

# The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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## *Closed Communion*

*By Norman H. Wells*

True Baptists have always been the recipients of much abuse and unjust criticism because of their position concerning the Lord's Supper. The enemies of Baptists have always centered their attack upon "closed communion." They recognize that "closed communion" is necessary not only to the well being but to the perpetuity of Baptist churches.

How often the enemies of Baptists will declare to the world, "They refuse to receive people that the Lord Jesus receives." Many times it has been stated concerning Baptists that, "In heaven they are going to have a separate table from the rest of the redeemed."

Because of the attack that is continually made upon this great truth there is much sincere misunderstanding. There are those who are Baptist upon every point but this truth they are perplexed and confused. To this group we prayerfully direct these remarks.

This age is characterized by the abandonment of any principle or doctrine which is

distasteful to people or which is difficult to apply or enforce. Because of the reluctance of the ordinary Christian to receive this truth many Baptist churches and pastors have refrained from teaching it. God help us!! In order to make a popular appeal such great truths are completely forsaken.

The Baptist position concerning the Lord's Supper needs to be stated again and

again. Baptists believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life: that it is prerequisite to the privilege of a

church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate the dying love of Christ preceded always by a solemn self-examination.

The truth concerning the two church ordinances stand or fall together — they are inseparable. When a Baptist church is wrong on the Lord's Supper it follows that they are wrong on Baptism. The sins of "open communion" and "alien baptism" are generally found together.

In order to avoid further confusion let us define what is meant by "Open Communion" and "Closed Communion." "Closed Communion" is when the church administering the Lord's Supper limits the invitation to participate and maintains the Lord's restrictions.

Those who practice "Open Communion" would invite to the table of the Lord those who are lost and those who are unbaptized. Those who are under church cen-

## **The Evils of Adventism**

**By Roy Mason**

Many people suppose that Seventh Day Adventism is a relatively sound system of doctrine — just a little bit off concerning the Sabbath. Such a notion is untrue for it greatly minimizes the error of this system. The truth is the Sabbath error is *about the least of its errors*. Let us ask then,

**What Are Some Of The Errors Of Adventism?**

**1. Adventism had a wrong founder.** That

founder like Christian Science and Theosophy, was a hysterical neurotic woman. William Miller originated the first adventist group. He declared that the Lord would return in 1844. When he did not return, he confessed his mistake. Mrs. White took up where he left off, and eventually outlined a whole system of doctrine. She had visions and revelations, which even some Adventists physicians (we have their names and state-

(See MASON on page 13)

(See CLOSED on page 14)

## Quiz The Pastor -- #1

# Was Creation Really Brought About In Six Literal Days?

By the late Nick Michalinos

**Question:** Was creation brought about by God in six literal days, or by long periods of time?

**Answer:** The Biblical record itself makes it plain that the days of creation were literal days, and not long undated ages. There are those who are enemies of the Bible that seek to interpret the word "day" in the Bible record of creation to mean a period of millions or even billions of years. They do not accept creation as an instantaneous act of God. They use their billions-of-years theory in order to promote their unbelieving so-called scientific views of how things came about in this universe, but without a God. Others promote the day-age theory in order to prove their theory of evolution.

Shamefully, some who profess to be Bible believers adopt a theistic evolutionist view in order to

make the Bible to become more acceptable to unbelievers. They hope to profess a certain allegiance to the scriptures, and at the same time attempt to harmonize the evolutionist theory along with it. The Biblical record suffers at the hands of such teachers.

The word translated "day" is the Hebrew word "yom," and is used over 2,000 times in the Old Testament, and in over 95 percent of the cases the word is clearly shown to mean a 24-hour day, or of the daylight portion of a normal day. Many of the other five percent usages refer to expressions such as "the day of the Lord (Joel 2:1; Zech. 14:1), or the "day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). Therefore, even without a context, an unbiased translator would normally understand the idea of a 24-hour period" for the Hebrew word

"yom" (day).

For example, "God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day (Gen. 1:5). Here we can see, unless we are theologically tampered with, a "day" which consists of a period of light and a period of darkness. This period is called "the first day." This is repeated for the "third day," the fourth day," the fifth day and the "sixth day" (Gen. 1:13, 19, 23, 31). We are then told that God rested on the "seventh day," not because He was tired, but because He had finished the creation of all things. Moses makes this very clear in Exodus 20:8-11 when he wrote that "in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is" and rested on the seventh day. He wrote both inspired accounts in Genesis and Exodus and used the same Hebrew word "Yom" (day). It is evident the Holy Spirit chose to do so because the same 24-hour day was intended.

If the Sabbath day was a 24-hour day, then God's day of creation is a literal day, and that means the six days of creation were literal.

By the way, God wrote the Sabbath commandment (4th commandment) with His own finger on two tables of stone (Ex. 31:18; 32:16; Dt. 10:4). If anyone should want to know how long the days were, they should ask the Cre-

ator Himself. Imagine Jonah being in the whale's belly not for three days and three nights (Mt. 12:40) but for three ages or three periods of time!

In conclusion, there is no argument that "six days" means "six ages." Six days means six days. □

## Eight Kinds of Baptists

**1. Bat Baptist.** The bat draws in his wings and becomes an animal when with animals, then when it is with birds or other bats it spreads its wings and flies and is a bird. We have Baptists that can associate with the worldly crowd or the church-going crowd with equal ease — whichever crowd they happen to be with. God said, "Beware of a man whom all men speak well of him."

**2. Buzzard Baptist.** The buzzard never comes down, only when there is a death of some animal. There are Baptists who never go to church except for funerals.

**3. Crayfish Baptists.** When you touch a crayfish he starts going backward. There are a lot of Baptists that will go to church as long as they can just sit and "take" or absorb all the good things, but when it comes time to work or when trouble comes, then they start backing up or cray-fishing.

**4. Bear Baptists.** All summer all Mr. Bear does is eat. He stuffs himself until he is slick and fat and then at the

(See **KINDS** on page 13)

### THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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## Behold The Bridegroom Cometh

By Fred H. Wright

In the Bible, the marriage of Christ with His bride the church, and the events that precede it, are not according to Occidental but rather according to Oriental wedding customs. An understanding of these customs will throw much light on the approaching appearance of the heavenly Bridegroom to take unto Himself His bride.

**The Oriental father believes that it is his prerogative to choose a wife for his son.** With few exceptions, this was the general rule in Bible times. Concerning those who will help to make up the bride of Christ, the Apostle Paul said: "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation" (2 Thess. 2:13). God has indeed chosen the bride for His Son Jesus Christ.

**In Eastern lands a dowry is paid for the bride.** Before a young man can secure his bride, he must be financially able to pay the price necessary to have her. In like manner the Lord Jesus had to be able to pay the price necessary to redeem His bride. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). As Christ's bride truly we are bought with a price, even the blood of Jesus!

**In Bible lands, often the bride does not see the**

**groom until the wedding day.** It was so with Rebekah and her bridegroom, Isaac. It is thus with the church, the Lamb's wife. Peter wrote of our absent Lover: "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Pet. 1:8).

**In the Orient, the wedding supper is usually at the home of the groom's father, and the expense of it is always paid for by the groom's father, and not the bride's father.** In his description of the marriage supper of the Lamb (see Rev. 19:4-9), the Apostle John leaves no doubt that this great event will take place in heaven which is the home of Christ's Father, and that every detail of the arrangements will therefore be cared for by Him.

**In the East, the wedding procession is outdoors and not indoors as is so often the case in our part of the world.** The procession is from the house of the bride's parents, all the way to the house of the groom's parents, the latter house customarily becoming the future dwelling place of the married couple. In John 14:3 Jesus said: "I will come again and receive you." Thus the wedding procession that will precede the marriage of Christ and the church will be an outdoor procession, all the way from earth to heaven!

