows will be gone and the perfection and purity will be unimaginable. Praise God.

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The Lord Jesus told us that there is joy in the very presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents (Lk. 15:7). It is not so much that the angels rejoice but that there are others in the presence of angels that rejoice. It very well could be the departed saints of God! Now I want to point this out, these departed

saints understand and see things through the light of righteous providence and wisdom of God. They do not look at things as we look at them here. I do not believe they are saddened or alarmed by things happening on earth. They are not anxious or worried about our problems down here. They see things in a far different light. Whatever they see on earth, they see through the eyes of Christ. I believe that the departed saints do have some knowledge of things that happen on earth. Now I have heard some speak of a "heavenly grandstand" where folks in glory peer down and scrutinize earthly loved ones. I doubt the reality of that. The preoccupation of heaven's inhabitants transcends anything that we can even imagine. They look at Christ and live in a totally different dimension. The Scripture tells us that we are "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses." These witnesses refer back to the "heroes of faith" referred to in Hebrews 11. They persevered in faith in the face of great obstacles and persecution. So we are not alone in our own tests of faith. We can take great courage as we look to the saints of all ages. They have left us a legacy. When we finish our earthly pilgrimage we will also join in that great cloud of witnesses. I hope we will leave a godly legacy for our own children to follow.

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Perhaps my brother writers may give a more satisfactory answer to this question than I can. I know of no Scriptural reference that is applicable to this question. Like many other things concerning heaven and eternity, God does not disclose much in detail of His plans for us. It is however, safe to say "He doeth all things well" (Continued on Page 5)



## THE DRESS

By Irene Orrick

Who can understand the workings of the human brain which make some word or ridiculous incident that happened when I was almost an infant stick in my mind for forty years though I can't remember the telephone message that someone left for my husband this morning? The particular case in mind was a tragedy that happened many years ago. Three young men agreed together to start down the road and kill the first people they met. I don't remember just how many victims there were. But there are about three things related to the massacre which have lasted in my memory.

First, one of the criminals was severely wounded by law officers and captured. As he was led into a doctor's office at Morehead, a deputy on each side holding him up, Doc Blair looked at him, then said, "When you let his arms down he will die." With an oath the wounded man said, "It will take more than that to kill me!" As they laid him down he died.

Second, I remember a new word that I learned at the funeral of a young boy who was one of the victims of this insane spree. The mother of the slain boy said, "Everyone else will recover, but I won't." I had never heard the word "recover" before, and for some reason the first hearing of the word has remained with me for all these years.

Then there was the dress. When the makers wrote the care instructions on the label, "Do not wash," they should have had the civility to add, "Also go to great lengths not to be caught outside in a downpour." In those days most of us around Stark wore dresses made from feed sacks or print goods bought at Leedy's general store. But we did order our Sunday clothes ready-made from

Montgomery Ward, Sears, Alden's, or National Bellas Hess. Some of these brought-on materials were mighty peculiar. The first time my mother started to press one of these new catalog dresses, the iron went right on through it: cheaply made, we thought. But our irons had to be heated by setting them on the wood-burning cookstove: one iron sat on the stove to heat while we used the other till it was too cool to do any good. Then we put the cool one on the stove to heat again while we used the one just heated. There was no way to test how hot the iron was but to spit on a finger, touch it to the bottom of the iron, and if your finger sizzled, it was hot enough to press cotton. I guess Mamma let the iron get too much sizzle-power to press rayon that time.

Now, Cousin Ruby wore one of these peculiar catalog dresses to the funeral I mentioned earlier. It was a lovely pink crepe, and I'm confident that Cousin Ruby felt a little special wearing a ready-made dress. However, during the graveside service there came a downpour. Quite vivid in my mind is the picture of cousin Ruby frantically tugging at the hem of her rapidly shrinking dress!

