

Today meet and greet the Lord with hope in your heart.

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

The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries

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

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UNIVERSAL PROVIDENCE

By Edwin B. Fountain

sign to King Hezekiah that God would keep His word about his healing the sun went backward on the dial of Ahaz, "And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the Lord: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz."

d). There are many other instances, in Judges 5:20 it is said that the stars fought against Sisera; in Daniel we read of the Hebrew children cast into the fiery furnace and came out alive without a singe or the smell of fire on their being.

In the New Testament He was aboard a ship during a great storm and when awoken He commanded the winds and waves to be at peace and they obeyed His will.

The above are but a few of the places in scripture where the absolute sovereignty of God is demonstrated in those things in creation without life.

2. Secondly, let us look at living creatures who do not have the power of reason and who acted in

manners that were opposed to the ways of nature or the so-called laws of nature.

a). Going once more to the flood that took place during Noah's time, see how willingly the animals came to where Noah had built the ark and not only came but entered into the ark without being forced, it was an ark constructed for them as well as it was for Noah.

And let us remember that they came in the correct numbers, of those considered clean they came in sevens including male and female, of the unclean they came two by two, one male and one female. Noah had no need to go hunting. They did not reason the need but when God sent them they went.

b). Again, consider the plagues upon the land of Egypt when Moses was trying to get Pharaoh to release God's people. There were frogs, lice, locusts, etc., all of these attacked the land and the people (Continued on Page 7)



Not only does our God have absolute power and right of dominion over his creatures, to dispose and determine for them that which seems good to Him but He is who sustains His creation and it is by Him that all inferior causes are guided to their predestined conclusion, notwithstanding all the possible accidents that could happen to obstruct or divert them.

When we recognize that the creatures of His creation have from time to time deviated from those first rules that He established at the beginning does not in any way diminish the doctrine of the sovereignty of God but is rather an illustration of it. This deviation of His creatures shows that His creatures are still in His hand as the clay is in the hand of the potter. These deviations are not for some private concern but rather to serve some special and divine end which God had predestined to be done.

Let us note several instances:

1. First let us think of those things in creation without life.

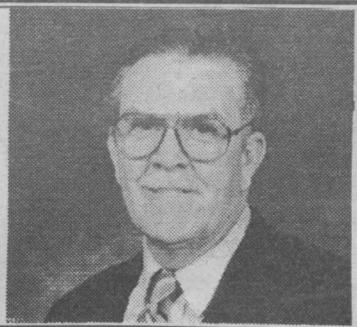
a). Gen. 7:11 tells us that the windows of heaven opened and the fountains of the deep broke up in spite of the boundaries that had been set and all of this to drown the ungodly men of the time of Noah.

b). The sun and moon (the earth) stood still until God's people were avenged on their enemies in Joshua 10:13, "And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies..."

c). And in II Kings 20:11 as a

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Interim Pastor Jack C. Whitt



THE JUDGMENTS AND JUSTICE OF GOD

"For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off." (Psalm 37:28).

Four Bible truths are made obvious from this single verse of God's Word. They are: (1) God's love of judgment, (2) God never forsakes His own, (3) The preservation of

His chosen ones, (4) The final destruction of the wicked. Let us now consider each of the four truths revealed, individually.

GOD'S LOVE OF JUDGMENT

The Hebrew word for judgment is "misphat", meaning, a verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially, a sentence or formal decree, particularly a di-

vine law, including the act, the place, the suit, the crime and the penalty, as so stated in Strong's Concordance. The word "justice" is closely aligned with judgment. God's love for judgment and justice reaches far beyond what man's purest thoughts may conceive of these words and to their value to (Continued on Page 2)

"THE SPECKLED BIRD"

By Ron Boswell
(At home with the Lord)



EDITOR'S NOTE: This article reprinted from TBE dated October 9, 1982.

"Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her.." (Jer. 12:9).

It is my desire, as the Lord leads, to use this text to present some of the great spiritual truths of our most Holy Faith.

The speckled bird mentioned in our text has fascinated the minds of many through the years. Many preachers have preached sermons from it.

Roy Acuff, a country singer, has popularized a hymn called, "The Great Speckled Bird."

I would like to divide our text into 5 parts:

1. A Description Of The Speckled Bird
2. The Other Birds Are Jealous
3. The Other Birds Desire To Change Things
4. The Great Blessing Of The Text—"Mine Heritage"
5. God Sees A Difference—"Is Unto Me"

The first point I will make is to

describe the speckled bird.

I. A Description Of The Speckled Bird

This bird was spotted; it was indeed, different from the other birds. When I think of a flock of birds all similar except one, I am reminded of God's people in the world. As we see the multitudes of humanity, every now and then we see individuals that stand out because they belong to God, this is biblical, listen:

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us whom all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14).

This verse tells us that God's people are a peculiar people. They are different. They are a marked people like the speckled bird.

We can often spot them at a glance. Their life and deeds stand out, their words and conversations are different, they give testimony to the Lord's faithfulness and grace. They have a love for God's people whom they call brothers and sisters, they have a love and respect for God's Word, the Bible. They love God's day and the services at His house. They will usually come out for church services on a cold winter night simply because it is a joy for them.

1. This Speckled Bird Was A Subject Of Divine Favor

God's people are different because of the grace of Almighty God. There is nothing in human nature that causes such profound differences. Listen:

"For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that didst not receive?..." (1 Corin. 4:7).

We must ascribe all the differences to Grace alone-without works and without faith forseen in us. We were subjects of Divine Mercy before the world began. Listen:

"So then it is not of him that willeth, not of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy" (Rom. 9:16).

The reason that the speckled bird was different from the rest of the flock must be laid to Divine Sovereignty.

2. This Bird Had No Control Over Her Birth

She was born speckled and had (Continued on Page 5)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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Editor's Update

By Interim Pastor Jack C. Whitt

Hello and greetings from Calvary Baptist Church in Ashland, Ky., to all our friends both home and abroad. As I write this, it is the day after Thanksgiving. I do hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving day. Like many of you, I had the traditional dinner of turkey and dressing with all the other delightful dishes that grace our tables at this time. This too, in company of family and friends. Truly I have so much to be thankful for as I am sure so many of you do as well.