**Again, in an Eastern wedding procession, the bride rides, she rarely walks.** The Apostle Paul describes the coming wedding procession through the skies thus: "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess. 4:17). So the bride of Christ will ride from earth to heaven in a chariot of clouds!

**Also, it is the custom in the Orient for the groom to come out from his father's house to meet the bride, and conduct her in person to her new home for the wedding supper.** The words, "to meet the Lord in the air," tell the thrilling story that Christ will do exactly that in relation to His bride, the church, and the coming wedding feast in heaven.

**And in the East, the most important moment of the wedding festivities is when the bride arrives at her new home.** How significant then are the words of the Psalmist in relation to heaven's wedding festivities: "She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the King's palace" (Psa. 45:14-15).

**Furthermore, according to Oriental custom, invitations to a banquet are pressed upon those to whom they are given, because it is expected that the first invitations will be turned down.** Orientals take

time about most everything, even the accepting of an invitation. When Paul and his company were invited to be Lydia's guest at her house, the first invitations were doubtless declined in typical Oriental fashion, for Luke says: "And she constrained us" (Acts 16:15). Thus the Lord who served a banquet, said to his servant, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Lk. 14:33). It is our high privilege to give to people an invitation to attend the marriage supper of the Lamb. But let us not be quick to turn away if the first invitations are rejected. They are quite apt to be spurned in this sinful age. Let us persist in the true Oriental manner that we may have the thrill of having the invitation finally accepted by at least some of those to whom we give it.

**Finally, a wedding supper in Bible lands is quite apt to take place late in the evening, even at midnight, particularly if the groom's house is a distance from the bride's house, and the procession is delayed.** It was so with the wedding Jesus described in the Parable of the Ten Virgins. "The bridegroom tarried." "At midnight there was a cry made. Behold, the bridegroom cometh" (Mt. 25:5-6). The coming of Christ for His bride will take place when the earth is in midnight darkness. It would surely seem that we are in the eleventh hour now, and that His coming draweth nigh. Let us

(See BRIDE on page 16)

## Separation of “Muslim and State”?

The cat is finally out of the bag. Children may pray and worship in public school — but only if they are Muslims. A December 1 *New York Post* article states:

“Who says students can’t pray in public school? The Board of Education allows Muslim students to worship in school buildings during the holy month of Ramadan, the *Post* has learned.

“One Brooklyn high school gives Islamic students privileges to be 15 minutes late for class and to turn the auditorium into a makeshift mosque for their daily prayer vigil.”

The *Post* report continued, “At Lafayette HS, also in Bensonhurst, students get a special pass to be late to seventh period so they can pray in the school auditorium. Muslim students said the prayers usually take 15 minutes. They said they appreciated Lafayette’s religious tolerance.

“The school lets us do our own prayer. It’s beautiful,” said Umit Kulug, a 17-year-old senior from Turkey. “They let 100 of us boys and girls pray together in a big auditorium. Some of the non-Islamic students get a pass to watch us pray.” Kulug said teachers even help students catch up on what they missed in class.

“Prayer rooms are provided at other high schools, including Brooklyn Tech and International HS in Long Island City, Queens.”

The same article also

notes, “The accommodation of Muslim students comes only weeks after Brooklyn Shallow Intermediate School in the Bensonhurst section painted over a playground mural dedicated to neighborhood youths who died because it featured Jesus Christ.”

Let me get this straight. Public schools do not allow their students to sing Christmas songs that mention Christ. Manger scenes are not allowed. And Christian children may not read their Bible or pray, because they are told it violates the “separation of church and state.” Under this rubric, even murals that mention Jesus Christ are painted over.

Yet, Muslim children are allowed to conduct mass prayer meetings during school time, in school buildings, and teachers will even help them make up any missed work. And all this is done without anyone raising an objection. Any honest observer should realize that this call for the “separation of church and state” is in reality nothing more than a thinly veiled attack against America’s historic, Christian foundation. In a world ruled by liberals, Christians are told that their sacred symbols and their personal expressions of faith have no place in public life. At the same time, however, Muslims are assured that there is no separation of mosque and state. — Maranatha Baptist Watchman. □

## Read, Laugh, and Then Fight

At the Gates of Hell  
Collector of Infernal Revenue: Hades

Dear Tool of Satan:

Replying to your request to send check to finance your torture chamber, I wish to inform you that the present condition of my bank account makes it almost impossible. My shattered financial condition is due to Federal laws, state laws, county laws, city laws, corporation laws, liquor laws, mother-in-laws, brother-in-laws, outlaws and infernal laws.

Through these laws, I am compelled to pay a business tax, gas tax, amusement tax, head tax, sales tax, school tax, light tax, telephone tax, income tax, liquor tax, furniture tax and excise tax. I am required to get a business license, car license, truck license, not to mention a marriage and dog license.

I am also required to contribute to every society and organization which the genius of Satan is capable of bringing to life; to women’s relief, the unemployed relief and the gold-diggers’ relief. Also to every hospital and charitable institution on earth, including the Salvation Army, Commu-

nity Chest, United Way, Red Cross, Purple Cross, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.

For my own safety, I am required to carry health insurance, burglar insurance, fire insurance, liability insurance, property insurance, accident insurance, business insurance, flood insurance, earthquake insurance, tornado, unemployment and old age insurance.

My business is so governed that it is no easy matter to find out just who owns it. I am inspected, expected, suspected, disrespected, rejected, dejected, examined, reexamined, informed, required, summoned, fined, commanded and compelled until I provide an inexhaustible supply of money for every known need, desire or hope of Satan and his cohorts.

Simply because I refuse to donate to something or other, I am boycotted, talked about, lied about, held up, held down, and robbed until I am almost ruined. I can tell you honestly that except for a miracle that has happened, I could not enclose this check. The wolf that comes to my door nowadays just had pups in my kitchen. I sold them, and here is the money.

Look in the mirror, dear reader and say: “Hello Sap!”

### Pass It On!

We would appreciate it if our readers would pass the information on to others that **The Baptist Challenge** is now available on the Internet. A mention in your church bulletin or paper giving the Internet address would be appreciated. —The Editor

## A Heaven-led Versus Man-led Program

Sometimes we raise the question, "Will Baptists ever come to believe, actually believe, that the Lord will provide?" Abraham learned that the Lord is Jehovah — "the Lord will provide" — at Horeb. Just in proportion as we Baptists let fleshly wisdom enter into thoughts and plans, do we overlook the Lord as the all-sufficient provider and as a consequence ignore Him in our methods and procedure. And, moreover, just in proportion as we inject our own wisdom into His work do we make a mess of things.

Actually the Bible teaches that the Lord is our sufficiency in all things, and since He is, we must look to Him for grace and power and leadership in all of His work. A question which every Baptist should face today, and face prayerfully, is, "Am I willing to trust the Holy Spirit's leadership in evangelism, and missions, and benevolence?" If we answer this question affirmatively, then we shall turn to the Holy Spirit who indwells our churches for absolute leadership. All human devices will be set aside.

Evidence is ample showing the all-sufficiency of the Lord. We needed light — He provided light in the Word. He needed a witness of the light — He provided it in the church. He needed leadership for His church — He provided it in the Holy Spirit.

Now independent Baptists believe that we should turn to the Holy Spirit, and not to Boards and Committees for programs. We believe that He is able to enlist all of our churches in evangelistic, missionary and benevolent endeavors, and will if we will only trust Him.

