

Our union with Christ is the basis for unity with one another

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

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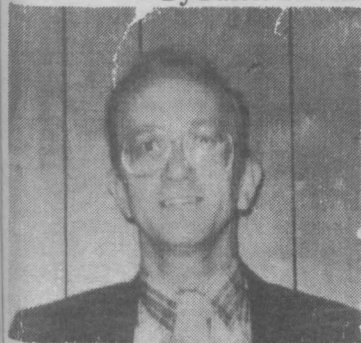
"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is not light in them"--Isaiah 8:20

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THE BLOWING OF THE WIND

(AN EXPOSITION OF JOHN 3:1-21)

By Pastor Robert Barkman, Landmark Baptist Church, Colinsville, IL



WHO IS JESUS?

(John 3:1-2)

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

In our text, we read of a man named Nicodemus. Our text teaches us that he was:

1. A "Pharisee". The Pharisees were a religious party devoted to living separated lives according to both divine and human regulations.

2. Nicodemus is also described as a "ruler of the Jews". In other words, he held a high position of authority within the Jewish nation.

Nicodemus approached Jesus in the night (possibly to avoid public ridicule) and acknowledged Jesus' exalted position. He described the greatness of Jesus by using four different phrases:

1. "Rabbi". A rabbi was a teacher who was considered a great authority in his field of expertise.

2. "A teacher come from God". Jesus was not only an authoritative teacher but a teacher that came from God Himself.

3. "No man can do these miracles that thou doest". Here, Jesus was recognized as the Worker of Great Miracles. The miracles that Jesus

performed accredited His teachings and Divine origin. Jesus' miracles clearly proved He was a Divine prophet.

4. "God be with Him". Jesus' miracles proved to all that God was present with Him.

Certainly, based upon the testimony of Nicodemus, Jesus was a very special individual. He was not only a prophet nor a great miracle worker, but He was God Himself. Jesus truly is "God manifest in the flesh". (1 Tim. 3:16).

WHY IS THE SECOND BIRTH IMPORTANT?

(John 3:3)

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Based upon Nicodemus' recognition of His authority, Jesus then begins to explain the nature

and necessity of the second birth. First, Jesus emphasizes the importance of the second birth:

1. "Verily, verily I say unto thee". Verily is a term that emphasizes the truthfulness of a statement. Before Jesus explains to Nicodemus the significance of the second birth Nicodemus asked:

HOW IS THE SECOND BIRTH GIVEN TO MAN?

(John 3:8)

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

After explaining the character of the second birth, Jesus then explains how the second birth is given to man through the use of a common everyday example...a blowing wind. The dispensing of the second birth and a blowing

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Interim Pastor Jack C. Whitt



CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO HIS CHURCHES

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and

miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and

chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Rev. 3:15-19). In these verses, Jesus is speaking to the church at Laodicea. It is the last of the seven churches of Asia Minor spoken of in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. The name, "Laodicea" means "the rule of the people" and suggests a democratic

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GOD'S ELECTION OF GRACE

Part II

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



WHY GOD HAS DONE SO

Lovingly, God explains why He has elected us. Quite obviously we had no part in it. Very clearly, we were not around to make any decision in this regard. Most exactly, God explains that **"the wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born..."** (Ps. 58:3). Very simply, we go astray from our mother's womb. Consequently, we can know that our sinful natures are such that we could not have had and that we would not have had any part in the choosing, in the predestination, or in the adoption! Most clearly, it just is not in our depraved and mortal natures to love God. Our loving of God is a wonderful experience of relationship that God alone could effect and accomplish.

He does it, because of His love! His everlasting and eternal love!

God elaborates, and that most beautifully, that all of this was planned, prepared, and performed **"according to the good pleasure of his will"** (Eph. 1:5). In our humanity and in our depravity which are the inescapable characteristics of our mortality—in order to do service to our pride—we might want to suppose that we did some of the "willing." Sadly, in all such thinking, we are deceiving ourselves.

We have shown already that God

did the choosing or the electing. Wonderfully, God did it "before the foundation of the world." Dearly beloved Christian friend, this was just a little while—if you will—before we ever appeared on the earthly scene. As we have shown already, God did the predestinating "before the foundation of the world." This was just a little while before we ever had occasion to appear or come forth upon the earth.

Truth always is most difficult for us to accept, for men **"always are liars"** (see Romans 3:4 and Titus 1:12). Perhaps we would not be amiss in saying that very, very few religious folk of any sort are going to be willing to accept Scriptural truth as God provides it. Yet, without any fear of contradiction, I believe that we can say that long before we were even "a gleam in our parent's, our grandparent's, or our great grand parent's [ad infinitum] eyes—yea, "before the foundation of the world"—God determined our "adoption as children by Jesus Christ." We emphasize, and reemphasize, and reemphasize again and then again and again that our election, our predestination, and our adoption were in accord with "the good pleasure of God's will"!

Our God is Sovereign

Very clearly dear friends, all of that of which we have been speaking relates to our God who is Sovereign. Thanks to the sovereignty of our God, and the sovereign purposes of our God when we have believed on Christ Jesus, we can call God, **"Our Father"** (Matt. 6:9). Remember, if you will, that the choosing or the electing, the predestinating, and the adopting, all have been accomplished by God "before the foundation of the world." If we have any spiritual or intellectual insight at all, we should be able

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CHRIST'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

church that no longer follows
spiritual leaders or the authority
of the Word of God. The church
is lukewarm, a condition that
comes when you mix hot and cold.
It is a mixed church, with truth
diluted with error. The tragedy is,
this church is "rich" and knows
not that it is actually poor,
miserable, blind, and naked! Is
this not a picture of the largest
religious order in our day and
time? This church has wealth and
power, but lack the one most
important ingredient; Christ
dwelling within!

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

MAY 1, 1997

PAGE TWO

Editor's Update

By Interim Pastor Jack C. Whitt

Hello, TBE friends! Another month has come and gone
and here it is, our May edition out already. With the warmer
weather, most people become more active, preparing for
spring cleaning and other things that come around at this
time of year.

No doubt, many of you are planning a summer vacation.
We remind any of you traveling our direction, to stop by and
visit us here at Calvary Baptist Church.