This season, with the coming new year, brings with it a time for reflection upon our lives. Of how God has blessed and brought us safe thus far and that knowing He will continue with us throughout the rest of our lives, until the day we will meet Jesus, our Savior, face to face. What a day that will be! This is also a good time to be thankful to our brothers and sisters within our churches, and to those of us who have wives and husbands, for those who have children, or parents or grandparents and to anyone who may be a special friend. Maybe this would be a good time to let those we love know that we love them by "saying it". **"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."** (Prov. 25:11). This is also a time to be more committed to God, to His Word and to His work. **"And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."** (Rom. 13:11). I would like to think that this could be a time to resolve old differences between some of our Baptist Churches and for some church members to practice forgiveness between each other, that the same love wherewith Christ loves us could be more evident in all our lives. Both for Him and for each other.

Most of you should be receiving this issue before the new year so I take this opportunity to wish you all a most joyous and happy new year. I pray God will save many lost souls this year. Those as yet unsaved in your families and in mine.

May God's Word become more precious to each of us as we wait for this corruptible to be made incorruptible. May God bless each and every article, sermon and poem contained in our paper and bless those who contributed each for the comfort and knowledge they give. In this edition, we would like to especially salute, Mona Fetter, who is ninety years old for her poem: "A Winter Scene".

May God's peace be with you all now and throughout the coming year.

JUSTICE

(Continued from Page 1)

the human soul. The judgments of God cannot be translated into human reason and understanding. For this reason man must bow to God's divine wisdom and sovereign will and know that "His ways are not our ways" and yet unregenerate man will not accept this. Man cannot and will not accept God's divine decree against sin. It is too severe and harsh. An eternal place of torment for the unsaved is neither reasonable nor fair, so they should say. And yet our God is a just God in all that He does. The psalmist declares: **"Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together, Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth; with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity."** (Ps 98:8,9). God's judg-

ments are with righteousness and they are fair because He is holy. We read: **"There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God."** (1 Sam. 2:2). Though man cannot fully understand God's ways, He is to understand He is a Holy God and does His own good pleasure: **"But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."** (Ps. 115:3).

In the second case we see.....**GOD NEVER FORSAKES HIS SAINTS.** The saints of God are the saved of God without distinction. Some teach that not all the saved are saints but only those to whom God gives special privilege. Yet the Word of God teaches that all true Christians are saints. Listen: **"Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: To all that be in Rome,**

beloved of God, called to be saints." (Rom. 1:6,7a). And again: **"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to the law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?"** (1 Cor. 6:1,2). It is admitted that since the word "saint" means holy and sacred in some cases, it seems an inappropriate word to describe a lowly sinner saved by God's grace. Yet the above verses speak of the saved men and women in Rome and Corinth. We must realize not only do we not deserve to be called saints but we did not deserve to be saved by God's grace which made us saints. God looks upon all His chosen elected ones as very special and peculiar because He sees them as cleansed and made holy through the shed blood of His beloved son, Jesus Christ. It is HIS salvation, by HIS grace alone, for HIS own good pleasure in saving HIS people from their sins. And we may be certain, HE will never forsake HIS own. **"For the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance."** (Ps. 94:14).

Thirdly, we see.....**WE ARE PRESERVED FOREVER.** The Hebrew word for preserved is "Shamar". It means to, "hedge about, as with thorns, to guard, to attend to." Comforting thoughts indeed to the saints of God. I'm glad my salvation does not depend upon my good works or my ability to "hold out to the end". I'm glad heaven is assured because of God's will and not mine. Just as the apostle wrote: **"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."** (Jn. 1:13). Those of the

Armenian persuasion say, "We can only hope we make it." But my Bible assures my reservation has been made and it will not, and cannot be revoked because God will not lie or change His mind. This is why we can sing: "Rejoice, Rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing; eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!"

Fourthly.....**THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED.** The portions of our text verse which says: **"But the seed of the wicked shall be cut off"** turns our thoughts from the blessed assurances of God to His saints, to His judgment of the wicked. Just as sure as the eternal hope and glory shall be revealed in heaven for all the saved, it is just as sure all the unsaved (those who never receive Christ) will spend an eternity in torment. This fact should make us burdened for our lost loved ones. This should make each of us more ambitious in seeking out the lost and witnessing to them of God's grace and mercy to save those who seek peace and comfort to their souls. Lost sinner friend, you are spiritually blind to your need. You will never find salvation of your own human reason or intelligence. It is the Word of God empowered by the Holy Spirit that saves men from their sins. It is Jesus Christ preached, understood and received, that make a new creation out of an old one. The apostle Paul wrote: **"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."** (1 Cor. 1:18).

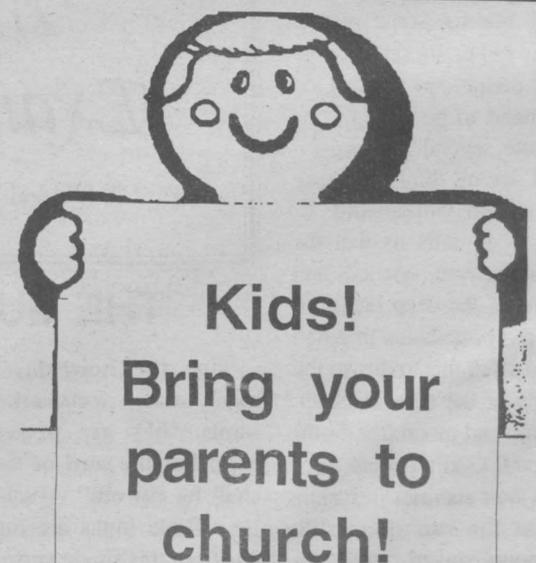
So it is, the saved shall not be cut-off as the seed of the wicked. Only let us be sure we are of the saints which are preserved forever. Amen.

Calvary Baptist Church continues seeking a pastor. Any God-called Baptist preacher may submit a resume to the address listed above in this column.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JANUARY 1, 1997

PAGE TWO



The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

By Kirk R. Everman

Member of Calvary Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee

Studies in Genesis Through The Woods (Gen. 30:25-43)

In our last study we observed the internal conflicts and early development of Jacob's family. Now we will observe that for Jacob, success is a matter of breeding.

"And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away, that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country. Give me my wives and my children, for whom I have served thee, and let me go: for thou knowest my service which I have done thee" (v. 25-26). Jacob's request is similar to that made in 29:12, when he requested his bride after serving the initial seven years. As presented, these verses suggest that the birth of Joseph (Jacob's eleventh son and the first born of Rachel, his beloved) occurred near the end of Jacob's second seven years, of service to Laban.