Now, the presence of Boards and Committees operating to map out and project and promote programs for Baptists evidences unbelief in the ability of the Holy Spirit to enlist our churches in the Lord's work and results in shaming His ministry in our churches as well as results in dividing our forces on the Lord's work. We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, possessing the attributes of the Absolute, and that it is His task to provide fields of labor, and workers for the fields. We believe He is heaven's leader, abiding in the churches, to evangelize, and baptize, and teach the commands of the Lord Jesus, even unto the end of the age.

Baptist organizations, manifested in headquarters, and Boards, and Promotional agencies, do not believe in the sufficiency of the Holy Spirit's wisdom and leadership in the Lord's work, else such agencies would cease to exist. When they project human wisdom into the divine labor of the Lord, they lend themselves to building machines which come in time to demand conformity to the program they devise for cooperating churches. While preaching doctrines of grace in the pulpit, they apply the wisdom of the world out of the pulpit. This is done by

good men and it is done because they either fail, or refuse, to see that the Holy Spirit stands in the churches of the living God in the stead of the Lord Jesus to lead them.

What we need to see is that the Lord provides and supplies, and energizes, and builds His churches. Accordingly, we Baptists should quit all promotional labors upon the basis of fleshly wisdom, and quit building organizations. Fleshly wisdom applied to the Lord's work can but produce machines.

Independent Baptists believe the Holy Spirit is able to carry on the Lord's work without depending upon human wisdom. We believe He is able to enlist churches in a program that will not mar the truth, not shame His leadership, and not destroy our freedom. We believe He taboos human expediencies and devices in furthering heaven's work. He doesn't need our wisdom. He only needs us to yield ourselves to Him in His work.

If Baptists would but yield the Lord their minds, and their wills, and their hearts, we would soon discover larger labors and victories, wrought in the name of Christ, under His leadership in and through our churches. ¶

We do not believe in the psychology that never brings out the bad side of things; neither does the Bible. The Bible tells the whole truth; that is why it never deceives anyone.

## Rules For Ushers

There are two church functions that can spoil a minister's best efforts. One is the janitor, the other the ushers. Every possible thing should be done to train these people so they become a genuine help to the church. Here are some suggestions:

1. Be quiet in all your work.
2. Keep the air pure — good ventilation is necessary.
3. There should be an usher in the vestibule at all times.
4. No one but ushers should be allowed in the rear.
5. Be at your post at least 15 minutes before service begins.
6. Be positive with people. They are not to have their way, but to do as you say.
7. Give strangers the best seats, and always see that they have a song book or program.
8. See that they get some hand-shakes.
9. Realize the importance of your office. The first impression which strangers receive on coming into the church is usually from the ushers.
10. Never seat anyone during the reading of scriptures, special music, or prayer. This applies to ALL.
11. If you are compelled to be absent, always notify the chief usher in time for him to supply another one.
12. Always give a friendly greeting to everyone, members and strangers alike. Remember, you are representing the "Friendly Church."

# The Bible Has Had Many Enemies

By R. G. Lee

Philosophers have tried to drown it in the muddy waters of their philosophy and ignorance. The archaeologist with his crowbar, the geologist with his hammer, the physicist with his battery — all these have fought against the Book. Some scientists and astronomers lifted up haughty mouths, “darkening counsel with words without wisdom” against the Book. The dissecting knives of theological anatomists have cut at its milk veins. Inexorable censors have sat, like Jehoiakim before the fireplace in his summer house, Bible on knee, penknife in hand, calmly mutilating the only reliable franchise of our Christian hopes. Snipers, some from behind pulpit stands, some behind college chairs, are accustomed to aim ill-grounded propositions against the Scriptures.

The open and avowed leaders of infidelity are gone. Bradlaugh of England and Ingersoll of America were the last of the Old Guard. Now open warfare has given way to subtle strategy. The troops of Ulysses are no longer hurled against the walls of Troy. It is the enemy in the belly of the wooden horse that we must watch out for today. The Trojan horse, in some places, has been wheeled within the walls of the churches themselves. A body

of militant critics, many of them wearing the sacred garb of theological professors and ministers of the gospel, have been attempting to draw the bolts of the citadel.

Diocletian tried to exterminate the Book in the third century. Celsus tried to undermine the message. The astute Porphyry hurled his venomous shafts. Hume, with rare subtlety, wielded cogent weapons. He said, “Methinks I see the twilight of Christianity!” He mistook the sunrise for the sunset. He mistook the time of day. What he thought was twilight deepening into midnight was sunshine growing into a dazzling noonday. Voltaire flung his arrows tipped with fire at the Book. Tom Paine tried to drown it in infidel ink. Ingersoll flung quiver full after quiver full of arrows of scorn and jeers and sneers at it.

But the Book lives on. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh at those who think they destroy His Word and its triumphs. Voltaire cut not one twig from its great forests. Paine drowned not one page in infidel ink. Shortened not its life by one hour. Diocletian broke not one string on its harp of ten thousand strings. Agnostics who kindled their bonfires upon it burn not away one thread of its garments. Atheists have not been able to steal one

flower from its gorgeous flower gardens. Unbelieving scientists, with microscope and telescope and test tube, have not been able to dilute one drop of its sweetness. Theological smokescreeners who have tried to hide in clouds and thick darkness the Cross and the Blood and the empty tomb in Joseph’s garden have not been able to invert its torch or to quench one ray of its light. Still it is our “pillar of fire” among all books. Not one jot or tittle of its moral code has perished in the last century. Isaac Newton said: “If all the great books of the world were given life and were brought together in convention, the other books would fall on their faces, as the gods of Philistia fell when the ark of God was brought into their presence in the temple of Dagon.”

Today the Bible, in the face of all enmity and hatred, all criticism and antagonism, is still the Book that opens with crystal waters for our thirst when we travel “the dry and dusty highways where no water is.” This Book has traveled and does travel, up and down more highways and bypaths and knocks now at more doors and speaks to more people in their mother tongue than any book, having been translated into approximately one thousand different languages

Last eve I stood beside a blacksmith’s door,  
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;  
Then walking in, I saw upon the floor,  
Old hammers worn by beat-

ing years of time!

“How many anvils have you had?” said I,  
“To beat and shatter all these hammers so?”  
“Just one,” he said; then with twinkling eye,  
“The anvil wears the hammers out, you know!”

And so I thought the anvil of God’s Word  
For ages skeptic blows have rained upon;  
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,  
The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone!

The Book a thousand times has proved itself indifferent to faint praise or violent denunciation — a Book which defies the critic, convinces the intellect, inspires awe, compels faith, demands worship. Though Ninevah with her pride is now a dirty doormat for irreverent feet, the Book lives on. Though Rome with her power is now a branchless tree dishonorable, fruitless, the Book lives on. Though Greece with her culture and art is now a crumb in history’s rubbish heap, the Book lives on. Though Spain with her pomp is now a drowsy beggar watching a broken clock, the Book lives on. Though Egypt with her wealth is now a shabby sexton of splendid tombs, the Book lives on. □

Be sure that the church of your choice is not like a lot of other choices you have made — the wrong ones.

# A Brief History of The Baptists

By Tim Kucij

While many date the origin of the Baptists to the Reformation, it is clear historically, doctrinally and practically that Baptists are not *Protestants* and their history spans back centuries before Luther, Calvin, Zwingli or any of the other “reformers.” Jesus founded a local New Testament (Baptistic) church during His own personal, earthly ministry, and His churches have been found in every century on down to the present time (Mt. 16:18; 18:17; 28:20).

