

Genuine Christians do not want to go to heaven alone.

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

The Baptist Examiner™

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

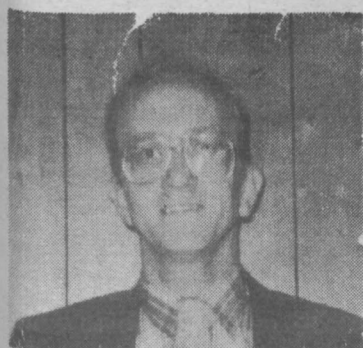
Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries

"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. 8 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, AUGUST 1, 1997 WHOLE NUMBER 2730

LIFE FROM THE LAB

By Robert Barkman, Pastor Landmark Baptist Church
Collinsville, Illinois



body's development "when as yet there was none of them". The human body's development, inside the mother's womb, is gradual and based upon this genetic code. "being yet unperfect...in continuance were fashioned".

Conclusion: What God said in His Word (approximately 2500 years ago) revealed to man the existence of genes and chromosomes which only recently have been proven to exist through scientific methods.

Only God could have known, and then revealed to man, the basis and process involved in the reproduction of human life.

Truly what we have is the Word of God and NOT THE WORD OF MAN.

2. ONLY GOD CAN CREATE HUMAN LIFE.

"And the LORD God formed man (of) the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils

the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen. 2:7).

"The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life." (Job 33:4).

Genesis 2:7 reveals the origin of all human life on earth...God Himself: God took lifeless dust and brought into existence physical life "formed man of the dust of the ground...a living soul". God placed within man his breath which gave man his immortal spirit "And the Lord God...breathed into his nostrils the breath (spirit) of life". The result of the receipt of God's breath was the formation of the human life within man. "and man became a living soul".

Job acknowledged that his physical life was given him based upon God's workings: Job's physical body, the container of his life, was given to him by God,

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Interim Pastor Jack C. Whitt



NOT OF HIM THAT WILLETH

"So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy." (Rom. 9:16). The long-held doctrine of true Baptists has always been that God is sovereign in choosing whom He will unto salvation. While scripture upon scripture bears out this truth, the majority of christendom denies

and rejects, some even despise this doctrine of God's Word. May God bless their hearts for I know there are many of such who are saved and truly love the Lord. But owing largely to their religious upbringing under Armenian teachings, they will not allow themselves to believe what some have described as "the devil's

doctrine." Still, many of such as these have come to know this truth through either self-study of the Bible, or being exposed to preaching or reading sermons by sound Baptist men of God. In fact, I, myself, am such a one that can say, shortly after being saved, (not in a Baptist church by the way), I

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FOLLY OF MORTAL UNBELIEF

By Ray Waugh, Sr.
PART 2

Heaven

Since dying, Stephen had seen Jesus at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven, we can know that the Apostle Paul was not referencing some "way station" or some "holding place" or some sort of a "Churches of Christ Purgatory" or anyone else's "Purgatory." Specifically, we can know that the Apostle Paul certainly was not referencing anything such as a "Roman Catholic Purgatory."

We can know, too, that the Apostle Paul was not making any suggestion that those who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, those who are the redeemed of the Lord will be further judged regarding their eternal destiny at some point in eternity. Instead, if this spokesman for the so-called "Churches of Christ" and those who speak for the other so-called "Churches" had any confidence whatever in the Holy Infallible Word of God, and if they had any confidence that the Apostle Paul spoke as one who was "moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21), they would be finding both the reason and the opportunity to rejoice.

That is, they would be rejoicing with the Apostle Paul that the redeemed mother referenced above was at the very moment of her death in the very presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Too, they never would pen anything such as, "...the spirit doesn't go directly



into heaven, if by 'Heaven' one means the eternal dwelling place of God." On the contrary, if this spokesman of the so-called "Churches of Christ" and those of the other so-called "Churches" who think in a similar manner could simply understand what Stephen knew and what the Apostle Paul wrote, they would have known that the redeemed mother was at the moment of her death in "the eternal dwelling place of God"!

Comprehension

Further, this spokesman for the so-called "Churches of Christ" and that multitude of other religious leaders of all of the other so-called "Churches" would be able to comprehend by means of another word of the Apostle Paul that except for "the judgment for rewards" (see Romans 14:10) all judgment — every detail of judgment for those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ — for the redeemed took place on Calvary's cross when Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). We can know, then that for those who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, all judgment with respect to eternal destiny is forever past.

They would realize that when Jesus died on Calvary's cross and cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30) that of which Peter has spoken has been forever accomplished. Truly, they would have come to the understanding of those glorious and everlasting words that when Jesus died on Calvary's cross, He "bore our sins in His body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24).

Rather than continuing on in their unscriptural darkness and their piteous spiritual ignorance, this famed spokesman for the so-called "Churches of Christ" and all other religious leaders of other so-called "Churches" would be rejoicing with this most unworthy

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"For thou hast possessed my reins; thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully [and] wonderfully made: marvellous [are] thy works; and [that] my soul knoweth right well." (Psalms 139:13-14).

The reproduction of human life is one of the great displays of God's power, wisdom and glory. We all should marvel at His miracle of reproduction.

In the light of the recent attempts made by scientists, to reproduce human and animal life (especially through cloning), there are at least four Scriptural truths we must be reminded of...

1. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD, AND THEREFORE, WITHOUT ERROR.

"Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all (my members) were written, (which) in continuance were fashioned, when (as yet there was) none of them." (Psalms 139:16).

Psalms 139:16 speaks of the genetic structure which controls the formation of the physical body of man.