"And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favor in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake. And he said, Appoint me thy wages, and I will give it" (v. 27-28). Laban recognizes that he has been blessed materially because of Jacob. Since Jacob has fulfilled his obligations in exchange for Laban's daughters, Laban offers to establish a new labor contract. It seems that Laban desires to maintain and increase his wealth through his association with Jacob. This gives Jacob negotiating strength, much like what Laban possessed when Jacob had sought Rachel.

Jacob responds, "Thou knowest how I have served thee, and how thy cattle was with me. For it was little which thou hadst before I came, and it is now increased unto a multitude; and the Lord hath blessed thee since my coming: and now when shall I provide for mine own house also?" (v. 29-30). The word "cattle" used in v. 29 represents more than just herds of animals; it carries with it the concept of

Laban's wealth. However, it is helpful to understand that "cattle" used in the rest of the passage specifically describes groups of sheep or goats, instead of our modern association with cows, bulls, or steers. Jacob is saying that Laban's wealth has increased greatly, while Jacob has nothing for his young family; he is building the case for his wages.

This likely seemed reasonable to Laban: "And he said, What shall I give thee? And Jacob said, Thou shalt not give me anything: if thou wilt do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep thy flock" (v. 31). Jacob does not want to receive a fixed amount from Laban: he desires opportunity.

Jacob offers his proposal: "I will pass through all thy flock to day, removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and of such shall be my hire. So shall my righteousness answer for me in the time to come, when it shall come for my hire before thy face: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be counted stolen with me" (v. 32-33). Jacob has asked for his wages all of the sheep with mixed coloring or darkly colored and all of the goats with mixed coloring. Laban agrees to Jacob's offer.

"And he removed that day the he goats that were, ring-straked and spotted, and all the she goats that were speckled and spotted, and every one that had some white in it, and all the brown among the sheep, and gave them into the hand of his sons. And he set three days' journey betwixt himself and Jacob: and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flock" (v. 35-36). Jacob begins his third period of service entrusted with the rest of Laban's flocks; by contrast, these would include white-colored sheep and dark-colored goats and likely represented the majority of Laban's livestock.

While it appears that Jacob has

little to work with, he starts his efforts to pursue his wages. First, there is the preparation: "And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chestnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods. And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink" (v. 37-38). Note that "pilled" refers to peeling or removing the tree bark.

This is followed by a demonstration of the purpose: "And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ring-straked, speckled, and spotted. And Jacob did separate the lambs...and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle" (v. 39-40).

Finally, there is Jacob's long-term practice and the results of his labor: "And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters...But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feeble were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses" (v. 41-43).

More Than Words

At the beginning of this passage, Jacob was ready to return with his family to the land of his inheritance. Yet he was persuaded to continue in serving Laban that each might prosper through Jacob's labor. To some extent there is a reversal of roles in this situation. Now it is Laban who greatly desires: expressed as Jacob's continued presence, or more likely, the continued blessing by association. Also, where previously Laban had many years to consider the substitution of Leah for Rachel, Jacob had now completed many years of service in which he could have possibly considered plans for "getting even" with Laban. Jacob seized the opportunity to essentially

transfer Laban's wealth to himself over a period of several years (see Gen. 31:41).

What is somewhat discouraging to see is that Jacob chose to follow his plans even though both men recognized the Lord as the source of Laban's blessings of prosperity (v. 27 and 30). Contrast the detailed complexity of Jacob's efforts with that of his father Isaac when he was in the land of Gerar: "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him" (Gen. 26:12). This is not to say that the Lord was not involved in Jacob's increase, for ultimately all that we have, we have received from God. It does demonstrate, however, that Jacob is still relying on his own plans.

It is easy to casually use phrases such as "the Lord has blessed" or "trust the Lord." The first acknowledges what God has done, the second demonstrates hope in what He is doing and will do. To the believer, who by grace has trusted Christ for salvation, our remembrance of God's faithfulness and past blessings should serve as encouragement for our complete trust in the Lord concerning our present and future circumstances. By this we are enabled to place our self-serving plans on the sacrificial altar, that as new creations we are free to labor diligently in the works that God has prepared for us; knowing that He will provide the increase from the labors even as he provides for the laborers (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 3:7; Matt. 6:25-34).



It's not the length of prayers that are answered, but the depth.

TITHING

A.A. Hyde, a millionaire manufacturer, said he began tithing when he was one hundred-thousand dollars in debt.

Many men have said they considered it dishonest to give God a tenth of their incomes while they were in debt. Mr. Hyde said he agreed with that

thought until one day it flashed upon him that God was his first creditor. Then he began paying God first, and all the other creditors were eventually paid in full. If a man owes you money, it would be wise business policy on your part to encourage him to pay his debt to God first.

--Sunday School
Times

When a Christian dies, he has just begun to live.



The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



What should a wife do when her husband goes to church (which is not a true church) and she wishes to join another church, which is a true church?

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As a pastor I have experienced a few conflicts as reflected in the above question. In one church we had a fine lady who was very faithful. She came regularly every service. Her husband was an unbeliever. He had a bad stroke. In the course of time he made a profession of faith in a "healing crusade" at a Pentecostal church. He joined that church but never tried to force her to join with him. She came to me after a while and said she felt like she would like to join that Pentecostal church and be with her husband. She told me that he did not ask her to leave our church. She just wanted to be with him on Sunday. I told her that I understood her feelings about worshipping with her husband, but I also stressed to her that she would be led astray by false doctrines. We had a long discussion about the differences of doctrines. She did leave our church and joined by statement. Of course, we excluded her with much regret. That was very hard because I had personally led her to the Lord. I had another situation where there was a rather young lady who attended our church and her husband was dead set against our church. He hated our church. He wanted her to attend with him at the Lutheran denomination. She would attend with him until he got tired of going, and then she would come back to our church. I believe that man was a lost sinner and his life gave that kind of evidence. I use these illustrations to point out one fact that relates to the questions.

IF A MAN IS REALLY SAVED,

A MAN WHO LOVES THE

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LORD, HE WILL WANT WHAT IS BEST FOR HIS WIFE! If a man loves the Lord, he will not run rough-shod over the feelings of his wife, especially her spiritual convictions. The word of God tells the wife: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." Then in turn the scriptures address the duty of the husband. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (Eph. 5:25). A wife should submit to the spiritual leadership of the husband with only one exception, that the husband would ask her to do something that would clearly violate the word of God. If he asks her to disobey her Lord, she must not disobey her Lord, but meekly decline. So if he would ask her to join a church that teaches a "works salvation," "Baptistal regeneration," or some other damning heresy. She does not have to obey him in such a request. Yet, she must use caution here. The marriage is important. She does not have the right to leave the husband or divorce him upon such a request. The scriptures teach us this. "And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him." (1 Corin. 7:13). The question assumes that both husband and wife are believers who disagree about which church to attend. Certainly they should not separate over that kind of issue. In most cases a reasonable husband who truly loved his wife, would give her permission to attend a true church. He would respect her deep convictions. She could respond in kind with respect for her husband even in such a disagreement. So in the answer to this question I would say that the wife should first consult her husband and express

(Continued on Page 8)

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In order to answer this question properly, there are some things that must be considered.

