

*Today, be happy with what you have-not discontent with what you don't have*

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

# The Baptist Examiner™

**Baptist Is Our Middle Name**

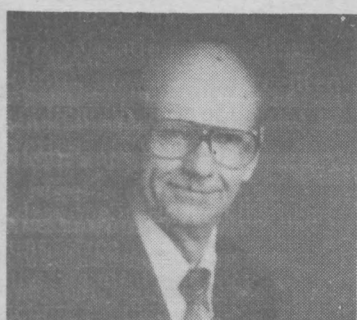
**Paid Circulation In All States and In Many Foreign Countries**

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

VOL. 69, NO. 6 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, JUNE 1, 1997 WHOLE NUMBER 2728

## ALONE

By Elder Edward G. Graff



It is very human to stand with the crowd, but, it is divine to stand alone. It is man-like to follow the multitude, and to drift with the tide. But, it is God-like to follow a principle, and to stem the tide. It is natural to compromise the conscience, and follow the social, and religious fashion, for the sake of popularity, pleasure, and gain, but, it is divine to sacrifice acceptance, self-gratification, and profit on the Altar of Truth and duty.

(2 Tim. 4:11-18), **11 "Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee; for he is profitable to me for the ministry.**

**12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.**

**13 The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.**

**14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:**

**15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.**

**16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.**

**17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and**

**I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.**

**18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."**

(Text verse is verse sixteen, "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.") The New King James version says, "At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me." The battle-scarred Apostle Paul is writing to describe his first appearance before Nero, emperor of Rome, to answer for his life. Why? For believing, and teaching, contrary to the Roman world, and counter to Hebrew law, as set by the Pharisees, and the High Priest of his day.

Truth has been out of fashion ever since man changed his Robe of Fadeless Light for a Garment

of Faded Leafs, (Gen. 3:7), "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

Noah built the ark, and voyaged alone. His neighbors laughed at his strangeness, but perished in style, (Gen. 6:5-8), **5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

**6 And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.**

**7 And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.**

(Continued on page 6)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Interim Pastor Jack C. Whitt



## WHAT THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD GIVES

"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power

hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world

through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness: And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. For

(Continued on page 2)

## ETERNAL LIFE INSURANCE

By John R. Gilpin (1905-1974)

Former Pastor Calvary Baptist Church and Editor TBE

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:27-29).

I want to tell you about the greatest insurance policy in the world. I am an agent for the company. I represent the King's Eternal Life Insurance Company. It has headquarters in heaven. The directorate includes God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The President is the King of kings. The General Agent is the Holy Spirit.

I.

I want to offer some reasons why you should take a policy in this company. First of all, it is the oldest. It has been doing business for thousands of years and it has never changed its policies nor management: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8). "For I am the Lord, I change not" (Mal. 3:6).

It is the strongest of all insurance companies. It has more capital than all other companies combined, for its capital is the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8).

It has the largest number of policy holders. In Matt. 8:11, we read that Jesus said, "Many shall come from the east and west,



and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven." Rev. 7:9 speaks of, "A great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindred, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne." In Rev. 5:11, we read, "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." Bring on your adding machine, your posting machine, and your clerks, secretaries, and stenographers and try to count the redeemed; you will find that it is "a great multitude, which no man could number."

It has no dissatisfied policy holders. Not one has been displeased with the benefits derived in 6000 years of the company's existence. Every one is a booster. In fact, all are anxious to get others to enroll.

It is the only company which insures a man for more than he is worth. In every company there is a limitation except in this one. How much is a man worth? Paul tells us, "They are together become profitable" (Rom. 3:12). In spite of man's valuation, God insures us for Time and Eternity.

You need it. How strongly God argues your need of ETERNAL LIFE INSURANCE! "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9). "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our

(Continued on page 7)



THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

Jack C. Whitt

Interim Editor

Office Phone 606-325-2012

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

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

**PUBLICATION POLICIES:** All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts sent should be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of TBE and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication. Church news items must reach us one month prior to publication.

The publication of an article does not necessarily mean that the editor is in complete agreement with the writer nor does it mean he endorses all this person may have written on other subjects.

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

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

Subscription rates are \$8.00 per year.

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

Periodical Postage paid in Ashland, Kentucky.

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

## GOD GIVES

(Continued from page 1)

if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JUNE 1, 1997

PAGE TWO

## Editor's Update

By Interim Pastor Jack C. Whitt

I take pleasure once again in bringing you greetings from Calvary Baptist Church in Ashland, Ky. Things are looking pretty good in our neck of the woods as warmer spring-time weather has become the norm in our region. We praise God for His watch and care over us and the blessings we continue to enjoy through His grace and mercy.

Here it is June, a popular month for many folks, especially the young men and ladies, planning for June weddings. We should pray for those uniting in holy matrimony, that each couple will commit themselves to God first that their marriage will have the right foundation. It is a sad reality that over 50% of marriages today result in divorce. This could be avoided if husbands and wives would seek God's will first before the wedding day. If they would trust Jesus Christ and be saved what a difference it would make!

As I write this update, our church is getting ready for a 3 day meeting to be held on May 16-18, (Fri., Sat., Sun.). Brother Willard Pyle, pastor of the Naples Park Baptist Church in Florida, will be our special guest speaker. Bro. Pyle is a long-time friend of our church as well as to several other sister churches in our area. I feel sure he will bless all who will attend these meetings. By this time, as you are reading, the meeting will have passed.