We would again like to show our appreciation to those
who have sent us letters of encouragement, telling of how
much they enjoy receiving our paper. Many of you have
responded to the notice I placed in last month's edition
regarding our financial need in maintaining this publication
of TBE. Some have been most generous with contributions
to this cause and it is much appreciated. The notice I refer
to, in case some may not be aware, was to the effect that
many TBE readers have failed to send in their remittance or
renewed their subscriptions. We have set the month of June
to be the date for removing names of those who fall into this
category. Again, we hope all our readers will understand
and respond accordingly. (refer to page 8 of our April issue).

We would especially like to acknowledge some of our
pastor brethren in distant lands. Some of which have written
to me. Pastor Isaac Uming of the New Canaan Baptist Church
in Papau, New Guinea, Pastor Ronaldo Ballonado of the
Philippines and Pastor Richard Famador of the Bible Baptist
Church in Tagbilaran City Philippines. Brother Famador
informs me that he and their church will be celebrating their
anniversary in August. He has asked me to come and preach
for them at this important event. I must say that I am most
honored to have been asked. I do not know at this time if I
will be able to make it there but I am praying about the matter
and do appreciate the invitation.

Again, we thank you, our readers, for your prayers and
support to this missionary outreach as we send out the Bible
message of hope to many souls who need to hear about Jesus
Christ, and to encourage our brethren wherever they may
be.

Continue to pray for us. May God bless you each and
every one.

Just as all seven of these
churches, mentioned in
Revelation, existed in the Apostle
John's day, so they all exist today.
We have the busy church of
Ephesus who left their first love,
(Rev. 2), and ending with the
lukewarm church of Laodicea.
Jesus' rebuke of this church is
severe. The only encouragement
for this church (which is
wonderful because it gives hope)
is when He said: **"As many as I
love, I rebuke and chasten."**
Friends, this is how we too know
Jesus loves us because he chastens
us. He does this to His churches
and to individual believers. He
does it for our own good, as a
father must at times apply the rod
of correction to his son, so must
Jesus do likewise to us when our
lives do not befit our calling. **"For
whom the Lord loveth he
chasteneth, and scourgeth every
son whom he receiveth."** (Heb.
12:6). Perhaps the Lord is
chastening you, my reader, for
some besetting sin and you need

to make things right with Him.

I. I KNOW THY WORKS

Jesus knows all about us. He
knows the thoughts and intents of
our hearts. He knows if our works
are right and if they are producing
fruit. The only way to know if our
works are right is by keeping to
His Word. We are not to be carried
away by every wind of doctrine
and the cunning devices of men.
Churches are to be grounded in the
Word of God. Pastors and
preachers are especially to **"Study
to shew thyself approved unto
God, a workman that needeth
not to be ashamed, rightly
dividing the word of truth."** (2
Tim. 2:15). We live in a world
filled with religious wizards
preying on the ignorant and
unsuspecting and, tragically,
leading them in the path to hell.
Stark evidence of this fact is seen
in the recent mass suicides at
Sandiago, California. Another
religious cult deceiving people
with its man-made doctrine.

What are the "works" Jesus

expects from HIS churches? The
same as they have always been;
spread the Gospel, the good news
about Jesus. Seek the souls that
are lost and dying and going to
hell, draw men and women, boys
and girls into the family of God,
make them fitted for heaven. In
addition, a true church is to
support the weak, give to the poor,
entertain strangers. She is to
reprove and rebuke heresy and
error. She is to show love and
compassion for the lost, to be
missionary both at home and
abroad. Above all, she is to love
and obey her head which is Jesus
Christ, not a board or council of
men.

II. NEITHER HOT NOR COLD

This condition may be more
common in our churches than we
would like to admit. Lukewarmness
appears to be more
of an abomination to Jesus than
even cold. Jesus said: **"So then
because thou art lukewarm, and
neither cold nor hot, I will spue
thee out of my mouth."** Does
this not speak of many churches
in our day? "Hot" should be the
standard, not cold or lukewarm.
Brethren, hearts heated by the
Word of God and the Holy Spirit
is what is needed in our churches
today. God does not want cold
work. Cold work is for the
Eskimos, not for churches.
Neither cold nor lukewarmness
measure up to God's
requirements. Brother or sister,
have you ever considered that
your complacent, self-satisfied,
lukewarmness is the very heart of
your sin? Should we not consider
that our fervency and show of
Christian joy helps the cause of
Christ and gives evidence to real
faith as we come to church? And
that lukewarmness in the church,
actually hinders the Christian
message to a sinful world?

Could it be just possible that
America has too many Christians
today? That is too many
indifferent, lukewarm Christians!
How great is the sin of self-
satisfaction! For the most part, we
have beautiful church houses, we
have modern sound systems,
comfortable pews, fine pianos and
organs. Every material advantage.
But remember what Jesus said to
the Laodiceans: **"Because thou
sayest, I am rich, and increased
with goods, and have need of
nothing; and knowest not that
thou art wretched, and
miserable, and poor, and blind,
and naked."** This is why He
spued them out.

III. I COUNSEL THEE TO BUY OF ME

Jesus is now giving good
counsel to this lukewarm church
He says: **"buy of me gold tried
in the fire, that thou mayest be
rich."** This, of course is figurative
in its meaning. It is showing that
their need was spiritual wealth
which would make them rich.
Dear friends, this is still true today.
The Word of God has been tried
in the fire. It is pure and more
precious than gold. Jesus, who is
the Word made flesh, is the tried
and proven lamb slain on the
cross. He has passed every test
God the Father put upon Him. He
suffered at the hands of wicked
men, yet He did it willingly
because of the great love He had
for His chosen ones. Yes, Jesus
counseled the Laodiceans to buy,
though what He offered did not
cost a penny. By His Word, all
people throughout the world, are
still counseled to buy without
money the precious gift of
salvation. We read: **"Ho, every
one that thirsteth, come ye to the
waters, and he that hath no
money; come ye, buy, and eat;
yea, come, buy wine and milk
without money and without
price."** (Isa. 55:1).

