

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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The Challenge We Face

By R. Nelson Colyar

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might”
— Eph. 6:10.

[Reprinted from **The Baptist Challenge**, January, 1961].

Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesian saints, and to all the faithful in Christ Jesus, while “the prisoner of the Lord” at Rome. It is said to have been written about 64 A.D., and that it is the first of his prison epistles. He wrote by Divine inspiration as “an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.” His address to “the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus” renders the epistle of perennial interest to every generation of the faithful.

Paul’s “finally, my brethren” (6:10f) stands out as a mighty challenge to all the saints then, in the dawn of the Christian Era. Yet the years have not diminished its pungency nor faded its luster. The opening sentence snaps out as a sharp military command: “Finally, my brethren,”

(before I take leave of you), “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might!” To arms! “Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil!”

Soldiers must be ready to take orders. They must recognize authority. They must have in hand the implements and ammunitions of war. They must know their enemy, who he is, what he is, where he is

and the extent of his power. Thus Paul, a mighty soldier of the cross of Christ, throws down the gate of spiritual conflict to the faithful in Christ Jesus against Satan and all the powers of spiritual darkness and moral turpitude at his command. There is no deceitful cunning, no diabolical weapon he will not use to destroy utterly the Christian hope and way of life.

The adversary of Jesus

Christ has not changed one iota in character, method or purpose of his relentless opposition to the Christian ethic in all the ages. The tangible means to his diabolic objective may vary, but the underlying motive, never. The diabolicalism of this world with all of its false systems of religious pretenses and practices is just what it was when Paul challenged the faithful in Christ Jesus to battle for the Lord’s cause.

The challenge we face has nothing to do with the unbeliever, no matter what his pretenses may be. It is to the faithful in Christ Jesus! It has nothing in common with “a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” It is to the faithful in Christ Jesus. It has nothing to compromise with the so-called “branches of the church, the mystic body.” It is to the faithful in Christ Jesus and to none other whatsoever!

There is a great deal of masquerading under the name of Baptist today that has nothing in common with

Who Mythed the Boat?

Most evangelical Christians have been shocked by the recent announcement made by one of our large church denominations about revising all their Sunday School lessons. The aim, according to their proponents, is to make the Bible more acceptable to the modern scientific minds. With this lofty purpose in view, they will now teach their pupils that the story of creation recorded in Genesis is a myth. The story of Noah’s Ark is said to be a fairy tale. They tell us that

David did not really kill Goliath, and further state that the glorious account of the Virgin Birth is nothing more than a myth.

It really looks as if these people may have “mythed the boat.” It would be difficult to convince Noah of any myth about it. He not only spent one hundred and twenty years constructing it, but he was the captain who navigated it on a shoreless sea for a long period of time. The people who

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Quiz The Pastor -- #1**Is There Really Such A Thing As Reincarnation?****By the late Nick Michalinos**

Question: Is there such a thing as reincarnation? 24:39).

Answer: Absolutely not. There is no such thing as reincarnation, that is, coming back after death to live in a different body. Reincarnation is a popular teaching among some today, even among those of reputation.

The Bible states: "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that, the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). God has ordained man's appointment with death and judgment occurs only "once," though the Word of God states that some have died and have been resurrected, but not in a different body, but in the same body, and they faced death again in that body.

Even our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrected body was said to be His same body though it consisted of a different composition, for He stated, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see" (Lk.

When the Bible speaks of a rebirth or new-birth, it is not speaking of reincarnation. It means a spiritual rebirth, of becoming a member of a family of God by being born-again (Jn. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:23). When we receive Christ as Savior, we become children of God (Jn. 1:12-13; Gal. 3:26). This new birth occurs in this life, and it is spiritual in nature, not affecting the body in any way.

However, there will be a future resurrection of all the dead, and Christians will be raised up in perfect bodies fashioned like unto the glorious body of our Savior (Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Jn. 3:2). Christians who are alive at Christ's coming will be changed in a moment from mortality to immortality (1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

But the spirit of each Christian who dies will return to its own body, and the bodies will be raised to a perfect, incorruptible, deathless state.

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 The very fact of resurrection shows that man's spirit will once again indwell his same body. Why resurrect the same body if man is to occupy a totally different body?

Those who believe in reincarnation ignore the truth of resurrection, and by so doing, hope to escape God's judgment. But this is vain thinking, for "The Lord knoweth how ... to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished" (1 Pet. 2:9). There will be no escape (Rev. 20:11-15).

Judgment is certain. The lie of reincarnation offers no hope to the deceived. "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that, the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). □

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. □

Men's Movements**By Wes Auger**

If the Word of God teaches anything at all, it teaches that all true believers are to be witnesses. All are commissioned to win the lost. All are responsible to take the Word of Life to the corners of the earth.

The Scriptures do not recognize any difference between what we commonly call the "clergy" and the "laity."

But — and here is the rub, — the Scriptures certainly do teach that there is a vast difference between laboring in the flesh and actually being called to perform a specific ministry for the Lord.

The Word of God recognizes two offices in the church of Jesus Christ today. These offices are Deacon and Elder. A casual study of the Scriptures will certainly make it very evident that both Deacons and Elders did some preaching. The Word of God will also make it very evident that the gifts of ministry that God gave to the church were given to both Deacons and Elders. The Word of God

(See AUGER on page 12)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE**M. L. Moser, Editor****Pastor Emeritus****CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH****P. O. Box 25848****Little Rock, Arkansas 72221-5848****Email: mlmoser1@juno.com**

Articles carrying the author's byline do not necessarily reflect the Editorial policy of the paper.

Epi-Agonizing For The Faith

By I. W. Rogers

It is surprising how few people, even among pastors and Sunday teachers, know the difference between *faith* and *the faith*. The seriousness of the matter is illustrated by the fact that there are many passages in the New Testament which cannot be correctly interpreted unless one knows this difference.

Probably no text in the Bible needs more emphasis in this day of spineless compromising conformity than Jude 3 because here the reader is exhorted to “earnestly contend for the faith.” But it seems that the average reader thinks this text means that we are to strive to have more faith in the Lord. It is true, we ought to have more faith, but this verse does not say so.

Now, *faith* is trust, belief, or confidence in the Lord. But it is more than that. The kind of faith that saves also produces action. “I will shew thee my faith by my works” (Jas. 1:18). The same may be said of faith that produces fruit in a Christian life.

But, *the faith* is something else. It is the body of teachings found in the Word of God. *The Faith* is the truth — the doctrines taught in the Bible. For example, Paul, in recounting his experiences following his conversion (Gal. 1:17-23), said that the believers had heard

only “that he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth *the faith* which once he destroyed.” What did Paul preach? He preached the truth. He preached the great doctrines of salvation by grace. His main emphasis was “Christ, and him crucified,” as the only hope for the salvation of sinners. The book of Romans is a fine example of *the faith*. Also, in the last message we have from Paul he is consoled by the facts: “I have fought a good fight” (earnestly contended for *the faith*); “I have kept the faith” (had not erred from the doctrines of Christ). Here are a few of the many references that illustrates the use of *the faith*: Acts 6:7 and 14:22; Rom. 14:1; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:13; Phil. 1:27; Col. 2:7; 1 Tim. 1:2 and 3:9.

What are we to do about *the faith*? We are to “earnestly contend” for it. The expression, “ye should earnestly contend” is all one word in the original, and it is one of the strongest words in the Greek language. Dr. T. T. Eaton, in his book **Faith and the Faith**, says concerning this word, “It is the strongest word in any language, so far as I know, to express *intensity of struggle*.” It is the word from which we get our word *agonize*, only it is a stronger word. In this verse it is

epi-agonize. We are to *agonize* to enter in at the strait gate (Lk. 13:24); but we are to *epi-agonize* for “the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” It would seem from this that it is more important that *the faith* be maintained than anything else — even our individual salvation.

We are not to let error and wickedness alone. That is the very thing that the devil wants us to do — let him alone. It is like our relation to the Communists (Socialists). All we have to do to be taken in by Communism (Socialism) is to fold our hands and do nothing. All we have to do for false teachings to prevail is to fold our hands and do nothing. And, if *the faith* is to be maintained and grow and prosper, it will be accomplished because God’s servants *epi-agonized* for it. Truth will not propagate itself. It must be maintained and spread abroad by those who are willing to do and dare and die in its behalf. It would be just as reasonable for doctors to let diphtheria alone as it is for God’s servants to let false doctrine and wickedness alone. Are we going to be less concerned about the diseases of modernism and infidel-

ity and other false doctrines that lead souls to hell than the doctors are about diphtheria?

This does not mean that we are to go around with a chip on our shoulder daring anyone to knock it off. It does not mean that we are to needlessly cause offense to anybody. But it does mean that we are to oppose false doctrines and proclaim the truth with all the strength of our being. The day in which we live is characterized by easy-going, compromising cooperation with the crowd, no matter how far wrong the crowd may be. The objective seems to be to avoid controversy at all costs, even at the expense of God’s wonderful truth found in His word. If the early disciples of our Lord had done this we would never have heard of Jesus Christ.

Our salvation was provided at an awful cost; and our Lord pronounces a woe upon those who are at ease in Zion while false teachings and wickedness threaten to engulf us. It is my prayer that we who really love the Lord will “stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for *the faith* of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27). □

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 and if you can send out Emails, please notify those on your mailing list about TBC being available. Thanks.

Fruits of Modernism

By M. L. Moser, Sr.,

(Pastor of Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas for 34 years)

(Transcribed "as preached" in Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas February 7, 1954)

I have in my hand an article from yesterday morning's **Arkansas Gazette**, February 6, 1954. It is on the religious page. I want to read part of it to you before we go to the Word of God. That's why we gave you a little more time for the sermon today.

New York, Feb. 5 (AP) — More religion. Less morality. That's the paradoxical picture of the country today as set forth in a penetrating analysis featuring some leading theologians and philosophers.

"Religion is gaining ground" said Dr. Henry P. VanDusen, president of Union Theological Seminary. "Morality is losing ground."

This conflicting condition, he said, is "one of the most surprising and overlooked facts in America today."

His diagnosis was part of a series of four special lectures at the interdenominational seminary on "Religion and the Great Issues of the Day."

