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

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FOLLOW THESE THINGS, THAT YOU MAY FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

By John R. Lenegar



(I Timothy 6:11-12) **"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good faith whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."**

Paul tells Timothy and us that we are to fight a good fight during our Christian sojourn here on earth. He is talking about living and dealing with all that surrounds us in our day to day life as God's elect children. Our mindsets, our goals, our attitudes, and our actions are each one important toward our living and reacting to all that is around us here on earth. Paul tells us to follow certain things, six to be exact, which we need to perfect and continually pursue as we fight the good fight of faith. The fight, of course, is against all that is in opposition to God in this world around us. It should be our attitude to do everything as unto Him. Colossians 3:23-24 says: **"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."**

This is, of course, in opposition to the world of men who think

only of "SELF". To fight the good fight of faith has two major extremes. 1. The phrase has been misinterpreted by many and consequently brought about the inquisition and the deaths of millions of Baptists and others who stood for the truth unto death. There are many today who still think that they are fighting the good fight by abuse and ungodly behavior. 2. The other extreme is the one that simply ignores the good fight because they desire "their way" according to their desires, goals, and direction of their lives. God says: **"For if a man think himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."** (Galatians 6:3) God, through the Psalmist points out a blessed truth and assurance for the saved. Psalm 73:24 says: **"Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory."** Unfortunately,

we live in a day when change is the rule, compromise is the standard, and eternal disappointment is the result. Let us follow these things in verse eleven that we may be able to effectively fight the good fight.

I. FOLLOW - Having told Timothy and us to FLEE certain things that are detrimental to us which are covered in the preceding verses of this chapter, he tells us now to follow certain things. These six things are for our good and growth and ultimately for God's glory. By the way, the word FLEE means to run from; to separate yourself from; and to have nothing to do with, the things spoken in the preceding verses.

To Follow means to pursue, to make a concerted effort, and to seriously and systematically lay hold on something. We are to be

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

By Pastor Donald Chance



I KNOW THY WORKS, EPHEBUS

"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them

which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and

repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto

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THE TRUTH ABOUT HALLOWEEN

By Robert McCurry

Excited children masquerading as witches, ghosts, goblins, demons, and other grotesque characters skipping through the neighborhood knocking on doors chanting "trick or treat" while holding out a sack in which one is to drop a piece of candy or other goodies...the party at school, or church, or Sunday School where they bob for apples, tell fortunes, or go through "haunted houses"...decorations of jack-o'-lanterns, witches on brooms, and black cats with arched backs...It's "Halloween"—one of the strangest days of the year.

Are Halloween activities really just the simple, innocent holiday fun most people believe them to be? Where did this holiday originate? Why is this holiday celebrated? History provides the answers. Though it was the Roman Catholic Church who designated the October 31st Allhallow's Eve, or "eve of the holy one's day," in prelude to their November 1st All Saints' Day, it was earlier pagan peoples who gave the annual holiday the sinister meaning and traditions it still holds.

"The American celebration rests upon Scottish and Irish folk customs which can be traced in direct line from pre-Christian times. Although Halloween has become a night of rollicking fun, superstitious spells, and eerie games which people take only half seriously, its beginnings were

quite otherwise. The earliest Halloween celebrations were held by the Druids in honor of Samhain, lord of the dead, whose festival fell on November 1."

"It was a Druidic belief that on the eve of this festival, Saman [Samhain], lord of death, called together the wicked souls (spirits) that within the past 12 months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals."

"The Druids, an order of priests in ancient Gaul and Britain, believed that on Halloween, ghosts, spirits, fairies, witches, and elves came out to harm people. They thought the cat was sacred and believed that cats had once been human beings but were changed as a punishment for evil deeds. From these Druidic beliefs come the present-day use of witches, ghosts, and cats in Halloween festivities."

Halloween "was the night for the universal walking about of all sorts of spirits, fairies, and ghosts, all of whom had liberty on that night."

The pagans believed that on one night of the year the souls of the dead returned to their original homes. "There was a prevailing belief among all nations that at death the souls of good men were taken possession of by good spirits and carried to paradise, but the souls of wicked men were left to wander in the space between the earth and moon, or consigned to the unseen world. These wandering spirits were in the habit of haunting the living...But there were means by which these ghosts might be exorcized."

To exorcize these ghosts, that is, to free yourself from their supposed evil sway, you would have to set out food—give the demons a treat and provide shelter for them during the night. If they were satisfied with your treat, it was believed they would leave you in peace. If food and shelter were not provided, or if they were not satisfied, these spirits, it was believed, would "trick" you by casting an evil spell on you and causing havoc.

Trick or Treat

"The modern custom of 'Trick-or-Treat' began in Ireland hundreds of years ago. A group

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

OCTOBER 1, 1998

PAGE TWO

Editor's Update

By Pastor Donald Chance

We send greetings from Calvary Baptist Church through the name of our most blessed Saviour. We pray that the Lord is blessing you as He is the Church here in Ashland. We have had wonderful services with hearts being lifted up in praise unto Him and expect even greater blessings as we wait for the sound of the "Trumpet".

As we near the end of the year, it is coming the time when we always advertise bound volumes for the years 1997 & 1998. In the past we have printed and bound what we hoped would be enough to go around, but this year it will be a little different, as we have too many left from previous years. We plan on running the ad for bound copies for the next three months and then bind only what we receive orders for, with very few extras available. So if you want to receive a copy, send in your order before January 15, 1999.

Also during this time we are inviting anyone who might have a question for our forum writers, to send it to us so we can forward them on for the whole year. Once again let me thank each of our faithful readers for the letters of encouragement you have given us. May the Lord bless.

THY WORKS

(Continued from page 1)

**the churches; To him that
overcometh will I give to eat of
the tree of life, which is in the
midst of the paradise of God. "**
(Rev.2:1-7).