Long before the invention of microscopes the Bible said: The formation of the human body was based upon a code which was written "in thy book all my members were written...". This code was written prior to the

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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Office Phone 606-325-2012

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

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

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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)

regularly attended preaching services at what I believed and was told, was a pretty good church. I believe it was by God's providence that during one Sunday school class, I was asked to give my opinion on the verse, (Eph. 1:13) which says: "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise." When I responded by saying, salvation is guaranteed, never to be lost, because the Holy Spirit has set His seal upon it, the pastor

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AUGUST 1, 1997

PAGE TWO

Editor's Update

By Interim Pastor Jack C. Whitt

Hello friends! Its hard to believe, but sure enough, this is our August issue of TBE. Time is passing so fast it seems, and yet it is still moving at the same speed it always has since time began. I suppose, as we get older, time just seems like it picks up in velocity. Thinking on the subject of getting older, I read a small caption which said: "Just when we think we've got it all together, we forgot where we put it." I guess there's some truth to that. Well, we should be thankful to God for His mercy and goodness to us, no matter what age we are.

As I now write, we are looking forward to a special meeting planned for July 20 thru July 23. Bro. Don Chance and his wife, Pearl, will be our guests during this time as Bro. Chance will be preaching for us here at CBC.

We wish to again thank so many of our reader friends who have encouraged us through their letters and given financial donation toward the cost of publishing our paper.

CBC is doing pretty well, I suppose like most other churches, our attendance has been up and down during this peak vacation time. As a matter of fact, my wife and I plan a week of vaction to one of our old haunts down along the sea coast at Holden Beach, N.C.

We encourage our readers to help us find new readers and new subscribers. Maybe you could give or loan the paper to some family member or neighbor. TBE is a good way to spread the truth of God's Word and perhaps lead someone to know Christ as Savior.

I believe we have a good collection of articles and other items of interest to our readers again this time. The article Robert Barkman is of special interest and timely in the wave of current news about man's experimentation with development of "Life from the lab."

Again, we encourage you to write us. Let us know what you think about our paper. We desire your prayers for the work here at CBC and the ministry of publishing a Christian paper that tries to honor our God and help our fellow man. Until next time, be good and God bless.

immediately rebuked my remarks and said: "we don't teach that kind of stuff in this church." I believe to this day, it was the providence of God in allowing this incident to occur. Along with my wife, we left this church never to be associated in services there again. We regretted the hard-feelings it caused with some. I believe there were saved folks among this congregation, some were family to my wife. I can say I hold no ill will toward any of those folks today, (even the pastor). I believe they are wrong on some important things of the Bible that I hold dear and cannot compromise. I wish they could see the truth more clearly, but I must leave it in God's hands.

The Armenian belief, for the most part, will not accept that man neither will, nor can; chose to be saved. The obvious reason is that human nature is depraved, (another unpopular word to the Armenian). The human heart, not as literal, but nearly in all biblical usage, means the seat of our

affections or innermost being), must be over-powered by the Holy Spirit of God. In salvation, it is the Holy Spirit that forces itself into the human heart, or our affections, breaking down the natural resistance to spiritual enlightenment. The well-known writer, Arthur W. Pink writes: "The heart of man is his worst part before it be regenerate, and his best part afterwards: it is the seat of principles and the source of actions. The eye of God is, and the eye of the Christian ought to be, principally fixed upon it. The great difficulty in conversion is to win the heart to God, and at the great difficulty after conversion is to keep the heart with God."

There is also the Armenian misconception of the verse, (Rev. 22:17): "And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." I again, would bring our attention to another writer and expounder to the Word of God, R.B. Kuiper. He makes reference to the "whosoever gospel" and says: "Time and time again

A CRUEL AND NARROW DOCTRINE!

Is HELL a cruel and narrow doctrine to preach about? Many people think so. Before his decease, many years ago, Brother John R. Gilpin, preached a message simply entitled, "HELL". (We have that same message, among many others he preached preserved on cassette tape.) In his introduction, he mentioned that often some people said he was "cruel and narrow" in preaching about a literal hell. His reply to such criticism was as he stated: "To the contrary, I would be cruel and narrow in not letting the unsaved know where they would spend eternity." He added his narrowness was only as narrow as the Bible. It was his belief that since the Bible had much to say on the subject of hell, it was his place, as a preacher of God's Word, to preach the full counsel of God, including the subject of hell. Bro. Gilpin's text for the message was taken from (Matthew 5:29) which says: "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

Both heaven and hell are real places according to God's Word. Every living soul will occupy one or the other. To say that the doctrine of hell is "cruel and narrow" is to say God is cruel and narrow.

The message of HELL by Bro. John R. Gilpin may be purchased for the cost of \$6.00. We will also include a second sermon by Bro. Gilpin on side 2 of the tape. Make check or money order payable to: The Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 60, Ashland, Ky 41105-0060.

scripture says that whosoever believes in Christ will be saved, and it hardly needs to be said that human will participates in the act of faith. "And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely". However, let not the bearer of the gospel forget that the world of unregenerate men is one of universal 'won't.' To declare to such a world that whosoever will may lay hold on eternal life, and then to depend on men to respond, is as futile as to proclaim to serried ranks of the dead in a cemetery that whosoever will may arise. Conceived and born as he is in sin (Ps. 51:5), the mind of the natural man is enmity against God, 'for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (Rom. 8:7)." (Jesus himself said to His enemies,) "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (John 5:40). Again, reading from our text: "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy." God is surely a merciful God and it is true that he will save the "whosoever will." These of the whosoever will are the ones He knew and had already chosen by His electing grace before the foundation of the world. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of

the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved." (Eph. 1:4-6). The preacher's place is to preach the Gospel to "the whosoever" no matter "whosoever" they be or wheresoever they be. If they are to be saved, God will save them in His own way and in His own time if it be His will to do so. I will admit that in preaching to the lost, I do so with a sense of urgency because I want them to be saved and go to heaven, not hell! And yet I know too, that no amount of begging or pleading on my part can save anyone. In fact, I wonder just how many professed Christians are living today, whether in or out of church, have come forward through the begging, tugging or even dragging folks from a pew, eliciting a profession of faith in Christ yet without the call of the Holy Spirit? "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy." 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

A Father's Perspective (Gen. 35:16-29)

In our last study, recall that Jacob and his family were instructed by God to travel to Bethel to avoid any acts of revenge from the Canaanites neighboring the family of Shechem. In this passage, several events involving Jacob's family following their worship at Bethel are described. This chapter concludes the portion of Genesis that primarily focuses on God's interaction with Jacob.