IV. AS MANY AS I LOVE

This implies that Jesus has a
very special love for His chosen
and I believe especially so to His
true churches. He says: **"As many
as I love, I rebuke and chasten."**
He only does this to all who are
born into His spiritual family. And
in this case, He is speaking to the
Laodicean church. Every
professing Christian not united
with a true church of the Lord
Jesus Christ, is being disobedient
to Christ's order and purpose to be
a member of His "called out
assembly" which is a local body
of baptized believers united
together to meet regularly in
service and to worship its one and
only head, Jesus Christ. The
church is not, as some teach, a
universal, vague entity that cannot
meet and worship together.

V. BE ZEALOUS THEREFORE AND REPENT

The word "repent" has several
meanings. I offer these as defined
from my Greek concordance to the
New Testament: To change one's
mind and purpose, (this change is
always for the better, and denotes
a change of moral thought and
reflection; not merely to repent of,
nor to forsake sin, but to change
one's mind and apprehensions
regarding it. (2) showing a
(Continued on page 6)



The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

By Kirk R. Everman
Member Calvary Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee

"Study to shew
thyself approved
unto God..."
2 Tim. 2:15

Studies in Genesis Family Reunion (Gen. 33:1-17)

"And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men..." Following his encounter with God during the previous night, Jacob must now face Esau. We will see from this meeting that worrying is a fruitless activity, because it fails to recognize God's provision for our future.

Jacob prepares his family for Esau's welcoming party. Jacob groups the children with their respective mothers with the handmaids in front, Leah in the middle, and Rachel in the rear. If we recall from earlier passages how Jacob considered dividing his company into two bands to enable some escape (see Gen. 32:7-8), then this arrangement suggests that Jacob showed preference within his family according to those placed at the rear of the group — namely Rachel and Joseph.

"And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother" (v. 3). Jacob displays submission to his brother Esau as he prepares for their reunion.

Yet all of Jacob's plans and worrying could not prepare him for Esau's response: **"And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept"** (v. 4). Jacob also has a surprise for Esau: **"And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee?"** Jacob replies, **"The children which God hath graciously given thy servant"** (v. 5). Keeping a humble attitude, Jacob presents to Esau his family, grouped according to the previously described order. Each group bows before Esau.

Next, Esau questions Jacob about the herds of animals that met him on his way to their meeting. Jacob replies, **"These are to find grace in the sight of my lord"** (v. 8).

"And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself" (v. 9). Apparently Esau has also been blessed materially during Jacob's absence.

Jacob insists that Esau accept his gift of animals because of the grace that God has shown Jacob. So Esau received it. Note that Jacob, who now claims that he has enough, had previously been very diligent in increasing his prosperity from Laban's flock and was also careful to take all of his possessions when he fled from Laban.

Esau offers to escort Jacob back home. Jacob counters Esau's offer using the argument of the fragile nature of his children and the young in the herds: **"...if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die...I will lead softly...until I come unto my lord unto Seir"** (v. 13-14).

"And Esau said, Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me..." Jacob, however, was also not interested in any of Esau's men remaining with his camp. **"So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir"** (v. 16). Jacob indeed leads his camp at a very gentle pace: **"And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth"** (v. 17). There is little danger that Jacob will overdrive his cattle in reaching Seir.

Jacob's reunion with Esau appears to be surprisingly different from what he had imagined. Jacob had left his family and homeland over twenty years prior to escape Esau who had expressed his intent to murder Jacob. Now, we see Esau running to meet Jacob, weeping with him, and offering to escort Jacob's camp. If we can accurately assume that Esau is sincere in receiving Jacob, then clearly a change of attitude has occurred in Esau during this period of separation.

Recalling Jacob's final encounter with Laban, Jacob was

protected by God's specific intervention when He appeared to Laban and instructed him not to harm Jacob (see Gen. 31). An account similar to this is not given to explain Esau's behavior. However, we are given some details which may explain Esau's change of heart. When Esau initially offered to return Jacob's gift, his explanation was **"I have enough."** Esau accepted his gift only after Jacob urged him. As mentioned above, Esau had possibly accumulated his own wealth while Jacob was away.

Previous accounts of Esau portray him as a man governed by his appetites. His contentment was derived from not being deprived. He was possibly a decent fellow as long as his needs were met. Jacob had traded for Esau's birthright and had deceived Isaac to receive Esau's blessing. Esau's anger toward Jacob was fueled by his belief that he would be deprived of possessions and wealth because of Jacob's actions. Perhaps as Esau realized his own prosperity, the source of his feelings against Jacob became irrelevant. If so, the Lord quietly resolved Esau's conflict with Jacob gradually over a period of years, although He could have changed Esau's heart on his way to meet Jacob. When we begin to recognize how God faithfully provides for His children, it becomes evident in a practical sense why worrying is unproductive. One should also note that while God is unchanging in His character and nature, He is infinitely creative in dealing with us.

From considering Esau as "having enough," we will now examine Jacob in terms of "yielding enough." It appears that Jacob has submitted himself to the authority of Esau. Jacob and his family bow repeatedly before Esau, he urges acceptance of his gift, and his speech is liberally peppered with meekness as he refers to his brother as "my lord." Yet in all of this, Jacob never really demonstrates genuine submission

to Esau. For when Esau offers to lead Jacob home, Jacob excused his camp from following Esau because of the difficult pace. Then, when Esau allowed Jacob's camp to travel unescorted, Jacob never reached Seir: He settled in a place called Succoth, meaning booths, named after the shelters that he built for his cattle. Jacob yielded enough to avoid danger or destruction. When Esau showed that he did not intend harm, Jacob's yielding ceased.

We can use these ideas to examine our own lives. In this letter to the Philippians, Paul wrote that while he had experienced having much and having little, he had learned to be content regardless of his circumstance (see Phil. 4:11-12). Contentment in the presence of need allows the believer to radiate a mysterious light to the surrounding world, for they see the glow but cannot understand its source. Be ready to explain! (see 1 Pet. 3:15). Contentment in the presence of abundance is equally difficult, for there is a temptation to "build bigger barns," attributing success to one's own ability and failing to be a good steward of that which has been entrusted.

Perhaps a more difficult question exists with respect to our submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. When the storms of life surround us, it is natural for us to cry out to the Lord for safety and deliverance even as we promise submission. After the danger has passed, does our submission remain? Jesus asked, **"Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"** (Luke 6:46). Our love toward God is demonstrated by our obedience (1 John 5:3). To ask, "Have I yielded enough?" suggests a desire to retain a personal agenda. We are urged to present ourselves as living sacrifices, meaning total surrender, on a daily basis (Rom. 12:1). When this is the sincere desire of the heart and the decision of the will, then our actions will match our words.