In almost 40 years in the ministry I have heard a vast number of messages from various preachers from all over the states. I would guess that at one time most pastors have taught, preached or written at least one message on these letters written to the seven churches of Asia. Then you might ask, "Why do we need another one", to which I might answer, because God is not through with His church. Therefore in the few days we have left in this old world, we need the admonitions from these letters. It has been my experience that every time I study a portion of Scripture, God gives me more and fresh enlightenment for the needs of the hour. What I would like to do is approach each of the letters again in hopes that as we are very near our Lord's coming, we might glean some encouraging truth for these last days.

Concerning Ephesus, I would have you know that it will be much easier to understand the content of the meaning of the letter if we know something about the

surrounding of each city named. So with that in mind let us look at the;

I. Geographical Area of Ephesus.

During the days of the Apostle John, Ephesus was the capital of Pro-consular Asia. In its day it was known as "The Market Place of Asia". It was also the greatest sea harbor, a rival to Alexandria and Antioch of Syria. Ephesus was the crossroads of all Asia. She was located at the mouth of the Cayster river. Due to the movement of the river today the city is separated twenty miles from the harbor.

II. A History of Ephesus.

Ephesus was "THE" metropolis of Ionia, and was truly a great and lavish city. The founding of the city is believed to be founded somewhere about the year 2000 B.C. Ephesus was a most wealthy and cultured city. It was the home of the Temple of Diana, which made it a most corrupt city as far as any true worship goes. Being the "Seventh Wonder" of the Ancient world, this structure became a place of pilgrimage for tourist as well as a favorite place for the worshipers.

The Temple Diana was also a haven for the very worst of criminals. A criminal could not be arrested if he was within a bow shot of the temple, thus making it

a haven for the very worst of thieves, robbers, rapist, etc. Along with all this sinfulness, it was also a house of ill repute taken from the goddess of fertility, which claimed to have fallen from Jupiter.

It took more than a century to build this magnificent temple and a very short time to destroy, on the very night that Alexander the Great was born. The city was rebuilt in all of its splendor and glory. It was constructed of white marble and decked with the most lavish paintings. It was 425 feet long, 220 feet wide and was supported by 127 pillars 60 feet tall. Each pillar was a gift from a different king. The temple housed an oddly shaped Goddess, said to have fallen from the sky. In describing the Temple, one writer said: "I have seen the, "Hanging Gardens of Babylon", "The Statue of Zeus of Olympia" and "The Pharos of Alexandria", but when I beheld the temple at Ephesus towering into the clouds, all these other marvels were eclipsed."

The Temple also served as a storehouse for the treasure, which one might call "The Chase Manhattan Bank of Asia, with all their business of making and selling their god-like images made for the "Goddess of Diana". Worship in the temple of Diana comprised of the burning of incense along with playing the flute music which resulted in the people reaching an emotional frenzy and causing the people to do shameless acts which are hard to even mention.

III. The Biblical History of Paul at Ephesus.

These are but a few of the things Paul found when he made his first visit on his second missionary journey. "And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews." (Acts 18:19). While on this trip Paul was accompanied by Aquilla and Priscilla, fellow tent makers. He left them at Ephesus while he traveled on to Antioch in Syria. There they found Apollos teaching the baptism of John and taught him the way of the Lord more accurately. "And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the

baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." (Acts 18:24-26).

Some of the highlights of Paul's visit to Ephesus will set the stage for the Lord's last letter to this church. During his last stay there Paul taught in the school of Tyrannus for two years, Acts 19:8-10. It was at Ephesus that he wrote his first letter to the church at Corinth. It was here that he encountered the magicians of Ephesus. When they tried their skill at being exorcists, two of the seven sons of one Scerva were striped naked and wounded by a demon possessed man. This had such an impact on many that practiced magical arts that they brought their books and burned them. We are told that the value of these books was more than 50,000 pieces of silver.

On his third journey Paul called all the elders of Ephesus to Miletus and gave to them what could have been the out of his heart for the evil he had seen coming upon the church, listen to his words as they speak to us pastors today; "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:26-30).

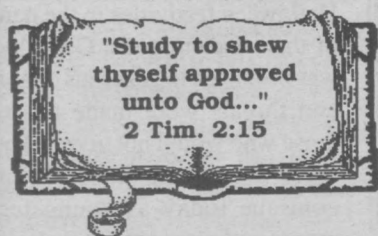
With the overall look at the problems of the city and the words of Paul ringing in our ears let us make an analysis of the letter to Ephesus.

III. What Does the Lord Know?

"The Honeymoon is Over"

1. What's Right with the Church? (1) "Thy works and Labor". Because of the sin in and around the city of Ephesus, there was much work to be done, and the church was a laboring church. Preaching the gospel is a never ending task, as even today this city

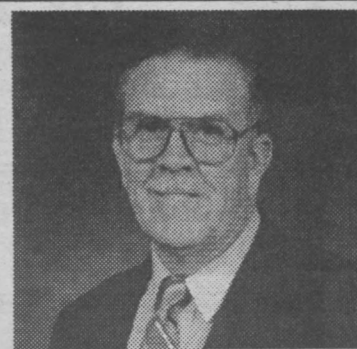
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The Baptist Examiner

Bible Study Lesson

By Jack C. Whitt
Member Calvary Baptist Church, Ashland, KY



GENESIS CH. 47

In our last study in Gen. 47:1-10, we learned: 1. Joseph reported to Pharaoh of his family moving from Canaan to Egypt, in the land of Goshen. 2. Joseph presented five of his brothers and his father, Jacob, to Pharaoh. 3. Pharaoh shows kindness to Jacob. 4. Jacob blesses Pharaoh. 5. Jacob reveals his age of 130 years. (see Gen. 47:1-10).

JACOB AND FAMILY TAKE POSSESSION OF A GOOD LAND

Joseph, as the faithful son, and loyal servant of God, carries out his final duties in accordance to God's purpose for building His chosen nation, Israel. Though for now, only few in number, they will become a multitude. "And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families. And there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine." (Gen. 47:11-13). The land given to Jacob, known as Goshen commonly, is here referred to as, Rameses, which it became known in later times.