"And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath; and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labor. And came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. And it came to pass, as her soul was departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin" (v. 16-18).

If we recall from the description of the birth of Rachel's first son, Joseph, in Genesis 30:22-24, Rachel expressed her desire for a second son, **"The Lord shall add to me another son."** Just as there were many years of apparent silence prior to the birth of Joseph, Rachel had several more years of waiting before the arrival of her second son. It should be noted that this followed the removal of idols from their camp and their worship of God at Bethel. Rachel names her new son Benoni, meaning "son of my sorrow" or "son of my trouble". There was indeed a high cost associated with Rachel having her desire fulfilled: it required her life. In this time mixed with joy and sorrow, Jacob elevates the name of his new son to Benjamin, meaning "son of my right hand" or "son of honor."

"And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day" (v. 19-20). Jacob establishes a memorial to his

beloved wife near what would eventually become the city of Bethlehem, the birthplace of both King David and our Savior Jesus Christ.

"And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar" (v.21). While in this land, Reuben, the first born of Jacob and the son of Leah, brought dishonor to his father by his behavior toward Bilhah, who had been Rachel's handmaid. Rachel, while she was barren, had previously offered Bilhah to Jacob to provide him with sons that she could claim as her own (see Gen. 30). Thus, in verse 22 Bilhah is called Jacob's "concubine", indicating her status as a secondary wife. There is no description of Jacob's immediate response to Reuben's action. Years later, however, at the time of blessing when Jacob is on his deathbed, Reuben will be told that he and his offspring shall not hold the firstborn's position of honor, leadership, and excellence because of his lack of self-control (see Gen. 49:3-4). This should remind us that the apparent lack of immediate consequences does not eliminate their future appearance nor does it release us from personally accountability.

With the addition of Benjamin, the sons of Jacob are presented according to their respective mothers: **"The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun: the sons of Rachel; Joseph and Benjamin: and the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphthali; And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; Gad and Asher..."** (v.23-26). Similar statements of genealogy are found throughout Genesis as the historical focus prepares to shift from one generation of promise to the next.

Jacob and his family continues their journey southward. **"And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of**

Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned. And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years. And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him" (v. 27-29). Although it had seemed that Isaac was near death so many years earlier when Jacob had left home, Isaac lived through these years and was present for Jacob's return. **What's in a Name?**

A number of significant events are presented in this somewhat brief passage. There is the birth of Benjamin, Jacob's twelfth son and Rachel's second, combined with the death of Rachel. There is also mentioned a single act by Reuben which will cost him the blessing associated with his position as the first born son. Thus, his actions had consequences which even limited the role of the future generations from Reuben's line. Lastly, after many years of separation, Jacob finally returns to his father's home and is present at Isaac's death.

Let us direct our attention toward the event of Benjamin's birth that we might learn about perspective. We are told that in the delivery of her second son, Rachel had to endure a painfully severe labor process, one that would ultimately take her life. Her midwife could rejoice in the delivery of a healthy son. Rachel in her final moments could only name him Benoni, the son of sorrow. The sorrow Rachel refers to may have extended beyond her labor and included the years of her barrenness. In Jacob's tension-filled household of wives and concubines, Rachel may have been viewed as being out of God's favor, since even the secondary wives had each given Jacob two sons prior to the birth of Joseph, Rachel's first son. In the birth of Benjamin, Rachel's heart only knew the sadness of the event. Jacob was beyond the tragedy of losing his precious wife and

changed the name of his new son to the son of his right hand. Imagine how the outlook of Benjamin was changed by wearing the name given to him by his father, for while he was brought forth in sorrow, he was raised to honor!

In a similar manner, but of far greater importance, are the names that we personally call Jesus. Even as He walked the earth, there were those around Him calling him Good Master and Rabbi. Through the ages, an unbelieving world has called Him a good man or a good teacher, as if such confessions would be of any benefit. As men of the Word have explained before, Jesus presented Himself as part of the Godhead; therefore, for someone to deny His deity, yet label Him as a wise teacher or prophet is foolishness. It is best to call Him according to that which was revealed by his Heavenly Father to Simon Peter: **"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God"** (Matt. 16:16-17).

Another illustration using the names of Benjamin can also be seen. Before Christ Jesus stepped out of eternity and into time, the perspective of the prophet Isaiah included the description of our Savior as a Man of Sorrows, following His obedience as a servant to His Father's will, He is seen as the exalted Son at the Father's right hand (Isa. 52:13-53:12; Mark 16:19; Acts 2:29-36, 7:54-55; Heb. 1:2-4, 12:2).

Finally, we need to know what the Father calls us, as believers. Born into a fallen world, we could be called children of pain, sorrow, or suffering. Born with a fallen nature, we were called children of wrath, disobedience, and darkness. But now, being found in Christ, we are called the children of light, for through our position in Christ we are already seated with Him in the heavenly places. Oh, that his truth would saturate our understanding, so that every moment we would walk as the Son of His right hand.

SLIM GEMS

- Constant use will wear away anything - especially friends.

- The best way to tell a woman's age is in a low whisper.

- God is not only a present help in time of trouble, but a great help in keeping us out of trouble.

- The person who knows everything has a lot to learn.

- A prominent physician says kissing will be a thing of the past in fifty years. How right he is..for most of us.

- The warmth of a home is not necessarily determined by its heating system.