SLIM GEMS

•A reckless driver is seldom reckless for very long.

•It is easier to suffer in silence if you are sure someone is watching.

•Why are doctor's prescriptions so hard to read while their bills are so clear and legible?

•The man who doesn't know where he's going can look forward to a long exhausting trip.

•A new taxpayer sent the Internal Revenue Department twenty-five cents with a note saying he understood that he could pay his taxes by the quarter.

•Education is what helps a lot of folks to get along without intelligence.

•Most people can keep a secret: it's the folks they tell it to who can't.



Remember

Mom on

Mother's Day,

May 11

and every day!



The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



How important is it to teach headship in Baptists churches?

JAMES E. HOBBS

Rt. 2, Box 182
McDermott, OH
45652

PASTOR:

King's Addition
Baptist Church
South Shore, KY



Let me say from the very beginning that it is very important to teach the headship of the church because Christ gave us the church as a very important part of our Christian life. Our Lord knew that we would need some spiritual guidance while we live in this world so He gave us the church. We can come to church and worship, pray and learn the things we need to give us the strength to meet the problems of our everyday life.

In order to do all things decently and in order we must have proper headship. **"Let all things be done decently and in order."** (1 Cor. 14:40). How could we learn anything or do anything properly if there were no leadership?

If our Lord gave us the church, which He did, then He would provide the proper way to run it. First and foremost, the Lord is the head of the church. **"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."** (Col. 1:18, see also Eph. 1:22 and 4:15). Under Him and know to be the under shepherd is the pastor. **"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."** (1 Tim. 5:17). Let us note one other scripture about this. **"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."** (Acts

20:28).

Not only must we teach headship of the church, we must also teach headship of the home. **"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."** (Eph. 5:23).

GEORGE R. SLEDD

920 Upsala Rd.
Sanford, FL
32771

PASTOR:

Jordan Missionary
Baptist Church
Sanford, FL



"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." (Eph. 1:22-23). **"But I would have you to know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is man; and the head of Christ is God."** **"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."** (1 Corinthians 11:3, 14:33-35).

Headship is important because it is taught in the Word of God. It is a doctrine that should be taught in Baptist churches. We acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Supreme Head of the church. How often we must offend Him when we plan things in the church without first consulting Him. There is much debate today on the subject of church authority. As independent Baptists we believe in the autonomy of every local church. No other body has the right to intrude into the affairs of a local church. This does not mean

of course that local churches cannot work together for the cause of Christ. That does not impede their authority at all. Jesus said to the first church: **"All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth, go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."** You see, the authority does not belong to the pastor, deacons, or elders. The authority cannot be confined to a business meeting either. The authority resides in the Person of Jesus Christ. We can only exercise such authority as we submit to our head. We can only exercise that authority in conjunction with the revealed Word of God. There are no doubt instances when a church votes to approve of something. Because we are feeble minded sinners, we make mistakes. Should I presume then to claim church authority for such errors of judgment? I think some Baptists have become more like Catholics in this area. They have enjoined their traditions and interpretations with the exercise of what they think is church authority. They vote to issue a decree or to dis-fellowship with someone over things that are not tested and proved by the Holy Scripture. For instance, I know of some churches that have issued a decree that they will not recognize any church as a true church that does not use the King James Version Translation. One man told me his church voted to do this. I asked him: Which King James translation qualifies? Is it the 1611 translation, the 1769 translation revision, the 1979 translation revision ("New King James"), or the latest 1993 translation which is the "Modern King James Version?" He indicated that he believed in the 1611 King James Bible as the one inspired authorized version for all generations. What about the generations of Ana-Baptists living before 1611, did they have an "Authorized Bible?" I believe they did. They had reliable copies of the original Scriptures. In the

preface to the 1611 edition, the translators stated that it was not their purpose to make a new translation but to make a good one better. I wonder what the Baptists of that century thought of this improvement? Now, I'm not disparaging the King James Bible. In fact, I use the 1769 translation in personal study and preaching. Yet I realize that it is a translation. This is a good point concerning the doctrine of headship. The Pope passes his anathemas and edicts upon the basis of his own ideas of what truth should be. What is our basis of authority? It is the Word of God alone! Can we so presume upon the authority of Jesus Christ to lead the church to pass such laws when we cannot

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JOHN R. LENEGAR
126 N.

Washington St.
No.5

Delaware, OH
43015

PASTOR:

Walnut Creek
Missionary
Baptist Church
Delaware, OH



"As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him." (Psalm 18:30).

We live in a day nearing the end of time when many teachings, practices, or lack thereof, point to that fact. One teaching which is basic to a Christian's behavior and place in God's economy is "headship". The fact that God has an economy which places Himself as Head, Center, Emanator, Director, Preserver, and Culminator of all things is mostly denied by many in action, if not in word. Likewise, the entire order of that economy which extends to the place and responsibility of man, woman, and children is ignored, reorganized, or thought to be optional.

The Head of the church is the

Lord Jesus Christ. He founded it. He loves it, He died for it, and it is His church (Ephesians 5:25-27). It is not Brother Lenegar's church, or Brother Sledd's church, or anyone's church. It is the Lord's church. Jesus is the Head of the church. The church is to do His bidding and to give God glory in so doing. (Eph. 3:21). The church is not to have alternative conduct. It is to do the revealed will of its Head and to conduct itself by His guidance.

The Head of the man is Christ. (Eph. 5:23). Man is not a law, of a guide unto himself. He is subject to Christ. He takes his place as head of the family. He loves his wife and children; he works to support them; he is their human provider, guide, and director in God's ways to the family, both spiritual and physical. Not quite the way it is today. There is much deviation with excuse that brings nothing, but problems and heartache.