"And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household". Thus, Joseph was God's instrument through which He worked in bringing these 70 souls to a new land and a new beginning. Despite the many hardships that lay ahead for Israel, here begins the molding of what is to become the greatest nation on earth, as God promised to Abraham: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; And I will bless them

that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:2,3). Two very important truths are contained in these verses: 1. The blessing on them who bless Israel and the cursing of those who curse Israel. We must remember that God chose Israel to be the apple of His eye. He has not forsaken her nor will He ever do so. There are those today who fight against Israel, but God will take vengeance upon all such nations who dare to do so. The United States must always remain an ally to Israel. God has been gracious to our country down through the years because we have supported and defended this small nation. The land now being disputed over in the region of Palestine, has been promised to Israel by God.

2. The second prophecy spoken of in verse 3 above, has to do with the coming Messiah. "And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." The human lineage of Jesus Christ comes through the Jews, specifically through the tribe of Judah. He of course becomes the blessing to all families of the earth in the salvation of lost sinners. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14). Immanuel is the name that means, "God with us." Jesus Christ was God when He came in the flesh and He dwelt among men. We read in the book of Luke: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10,11).

JOSEPH AGAIN TYPIFIES CHRIST

The famine in Egypt and Canaan takes its toll on the inhabitants. Joseph's good judgment in storing food during the 7 years of plenty

has saved the lives of multitudes. "And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence, for the money faileth." (Gen. 47:14,15). Verses 16 through 20 tell us that the people spent all their money for food, then resorted to the forfeiture of the livestock and land. But even this ran out and we read: "Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate. And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's. Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh; lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land, And it shall come to pass in the increase, that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones. And they said, Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants." (47:19,20, 23, 24, 25).

So many valuable lessons are pictured for us in these verses, as well also, many similarities to the ministry of Jesus Christ. For example: Joseph's honesty and loyalty to Pharaoh. He remained faithful to the vocation to which he was given. Though serving a

worldly king, he did not forsake his God. He could have easily taken some of the money received from the corn for himself, but he brought the money into Pharaoh's house. How many people today have ruined reputations because of the lust for money? It happens in businesses, it happens in churches. HONESTY! a most prized possession for the Christian.

The second thought pictured from the above in verse 23. "Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: Lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land." How striking the similarity to the words of the Apostle Paul in (1 Cor. 6:20). "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Every true Christian is bought with the blood of Jesus Christ. We are not our own but the possession of God and we are to glorify Him. We are to sow the seed throughout the land. The seed is the Word of God.

In all thus presented before us, can we not see the vanity of money and earthly treasures? Can we not see the need for total dependance upon our God for everything?

We have in our day, witnessed samplings of how God controls the weather and climates. In all parts of the world we have seen unprecedented weather phenomenon that has brought about destruction of lives and property. It is time for people to acknowledge God's power and prerogative to give and to take.

From the spiritual point of view, we recognize a different kind of famine than the physical famine of our text. People are starving (though they know it not). It is one thing to be starving and searching for food. But more tragic to be starving and thinking to be filled. This is likely the predicament of many churches today. Just as Jesus spoke to the Church of Laodicea: "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and

knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Rev. 3:17). Again, the very profound words found in (Amos 8:11): "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord."

The Egyptians spent and gave up all that they had to survive, even to the point of giving themselves as servants. This, in a manner, is descriptive of the lost sinner. He must reach the place where reliance on physical things does not satisfy the hungry soul. He must finally come to the end of self and turn to Jesus. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." (Jn. 6:35).

What do you think your song will be when you come to Heaven? Blessed be God, that He gave me free-will? And blessed be my own dear self, that I made a good use of it? O no, no. Such a song as that was never heard in Heaven yet; nor ever will, while God is God, and Heaven is Heaven. Look into the Book of Revelation, and there you will find the employ of the blessed, and the strains which they sing. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation."

-Augustus M. Toplady



The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT
THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, P.O. BOX 60,
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When the Rapture occurs, what will happen to young children of the saved? Will the lost care for them?

JOHN R.
LENEGAR

126 N.

Washington St. No.5
Delaware, OH
43015

PASTOR:

Walnut Creek
Missionary
Baptist Church
Delaware, OH



"Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." (Matthew 18:14).

I wish that I could say, "thus saith the Lord" but I cannot. I do not remember this question coming up in past conversations. I will tell you what I believe and also my own personal opinion. The questioner does not say how old of a child is being considered. If it is an infant that is not yet capable of understanding, or accountability, I then believe that the child is taken in the translation of believers, just before the tribulation begins. I do not believe, as some, that babies who die in infancy could be lost. That is, some are lost and some elect. I believe that all babies who die in infancy are elect and go directly to be with the Lord. Is there an age of accountability? This is the time that a child becomes responsible and accountable. When is that time and at what age may it occur? Who knows? Some children develop sooner than others. I do not believe that there will be any babies, or very young children under the time of understanding left on the earth to enter the tribulation period. However, if the questioner has in mind older children who are not saved, that is a different matter.

Older children would need care, without doubt. I would guess that friends, or family who are left behind at the rapture would care

for them. Possibly the state would look after them until the worst of the tribulation. This is the case with many other countries including the Soviet Union. It is surprising to realize that multitudes of children in America and many other countries, even as young as eight, fare for themselves most of the time. Oftentimes this takes place in the street, without aid of parents, or any adult. That there will be children present during the tribulation period is reflected in Matthew 24:19 which says: **"And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!"** This is speaking of the second half of the Tribulation period just before the Second Coming of Christ.

We need to look to the spiritual side of our children's needs at the earliest possible convenience. Child evangelists overdo in their "zeal". No one can force, as some would, our children to believe, but we certainly can gently and consistently teach our children Who God is, what He expects, and what our responsibility is to be toward Him.

GEORGE R.
SLEDD

920 Upsala Rd.
Sanford, FL
32771

PASTOR:

Jordan Missionary
Baptist Church
Sanford, FL



This question assumes that such children have already reached the age of accountability. They are unsaved children and certainly being such, will not be caught up with the saints to meet Christ in the air at His coming. It is a most sobering thing for Christian parents to think about. It is hard to imagine leaving a child to endure the awful time of tribulation on earth. There is nothing in the Scripture that would lend us to believe that unsaved children will be taken up in the rapture. Only the saved will be

raptured! As to the last part of this question, "Will the lost care for them?" When parents die or disappear as does happen, children are usually turned over to their nearest relatives who are willing to assume responsibility for them.