- If the going gets easier, you aren't climbing.

A Christian is a line through which

*Jesus Christ thinks...
a heart through which
Jesus Christ speaks...
and a hand through
which Jesus Christ
heals.*

-George Muller



The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

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



Is there such a thing as spiritual emotions properly displayed at a church service?

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unnecessary sounds and activity should be kept at a minimum so as not to disrupt the serious and important presentation of the Word. God's men should, however, say Amen when something is said to cause rejoicing, but not as to disrupt or interfere with the teaching of the Word.

I'm sure this question is referring to those who during gospel singing or certain religious organizations raise the arms, shout and carry on. These are done either as a show of the flesh or in a deep emotional state brought on by the flesh, and most generally disrupt the service to the point that no one can get the good of the message. The Bible says, **"Let all things be done decently and in order."** (1 Cor. 14:40). We are also given specific orders concerning the presentation of God's Word. **"So they read in the book of the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."** (Neh. 8:8).

The Bible tells us that the people said, **"...Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground."** (Neh. 8:6). The Bible tells us that we should respond with "Amen" occasionally. **"Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest."** (1 Cor. 14:16). John said in response to the Lord's announcement that He was coming again **"Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."** (Rev. 22:20).

If things must be done decently and in order and the Bible must be taught distinctly in such a way that the people can get the sense and understand, then all

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Spiritual emotions are feelings that arise from one's particular personality in connection with what a person may hear, see, or feel. I'm not sure that you can properly display an emotion since an emotion by its very nature is spontaneous. Not everyone has the same emotional make-up. Some are very sensitive while others do not show much outward feelings at all. Spiritual emotions are O.K. We should expect that the Word of God, the salvation of souls, and the fellowship of God's people would cause us to rejoice and show some emotion. That is far better than sitting in a church that is cold and dead. If you weep or say amen in the church, there is nothing wrong with that. You should however, be genuine in expressing emotions. It is vain to make "a fair show of the flesh!" Some people just get themselves all worked up and it is not really the Holy Spirit producing the emotion.

We must also show consideration for our fellow worshipers. We certainly should not do anything that would distract the pastor in his preaching or fellow church members from hearing the message.

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"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with jewels." (Isa. 61:10).

It would appear today that many people and groups in Christian ranks emphasize emotion and feeling, often to the exclusion of Bible doctrine and proclamation. In some large assemblies of varying types and denominations,

emotion seems to take precedence and becomes the standard looked for in all religious experiences.

Some of the types of emotional displays are within reason; some are totally questionable. Certainly the "speaking in tongues" has been with us long enough that most Christians know its sound and format. Men on TV in the charismatic programs often "speaking in tongues" on national TV. A person told me some time ago, that they did not have preaching on a particular Sunday, but had service of "shouting" and there was no time for preaching. Falling on the floor and rolling about, holy spasms, and general boisterous praying and "prophecy" are often the rule.

I am sure by now most Christians in touch with the present happenings among "Christian" groups have heard about, or seen "holy laughter". I have seen it on two occasions. Uncontrollable laughter, tears, and supposed joy. We all need to laugh. It is good

medicine, but not in this context. 1 Corinthians 14:40 says, **"Let all things be done decently and in order."**

What kind of emotion should a Christian display? Certainly not anything that is for the purpose of calling attention to themselves on purpose. I have experienced often times joy that has caused tears to fall. Sometimes the joy of God and what He has done for us wells up in us and tears of joy flow. I have been happy and exclaimed: "Bless the Lord", "Amen". Tears and physical expressions of love such as hugging and a mutual "bless you" are certainly acceptable. The service must not, however, be disturbed, or interrupted. Any of these emotions mentioned when displayed in an unfeigned way and without ulterior motives are true expressions of Christian love and emotion. We need to tell, and express our love for one another. **"Rejoice in the LORD always: and again I say: Rejoice."**

EVERY MAN'S EPITAPH

"...For what is your life?..." This question is asked by James in chapter 4 and verse 14. The following is given by the materialistic mind: Here lies the body of Every Man who dies on any day in any month of an year, B.C. or A.D.

Aged three score years and ten. During his sojourn on this earth, what follows is to be recorded of him:

He ate 150 prime head of cattle, 225 lambs, 26 sheep, 210 swine, 2400 chickens, 26 acres of wheat, 50 acres of sundry fruits of field.

He drank of sundry drinks sufficient to make a great lake.

And in warming himself and preparing his food, he used substance of 150 great trees.

Moreover, there is this further to be recorded of him:

He slept 25 years.

The remainder of the days of his pilgrimage were apportioned as follows:

He spent three years and six months in eating and drinking.

Three years in dressing and undressing.

Two years and six months in going to and from work.

Three years and nine months in study.

Ten years and three months in amusing himself.

The remaining 22 years of his life he worked, thereby earning the wherewithal to do all the above things. Finally, he died.

After reviewing this answer by this materialistic minded person it seems that life is vain and empty. Paul gave the real meaning of life in Philippians 1:21 when he said, **"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."**

-Copied.

WHY I AM NOT A LANDMARK BAPTIST

By Doctor Compromisus Eccumenicus Jr.
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Any City, U.S.A.

Many of my Baptist pastor friends absolutely abhor the principles known as Old Landmarkism. They are not Landmarkers simply because our state and regional association has ridiculed and vilified all those pastors, past and present, who would dare insist that such extreme and ultra-conservative views be declared in the pulpits of our fine and fancy buildings. But I am not one to jump on the bandwagon of popular sentiment. My reasons extend beyond the denominational machinery. I will offer to the reader seven reasons why I am not a Landmark Baptist.