The first thing we must consider is that marriage is a picture of Christ and the church (Eph. 5:22-33).

Next we must keep in mind the responsibilities of the husband. (Note: someone once said that if the husband orders his wife to do anything, even serve as a prostitute, she must do it. That's why we must see the role of the husband, because if he is an obedient husband he would never command his wife to do anything wrong, and if he fails in this role then she is not responsible to obey such commands that are not proper). (1) He is to love his wife, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). No man who loved his wife would order her to do something immoral or ungodly. (2) He is to cherish her. "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church" (Eph. 5:29). (3) He is to honor his wife as the weaker vessel and treat her as part of his life and ministry. "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:7). There are others, but this is enough for the purpose of this answer.

Now let us consider the wife and her duties. (1) She is to love her husband (Titus 2:3,4). (2) She is to submit to her husband (Eph. 5:22-24, 33). "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the

Lord" (Col. 3:18). (Note: She is to submit AS IT IS FIT IN THE LORD.) (3) She is to maintain a meek and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:4). (4) She is to do him good and not evil (Prov. 31:12). (Note: To obey an order that is unscriptural or immoral would be evil). (5) She is to be virtuous (Prov. 12:4; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:2). (6) She is to preach to him by her manner of life, not her words (1 Peter 3:1-5).

Now to answer your question. A wife is indeed responsible to her husband, but he is responsible to the Lord. If she has a husband that disobeys the Lord in any way, then she must put her allegiance to the Lord first. Any command he gives she must weigh that with both her duty to God and her responsibility to be the proper witness to him. If her husband joins a church that is not scriptural then she must very quietly and meekly explain to him that she cannot obey God properly and she must join a scriptural church.

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"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything." (Eph. 5:22-24).

The above Scripture is a proper relationship for two people in the Lord's church, not an invisible, non-existent entity. The natural thing that comes to mind for a Christian woman who knows church truths is this Scripture and perhaps 1 Peter 3:1. Certainly wives are not to disobey their

husbands UNLESS the husband's request, or demand violates God's clear admonitions, or principles. This is usually applied to a "saved wife" - "lost husband" situation. We assume here, however, that the husband is saved.

Most certainly, not everyone sees, or believes church truth. God's children are at different levels of spiritual understanding. This, of course, depends on their sources of input (studying the Word, preaching and teaching, solid commentary, and good books). All of these sources are subject to and used by the Holy Spirit, as He sees fit to use them and enlighten with them. We also add, at the time and in the way He sees fit. This is evidenced by the fact that there are some who do not accept the doctrines of grace, but do believe church truths, and some who are solid on the doctrines of God's grace, but reject, or do not see church truth.

I suppose the enquirer may be thinking, "Should I go with my husband and hopefully promote peace, etc?" For one who knows the truth, they MUST stand fast on that truth. Any compromise on any truth from the Lord, ultimately causes a loss of satisfaction, perfect peace, and a lessened sense of pleasing the Lord. Do Christians ever compromise on practice, truth, etc. Yes! Should they? Never! James 4:17.

My advice would be this. Possibly the enquirer has already done so. First, pray and ask God's guidance on how to stay true to Him and His teaching in this, or any situation. Secondly, one should discuss the situation thoroughly with their mate. Discuss every option, freely reason anything short of compromising the truth. Thirdly, if things cannot be brought to a correct solution, obey God rather than man. Continue to pray that God will give the needed understanding and conviction. The church is the most important organization on earth and from it come the bride and the only inhabitants of the New Jerusalem. Jesus died for it and protects it. It has a special place throughout eternity.

SPECKLED

(Continued from Page 1)

no power over it. It was not that she wanted to be speckled, but was born to it.

God's people have experienced a new birth that makes them different. We call it "being born again." Such a birth is solely of God. Listen to what the Bible says about the new birth:

"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:13).

As the speckled bird was made speckled by birth, so God's people have been made a peculiar people by the new birth.

3. This Bird Was A Thing Of Beauty, But Offensive To The Other Birds

So we see the Christian as a thing of beauty, the handiwork of God. As God looks upon the Christian, He sees the imputed righteousness of Christ. The child of God is clothed in the righteousness of Jesus, a thing of infinite beauty.

The sins and shortcomings of the child of God are covered by the blood of Calvary's Lamb. That blood that makes the vilest clean has cleansed the child of God and so in God's sight, they are beautiful.

The birds round about are offended because they see one that is too narrow-not broadminded enough. They see one that does not enjoy the same pleasures, one that does not have the same sense of humor, one that is offensive to them.

I say the picture of this speckled bird is a vivid picture of a child of God, which brings us to our second point.

II. The Other Birds Are Jealous

Satan and his legions are jealous.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

You can see from this verse that Satan would like to devour the child of God, to rend him asunder, to completely destroy him. How he hates us!

Satan would like to destroy your home. Though he delights in the destruction of all humanity, he especially would like to destroy the child of God and all that he has.

Satan wants to destroy your children. He will work hard to do so. He wants to destroy your

happiness.

The devil loves it when we are silent because he wants to destroy our testimony.

Satan wants to destroy your character. When slander comes our way we know in whose foundry it was forged.

The devil is jealous of the child of God. We hold a higher position in the kingdom of God than he ever held. Even as Lucifer (as he was created), he led the created beings in worship. This was a pale position compared to that held by the weakest child of God, listen:

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..." (Rom. 8:17).

2. **The Unsaved Are Jealous**
Joseph's brethren at one time were like the birds round about and Joseph was like the speckled bird, listen:

"And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him..." (Gen. 37:4).

"And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt..." (Acts 7:9).

Even in the home, the one place that should be a haven, this jealousy exists. Listen to the words of Christ:

"And a man's foes shall be they of his own household" (Matt. 10:36).

The child of God aroused the ire of many round about simply because they are different. Like the speckled bird, the other birds are against her.

Christian people just do not fit in. They are the butt of jokes, the ridiculed, the rejected, the outcasts.