To back his case, Dr. VanDusen pointed to this big array of evidence:

Church membership, in proportion to total population, is the highest in history. Since 1926, it has

grown twice as fast as has population. Church attendance also is at a record high.

Foreign visitors, here after an absence, are struck by the greater church vitality.

Religious books, and reading, exceeds anything in the past.

Youth are vastly more interested in religion, as shown by the growth of college religious courses, new campus worship activities and increased seminary enrollments.

"Churches possess a larger and wider allegiance in the American populace today than ever before," VanDusen said.

On the other hand, he cited these signs of lowering morals:

Divorce has shot up. (From one out of six marriages in 1940 to one out of four in 1954).

Juvenile delinquency has multiplied. (275,000 children called into court each year.) Drug addiction has increased.

Now notice something, religion increasing, morality decreasing. What's wrong? We have always said all down through the years that the religious people of the world — I'm talking about Christians now — are the most moral, law observing people anywhere. And yet today, we discover while church membership and

church attendance is increasing by leaps and bounds, at the same time our social problems and our sin problems are increasing at a tremendous rate. What's wrong?

This morning I want to bring a message on the **Fruits of Modernism** — the fruits of apostate Christianity. There was a time when it meant something to join a church. Nobody joined a church in times past unless they intended to live for God. Baptists in the past insisted that men show evidence of the New Birth before they were received into the fellowship of a church. Today, there are millions of members of churches in North America that are not Christian in any sense of the word. Liquor dealers, tavern owners, beer hall and dance hall owners, men who make no pretense of living for Christ, are respected members of churches today. What's wrong? Why such a condition? Were I not a pre-millennialist, and did I not believe in the sovereignty of God, I would be of all men most discouraged.

In the first place, I believe in the sovereignty of God; that God rules, and that God controls, that God governs. I believe in the pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus. When I turn to

the Bible, I discover that Jesus Christ and the writers of the New Testament predicted exactly the conditions that exist in the world today.

Turn with me to the 3rd chapter of 2 Timothy. We're talking about the fruits of modernism. "This know." Here's something we're not to guess about; here's something we're not to reason about or surmise. "This know." Here's something you can accept; here's something you can believe — it's in the Word of God. I say to you that whatever you find in the Word of God you can accept because it's true. This Book contains truth without any mixture of error. This Book is divinely, verbally, infallibly inspired. It is the Word of God. Now the Apostle Paul in writing to a young preacher said:

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power

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FRUITS...

(Continued from page 4)

thereof from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith" (2 Tim. 3:1-8).

Some of you may be under the impression that this is a description of the world. This is not a description of the world. The world has always been wicked and Godless. This is a description of the churches in the last days — of church members, if you please, of preachers and deacons and Sunday School Superintendents, and teachers and other religious workers.

You say, "How do you know that?" Here is why. Look at that 5th verse: "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." What is the "form of godliness?" In a Baptist church it is a lip profession of faith; it is a joining the church and a submitting to the ordinance of baptism. The form is the outward, the reality is the inward.

We have multitudes of people today who outwardly are Christians, and yet on the inside they are not Christians at all. We have a word description here of their spiritual, mental, and moral condition in God's sight. If

you will look into the world — the professing world, the religious world round about you — you will discover that the conditions that the Apostle Paul speaks of here have been literally and actually fulfilled.

I have in my hand a portion of a magazine. This has been photographically reproduced by permission of **American Mercury**. It is a part of their magazine for November, 1953. "Red Infiltration of Theological Seminaries" by J. B. Matthews.

Let me say some things. When this article was published there was a hue and cry raised all over the country. Folks said, "Matthews is a liar." Folks said, "he distorted the truth." Folks said, "He was attempting to deceive the American people." Who said that? May I say to you that it was the Red, Communistic, Un-American crowd that started it and then a lot of people fell into it without making an investigation.

J. B. Matthews, if you will remember, was the investigator of the McCarthy Committee. Now, there are some things about McCarthy that I don't like, but let me say this to you, we need a dozen just like him in Congress. He brought out the facts, my friend, about the Communism that's inside the seminaries of the so-called Protestant denominations in this country, and don't misunderstand me, I think Roman Catholicism is a far deadlier menace than Communism.

You know who pub-

lished this reprint? Faith Theological Seminary. They've sent it out to every preacher. Faith Theological Seminary is one of the truly great conservative seminaries among Protestants in this country.

You know, or you should know, that modernism, infidelity, and Communism are infiltrating the universities and the colleges of this land and here are the facts in this reprint. I would to God I had a copy to give every one of you.

For a long period of time, Communism infiltrated the labor unions of this country, and did their best to get men in position of leadership in the labor unions. Because of that, we had some terrible problems in the past. It looked as though Communism was going to get hold of the leadership of not only the CIO but also the AFL. I tell you, I trembled in my shoes as I thought about it. But little by little many of those unions have been purging that crowd, until today, there is the very real possibility that many of the strong Labor Unions in this country are going to see that Communism is forced out. That doesn't mean that I'm going to put the stamp of approval on everything unions do. Not by any manner of means. That's another question.

But you know what happened? When that bunch of Communist saw that they were on the losing end of the fight in many of the big labor unions, they turned to more productive soil. They began then, stronger than

ever, to infiltrate the seminaries of this country so that the preachers who would come out of those seminaries would be men who were definitely tinged with radical left-wingism and with Communism. For some years now, the preachers that have been coming out of many seminaries no longer believe in the faith that was "once for all committed unto the saints."

That is true in our Baptist seminaries. Dr. Frank Stagg of the New Orleans Baptist Seminary is a rank infidel. He ridicules the idea that Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. He says that Jesus Christ is not a mediator at all.

Then, when you go to the Louisville Baptist Seminary, you'll find the same conditions prevailing there. It is about time Baptists get their eyes opened to the things that are going on in their ranks today.

Today, I want to just take you to the Scriptures and show you what the Bible says is to come to pass. I want you to have your Bibles open and I want you to look at these passages of Scripture. First of all in 2 Thessalonians the 2nd chapter, we want you to see this for yourself:

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit,

(See **FRUITS** on page 10)

State of The Baptist Witness

By Chester E. Tulga

The state of the Baptist witness in this country is deplorable and in some places, tragic. It is a witness largely divorced from the clear teachings of the New Testament, and a witness having very little knowledge of the historic past of the people called Baptists.

There was a time when the Baptist witness was basically theological. Its glory was its faithfulness to the Word of God, its concern that its practices be true to the Word of God, and that its people should display in their lives the type of conduct that becomes the sons of God.

The Baptist witness today is no longer theological. There are those who are more conscious of their geographical origin, than they are to be true to the doctrines and principles of the Word of God. There are those who are denominational Baptists rather than theological Baptists, and often their Baptist testimony is undermined and even corrupted by their denominational loyalties. The truths that made Baptists a great people were not denominational pronouncements and policies however praiseworthy, but their unwavering testimony to the great doctrines and principles of the Scriptures.

The Baptist witness is often muffled today by a pre-occupation with that

churchless Christianity which is more and more characterizing interdenominational fundamentalism. In the old days, agencies and institutions were considered arms of the churches, not their masters as happens in many denominations. They were established by the churches, not by ambitious and often irresponsible individuals whose only interest in the local church was to exploit it for their promotional ends. Interdenominational independency has become a bewildering forest without rhyme or reason. The local church is besieged with petitions for support. In some cases they have become serious competitors for the dollar, often leaving the local church a bad second in its bid for support.

The true Baptist witness was always a scriptural witness and always a witness to the primacy of the local New Testament church. Are Baptists losing their distinctive character in the multitude of their miscellaneous associations, and losing their distinctive witness in the interests of a fuzzy-wuzzy religious fellowship? Are Baptists losing their witness to a New Testament church in the interests of religious fellowship and leaving the matter of the church to the choice of the individual? The Baptist witness today is in danger of yielding to a churchless Christianity, giving priority to human agen-

cies over the local church, and giving up its distinctive views in the interests of a standardless fellowship.

All of this has been furthered by the neglect of true Baptists to keep the old Baptist classics in print, to keep the Baptist witness clear by frequent articles, to settle for interdenominational tracts and leave Baptist tract societies die, and the pre-occupation of fundamental Baptist papers with denominational chores. Baptists are often willing to keep silent on the distinctive Baptist doctrines and principles in the interest of a wider

fellowship, so the Baptist light now shines dimly. □

[Editor's Comments: Nearly 50 years ago, we started both **The Baptist Challenge** as a monthly magazine, and Challenge Press, a means of printing books that carry distinctive Baptist doctrines. We are no longer able to mail out **The Baptist Challenge** as we formerly did, so we ask our readers to help inform others that this magazine is now available on the Internet, and it can be printed and filed away for those who might desire to do so. □

Saved By Grace

Not by toiling with my hands,
Not through works of sinful men.
Not because I chose Him first,
Not through majestic kingly birth.

Not because I cared for Him,
Not because I hated sin.
Not because I could win the race,
But wholly through His wondrous grace.

Not because of my own way,
"All we like sheep have gone astray."
Not because I drank death's cup,
"And I, if I be lifted up."

Not because of self subdue,
"Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?"
Not because I bridged the space,
But all because of God's own grace.

Not because of great deeds done,
"Without My Spirit, none can come."
Not through raging bitter strife,
Our Savior bought us with His life.

Not because I paid the fee,
'Twas He Who died upon the tree.
And when I stand in God's Holy Place,
'Twill be a sinner, "Saved by Grace."

High Price For Baptist Independence

Independent Baptist churches have a price to pay for their independence. They are made the objects of many and gross misrepresentations. They are often charged with assuming an I-am-better-than-thou attitude.

Many Baptist preachers counsel their out-going members not to join an independent Baptist church. The claim is made, often openly, and very often by inference, that an independent church cannot be a Baptist church. Many derogatory suggestions and insinuations are directed against independent churches.

In the denominational catalogue of independent Baptist church sins two of the worst are: to use the Bible instead of the modernistic Sunday School literature in the Sunday School, and to practice direct missions, instead of supporting the whole Cooperative Program.