Number one: I am too busy with all my local, state, and national Baptist committees, programs, and politics to take the time to study the New Testament doctrine of ecclesiology. Why should I spend all my valuable time searching and researching the scriptures when men more learned than myself have claimed that they have already done this? These learned and eminent men of our denomination have concluded that Baptist beliefs and practices did not truly exist until the late days of the reformation period. Baptists are Protestants so they tell us. With all the demands on my time, why should I make an effort to gather historical data that might concur with the teaching of the Savior, **"the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church."** If I meditated on this truth too much, I would have to accept the doctrine of church perpetuity. I would have to tell my congregation that New Testament churches have been here since the days of Christ Himself. I would be forced to describe what kind of church in doctrine and practice existed during the days of the Apostles. If I insisted that this kind of church was Baptist or even Baptistic, I would offend Sister Smith. Her mother is a Pentecostal and a very dedicated Christian. Besides, Sister Smith's husband is a lawyer and a prominent citizen in our city. They contribute several thousands of dollars a year to this church.

Number two: I am not a Landmark Baptist because I will not accept the premise that Christ established His church and gave to this institution an age abiding commission. I would have to stop using the precooked sermonettes which cost me over \$125 a year

per subscription and start telling my congregation what is included in this commission. I would be obligated to expound the points of this commission. Do you realize how much of my week would be expended in studying? Six weeks a year paid vacation, weekly golf outings and a host of recreational activities would never become a reality.

Number three: If I was a Landmark Baptist, I would be obligated to identify the Roman Catholic system as false, apostate, and heretical. I would be forced to the conclusion that Roman Catholic Churches are false churches. The kind of church which qualifies as a New Testament church cannot be found in the Roman Catholic system. We are now working with a Catholic diocese in an effort to help the victims in a war-ravaged country. Do you realize what sort of impact this radical church view would have on our efforts to work together for a common good?

Number four: If I was a Landmark Baptist, I would have to believe that all God-given authority to do the work of Christ was to be directed through the local church. Look at all the mission work which does not submit to any church? What about all these evangelistic organizations which pay freelance workers to do the work for Jesus? There is something higher than the local church. I do not know exactly what it is, but, all of my hero pastors believe that there is something greater than the local church. There is no way that all these great and useful servants can possibly be mistaken.

Number five: I am not a Landmark Baptist because I know that I would be lonely and have a very restricted and limited ministry. I was talking to one of my pastor friends not long ago. He told me that he used to be a full-fledged Landmark Baptist. But people don't want to hear such things anymore. To save his ministry and popularity, he simply stopped insisting on Landmark views of the church.

Number six: I am not a Landmark Baptist because I would have to recognize that the baptism of John the Baptist was valid Christian baptism. Otis Fuller wrote a book containing articles and facts about Charles

Spurgeon. A strict Particular Baptist pastor in England wanted to challenge a statement made by Spurgeon regarding the baptism of John. Spurgeon insisted that the baptism of John could not have been Christian baptism. The pastor challenged Spurgeon with this statement. "John's baptism was good enough for Jesus. John's baptism was good enough for the Apostles but John's baptism is not good enough for Mr. Spurgeon." Obviously Spurgeon did not want to pursue the dialogue any further and conceded to the logic of the pastor. There are only four men in our state association who believe that John's message and John's baptism were distinctively Christian. The other pastors make jokes about these four brethren. If I became a Landmark Baptist, that would make five pastors who would be on the butt-end of ridicule. Thanks but not thanks. I would rather prefer to ignore such issues as John's baptism. After all, these things are not necessary to the salvation of the souls of men. I pray that my conscience will not often remind me what the Apostle said when he stated, **"I have not shunned to declare unto you the whole counsel of God."**

Number seven: I am not a Landmark Baptist because I believe that the universal invisible church is much greater and so much more prominent than any local church. As I understand the views of the Landmarkers, they as a whole, disavow the existence of a universal church. They refer to ecclesiastical words like house, household, temple, bride, assembly, vineyard and a host of word found in the New Testament. Landmarkers insist that the idea of locality, never universality is embodied in these synonyms. I was present one time when a Landmarker was addressing the National Convention. He asked, "Have you ever heard of a universal invisible building. Who has ever seen an invisible vineyard?" I must admit that the force of such reasoning momentarily threw me into a mental spin. But I asked a prominent brother about this use of logic and scripture which we both had witnessed at the National Convention. He cleared up the issue in quick fashion. "Now you

can readily see the extremes to which Landmarkers will go to prove their point. They are even daring enough to refer to ecclesiastical synonyms used in the New Testament in an effort to debunk our precious universal church doctrine."

Well dear reader, we hope these few minutes we have spent together this day have helped you to understand how tactily simplistic and narrow the entire Landmark view really is. Some think that the Savior was too narrow when He stated, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. And no man comes to the Father but by Me."** Some think that Paul was too narrow when he stated, **"If any man preach any other gospel than that which I have preached unto you, let him be accursed."** Some think that the Landmarkers are too narrow because they insist that there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. What do you think, my dear reader?

Author's name withheld by his request, but is available upon request.

THE LUNGS

By C.H. Spurgeon

"Some graces, like the lungs, are always in use."

"Pray without ceasing;" "be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long;" and such like exhortations appertain to continuous duties. Thus David says, "I have set the Lord always before my;" he was always living in the presence of God. Other parts of the human frame are exercised occasionally, but the lungs are always at work, and, even so, certain of the graces are in active motion in their appointed seasons, but faith never ceases to believe in the Lord Jesus, for it is essential to spiritual vitality. Hence we ought never to go where we shall be out of the atmosphere of heaven. Lungs must have air, and cannot endure a dense smoke or a poisonous gas; nor can faith bear error, false doctrine, and evil conversation. Since we always need the pure air of heaven, let us not go where it cannot be found. Who in His senses would desire to have been in the Black Hole of Calcutta? Who wishes to dwell where drunkenness and loose living abound? How can faith breathe in such a suffocating atmosphere?

Lord, keep thou my faith alive, that it may keep me alive, and that I may live to thee.