III. the Other Birds Desire To Change Things

They wanted the speckled bird to be just like them. Child of God, do you not see that others want you to be like them?

They want you to be materialistic, to replace your God with a career and possession, to make money and success your God.

They want you to be worldly and to join the same clubs they belong to.

They want you to enjoy the pleasures of sin as they do. They want you to go to the places they go to.

Remember one thing, child of God:

1. They Want To Lower Your Standards

"Have a social drink with us, it will not hurt you." The speckled bird ought not lower her standards, for they are high standards-

right, good and decent.

"Listen to our smutty jokes and sex exploits," they say. Beloved, you ought to walk away and say you do not want to hear because you are different.

The world system would have us to be filled with pride and to adore violence. Do you not see that this is lowering our standards?

The way of the world is to gossip, defame with the tongue and to backbite. Many want you to engage in this with them and thereby lower your standards.

2. They Want To Change Things That Distinguish-To Make All Things Alike

The Bible presents God's people as a marked people. There is such a thing as particular redemption, as distinguishing grace and unconditional election.

Many fight against these truths. They mock and ridicule those who hold them.

The birds round about do not like the fact that you are marked. They want a watered-down religion where all are alike. They will have to find another book to teach from. The Bible teaches God's people are marked by Divine Grace.

The speckled bird could not be accepted as she was. If you search the Scriptures, you will find that the men and women of God were not accepted by their own generation.

3. She Was Greatly Abused

Christian people have been greatly abused in general. Richard Wurmbrand, a Lutheran pastor, was ransomed from a Russian prison camp for \$10,000 in 1964. In testimony before the internal security subcommittees of the U.S. Senate and in his book "Tortured for Christ," there are stories of Christians tortured by the Communists. These stories equal for horror and atrocities anything done by the Romans in the first and second centuries, anything done by the Satanic forces in the Dark Ages, anything done by Nazi Germany. This, my friend, was told in 1964!

The Communists in Russia have long bloodied their hands with the blood of God's people. The Communists are pawns in the hand of Satan. Even though respected religious leaders tell us there is only slight oppression of Christian people in Russia, we beg to differ with them. Though time does not permit to tell all, listen to just one case.

Alan Stang, in his article titled "Our Brothers Are In Chains," relates the story of Liubov Ovch-

inikova. Her crime is two-fold: one, being a Baptist and two, telling others of Jesus Christ for which (although she is healthy) she is locked up in a prison dispensary for criminals with venereal disease and is forced to drink from a common cup. I would say she is greatly abused.

Richard Wurmbrand told the United States Senate Subcommittee that in Rumania, the Communists tied Christians to crosses four days and four nights and then laid the crosses down on the floor and forced hundreds of prisoners to fulfill their bodily functions over the faces and bodies of the crucified ones.

Even in our generation, God's people are greatly abused and put to death. My friend, one day Liubov Ovchinnikova and those crucified saints in Romania are going to reign with Christ upon this earth.

As in our text in the Bible, the speckled bird was always abused,

so has it always been with God's people and will be till Christ comes again. It is understandable how excited John was when Jesus was about to conclude the Book of Revelation saying, "Surely I come quickly." John said, "Amen. even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

IV. The Great Blessing Of The Text—"Mine Heritage"

This tells us that the speckled bird belonged to God. We are His possessions, He owns us. Listen: **"Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands..."** (Isaiah 49:16).

Do you not see from this text that we are actually written on the palms of God's hands?

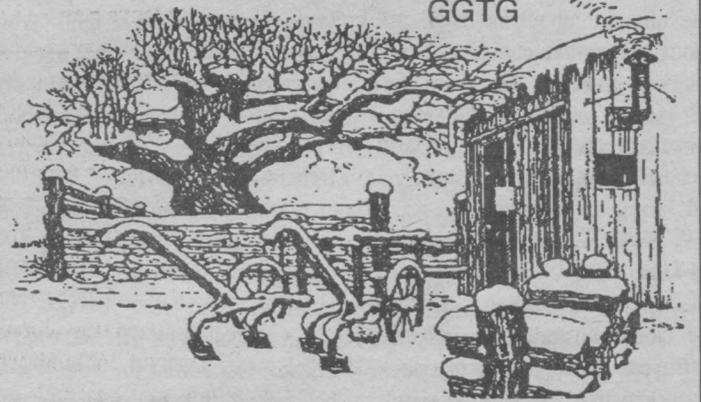
Surely, the Communists should shudder to think that they are abusing the property of Almighty God.

Surely, you and I should take courage, seeing that we are God's property. As the old hymn puts it (Continued on Page 6)

A Winter Scene

Across the glen I saw the trees,
Marveled such beauty e'er could be,
Though leafless, like gems they did shine,
The sight lifted this heart of mine!
Glistening, shimmering in the sun,
A lovely work the frost had done.
Each branch and twig bejeweled bright,
Twinkling, festooned in the light.
A gentle breeze caused them to sway,
Graceful beauty they did display.
Before me I view this wintry scene,
Lovely and bright, yet so serene.
In my heart I can but ponder
Who made this delightful wonder?
"Twas created by God's own hand,
Before such beauty in awe I stand,
And lift my voice to him in praise,
My Lord, my King, the Ancient of days!

Mona A. Fetter
GGTG



Meet me in
church on
Sunday.



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SPECKLED

(Continued from Page 5)
so well, "We should never be discouraged."

We are legally God's because He purchased us at Calvary, listen:

"...ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price..." (I Corinthians 6:19,20).

Christ purchased all of God's elect on Calvary's cross and He will take them all home. I went to a store to buy some items. After paying the price, I took all the items home. I left nothing behind that I had paid for. I did not fail to take home any item that I paid for.

The angel of the Lord made this statement to Joseph concerning Christ, listen:

"...he shall save his people from their sins: (Matt. 1:21).

From this we see that Christ will not fail but that He will take all His purchase home. It says, "Shall" not "might".

We should live in light of the fact that we belong to Jesus.

A man was traveling by train. He entered a compartment where three men were sitting around a card table. The money lay on the table and one could see that they were getting ready for a serious game of poker. They asked him to join them. He replied, "I would like to play poker but I have no hands." The men looked and sure enough, he did have two hands. Then he explained, "these hands are not mine, but they belong to Jesus. He bought them at Calvary. I would love to gamble in so far as my old nature is concerned, but I do not believe that Christ would want His hands to play poker."

We belong to Jesus. The speckled bird belonged to God. He claims it with these words: "Mine heritage..."