From a sad, tragic scene, why do I remember that comedy? Surely it must be so that I can make the following spiritual application. I'd say the dress is typical of the self-righteousness that some folks depend on. It is pretty to look at while the sun is shining, looks durable and sturdy. But when God's judgment day comes, self-righteousness won't hold up; only God's own appointed covering, the blood of Christ the Son will suffice: **"All our righteousness are as filthy rags in his sight"** (Isa. 64:6).

friends and loved ones now in heaven and look forward to the soon coming day when we will join them at that happy reunion day. But for now there is still work to be done here below. And as again the apostle Paul wrote **"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"** (I Cor. 15:58).

**"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"** (II Tim. 4:6-7).

The apostle Paul was used of God to write more books of the Bible than any other man. It is generally accepted by Bible students that his first letter was that of I Thessalonians, a letter that was written to a church, and that his last letter was II Timothy, a letter written to Timothy his son in the ministry. When Paul penned the words of our text he knew that his life's sun was rapidly setting in the west. He knew that soon he would speak his last word, take his last step, breathe his last breath, and go from time into eternity. As he faces the end of his life, he is not downcast, but rather, he is upbeat. He looks back on his life with satisfaction and he looks forward with anticipation. In our text, he speaks of himself four ways. First, as a sacrifice: **"I am ready to be offered."** Even as the drink offering was poured out before the Lord, Paul was ready for his life to be poured out for the cause of Christ. Second, as a soldier: **"I have fought a good fight."** In this letter he charged Timothy to **"Endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"** (II Tim. 2:3). He was not asking Timothy to do something that he did not do himself. Looking back on his life he could say that as a soldier in the army of King Jesus, he had fought a good fight. Third, as a runner: **"I have finished my course."** Paul often used athletic terms to illustrate some spiritual truth (note I Cor. 9:24-26 and II Tim. 2:5). Paul viewed his life as a race and as he sat in his dark dungeon cell he knew that he was near the finish line. Fourth, as a steward: **"I have kept the faith."** The Scriptures tell us **"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful"** (I Cor. 4:2). Paul had been faithful to the charge given him.

As he faces the future, Paul has no regrets as he says **"I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."** In looking at our text, there are four things that come to our attention.

### A Departure

If you have ever been in a busy

airport, you know that there are monitors that list the arrival and departure of the different flights. While Paul did not know anything about airplanes and airports, he did know that he was about to take a flight that would take him from time into eternity.

Someday we will also make the departure from this life **"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"** (Heb. 9:27). The largest piece of acreage in many towns is the local cemetery. There are about three times as many graves in the Ironton cemetery as there are people now living in the city of Ironton. Each of these graves bear, silent witness to the fact that people die and depart this life. Someday we will join those whose bodies sleep beneath the sod. Someday we too will depart this life.

### The Time of Departure

The airport monitor may announce that your flight is delayed or even cancelled, but it will not be so when our time comes to depart this life. **"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted"** (Eccl. 3:1-2). **"Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, Thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass"** (Job 14:5). God knows who will be the next to die and when it will be. It may be soon or it may be years from now, only God knows when it will be.

There is an old Eastern legend that tells of a rich merchant of Baghdad and his servant. The servant went to the marketplace one morning to buy provisions for the household. He returned in a little while in great haste, trembling and pale with fear.

"What is wrong?" cried the merchant.

"Master, I have just now met death in the marketplace, and he lifted his hand to strike me. Master, I am afraid, I must escape. Pray, lend me your fastest horse, and I shall flee to Samarra."

The merchant was a kind man and gave him the horse on which he immediately fled with all speed to Samarra.

When the servant was gone,

the merchant himself took the shopping basket and went to the marketplace. He too saw death there. He went up boldly to him and asked, "Why did you raise your hand to strike my servant here in the market a little while ago?"

"Why," replied Death, "I meant him no harm. I raised my hand indeed, but it was a gesture of surprise. I was amazed to see him here in Baghdad, for I have an appointment with him tonight in Samarra."