Only trust
HIM!

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
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Heavenly
Father,
be our guest,
Our morning joy,
our evening rest;
And with our
daily bread
impart
Thy love and
peace to every
heart.
Amen.
-copied

LIFE FROM THE

(Continued from page 1)

through the use of the God-controlled, human reproduction process. **"The Spirit of God hath made me..."**.

Life is not created anew but is simply passed on and sustained. The Lord is the One that originally gave mankind life. He is also the One that is controlling the reproduction of human life.

Conclusion: From creation throughout the ages, the physical life possessed by human beings is simply passed down through the reproduction process. During conception, two living cells unite to form the beginnings of an individual in possession of human life. Both the female and male reproductive cells must possess life for conception and physical life to be passed on.

Genetic engineers MUST USE CELLS THAT POSSESS LIFE in their experiments. Why? because man has not come close to PRODUCING life. They can only replicate the reproduction process through which life is passed down. Cloning, invetro fertilization, artificial insemination, etc. are procedures that bring about the continuance of life...they in no way create life from lifeless materials.

3. WE ARE LIVING IN TROUBLESOME TIMES.

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, (even) to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:4).

"And the LORD said, Behold, the people (is) one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth." (Gen. 11:6,9).

Daniel 12:4 is describing the condition of the world in the days preceding Christ's second coming: Contextually, Daniel is speaking, especially, of the truths of God's Word being proclaimed to all the world **"knowledge shall be increased"**. How is this to be

done? By God's people who would "run to and fro" taking His word to the world. However, it is possible that the phrase "knowledge shall be increased" may also be describing the increase of "knowledge" in general. Also this verse may be referring to the great strides in transportation and communication **"run to and fro"** that will take place in the latter days.

Genesis 11:4,6,9 is describing the condition of the world before the Tower of Babel judgment placed upon man from the Lord: Man's tremendous unity and knowledge and ability are clearly presented in the phrase **"this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."** God's limiting of their great ability, through judgment, is equally evident **"the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."**

Conclusion: Without doubt, in this age, man has made great strides in knowledge (electronics, medicine, philosophy, etc.) as well as transportation and communication. These advances are multiplying at faster and faster rates.

As these increase, it becomes more clear that His intervention is impending. Either: He will intervene through judgment and slow our great increase in knowledge and ability. Or else He will come again and put an end to the sinful use of man's increasing knowledge and abilities.

4. MAN'S SINFUL, REBELLIOUS CONDITION.

"But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, we will not have this (man) to reign over us. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay (them) before me." (Luke 19:14,27).

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, (saying), Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet

have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion." (Psalms 2:1-6).

We are fallen creatures who naturally desire to usurp God's authority over us. We want to be in control of our own destiny.

Luke 19:14, 27 is speaking of those under God's authority who refuse to be controlled by Him: Those in rebellion to God's rule are pictured as rebellious citizens unwilling to abide under the rule of their king. **"But his citizens...saying, We will not have this [man] to reign over us."** These unruly citizens are described as "enemies" who "hated" the One ruling over them. The results of their sinfulness: **"slay them before me"**.

Psalms 2:1-3 speaks again, of mankind and their defiance against God's rule: The lost's attitudes are described as: "rage"; **"imagining a vain (worthless) thing"; "setting themselves... against the Lord and His anointed"; "take counsel together... against the Lord and His anointed"**. All of these phrases are indicative of great hatred and antagonism a lost man feels toward a Sovereign God. What is their desire, freedom from His Sovereign Rule: **"let us break their bands asunder", "and cast away their cords from us"**. His rule is pictured here as if it is binding the lost and inhibiting them from doing what they desire. What is a lost person's desire? To follow the dictates of their flesh, sin and the world by going in opposition to the desires of God. The Lord's complete, continued domination of the lost is revealed by: **"He that sitteth in the heavens"** - He continues to hold the place of ruler ship. **"shall laugh"** - He's not worried, nor is He threatened, FOR CERTAIN HE WILL OVERCOME THE OPPOSITION OF SINFUL MAN! In that sense, man's rebellion is just a joke to the Lord. **"Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion."** - He continues to reign as He sets His son in authority over all. The Lord's judgment is declared by: **"shall have them in derision"; "speak unto them in his wrath"; "and vex them in his sore displeasure"**. Eventually, He will judge those who rebel against Him and they will be consigned to a place of everlasting torment. THE LORD HAS, DOES AND WILL CONTINUE TO REIGN OVER ALL, in spite of the best efforts of man.

Conclusion: Man's intervention

in the things that only God controls, many times, is an act of rebellion and the desire to control his own destiny.

Cloning is, an ungodly act, that attempts to circumvent the reproductive plan of God. Cloning bypasses the combining of two different bundles of genetic material (found in the reproductive cells of the male and female) by placing one full set of genetic material within an emptied egg casing. This is a very invasive procedure. It is trying to replace the Lord's control with man's control in two different ways:

First, cloning attempts to propagate life through the use of genetic material found in one single cell. That genetic material is then placed within an emptied egg casing. This procedure bypasses the union of the sperm and egg, thereby propagating life through grotesque means. In this way, cloning differs from invetro-fertilization which relies on the normal materials of conception (one female cell with one male cell). I. V. fertilization seeks to control what the Lord normally would control (the union of the male and female reproductive cells), however, once the cells are harvested from their prospective bearers, it does not manipulate the contents of the cells.

Also, cloning is more invasive in that it seeks to control the genetic contents of the developing cell which will dictate the development of the fetus. Much like gene splicing, cloning is a procedure which actually seeks to change the genetic contents of a cell and, thereby manipulating the being which will develop from this cell.

All of these procedures are attempts by man to take upon himself what God has controlled throughout the ages. All of these involve interference, if not substitution, of the ways and manners of God.