The wife is to be subject to her husband, as she carries out her duty to him, which includes duty and responsibility to her children. Ephesians 5:22 says: **"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."** Likewise, as she cares for and teaches her children, the children also have a place and duty in God's economy. Ephesians 6:1-3 says: **"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."**

God has set the Divine order of things to give us the best possible life and abundance of happiness in these matters. Some time spent on examining the domestic situation nationally today and all its resultant aspects will quickly show the results of NOT teaching headship and its duties. It is basic and absolutely IMPERATIVE teaching. Look around at the results without it. Obey God, rather than man.

A MESSAGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

By Waldo Whiddon

"I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:19-23).

We live in an age in which sin is all around us. It is in every phase of our life. Both in the home, and school, and in social as well as in private life. It seems that temptation is there, always, everywhere we may turn. We know that it is nothing new, going all the way back to the Garden with the man Adam, and his beloved wife, Eve. Sin is as old as man. Did you ever wonder why you were never tempted to do good? It is because we are sinners by nature. Try to remember if Mom or Dad spent much time teaching you to lie. No, you do these things naturally. People are not born good and then turn bad. **"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely."** (Ps. 58:3-5).

I. FIRST: Why is sin so bad? To answer this question it may help to define sin. Webster simply says; "Willfully breaking a religious law, or moral principle." Its literal meaning would be "to miss the mark." It is always used in reference to the breaking of divine law. **"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."** (Rom. 6:6). Though the seat of sin is in the will, the body is the instrument that Satan uses to make it perform. **"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members**

as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." (Rom. 6:12-13). Therefore, may we conclude that sin is bad because it is the opposite of righteousness, because Satan is the father of sin against God, who is the Father of righteousness.

II. SECOND: How can I know when I am sinning? Sometimes this is a very hard thing to know! The reason being, that sin operates under the principle of deception. Jesus said in John chapter eight that Satan is the father of lies. **"Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it."** (John 8:43-44). But the question remains, how can I know when I am sinning? A magician can quite easily deceive the eye. A skilled magician can make you see things that are not there. So, it stands to reason then, that the god of this world, Satan if you please, is able to deceive you into thinking that the things of this world are not so bad. Did you know that his methods are as old as man himself? **"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."** (Eph. 2:1-3).

This method of following our own desires are as old as Eve. She saw, she lusted, she partook, she sinned. That ties in beautifully with what John wrote: **"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."** (1 John 2:16). Beloved, the god of this world, Satan, will use any and every type of media there is to deceive you into thinking sin is not

so bad. John mentioned; **"the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life,"** as channels by which the devil can get to you. He'll use drugs, alcohol, sex or anything else he needs to take control of your flesh.

I have been a teenager. I have been a young unsaved sinner. I have, and am, a part of the world system. I can speak to you on two counts of authority, first, personal experience, second, the Word of God. A sinful life may seem like a lot of fun now, but sin is like a rattlesnake, left alone it will not bother you, but interfere and it will strike. There is no need to go into a lot of detail here concerning teen-age drugs, teen-age pregnancies, etc. So we won't go into all that. Youngster, there is no doubt you are going to be tempted in some, if not all these things, but you do not have to give in. God has given us plenty warning about involvement in sin. Stay as far from it as you possibly can at all times. **"He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity; and the rod of his anger shall fail."**

(Prov. 22:8). **"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."** (Gal. 6:7). Beloved reader, let us remember; **"the wages of sin is death."** We can know that we are sinning when we are satisfying the lusts of the flesh. That is, the doing of things that you want to do even though it is wrong, just because you want to do them. **"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."** (James 1:14-15).

Just don't hang out with other kids who are always up to some sort of mischief, or go to places where drugs and, or, alcohol may be served, or used in any form for pleasure. Today, it would seem that sex among the teens, and among the unmarried has become more of a common practice. It seems to have become socially accepted in some areas. Fathers telling their sons it is O.K., just don't get caught. Mothers giving their daughters birth control pills. But God says this is wrong. Satan has given us some new names for sin these days. He calls drunkenness "socializing," adultery and fornication is called; "having an affair," and

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR DEATH?

A letter to the editor of the Syracuse Post-Standard give the following:

He brushed his teeth twice a day, with a nationally advertised toothpaste. The doctor examined him twice a year. He wore his rubbers when it rained. He slept with the windows open. He stuck to a diet with plenty of fresh vegetables. He relinquished his tonsils, and traded in several worn-out glands. He golfed, but never more than eighteen holes at a time. He got at least eight hours sleep every night. He never smoked, drank, nor lost his temper. He did his daily dozen daily. He was all set to live to be 100. His funeral will be held Wednesday. He forgot about railroad crossings. Yes, good friends of ours, this letter is full of a lot of truth. Men go on, like the rich fool in Luke 1, until death comes by an unexpected avenue and lays them in the tomb. Are you ready for it?

homosexuality is now know as "an alternative lifestyle." Beloved youngster, God calls all of it sin.

Music is said to be the universal language. That is why it is so popular with Satan. The modern day rock is a rhythm to Satan's own drum beat. Some of the most ungodly music and body contortions are practiced in our land today. Some of it is pure sinful, to say the least.

III. THIRD: How can I do better? I know that it isn't easy to say "NO" to things that are put before you that seem to be good, I know that it isn't easy to take a firm stand for Christ in the age in which we live, but God is with you. Christ died for all ages who would trust Him. If you are a child of His, then He will help you to overcome the temptations of this world. Try practicing what we read in 1 Cor. 10:31; **"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."**

Young people, you are not alone in this world. God has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Jesus said: **"...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."** (Matt. 28:20). Even as God led the children of Israel through the wilderness for forty years, the same God will lead you through the trials and temptations of this

life. You have His promise. Take warning, He is talking about His own children. Are you a child of God dear reader? If you are not a saved person, then you cannot lay claim to these promises of protection. Nevertheless, when sin is finished with you, it will bring forth the destruction of your soul in hell. You must come to Christ for protection from the awful jaws of sin.

God forgives sin through the work of His Son Jesus Christ. Christ died, and rose again for the sins of all who will trust in and believe on Him. **"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."** (John 1:12-13).

You must come to Christ today, because; **"For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."** God can, and will forgive all sin, no matter how great it may be, of them that come to Christ trusting the finished work at Calvary. Dear reader, if you have never trusted Him unto salvation, why not today? Amen.

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GOD'S GRACE

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to realize that this was a long, long, long time before we arrived on the human scene.