We continue to receive some appreciated letters from our readers. This means a lot to me and to our church. I would remind those with whom it may concern, that June is the month designated to remove those names from our mailing list who have yet to send in their subscription renewal. Our original notification was printed in the April edition. The only exclusions to this policy are those with life-time membership, some in foreign countries, anyone who cannot afford the \$8.00 per year and those who write for TBE on a regular basis. We would like this paper to be placed in every home in America as well as other countries. While this is an exaggerated dream, yet I believe our mailing list can and will increase in time with the help of many of you, some of which have already been active in promoting our circulation. I previously have stated that if it were possible, I would like to send our paper free to anyone who wants it. Unfortunately we are unable to do this due to the great expense of printing and mailing. Anyone who is dropped from our mailing list may be easily reinstated by mailing in their remittance. We know from the mail received that many people enjoy and rely on getting TBE. As the editor, I try to maintain a balance of material that will suit and edify each reader. My principal goal in editing is to help our readers know Bible truth by keeping to the conservative, Baptist approach to the scriptures. I also pray God will bless in using this paper to save many souls for His honor and glory.

I again invite comments or questions from any of our readers regarding anything that is printed in this paper.

Until next time, God bless you all!

Christ." (2 Peter.1:1-11). In the message for this time, I have presented these eleven verses that my reader might first be impressed by the impact and weightiness of God's divine words. After all, it is God's Word only that is divine. Nothing I say or what any other mortal man may say is divine, despite what some religious leaders of our day suppose themselves to possess. Verse 2 of our text again says: "Grace and

peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord." And so the title for our message: "What the knowledge of God gives."

One thing I believe that we all can agree on is that in reading scripture over and over again, often we see things that were overlooked or forgotten. For this reason it is good to refresh our minds and replenish our thoughts on what the Bible has for us to

know. So, if you will, let us take a fresh look at what Peter is saying, to whom he is saying it, and why he says it. Notice verse one and to whom he addresses: "to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ." It is true believers in Jesus Christ, Peter is speaking to, that means Christians of all ages. Dear friend, that means you and me if we claim salvation through the blood of Christ. But what is Peter saying and for what purpose is he saying it? I submit to you that Peter speaks to encourage God's people to understand and apprehend the greatness of God and what He has given to us in assurance that will benefit us as we live in a world that is often trying and hard to cope with.

We have an account of the people to whom the letter is written to: those having obtained like precious faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. *True saving faith is precious*, it is what gives us eternal life in heaven. It is what the "just" live by. This precious faith is given by God, we are not born with it, we are "born-again" into it. This faith is through the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

2. *Grace and peace be multiplied*—What we have already received should encourage us to ask for more. All things that pertain to the spiritual life, the life of godliness, are from Jesus Christ. We must own and acknowledge God as the author of our effectual calling, without which, we would not have this "precious faith" to believe His word and be saved.

3. *Those who receive the promises of the gospel partake of the divine nature*. Their hearts are set for God and His service, further, this is a fact that will show in the lives of such who have partaken of this new nature. Those in whom the Holy Spirit works this divine nature are freed from the bondage of corruption. Sin has dominion in men of the world through lust. Men become dominated by what they delight in. While sin delights the hearts of the unconverted, Jesus is the delight of all who are partakers of the divine nature.

4. *True faith must be added to* the Christian graces outlined in verses 5,6,7, requires diligence on the part of every true believer. These are virtues that must be worked on with conscientious effort. This is how we grow in maturity. Notice verse 8: "If these

things be in you and abound they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Little excuse may be given for the Christian who is "barren and unfruitful," or empty with nothing to give to the service of Jesus our Lord.

5. *Our calling and election is to be made sure in light of what has been said*. The reason most Christians, (professed or real), do not benefit from the word of God is there is no interest. This is a fact evidenced in our churches and homes throughout the country. For the knowledge of God to work in any life, there must be first an appeal to the heart. There must be an internal revelation from God. Just so as Paul declares: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Cor. 4:6). This light spoken of in the verse given, is not natural, it is supernatural and it must be given by God in the face of Jesus Christ. In other words, friend, there is no such thing as believing in a god that omits Jesus Christ, that is if you want to know the true God of the universe, and if you expect to reach heaven. A popular form of religious thinking today is to believe there are many gods or many avenues to reach the one true God. This is man's idea and it is leading men and women on the road to hell. People cannot know God until they know what the Bible (God's revelation) says. Yet many of such people do not care enough about their souls to enquire into the scriptures. Ask some people the simplest question about the Bible and they cannot answer nor do they care. "O the foolishness of the proud heart of man."

Dear friend, if you are saved today, I hope you can appreciate what the blessed Word of God says in our text verses. I hope you know for certain that your future home is in heaven. I hope you know and have the "exceeding great and precious promises," that you have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. I hope that you have given diligence to "make your calling and election sure." I hope you can enjoy the grace and peace that is multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

• • • • •





## 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

#### Truth of Consequences (Gen. 33:18-20; 34:1-31)

In our last study, we were perhaps surprised by the peaceful reunion of Jacob and Esau and then their separation as Esau returned to Seir (the country of Edom) and Jacob traveled unto Succoth. This next passage is somewhat more difficult in that its honest description of life includes some of its harshest details. May the Lord prepare our hearts as we study His Word.

**"And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem...And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money"** (Gen. 33:18-19). Jacob built an altar on his land, calling it El-eloho-Israel, meaning "God, the God of Israel".

**"And Dinah...went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her"** (v. 1-2). Shechem, a man controlled by his physical appetite, violates the purity of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and Leah. **"And his soul clave unto Dinah...And Shechem spake unto his father Hamor, saying, Get me this damsel to wife"** (v. 3-4). Shechem's desire for Dinah compels him to seek her for a wife. His previous action, however, will have consequences beyond the control of himself or his father.