Concerning direct missions, I have before me an article from the editorial page of **The Western Recorder**, from an issue of quite a time back. Though not of recent date, it does reflect pretty well the general attitude of the denominational leaders. The article in question follows:

A Dangerous Policy

“We notice in the denominational press an increase in the number of

news items, stating ‘Our Church adopts a missionary.’ What it means is that the church has decided to break fellowship with the denomination and maintain its own missionary. It does not sound very kind for one to say so, but to do that type of mission work is to go back to the days of ‘Direct or Gospel Missions,’ and to assume the right to take care of a missionary, thus forbidding all other churches and their members to have part in his labors.

“Two serious dangers are inherent in this plan: (1) It mitigates against our denominational fellowship. Somehow we have always felt slighted when any church assumes the right to send out a foreign missionary without letting others of us have part in his labors. (2) It most surely carries the threat of renewed debt for the Foreign Board. Now that money is plentiful, almost any enthusiastic speaker can thrill a large church, or even a smaller one, and get it to vote to adopt a missionary and maintain him. But wait until the next financial depression strikes — and history proves that it is sure to come as time goes by — and that church will, in all probability not be able to pay the missionary’s salary. The result will be that the Foreign Board will have a worker on its hands and either have to borrow money to pay him, or bring him home. Thus were the foun-

dations laid for part of the recently paid enormous debt. Thus will another debt be incurred some day if this movement spreads. Brethren, there is but one scriptural way for churches to carry on their general work and that is through a joint plan which we have in our Cooperative Program. We had better steer clear of the privately supported missionary.”

There is just one thing wrong with the above article, and that is all of it. In the first place it says that when a church decides to adopt a missionary, as a church, it means that it has decided to break fellowship with the denomination. It is a poor fellowship, I would say, that is broken simply because a local New Testament church exercises its God-given authority. Why should the adoption of a missionary by a church mean a breaking fellowship with the denomination?

But wait, this editor’s statement is all too true, because records of the past show in many cases, that when the church dares to assume the responsibility of carrying out the program that Christ gave to the church, and do not bow down to ecclesiastical overlordship, fellowship is broken all right, but it is broken by the crowd of denominational ram-rods, whose attitude toward the local church is, “We will whip you into line, or we will cut you off, root and branch.”

This article speaks of the danger of going back to

“Direct or Gospel Missions,” and of a church assuming the right to take care of a missionary. I challenge any person on earth to show any other plan taught in the Bible. This article says that there is but one scriptural plan for churches to carry on their work, and that is The Cooperative Program. I plead for just one chapter and verse to prove such a statement. There is no such thing as The Cooperative Program in the New Testament. There is no such thing in the New Testament as denominational authority to send out missionaries. There is no commission or authority given to man-made organizations. The commission was given to a church — not to a denominational agency.

The Cooperative Program was begun around 1925 by H. Boyce Taylor (originally called “the Unified Budget”), but before Bro. Taylor died in 1932, he repudiated the Cooperative Program because of the grave evils it had produced and allowed to creep in and did his best to kill it.

This is also an assertion that no church was doing scriptural mission work prior to 1925, including the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

But the question is since when did it become dangerous to do the things commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ? There is no New Testament instance of any other kind of mission work, save that of a New Testa-

(See **PRICE** on page 22)

World News Roundup

Catholic Church and the Death Penalty. — The Catholic church, as a matter of official policy, has advocated and carried out the death penalty over the centuries against persons whose only crime [“heretics”] was not to be a Roman Catholic. But the new position on the death penalty issue of “The Church That Never Changes” is one of “compassion” for the convicted murderers. The earliest victims of the death penalty were not mass murderers like Timothy McVeigh but were guilty only of holding to non-Catholic religious beliefs. Neither was theirs a painless death like McVeigh’s but they were burned at the stake, often savagely tortured prior to execution. — CC

Mormon Choir Tours South. — The 330-voice Mormon Tabernacle Choir and accompanists tour major cities in the South this summer “to establish in the minds of people that Jesus Christ ... is central to our faith ...” The 6/1 *Watchman Fellowship Update* states: “To make Christians believe the Mormon Church is Christian has long been the goal of modern Mormonism as to do so is to break down barriers that hinder their recruiting. How-

ever, the Jesus that is central to the Mormon faith is not the Jesus of the Bible that is central to the faith of Southern Christians. The Jesus of the Mormon Church is the brother of Lucifer, a worshiper of a god that was once a man on another planet, and the product of a union between god and one of his goddess wives in the pre-existence and between god and Mary on earth. Theirs is a Jesus that won redemption, not by shedding his blood on the cross for whosoever shall come to him, but while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane for everyone, whether they believe in him or not.” — CC

Harry Potter Books. — Harry Potter books are filled with witchery, wizardry, and the occult — subjects that should concern Christians, knowing that God condemns these things (Dt. 18:10-11). So says a July **Baptist Bulletin** article, and rightly so, we believe. Paul listed “sorcery,” or witchcraft, among the works of the flesh in Gal. 5:20-21, along with idolatry, heresies, murder, drunkenness, and so on. — CC

Believers In Laos Must Recant or Face Jail.

— In communist Laos, Christians in droves are forced to sign such a declaration as, “I unequivocally resign from this foreign religion [Christianity],” officially renouncing their faith (7/18 *Relig. Today*). The Bible League says those refusing to sign the document face indeterminate prison sentences under hard conditions. There are 30 to 60 known Christian prisoners in Laos now. Communist officials have declared Christianity the “No. 1 enemy of the state.” — CC

Bibles Banned In Turkmenistan. — Bibles are disappearing from bookstores in former Soviet republic Turkmenistan after a government letter ordered vendors to remove the books from off shelves. The Koran is still widely available. Turkmenistan restricts all religious activity and allows only two religious groups, Russian Orthodoxy and Islam, to register legally. — CC

Women Celebrate “Mother God” at CBF Meeting. — At the June 28-30 meeting in Atlanta of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a CBF auxiliary group (Baptist Women in Ministry) opened its annual

meeting “with songs and prayers to Mother God. ...” A litany read by BWIM members expressed their discomfort at calling God “Father,” “Lord,” and “King” (*Religion Today*). Participants chanted in unison that they “can say” the words Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit, “no problem,” but “God the Father” is a different story. The BWIM treasurer said she believed more SBC women would be ordained to the pastorate “because I believe God is good, and She knows what She’s doing.” This 10th anniversary meeting reveals the CBF to be far worse than merely a moderate, disgruntled Southern Baptist group. We have long contended that it should be considered as very liberal — CC

“Gay Church” Misinterprets Scriptures. — A July 1 *Charisma* article said “openly gay-affirming churches ... have redefined certain biblical passages to teach that homosexuality is acceptable to God.” It said congregants at Joy Metropolitan Community Church (Orlando) were “for the most part, openly gay ... and have reconciled their faith with their homosexuality.” It added: “They insist that

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passages in the Bible condemning homosexual behavior either don't apply today or have been misinterpreted. They tell gay men and lesbians who visit their church that God doesn't have a problem with their sexual behavior." A 1997 Barna poll found that 46% of those who had an opinion on the subject said "Christian churches should accept gay people as church leaders." — CC

New Religious Pluralism. — Harvard researcher Diane Eck says the U.S. has become the most religiously diverse nation in the world. Muslims here now number 6 million, outnumbering Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and possibly Jews. Only 25% of U.S. immigrants since 1965 have been Protestant. 44% are Catholic and 35% are Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and of other non-Christian faiths. Most illegals are Catholic and tend to vote for liberal Democrats.

Pakistani Court Rejects Christian's Death Sentence Appeal. — A Christian accused of blasphemy in 1996 for telling some Muslims to read Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses*, could face death by hanging. Ayub Masih was immediately imprisoned following his action. International Christian

Concern (ICC) sources report that Masih has suffered terribly in prison, where he receives almost daily torture. At least two attempts have been made on his life since his imprisonment. Despite his miserable situation, Masih has held onto his Christian faith. He and his family are receiving constant threats against their lives and have requested prayer as they go through this agonizing ordeal. The Lahore High Court of Pakistan, Multan Bench, rejected an appeal on behalf of Masih, who was sentenced to death by the Sahiwal District Court in 1998. Masih may now appeal his case to the Supreme Court, but it is unlikely that they will overturn the verdict of the lower courts, especially since it is a blasphemy case. If the Supreme Court does not accept his appeal, Ayub Masih will be executed by hanging. — Crosswalk via The Baptist Trumpet

Favorable Ruling For School Unchallenged by ACLU. — The ACLU has decided not to challenge a unanimous opinion by the State of Maryland recognizing the right of private Christian schools to hire employees of the same faith. For several years, Montrose Christian School has taken steps to ensure that school employees shared the same religious beliefs and goals of the schools and its church — Montrose Baptist Church.

But county regulations prohibited hiring or firing based on an individual's religious beliefs. A school employee of a different faith sued the school and was represented by the ACLU, which challenged the church's right under a federal civil rights statute to continue with its policy of spiritual unity. The school prevailed in a recent court case and as Brad Dacus of the Pacific Justice Institute says, the case will not be appealed to the Supreme Court. "We at the Pacific Justice Institute, working with local affiliate attorney Craig Parshall, stood behind this private school and the rights of religious institutions to be able to run their business the way they feel called by God, not called by the ACLU." — Agapepress via The Baptist Trumpet

The Supreme Crime. — The supreme crime evidently is racism. How much do you read about the 60 million of his own people Mao Tse Tung and his immediate successors murdered? Most of the female infants born in Red China today are murdered, but instead of applying sanctions, we supply nuclear and other technology. The Soviets have murdered, without regard to race, some 60 million people and have enslaved and tortured hundreds of millions, but have you ever heard Brinkley, Rather, Brokaw, Moyers, Donahue, Donaldson, Jennings, Reston, Wicker,

etc., talk or write about that? Have you ever seen an anti-Communist documentary on TV? — Tom Anderson

Sodomite Terrorism. — An Associated Press article in the Asbury Park Press of New Jersey listed the leading serial killers in the United States. Research on the five leading U.S. serial killers in the AP article indicates they are all homosexuals. "These five leading serial killers are: (1) Donald Harvey (37 murders); (2) John Wayne Gacy (33 murders); (3) Patrick Wayne Kearney (32 murders); (4) Dean Corll, Elmer Wayne Henley and David Owen Brooks (27 murders); and (5) Juan Corona (25 murders). These statistics are from The New York Times. The New York Times mentions some additional homosexual serial killers not included in the AP article. These include Bruce Davis of Illinois (28 murders) and Stephen Kraft (16 murders). William Bonin (14 murders) is listed by both the AP and The New York Times as a leading serial killer is homosexual. The most celebrated of the recent homosexual killers, of course, is Jeffrey Dahmer of Milwaukee. Dahmer was implicated in at least 17 serial killings." — The Wanderer

White-owned Farms Looted In Northern Zim-

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nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thess. 2:1-4).