Therefore, when a person tells us that he believes in the Word of God, or that he believes that the Bible is God's Holy Word, and then he takes a stand against "God's Election of Grace," we can know that such a one walks in a very great darkness. Truly, we can know that such a one may have believed in Jesus and be saved, he has no real conception of Scriptural Truth, and when such a one speaks, we can know that he is not speaking Scriptural Truth.

Our Sovereign and Eternal God declares infallibly, immutably, and eternally that we who have believed, and that all who will believe have been "Predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Eph. 1:11). Scripturally we can know, and Scripturally we should be able to understand that all of this was accomplished by our Sovereign God "before the foundation of the world."

Men Who Spoke Wisely

Surely, then, it is wonderfully understandable that James Petigru Boyce, the First President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary should have cried, "Election is an act of God...it has been with God an eternal purpose...it is an election of salvation...it is an election of individuals," and "it was made simply according to God's own good pleasure."

Similarly, it is understandable that B. H. Carroll, the founder and the first President of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, should have cried, "Settle it in your mind that salvation commences with God, and no man." Truly, it is wonderful that faithful men of God in any generation can read the Word of God with great care and come to such a positive and unified conclusion. Oh, the Southern Baptists and all other Baptists as well, and all others who believed that Jesus is the Christ might have such a holy understanding of our God's glorious truth.

Such unity with respect to biblical doctrine, it seems to me, is that unity for which our blessed

Lord prayed in John 17. It was His prayer in that final hour before He would endure the agonies for man's inhumanity to man, and then die for our sins on the cruel cross of Calvary. Wonderfully, from the eternal perspective, He, His Father, and the Holy Spirit were in eternal harmony regarding the Truth. Even in this passage of Scripture, our Lord is using the unity that He and His Father knew — the disciples did not yet know or understand about the Holy Spirit — to encourage Scriptural harmony on the part of his followers.

Coming To An Understanding

It may be that you have not understood all that we have been saying about "God's Election of Grace." We need, then, to note that this is one of the joys that can come only to mature Christians; that is, Christians who can study the Word of God, and Christians who can rejoice to believe the Word of God as truth. Though the two evangelists whom we earlier referenced have made a tremendous impact in the lives of a multitude, it seemingly was never possible for them to believe and to understand that God does all of the saving. As those redeemed Judaizers of Galatia, these in our day were never able to rest wholly and completely in the fact that it is God who does all of the saving; even the saving of those who believed in response to their preaching.

Nevertheless, if you can believe that Jesus died, that He was buried, and that He arose from the grave according to the Scripture, you are as saved as we ever shall be. You may be walking in Scriptural darkness now, but one day, even as we, this promise is for you, "**we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is**" (1 John 3:2). All will be well! This gospel—The Good News— "**is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek[Gentile]**" whether or not we ever understand the deep things of God as He provides them for us in His Word.

Conclusion

If you can believe, you are saved—eternally saved! If you have believed, you are saved—eternally saved! If you will believe, you will be saved — eternally saved! Whether you ever understand it or not as you travel your earthly journey, wonderfully: you are the elect of God! Before the foundation of the world, God

has known you as one of His own precious elect ones. Wonderfully, you have been chosen! Wonderfully, you have been predestinated! Wonderfully, you have been adopted! All of this has been wonderfully accomplished in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, "**The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**"

If you find it "impossible" to believe that God has "elected" you "before the foundation of the world," you may never be able to rejoice fully as a mature Christian during your earthly journey. In eternity, nonetheless, when you "know as you are known," you will understand and forever rejoice in God's everlasting love that He has had for His elect in that timeless eternity "before the foundation of the world."

Even today, loved friend, believe!

You, too — will be eternally saved!

In so doing, a new life will be yours! A new reason for living will be yours. A new joy, a new hope, and a new peace of mind will be yours. You will experience assurance that you never have known, and you will do it immediately. God's "**Spirit will bear witness with your spirit**" (Rom. 8:16) that you are a child of God. As an elect one of our Sovereign God, you will be joining the happy company of those of us who can know with assurance that we are on way to Glory.

Even now, make your decision!
Yes — believe on Jesus Christ!

CHRIST'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 2)

complete change, of a former mode of life, to a new and different life. Sometimes, we, as Christians think only of repentance as it affects the lost sinner. Could it be that churches are weak or even dead today because of its members unwilling to repent. What are some things that a church might need to repent of? Well, there could be several things. As pointed out earlier, it could be for the sin or self-satisfaction, the complacent, lukewarm attitude. It could be for an unforgiving spirit toward a brother or sister, it could be for unwillingness to use our financial resources to help the poor or support missionaries.

Finally, Jesus emphasizes the

importance of the Word of God to the churches. Seven times Jesus calls the churches "**to hear what the Spirit has to say.**" When churches stop listening to the voice of the Spirit, and start listening to the voice of men, they begin to turn away from the truth. We must keep His Word and not deny His name. To the church at Philadelphia Jesus says: "**I know thy works; behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and has kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**" (Rev. 3:8).

May God help His churches to overcome the sin of lukewarmness. May we pray for burning hearts, may our eyes be anointed to see the doom of sinners and weep for their salvation.

COME UNTO ME

The Lord hath said, "Come unto Me,
From all thy sins I'll set thee free.
Though many and deep are thy sins
My blood will cleanse thee from within.
My yoke is easy, My burden light,
I'll guide thee each and every day.
Though others fail and cast aside,
With thee, dear one, I'll e'er abide.
Your burdens may be hard to bear,
Come unto Me, for I do care!
I'll raise thee up and walk with thee,
Again I say, 'Come unto Me!'
Him that cometh I'll ne'er a doubt.
My promises are sure and true,
I'll never, never forsake you.
I'll never, never cast away,
But lead thee in the Heavenly way."

-Mona A. Feters

ALCOHOL'S RECORD

Recognized as a poison by all the leading scientists.

Increases death rate by eighty percent over normal,

and shortens life expectation of average man by eight years.

Responsible for twenty-two percent of admissions to hospitals for the insane.

Involved in forty percent of cases of social diseases.

Involved in sixty percent of all highway accidents.

Responsible for thirty-seven percent of pauperism,

45.8 percent of child destitution, leading to juvenile delinquency.