**"And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter: now his sons were with his cattle in the field: and Jacob held his peace until they were come"** (v. 5). Jacob is silent when informed of the injustice against his daughter.

**"And Hamor the father of Shechem went out unto Jacob to commune with him, And the sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard it: and the men were grieved, and they were very wroth, because he had wrought folly in Israel in lying**

**with Jacob's daughter; which thing ought not to be done"** (v. 6-7).

Hamor seeks permission from Jacob and his sons for Shechem to marry Dinah and extends an offer of alliance and increased prosperity. Shechem adds to his father's offer that he is willing to pay any dowry to receive Dinah. Perhaps Shechem's affection toward Dinah is not unlike Jacob's had been while seeking Rachel, Leah's sister.

The sons of Jacob respond with a deceitful ultimatum: **"...in this will we consent unto you...that every male of you be circumcised...and we will become one people. But if ye will not hearken unto us, to be circumcised; then will we take our daughter, and we will be gone"** (v. 13-17). Jacob's sons use the symbol of God's covenant with Abraham, offering to become one people with those of Shalem, to cloak and to enable their plan of vengeance.

**"And their words pleased Hamor, and Shechem Hamor's son. And the young man deferred not to do the thing, because he had delight in Jacob's daughter: and he was more honourable than all the house of his father"** (v. 18-19). Shechem demonstrates that honor from the world and honor from God are based on different criteria. A group will flourish or suffer as a natural consequence of what it exalts and what it disregards, especially in its leaders.

To satisfy his own desire, Shechem must convince the men of the city to be circumcised. He appeals to the men according to their greed. **"Shall not their cattle and their substance and every beast of theirs be ours? only let us consent unto them, and they will dwell with us"** (v. 23). Shechem's appeal was effective: **"...every male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his city"** (v. 24). Shechem and the men of his city have followed their desires down

a path to destruction: while in a weakened condition, they were slain by Simeon and Levi. These sons of Jacob and Leah bring Dinah out from Shechem's household and capture all that remained in the city and in the field.

**"And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land...they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house"** (v. 30). Jacob is silent until Simeon and Levi complete their act of vengeance. While his words speak concern for the family's welfare, there is no mention of comfort or consolation for Dinah. **"And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot?"** (v. 31). Perhaps Jacob's passive silence even intensified the anger within the hearts of Dinah's brothers, the children of the unloved wife, Leah.

#### Purity

This passage begins with Jacob buying land and establishing an altar to God. It abruptly transitions into acts of injustice, greed, and violence. This may have resulted from Jacob being out of God's will in terms of his dwelling place, for perhaps he was to follow Esau home as he had said in our last study see (Gen. 33:14). This can be a dangerous supposition; we must be careful in labeling and explaining tragic events.

It is true that God disciplines His disobedient child (Heb. 12:5-11). However, the believer can also experience calamity, trial, and suffer from acts of injustice while being in God's will. We see this in the life of Jesus Christ who was perfectly obedient to His Father's will even submitting to the ultimate injustice—His death on the cross. Yet, it was through this act, the Righteous One dying for the unrighteous, that those who trust in Jesus as the Savior have their sin debt canceled and are

reconciled to God. It is important that we recognize this, so that our faith is not shaken when faced with tragedy or unjust treatment. God becomes no less sovereign or trustworthy because we cannot explain the immediate (see Rom. 8:28).

It is also important that we study God's Word to understand His will in our lives. In light of the subjects involved in this study, 1 Thess. 4:3-8 provides much guidance regarding purity in the life of a believer. It is God's will that we avoid all forms of sexual immorality, including physical intimacy outside of the marriage commitment. The life that is yielded to the Lord, and consequently Spirit-controlled, is capable of living in purity, knowing **"how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour"**. Such a life does not have to be controlled by its lusts and passions as we saw demonstrated by Shechem. **"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness"** (1 Thess. 4:7). This means that God did not cancel our sin debt so that we might continue in sin, but that we have been freed to grow in the practice of purity having already received the righteous standing of Christ. The practice of holiness is additionally beneficial in protecting the purity of those around us.

This brings us to Dinah's experience. Her physical innocence was taken by a respected member of the community. Unfortunately, similar actions still occur. What must be proclaimed is the hope that is found in Jesus Christ, for He is able to heal the wounds that no one else sees, whether they have resulted from our own rebellion or the aggression of others. He has come not only to deliver us from our sins, but also to call us into abundant life that we might exchange the binding grave clothes of pain and shame with the comforting robe of His righteousness.

### A PRAYER FOR OUR LEADERS



Heavenly Father, I thank you for our country, our Constitution, and our leaders. I pray for our President and for every elected and appointed official who serves with him.

I pray that You will build a spiritual wall of protection around the marriage and family of every national, state and local official.

I pray that You will give them the wisdom and the courage to uphold our Constitution which established a republic based on Your absolute laws, not a democracy based on the changing whims of man's reasoning.

I pray that You will rebuke Satan for the deception of his lie that we can be "as gods" in deciding for ourselves what is right and what is wrong.

O Lord, may our leaders cast down every law, policy, and personal example which weakens marriages, families, or your moral standards.

I pray that our leaders will understand and follow the principles of Your Word. May they realize that all authority comes from You, not the voters, and that one day they will stand before You to give an account of the power You gave to them.

I base this prayer on the promise of Your Word, that if I will humble myself, pray, seek Your face, and turn from my wicked ways, then You will hear from heaven, forgive my sin, and heal my land.