Of course this is the case under normal circumstances. From the study of Scripture, times will be difficult at the rapture. So it is hard to say exactly what would happen to such children. We would have to leave that into the hands of an all wise and Sovereign God. I think this is an incentive for all Christian parents to pray for their lost children and do what they can to lead them to the Lord.

JAMES E.
HOBBS

Rt. 2, Box 182
McDermott, OH
45652

PASTOR:

King's Addition
Baptist Church
South Shore, KY



This is a good question, one that I have never thought about. I suppose that one reason is that all Christians should leave their children in the hands of God and trust that He will take care of them. Certainly, we have the responsibility to tell them about the Lord and live a testimony in front of them but we still must trust God to care for them.

The question actually is concerning whether young children are safe and saved if they die. I have no doubt that if a child dies he is one of God's elect and is therefore saved. We have an example of this in 2 Samuel 12:22, 23, **"And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."** David is making it abundantly clear that he will be

able to go to his son. If the child were not a child of God he could not be able to go to him. **"And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which should pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."** (Luke 16:26).

Now I know that some wonder about when a child hears the gospel, repents and believes. I know that repentance and faith are both a gift of God. **"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth."** (2 Tim. 2:24, 25). **"For by grace are ye saved by faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."** (Eph. 2:8,9).

I'm sure that God in all His infinite power can see that the child hears the gospel and believes. You see when God writes something in His Word He doesn't mean for us to try to work things out according to our limited logic. We must simply believe that He can and will do what He says He will do. He wrote in 2 Samuel 12:23, therefore he can bring it to pass. I guess what I'm saying is that what children are alive during the rapture will be taken up with us and will be under the same care as David's child.

In a word: either the death of Christ was not a real and perfect satisfaction for sin; or, if it was, then upon every principle of reason and justice, all that sin must be actually forgiven and done away: which His death was a true and plenary satisfaction for - on the supposition that His redemption was not absolute, it vanishes into no redemption at all.

-Toplady

HALLOWEEN

(Continued from page 1)

of farmers went from house to house begging food for the village Halloween festivities in the name of their ancient gods. Good luck was promised to generous donors, and threats were made against those who would not give." Thus these ancient pagan traditions continue today as youngsters, masquerading as ghosts, skeletons and demons go "trick-or-treating"- begging in a sense for food while promising to refrain from evil deeds.

October 31

"It was the Celts who chose the date of October 31 as their New Year's Eve and who originally intended it as a celebration of everything wicked, evil and dead. Also during their celebration they would gather around a community bonfire and offer as sacrifices their animals, their crops, and sometimes themselves. And wearing costumes made from the heads and skins of other animals, they would also tell one another's fortunes for the coming year."

"The celebration remained much the same after the Romans conquered the Celts around 43 A.D. The Romans did, however, add a ceremony honoring their goddess of fruit and trees and thus the association with apples and the custom of bobbing for them."

Jack-O'-Lantern

The apparently harmless lighted pumpkin face or "Jack-O'-Lantern" is an ancient symbol of a damned soul. "Jack-O'-Lanterns were named for a man called Jack, who could not enter heaven or hell. As a result, he was doomed to wander in darkness with his lantern until Judgment Day."

"Fearful of spooks...folks began hollowing out turnips and pumpkins and placing lighted candles inside to scare evil spirits from the house."

Halloween "Christianized"

Since Halloween is unmistakably pagan in its origin and practice, how did the professing church come to accept and keep such a day? Again, history provides the answer. Ever since the time of Constantine-who made Catholicism the state religion-the Roman emperors realized how essential it was to have a unified empire, where as many as possible would be of one mind. The civil and religious leaders saw how important it was for the sake of unity to allow only one religion within the Roman domain.

(Continued on page 8)

FOLLOW THESE

(Continued from page 1)

separate in following these 6 things which are greatly opposed to the world's ways, because we are His peculiar, His special people. We cannot fellowship with the world. **"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."** (Ephesians 5:11) What then should we follow after?

1. RIGHTEOUSNESS Here we are talking about right action and practical correctness. This is based on conforming to God's will in thinking and acting. We do the things pleasing to God as we are being transformed by the renewing of our minds. How are we motivated to practise practical righteousness? Where do we go to obtain it? We need to remember that as to salvation, Jesus has given believers His righteousness and taken our sin. He is our righteousness. 1 Corinthians 1:30 says: **"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."**

The practical righteousness (works and behavior) God has prepared us to do, are at His own choosing. Ephesians 2:10 tells us: **"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."** Through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, through the written Word, and communion with the living WORD we come to think and act as God's children in the situations of life here on earth.

2. GODLINESS This is the devotion to God that produces an attitude and action of life that is well pleasing to Him with Whom we have to do. Proper reverence for God, and obedience to God go hand and hand. They are a matched pair, that if separated,

cause an incomplete and unbalanced situation mentally and physically as to being a Christian. We are told in Psalm 111:10, **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."** Even as God told ancient Israel in Deuteronomy 10:12, **"And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul."** Godliness can be great gain, but ultimately comes from and goes back to God.

3. FAITH God gave us who are saved the faith to believe. We have a firm persuasion and a solid conviction of salvation, and the accompanying revelation from God as all that. Here we wish to emphasize "working faith". It is a trust in God that grows stronger and stronger. How does it do that? 1. First by contemplation The Bible, its teachings, its examples build up our faith. We need the preaching and teaching of the word. **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17) 2. Secondly, by active practise of faith. Hebrews 11 is filled with the examples of outworking faith.

4. LOVE We are speaking here of a maturing affection for God and for man. The increase of love is a mark of perfection, or maturing. Perfect often means maturity. We need not only to love God with our total seat of affections, our total being, and our total power and ability, (Deuteronomy 6:5) but we are to love one another with a white hot and fervent love. (1 Peter 1:22). We are to love our enemies, the lost, with great compassion.