Now these churches have not always been called “Baptist,” but they have consistently been “Baptistic” in doctrine and practice. Many of the world’s greatest historians attest to the antiquity of the Baptist people. J. C. Ridpath (Methodist), Sir Isaac Newton (philosopher-scientist), Cardinal Hosius (Roman Catholic) and Zwingli (Swiss reformer) to name but a few. Some of the various names applied to the Baptist people (mostly by their oppressors) have been: Montanists (first and second centuries); Novatians (third, fourth, and fifth centuries); Donatists (fourth, fifth and sixth centuries); Paulicians (seventh century); Paterines (tenth century); Waldensians, Albigenses, Vaudois, Cathari (eleventh and succeeding centuries); Anabaptists and Bap-

tists (twelfth century and on).

These Baptistic people, by whatever name, have always stood on the Bible as the sole rule of faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:16). They have also tenaciously held to a regenerated church membership (Acts 2:41); the autonomy of the local church (Mt. 18:16-22); the priesthood of believers (1 Pet. 2:9); individual soul liberty (Phil. 2:12-13); immersion (Mt. 28:19-20); Rom. 6:4-5); the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:26ff); separation of church and state (Acts 5:29), and personal and ecclesiastical separation (2 Cor. 6:17).

These truths have been adhered to even under the most severe persecution. These are the Baptists! Oh, that we, as modern day Baptists, would learn from our great Baptist forbears and remember the “*trail of blood*” they left behind! □

It is utterly impossible to get the true import of what someone tells you that another has said about you. Inaccurate words, tone of your voice, viewpoint, and personal motive so cover the report that it cannot be true to the original statement. Withhold judgment until you hear from the speaker.

## Wisdom From A Watermelon

By William Jennings Bryan

I was passing through Columbus, Ohio, some years ago, and stopped to eat in the depot restaurant. My attention was called to a slice of watermelon, and I ordered it and ate it. I was so pleased with the melon that I asked the waiter to dry some of the seeds that I might take them home and plant them in my garden.

That night a thought came into my mind — I would use the watermelon as an illustration. So, the next morning, when I reached Chicago, I had enough seeds weighed to find out that it would take about 5,000 watermelon seeds to weigh a pound, and I estimated that the watermelon weighed about forty pounds. Then I applied mathematics to the watermelon.

A few weeks before, someone — I know not who — had planted a little seed in the ground. Under the influence of sunshine and shower, that little watermelon seed had taken off its coat and gone to work: it had gathered from somewhere 200,000 times

its own weight and forced that enormous weight through a tiny stem and built a watermelon. On the outside it had put a covering of green, within that a rind of white, and within that a core of red. Then it had scattered through the red, little seeds, each one capable of doing the same work over again.

What architect drew the plant? Where did that little watermelon seed get its tremendous strength? Where did it find its flavoring extract and its coloring matter? How did it build a watermelon?

Until you can explain a watermelon, do not be too sure you can set limits to the power of the Almighty, or tell just what He will do or how He will do it. The most learned man in the world cannot explain a watermelon but the most ignorant man in the world can eat a watermelon and enjoy it. God has given us the things that we need, and He has given us the knowledge necessary to use those things. And the truth that He has revealed to us is infinitely more important for our welfare than it would be to understand the mysteries that He has seen fit to conceal from us. □

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# World News Roundup

**Germ Warfare By Terrorists.** — China, India, Pakistan, N. Korea, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Yugoslavia, and Cuba are among countries that want to acquire, or may already have secret stocks of smallpox virus specimens. These known sponsors of terrorism want to build a biological weapons program (6/2 *World*). The potency of the smallpox virus (can infect victims 30 feet away) makes it an instant and widespread killer. A suicide germ-warfare terrorist could carry the disease onto a plane or into a sports arena and infect thousands within a day. — CC

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**Pope Entrusts "Whole Church." To Mary.** — On June 3, Pope John Paul II entrusted "the whole Church" to the intercession of Mary and "placed in her hands the expectations of peace and justice of the world." He called her the "queen of heaven." The pope commended the Mariolatry of the late Pope John XXIII, observing that Mary took that pope "by the hand and accompanied him" on his earthly journey. Pope John Paul II concluded with these words: "... let us deepen our relation with the Mother of Christ and Tabernacle of the Holy Spirit and, inspired by new fervor, let us invoke her with confi-

dence." This is the same pope who has been praised by evangelical leaders such as Billy Graham, Jack Van Impe, Bill Bright, and Chuck Colson. When President Bush travels, he often meets privately with senior members of the Catholic clergy, such as bishops and cardinals (5/28 USN&WR). In March, he attended the dedication of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., and hosted 60 cardinals, bishops, and other Catholic leaders at the White House. He gave the commencement address at the University of Notre Dame. [George W. Bush recently visited the Pope, and has been lavish in his praise of the Catholic Church - Editor]. — CC

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**Illegal Aliens Bad For Our Country.** — With one million crossings a day, the U.S.-Mexico border is the world's busiest. An estimated six million illegals are today costing U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars per year for education, health care, food stamps and public housing. Most of today's immigrants are poor and unskilled. The 12/12/94 *U.S. News* said we should replace our present policy which discriminates against Europeans, and admit more people with high skills and education. Roman Catholic prelates have often called

for a Catholic majority in the U.S. and boasted that one day they would accomplish this "by the stork and immigration." Most illegals, by far, are Catholic and tend to vote for liberal Democrats. The Pope has called for more [RC] babies and for capitalist "have" nations to feed RC socialist "have not" countries. It seems Catholicism and socialism often cause poverty, while Christianity and freedom produce prosperity. — CC

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**Presbyterians Recommend Lifting Ban On Homosexual Clergy.** — The main policy-making body of the Presbyterian Church (USA) voted June 15 to recommend lifting a ban on ordaining homosexual clergy. It still must be ratified by a majority of presbyteries over the next year. The PUSA elected liberal former Fuller Seminary professor Jack Rogers as moderator. He rejects the historicity of the Genesis account of creation and defends, or at least leaves room for, modalism. — CC

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**Rather: "You Can Lie and Still Be Honest."** — CBS News anchor Dan Rather in a recent Fox News interview said he thinks Bill Clinton is an honest man, even though he lied under

oath and to Jim Lehrer about the Lewinsky affair. Rather said: "I think you can be an honest person and lie about any number of things" (5/28 USN&WR). Evidence abounds that the mainline media are governed by this postmodern definition of honesty. — CC

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**Harry Potter Battle** — The Harry Potter tales of magical powers are recruiting tools for the occult. Complaints tripled last year. "The books depict witchcraft and are anti-family," "Harry Potter teaches you it's OK to get back at people," e.g. (5/21 USN&WR). Several schools, mostly elementary (in Pennsylvania, Kansas, Illinois, and Wyoming), have banned them. It is dangerous to dabble in the occult and to naively assume witchcraft is merely harmless fantasy. — CC

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**God, Yes — Jesus, No!** — On television, you don't use the name "Jesus." "God" you can use. *On Touched by an Angel*, they never refer to Jesus, only God. ... It's sad that you can talk about Satan, you can talk about Hitler, but when you start talking about our Lord and Savior, it's taboo. Vari-

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ous religions accept "God," but reject "Jesus." Some cults accept Jesus as "a son of God" but not God the Son, as the Bible presents Him. Jesus said (Jn. 5:23), "He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father who hath sent him." Alcoholics Anonymous teaches belief in a generic god ("as I understand him") while prohibiting discussion of Jesus Christ. — CC

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### **Pope At Odds With Bible On Death Penalty.**

— The *5/7 Christian News* says: "The Pope has again meddled into the business of the U.S. He's asking the U.S. not to execute Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. The Pope does not accept what God says in His Word about capital punishment (Gen. 9:6; Lev. 24:17; Ex. 21:12; Num. 35:21; Dt. 19:12; Acts 25:11; Rom. 13:4). — CC.