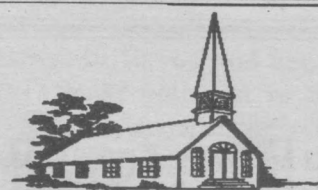
In the name and through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, I pray,  
Amen.

-from "The Rebirth of America"



## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



### Is capital punishment Biblical? Please explain

**JACK C.  
WHITT**

4510 Garden Ave.  
Portsmouth, OH  
45662  
**INTERIM  
PASTOR:**  
Calvary Baptist  
Church  
Ashland, KY



**GEORGE R.  
SLEDD**

920 Upsala Rd.  
Sanford, FL  
32771  
**PASTOR:**  
Jordan Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Sanford, FL



wrong. I think it would be much better to execute capital criminals much sooner. I think it would increase the deterrent to awful crimes if a criminal knew that upon conviction, he would be executed within thirty to sixty days.

**JAMES E.  
HOBBS**

Rt. 2, Box 182  
McDermott, OH  
45652  
**PASTOR:**  
King's Addition  
Baptist Church  
South Shore, KY



There are so many scriptures available for this question that it would be impossible to get them all in this answer. Of course capital punishment is Biblical. Not only does the Bible teach it, it also teaches that it is the only way to keep law and order properly. The reason that our country is so far gone in crime today is because we have practically done away with it. If we want to gain control of our country again we must stop letting these civil rights people keep us away from following the Bible in controlling the laws of our land.

For the purpose of this answer, I will just quote a few scriptures and give some other references. **"He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death."** (Ex. 21:12). Please note that verses like this say plainly that the murderer is to SURELY be put to death. Also please note that there are no provisions for a multitude of appeals to be made. The crime is committed, the judgment is made and the sentence is carried out, all in a very short period of time. The taxpayers are not required to pay a large sum of money to provide room and board for them. Other scripture for capital punishment for murder will be found in such passages as Ex. 21:15; Lev. 24:17; Num. 35:16-21, 30, 31; and Deut. 19:11-13.

The Bible not only calls for capital punishment for murder but for many other crimes such as, cursing father and mother, various sexual acts (Lev. 20:9, 10-13), messing with witchcraft (Lev. 20:27) and blasphemy (Lev. 24:16). The Apostle Paul showed that he believed in and followed the law of capital punishment in Acts 25:11 **"For if I be an officer, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar."** May God bless you.

**JOHN R.  
LENEGAR**

126 N.  
Washington St.  
No.5  
Delaware, OH  
43015  
**PASTOR:**  
Walnut Creek  
Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Delaware, OH



**"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."** (Romans 13:1-4). **"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."** (Gen. 9:6).

In answering this question it is necessary to note some truths of God's Word that do not change, even though many may try to

change, or ignore them. (1) In Genesis 9:6 God stated a truth that is universal and has never been abrogated; capital punishment for murder. (2) Capital punishment is a necessary corrective to crimes so listed in Scripture as deserving such. (3) Judicial executions rightly administered by the state, are not considered murder and are not prohibited by the Ten Commandments. There is clear provision for capital punishment for specific offenses right along with other laws including the Ten Commandments.

Unfortunately, there are always those who wish to change, disobey, or alter in a twisting fashion God's Word to suit a cause. There is no place in the New Testament, or the Old Testament that abrogates (abolishes, changes, or does away with) capital punishment. I am aware of the arguments by many that say Jesus abrogated the penalty in the New Testament—keeps me from stating and answering those objections here. God does not change His mind, or alter His moral laws. Man assumes that God has a different set of values today, that He has changed because of love, whatever. A fatal mistake! Man's assumptions are made on faulty understanding, or humanistic principles.

"It won't bring the dead back to kill their perpetrator." "It is cruel and unusual punishment to put murders to death." "We can rehabilitate them." That is indeed the devil's favorite argument. Hence, we spend untold sums to maintain murderers in penitentiaries instead of obeying God. Believe me reader, we suffer because of it. We pay financially. We pay as a society with repeat offenders, etc. because we disobey the Scriptural principle. "It is no deterrent to crime." Don't ever believe that. It is if it is speedily and properly administered.

We must say in closing that all these opposing arguments, whether valid to whatever extent, (Continued on page 8)

In answering this question, we must be reminded that man must be held accountable for his action. He is first responsible to almighty God, whether he knows it or not. In Deut. 20:13 God said: **"Thou shalt not kill."** This means no person can take it on himself to kill another human being simply to appease his anger or desire. God gave the Israelites permission and commandment to kill the enemies of both Himself and His people. Therefore there is just cause for killing according to the law of God.

God established government to keep peace in the land. Even though lawlessness is widespread, it would be much worse if there were no ministers of law to control the activities of man. Sin entering into man's heart brought with it a depraved nature and proneness to do evil. No one is as bad or evil as they could be. By God's grace we are not as some who commit heinous crimes against mankind. Still, this does not mean that man has excuse for his misconduct or is not responsible to God. In the book of Romans 13, God speaks through the Apostle Paul to affirm that He (God) establishes the powers that be and that for the purpose of keeping peace and stability in our country. We read: **"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves**

(Continued on page 8)



*Tears are the safety valves of the heart when too much pressure is laid on it*

## THE SPIRIT DRAWING

By Arthur W. Pink

The renewed heart is moved and melted when it contemplates the Holy Savior having our iniquities imputed to Him and bearing **"our sins in his own body on the tree..."** but how rarely is it considered, that it is little less wonderful for the Holy Spirit to exercise Himself with our sins and hold them up to the eyes of our understanding. Yet this is precisely what He does. He rakes in our foul hearts and makes us conscious of what a stench they are in the nostrils of an infinitely pure God. He brings to light and to sight the hidden and hideous things of darkness and convicts us of our vile and lost condition. He opens to our view the horrible pit in which, by nature, we lie and makes us to realize that we are fit for nothing but the everlasting burnings. Oh, how truly marvelous that the third person of the Godhead should condescend to stoop to such a work as that!