This fable brings out the truth that when it is God's time for us to meet death, there will be no place for us to hide.

### At Hand

Paul knew that his time on earth was so short that he could say that it was **"at hand."** Perhaps we feel that this does not apply to us and that we still have a lot of time on earth, but we cannot be sure. A funeral home director once told me of a strong young man who came to his establishment to view the body of an acquaintance who had passed away. The youth remarked to the funeral director that he had a long time to live. However, a few days later he got wet, took pneumonia, and exactly one week after viewing the body of his friend, his friends were viewing his body. **"For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare, so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them"** (Eccl. 9:12). However much time we have between now and death, it will be short compared to eternity. As to the passing of our days we agree with Job who said **"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle"** (Job 7:6a). Job also said that his days were faster than a post, a ship, and an eagle (note Job 9:25-26). The older we get the faster time seems to go. We seem to almost jump from January 1st to December 31st. Some unknown poet has said:

"When as a child, I laughed and wept,

Time crept;

When as a youth, I dreamed

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## WHITT

(Continued from Page 4)

and as the apostle Paul wrote **"For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known"** (I Cor. 13:12).

Someone has perhaps rightly said: "Where God has little to say, we should have little to say."

We should be glad for the



## SODOM

(Continued from Page 1)

2086 B.C., or eighty-six years before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and their sister cities of Admah, Zeboim, and Zoar. Some believe that Ur of the Chaldees, from which Lot migrated, may have even had bathrooms in their homes. Ur, in fact, according to archaeologists, was the most magnificent city in all the world at that time. It was a center of manufacturing, farming, and shipping. It was an area of great fertility and wealth. Caravans, it is said, went out from Ur in every direction to distant lands. Ships also sailed from the docks of Ur down the Persian Gulf with cargoes of copper and hard stone.

Ur was explored by C.W. Woolley and two hundred helpers during the period of 1922-1934. Many remains from Ur can be seen in the University Museum of Philadelphia and the British Museum. These museums were the ones who sponsored Mr. Woolley and his assistants in their exploration of Ur.

### Lot in Sodom

Lot, as we know from the Scriptures, separated from Abraham and settled in Sodom, or what is believed to be the southern end of the Dead Sea. It was while Lot resided in Sodom that he was subjected to tremendous obstacles. The people in Sodom, in fact, were travelling in a path that was completely contrary to holiness before God. This fact meant that the life of Lot while he was residing in Sodom, was one of vexation, that is, irritation, annoyance, grief and affliction (these are the definitions Webster gives for the word "vex").

The Biblical record of Lot's life in Sodom is stated as follows: **"And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked. (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds)"** (II Pet. 2:7, 8).

Lot, then, not only heard that which was going on around him, but he also saw it from day to day. The result being that his soul was vexed, that is, irritated and annoyed as well as put to grief and affliction. He, in a sense

of speaking, was going up stream while all of those around him were going down the stream. The reason that Lot heard and saw all was because he "sat in the gate of Sodom", that is, he sat on a seat of justice. The Biblical record of such is as stated in the following passages of Scripture. **"And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; and he said, Behold, now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servants house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night, and he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat"** (Gen. 19:1-3).

### The Totally Depraved Condition of the Sodomites

The Sodomites, when the angels arrived on the scene, were filled with pride and haughtiness. They were also full of bread and idleness. The record also shows that they were self-centered to the degree that they ignored the poor and the needy. These facts are pointed out in the following passage of Scripture. **"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good"** (Ezek. 16:49-50).

### Fat Cats

The Sodomites, being idle and full of bread may be referred to as "fat cats" or lazy cats who were always on the prowl. They proved such to be true after the angels had decided to spend the night at Lot's house. The record of such is as follows. **"But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter. And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us that we may know them"** (Gen. 19:4-5).

We, from the subject passages

of Scripture, learn that the Sodomites added to their sins of pride, haughtiness and self-centeredness, the sin of sodomy. They, in fact, were so vile that they wanted to have a sexual relationship with the two angels from heaven.