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### **Catholics Make Evangelicals Leave Town In Mexico.**

— Catholic leaders in San Nicolas, Mexico, a town of some 4,000 people, are telling 36 evangelical families they must leave town within 90 days "or be kicked out" (*Ala. Baptist*). Their water and sewer services were cut off March 28. A San Nicolas spokesperson said, "What the town wants is for the evangelicals to stop spreading their religion to more people and to stop hav-

ing their meetings ...." Another example of Romanist intolerance! — C

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### **Pope Urges New Effort Against "Sects" [Charismatics] In Latin America.**

— Pope John Paul II, alluding to Pentecostalism and other groups, called religious sects a serious problem in predominantly RC Latin America and urged bishops there to re-evangelize their flocks. Pentecostals have been attracting large numbers of Catholic converts in recent years and the 289 million Catholics in Latin America make up almost a third of the 1 billion Catholics worldwide. The number of "evangelicals" in Latin America has grown from 50,000 in 1900 to about 64 million in 1997 — about three-fourths of whom are Pentecostal or charismatic. — CC

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### **Swedish Gay-rights Bill Poses A Threat.**

— A proposed law could make it illegal to publicly express the biblical position against homosexual behavior in Sweden. The bill's passage might criminalize the "reading of certain Bible verses in public" and undermine free speech. Sweden's three largest denominations — Lutheran, Catholic, and Congregationalist, and "Christian gay" pressure groups — favor the bill. Defamatory statements about homosexuals are prosecutable in Sweden under existing law. The new bill defines homosexuals as a

group in need of special legal protection against discrimination. — CC

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### **Two SBC Profs Refuse To Sign BF&M.**

— Two professors at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will leave their jobs rather than sign the Baptist Faith & Message as revised by the Southern Baptist Convention last year. The two men disagree with the statement's new prohibition on women pastors, and were told they must leave within a year. All faculty are required to sign the new BF&M. — CC

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### **Homosexuals Can Change If They Want To.**

— An explosive new study led by Columbia University psychiatry professor Dr. Robert L. Spitzer said some homosexuals can turn straight if they really want to. Mental health groups dispute this. Homosexual-rights activists insist they are born with a "gay gene" or some uncontrollable element that leads to homosexuality. But homosexuality (and adultery) is a sinful behavioral choice. Homosexuals and adulterers can be saved and delivered just like other sinners. Dr. Spitzer said: "Like most psychiatrists I thought that homosexual behavior could only be resisted and that no one could really change their sexual orientation." He added: "I now believe that to be false. Some people can and do change." — CC

**Graham's Affinity With Catholicism.** — Dr. Billy Graham wrote the foreword in the book, *John Paul II, A Tribute*, and has often praised the Pope. Davie Hunt comments (*5/1 Berean Call*): "Anyone, Catholic or Protestant, recognizes that by commending the Pope and Roman Catholicism as the true faith ... Billy Graham has implicitly renounced the Protestant Reformation. His embrace of Catholicism implies that the Catholic bishops were actually in biblical agreement with their victims and preached the same gospel as evangelicals preach today. yet they anathematized and burned Protestants [plus millions of Baptists — Editor] and Rome honors them for having done so. ... If Graham is right that the Roman Catholic Church preaches the true gospel that saves souls, all the Reformers were wrong. ... Take your pick: either Graham is right or the Reformers were, but not both of them. Furthermore, if Catholicism is the true gospel, then what must be said of the hundreds of millions of Roman Catholics who have been convinced over the last 500 years that Rome's gospel is false, who have believed the true gospel and left the Roman Catholic Church? If Graham is right, they are absolute fools. They should have stayed in the Catholic Church — which is exactly where Graham sends all Roman Catholics who come forward at his crusades. ..." — CC

(See WNR on page 10)

WNR...

(Continued from page 9)

**Spurgeon On Separation.** — Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against it. \*\* It is our solemn conviction that where there can be no real spiritual communion there should be no pretense of fellowship. Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin. \*\* As soon as I saw, or thought I saw, that error had become firmly established, I did not deliberate, but quitted the body at once. Since then my counsel has been "Come out from among them." I have felt that no protest could be equal to that of distinct separation from known evil. \*\* That I might not stultify my testimony I have cut myself clear of those who err from the faith, and even from those who associate with them. \*\* Cost what it may to separate ourselves from those who separate themselves from the truth of God is not alone our liberty but our duty. — CC

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**Abortion: Destroying Unwanted Children.** When abortion was declared legal in the U.S., one of its staunchest supporters said it would "usher in an era when every child will be wanted, loved and properly cared for; when the incidence of infanticides and battered children would be sharply reduced." On the

contrary, in the years following 1973, abuse, neglect, abandonment, and even infanticide skyrocketed. Since then, our media and social elites, to justify abortion, seem to presume that unwanted children would be better off dead. And they say destroying "unwanted" children right up until a moment before birth, is enshrined as a sacred constitutional right. — CC

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**TV's Addictive Power** — Is there any greater time thief in the world than television? Its dramatic offerings are increasingly unsavory. Its news coverage is blatantly biased yet numbers of Christian women succumb to its addictive powers. TV's influence is progressive. The more you watch, the more you want to watch. The more you want to watch, the more you tolerate. The more you imitate. Ultimately, TV takes much more than time. — CC

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**Gates Gives Millions To Planned Parenthood.** — The International Planned Parenthood Federation says it has received, spread over five years, an \$8.8 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. These funds will help the British-based IPPF promote abortion and "family planning." — CC

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**More Muslim Violence In Indonesia.** — Christian families in Indonesia's Maluku islands

are forced at gunpoint to convert to Islam in rituals that include genital mutilation for females and dull-bladed circumcision for males. Those refusing to convert are killed by jihad warriors who later display the severed heads of some as a warning to others. Indonesia is 83% Muslim — CC

**Guns Also Save Lives.** — When have you heard a story on the national evening news about a citizen *saving* a life with a gun? A Yale Law scholar and gun control researcher complains that the mainline media consistently ignore the facts about gun use. Civilians' firearms stop about 2 million crimes per year. That's five times more often than they are used to commit crimes. In 98% of the cases, just brandishing a gun is enough to stop a crime. Other research shows that only one out of 1,000 defensive gun uses results in the attacker's death. — CC

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**Don't Call Them "Mormons."** — Mormons let it be known they no longer wanted to be referred to as "the Mormon Church," "the Latter-day Saints Church," or by "LDS Church." If the name must be shortened, "the Church of Jesus Christ," or "the Church" is acceptable, they said (3/19 USN&WR). But "Mormons," or "Smithites," would be more accurate titles than either of the latter two. Some see the name change as but one of a series of recent steps by the Mormonism cult to decep-

tively pass itself off as a Christian church. — CC

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**World Criminal Court On the Way?** — President George Bush announced that he will not send a treaty signed by Bill Clinton just prior to leaving office, that creates the world's first global criminal court, to the Senate for ratification. But he needs to officially "unsign" it. So far, 27 countries have ratified this dangerous International Criminal Court treaty. It needs only 33 more. The ICC would give the UN the mechanism it needs to enforce global "laws" against U.S. citizens. — CC

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**Dangers of Hate-crime Laws.** — A hate-crimes bill has been reintroduced in Congress. A big danger for Christians is that this will be used to stifle religious dissent in calling homosexuality a sin or choice. Already, laws prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals have been used to bar religious leaders from quoting scripture as a basis for calling homosexuality a sin. — CC

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**Harry Potter & The Bible.** — Richard Abanes, "a well-published evangelical expert on cults and the occult," in a new book by the above name, proves that the Potter books are steeped in a thinly disguised occultism

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WNR...