**"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..."** (John 6:44). No sinner ever knocks (Matt. 7:7) at His door for mercy, by earnest and importunate prayer, until Christ has first knocked (Rev. 3:20) at his door by the operations of the Holy Spirit. As the Christian now loves God **"...because he first loved..."** him (1 John 4:19), so he sought Christ, because Christ first sought him (Luke 19:10). Before Christ seeks us, we are well content to lie fast asleep in the devil's arms, and therefore does the Lord say **"...I am found of them that sought me not..."** (Isa. 65:1). When the Spirit first applies the word of conviction, He finds the souls of all men as the angel found the world in Zechariah 1:11: **"...all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest."** What a strange silence and midnight stillness there is among the unsaved! **"...there is none that seeketh after God"** (Rom. 3:11).

It is because of failure to perceive the dreadful condition in which the natural man lies, that any difficulty is experienced in seeing the imperative need for the Spirit's drawing power if he is to be brought out of it. The natural man is so completely enslaved by sin and enchained by Satan, that he is unable to take the first step toward Christ. He is so bent on having his own way and so averse to pleasing God, he is so in love with the things of this world and so out of love with holiness, that nothing

short of omnipotence can produce a radical change of heart in him, so that he will come to hate the things he naturally loved, and love what he previously hated. The Spirit's drawing is the freeing of the mind, the affections, and the will, from the reigning power of depravity; it is His emancipating of the soul from the dominion of sin and Satan.

Prior to that deliverance, when the requirements of God are pressed upon the sinner, he, in every case, rejects them. It is not that he is averse from being saved from hell—for none desire to go there—but that he is unwilling to forsake (Prov. 28:13; Isa. 55:7) his idols—the things which hold the first place in his affections and interests. This is clearly brought out in the Lord's parable of the Great Supper. When the call went forth, **"...Come; for all things are now ready,"** we are told, **"...they all with one consent began to make excuse..."** (Luke 14:18). The meaning of that term "excuse" is explained in what immediately follows: they preferred other things; they were unwilling to deny themselves; they would not relinquish the competitive objects—the things of time and sense (**"a piece of ground," "an oxen," "a wife"**) were their all-absorbing concerns.

Had nothing more been done by the Servant in this parable, the Holy Spirit—all had continued to "make excuse" unto the end: that is, all had gone on cherishing their idols, and turning a deaf ear to the holy claims of God. But the Servant was commissioned to **"bring in hither"** (v. 21), yea, to **"...compel them to come in..."** (v. 23); it is holy compulsion and not physical force which is there in view—the melting of the hard heart, the wooing and winning of the soul to Christ, the bestowing of faith, the imparting of new nature, so that the hitherto despised One is now sought after: **"I drew them with cords of man (using means and motives suited to a rational nature) with bands of love..."** (Hosea 11:4). And again, God says of His people, **"...with loving kindness have I drawn thee"** (Jeremiah 31:3).

Even after the elect have been quickened by the Spirit, a further and distant work of His is needed to draw their hearts to actually close with Christ. Thy work of faith is equally His operation, and therefore it is said, **"We having (received, not exercised) the same**

**Spirit of faith..."** (2 Cor. 4:13) i.e., "the same" as Abraham, David, and the other Old Testament saints received, as the remainder of the verse indicates. Hence, observe the careful linking together in Acts 6:5, where of Stephen we read that he was **"...a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost..."**; full of faith, because filled with the Spirit. So of Barnabas we are told, **"...he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith..."** (Acts 11:24). Seek to realize more definitely, Christian reader, that spiritual faith is the gift of the Spirit, and that He is to be thanked and praised for it. Equally true is it that we are now entirely dependent upon Him to call it into exercise and act.

The Divine Drawer is unto God's people, **"...the spirit of grace and of supplications..."** (Zech. 12:10): of grace, in making to their smitten consciences and exercised hearts a wondrous discovery of the rich grace of God unto penitent rebels; of supplications, in moving them to act as a man fleeing for his life, to seek after Divine mercy. Then it is He leads the trembling soul to Calvary, **"...before whose eyes Jesus Christ..."** is now **"evidently (plainly) set forth crucified..."** (Gal. 3:1), beholding the Savior (by faith) bleeding for and making atonement for his sins—more vividly it follows in Zechariah 12:10, **"...they shall look upon me whom they have pierced..."** Then it is that their eyes are opened to see that, hitherto, had been hidden from them, namely the **"...fountain opened..for sin and for uncleanness"** (Zech. 13:1), into which they are now moved to plunge for cleansing.

Yes, that precious fountain has to be opened to us, or experimentally, we will discern it not. Like poor Hagar, ready to perish from thirst, knowing not that relief was near at hand, we—convicted of our fearful sins, groaning under the anguish of our lost condition—were ready to despair. But as God opened Hagar's eyes to see the "well," or fountain (Gen. 21:19), so the Spirit of God now opens the understanding of the awakened soul to see Christ, His precious blood, His all-sufficient righteousness. But more: when thy soul is brought to see the fountain or well, he discovers it is deep and that he has **"...nothing to draw with..."** (John 4:11). And

though he looks in it with a longing eye, he cannot reach unto it, so as to wash in it. He finds himself like the impotent man of John 5: desirous of stepping in, but utterly without strength to do so. Then it is that the Holy Spirit applies the atonement, **"...sprinkling the conscience..."** (Heb. 10:23), effectually granting a realization of its cleansing efficacy: see Acts 15: 8,9; 2 Corinthians 6:11. It is Christ's blood, but the Spirit must apply it.