I say you may have many problems, many trials, even unbearable things, yet through it all stands this grand consolation — you belong to God. Someday you will spend eternity with Him. Some day you will be coronated because Christ has made us priests and kings.

V. God Sees A Difference— "Is Unto Me"

Let me take you down to Sodom and Gomorrah before they were destroyed. Here is a great twin-city population. Wickedness and

immorality abound everywhere. Only one man there is a believer. Only one man there is found trusting in the finished work of Christ for salvation. Even his wife and children are unbelievers. This man is not particularly a strong individual, that is, spiritually, he is not strong. His name is Lot.

Years ago in England, people used to heat their homes with coal in an open fireplace. When a heap of coals were glowing red, you could take a poker and pull one of those red coals off by itself and it would soon lose its red glow. It, when isolated, would cool off, I believe this was Lot's position.

In many ways Lot looked a great deal like the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, yet God saw a difference in Lot. Divine Grace triumphed and Satan was defeated, listen:

"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot..." (II Peter 2:6,7).

Come with me to the top of Mount Pisgah. There are two men. One is Balak, a heathen king and one is a prophet hired by the king, named Balaam. In the valley below are the tents of the children of Israel as far as the eye can see. Balaam's job is to look upon this multitude and curse them for Balak. God would not allow Balaam to curse the children of Israel because He saw a difference in them. Listen how it is put in Scripture:

"He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel..." (Numbers 23:21).

You mean to say that God looked upon a people that stretched as far as the eye could see and He saw not iniquity or perverseness? That's right! how can such a thing be? God saw the substitute sacrifice, the Lord Jesus Christ. When God looks upon His people, He sees the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Beloved, when God looks upon us that are saved He sees us through the cleansing blood of His Son.

Let me take you to a rich man's house. Outside at the gate lies a beggar full of open, running sores. He looks bad, he smells bad, there is a terrible odor coming from those running sores. He is disabled and can not work. Around his body is a ragged garment,

worn and soiled. There he lies, a heap of human suffering, offensive to look at. We might think he is useless, worthless, a drain on others, but wait! His name is recorded on the pages of God's Holy Word. He is to God a thing of beauty, a priceless possession, a speckled bird. God sees a difference, listen:

"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom..." (Luke 16:22).

Those angels did not arrive at his death, they were there all along, watching over God's property. You could say they were the beggar's personal bodyguards. Why such protection? Because this beggar was royalty. He was a joint heir with Christ.

These angels were like servants to the beggar—they carried him. In glory the beggar far outranks the angels.

Do you not see how that God sees a difference concerning the speckled bird?

TO THE LOST

My friend, on you my text may not have found its mark. Our text is found in Jeremiah 12, verse 9. Let us back up to Jeremiah 12, verse 5:

"If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

Do you find this life to be rough? Do you find that circumstances are more than you can bear? Are you wearied even though you live in a land of peace and prosperity? How then do you expect to fare in death itself? Listen to how God poses the question:

"...how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

A famous atheist lay on his deathbed. His wife was a devoted Christian. His daughter was torn between the beliefs of her father and mother. Her father called her to him to hear his last words. He said, "Now my beliefs are good to live by, but your mother's beliefs are the only ones to die by."

May it please God to reveal to you the Crucified One that rose from the dead as your only hope, listen:

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already..." (John 3:18).

May God Bless You All!

HOW CAN A MAN BE BORN A SECOND TIME?

By Pastor Robert Barkman,
Landmark Baptist Church, Collinsville, Ill.

(John 3:4-7)

"Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again."

Naturally, after hearing of the importance of the second birth, Nicodemus asks for a further explanation of the nature of this second birth:

1. "How can a man be born when he is old?". How can a fully matured man become a baby once again and be born into this world?

2. "Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Is it possible for an aged man to once again enter his mother's womb and be born?

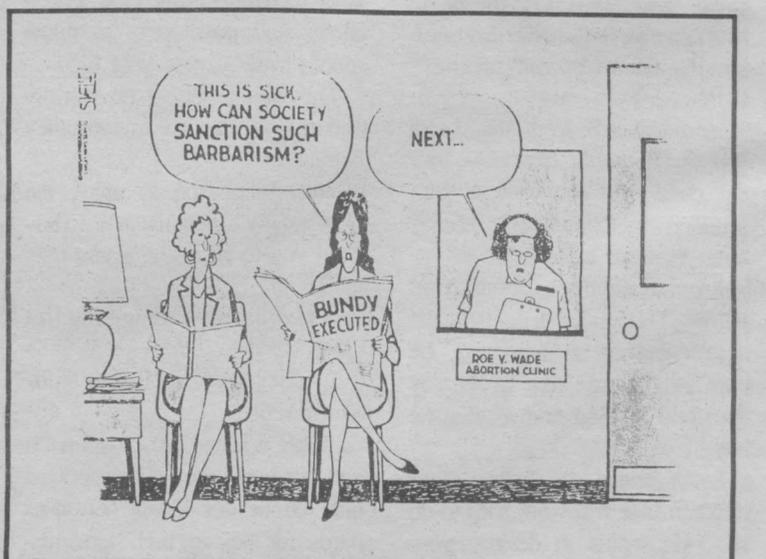
Both of these questions are the result of an understandable misconception of the proper nature of the second birth. The second birth is not impossible, as it seemed to Nicodemus. The key to understanding how the second birth can take place is found in a proper comprehension through teaching him the following principle concerning the second birth: "except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit"

Above all else, Jesus explains to Nicodemus that the second birth IS NOT A PHYSICAL BIRTH, IT IS A SPIRITUAL BIRTH. Being born of water is a descriptive way of expressing the physical birth that follows the flow of water from the mother's fleshly womb. The second birth differs from this birth, because the second birth comes from the workings of the Holy Spirit of God in the spiritual heart of man.

In other words, if Nicodemus understood that Jesus was speaking of a spiritual birth, he would have seen that there would be no need for re-entrance into the womb. All that would be needed was the intervention of the Holy Spirit of God in the life of man.