Now we haven't time to discuss all of that. We simply want to call your attention to the fact that the Apostle Paul tells us that before Jesus comes again there has got to be a falling away, a departure from the truth. And that is taking place. This Scripture is not speaking about the attitude of the world. The world never has been right with God. The world never has been in fellowship with God. The world has always been at enmity with God.

Here Paul says there is to be a falling away. That falling away is to be on the part of the professed followers of Jesus Christ. It is to take place just before the coming of Jesus Christ. That falling away is in the world today, when denomination after denomination and church after church, and seminary after seminary have departed from the faith.

All right, let's look at something else. Matthew 7:15-20. Jesus is giving some instructions to His people,

instructions to His New Testament church, if you please, instructions for you, instructions for me. And in this 7th chapter of Matthew we read:

Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

The outward appearance of these false prophets is one thing: their inward being an entirely different thing. They come to us in sheep's clothing, but they are ravening wolves. Preachers! That is what he is talking about. Preachers, who come to you in the guise of God-called preachers. They tell you that they are God's men; that God has laid His hands on them. They have on sheep's wool. Just as Jacob deceived his father, so these preachers deceive. They have the smell of sheep's wool. They have the appearance of a sheep, but on the inside, my friend, there is the heart of a wolf. Read it.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye

shall know them (Mt. 7:15-20).

What are the fruits of modernism? Here it is right here in this newspaper article: *Much religion and no morality*. The fruits of modernism are being shown, my friend, in the drunkenness and the debauchery and the criminalism of this country. Growing by leaps and bounds in the church world. Growing by leaps and bounds in the sin world at the same time. "Wolves in sheep's clothing."

Turn with me next to Acts 20:29. Here is another passage dealing with that same subject. The 28th, 29th and 30th verses:

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock (the flock is the church of Jesus Christ), 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 20:29-30).

Do you get the significance of that? First of all, unsaved, unregenerate men are going to come in from the outside, and they are going to pose as preachers of Jesus Christ. They are going to pose as Bible teachers. They are not going to "spare the flock." They are going to bring heartache

and disaster. And then, also, out of the membership of the local church, there are going to be some rising constantly, in opposition to the mission program of the church, and do everything in their power to destroy the fellowship of the church in order to keep the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ from going to the uttermost parts of the earth. That is exactly what the Bible says is going to take place.

Next, look at 1 Timothy 4:1-2. We are not preaching this morning. We are giving you the straight, unadulterated Word of God. We want you to see it. This is the condition, my friend, that confronts Baptists, as well as others, today. It is something our people need to be informed about.

The **Arkansas Baptist**, official Baptist paper of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the other day carried a short article about the church over in Rocky Point, North Carolina. They didn't say one thing, my friend, about why that church withdrew from the Convention. They didn't tell you that the President of one of the seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention when on the witness stand, refused to say that he believed in the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, and openly quoted a passage of Scripture spoken by an unsaved man to show that Joseph was the father of Jesus.

The **Arkansas Baptist** gave you the most biased opinion it possibly could

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and left out the truth. A lot of folk don't know what is going on in this world. Brother, you'd better find out. The modernists and infidels are in control of the Southern Baptist Convention today. The average Baptist preacher hasn't found it out, because he takes nothing but a "Southern Baptist" paper which is biased in every sense of the word and will not let the truth get in it. But here is what the Word of God says in 1 Timothy four, beginning with the first verse and reading only two verses:

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron (1 Tim. 4:1-2).

Departing from the faith. Teaching what? Devil doctrines in place of the doctrines of God.

I want you to turn with me to yet another passage. Jude 3 and 4 and then the 12th verse:

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace

of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ (Jude 3-4).

Look at the 12th verse now:

These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots (Jude 12).

That is the description that God gives of the men who are going to be in the pulpits in the last days, denying every fundamental of the faith.

Turn with me to 2 Timothy 3:1-8. We read it a while ago, but I want to call your attention to just a few statements that we did not call your attention to at that time. Look at that first verse.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."

Now look at the fifth verse:

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.

Now look at the eighth verse:

Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

That is what a modern-

ist is. Somebody says, "Bro. Moser, you use the term 'Modernist.' What do you mean by modernist?" All right. There is no difference between the modernist of today and the infidel of the past. We have many of them in Baptist pulpits in the State of Arkansas, and in all of the seminaries today. *Modernism is simply infidelity dressed up to meet the demands of 20th Century unbelievers.* That's all it is. Tom Paine, Voltaire, Ingersol, and the other men of that ilk never went into a Christian pulpit and said, "We are called of God." They went to the Court Houses and to the Lecture Halls, and there preached their infidel doctrines, but today in Baptist pulpits, in Baptist schools, and in Baptist Seminaries, there are men who believe exactly what these infidels of the past believed. They take God's money from God's people to preach their blasphemous doctrines. The infidels of the past were gentlemen compared to the modernists of today.

I have a book here in the pulpit with me now in which one of the men who lectured at the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky said that it is not known definitely who was the father of Jesus. And you Baptists who paid your money to the Cooperative Program helped pay this man for the series of lectures he delivered at that Seminary. I want you to see what he says. The title of the book is **The Christian Understanding of God,**

written by Nels F.S. Ferre. Page 191:

Strange however is the hold which this doctrine in its more literal form has on countless people. Reference to the virgin birth is not found in Paul's letters, the earliest writings that we have.

This statement is not true. The virgin birth is referred to by Paul, in setting Jesus Christ separate and apart from other men in saying He was "made of a woman" (Gal. 4:4). Well, how would that distinguish, unless Jesus Christ had been born of a woman in a way in which no other man had ever been born of woman. Paul does refer to the virgin birth. Again, does every inspired writer in every book have to mention the virgin birth in order for the doctrine to be true? How many times must a fact be stated in the Bible before you believe it?

"It is not found in Mark, the original Gospel. It is not found in the various Epistles of the New Testament. It is not found in the Johanne tradition. As a matter of fact, the reference in John to the claims of the Jews to the fact that they were not born in adultery could give external credence to a Nazi claim that Jesus was a German. Mary, we remember, was found pregnant before her engagement to mild Joseph."

And that is a damnable

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will also make it plain that there is no excuse for a man ministering who does not have a gift.

There is a difference between gift and talent. Sometimes talent is mistaken for gift and there have certainly been times when gift is wrongly described as talent.

Talent is what unsaved men have. Talent is also what can be found among many untaught and unyielded Christians. Talent runs loose in many church programs and it controls the spiritual lives of too many people. Talent always produces entertainment, joy, happiness, laughter, a feeling of ease and comfort. Talent is enjoyed, it is lapped up, it is sought after. Talent is wanted on the programs of centers that must attract the attendance and support of church members. Talent can be cultivated, taught polished up, tuned up, played up and exploited.

Gift is what comes as a direct ministry of the Holy Spirit to the churches. He has chosen certain men and given to them the gift of Teacher or Pastor or Evangelist. Gift usually does not produce entertainment alone. It does not give momentary joy that ends with the benediction or happiness of the sort that the world thrives on when it unwraps a new package or falls heir to a new fortune. Gift many times produces restless days and sleepless nights; gift

challenges and stirs; gift causes people to probe the depths of their hearts; gift sometimes upsets; it can produce a gnashing of teeth — but it always comes forth with some real fruit! It will produce genuine conversions. It will result in real growth in Christian life. It will plant new churches and revive and stir and teach old ones. That is why Jesus Christ said that the gates of hell would not prevail against His church. He had gifts to give the churches and no matter how worldly and carnal and sleepy and cold some of these churches become there will always be men of gift walking among them — and they will not die — some real fruit will be in evidence! Gift is not cultivated; it is not taught; it is not something that is sharpened up. It doesn't need dramatic lessons or window dressings of any kind.

Some people have sat under talent all their lives — but they have never been under gift! That is why so much in the way of Christian work is as shabby as it is! That is what has allowed the new evangelicalism to sweep the scene!

Talent always produces people without standards, with convictions, with wish-bones in place of backbones. Gift, on the other hand, produces men of stature and standard; men who will not compromise; men who can and will open the book and say "Thus saith the Lord."

Talent has not populated the mission stations and built

new churches. Talent has not produced praying and separated Christians. Talent builds seminaries that veer from the faith; founds Bible Conferences that become centers of ease and entertainment where a plain word on separation is not welcome; establishes youth movements, that easily descend into antinomianism and organizes Christian commercialism that makes their founders fat!

Gift builds New Testament churches and produces believers who are well taught on issues. Gift rouses youth to lead the way — to consecrated living, to the mission field, to dedicated service. Gift will always produce the kind of schools that are "Schools of the Prophets" that turn out men of conviction rather than men of convenience.

And right here is where most of the laymen's movements get right off the track! They are generally in the hands of promoters who despise the New Testament church and who know little, if anything, of the truths that God's Word teaches that are cross current to somebody else's thinking.

The average Business Men's and Laymen's movement is built upon the premise that you must never bring up and preach or teach any controversial truth. And what truth is there that is worth much that somebody doesn't disagree with somewhere along the line?

Most of the Laymen's movements today, are, sadly, not worthy of the in-

terest and support of real New Testament churches because basically they do not and will not support New Testament churches. They want support and backing — and they are willing to go anywhere for it! And it is certainly true that the men who do most of the speaking at Laymen's meetings are no more qualified to teach and preach than a dog is qualified to stand on it's hind legs and sing a solo! The only place that they find appreciation is in the hearts of others who want to do the same thing themselves. They just don't have gift. Generally, usually, in most cases, when God gifts a man He also calls that man into His vineyard full time with a gift to the churches. Search the Scriptures — God has given His gifts to the local church — not to any other organization or movement.