And when the awakened and convicted soul has been brought to Christ for cleansing and righteousness, who is it that brings him to the Father, to be justified by Him? Who is it that bestows freedom of access unto him from whom the sinner had long been absent in the far country? Ephesians 2:18 tells us, **"For through Him (Christ, the mediator) we both (regenerated Jews and Gentiles, Old and New Testament saints alike) have access by one Spirit unto the Father."** Ah, dear reader, it was naught by the secret and invincible operations of the blessed Spirit which caused you—a wandering prodigal—to seek out Him whom before you dreaded as a consuming fire. Yes, it was none other than the third Person of the Holy Trinity who drew you with the bands of love, and taught you to call God "Father" (Rom. 8:15)! (Studies In The Scriptures, Feb. 1935).

"I am much afraid that schools will prove to be great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth.

I advise no one to place his child where the scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt."

-Martin Luther

from "The Rebirth of America"

## THE EVERY-DAY SUIT

By C.H. Spurgeon

*"Godliness is not a holiday suit, but apparel that is for constant wear."*

This illustrates a very important truth. Some people seem to fancy that they can put their religion on and off as they do their Sunday clothes. Such religion is better put off once for all. He who is not godly every day is not godly and day. We should aim at serving God with all our hearts on the Sabbath, in songs, and prayers, and sermons; but if these are to be acceptable, we must also serve God on all the week-days in an honest, upright, holy conversation. True Christians will endeavor to make their houses temples, their meals sacraments, their garments vestments, and all their days holy-days. That profession which is merely on the surface, like the gilt upon the gingerbread at a country fair, is too poor a thing to enter heaven.

Lord, make me to wear thy righteousness within me, and then I cannot leave it off. Make me like the king's daughter, "all glorious within." Weave thy grace into the warp and weft of my being. Even on the earth let me ever be with the Lord.

*"Truth" sets men free!*

John 8:32

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JUNE 1, 1997

PAGE FIVE



## ALONE

(Continued from page 1)

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Because Noah stood alone Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and he and his family were saved.

Abraham, the friend of God (James 2:23) and founder of the Hebrew nation by the elective covenant and Will of God (Gen. 1-18), wandered, and worshipped, alone. Even his nephew Lot left him, (Gen. 13:1-12), "1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;

4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and they herdmen; for we be brethren.

9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom". Abram (Abraham) and Lot had been together since leaving Ur. But now their flocks, herds, and tents had become so extensive, and their herdsmen so contentious over pasture lands, that is seemed best to separate. So, Abram gave Lot the choice of all the land. Lot foolishly chose the plain of Jordan, and Abram chose the land of Canaan as his settled home.

Daniel dined, and prayed alone. (Daniel 1:8), "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." Daniel would not eat, nor drink anything that was offered to idols. The portion of the king's meat, and drink that was to be given to Daniel, was the portion offered to idols.

(Daniel 6:4-10), 4 "Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counselors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty day, save of thee, I king, he shall be cast into the den of the lions.

8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day,

and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime". Daniel knew about the king's proclamation, and yet, prayed to the Lord anyway.

Elijah sacrificed, witnessed alone (I Kings 18:36-38), 36 "And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench." At the evening sacrifice Elijah, alone, that is, by himself, prayed, "Hear me, O Lord", and the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, as well as the wood, stones, dust, and water.

The Israelites, in the wilderness, praised Abraham and persecuted Moses, because he stood alone. (Exodus 16:2-3), 2 "And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses, and Aaron in the wilderness:

3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

The Israelites of the kings of Moses, and persecuted the prophets, because they stood alone. (1 Kings 19:2), "Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time". (Matt. 5:5), "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth". Happy, delighted, joyous, spiritually correct, and satisfied in God's favor, and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions, are the mild, patient, and long-suffering, for they shall inherit the earth.

The Hebrews of Caiaphas, the high priest, praised the prophets, and persecuted Jesus. (Matt. 26:62), "And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?"

Throughout the history of Christianity the church of Rome, and its popes have praised the Savior, and persecuted the saints. (Read "The Trail of Blood".) Today, the harlot, and her daughters, as well as the world, applaud the courage of the Patriarchs, the prophets, the apostles, the martyrs, but condemn as stubbornness, or foolishness, the faithfulness of us who stand for the true and full word of God. The harlot, and the world say, "Come let us reason together", but what they literally mean is, "Come now, and compromise. Follow the religious, social, and political fashion. Join the crowd, don't be stubborn. Join us, and you will be liked, and not alone." But God says, "Narrow is the gate". Of the lonely way that the followers of Christ should walk, Jesus said this in (Matt. 7:13-14), 13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there

are many who go in by it.

14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult [is] the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." New King James version. Of the followers treatment, by the many who walk the broad way, Jesus said in (John 15:19), "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you".

Take your stand, today with Christ. Be as Paul, stand alone against the world, if need be, and enter the narrow gate, and walk the difficult way, that leads to life eternal.

The question is, Will you stand alone and live, or stand with the world and die? The truth is, if you are willing to stand alone, you will find that you are not alone, because Christ stands with you. But sadly, many do not see this reality, and follow the world and enter the broad gate, and walk the easy way, that leads to death eternal.

Wanted for the service of Christ: Men, and women, young and old, who will obey their convictions of truth, and duty, at the cost of fortune, friends, and life itself.