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(Moody, 4/1). They “exalt morally flawed, egocentric characters who often lie, use profanity, and refuse to repent. ...” — CC

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**Psychiatrists Say Homosexuality Is Either Mental Illness or Sexual Deviation.** — A 1992 survey by the American Psychiatric Association’s Office of International Affairs in conjunction with the APA Committee of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Psychiatrists surveyed 125 psychiatric associations around the world, family groups report. The survey found that all but three associations consider homosexuality mental illness or a sexual deviation, they said. Yet, many today demand that Boy Scouts accept “gays” as leaders. — CC

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**Death Penalty To Convert A Muslim.** — The supreme leader of Afghanistan’s ruling Taliban militia warns that his regime will enforce the death penalty on any Muslim who converts to another faith, and said “any non-Muslim found trying to win converts will also be killed.” He has ordered all statues to be destroyed. A 5-year jail sentence is decreed

for anyone caught selling or distributing anti-Islamic literature. — CC

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**Clinton Case Founded On Lies.** — Former Pres. Clinton was able to ride out his impeachment because he and his partisans managed to convince the nation that the issue was not truth but power. Most all his arguments were founded upon lies. It was a lie that he did not perjure himself. It was a lie that he did not conceal evidence. It was a lie that he did not conspire to intimidate witnesses. It was a lie that all these things were [mere] personal mistakes. It was a lie that the assemblage of raw FBI files on 900 Republicans was not for the purposes of blackmail. It was a lie that these files came to the White House by mistake. ... It was a lie that the president did not receive millions of campaign dollars from China. It was a lie that he did not purposely intervene to aid the transfer to [Communist] China of military technology that China intends for potential use against the U.S. It was a lie that these two actions were unconnected. It was a lie that the grounds of impeachment were not mystifyingly narrow. ... There were so many lies that they were like sand in a sandstorm ... (Mark Helprin). — CC

## What Spurgeon Believed About Election And Preaching The Gospel To Every Creature

I do not think I differ from any of my Hyper-Calvinistic brethren in what I do believe; but I differ from them in what I do not believe. I do not hold any less than they do, but I hold a little more, and I think, a little more of the truth revealed in the Scriptures.

Not only are there *a few cardinal doctrines*, by which we can steer our ship North, South, East, or West but as we study the Word, we shall begin to learn something about the North-west and North-east, and all else that lies between the four cardinal points.

The system of truth revealed in the Scriptures is not simply one straight line, but two: and no man will ever get a right view of the gospel until he knows how to look at the two lines at once.

For instance, I read in one Book of the Bible, “The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Yet I am taught in another part of the same inspired Word, that “it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.” I see, in one place, God in providence presiding over all; and yet I see, and I cannot help seeing, that man acts as he pleases, and that God has left his actions, in a great measure, to his own free will.

Now, if I were to decree that man was so free to act that there was no control of God over his actions, I should be driven very near to atheism; and if, on the other hand, I should declare that God so overrules all things that man is *not free* enough to be responsible, I should be driven at once into Antinomianism or fatalism.

That God predestines, and yet that man is responsible, are two facts that few can see clearly. They are believed to be inconsistent and contradictory; *but they are not. The fault is in our weak judgment.* Two truths cannot be contradictory to each other.

If, then, I find taught in one part of the Bible that everything is foreordained, *that is true*; and if I find, in another Scripture, that man is responsible for all his actions, *that is true*; and it is only my folly that leads me to imagine that these two truths can ever contradict each other.

I do not believe they can ever be welded into one upon any earthly anvil, but they certainly shall be one in eternity. They are two lines that are so nearly parallel, that the human mind which pursues them farthest will never discover that they converge; but they do converge, and they will meet somewhere in eternity, close to the throne of God, whence all truth doth spring.

(From chapter 16 of Spurgeon’s Autobiography.)

### Pass It On!

We would appreciate it if our readers would pass the information on to others that **The Baptist Challenge** is now available on the Internet. A mention in your church bulletin or paper giving the Internet address would be appreciated. —The Editor

## Charms of Africa

By Gene Seay

The sun was a red ball of fire hemorrhaging all over the western sky as it slipped silently below the horizon. We were sitting on the brow of a hill overlooking the Olifants River in Southern Africa. A few feet from our shoe laces a cliff fell off to the bank of the river far below. The nasal honkings and snortings of hippos in the river below drifted up to us on the still night air. On the cliff face directly below us, safe from the possibility of any leopard looking for supper, a troop of baboons were carrying on a conversation. Suddenly it was dark, such a darkness that only one that has been out in the night in the African bush can appreciate.

With us on that memorable night were Jim and Georgia Dearmore, missionaries to Africa. We were cruising Kruger National Park, the second largest National Park in the world, with our cameras. We had reservations in Olifants Camp. The camp is surrounded by a very strong game fence on three sides, to keep the denizens of the night out. On the fourth side a fence was not needed because the cliff was too steep for anything dangerous to climb. Our quarters consisted of two rondouals, circular huts with grass roofs. There are several such camps strategically located throughout the park. All visitors to the park must be either out of the park or in one of the camps by six in the

evening, when they close the gates. Outside of the camps it is pure wilderness. Animals roam at will over the park, and it is a dangerous place at night for one to be outside the camps.

How long we sat there on the brink of the cliff I do not recall, but it was well on into the night. Overhead the stars shone like diamonds on black velvet, and the moon shone like quicksilver on the surface of the water below. In the distance we could hear the eerie giggling-yodeling-insane laughing sounds of hyenas that were probably chortling over the remains of some unfortunate antelope that they had brought down. Once or twice we heard the coughing, throaty roar of a lion. In the wilds of Africa death rules the night. Everything bites, stomps, claws, or pushes with the horn. It is simply raw instinctive barbarity. Outside the camp one must not get out of the car. It is just simply too dangerous.

There are a few paved roads that run the length and width of the park, but the best roads for seeing wildlife are the dirt roads that follow the windings of the streams of water.

Inside the camps at night we felt safe because of the sturdy fences. It reminds me of the security that the child of God has, being, as he is, fenced in from the cruel forces without by the grace of God, and His all-powerful presence. Outside of God's protective presence the old lion, Satan, is always prowling about seeking whom he may devour. Just as the lions in Africa have no feeling, ex-

## My Church

By John L. Hill

*“Upon this rock I will build my church”* (Mt. 16:18).

The Master invented the phrase “my church.” He meant it to be personal. I want to say three things about my church.

First, my church is not a religious society or club. It is not a man-made institution. It is not subject to the whims or even to the courtesies of men. My church is not a thing that I can slip around and move around and merge around and combine with this, that, and the other. I will go with you anywhere on any good errand, and co-operate with you individually in any good work you are interested in, but when you ask me to take liberty that of hunger, for the unfortunate beasts they kill for food, Satan has no benevolent feeling whatsoever for the unfortunate people he gets his fangs into. But neither does the lion have any ill will for the beasts he kills for food, not being endowed with a conscience like human beings. He is a-moral, while Satan and all his people are immoral, and greed, malevolence, and outright hatred govern their relationship with others. They think only of themselves and theirs. As Jesus said they are truly of their father the devil, and the lusts of their father they will do. The Christian's nature rules his conscience for good, and the unbeliever's nature rules his conscience for bad. ¶

erties with my church, that is something I have no authority to do. God keep me true to my church.

Second, my church is the divine institution, the only institution that Jesus ever established. Since my Master has given such significance to this particular institution, I, his servant, ought to take account of my church, the divine institution founded by Jesus, redeemed by His blood, commissioned by Him for a very definite task and service. It is not for me to take liberties with the commission that Jesus has given my church.

My church is the custodian of some very definite treasures. It is the custodian of the Book, God's Word. But for my church, the Bible with all its treasures would have passed and the interpretation and application of its truths in all of their simplicity would have been lost in confusion and complexity.