5. PATIENCE This is a perseverance, or steadfastness that

grows with the everyday Christian life. We are to "keep on keeping on". We do not change with the times, the continual changing winds of doctrine, or circumstances of our lives. 1 Corinthians 15:58 reminds us: **"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."** Patience is a very needful thing in Christians. James tells us it will bring us to maturity. **"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect, and entire, wanting nothing."** It helps us to be complete.

6. MEEKNESS God's children need meekness, gentleness in all things. Our attitude of others, as well as our attitude about God's word is to be in meekness. (James 1:21-22)

II. FIGHT The struggle here is both outward and inward. It is the warfare in which every true Christian is engaged. The fact of his or her involvement proves the reality of their faith. It is the day in and day out battle against temptation and UNCHRISTIAN circumstances. We are to fight the good fight of faith in the midst of the compromise, self-justification, and growing lawlessness so prevalent in our present societies. What do we fight with? Certainly not the world's. We use that which God has given us. We use the very real spiritual armour of Ephesians 6:13-16. We use our sword which is the word of God given by the Living Word of God, the Lord Jesus. **"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."** (Hebrews 4:12)

Beloved, our mindset must be this: **"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man strive for the masteries, yet he is not crowned, except he strive lawfully."** (1 Timothy 2:4-5). Our fight is a spiritual one that is outwardly seen everyday. We need to flee from sin, to follow the six things here in verse eleven, and to fight the good, worthwhile battle of faith against the wickedness of this present world. We do this beloved, until the Lord relieves us of duty here on earth. These things will help us to be useful servants.

KNOW THY WORKS

(Continued from page 2)

NEEDS the words of Christ preached. (2) "Thy Patience". This has been and should be a mark of the faithful Christian from the very beginning, **"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."** (Acts 2:42). (3) "Canst not bear them which are evil" Even as early as Moses this was a trait for the Christian, **"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:"** (Exodus 23:2). (4) "Tried them which say..." Jesus taught that doctrine was important, and that it should be kept pure, **"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."** (Matthew 15:9).

2. What's Wrong with the Church? (1) They had LEFT their first love, they had allowed their love to cool-off. In the beginning they hated what the Lord hated, but the constant battle with sin had caused them to lose sight of their goal in this life namely, **"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."** (Matthew 22:37-38). Paul's admonition is in keeping with this principle of faith and practice when we read, **"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses"**. (1 Tim. 6:12).

In closing let me remind you that our Lord has never given a rebuke without giving us a means of

recovery from the snares of the day. **"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to stand."** (1 Cor. 10:13).

IV. Sweet Admonitions (v.5) Our Lord is ever faithful in His guidance of His children in that He never leaves us to flounder, but gives us direct leadership. Question; "Do we always listen to His sweet words?"

1. It is to "REMEMBER", and what to remember is from what we have strayed, particularly "Our FIRST LOVE". When we first received the message from the Holy Spirit and it was made effectual to our lives, there was a love that we couldn't explain. It was a love that held us captivated and took up all of our thoughts, and hopes for the day. That Love was in fact, the Lord Jesus Christ and what He had done for us. Question; "Are we still captivated by this thought or are we mechanical in all our duties and dreams as though this life is all we are ever going to have?"

2. "REPENT", this is what Peter told Simon when he tried to BUY the power of God with money; "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart be forgiven thee". The same word is used and it means a turning back to the former. Back to the pure love, back to the full trust, back to dependance upon Him, who is able to deliver and keep us by His power.

3. "REPEAT", or "Do the first work", which means to recapture that love and zeal we had in the beginning. It means to keep our eyes to the front ever searching for ways to please Him who purchased us. **"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier"** (II Tim. 2:4).

Beloved friends there is a reward to be gained, by listening, and heeding these words of our Lord, as is stated in v.7 with which I leave you with here. **".....He that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God"**.

May God richly bless each one.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

OCTOBER 1, 1998

PAGE FIVE

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WHAT IS FREE-WILLISM? HOW DID THEY GET THAT WAY?

By Roy Mason, (Now In Glory)



CHRISTIANS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT TIMES were strong believers in the greatness and sovereignty of God, and consequently in the doctrines of election and predestination. Paul, for instance, was a most unlikely man to become a Christian. Only a sovereign and all-powerful God could have turned him, but this God had chosen and planned Paul's conversion before He created the earth. Paul tells us so in Eph. 1:4, where he says, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world." It is to be noted that Paul included the Ephesian Christians to whom he wrote. This verse, together with the ones that follow, should be enough to settle the election question for anyone who believes them to be the inspired Word of God.

CHRISTIANS OF THE EARLY CENTURIES were strong believers in the elective power and grace of God. It was probably this faith in a mighty God who works all things after the counsel of His own will, that caused them to be willing to bear all things for His sake even death by martyrdom. A namby-pamby freewillism that has a limited and restricted God, does not fit people for martyrdom.

Predestination is a little understood doctrine in this day, and it is a very unpopular doctrine in the sight of many. One reason for this has been the extremes to which the so-called "Hardshell Baptists" have carried their predestination views. We refer especially to those who are anti-missionary and non-evangelistic. When one is known to believe in predestination, it is just assumed by many that he is against missions and against personal effort in seeking to win the lost. This is not true.

The truth is some of the greatest soul-winning preachers of the past, have been staunch predestinarians. A good example is Charles H. Spurgeon, perhaps

the greatest preacher since the days of Paul.

Likewise, it is true that the great theologians of history were staunch predestinarians. We name Augustine, Wycliffe, Calvin, Luther, Zwingle, Whitefield, Kuyper, and in more recent times, Strong, Broadus, Boyce, Hodges.

On the other hand, Arminianism (Freewillism) existed for centuries, as someone has put it, "Only as a heresy on the outskirts of true religion, and was not championed by an organized Christian Church until the year 1784, at which time it was incorporated into the system of doctrine of the Methodist Church in England."

What a misfortune that the doctrine which was regarded as heresy by the various denominations should be held as true by most denominations of this day! The Puritans in England and those who settled America, as well as the Covenanters in Scotland and Huguenots in France, were predestinarians. Most of the creeds of historic Christendom have expressed the doctrine of election and predestination.