## THIS IS MY SONG!

*Into the water, now I go*

*In symbol, to the World I show*

*That I have died with Christ, also;*

*This is my song.*

*My sins were placed upon the Tree,*

*When Jesus went to Calvary,*

*His Precious Blood has made me free;*

*To sing my song.*

*I rise up from the watery grave,*

*Since Jesus rose my Soul to save,*

*In newness, now, my life will crave*

*A brand new Song.*

*And so I dedicate my life,*

*Some days in peace and some with strife;*

*But rarely with a drum and fife,*

*Will sing my song.*

*If you, my friend, have made delay,*

*Don't hesitate and further stray.*

*Please come to Jesus, NOW, today,*

*And sing MY SONG!*

*-by C.A. Helmer, Jr.*



## LIFE INSURANCE

(Continued from page 1)

**Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord** (2 Thess. 1:7-9). **"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"** (Luke 13:5). **"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"** (John 3:3). **"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again"** (John 3:7).

### II.

A policy in this company has many provisions which no other policy carries. At the outset, it is a mutual benefit association. Every policy holder is given a joint interest and shares in its profits. **"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ"** (Rom. 8:17).

It provides an unlimited drawing account throughout life. **"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus"** (Phil. 4:19). **"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it"** (John 14:14).

This policy insures you against shipwreck in the River of Death. **"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die"** (John 11:25,26). In his early ministry (1869), B.H. Carroll was holding a revival under a brush arbor, and when half way through one of his sermons he noticed a ramshackle mover's wagon stop in the road, and through a rent in the dirty wagon sheet there looked out a hungry-eyed, emaciated face of poverty and suffering. Brother Carroll was impressed to stop his sermon to the crowd, and going out he preached present and eternal salvation to the dying man. Accepting the Lord Jesus as his Redeemer, he was received into the church. He was so weak that he had to be baptized sitting in a chair. A few days later he was dying. Mr. Carroll, leaned over him, and said, "Brother Bryan, you have come to the river. But in the name of Jesus, I assure you that in the crossing, you'll find no river and no darkness. If God permit you, give us a token that what I say is true." As he nodded his head, he seemed to die. Brother Carroll put his finger on his eye to close it and the man, not yet dead, raised his hand and with jerking words said, "Brother Carroll - no - river - all bright," and died.

"Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar  
When I put out to sea;  
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark.  
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear be far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar."

Further, this policy insures you against loss in the Great Judgment Day Fire. I believe in an old-fashioned Hell of literal fire for unbelievers, for the Bible speaks of those who **"shall be tormented with fire and brimstone...and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever"** (Rev. 14:10, 11). **"And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched. Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, in the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out; it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"** (Mark 9:43-48). However, the believer is safely insured against this day. **"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus"** (Rom. 8:1). **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life"** (John 5:24). **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him"** (John 3:36).

This policy provides an eternal inheritance. **"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away"** (1 Pet. 1:4). **"He that believeth on me hath everlasting life"** (John 6:4).

This policy is irrevocable and non forfeitable. This means that God won't revoke it and man can't forfeit it. It is noncancelable from the standpoint of God and man. **"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"** (Rom. 8:38, 39). **"You who are kept through the power of God through faith unto salvation"** (1 Pet. 1:5). **"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will finish it until the day of Jesus Christ"** (Phil. 1:6). **"And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me"** (Jer. 32:40). **"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand"** (John 10:28,29).

Years ago, at Leicester, England, there was a strike. Property was demolished and homes were ruined in the riot. In one home a lad was playing on the first floor, while his big brother was mending shoes upstairs. Fearing the rioters would break the door down, he stepped to the ladder and called: "Tom, Tom, they are going to smash the door open; make haste and come down." The big brother, a strong, well-built man, put his burly back to the door, while the younger boy went on about his play. Sometimes the Devil comes to this house of mine, and when I fear, lest he take me by force, I rush to the foot of the ascension ladder and cry: "Christ, Christ, make haste and come down: the Devil is about to get me." Like lightning He places Himself at the door of my heart, and there are not enough devils in all Hell to break the door open, when my "Elder Brother" has His back to the door.

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,

Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word;  
What more can he say than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

The premium is paid for Time and Eternity. That which keeps men from carrying insurance in this life is the premium, which must be paid when due. When Jesus said, **"It is finished"** (John 19:30), the premium on this policy was paid forever. What is the premium? **"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your father; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot"** (1 Pet. 1:18,19). **"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed"** (1 Pet. 2:24). **"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit"** (1 Pet. 3:18).

### III.

It is interesting to notice the terms and conditions of this policy. Such a remarkable policy is offered you as a gift. **"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"** (Rom. 6:23). **"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"** (John 3:16).

George F. Pentecost, in spite of the advice of his friends, determined to climb Pike's Peak alone. He was getting along very well when suddenly a snow storm overtook him. Without warning the blinding snow covered him and he began to drift. He had about given himself up to die when he fell to the ground, and his hand fell upon some dry twigs. It came to him that if he could make a fire, he might escape. He felt in

his pocket for matches and found only one. The wind was blowing a terrific gale. He took the match and shielding it in his hand from the snow, he started to strike it, then put it back into his pocket. Finally in his desperation, he got up closer under some rocks and struck the match. Shielding the little flame the best he could he touched it to the dry twigs. The fire was started and his life was saved. There was just one thing between him and death - that was one match. There can be just one thing between you and the judgment and that is the precious blood of Jesus Christ which you must receive as a gift from God.