All of these clearly reveal to us man's desire to take upon himself the attributes, and responsibilities that only belong to God Himself. This sounds all too familiar doesn't it?

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree (was) good for food, and that it (was) pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be

desired to make (one) wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." (Genesis 3:4-6).

ANYTIME THAT MAN TRIES TO INTERFERE WITH THE THINGS OF GOD ONLY TROUBLE RESULTS, ... how long will we continue on this path; when will we learn our lesson and keep our hands out of God's business.



WHAT MARRIAGE TAKES

It takes a lot of love
To make a marriage
great.

It takes the love of
God
To be a winsome
mate.

It takes a lot of love
To avoid marriage
strife.
It takes a God-filled
man
To love and praise
his wife.

It takes a lot of love
To make a marriage
stand.
It takes a Christ-like
wife
To love and lift her
man.

It takes God's love
and ours
To make a
marriage,
heaven-
Love that gives and
forgives
Seventy times
seven!

-Perry Tanksley

FOLLY OF...

(Continued from page 1)

Baptist. They would be rejoicing as I have for more than fifty years that for the redeemed, **"There is therefore, now, no condemnation — [absolutely no FUTURE JUDGMENT] — to them who are in Christ Jesus"** (Romans 8:1).

It is no marvel, then, that the Apostle Paul in one place, at a time when he was experiencing sadness and perhaps loss beyond that which most of us ever will know, was able to proclaim, **"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all things [circumstances]; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"** (1 Thess. 5:16-18). How very, very necessary are the truths of these words for all of us as we ponder the Holy Infallible Word of our God, and as we are permitted to deal with the crises that must come our way as we move upon this mortal plain.

Job spoke with great wisdom when he was able to declare, **"Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not"** (Job 14:1-2). It is quite obvious that this spokesman of the so-called "Churches of Christ" and all others those other of the so-called "Churches" who are thinking in this manner have failed to understand a lot of the Word of God. Even Job — in that distant day — was able to proclaim without question, **"And though after my skin worms destroy this body; yet in my flesh I shall see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another..."** (Job 19:26-27).

Paradise

It is rather evident that this man who professes to speak for millions of the so-called "Churches of Christ" members and that other host of religious leaders who join in speaking for millions of members in the other so-called "Churches" have rejected the teaching of the Precious and Holy Infallible Word of God. It is obvious that they have not accepted the plain teaching of the Word of God that the **"Paradise"** (Luke 23:43) spoken of in "Old Testament Times" as being in Hades — the unseen state — to which Jesus and the redeemed thief went immediately after their deaths [a

place that our Lord Himself at one time call **"Abraham's bosom"** (Luke 16:22)] no longer exists. This is the message that the Apostle Paul gives us several times.

This man and those of a similar mind appear to be unbelieving members of their so-called "Churches," though they may be held forth as scholars, Biblical spokesmen, and as the teachers and the instructors of millions. If they would but read with a measure of understanding and then believe the further word in Ephesians 4:7-8, they would be rejoicing in the Scriptural truth, **"But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."**

Faith

Then, instead of deceiving the millions — some of whom may actually "hang on their every word" as though they were speaking Scriptural truth — with their unbelief, they would call upon all with whom they communicate to place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the gospel of His death, His burial, and His resurrection. If this man and those millions of others who think as he could ever come to the place in their understanding where he can believe that salvation is **"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), they would forever cease to call upon these who listen to them to "be baptized and be saved."

If this spokesman of the so-called "Churches of Christ" and if those leaders of all of the other so-called "Churches" ever come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and to a believing confidence in the Holy Infallible Word of God, they will be ready to declare with me and with Jesus, **"He who believeth on the Son has everlasting life..."** (John 3:36). Then, they will be ready to join me in accepting at face value the words of John, **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God"** (1 John 4:1-2).

Redemption

As redeemed men of God through their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ — rather than as those whose faith and whose confidence has been and apparently still is in the waters of baptism — they will be able to stand forth in all of their communications with the truth of the Word of God. Then, they will be able boldly and unashamedly to declare with the Apostle Paul and with me, **"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"** (Rom. 1:16) — not as they now teach that the water of "baptism" is essential for salvation.

As those who are redeemed, they will be able, also, to say with Peter, **"Behold I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded"** (1 Peter 2:6). Without such faith, however, they must continue on in their confusing and in their confounding of those multitudes who are in attendance at their preaching.

Precious

If this famed commentator for the so-called "Churches of Christ" and those other famed leaders of the other so-called "Churches" ever come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, they will be able to declare before one and before all, **"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"** (1 Peter 1:18-19). When they come to this realization, they will be able then to know that we are not saved by water or by means of the "Baptismal Font".

Resultantly, after this famed one and all of these other lost ones have come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and have some understanding of the Word of God, they will be able to proclaim before all who hear them and before all who see them that as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, the redeemed are eternally saved. Even more, they will be able to assure all of us who are redeemed — even while we are experiencing our mortality — that the very moment we close our eyes in death here upon the earth, we shall open them in heaven in the very presence of the Resurrected and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ "in the eternal

dwelling place of God."

Victorious

In our humanity, we may sometimes continue to indulge in unbelief and in unscriptural folly. We can know further, however, that once we have come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we are able to believe the truth of the Word of God, we can know that we are on our way to that glory land where folly will be put behind us forever.

Members of the so-called

"Churches of Christ" and members of other so-called "Churches," even as members of some so-called "Baptist Churches," may often walk for a time in darkness and in unscriptural ignorance. Thankfully, however, once we are ready to read and ready to rejoice in and to believe the Holy Infallible Word of God, the Holy Spirit of God can then bring us back to a right and a victorious walk with the Lord Jesus Christ both in time and forever.

Good News

HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR GOOD NEWS?

In a world that has little good news to offer, may I recommend the good news of the Gospel. What is the Gospel?