### Lot Tried to Appease the Sodomites

Lot, as it is recorded in Genesis 19:6-7, went outside of his home and confronted the crowd of young and old homosexuals. He even tried to use his two daughters as a means of bartering with them—his two virgin daughters who, at a date soon thereafter, bore him two sons. Lot, however, failed in his attempt to bargain with the Sodomites. The homosexuals, in fact, continued to press "sore" upon Lot or prepared to remove him from being an obstacle in their path (Gen. 19:9-10). They, at this point, had backed Lot against his door and were preparing to remove him and then break down the door (Gen. 19:9). It was at this point that the two angels took the matter into their own hands. They, in fact, opened the door, grabbed Lot and pulled him into the house. They then closed the door. It was at that point that the angels smote the entire crowd of homosexuals with blindness. One would think that the sudden blindness would have altered the plan of the Sodomites. They, however, even though blinded, still tried to find the door and break it down. They, in fact, according to Genesis 19:11, continued to try and find the door until they were weary or exhausted. We are to see that the act of sodomy was more precious to them than their own ability to see. They, after all, had no way of knowing that they may never have been able to see again, never able to see their loved ones, or anything else around them.

### Angels Warn of Impending Doom

The fact that the Sodomites did not repent, even after being blinded, shows how far they had gone down into the pit of wickedness. There was not even a shadow of their turning from their evil ways. It was at that point that the two angels warned Lot (Gen. 19:12-13) of the impending doom that was hanging over the city. Lot took the warning of the angels to heart, because he proceeded to go from his home again in order to warn his two sons-in-law (Gen. 19:14). The record doesn't say whether or not his two sons-in-law were among

those homosexuals who tried to break down his door. His sons-in-law, however, after being warned by Lot, completely ignored the appeal he had made to them. The result was that Lot, due to his love for his sons-in-law and their wives, and perhaps children, lingered or hesitated in leaving Sodom. Lot, in a sense of speaking, by lingering, was standing near a fuse to a bomb that was gradually burning to the point of explosion. It was at this point that the two angels took hold of his hand and led him out of the city along with his two virgin daughters and his wife.

### Lot Continued to Drag His Feet

Lot, after being led out of Sodom along with his wife and two daughters, continued to drag his feet. He, according to Genesis 19:19, hesitated to make his escape to the mountain that was near to Sodom. He gave as his reason for dragging his feet "...lest some evil take me, and I die." The fact, however, that God was in the process of delivering him from death, should have been enough proof that he was not going to die at that time. This fact, of course, shows the weakness of the faith of Lot. It was said of Lot's uncle Abraham that he **"believed God"** (Rom. 4:3), but Lot failed to exercise this kind of faith in God.

### Lot's Wife Looked Back

There are many things that the Bible admonished us to remember. One of these is that we need to, according to Luke 17:32, **"Remember Lot's wife."**

You will recall that the angels advised Lot and his family not to look back, or even to remain in the plain outside of Sodom. Lot's wife, however, disobeyed the angels and looked back towards her hometown and her loved ones. She, no doubt, was very troubled because of two of her daughters and perhaps some grandchildren were still in the city. It appears, due to her looking back, that she believed that which the angels had said relative to the doom that was hanging over the city. Her mistake, however, was that she disobeyed the angels in that she could not break away from that wicked place in her heart and mind. You will recall that she, due to her looking back, became a pillar of salt, or was encrusted with salt.

You and I, in remembering Lot's wife, are to be quick to leave a place that is marked for

destruction. This earth, for example as was true of Sodom, is marked for the wrath of God to be vented upon it. Let us, then, not try to linger here or hesitate to leave such a corrupt place. May we, as was true of Abraham, look forward to that city that has not been made with hands. Let us not look back because he or she who looks back is tempted to go back in heart and mind.