We all would like to see some men's movements that would be free of promoters. We all like to see some men's movements that would not be dominated by a group of self-appointed strutters. And it would seem that the place to find such a movement is in the confines of that which Jesus built in the first place — His church. □

The time spent by many church members thinking and talking about the kind of pastor they wish theirs could be, could be better spent thinking and talking about the kind of church members he wishes they would

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lie. You say, "I don't like that language." I don't like folks to call my Lord a bastard either. If you don't like that kind of preaching, brother, you've come to the wrong place. You are going to get it straight from the shoulder at Central Baptist. I'm not going to give you this milk and water stuff you get in some pulpits today where a man is afraid that he'll hurt somebody's feelings and afraid he won't get his salary if he preaches the truth. I love the Lord Jesus Christ, and I resent to the very depths of my heart and soul any man who says that "Mary just got caught in the act of adultery and mild Joseph married her to help cover up her sin." I could shake hands with a murderer easier than I could shake hands with Nels Ferre. May I read it again.

"Mary, we remember, was found pregnant before her engagement to mild Joseph. Nazareth was hard by a Roman garrison where the soldiers were German mercenaries. Jesus is also reported throughout a continuous history of a part of art it is claimed to have been blonde. This is supposedly unnatural for the people of these Mediterranean countries where the tradition started and was continued. Hence Jesus must have been the child of a German soldier."

Go ahead and put your money in the Southern Baptist Convention if you want to. But you are going to stand in the judgment and

answer for every dime you put in it. They paid this man to lecture the students in a theological seminary so that they'd get the truth. Do you think it is the truth?

"Hence Jesus must have been the child of a German soldier. After all the claim develops, such is the experience of many girls near military camps."

This must be what Paul was talking about when he said, "Men of corrupt minds." How rotten, how filthy, how vile must a man's mind be to say that Mary was going with a German soldier stationed in a garrison near there; that she yielded to temptation and committed adultery and found herself with child of a Roman soldier and Joseph, being a mild man, said, "Well, Mary, I'll help you cover this thing up."

Can't you see we are in the last days? Can you imagine a Baptist seminary putting the stamp of approval upon a man who says that? Can you imagine a Baptist seminary having him deliver a series of lectures to the preachers of that seminary?

Brother, I want to say to you right now, we are living in the days of apostasy when "men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith," stand in high places among Baptists.

Let's look at another passage, 2 Timothy 3:12-13:

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving,

and being deceived (2 Tim. 3:12-13).

Brother, that's the condition we are in today. "Men of corrupt minds denying the faith."

What's the fruit of modernism? Churches filled with unbelievers; children going off into lives of sin and crime; divorce rampant on every hand. Here are the fruits right here in this article. *Religion without Christ*. That's what it is; religion without Christ. Religion without Christ always leads to cold, dead formality; to worldliness and sin in the life.

But Christianity is Christ. There is a difference between religion and Christianity. I want to say to you that when you have Christ there is a radical transformation in your life. It makes you a new man or a new woman, a new creation. You see, my friend, there are many church members who do not believe in Jesus Christ, but I can tell you something that every Christian does believe. He may differ on baptism; he may differ about the Lord's Supper; he may differ about many things, but there are some things that every single child of God believes.

First of all, he believes in the verbally inspired Word of God. You show me a man that puts a question mark after the Word of God and I'll show you a man I don't believe has been born again. You show me a preacher in a pulpit, my friend, that doesn't believe

God's Word, you show me a man that denies the verbal inspiration of the Bible, and I'll show you a man that God never called to preach, that never has known God, that never has been born again.

You see, there are certain fundamental doctrines of the faith. I'm going to enumerate them quickly, and every single child of God believes them. He may want to express them differently than I do. He may want to use different terminology than I do, but when we get together we find out that we are talking about exactly the same thing. I'll say it my way. You may want to say it your way, but we both believe exactly the same thing if we are saved.

First of all, the verbal inspiration of the Word of God.

Second, the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ.

Third, His Blood Atonement on Calvary's cross.

Fourth, His Bodily resurrection from the grave.

Fifth, His coming again to this earth.

And last of all, salvation by grace.

My friend, every single child of God believes every one of these fundamental doctrines of the faith, and any man who puts a question mark after any of them will never convince me in the light of the teachings of the Word of God that he is a child of God.

Now that raises another question. What are we to do in these last days? I'll

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Atheism Is Dying

By William Murray

“Atheism is dying,” said William Murray, son of famed atheist Madalyn Murray O’Hair in a recent interview in Monticello, Arkansas. Murray believes atheism does not work anymore.

“During the period that my mother lived and several of those other activists, atheism was important because it was an escape,” explained Murray. “It was something to justify the sin.

“My mother wasn’t an atheist. She was a screwed-up nut,” he said. “It was not a matter of atheism. It wasn’t a matter of intellectualism. It was a matter of she was a hard core sinner that rejected God. And she had to reject God simply in order to fit her lifestyle.”

Murray explained, “Most atheists are nuts. That’s beside the point. ... Every single person who has said he is an atheist normally has some kind of sin that needs to be dealt with.”

Murray believes any preacher who tries to debate atheists using Biblical knowledge will “fall flat on his face because you have to deal with the person’s sin in order to be able to deal with them.” He said if their sin is homosexuality, trying to argue with them about the nature of God won’t work.

“It’s the homosexuality that needs to be dealt with or the alcoholism or the drug

addiction or the pornography or whatever the core problem is in their life that makes them want to reject God,” said Murray.

There are no intellectual atheists, according to Murray. “I have never, ever in my life met an intellectual atheist. Never. I have met plenty of people who claim they’re intellectual atheists.”

Murray’s mother was one of those. “My mother claimed she read the Bible through, cover to cover, when she was 6 years old and intellectually became an atheist. And there are people that believe that.

“It’s those kind of outrageous statements that typically come out of atheists, which are nothing more than covers for their sin,” explained Murray. “They have something they have done, something they are doing now or something they would like to do, some fantasy that they have that has cut them off from God. And sometimes they cover it up with intellectualism.”

Murray said the reason atheism is dying is “we now have a situation in America where on every street corner you’ve got some preachers that stand up ... and tell people that whatever they are doing is just fine. God still loves them, and they don’t have to change.”

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Fact Not Theory

By William Murray

If your life is based on theory, if your hope is based on unpreparedness, then your ship will blunder on the rocks of life unless it is anchored to the Rock,” said William Murray, son of famed atheist Madalyn Murray O’Hair.

Murray recently spoke at First Baptist Church of Monticello, Arkansas where he compared people today to people who journeyed on the Titanic. Using text from Psalm 60:11, he reminded Christians to rely on the Lord, not worldly things.

“Why are we trying to relive that area of history? In that time, man thought very highly of himself as he does today,” shared Murray. “Not even God Himself can sink this ship,” quoted Murray as he read what the people who helped build the ship had said about it.

“We need God as much today as God was needed in 1911,” said Murray. He explained the passengers on the Titanic were so sure of their security as they boarded because of all the hype, which reported the ship was unsinkable. Their security was in this boat, so they sat around talking about how much money they had, said Murray. “Good feelings are deceptive,” he said.

Even the crew of the ship was confident, Murray said, they were warned six times of icebergs ahead, but

they only responded by teletyping back “Shut up.” They encountered false security.

This ship was the finest there had ever been, said Murray. It had elevators, swimming pools, watertight compartments, but oddly enough, it did not have enough lifeboats. There were just enough to look good.

Murray explained people today still believe false truths instead of fact. People believe they can make it to heaven on good works. People believe a God of love won’t condemn them. They say “Okay, I’ve sinned, so what?” They also believe they can always get saved tomorrow. Murray presented Scripture for every one of these falsehoods showing why they were false.

“Many people have lost eternal security on theory, not fact,” said Murray. “I would rather have my security in fact, not theory.

“How many hours do we have left? The people on the Titanic refused to believe the ship was sinking,” said Murray. They laughed at the crew members. Today, people laugh at God. They do not take His Word seriously, explained Murray.

“Fathers need to bring their children to church, not

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COLYAR...

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the origin, doctrine and practice of true New Testament Baptists whatsoever. Much of it should appear to spiritual vision under the light of God's word in this magazine in future issues, if the magazine lives up to the challenge of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians.

The challenge to true New Testament Baptists, which must be clearly defined in these pages from issue to issue, is not a single-phase action.

First, soldiers of the cross are "to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." They are to summon up the energy they possess in Christ Jesus. To the church at Jerusalem Jesus said: "Ye shall receive power (energy) when that the Holy Spirit is come upon you." It is not the energy of the flesh that is to be summoned, for none can prevail in this spiritual conflict by the energy of the flesh. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" the apostle said in another epistle. Paul is saying: Summon up the spiritual force which you possess in the Lord. "Be strong ... in the power of his might." The challenge here is to rely on the Lord for strength to perform all His commandments. This power is given to activate the Great Commission in all its parts. That power holds sway over all the evil forces of the world. It is restraining power; it is driving power. It is superior might. It is conquering power. It is sovereign power: it stands alone.

As it is written: "Jesus returned in the *power* of the Spirit into Galilee, and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about." So are the faithful in Christ Jesus to go forth to the nations with the word of God in the energy of the same Spirit that empowered Jesus.

Second, "Put on the whole armour of God." Five pieces of protective armor are enumerated here, which we have not space to mention. To be less prepared for the battle is to be vulnerable to Satan's attacks. He is too much for the mere strength of the flesh and the wisdom of the world. One, and only one, weapon of offense is needed: namely, "the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God." It is to be wielded by the faithful in Christ Jesus in every phase of the battle, but never in the strength of the flesh. It is sharper than any double-edged sword. It gets to the hearts of men, not to the heart of flesh. None but the *faithful in Christ* is willing to depend upon the Word of God only! Some must bring to bear a bit of science, a bit of philosophy, a bit of worldly sophistication, a lot of human organization to make the Word of God effective.

Yet all this readiness set out by Paul may be simulated, without effective action. An army without a supply line is headed for defeat. There is yet one thing needful, Prayer. That line of supply reaches from earth to heaven and back again. The faithful in Christ Jesus must go forth to do battle "praying always with all prayer and

supplication in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." The churches of Jesus Christ and prevailing prayer go hand in hand through the ages unto the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

The supreme challenge to real, independent, New Testament Baptists of today is to hear the word of God and keep it; to believe what God says, and act like it. They are faced with a formidable array of denominational machines which often foster unscriptural programs for the churches, foisted upon the ministry and the churches schools teaching doubtful and heretical doctrine; building money pools that entice the weak in the faith, et cetera, ad nauseam. The challenge to the ministry is to edify the churches by the Word of God "till we all come in the unity of the faith."