Therefore, Jesus makes the statement "Marvel not (Do not be amazed nor confused) that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

Christians have two natures:
The old and the new. One honors
self, the other honors Christ.
Which nature do you like?
(Matt. 6:24; 2 Cor. 5:17)



PROVIDENCE

(Continued from Page 1)

which was certainly outside the range of the bonds set by God so that even the magicians confessed that the finger of God was in the plagues. Ex. 8:19 reads, "...then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he harkened not unto them, as the Lord had said."

c). Consider the dumb ass that reproved the prophet Balaam who was pursuing his own destruction by trying to circumvent the will of God. Peter speaks of it in II Peter 2:15-16.

d). Then there is the story of Elijah being fed by the ravens. I can imagine ravens finding meat, but for Elijah it would have had to have been from a clean animal and one that had been killed for food and not just any meat. God would not have caused His prophet to sin by eating something that was unclean. So it stands to reason that the ravens had to be directed to that which

was edible by a Jewish prophet. God sent Elijah there and God took care to furnish his food. His ravens acted out of character for they love carrion not fresh meat.

e). And then there is the most famous story of all, the story of Jonah and the "great fish".

The great fish not only swallowed Jonah but kept him in its stomach for a specified length of time and threw him up at a specified place so that Jonah could pick up where he left off. The disobedient prophet now an obedient one.

Jonah 1:17 reads, "Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." Note the specific length of time, used later by our Lord to tell how long He would be in His tomb.

Jonah 2:10 reads, "And the Lord spoke unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." If you read on you will find that the city of Ninevah was just three (3) days journey perhaps no more distance than it had

been when God first spoke to him.

One must admit that these are odd doings for a fish of any size.

f). Finally, there is the one that the children love. Daniel in the lion's den. God shut the mouths of the lions and they did no harm to Daniel but when his accusers were cast in they were dead before they hit the bottom.

Again, we have odd behavior by an animal. The lions obeyed the commands of God and dealt with people as God desired not according to their nature. Who can deny that there is a sovereign power at work in this creation. For it would take a sovereign to intent, restrain and change the course of nature when He wills. Who would have the power to do such things except the one who created that which He intended, restrained and changed, for none but He can understand the nature of nature. Man, busy trying through his science, can never quite retain even the most tenacious hold on the nature of the animals of God's creation.

A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



Haggith

II Samuel 3:4; I Kings 1:5,11; 2:13; I Chron. 3:2

General Information

II Samuel 3:4; I Chron. 3:2- She was one of David's wives. She was the mother of Adonijah, one of David's sons born in Hebron. Haggith is always (all five times) mentioned with reference to her son Adonijah.



I Kings 1:5-Here, Haggith is mentioned with her son, Adonijah who, at this point in time, exalted himself as king in the place of David his father.

I Kings 1:11-Haggith is, again, mentioned with her son Adonijah, who at this point, was reigning as king, with the knowledge of his father, King David. Nathan was discussing this with Bathsheba, the mother of Solomon. Solomon should be king, having been promised the throne by his father, King David. Most importantly God had given Solomon the kingdom. I Kings 1:13, 2:15.

I Kings 2:13-Haggith is mentioned with reference to her son Adonijah. This is the incident concerning Abishag: Adonijah's plot to gain the throne, which resulted in his death. (Refer to "Bathsheba" and "Abishag".)

Name Study

Haggith-born on a feast day, festal, festive, rejoicing, festival, dancer-derived from word(s) meaning-to move in a circle, to march in a sacred procession, to observe a festival, to be giddy, to revolve, vertigo, fear a circle, a festival, a victim-translated-celebrated, dance, feast, reel to and fro, terror, compass, sacrifice, solemnity-Ex. 5:1,12:14, 23:14; Lev. 23:39, 41; Nu. 29:12; Deut. 16:15; I Sam. 30:16; Job 26:10; Ps. 42:4, 107:27; Isa. 19:17; Nah. 1:15; Zech. 14:16,18,19.

Personal Application

Perhaps Haggith was born on one of the Jewish feast days.

Practical Application

Let us take a look at the Jewish (Hebrew) feasts days, festivals, holy days. Read Lev. 23:1. Lev. 23:4 reads "These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons." The following are a list of the special feast, days, etc. and a few verses dealing with them: The Sabbath (Lev. 23:3, Heb. 4:9), The Passover (Deut. 16:6; I Cor. 5:7-8), The feast of unleavened bread (Deut. 16:3; I Cor. 5:8), The feast of Firstfruits (Exod. 23:19; I Cor. 15:20), Pentecost, the feast of Weeks (Deut. 16:10; Acts 2:1), The feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:24; Matt. 24:31; I Cor. 15:52), The Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:30-34; Heb. 9:28), The feast of Tabernacles, in which the Israelites dwelt in booths (Ex. 23:16; Lev. 23:34-36, 39-43; Deut. 16:13-15; John 7:2), Purim (Esther 9:0, of Dedication (John 10:22), of New Moons (Nu. 10:10, 28:11; I Chron. 23:31; II Chron. 31:3; Ezra 3:5; Ps. 81:3; Isa. 1:14; Hos. 2:11). Other verses concerning these feast days: Ex. 23:14-19; Lev. 23:2, 37,38; Num. 15:3). finally read Col. 2:16,17. So much can be said about these feasts (festivals, holy days), but let it suffice, for now, to say that they pictured Christ and His work.

UNITY OF THE FAITH

I. In His great high priestly prayer to God the Father on the eve of His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus Christ passionately prayed for unity among all true Christians (John 17:11,20-23).

- He did not pray for the unity of all mankind (Gen. 11:1-9).
- He did not pray for unity between true Christians and unbelievers.
- He did not pray for unity between true Christians and Jews, Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists, and so on.
- He did not pray for unity between true Christians and apostates, or professing Christians who are not actual Christians.
- God's Word clearly commands true Christians to maintain strict spiritual separation from unbelievers, false religionists, and religious apostates (2 Chron. 19:1-2; Matt. 7:15-20; 23:1-33; Acts. 20:28-31; Rom. 16:177-18; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Gal. 1:6-9; Eph. 5:11; Col. 2:8; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; Tit. 3:10; 2 Jon. 9-11; Rev. 18:4).

II. The Lord Jesus Christ prayed only for unity among those who are genuinely saved or born again.

A. He prayed that all true Christians might be one in such a practical, visible manner that the skeptical, unbelieving world would openly observe this unity of the faith and, as a consequence, be thoroughly convinced of the absolute truth of the Christian message.

B. It is certainly God's will that there be such unity among true Christians (Ps. 133; Prov. 6:16,19; Jon. 10:16; 13:34-35; 15:12,17; Rom. 12:10,16; 15:5-6; 1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:1-6,13,16; Phil 1:27, 2:2; 3:15-16; 4:2; 1 Pet. 2:17; Jude 3-4).

III. The kind of unity prayed for by the Lord Jesus Christ is not the superficial brand of unity practiced and promoted by those involved in today's Ecumenical Movement.