1. The English, "gospel" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "god spell" which meant "good tidings" and later the "story of God."
2. The Gospel is a love story. A story of Jesus and His love. The love He had for His Father and the Father's love for His only Son. It is a story of unbounded love of God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit toward man, a sinner by birth and by choice.
3. The Gospel is the story of Jesus. Without Jesus there would be no gospel. It is the story of His virgin birth, His holy life, culminating in His atoning death on which God the Father placed His stamp of approval by raising Him from the dead. It is about His ascension into heaven and being seated at the right hand of God the Father.
4. The Gospel is unique. That is, no other religion, no matter how sincere or committed, can compare to it. **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."** (Acts 4:12).
5. The Gospel is believable. Despite its rejection by the world which mocks, laughs and scoffs, countless millions have come to know Jesus as their Savior and only hope of heaven.
6. The Gospel is an invitation. God's sincere offer of salvation to whom the gospel comes, if they will repent and believe. **"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).

"LET JESUS BE THE GOOD NEWS YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR."

**For a web begun,
God sends a thread.**

**THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
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When your religion gets into the past tense, it becomes pretense.

THE LIFE-LOOK

There is life for a look at the Crucified One;
There is life at this moment for thee;
Then look, sinner - look unto Him, and be saved -
Unto Him who was nail'd to the tree.

It is not thy tears of repentance or prayers,
But the blood that atones for the soul:
On Him, he, who shed it, believing at once
Thy weight of iniquities roll.

His anguish of soul on the cross hast thou seen?
His cry of distress hast thou heard?
Then why, if the terrors of wrath He endured,
Should pardon to thee be deferr'd?

We are healed by His stripes; - wouldst thou add
to the word?

And He is our righteousness made:
The best robe of heaven He bids thee put on:
Oh! couldst thou be better array'd?

Then doubt not thy welcome, since God has
declared,
There remaineth no more to be done;
That once in the end of the world He appear'd,
And completed the work He begun.

But take, with rejoicing, from Jesus at once
The life everlasting He gives:
And know, with assurance, thou never canst die,
Since Jesus, thy righteousness, lives.

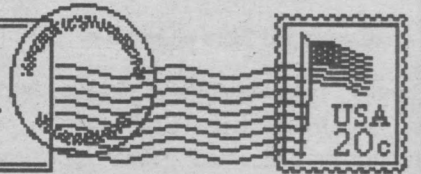
There is life for a look at the Crucified One;
There is life at this moment for thee:
Then look, sinner - look unto Him and be saved,
And know thyself spotless as He.
-Amelia Matilda Hull, 1860

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF FAITHFUL?

1. Is a car that starts once out of seven times "Faithful"?
2. Is a refrigerator that quits for a day now and then "Faithful"?
3. Is your paper boy "Faithful" if he misses you with your paper every few mornings?
4. If your hot water heater greeted you with cold water one or two mornings a week, would it be "Faithful"?
5. If you fail to come to work two or three days each week would you be "Faithful" to your job?
Now, if you fail to come to worship God once or twice a month, are you really "Faithful"?

*We'd like to
hear from you!*

**Letters to
the Editor**



The Baptist Examiner • P.O. Box 60 • Ashland, KY 41105-0060

Dear everyone with TBE,

I enjoy your paper very much, and have been for a very long time. Don't want to miss one of them.

Sign me up for another year, and use the rest (donation) anywhere you need it.

R.Y., Senatobia, MS

TBE,

I enjoy reading the paper, may the Lord continue to bless all at Calvary.

A.H., Toone, TN

THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

The three-pronged thrust of today's Neo-Pentecostal or Charismatic Movement canters upon the following doctrines: 1) the baptism of the Holy Spirit; 2) speaking in tongues; and 3) the gift of healing. These doctrines are interpreted in an unorthodox, unscriptural manner of those involved in this schismatic sect within Christendom.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was actually an historical event in which the Lord Jesus Christ corporately baptized His commissioned congregation in the medium of the Holy Spirit to authenticate His new institution, the New Testament church, as the house of God (Ex. 40:33-35; 1 Kings 8:10-11; Matt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:4-5; 1 Tim. 3:15). All true New Testament churches are corporately indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:19-22) just as all true Christians are individually indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19-20). However, water baptism is the only kind of baptism experienced by individual Christians (Eph. 4:5). Individual Christians never receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was an institutional event; water baptism is an individual experience.

Contrary to the claims of Charismatics, speaking in tongues (not juvenile babblings of incomprehensible gibberish - 1 Cor. 13:11, but the supernatural ability to speak in an existent human language without having studied the language - Acts 2:4,6,8) is not the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit since the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not now and has never been an individual experience. The Spiritual sign gifts of prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues, and knowledge ceased at the close of the Apostolic Age when the completion of the New Testament made the entire Bible available (1 Cor. 13:8-11). These Spiritual sign gifts were associated with the Apostles and those to whom they personally ministered (Acts 2:41-43; 5:11-13; 19:11-12; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3-4) and did not occur apart from Apostolic contact (Acts 8:14-17). Paul was clearly the last of the Apostles (1 Cor. 15:7-8).

Like those involved in the Charismatic Movement, we most certainly do believe in divine healing (Matt. 7:7; 21:22; Mark 11:24; John 14:13-14; 15:7; James 5:13-16; 1 John 5:14), but we do not believe in divine healers (Benny Hinn, Oral Roberts, etc.), public healing services (James 5:14-15), or that it is always God's will to heal the sick and afflicted (Job 23:10; 1 Cor. 11:30-32; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Phil. 2:25-30; 1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:20; Heb. 12:5-13; etc.).

We recognize the fact that there are some sincere Christians involved in the Charismatic Movement and we love them as brothers and sisters in Christ; but we cannot condone their false teachings in these three areas and are obligated to speak out against them.

-submitted by John A. Kohler, III