My church is the custodian of the faith. Pronouncements made by my church, in fellowship and association assembled, give to all of us clear and concise statements of the faith of the Book, as well as the faith of our fathers.

My church is the energizer of all the institutions for the comfort and happiness of humanity. I dare you to find one that contributes to either the comfort or the happiness of human beings anywhere that hasn't been energized by the church that Jesus founded — my church!

My church is the de-

(See **CHURCH** on page 13)

## Are You Soft Soaping God?

**Duz** you **Dreft** along with the **Tide**? **Vel** now is the time for **All** to **Cheer** up if you want real **Joy**. The **Trend** is to **Breeze** to church regularly on Sunday morning but too many **Woodbury** their heads in the pillow, or work in the yard like **Handy Andy** forgetting that the Lord's day is for **Lestoil**. The **Dove of Piece** will have to send out an **S.O.S.** for you. Don't trust to **Lux** and neglect worship to God. Shall we **Dial** you and remind you of those Ivory palaces up yonder? This is not just idle **Babo**. Worship will add to your **Lifebouy**, so why not be faithful and **Wisk** yourself out of bed every Sunday morning. Dress up **Spic and Span** and **Dash** like a **Comet** to God's house of prayer singing **Praise** to God and bring a real **Dutch Cleanser** to your soul. **Pledge** yourself and **Pride** of conscience will beome full of **Zest**.

Sincerely yours,  
**Mr. Clean**

We are not surprised that preaching has such little affect upon the lost of this day when we consider how little it has upon those who claim to be saved.

### Pass It On!

We would appreciate it if our readers would pass the information on to others that **The Baptist Challenge** is now available on the Internet. A mention in your church bulletin or paper giving the Internet address would be appreciated. —The Editor

### CHURCH...

(Continued from page 12)

fender of men's souls against all tyrannies of all forms anywhere. Of course, you and I think little about that in this great land of ours. Possibly we would be more worthy Americans if we gave more heed to it.

Third, my church offers the emancipation of the individual, from sin and from selfishness. Take those two things out of human life and you have solved every problem that attacks us today. It offers compassion and brotherhood instead of greed and class struggle. I don't know any other organization that offers brotherhood. It offers life and light to all men everywhere. No matter what your color is, no matter what your race is, no matter what your background is, no matter what your heritage, my church offers life and light, needed by the lost man wherever he is. It offers peace to the world. Yes, in the name of the Prince of Peace, through whose name alone shall peace ever come to the world.

It offers, finally, fellowship that anticipates the joys of the heavenly home. In all our discords and strife and difficulties and problems, we yearn for the peace and the

quiet and the happiness and the joy of the Father's House. The fellowship of my church anticipates that and offers such fellowship to me.

I think the best I can do in this crucial hour is to think of my church, to treasure the precious memories, tender associations, and hallowed experiences connected with it, and to pledge to it my best. Yes, that's the best I can do. □

### KINDS...

(Continued from page 2)

first sign of winter he dens up somewhere and is not seen until spring. Some Baptists, after enjoying all the good summer revivals, den up at the first sign of frost and are not seen again until spring. Or maybe they do come out for Christmas and Easter.

**5. Skunk Baptists.** The skunk only stirs up a stink. Enough said.

**6. Frog Baptists.** A frog spends his time croaking. There are Baptists that could be a blessing to others — could win souls — but all they ever do is croak.

**7. Peckerwood Baptists.** Always knocking someone or something.

**8. Donkey Baptists.** A donkey does a lot of braying, but is allergic to work. About the time you think you have him going good he balks and no amount of coaxing or talking will get him to move. Some Baptists make a lot of noise, but when asked to do something they balk and you could set the bench afire and they would only move out of reach of the fire and let the bench burn down. □

### MASON...

(Continued from page 1)

ments) admitted were the products of her diseased mental condition.

**2. Adventism makes the Devil to be the real sin-bearer and Savior.** The scapegoat type of the Old Testament — plainly the type of Christ, is made to typify Satan by the Adventists. Mrs. White says: ("The Great Controversy") "The scapegoat typified Satan the author of sin, upon whom the sins of the truly penitent will finally be placed." But contrary to this is the statement, "Who his own self, bare our sins in his own body upon the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24).

**3. Adventism teaches that the Lord Jesus inherited a sinful, fallen nature.** Lest this be denied, we quote from their writings. (Bible Readings For The Home Circle, page 115, 1915 Edition) "In His humanity Christ partook of our sinful, fallen nature." In contrast with this read John 14:30 and 1 John 3:5.

**4. Adventism teaches that the soul sleeps after death.** They take passages that refer to the *body* and make them to apply to the whole person. Refutation of this theory is found in Paul's words, "Absent from the body — present with the Lord," and "Having a desire to depart and be with Christ."

**5. Adventism teaches conditional immortality.** They deny that all persons must live forever some where Immortality they say is re-

(See **MASON** on page 14)

**MASON...**

(Continued from page 13)

ceived on certain terms, and unless it is received a person is annihilated. They teach, consistent with this, that there shall be no future, eternal punishment. Rather there will be annihilation of the finally impenitent. Matthew 25:46 sufficiently refutes this.

**6. Adventism puts the believer back under the law by means of its Sabbath teaching.** The truth is the Sabbath was given to only one race, and as a sign between that race, Israel, and God (Ex. 31:12-18). Besides the Scriptures teach (Rom. 6:14) that the believer is "not under law, but under grace."

Despite their Sabbath teaching, the Adventists *do not* observe the Sabbath according to the regulations laid down in the Old Testament. They just "keep at it."

**7. Adventism has a warped and unscriptural eschatology.** The system foisted on them by Mrs. White cannot be changed no matter how erroneous it is shown to be. Adventists teach that *the papacy is Anti-christ*. This is plain violation of the clear teaching of Scripture that Anti-Christ shall be a *person*, and not a system. They also make *Sunday to be the mark of the beast*. This vio-

lates the plain Bible teaching that the mark of the Beast will be an actual mark, imposed by an actual person — not a day advocated by a system.

**8. Adventism often works in a sneaking, underhanded way in propagating its faith.** Often they put up a tent or tabernacle and advertise attractive subjects very widely, while keeping the name of the sect in the dark. They give the impression that they are some other group until they secure the confidence of the people — then as they near the close of their meeting, they begin to feed people their adventism. They advertise and sell their books in the same way. "Here is a book to help you understand the Bible better." The book is bought without the person knowing that it is adventism.

Seventh Day Adventism is a form of "Galatianism." It is a legalistic system and it has its refutation in the letter to the Galatians. Adventism grows largely through proselyting tactics, as they get access to homes and bring in their heresies. The proper safeguard for churches to take is to tell people the truth as to their teachings. Few people would be led off after them if they knew their real teachings. □

**CLOSED...**

(Continued from page 1)

sure and those who have been disciplined are welcome. Those who deny the Lord and His truth are invited to partake of the bread and wine.

True Baptists do not practice "Open Communion." They accept the Lord's restrictions to His table.

The doctrine concerning the Lord's Supper is so closely interwoven with the other distinctive Baptist beliefs that they stand or fall together. For a so-called Baptist to practice "Open Communion" he must deny what Baptists believe about baptism and the church. He becomes guilty of presenting a false picture of salvation.

The true Baptist position has always been that God placed the two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper in the church and that the church, and the church alone, has the authority to administer these ordinances.

In Matthew 16:18 we have the record of Christ establishing the first model church. "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

In Matthew 18:15-17 the power of judgment and discipline are placed in the local church. "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word

may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

In Matthew 26:26-28 the authority to observe the Lord's Supper was placed in the church. "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it. For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

In Matthew 28:19-20 we have the Great Commission given to the church. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

The church and the church alone has the authority to go forth "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Also the authority to teach them to observe the Lord's Supper is in the church.