A. It is not the kind of unity in which God's truth is compromised or completely surrendered simply for the sake of getting along or getting together with others.

B. It is an intimate unity of all true Christians around all of the truths of God's Word.

C. It is a unity of doctrine and polity, a oneness of spirit, mind, heart, and purpose.

IV. The first church at Jerusalem experienced this kind of unity (Acts 1:14; 2:1,46; 4:24; 5:12).

A. They succeeded in winning multitudes of sinners to faith in Christ (Acts 1:15; 2:41; 4:4; 6:1,5).

B. This kind of unity is sorely lacking among true Christians today, and so is the true evangelistic power of the first church.

"True spiritual unity must be seen within a doctrinal context. The very passage where such unity is stressed (Eph. 4:1-16) also warns against false doctrine (Eph. 4:14), magnifies the work of teachers of doctrine (Eph. 4:11-12), and envisions spiritual growth through the study of doctrine (Eph. 4:12-13,15). In Acts 2:42, the 'apostles' doctrine' is mentioned first as the ground for the 'fellowship' which follows."

-Ernest Pickering

-submitted by: John A. Kohler, III, Pastor Lighthouse Baptist Mission, Michigan City, Ind.

Trust in
the Lord

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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PAGE SEVEN

You need not be afraid of where you're going when you know God's going with you.

THE CARVER FOR HIMSELF

By C.H. Spurgeon

"He that will be his own carver seldom carveth out a good portion to himself. Wilful spirits who would fain be their own providence intrench upon God's prerogative, and take the work out of his hands; and, therefore, no wonder if their wisdom be turned into folly."

It is God's business to regulate providence, and when we attempt it we cause confusion and trouble. Not only does the carver for himself get a poor portion, but he frequently cuts his fingers, and spoils his clothes by spilling the contents of the dish. Israel went into Canaan well enough when the Lord led the way; but when the people before the set time presumed to go up of their own head, they brought defeat upon themselves. It is never well either case we may expect to fall under clouds of another sort, which will darken our way and becloud our peace.

Cannot we trust the Lord with his own business? Can we supplement infallible wisdom, or improve upon infinite goodness? Have we not enough to do if we earnestly endeavor to obey our Lord? Do we want to be rulers? Are we tired of being disciples and followers? Why do we strain after things too high for us, intruding into spheres which belong to God alone?

My soul, stand thou still, and see the salvation of God! He is at the helm, and is well able to pilot the vessel. Keep thy hand off the tiller. Down with thee, unbelief, what hast thou to do while God himself provides for His people?

FORUM

(Continued from Page 4)

her desire in a loving, meek spirit. If he is a believer and a godly man, he will respect her convictions and in most cases an amicable agreement can be reached between them. If a husband commands her to go with him to an unscriptural church, she is not obligated to go, even if it means not going to church at all! If that be the case, let her submit to prayer and fasting unto the Lord. I believe the Lord can certainly change a man's heart!

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TEEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Don't let your parent's down; they brought you up.
2. Choose your companions with care; you become what they are.
3. Be master of your habits or they will master you.
4. Treasure your time; don't spend it; invest it.
5. Stand for something or you'll fall for anything.
6. Select only a date who would make a good mate.
7. See what you can do for others; not what they can do for you.
8. Guard your thoughts; what you think, you are.
9. Don't fill up on this world's crumbs; feed your soul on the Living Bread.
- 10 Give your all to Christ; He gave His all for you.

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JUST A REMNANT

By Irene Orrick

Despite the slow, hard, hand method of doing all field, garden and housework in the 1930's and 40's in our area, most had time to take Sunday off. Even those who didn't go to church, and not everyone did, didn't do any major work on Sunday. If they did, they were talked about. But those of us who did go to church on Sunday morning, many times spent Sunday afternoon gathered at someone's home for Sunday dinner and the afternoon playing the ball game "Round Town," both children and adults. For when someone said, "You all go home with me," we knew the invitation was sincere and often did go.

A field flat enough and big enough for a lot of people to play ball in was not as common as one might think. We used one at Frank Conn's, and another at Uncle Clyde's. And there was a right sizeable flat area in front of our house. It had a little slope as the hill began to rise, but not enough to hinder. So once in a while the Sunday game was at our house.

This same field was used once for a farewell gathering when my oldest brother was going away to World War II. And in the summer of 1944, I think it was, we used the field for a really big attraction. This brother sent home from Germany a huge, pure silk parachute. It must have been used by the Germans to drop equipment, for it was larger than would have been needed for a man. Of course everyone was interested in anything connected with the war that was going on. So a few Sunday afternoons we spread the big parachute out in the field for the neighbors to come see.

After everyone had seen it who wanted to, my mother started cutting it up and dyeing it to make things; we never wasted anything, especially fabric, at our house. I don't remember everything she made, but she dyed some of it yellow and made a ruffled silk dress for me and one like it for my doll, Jean.

I suppose the only remnant that survives of that huge German parachute is the little dress that Jean, her face cracked with age and one leg missing, still proudly wears, as she sits atop a cabinet in my family room. Jean and her little remnant dress are still important to me. God, too, is mindful of small things. The word remnant used around seventy-five times in scripture and indicates that God, though He is so great, is interested in particular people and peculiar remnants: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved" (Rom. 9:27). "This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise" (Isa. 43:21). And, "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands" (Isa. 49:16).



I was walking down life's highway
a long time ago,
One day I saw a sign that read,
"Heaven's Grocery Store."
As I got a little closer,
the door came open wide.
And when I came to myself
I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels,
they were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said,
"My child, shop with care."
Everything a Christian needed
was in the Grocery Store,
And all you couldn't carry, you could
come back the next day for more.

First I got some Patience,
Love was in the same row.
Further down was Understanding
you need that everywhere you go.
I got a box or two of Wisdom,
a bag or two of Faith,
I just couldn't miss the Holy Ghost,
for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some Strength and Courage
to help me run this race.
By then my basket was getting full,
but I remembered I needed some Grace.

Then I started up to the counter
to pay my Grocery bill
For I thought I had everything
To do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw Prayer
and I just had to put that in,
For I knew when I stepped outside,
I would run right into sin.
Peace and Joy were plentiful
they were on the last shelf.
Song and Praises were hanging near,
so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel,
"Now how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said to me,
"Just take them everywhere you go."
Again I smiled at him and said,
"How much do I really owe?"
He smiled again and said, "MY CHILD,
JESUS PAID YOUR BILL
A LONG TIME AGO!!

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