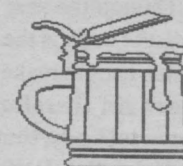
Responsible for ninety percent of cases of cruelty to children.

Diverts 3,018,000,000 pounds grain from food supply.

Hoards sufficient sugar for five year's distilling.

Employs 750,000 potential soldiers and defense workers.

-Christian Advocate.



THE BLOWING OF THE WIND

(Continued from page 1)

wind have much in common:

1. "The wind bloweth where it listeth". Man cannot control where the wind blows. The wind blows where it desires. Try as he might, man has never been able to control the blowing wind. It is under God's control. Likewise, the second birth is dispensed entirely of God. No man can merit, nor control, its dispersion.

2. "And thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth". Although he cannot control the wind, man can see and feel its effects. So too, the workings of the Spirit of God.

The second birth can be experienced by a man and noticed by others around him. A true experience of the second birth results in the formation of "a new creature in Christ" (2 Cor. 5:17). The one who is born again will display a new life that is lived in obedience to Jesus' commands. This change in lifestyle will be noticed by others around him.

Jesus then completes this section of His teachings with the statement, "so is every one that is born of the Spirit". Jesus emphasizes that the second birth's characteristics, (its likeness to the blowing wind), is a common factor in all who receive this birth. In other words, anyone who is truly saved by God will exhibit these characteristics. They will not be deserving nor controlling their salvation and they will experience a change in desires, lifestyles and actions. Anyone not exhibiting these characteristics have never partaken of the second birth.

ARE THESE TEACHINGS ON THE SECOND BIRTH TRUE?
(John 3:9-13)

"Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you [of] heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, [even] the Son of man which is in heaven."

As Jesus' explanation of the second birth continued,

Nicodemus continued to be filled with confusion. Jesus is asked, "How can these things be?" In other words, Nicodemus was questioning how the granting of the second birth is feasible.

Jesus kindly reminds Nicodemus that he should have a better understanding of these things because Nicodemus was looked upon as a "Master" (expert teacher) of the Scriptures. Jesus points to the fact that:

1. "We speak that we do know" Jesus only taught what He knew was true.

2. "We...testify that we have seen" Jesus only proclaimed what He had seen for Himself. He was not relying on second-hand information.

The problem was not with the validity of the testimony of Jesus. What Jesus said was true. The problem centered on Nicodemus' lack of faith. Jesus made this clear to him when He said "ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" Because mankind is touched by sin, man does not naturally trust in the Words of Jesus. This is why so many die without ever trusting in Jesus (His person, message and work) as their Savior.

Nicodemus had no right to question the validity of Jesus statements. Jesus was the only One who was in the position to speak with authority on spiritual things. Jesus, as God, came from heaven to earth. **WHO WAS BETTER EQUIPPED TO KNOW SPIRITUAL TRUTH? ABSOLUTELY NONE!** The receipt of the second birth hinges on a man receiving the testimony of Jesus as the truth. Jesus taught (John 12:44-50):

1. All mankind has sinned.
2. Because of their sin all men are destined to eternal punishment.
3. God, out of love for His people, sent His Son, (Jesus) to die on the cross, paying the price for their sins.
4. If anyone turns from their sin and trusts in Jesus as their Savior, their sins will be forgiven and their relationship with Him will be secure.

HOW IS JESUS' DEATH RELATED TO THE SECOND BIRTH?

(Johns 3:14-17)

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in

him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

To further bring the second birth to light, Jesus uses the example of the event involving the brazen serpent of the Old Testament (Numbers 21:4-9). In this example:

1. The Israelites had disobeyed God.
2. The result of this rebellion was a plague of death through the bites of poisonous serpents.
3. A brass serpent was placed on a pole.
4. The only remedy to these bites was to obey God's command to look upon a serpent of brass, with faith that God would heal them. This example is very much like the second birth:

1. All mankind has disobeyed God (Rom. 3:19,23).
2. The result of this rebellion is a plague of spiritual death leading to eternal punishment. (Rom. 2:5,6).
3. Jesus was hung upon the cross, taking upon Himself the punishment of His people's sin.
4. The only remedy for sin is to obey God's command and look upon Jesus in faith trusting God will forgive our sins. (Rom. 3:24-26).

Notice the emphasis that Jesus places on faith. He says, "that whosoever BELIEVETH in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Just as the Israelites must look to the serpent and TRUST that God would heal them, so too, we, as fallen mankind, must look to Jesus TRUSTING, that through His work, God will forgive our sins. Jesus continues His teachings by explaining why He came to the earth and would die on the cross:

1. **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,"** Jesus was sent to die on the cross because of God's great love for His people. Jesus died for all types of people. He died for Jews and Gentiles; black, white, red and yellow skinned peoples; people of any language or nationality. God loved the world and sent His Son, Jesus to die for them.
2. "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish," Jesus was sent to rescue those who were headed for eternity of separation

from God in the Lake of Fire. This eternal separation and punishment for sin is described in the Bible as eternal spiritual death.

3. **"but have everlasting life."** Jesus was sent to give His people everlasting communion and joy in the very presence of God. This is true eternal life.

4. **"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."** Jesus was sent so that His people would be forgiven of their sins and, thereby, the eternal deliverance (salvation) from sin's punishment.

Jesus made it very plain that the purpose of His first coming was for the aid and good of God's people. Without the coming of Jesus there would be no forgiveness, to eternal paradise in God's presence, only a certain, fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation" (Heb. 10:27).

Oh, how important our study has been, how needful it is for each one of us to be sure we have received the second birth that our Lord so graciously offers:

HOW CAN I RECEIVE THE SECOND BIRTH?

(John 3:18-21)

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the Light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deed should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

Jesus then brings home these teachings on the second birth. He explains to Nicodemus the practical implications of all that He had taught:

1. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Jesus stressed the need for faith as a prerequisite to the forgiveness of sins. **IF WE SIMPLY CONTINUE ON IN OUR OWN WAY WE ARE CONDEMNED ALREADY. IT IS AN ABSOLUTE IMPOSSIBILITY**

FOR MAN TO BE NEUTRAL IN THIS MATTER. NEUTRALITY EQUALS CONDEMNATION.