A Presbyterian theologian writes as follows: "The official standards of the various branches of Presbyterians and Reformed Churches of Europe and America are thoroughly Calvinistic. The great Free Church of Holland, and almost all the Churches of Scotland, are Calvinistic. The Established Church of England and her daughter, the Episcopal Church of America, have a Calvinistic creed in the thirty-nine articles. The Whitefield Methodists in Wales to this day bear the name of "Calvinistic Methodists."

Despite the truth of all this, there is perhaps no doctrine more disliked by most Church people than that of predestination. One Presbyterian writer has said, "The tendency of our enlightened age, is to look upon Calvinism as a worn-out and obsolete creed." Another Presbyterian writes, "It seems to be tacitly assumed by a large number of people in the Presbyterian Church that Calvinism has been outgrown in religious circles. In fact, the average Church member, or even Minister of the Gospel is inclined to look upon a person who declares that he believes in predestination with a glance

amused tolerance. As for seriously examining the arguments for Calvinism, the idea never enters their heads.

Those Presbyterians, just quoted, express not only the attitude of their own people, they express the attitude of many Baptists. Baptists have been predestinarians down through the centuries, from the days of Christ, for they have existed for all that time, a claim that cannot be successfully made by any other religious group. While they are not a people bound by a creed, they have issued many articles of faith designed to make clear their beliefs. We recall that when we were a student at the Southern Baptist Seminary at Louisville, we had as Prof. of Church history, Dr. McGlothlin. He collected all the Baptist Confessions of faith known to exist, in a good sized volume. These Confessions of faith predominately had strong articles on predestination and election. We do not recall a single one that failed to have a vigorous expression of belief along these lines.

What about present-day beliefs among Baptists? Northern Baptists as a group, have become loose as regards most of their theology. Southern Baptists are busy traveling the same way. Modernistic teachings in the seminaries is back behind much of this. The liberalistic trend of the Northern and Southern Baptists has caused widespread rebellion among Baptists who are strict believers in the truth and accuracy of the Bible. This has led many Churches to withdraw affiliation from the denominations. It has also led to the formation of hundreds of independent Baptist Churches. Some of these Churches are wholly independent, while others have affiliation with "Fellowships" and organizations of various names. These have found the need of schools and colleges especially for the training of young ministers.

Here is the astonishing thing! These independents repudiate the liberalism of the denominational groups. They call people back to Bible teachings such as our old time Baptists believed and practiced. That is, they do as regards most of the great Bible teachings. But when it comes to

the foundational doctrine of election and predestination, most of them are just as heretical as those of the denominations they deplore. This is partly because of the of their schools. We were surprised several years ago when we received a letter from a couple of young men who were students in one of these schools. They affirmed that predestination was a subject that was completely banned from classroom discussion. Another person spoke to us, concerning another very reputable Baptist School, and said the subject of predestination was also banned there.

Why is there such a dislike and fear concerning election and predestination in independent Baptist institutions? We believe it is because these Bible doctrines are not studied and understood. Rather they are misunderstood. The idea of "Hardshellism" repels, as does the notion that electionists are opposed to evangelism and missionary endeavors.

Besides this, the term Calvinism repels them. The word Calvinism is something they respond to, very much as a bull responds to a red rag when it is waved in his face. We recall an article we had published in a magazine, in which we spoke favorably of one of the six points of Calvinism. In response, we had a violent letter of rebuke from an elderly dyed-in-the-wool Baptist he wanted to know how we could identify ourselves with Calvin, when he believed in sprinkling babies and other things contrary to the Bible. In answering him, we tried to make plain that we had not adopted the whole category of beliefs held by John Calvin, but only his beliefs concerning predestination and election.

Due to the names of the two opposing individuals, in the predestination and freewill controversies of the past, the two systems of belief, Freewillism and Predestination have come to be known as Arminianism and Calvinism. People today are usually either designated Arminians or Calvinists, according to their freewillism or their belief in election and predestination. We have had some to say, "I am not an Arminian, I believe in election!" Subsequent conversation, however, revealed that the kind of election they

believed in was farcical and ridiculous and a valid ticket to admission in anybody's Arminian camp.

Whether a person wants to be labeled Calvinistic or Arminian or not, there is no way in which they can avoid it. The two terms are fixed and established. Those who minimize the sovereignty and might of God - those who deny predetermination, election, predestination and those who virtually make man his own Savior, belong in the Arminian group. On the other hand, those who believe in the sovereign grace of God - those who really believe that "Salvation is of the Lord" those who believe that all who are in the eternal plan of God those who believe that every person who is elected of God to eternal salvation, will show up among the redeemed of the Lord, without the loss of one, belongs in the Calvinistic group.

We go back and remind you that the Bible is a predestinarian Book, and we shall presently present some Scriptures that prove this beyond question. We remind you that the great mass of early Christians were strong believers in the sovereignty and elective power of God. Only the grossly heretical groups, such as Pelagians, were freewillites. And a study of Pelagianism will reveal that they really believed in self-salvation, a belief that really characterized the followers of Arminius of a later date.

Baptists who continued to exist down through the centuries were characteristically predestinarians. With the advent of Protestantism, the various Protestant groups adopted articles of faith vehemently predestinarian. Their leaders such as Calvin and Luther were what we today would call "hardboiled" predestinarians. Calvin was so - vehement and so explicitly an electionist, that his name has come to stand for the whole electionist system of belief. Protestant articles of faith and Baptist expressions of belief make clear the common stand on these questions. Denominations still retain their articles of faith, but admit they don't believe what the articles declare on election. Independent Baptists criticize denominational Baptists for departure from their time-honored beliefs, but when it comes to election and predestination, many of them are as weak as

(Continued on page 7)

LETTER III.

In my last, I touched upon the subject of temptation. I am constrained to add a few words more on the same subject. It has been too common for those who have betrayed their Lord by a disgraceful return to the world, to predict the same defection in others.