The challenge to true, New Testament Baptists is to hear and heed what the Spirit saith to the churches; to rise in the power of the Spirit of God and demonstrate to a gainsaying generation of Baptists and to an unbelieving world that they can operate, and co-operate successfully. Now, in the fulfillment of the Great Commission of our Lord in all its parts, scope and purpose, with the promised presence and blessing of the Lord upon them, just as the plan and pattern for our obedience is set forth for all the faithful in Christ Jesus in the New Testament. "Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith ... Them that honour me I will honour, and they that

despise me shall be lightly esteemed" (1 Sam. 2:30). □

ATHEISM...

(Continued from page 14)

Murray started a homosexual church in Dallas is building a new "\$20 million auditorium because they can't fit all the people in it. So you now have those groups of people that used to use atheism in order to cover for their sins ... flocking into churches in America ... where they are told whatever they're doing is okay; that God loves them anyway. Don't worry about it. There's probably not a hell.

"And with that kind of message available, there's no need for atheism anymore. And it's just drying up."

Murray said, "There are no truly major atheist organizations in the United States. Most of the ones that are left are persons working out of their basement offices. This movement in the United States is basically out of business. — Arkansas Baptist News-magazine. □

Stick To It

Plan for more than you can do, — Then do it.

Bite off more than you can chew, — Then chew it.

Hitch your wagon to a star, Keep your seat, and there you are.

If you were busy being kind,
Before you knew it, you would find
You'd soon forget to think 'twas true
That someone was unkind to you!

MYTH...

(Continued from page 1)

mythed the boat in Noah's day, mythed everything.

Now if David had mythed Goliath with his stone, there would not be much history of Israel to record. Goliath was very real as he brandished his mammoth spear and terrified every Israelite except David. His vile oaths rent the air and his savage threats caused the armies of Israel to reel backward without encounter. Goliath rattled his saber, flashed his shield and clattered his armor as he hurled vile insults and blasphemous curses at the hosts of Israel when David approached him. David met the Philistine giant in the name of the Lord and soon the giant was slain. I am glad David did not myth the man he aimed at.

Now these people seem to have mythed the Virgin Birth as well. This means that they must have mythed the angels too. No doubt they mythed the shepherds and the Wise Men also. A little later they seem to have even mythed the resurrection. The farther you probe this interpretation, the more it becomes obvious that it only leads to mythunderstanding the Bible.

That is the trouble when you discount the inspired revelation of the miraculous creation in Genesis. You just have no place to stop. If man decides that the Bible account of creation is a myth, then man becomes the judge of the Book instead of being judged by the Book. There is a dangerous fallacy in the wisdom of man. — "the world

by wisdom knew not God" (1 Cor. 1:21). It is better to be simple and safe than to be worldly wise and be lost. For if the Virgin Birth is a myth, then salvation is too. But millions of people have experienced salvation and the evidence is all around us in transformed lives of believers. Those who mythed the Ark drowned. Those who myth the Savior forfeit eternal life. Be sure you don't myth it! □

FRUITS...

(Continued from page 13)

tell you what we need to do. I'll tell you what this church did. This church saw that thing coming. We saw the modernism and the infidelity in the Sunday School literature of the Southern Baptist Convention, so in 1931 in the late fall, this church voted unanimously to do away with that literature and to use the Bible and the Bible only. Then in 1935, we saw the modernism, the infidelity beginning to grow faster and faster in the ranks of Baptists. We decided that not one cent of our money could go into that thing and we withdrew from the Convention. We couldn't support some of their schools and colleges, so we said, "By God's grace, we are going to get out of that thing."

God says, "Come ye out from among them and be ye separate," and that is what we did. And God has blessed us from that day to this and our mission program has grown and is growing and the fellowship of the church has increased and God has wonderfully

Others May, You Cannot**By Buell H. Kazee**

If God has called you to be really like Christ in all your spirit, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put on you such demands of obedience, that He will not allow you to follow other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will not let you do.

Others can brag on themselves, and their work, on their success, on their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will

blessed us. My advice to every child of God is to come out of that corrupt infidel thing. There are literally many hundreds of churches all over the South that have done that thing.. They are doing more missionary work now, though they are fewer in number, than the whole Southern Baptist Convention put together. The Southern Baptist Convention is doing almost no mission work in proportion to its numbers and its size and wealth. It is all going onto this big modern program that the Bible knows nothing about. "Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord." "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Mt. 7:20). "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5:11). □

make you despise yourself and all your good works.

The Lord will let others be honored and put forward, and keep you hid away in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for His glory, which can be produced only in the shade.

Others will be allowed to succeed in making money, but it is likely God will keep you poor because He wants you to have something far better than gold, and that is a helpless dependence on Him; that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day — out of an unseen treasury.

God will let others be great, but He will keep you small. He will let others do a great work for Him and get credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He will let others get the credit for the work you have done, and this will make your reward ten times greater when He comes. The Holy Spirit will put strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings, or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over.

So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do what He pleases with His own, and He will not explain to you a thousand things which may puzzle

(See **KAZEE** on page 17)

The Bible And Science — #2

The Mistakes God Did Not Make

By B. H. Shaddock, Ph.D.

Balancing the Pulls and Pushes

Scientists tell us that there are over a hundred elements in the make-up of our world. These elements have affinities and aversions, and are the playgrounds of opposing forces, yet with all their pulling and pushing there is a nicety of balance that is amazing to thinkers. There may be other elements somewhere in the universe, but another one might upset the balance of those we have and certainly if any one of a dozen elements that could be named were taken away, earth would be a desert. God has just the right number, in the right proportion and they behave exactly the right way so that all the pulls balance all the pushes.

Without lime there could be no bones. Without oxygen there could be neither air nor water. Without nitrogen there could be no life. If there were too much of any one of a dozen elements that could be named, or if some of the deadly poisons were not made harmless by locking them together, life would be impossible — the world would choke us, poison us, burn us, freeze us, or blow us up.

Most of what man knows he learned from some other person's experi-

ments or mistakes, and after a fourth of his life spent in school, man fumbles with the mysteries of life and matter — sometimes with an air of profundity. God served no apprenticeships.

If, through the centuries, snowflakes accumulated one-half of one per cent faster than they melted, the water of the earth would pile up in mountains of ice until the weight crushed the crust of the earth or gathered all the water of the earth in frozen embrace. Reflect on how little change would result in that one-half of one per cent, and consider that there have been glacial ages. If the melting point of ice were slightly lower, if the earth tilted otherwise than it is, if the highlands were higher, if the atmosphere were thinner or shallower, if the sun were smaller, cooler, or farther away, this might easily follow:

If Water Froze At A Lower Point

From absolute zero, 460 degrees below Fahrenheit zero, up to the boiling point of water at 212 above, is 672 degrees. Anywhere between these extremes God could have fixed the freezing-melting point, but *anywhere except where it is 32 above, would have*

been a mistake. If water froze 4 per cent of the 672-degree range lower than it now does, it could rain in a temperature of 6 degrees above zero. Man and most warm-blooded animals would chill to death with a wet skin in such cold. Where now there are vast fields of snow that store up water against the heat and drought of summer, there would be winter floods and guttered hillsides. If God had fixed the freezing point 2 per cent of the range higher, there would be frosts whenever the temperature dropped to 45 degrees above, and snow and ice would never melt in colder areas of the earth. Whatever caused the advance and retreat of the ice fields in glacial ages, there could be no retreat if water froze at 45 degrees above.

Much as the existence of plants and animals depends on the freezing point being where it is, *it would never do to have oceans freeze 32 degrees above.* In Polar seas the yearly thawing could not balance the yearly freezing, and ice would accumulate through the centuries. To prevent such a disaster, *God put salt in the sea* and arranged that evaporation takes nothing but fresh water back to the land.

What a fickle substance water is! Its molecules lock together in flinty embrace as ice, cover the earth with a dry blanket of snow in winter, quench the thirst of plants and animals, shade us from the sun as clouds, drive ponderous machinery as steam, and, if super-

heated, push one another through the steel plates of a boiler. Then if you take water apart and light a match, it will blow you up.

Suppose water were more or less volatile. If it evaporated more readily there would be more moisture in the air, more clouds in the sky, but land and vegetation would more quickly dry up in drought intervals. If water evaporated less rapidly, more of the earth would be a desert. □

KAZEE...

(Continued from page 16)

your reason in His dealing with you. He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and let other people say and do many things that you cannot do or say.

Settle it forever, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that others are not dealt with.

Now, when you are so possessed with the Living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this particular personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven. □

We often hear people say that money is not everything, but it is just about the best thing to pay bills with that we have ever come up with.

The Challenge of Cross-Cultural Evangelism In America

By Robert Straughan

All Bible believing Christians should be concerned about reaching the lost wherever they may be. Many churches correctly support missionaries in many overseas locations. The thought is to see the gospel being brought to foreign people who are of a different culture and often speak a different language. Missionaries who go to these foreign lands naturally learn the local culture and language(s).

Likewise, missionary printers print a variety of foreign language tracts and other literature. Christians in many local churches pray for the salvation of "lost foreigners over there." However, what many Bible believing Christians are unaware of are the vast number of "foreigners" living right here in America. I would like to point out the great opportunities (need) for evangelism of immigrants in America today, and to suggest some ways that believers can reach them with the gospel.

First, as I alluded to above, the number of foreign born people living in America is truly amazing. America has always been seen as a land of opportunity for those wanting to immigrate from other countries, and that remains true today. In fact, the number

of foreign born people living in America today must surely number in the millions. Sadly, many Christians either because of ignorance or bias, have ignored this great opportunity. *The fact is that many of the home countries that these immigrants in America have come from are either completely or mostly closed to American missionaries!* China, India, and most of the predominately Islamic countries are good examples.