We know from the book of the Revelation that this earth has been marked for certain destruction. Jesus, on the other hand, has come where we are, yea, to our house and taken us by the hand, through His marvellous grace, to lead us out and on to that heavenly city. Let us, then, **"Remember Lot's wife"**, and as a result, set our affections on things above and not on things on the earth.

May we who have been called from darkness into His marvellous light, not desire to go back into the darkness. May we who have been called from error into truth, not look back and desire our old ways. We, after all, are new creatures through Christ Jesus our Lord. May we, as Isaiah said of our Lord (Isa. 50:7), set our **"face like a flint"** in the direction that is laid out in God's Holy Word to us.

### God Uses Angels To Care For His Children

The story of Lot and his family leaves no doubt but that God uses angels, in many cases, to care for His children. This fact is stated very clearly in the following passage of Scripture. **"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation"** (Heb. 1:14).

### A Further Example of Our Text

We, in II Corinthians 6:14-18, have a further example of what it means to leave Sodom and not look back. These passages of Scripture point out that we are not to be **"unequally yoked together with unbelievers."** We, in fact, are to **"come out from among them"** and be a separated people.

### God Delivered Lot Before His Wrath Fell

The return of conditions as they were in the days of Lot, is a sign of the end of time as we know it. This fact is pointed out in the following passage of Scripture. **"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of"** (Continued on Page 8)



## BARNABAS: SON OF CONSOLATION

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

"And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus" (Acts 4:36).

The apostles recognized Joses by the bestowing of the surname (a title used in direct address) "Barnabas." The title Barnabas was given to reflect both the man's character and his work.

"Barnabas" is a name that is derived from two Aramaic words "bar" meaning "son" and "nabiy" which is defined as "prophet or spokesman." However in Acts 4:36 the interpretation of "Barnabas" is given by the Greek word "paraklesis" which means consolation, comforter, or encourager. "Paraklesis" is commonly translated "comforter" and describes one who stands beside another for the purpose of aiding or defending. What do these definitions teach us about Barnabas and his life?

Barnabas was a man greatly used of God. Throughout his ministry he truly lived up to his name. He was greatly used of the Lord to encourage and comfort those who were downtrodden and faint, much like the prophets of the Old Testament. The Old Testament prophets delivered messages of encouragement and strength to Jehovah's servants who were ready to faint due to the sinful condition of Israel and her Gentile neighbors. Barnabas, in many instances, defended those who were alone and defenseless, reflecting the Old Testament prophets as they stood against the kings and others in power for the sake of the common man who was being greatly abused.

The ministry of Barnabas was a very effective ministry which produced much fruit for the Lord's glory. And yet, it is frequently ignored by many students and teachers of God's Word. It was a very subdued ministry, not drawing attention to Barnabas but placing the attention upon the Lord and others.

A quick review of the condition of those aided by Barnabas helps to bring into clear focus the ministry and fruits of this one called "the son of consolation."

### 1. Paul (Saul)

Acts 9:27 - Barnabas was the only one willing to stand up for

the apostle Paul and help him to gain acceptance by the apostles. Keep in mind, at this point in time, Paul was well-known for his abuse and mistreatment of God's people. The apostles' natural attitude toward Paul's conversion would be one of disbelief and doubt. However, Barnabas, willing to take the risk upon himself, encouraged the apostles to receive Paul.

Acts 11:24-26 - Barnabas seeks out Paul (Saul), who had been ministering alone to those of Tarsus. Barnabas then accompanies Paul to the church at Antioch and aids Paul as he ministers to the church.

Acts 12:25 - Barnabas continues to accompany and aid Paul as he travels to Jerusalem.

### 2. Church at Antioch

Acts 11:22-23 - Barnabas was sent by the church of Jerusalem to encourage and strengthen those of the Antioch church. What did he encourage them to do? "...that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord." This was a church that was located a good distance from the Jerusalem church. Certainly this church faced times of discouragement and loneliness as they sought to serve the Lord.