Hence you often hear professors of religion address the youthful convert in such language as the following: "Your present ardour is no proof that it will continue; now you are all joy, all devotion; by and by the scene will be changed. I once felt as you now feel; perhaps I enjoyed more delightful pleasure: but I soon lost the glow of my first love, and so will you. A few years will cool you down, and show you that such engagedness cannot always last."

When I hear such language addressed to the young Christian, I am indignant. It is not necessarily true; my young friend, it is not true. The Bible, which is the only "lamp to our path," gives no warrant for such a prediction. True, it represents the cases of many who at first bade fair, but subsequently hardened. It records the cases of such, as a flaming beacon, to warn those who should come after them. But does it not represent the path of the just, as "the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day?" Does it not say, that he who hath clean hands, shall grow "stronger and stronger?" Does it not urge us to "grow in grace," to "forget the things which are behind," and "reach towards those which are before?" to make Christ our mark, and press towards it, with all the energy of an Olympic racer, struggling in competition for the goal?

Now, I warn you not to listen to such cold

FREE-WILLISM

(Continued from page 6)

denominational Baptists. What's the matter? How did they get that way?

The answer, in large part, is that it has come from FOLLOWING THE TREND OF THE TIMES. So many people of today want to be doing what is considered the "IN" thing. The "Hippies" started wearing long hair, and they created a trend. Now we have young men the nation over, going around with dirty, stringy long hair, and so effeminate in appearance that one must look carefully to ascertain which sex they belong to. Some older men voice their disapproval of these ridiculous long hairs, but just take a look at these critics, and you will see their hair lopping over their collars and with sideburns clear down their faces. They just can't resist the urge to keep up with the times.

People are the same as regards spiritual things. We are in a society that is less religious than in days gone by. Many don't believe in a personal God, and those who do, don't believe in the kind of God revealed in the Bible. He is altogether too

predictions. They who make them from their own experience, may have been hypocrites. They may have felt something, which they called spiritual joy; but perhaps it was "Satan transformed into an angel of light;" perhaps it was the workings of their own imaginations, and not the legitimate fruits of the spirit. Let them take heed to themselves, lest they have been deceived; and not allure others on, in their down-hill course, by their disgraceful example. But suppose them to have been Christians; and I allow that a Christian may grow cold, and backslide in the service of God; is such language warranted by the word of God?

Is it likely to urge forward the young convert in the path of holiness? Is it likely to raise the standard of piety in the souls of others? No, far from it. Young converts are prone to copy those who are older and more experienced. If they are persuaded that it is consistent with the existence of piety, to grow cold in feeling, they will probably yield to the seductions of the world, and the temptations of Satan. They will not press forward; they will recede. They will take the cold dead level of their previous examples. But, my young friend, be you warned by this, not to listen to such language for a moment; nor to suppose it must be true in your case. I do assure you, your Bible holds a different language. As

strict and authoritative to suit them, and the idea of a God who determines men's destiny and who sends Christ-rejecting sinners to hell, arouses their hair. They are like the big English bishop who wrote a book degrading the Old Testament and the God Jehovah. He said, "The God of the Old Testament is a big bully!" Religious modernists in general don't approve of the God of the Old Testament. They can't accept the idea that God actually burned up Sodom and Gomorrah! The great sin of these cities was homo-sexualism, and some modernistic churches of this day have ministers who are homo- sexuals, and homo-sexuals are welcome and compose part of their congregations. There is a vast difference between the God who rained fire and brimstone upon homo-sexual Sodom and Gomorrah, and the god of the church that welcomes homo-sexuals to its membership, and has a homo-sexual for its pastor.

Yes, the trend of the times has produced gods quite different from the God of the Bible. Not all who are influenced by the times, are as bad as those we have been writing about, but they are tremendously

you value your comfort, your peace of mind, your immortal hopes, your character as a Christian, your influence as a follower of the Lamb-press forward. Strive every day to make some new attainments in knowledge and holiness.

You are engaged in a conflict. You have put on the armour of God; and, put it off for a moment you must not. Your enemies are numerous, vigilant, and powerful. You must contend every day: nor must you think of rest or relaxation. When death shall unbind for you the gospel armour, and you hear the dark waves of Jordan lashing these mortal shores, then, and not till then, will your struggles be ended, and your victory complete. You have counted the cost; do not shrink at the cross. Christ will be with you. Christ will support you. Under His banner you contend.

His arm will shield you, and His grace bring you off more than conqueror. I have wandered a little from the point at which I aimed. I wished to caution you particularly, concerning the first step in a backward course. The first step in the retreat is an important one. It is needful, therefore, to say, that generally, that step commences at the closet. Prayer is the strong hold to which the young Christian generally resorts.

In doubts and difficulties, a throne of grace is his refuge. If the "devouring lion" influenced by the loose ideas that are afloat. We are reminded of the couple we read about recently who were discussing a certain Bible teaching. One held very liberal views, and his friend said, "But God plainly says the contrary right here in the Bible," and he proceeded to read. His liberal friend replied, "I don't care if it does say it, I just can't agree with God on that!"

Religious liberalism has changed God's image and caused people to back away from the strong teachings concerning election, such as characterized almost the whole Christian world during the centuries past. The heretical views of Arminius seemed so unscriptural and wrong that the religious groups for long years, refused to embrace his teachings, until, as we have pointed out, the Methodist Church of England in 1784, finally incorporated his views on election into their creed.

But today, Arminianism has seeped into seminaries and churches, until it is the popular belief. Baptists have largely succumbed to this heresy-and as we have pointed out, even independent Baptists, in large numbers. Truly the "trend of the times" is a strong influence!

ADVICE TO A YOUNG CHRISTIAN

By A Village Pastor

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF AIMING AT
AN ELEVATED STANDARD OF PIETY



roar, thither the lamb will flee, and house itself in the bosom of its shepherd. If the world entice, and for a moment soils his purity, thither he repairs, and the stain is washed out in the blood of Jesus. If the path of duty be not obvious, if confusion attend his course, at a throne of grace there is light and direction. Hence it

will be an important advantage to your enemies, if they can draw you from this strong tower of defence. Keep alive then, I beseech you, to the first symptom of declining in prayer.