Additionally, many of these people visit their "Mother country," and/or keep in contact with their relatives abroad. The evangelization of these people in America could provide an avenue to reach lost people overseas. Additionally, families who have lived in America for several generations often still keep ties with relatives in their "mother" country. Having shown the opportunity (need) right here in America for evangelism of immigrants, I would now like to offer the following suggestions that I believe will be of help in this needed area of evangelism.

First, keep a supply of foreign language tracts. Immigrants in America have varying commands of the English language. They range from being very flu-

ent in English, to understanding almost no English. However, it has been my experience that even those who can speak English will still appreciate receiving a tract in their "native tongue."

A recent visit to a Chinese restaurant well illustrates this point. I had a chance to talk to one of the Chinese men that worked there, and he had a good command of English. Later, I noticed that he was reading a Chinese language newspaper. Upon inquiring he told me that the newspaper had been printed in China Town (NYC). In fact, that is where he was from. His parents were from Hong Kong. This was a case of a man who even though he had been born in America (or at least lived a long time here), still preferred to read his ancestral language. I should add that I was able to give him several Chinese tracts as well as tracts to other Chinese people working there. At another Chinese restaurant, the Chinese lady who waited on our table not only accepted our tract, but asked if she could have one for her friend. How often have you gotten that response from "Americans?"

Secondly, investigate which immigrant groups may live in your area. If there is a concentration of some specific groups in your area, then try to have tracts in their language. Also, you might try asking them what is their first language. Additionally, if they have a foreign background, but seem to speak good English, try

giving them both an English and foreign language tract.

Finally, I would like to conclude this article with the following challenge. How many Bible believing Christians regularly give out tracts at all? And of those, how many try to distribute foreign language tracts to the lost immigrants in their area? Let us be faithful in obeying the Great Commission found in Mark 16:15, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." What a great opportunity (challenge) we have in America in this area of cross-cultural evangelism! — Maranatha Baptist Watchman

THEORY...

(Continued from page 14)

fishing trips. They (the children) need to bond with Jesus, not fishing trips," said Murray.

Many people do not believe they need Jesus, said Murray. "They don't believe in hell, but death brings a clear perspective."

Murray went on to say today we have daily warnings from God. "There is a salvation from hell. Jesus will save you. People are drowning in sin today. They need Jesus," he said. "Many people today are waiting" like the people on the Titanic. "It may be too late."

"What will you do with Jesus? What will you do with the lifeboat He has prepared for you?" asked Murray. "There is plenty of room on the lifeboat of grace. Are you ready?" — Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Paulo's Conversation With A Gold Mine Superintendent

Paulo Alizu is a Congolese with a robust body, a smile that is contagious, and he loves the Lord Jesus. He is one who holds forth in a little mud chapel in the gold mining camp a few miles away. I paid him a visit a few weeks ago and came away rejoicing since this is the story he told me.

He had recently had another visitor in the person of the superintendent of the camp who had come to see what he was teaching the children. Finally the official said, "Tell me, Paulo, what is the secret the Baptists have to keep the Africans from drinking beer and smoking tobacco?"

"Why," said Paulo, "There is no special secret nor strong command from the missionaries, but we Christians have the Lord Jesus in our hearts and He is God, who says, 'Be ye holy for I am holy.' It is true, however, that our missionaries set us a good example in this respect. The child follows the footsteps of his father. Since we see the priests drinking wine and smoking, is it not natural that their followers do likewise?"

"Then if your missionaries are such holy people, why do they marry?" asked the mine official.

Paulo replied, "O, then you think it a mark of holiness that your priests remain celibate? In Old Tes-

tament times priests married and the office of a priest was inherited through the tribe of Levi; father passing the office on to son. If the priests profess to be following in Peter's train, he also was a married man. Vows of celibacy are men imposed. It isn't in the 'Book.' God calls us all priests when He says, 'But ye are a chosen generation, a royal *priesthood*, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.' "

"And that brings me to another matter," the white man said, "Why do all the people of your faith carry the Book, read the Book, and take it for your authority, while we Catholics don't know anything about the Book?"

"French is your native tongue, and your priest also speaks French, does he not" asked Paulo. "Can you tell me why it is that when you go to Mass the priest speaks Latin instead of French? Latin is a dead tongue! Of course, we are people of The Book because it speaks our language, and it is the only book in our tribal tongue. It answers our question of how to know God because it shows Him in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. We learn to worship God and to pray to Him who has cleansed us from our sin and made us righteous through the work of Christ when He died on the cross. Do you wonder that we are people of The Book?"

There was evidently

The Cooperative Program Unscriptural

By I. W. Rogers

1. The Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention is unscriptural because, as it has been operated in its present form, it is based on the doctrine that the end justifies the means.

2. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because gifts made through it are helping to lead the Southern Baptist convention into the National Council of Churches.

3. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because the leaders of the Program are attempting to take the place of the Holy Spirit in the leadership of Southern Baptist churches and individuals.

4. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because it centralizes great power in the hands of a very few.

5. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because it helps to destroy the independence and autonomy of Southern Baptist churches.

6. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural be-

little else for an educated mining engineer to say except that when he had time he would like to speak further on the matter.

Surely God hath chosen the weak and foolish things of this world to confound the wise. □

cause loyalty to the Program has become the one standard by which Southern Baptists are judged, rather than by their loyalty to the teachings of the Bible and to our Lord Jesus Christ.

7. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because it has become the devil's most effective tool by which men in Southern Baptist schools, colleges and seminaries are paid good salaries while they undermine the faith of Southern Baptist young people in the teachings of the Bible.

8. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because our Lord's mission program for His churches, as plainly given in the New Testament, contains nothing that remotely resembles the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists.

Here is a bill of particulars, not vague generalities. Here are definite charges that must be faced. □

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 and if you can send out Emails, please notify those on your mailing list about TBC being available. Thanks.

How Do You Spell “God”?

By Carl Sweazy

Some time ago Edwin Arlington Robinson made the following pertinent observation. “The world is a kind of spiritual kindergarten where millions of bewildered infants are trying to spell ‘God’ with the wrong blocks.” In this rather picturesque use of words several penetrating ideas are expressed.

FIRST, as shocking to our sense of importance, and our great boasts of attainments as it may be, still it is true, “The world is a kind of spiritual kindergarten.” In the arts and sciences we think ourselves quite grown up. We boast of our civilization, our modern inventions, our great strides in fields of research, our almost breath-taking feats of engineering and construction, our great scholarship, our colleges and universities, our institutes of technology, etc. It is the realm of the spirit that we are “bewildered infants.” Over and over, again and again, we are simply astounded at the moral and spiritual stupidity, of our national leaders, and our great educators. Utterances of men of great mental caliber, are seized upon and published in one popular magazine after another. Utterances which to spiritually enlightened minds are as the mutterings of mere infants.

The natural darkness of the unregenerated heart and mind seem only apparent to

those who have been “born from above,” “born of the spirit.” The great apostle speaks of the fact that to the most enlightened, and classically educated people of his day, namely the Greeks, the simple gospel of Christ was foolishness, and even to His own people the Jews, in their natural state it is a stumbling block. Paul describes the appalling immaturity, even of the most brilliant of human intellects when he says, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things, which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Cor. 2:9). And again, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14). So when men of “giant” intellects and of world reputation as great thinkers and scientists, speak great swelling words against God and the Bible, we are not to be surprised, rather they are to be pitied, because there is no light in them. Isaiah says, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isa. 8:20). Poor “bewildered infants,” let us pray for them.

SECOND, let us notice what these “bewildered infants” are about. Surprise of surprises, they are “try-

ing to spell God.” Surely no greater proof may be found for the existence of God, and His creatorship of the human soul, than that man has a deep hunger for God. The human spirit simply can find no rest until it rests in God. The quest for God is innate and universal. Hence all the great religions of the world, dating back to the beginning of history. Man simply must worship someone, or something. God certainly made man for Himself; and He has placed deep within the human heart, even the rebellious heart, a hunger for Himself. Men of every station and circumstance are trying to spell God.

All the modern cults owe their existence to this insatiable longing in the heart of man. Science “so-called” is searching for God. It has its superstitions which it religiously follows in its own blindness. Trying to find God in the test tube, in chemical formulas, in electronic theories. Fitfully the scientists arrange the blocks, as do also the pagan modern philosophers and psychologists. “Give us blocks, more blocks, other blocks,” they cry. “We will spell that name yet, give us time: blocks, blocks, give us blocks.” Poor “bewildered infants.” Their names fill the catalogue pages given to listing faculty members of our great universities. One could recite whole pages of such prominent names in educational circles if it were profitable. They number their degrees and strive for still other degrees in their

mad search for more blocks, as delirious babies tossing in the dead, dark hours of the night.

What a picture of the natural mind; candid, accurate. All human research which ignores Divine revelation, God in the person of Jesus Christ, is mental nightmare, delirium.

THIRD, let us note these fateful words, “Wrong blocks.” Someone hurrying to the bedside of a dying loved one, in haste got aboard the “wrong” train and arrived too late. Someone sick during the night has gone in the darkness to the medicine chest and taken the “wrong” medicine and is found dead. A brakeman in a moment of confusion throws the “wrong” switch and a passenger train bearing hundreds of human souls is hurled into a freight train on the siding. But the tragedy of all tragedies, universal, global and producing eternal loss and despair, is found in poor human beings. “Bewildered infants trying to spell ‘God’ with the wrong blocks.” “Salvation by works”? wrong blocks; human philanthropy and sacrifice? wrong blocks; water baptism for salvation? wrong blocks; saying mass, prayers for the dead, doing penance, praying to the saints, attending mass, performing any churchly rite or ceremony? wrong blocks; religious pilgrimages, personal afflictions and suffering? wrong blocks; deeds of the law? wrong blocks; church membership or lodge

(See SPELL on page 21)

SPELL...

(Continued from page 20)

membership? wrong blocks; willing one's property, even vast estates, to the church? wrong blocks.

FINALLY, and thank God, undoubtedly there is one who truly spells "God" and there is no other. That one is Jesus Christ, the Lord, our Savior and Redeemer. He is something more than a "block." He is the "Rock."

John in his Gospel tells us, "No man hath seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (Jn. 1:18). For this cause He is called the Logos, the Word. He was "In the beginning with God." He was with God, "He was and is God." He is the only one who spells out God for the poor hungering, groping human souls. Jesus said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." He hath fully spelled God for us.