Acts 15:1-34 - Barnabas, in an accompanying role with Paul, aided in the resolving of a doctrinal conflict concerning the way of salvation. Again, we can see the needy condition of this church as they struggle to grasp and hold to the doctrinal truth of God's Word.

### 3. The Brethren of Judaea

Acts 11:29-30 - Barnabas and Saul are sent from Antioch with a love offering to those who faced great persecution in Judaea.

### 4. Paul and the Lost Gentiles

Acts 13:1-2 - Barnabas is chosen, along with Paul, to minister the Gospel to the spiritually needy Gentiles of the outlying regions. Barnabas is not only aiding the lost Gentiles but Paul as well. It is clear, during their missionary journeys, that Paul takes the lead while Barnabas aids him in a supporting role (Acts 14:12). (See also Acts 13 and 14).

### 5. John Mark

Acts 15:35-41 - Here, we find the greatest example of Barnabas' encouragement of one who is downtrodden and alone. John Mark, who previously had fainted

in his service to the Lord, was encouraged by Barnabas to minister once again. Paul, not convinced of John Mark's determination and sincerity, refuses to allow him to accompany them. Barnabas, remaining steadfast in his desire to aid in the revitalization of John Mark's ministry, contends with Paul resulting in the split up of this team. How easy it would have been for Barnabas to "cave in" to the desires of his long time friend and leave John Mark behind. Barnabas chooses to stand against Paul and begin a new ministry with John Mark.

Which one was right in this situation? Was it godly wisdom for Paul to not trust John Mark, requiring further proof of his repentance? Or was it a proper attitude of grace and forgiveness displayed by Barnabas, in his readiness to receive John Mark back into the missionary endeavor? We cannot be sure.

But our mind must hearken back to the young apostle Paul whose past certainly seemed to eliminate him from the apostles' trust. Yet, due to Barnabas' willingness to stand with him, he was approved of the apostles and went on to a very successful godly ministry. Should Paul have remembered his own past and the gracious, trusting Barnabas as an example of how John Mark should have been dealt with? Until we get to heaven we cannot know for sure.

Keep in mind that John Mark was Barnabas' nephew (Col. 4:10). Many say that Barnabas simply favored a member of his family over a friend. This is a possibility, but if we keep the entire theme of Barnabas' ministry in view, it certainly seems to indicate that he was not showing familiar favor to Mark, but he was simply treating him as he had treated so many others in times past. Also, keep in mind, as time progressed, John Mark proved himself faithful in the ministry. Barnabas had not placed his trust in Mark vainly or blindly. John Mark proved himself to be a man of character who could be trusted once again. Eventually, even Paul accepted him back as a helpmeet: "Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (II Tim.

## A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



### Asenath

Genesis 41:45, 50-52;  
46:20

### General Information

Genesis 41:45 - She was the daughter of Potipherah, priest of On. This was a city of Egypt where worship of the sun took place. Her father was a priest involved in this heathen religion.

Asenath was given by Pharaoh to Joseph to become his wife.

Genesis 41:50-52 - She gave birth to Joseph's two sons. They were Manasseh and Ephraim. Her two sons became leaders of two of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Genesis 46:20 - This is another reference to her as the mother of Manasseh and Ephraim.

NOTE - The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh had Egyptian blood coursing through their veins. How pleased was the Lord with this marriage of Joseph, a God fearing man, and Asenath, the daughter of a heathen priest? (II Cor. 6:14-18). One piece of tradition, however, according to a popular Jewish romance, which can be traced back to the fifth century A.D., has her as the heroine of this romance and renouncing her gods to worship Jehovah. In Genesis 48, we have Jacob blessing the two sons of Asenath, counting them as his very own sons, and giving them a part of the inheritance, thus, the two tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. In Numbers 26:28-37 and in I Chronicles 7:14-29, we have a list of descendants of this woman. Two well known Biblical characters which came through this woman are Joshua, the son of Nun, and Gideon the Judge.