Prayer is a difficult, strenuous work; but it is the life and soul of a Christian. It is not only his mandatory duty, but his most precious privilege.

Now it will be the aim of the tempter, to withdraw you from being "instant in prayer." He knows what a powerful weapon it is; and, therefore, he will endeavour to wrest it out of your hands. He will represent it as an irksome duty. He will suggest that fewer and shorter prayers will answer. He will place obstacles between you and your closet. He will divert your attention while there, and then taunt you with your coldness and your folly. He will say that your prayers are hypocritical-insincere-an abomination to God. He will suggest, that now, you are not in a good frame-advise you to put it off until you feel in a better. Thus will he try every art, and use every scheme to draw you from this refuge of your soul. But, "get thee behind me, Satan" must be your reply to all such suggestions. You must cling closer to the "horns of the altar." You must "bind the sacrifice with cords," if you cannot keep it there. You must give yourself to prayer, and to the word of God.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Bro. Editor,

Greetings in the blessed and wonderful name of the Savior.

I used to receive your hard hitting, Biblical and Baptistic paper which is the The Baptist Examiner. Kindly send me again to the above mentioned mailing address.

The Lord blessed the work in Baguio City, Philippines with souls being saved and baptized.

May God bless you and your ministry.

L.P.M.
Baguio City
Philippines

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

OCTOBER 1, 1998

PAGE SEVEN

HALLOWEEN

(Continued from page 4)

A stringent state policy was implemented to force all non-Christians to accept the state religion. The condition for "conversion," of course, made it easy for the pagan population of Rome and elsewhere to "accept" 'Christianity.' Since "acceptance" of 'Christianity' was made simple, refusal was made difficult. This plan resulted in large numbers of the heathen population within the empire to flock into the membership of the church. These people brought with them many pagan practices and celebrations, Halloween merely being one of them.

How could the church deal with this problem? The church realized that to excommunicate these pagans would only reduce the membership of the church. This they were unwilling to do. The church had also learned in past times that it was not possible to force the people into discarding all their heathen practices and adopting Roman ones.

There remained only one other way.

It was reasoned that if a pagan practice of festival could not be forbidden, let it be "Christianized." Let the recently converted pagans keep certain of their heathen festivals, such as Halloween or All Souls' Day-but label it "Christian." Of course they were asked not to pray to their ancient pagan gods on this day. They would now use this day to commemorate the death of "saints."

"In the A.D. 800's the [Catholic] church established All Saints' Day on November 1 so that people could continue a festival they had celebrated before becoming Christians. The mass that was said on this day was called Allhallowmas. The evening before became known as All Hallowe'en or Halloween...It means hallowed or holy evening."

"The celebrations of Halloween is a survival of ancient pagan beliefs. When the early (Catholic) church was unable to stop pagan practices, it accepted them and gave them a religious tune."

Halloween Today

Most of the ancient symbols and traditions of Halloween still exist today. Youngsters still dress in costume and go trick-or-

treating: begging in a sense, for food while promising to refrain from evil deeds. And, too, they still light their candles, although much smaller than a torch, and place them inside their pumpkins.

"...It is the one night of the year in which a child experiences the emotion of fear, fantasy and mystery."

In advising on what to do on Halloween, The Good House-keeping Book of Entertainment says: "Orange, black and red, the devil's colors, are the colors associated with Halloween, and this scheme should be carried out as far as possible...Have paper streamers and lanterns hanging from the ceiling, or if you would like to have something less usual, you could make a giant spider web with black and orange strings, or in narrow strips of crepe paper coming from the four corners of the room, complete with a large spider-one of the devil's followers."

Inconsistency of Professing Christians

Bible believing Christians cringe and shudder at the thought of Satan worship and occult rites. But how many of these same people will dress their children as witches, ghosts, skeletons, or devils and send them out to "trick-or-treat"? How many smile approvingly at the church or Sunday School and youth

organizations that have Halloween parties and sponsor "haunted house" activities?

Can any Christian give any scriptural or even logical reason for participation in, or approval of, that which is unmistakably associated with paganism, devil-worship, and witchcraft?

God's People Governed By the Scriptures

The 18th chapter of the book of Deuteronomy, (vs. 10-13) very explicitly forbids Christians to have anything to do with witchcraft, spiritism or the demonic. In verse 10 of that chapter we read: "There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire (this has reference to the worship of the pagan god Moloch which was state worship), or that useth divination (a false and pagan counterpart of prophecy; the art or act of foretelling secret knowledge, especially of the future), or an observer of times (astrology), or an enchanter (to cast under a spell; charm; enrapture; to chant (magic words), or a witch (divinations in connection with the worship of idolatrous and demoniacal powers), or a charmer (a fabricator of material charms or amulets to be worn especially around the neck, as a charm against evil or injury), or a consulter with evil spirits (an

inquirer by a familiar spirit), or a wizard (a false prophet, especially a conjurer. One who summons a devil by oath, incantation or magic spell), or a necromancer (one who in one form or another seeks to find information by consulting the dead)."

"Thou shalt not learn to do after their abominations..." (Deuteronomy 18:9). "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 19:31).

It is obvious that the elements, symbols, and traditions of the Halloween observance with its emphasis upon goblins and demons, witches and skeletons, ghosts and apparitions rising from cemeteries constitute a dabbling with the very things which Scripture forbids to God's people and are an open invitation to demonic activity.

It is at this point that many will say, "But we don't worship demons on Halloween. It doesn't mean the same thing today as it did in the past. It's now just a harmless, innocent time of fun for the children and the young people."

Yet, history clearly shows that Halloween is unmistakably a "religious" (pagan and Roman) holiday. Religion is the adoration, obedience, and service rendered

to the object of one's worship. It presupposes profession, practice, or observance of whatever belief and practice-in this case Halloween-as required by some superior authority. It is indisputably clear that Halloween is not commanded or sanctioned by Jehovah God-the true Christian's Superior.

Authority-in the Scriptures
"Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22).

"And many that believed came and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men" (Acts 19:18, 19).

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31).

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