Furthermore, it must be accepted only as a gift. There is nothing that I can do to merit it. **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast"** (Eph. 2:8,9). **"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us"** (Titus 3:5). **"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness"** (Rom. 4:5).

(Continued on page 8)

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION

Divine election is a doctrine of vital importance that ought to be mentioned often, meditated upon constantly, and preached everywhere...

from "Doctrines of Grace Bulletin"

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JUNE 1, 1997

PAGE SEVEN



## FORUM

(Continued from page 4)

### WHITT

damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." (Rom. 13:1-4).

We see from these verses that not only was capital punishment prescribed in the Old Testament but also it is justified by God's own word in the New Testament. Verse 3 makes a good point in saying: "Wilt thou then not be 'afraid' of the power?" This is one of the major problems in our penal system: Too many criminals are not afraid of being punished. Notice too, verse 4: "for he beareth not the sword in vain." What do you think a sword was designed for? It is a weapon of warfare and for killing. It is not for spanking. To bear the sword by those so authorized, means they are to be prepared to use the sword or in other words, to administer capital punishment when it is called for.

(Continued from page 4)

### LENEGAR

mean NOTHING beside God's Word. God's Word, which is almost no one today, but His children accept, is what important. God says that the state has a duty to preserve law and order and to protect the rights of its citizens. God says that the murderer forfeits his, or her life.

## LIFE INSURANCE

(Continued from page 7)

It must be received by faith. "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" (John 1:12). "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, and thy house" (Acts 16:30,31).

Will you now make application for one of these policies? You must apply to the President. "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ" (1 Tim. 2:5).

Suffer this further word. Make your application immediately. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

"A dear one in Heaven thy heart yearns to see

At the beautiful gate may be watching for thee,

Then list to the note of this solemn refrain

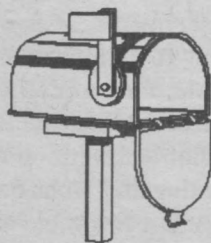
Ye must be born again."

**June 15  
Happy  
Father's  
Day!**

Show Dad  
how much  
you  
appreciate  
him!

## Gone Home

**Mrs. Hazel Hutchinson Croy**, charter member of Calvary Baptist Church, went to be with the Lord on May 1, 1997. She was preceded in death by her husband Elder Owen Croy. She served Calvary Baptist Church many years as a Sunday School teacher, Church clerk, Proofreader for The Baptist Examiner, and as a faithful member. Her life was a wonderful example of the virtuous woman found in Proverbs 31 and a role model for younger women to emulate.



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Please renew my subscription to TBE.

Thank you for publishing a Christian paper that always gives me blessing after blessing as I read its Bible Truths from cover to cover.

L.C.P., Tuscaloosa, AL

Dear Brethren,

The Examiner is a great blessing to me, even tho I don't know any of the writers personally.

This is the main source of reading material that express the beliefs of what I stand for.

L.P., Onia, AK

Dear Brother,

I have not written TBE in years, but I believe the Lord rebuked me for my negligence in writing. I have received TBE for many years and received much blessing from it. I started getting it when Bro. Gilpin was pastor at Russell, KY. I have learned much concerning the great doctrines of the Word of God. My prayer is that if it please the Lord the paper will continue till Jesus comes. Enclosed you will find a check...

B.C., Cairo, GA

## TOUCH NOT THE LORD'S ANOINTED Psalm 105:6-15

### I. What does it mean to "touch" the Lord's anointed?

A. To "touch" the Lord's anointed does not mean "to differ or disagree with" the Lord's anointed (1 Cor. 16:12; Gal. 2:11-14).

B. To "touch" the Lord's anointed does not mean "to doubt, question, find fault with, or verbally criticize" the Lord's anointed (1 Sam. 24:9-13; Acts 17:10-11; 1 Tim. 5:19-20).

C. To "touch" the Lord's anointed means "to commit an act of physical violence against or do bodily harm" to the Lord's anointed (1 Sam. 24:6-7; 26:8-11; 2 Sam. 1:13-16; Ps. 105:10-15).

### II. Who is "the Lord's anointed"?

A. In the Old Testament, priests and kings were the Lord's anointed.

B. In the New Testament, all true, born again Christians are the Lord's anointed (2 Cor. 1:21-22; 1 John 2:20, 27), because all true, born again Christians are priests and kings unto God (1 Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 5:10).

C. Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-5; and 2 Corinthians 11:20 provide us with New Testament examples of what it means to "touch" the Lord's anointed.

"The rise among Baptists of preachers who demand for themselves a position of dictatorship and lordship over the Lord's church, and who defend themselves by crying, "Touch not the Lord's anointed," is a relatively recent development. It is not by any means a distinctively Baptist problem. The same tendency is arising among many denominations. It is the way of the flesh, the way of pride, of desire to dominate, desire to have the preeminence, a desire that goes back at least as far as the infamous Diotrephes, who took control of the church membership roll for himself, as some preachers do today...A small child must have everything his own way and cannot bear to be challenged, contradicted or denied anything he demands. He feels that the world should revolve around him, and that all should cater to his wishes. The dictatorial preacher is no different. His followers must devote themselves entirely to his service, going around on tiptoes for fear of offending him in any way, while he feels free to offend all. Little or no time or effort is left with which to serve Christ after the followers have served the ego and the cravings of their pastor...The preacher who thunders forth with the command, "Touch not the Lord's anointed," intends thereby to silence and shut the mouths of all who might find fault with his doctrines or methods, no matter how unscriptural they may be. He is a man with much to hide, a man who cannot bear to have his deeds and his ways openly examined and compared with what the Word of God teaches."

Pastor Thomas Williamson

-submitted by John R. Kohler, III