Christ Himself located the Lord's Supper in the church.

The practice in the New Testament was to observe the Lord's Supper in the church. In 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 we have Paul's discourse on the

(See **CLOSED** on page 15)**My Choice**

It is no use to grumble and complain;  
It's just as cheap and easy to rejoice;  
When God sorts out the weather and sends rain;  
Why, rain's my choice.

**CLOSED . . .**

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disorders at the Lord's Table in the church at Corinth. The whole discourse reveals that the Corinthians were observing the meal in the church. Read it and notice the language.

"That ye come together not for the better but for the worse" (Vs. 17). To observe the Lord's Supper they came together as an assembly — the church.

"When ye come together in the church" (Vs. 18). An honest inquirer cannot mistake language such as this.

"When ye come together in one place" (Vs. 20). The established practice and accepted doctrine in these New Testament churches was that of observing the Lord's Supper in the church.

Paul states in verse 23 that the ordinances had been delivered unto the church. "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you." In 1 Corinthians 1:2 we find that Paul had addressed himself unto "The church of God which is at Corinth" and unto this local church he had delivered the ordinances.

"When ye come together to eat" (Vs. 33). The proper place to eat the Lord's Supper was when they came together as a church.

In this entire passage the church, as a church, was censured for a wrong observance of the meal. Surely if the church was admonished, as a church, for the wrong observance of the Lord's Supper the responsibility for a right observance rested with the

church.

In this passage also, the church, as a church, received praise for faithfully keeping the ordinances. The responsibility for a proper observance of the Lord's Supper rested with the church. The Lord, not Baptists, in His word has placed certain restrictions and qualifications upon participants of the Lord's Supper. He has placed the responsibility of carrying out these restrictions and requiring these qualifications upon the individual church.

God teaches in His Word that baptism is a pre-requisite to partaking of the Lord's Supper. All denominations teach that baptism must precede communion. It is an accepted truth for many reasons.

First, baptism was instituted and practiced before the Lord's Supper. John the Baptist never observed the Lord's Supper. Jesus was baptized before He instituted the Lord's Supper.

Second, baptism was given first in the commission to the church in Matthew 28:20. The order here is (a) make disciples, (b) baptize them (c) teach them to observe the Lord's Supper.

Third, the apostles practiced this order. On the day of Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2:41-42, we find this order of events: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers."

Notice the order, (a) re-

ceived His word, (b) were baptized, (c) breaking of bread.

Fourth, the apostles so instructed the churches. The people Paul was writing to in First Corinthians 11 were those spoken of in Acts 18:1-11, "— and many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized."

Fifth, the scriptures make baptism the initiatory ordinance. It is the emblem of the beginning of spiritual life. Communion is the emblem of the nutrition of that life.

It must be agreed then that baptism is a pre-requisite to the Lord's Supper. True Baptists will require scriptural baptism for all participants of the Lord's Supper. Baptism, to be scriptural must meet the following requirements:

1. There must be a proper candidate. Only born again believers can be candidates for baptism.

2. There must be a proper mode. The only baptism in the Bible is by immersion.

3. There must be a proper motive. Our baptism is to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life.

4. There must be a proper administrator. As the responsibility for a proper observance of the ordinance was placed in the local New Testament church, that church, and that church alone, has the authority to baptize.

This is the Baptist position concerning baptism. This scriptural baptism must precede the Lord's Supper. All who have not been scriptur-

ally baptized are restricted from participation. This is God's restriction and the responsibility for carrying it out rests with the local church.

The scriptural observance of the Lord's Supper is inseparably connected with efficient church discipline. There is none who would deny that the authority to judge and administer discipline was placed in the local church. Every organization which proposes to work smoothly, and yet efficiently, must have certain rules and regulations to be followed; certain laws for the individual members to obey. God has set these rules, regulations and standards in the church and given unto the church the authority to enforce them. That churches have a right to exercise a watchful supervision over their members, to reprove them when erring, and withdraw fellowship from them when incorrigible, is a necessity arising from the very constitution of their organization. This right was recognized by Christ and His apostles and was exercised by the first churches.

"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican" (Mt. 18:17).

Christ established the model church in the 16th chapter of Matthew and in this church was placed the authority to exercise discipline. It is needless to emphasize that this could only have been a local church. How foolish it is to think of a

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universal, invisible church exercising discipline.

We find this discipline carried out in all the New Testament churches.

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us" (2 Thess. 3:6).

"A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject" (Tit. 3:10).

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God" (1 Pet. 4:17).

"I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: yet not altogether with the fornication of the world or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters, for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner: with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person" (1 Cor. 5:9-13).

God set the standards for membership in the local church and gave unto the church the command to maintain these standards. Those who refuse to abide by these standards were to be subject to discipline. Note these

phrases from scriptures given above.

"Withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly."

"An heretic after the first and second admonition reject."

"Not to company with fornicators."

"Judge them that are within."

"Put away from among yourselves that wicked person."

Can anything be more clear than this? Church members who would not live according to God's standard were to be excluded from the membership of the church. Those who walked disorderly, heretics, fornicators, covetous, idolaters, drunkards, extortioners, etc. were to be excluded. The identity and privileges of church membership were to be withdrawn? This would include the Lord's Supper. The scripture describes these from whom the church was to withdraw and then states, "WITH SUCH AN ONE NO NOT TO EAT." This is God's Word! To invite those to the table that God does not invite is to break the command of God! Has any church the right to tempt a man "to eat and drink damnation to himself?" (1 Cor. 11:29).

1 Cor. 5:12 plainly states that the church is to "judge them that are within." A church that refuses this responsibility rejects God's way.

Each individual local church is responsible for the discipline of its own members. One Baptist church

does not discipline the members of another Baptist church. Each church is independent. The members of one Baptist church do not have a voice and vote in another Baptist church. Likewise, each Baptist church is only responsible for serving the meal to its own members over whom it has the authority of discipline.

From our study then, we see that "Closed Communion" is nothing more than carrying out God's commands concerning the Lord's Supper.

"Open Communion" leads to an acceptance of "Alien Baptism" and the universal, invisible church theory. This is where the enemy attacks because here is where the lines of our identity are drawn. To lose this key position is to be swallowed up in the chaotic confusion of interdenominationalism.

We believe we have stated the historic Baptist position concerning the Lord's Supper. All have the right to disagree! The strange thing, however, is why will churches and preachers deny the historical Baptist beliefs and yet still want to carry the name Baptist! If you are a Baptist, be one; if not, leave our beloved alone. ▣

**BRIDE . . .**

(Continued from page 3)

watch and be ready, with our lamps trimmed. "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Mt. 24:42). ▣

Church life centers in the word "assembly". Nothing can hinder a church like absence from its services: nothing can help it like being there.

**Senate Approves Protection of Newborns**

The U.S. Senate has passed without opposition a measure providing legal protection to newborn babies.

In a 98-0 vote, senators approved the Born Alive Infants Protection Act June 29 as an amendment to the Patients' Bill of Rights. The measure grants federal protection to any newborn fully outside his mother's womb.

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly adopted the bill last year, but the Senate failed to act on it.

The bill was proposed last year after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a state ban on partial-birth abortion and after congressional testimony was heard describing an abortion procedure in which newborns who survive are allowed to die. The method, used at Christ Hospital in Chicago, is called live-birth abortion. Babies are induced, and if they fail to die during the process, they are left unattended to die. ▣

We are not surprised that preaching has such little affect upon the lost of this day when we consider how little it has upon those who claim to be saved.

If we had a church that the world would love, the Lord wouldn't love it.