2. **"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."** Jesus continued by illustrating the lost's attitude about this message of the second birth. Any man who rejects the Word of truth is one who clearly is yet in his sin. When Jesus came into this world, bearing the message of God's free gift of the second birth, men hated Him. Their hatred was so great they put Him to death. Why did they hold this great enmity against Him? His life and message revealed to them their true spiritual condition.

God's Word performs the very same function today. Although Jesus is no longer physically present with us, we still have His recorded Word which presents the same message of the sinful condition of man and the way of salvation. If His Word is rejected or ignored, it is the very same sin that was committed when Jesus was rejected. In both cases, sinful mankind rejected the revelation of God given to mankind.

3. **"But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."** Once the second birth is experienced, a love and respect for the truth saturates the heart. Once a man knows that his sin is forgiven, he happily embraces and aspires more of Jesus' teachings because he yearns to serve Him.

From a practical standpoint, we can discern our spiritual condition based upon our attitude toward the Lord and His Word:

- A. Do we have a love for His Word?
- B. Are we willing to admit to, and turn from, the sin that is in our life?
- C. Are we desirous to know Jesus' desires for our life and do we seek to fulfill them in our lives?

D. Do we hold Jesus and His desires as the most important factor in all our decision making?

If we answer "no" to any of the above questions, we must seriously examine our spiritual condition. **THERE IS NO**
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find clear scriptural support for doing so? If you really believe in the headship of Christ you would not knowingly do this. You would not want to usurp the authority of Jesus Christ. Does the pastor have a right to assume what belongs to Jesus Christ? The only authority the pastor of a congregation has is the sovereign will of Jesus Christ. We have to wait upon Him and meditate upon His Word to know His will. He is the Head of the church.

There is also a divine order of the sexes both in the worship and service of the local church. Now, when it says that the "head of every man is Christ," we cannot infer from this that Jesus Christ is not also the head of every woman. He is Lord of all! When it says the "the head of the woman is the man," it does not suggest that man is necessarily superior to the woman. It's not then a question of equality; many women far excel in various fields. In the Lord's church there is a certain order of protocol. For instance, no where in the Scripture are we told that women are called by God to preach and pastor the church. Women who get up in the pulpit to preach and teach men are usurping the authority of Jesus Christ. However sincere they may be, they are in the wrong. Secondly, women are not permitted to speak in the assembled church. Again, this is part of the acknowledgement of headship. Rebellious women don't like this command at all. They feel like their rights are being inhibited by not being able to talk out in the assembly. Some women

would like to entertain business motions and discuss business matters in the assembly. I think they can do so through the mouth piece of the man. I do not think it is scriptural for them to do so audibly in the assembly. Some say, "That's not fair." It's not a question of what is fair or politically correct, it's a question of what Christ wants done in the church. He is the head of the church. All of us must answer to Him!

THE BLOWING OF THE WIND

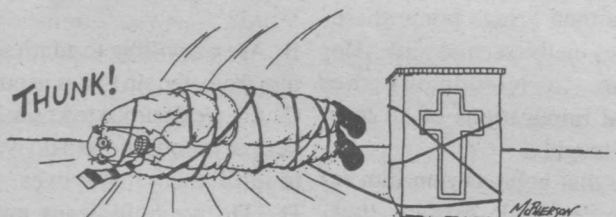
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REASON TO BELIEVE THE LORD HAD GRANTED THE SECOND BIRTH TO THOSE WHO HOLD AN IMPROPER ATTITUDE ABOUT HIM OR HIS WORD.

If we can answer "yes" to all these questions this is a prominent sign that the Lord has granted the second birth to us. If this is the case, we should be serving Him in greater and greater ways, through the ministry of a local church, as an act of appreciation for all that He has done for us.

Acts 16:29-31, "Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."

Minds are like
parachutes,
they only function
when open.



THIS INCIDENT PRETTY MUCH CONVINCED THE CONGREGATION TO PITCH IN AND GET PASTOR MENLEY A CORDLESS MICROPHONE.

An Appreciated Comment

In the April issue of The Baptist Examiner, (the Editor) advised each of us to renew our subscription, or it will be necessary for our name to be removed from those to whom The Baptist Examiner is to be mailed.

I encourage one and all, not only to renew your own subscription, but try to add one or more subscriptions to the list.

I also encourage you to renew your subscription to The Baptist Examiner so as to fulfill the dreams of those men who have been its previous editors. Tom Simmons, who was my former pastor, and whose picture I have displayed in my office, began the Baptist Examiner and I'm hoping and praying that we will honor him by keeping the paper arriving at our doors.

The cost to keep The Baptist Examiner arriving at your door is \$8.00 per year, or about 66¢ per month. I encourage you again to support this great work and to ask the church of which you are a member to support it too.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Willard Willis

SIXTH ANNUAL SOVEREIGN GRACE BIBLE CONFERENCE

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thru Thursday 12:00 pm

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READY TO SAIL

By C.H. Spurgeon

"A Christian should be always as a ship that hath taken in its lading, and is prepared and furnished with all manner of tackling, ready to set sail, only expecting the good wind to carry him out of the haven."

Would to God it were always so with us. We are fully stood and equipped in Christ Jesus, and yet we do not always enjoy the holy quiet which ought to spring out of so divine a fact. All is well. Why do we not feel that it is so? Why do we fear to depart? There remains nothing for us but to obey the call, let loose the cable, and float into the heavenly haven; but we act as if it were not so, and often dread the time for commencing the last voyage. It is more important to be prepared to live aright than to be in an ecstasy at the thought of death; but, still, while we are ready for service, it is sweet also to be ready for glory. The thought of death should never put us in a flurry. It should be every-day work to die: indeed, we should be always dead with Christ. Where this is realized death is dead, and as children are not afraid of a dead lion, so we also are not disturbed at the prospect of departing out of this world unto the Father.

"All that remains for me
Is but to love and sing,
And wait until the angels come
To bear me to my King."

A REMINDER TO OUR READERS

- Keep us informed if you have moved or planning to move! The postal department bills us each time they are unable to deliver a paper to a subscriber not living at the address listed.
- We hear of some few cases where readers have failed to receive their paper. We are checking on these to find out the problem. We do apologize for this inconvenience.
- A friendly reminder to those who need to be renewing subscriptions...THANK YOU!