### Name Study

Asenath - she who is of Neith (a goddess of the Egyptians), she belongs to (the goddess) Neit, who belongs to Nuth. Her name is of Egyptian origin.

### Personal Application

Her name is indicative of the importance of this heathen faith to her family.

### Practical Application

All nations or peoples worship some deity (monotheism) or deities (polytheism). They acknowledge some sort of higher power or powers. Nature declares to most people that someone greater than themselves created the world and everything therein. Those who do not worship Jehovah, will usually be found worshipping someone else or something else. The following are verses which prohibit idolatry: Ex. 20:4; Lev. 26:1; Deut. 6:14-15, 7:25, 11:16; Isa. 42:8; I Jn. 5:21. The following are verses that compare how great Jehovah is to all the false gods, and these verses also declare Jehovah to be the only true God: Deut. 4:28, 35, 39; I Chron. 16:8-36; Ps. 115:1-18, 135:1-21; Isa. 40:18-31, 45:20-25; Jer. 2:11, 10:1-25, 11:12, 16:20; Acts 17:29; I Cor. 8:5-6; Gal. 4:8.

4:11). John Mark's rebound from unprofitability to profitability was due in no small part to Barnabas' desire to be a "son of consolation" to one who needed strength, encouragement and trust from those around him.

As we have studied Barnabas' life we can see tremendous results of his ministry. Many of these results cannot be directly attributed to Barnabas but are

indirectly associated to him. If Paul had not been accepted by the apostles at Jerusalem, perhaps his ministry among the Gentiles would have been hindered. Without the encouragement and aiding of Barnabas

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## JESUS

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and Finisher of our faith (Heb. 5:8-9; 12:2). In the garden of Gethsemane, He faced such agony of soul, spirit, and body as no mortal has ever faced nor ever shall face, yet He prayed "Thy will be done." He humbled Himself to the very depths of humility and died ("even the death of the cross"). Therefore, God has exalted Him to the highest glory heaven affords, a seat at the "right hand of the majesty on high." His resurrection was God's amen to His words from Calvary "It is finished." The blood of Jesus Christ, offered once for all, forever, satisfied God for the sins of every repentant believer. So yes, my dear reader, that great name of our Lord and Saviour is a transcendent name, it is above "every name" (Eph. 1:19-23).

Secondly, that name is a precious name. He is the chosen of God, elect and precious. The angels announced that He should be called Jesus "because he shall save his people from their sins." God gave Him this name and the Scriptures declare that "unto all who believe, he is precious." His name is precious to us because it saves us from sin (see Heb. 9:10; 11:26-28). But also He is precious in His character, for He is human to sympathize and divine to help (Heb. 4:14-16). But He is also precious as a Teacher. His words have brought light to our darkened souls and hope to our despondent hearts, and His blood is precious because it cleanses us from all sin. His promises are precious because they have sustained us in all the conflicts of life. So yes to all the redeemed, He is precious. Is He precious to you, dear reader?

Thirdly, the name of Jesus is a very comforting name. He is called "the God of all consolation." Simeon spoke of Him as "the consolation of Israel." Paul declares that there is consolation in Him, through race, and that our consolation abounds in Him. The Psalmist declared of Him "The Lord is my Shepherd." Oh, the magnitude of those words. Oh, the meaning of that sentence. "He is my Shepherd, I shall not want any good thing." Oh, my dear reader, Jesus is my comfort and my stay. Is He your comfort

also? We need comfort in this day in which we live, and Jesus is that comfort. Mention the name of Jesus to the darkened soul, and it will bring light. Mention that blessed name to the mother weeping over her dying baby and she will find comfort. Mention it to the bereaved companion and his heart will be comforted in the hope of the resurrection. There is no other name under heaven so full of comfort and consolation. Jesus stands by the bedside of the languishing. He stands by the devouring grave. He stands at the very gates of human despair and says "Come unto me, all ye that are weak and heavy laden and I will give you rest." So yes, my dear reader, the name Jesus, brings comfort when all else has failed. This is why "Men ought always to pray and never to faint" (Lk. 18:1). And that brings me to my fourth point.

That name is a conquering name. We are told that "At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in the earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10-11). We find that all enemies are going to be put under His feet. We read that "just spirits" shall praise Him, and that the entire universe shall ascribe glory and honor and power unto the Lamb forever and ever. In Revelation 1:7, we have the promise of His coming in the clouds of glory, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, amen." Isaiah the prophet said of Him in prophecy "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? ...I that speak in righteousness mighty to save" (Is. 63:1). Oh my dear reader, do you know my Jesus? Can you say you love Him, and does your life proclaim the same? Has that mighty conquering name conquered your heart? That name has mastered many a soul and conquered many a nation. It was in that name that the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. It was in that name that Gideon conquered thousands with only three hundred men. "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon" was his battle cry. That name conquered the hearts of the prophets and apostles. It captured the hearts of the martyrs.

"Whosoever believeth in that name shall never be ashamed" because by that name we shall conquer, and we shall overcome. That brings me to my final point.

Sixthly, that name is the only saving name. Our text says there is "salvation in this name." Dear reader, will you make heaven? Will you be saved? Will you bow to the Lordship of Jesus and trust Him as your own personal Saviour? I trust you will. May God bless to that end.

## GOODBYE

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and talked,

Time walked;

When I became a full grown man,

Time ran;

When older still I daily grew,

Time flew;

Soon I shall find in traveling on,

Time gone."

### I am Ready

The most comforting thing about Paul's departure was his being ready to go. While all are going to depart this life, all are not ready to go. Only those who, like Paul, have received Jesus as their Saviour are ready to depart this life. When saved people die, they depart this life to be with the Lord (note II Cor. 8:5 and Phil. 1:23). However, when the unsaved depart this life, they go into eternal suffering in the lake of fire that is called hell. The road of death leads to one of these two places. There is no other destination to which we are going. It is either Heaven or Hell.

Only when people have received Jesus as personal Saviour are they ready to die, and only then can they say like Paul, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."

(Article taken from: The Storms Creek Baptist Witness, January 1996.)

## BARNABAS

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during his missionary journey perhaps Paul would have fainted. Through the ministry of Paul, the Gospel went in power throughout the Gentile nations resulting in the salvation of multitudes throughout the time of the Lord's church.

If Barnabas had not ministered to the church at Antioch, that church may have died due to discouragement or doctrinal error.

Instead the Antioch church was able to continue on in ministry sending out Paul and Barnabas to proclaim the Word to the Gentiles. Also, by serving the Antioch church, Barnabas was able to minister to the needy at Judaea who may have even died without the aid supplied by the Antioch church.

Likewise, if Barnabas had overlooked John Mark and not had been willing to stand with him, who knows if this young man would have been able to be faithful and set a tremendous example of one who was able, by grace, to overcome past failure, and live a life of usefulness to the Lord.

All of the above examples, teach one basic truth. Not only is our Lord sovereign, accomplishing what He desires, but He uses human instruments in many different ways to accomplish His counsels. He raises up some to bring about great outward accomplishments while He raises up others to encourage, strengthen, and aid those who accomplish much. YET, BOTH PLAY AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE BRINGING ABOUT OF GOD'S WILL ON EARTH.

If our lives could be only a dim reflection of Barnabas' love, forgiveness, and encouragement to others; if only we could see beyond "the surface" and prayerfully, carefully, stand beside those seeking to be servants of the Lord; if only we could be given the surname "son of consolation" by those around us, we would be accomplishing great things for our Lord.

## SODOM

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man...Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Lk. 17:26, 28-30).

Believers, as was true when God's wrath was vent upon Sodom, will be taken out of the earth before the wrath of God falls. Let us, then, hear and heed the following passages of Scripture. "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Lk. 21:36). "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matt. 24:42).

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