The author of Hebrews begins that remarkable book of Divine revelation and instruction with these words: "god, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb.

1:1-3).

Friend, how do you spell God? Are you to be found among those who trusting to the sagacity of the natural mind, have closed their eyes to the Truth, and as "bewildered children are trying to spell God with the wrong blocks," or are you numbered with the other millions of humble believers on the Lord Jesus Christ, who have passed from the bewilderment of human endeavor, into the blessed light of deep and abiding satisfaction of faith in Him. Millions there are who have entered into the "rest of faith," and amid all the trials and testings of this life, are serene and calm; living in perfect peace and enjoying the "Blessed hope looking for the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ" (Tit. 2:13). □

WNR...

(Continued from page 9)

babwe. — Violence spread across at least 15 white-owned farms in northern Zimbabwe as ruling party militants and illegal land occupiers engaged in widespread looting, farmers' leaders said. Farmers and their families were forced out of 10 farms in the Lion's Den, Mhangura and Doma districts near Chinhoyi, where 21 white farmers were in court facing charges they attacked black squatters, the Commercial Farmers Union said. Farmers' union spokes-woman Jenni Williams said in addition to the 10 farms that were evacuated, five other farms

were besieged and one homestead was burned to the ground. Cattle had been herded away, and tractors and other equipment were stolen, she said. Farm buildings were trashed and vehicles were used to take away furniture, fertilizer and building materials, district union officials reported. Black squatters led by ruling party militants and veterans of Zimbabwe's independence war have occupied more than 1,700 white-owned farms since March 2000. — 8/10/01 Dallas Morning News.

* * *

Could The Bible Be Hate Literature? — This question is asked by Pastor Perry Rockwood in a protest message against the recent ruling of the Saskatchewan (Canada) Human Rights Commission, regarding an advertisement quoting four Bible passages on what the Bible teaches about homosexuality. The ruling states: "These verses can objectively be seen as exposing homosexuals to hatred or ridicule." Question: If Lev. 20:13 and Rom. 1:26-28 are hate literature, how much of the Bible, if any, remains legal to print? In a June ruling, the commission ordered both the newspaper and the Christian who had the ad to pay \$1,400 to three homosexual activists for publishing an advertisement with the references to the four Biblical verses condemning homosexuality. — CC

France Considers Evangelical Churches Cults.

— A French law that cracks down on religious groups considered sects or cults could set a dangerous precedent for government-targeted minority religions in other countries. Any religious education ("mental manipulation") or proselytization can be suspect under the vague crime of "abuse of a person's state of weakness." The law not only can ban religious groups considered cults, but can also stop them from changing their name and reorganizing. French officials are actively promoting their law as a "model" for other countries. A Yugoslav police inspector says: "Baptists, Pentecostals and others are dangerous religious cults who can damage ... your children." The pastor of the largest charismatic church in France could be imprisoned if he loses a trial in French court. — CC

* * *

Saudis Crack Down On Religious Freedom.

— Two Christians were recently arrested for reason related to their faith, in Islamic Saudi Arabia, America's strong Gulf War ally. Only Muslims are allowed to practice their faith. One-third of the population of Saudi Arabia is foreign workers, many of whom are Christians from the Philippines, India, North Korea,

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PRICE...

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ment church. There is no New Testament instance where any board, denomination, convention, association, organized fellowship, missions committee, mission directors, etc. ad nauseum sent out missionaries. Is it possible that the denominational leaders never read the 13th chapter of Acts where the church at Antioch, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, sent forth Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey?

The fact is the claims made in this article are so rotten that they make one sick. It is just another evidence, however, of the modern trend toward denominational control of the churches. It points toward Romanism. God help us to oppose it.

Brethren, there is but one New Testament plan for the work of our God, and that is through the CHURCH. If God's plan is not to work through the local church, then somebody was sadly muddled when the commission was given.

How can denominational leaders brazenly disregard the God-given authority of the local church?

This article is very closely akin to rebellion against divinely given, New Testament church authority, and God's Word says, "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity, and idolatry" (1 Sam. 15:23).

If the job is ever done to the glory of God, it will

be done through the agency which Christ set up to do it — that is the local churches. □

WNR...

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etc. They are not allowed to display any Christian symbols or Bibles, nor are they allowed to meet together publicly to worship or pray. There are no churches in Saudi Arabia. — CC

* * *

Stanley Says God Won't Send People To Hell Who Have Not Heard the Gospel! — On

a recent radio broadcast, popular Southern Baptist pastor/author Charles Stanley said that God will not send people to hell if they have never heard the gospel. Following is an extract: "... [W]ould God send somebody to hell because they did not receive Jesus whom they never heard about, never had the privilege of knowing about? And my answer is: No, He would not" (Stanley, In Touch Ministries, "Reconciling God's Love with His Justice," July 31, 2001). This is a great error. In Ephesians 2, God describes the condition of those who are outside of Christ. They are dead in trespasses and sins (v. 1), by nature the children of wrath (v. 3), having no hope, and without God in the world (v. 12). This is the unsaved man's condition regardless of whether or not he has heard the gospel. He is condemned already, and that is

Procrastination

By Denny Williams

Many leaders say the end of the day comes surprisingly fast: so fast they hardly have time to finish any planned projects. There's rarely a minute when the phone doesn't ring, a crisis doesn't demand intervention, or a routine activity doesn't push toward a dead line. The common re-

why it is so imperative that Christ's commission be obeyed and the gospel be preached to the ends of the earth. — CC

* * *

Surgeon On "Reverent." — "It is at any rate a suspicious circumstance that among mankind no class of persons would so commonly describe themselves by a pretentious title as the professed ministers of the lowly Jesus. Peter and Paul were 'right reverent' men, but they would have been the last to call themselves so. A lad fresh from college who has just been placed in the pulpit is called the 'Reverend So-and-So,' while his eminently godly father who has for fifty years walked with God has no claim for such reverence. We wonder where men first sought out this invention, and from whose mind did the original sin emanate. We suspect he lived in the Roman Row in "Vanity Fair", though the 'Rev.' John Bunyan does not mention him." □

sponse even you sometimes give is a resolution to do better tomorrow. Yes, tomorrow you will clean up those tasks, big and small, which have been begging for attention for weeks.

Procrastination is the problem, not the lack of time. You have the ability to fit in every activity you are determined to accomplish. It's not easy to deal with this problem, but it can be overcome once you recognize it as the true culprit and stop blaming time.

Here's how you can kick the procrastination habit and accomplish more every day.

(1) Keep your main objectives in mind. Make a list of your goals and keep it in front of you as a daily guide.

(2) Plan each day's work. Before leaving the office, plan your activities for the following day and prioritize them according to importance.

(3) Make notes to help plan your activity list. Don't rely on memory, but take notes on anything requiring your attention.

(4) Adjust your plans. Use your peak efficiency hours to accomplish the most demanding tasks.

(5) Set realistic deadlines. Estimate how long it should take you to accomplish each task on your list.

(6) Don't wait for inspiration. Get started at once on your planned activity list each morning.

(7) Overcome problems by finding a starting point. Put your problem on paper

(See **PRO** on page 24)

A Letter From Your Son

Dear Mom and Dad:

It's about three in the morning and I should be in bed. But I had to write this to you. I was putting my laundry away when this thought came to me, as it probably comes to most guys away at college.

I guess the best way to start is to say, "Thank you." But it's much more than that. I mean, as each day passes, I learn more about how the plan for parenthood is supposed to work. I thank you, Mom and Dad, for staying with that plan.

Thank you, Mom, for the way you taught me to cook, clean, and do the dishes. Lately, as I've picked up a piece of paper here, a dirty glass there, or put the butter away, I've thought, Boy! did my mother actually put up with this for 17 years?

I stand now and do a few dishes in 10 minutes or so, and wonder how I could have spent a whole Saturday doing a few breakfast dishes. How often, Dad, you would say, "You should be through in 15 minutes." And I'd ring back in my childish, high-pitched voice, "But look at all these pans!" You always seemed to enjoy doing the dishes, Dad.

I remember the many times I said to myself, "Boy, I'm not going to make my kids ..." or "I wouldn't treat my children ..."

But I now thank you for the way I turned out. I know it's a worn-out phrase, but — thank you for the spankings,

the evening meals gone without, the deprivings, the groundings, and all the other types of discipline that made me what I am today.

I think of the many hours parents must spend on their knees praying and pleading, sometimes in tears, asking God for His protection, wisdom, guidance, and direction on bringing up their children. Then, after they've acted, they go back to Him wondering, "Were we too harsh? Lord, did we handle it right?"

As parents, you not only have the responsibility of teaching God's love to your children, but also remaining in the right relationship with the Lord at all times. You must be "on your best behavior" in front of your children, lest one slip. One wrong word at the wrong time might cause your child to stumble.

What a task that must be! I can't imagine the hours of tension a parent faces watching his child go through the various stages of development, always wondering if he will turn out all right.

No wonder it's hard to let go. It's understandable that after all those years of disciplining, correcting, and loving, parents would want to hold onto their children as long as they could.

But the kids never understand, do they? Some will not understand until they have raised their own children. Others, the fortunate ones, come to the day when they write a serious letter explaining how they feel about their parents and thanking them for being such good ones.

Your spankings were not

in vain. With each one, some inkling of a concept was transferred that helped me be a better person. I hope that I can pass on those same concepts to my children someday.

I want you to know, Mom and Dad, that I love you for the way you brought me up; for being such wonderful parents; for just loving me when the times were difficult; and for caring enough to punish me when I did wrong.

Don't be sorry if your eyes start to swell a little, and this page seems a little blurred. I've fought tears practically all night, as I have realized that I can honestly say with all my heart that I

love you. It may be the first time in my life that I can say it and truly mean it.

It was a rough 17 years wasn't it? But I'm sure the verse, "My grace is sufficient," keeps coming back to you.

Please continue to pray for me, and please encourage other parents not to give up. The Lord has a vast supply of strength and grace which "He giveth to all men liberally." There is hope! I don't have much more to say, except to reminisce. Again, thank you so much.

With love and prayers.

Your son.

P.S. — Good Night.

The Missionaries' Plea

Will you not pray for us? Each day we need

Your prayers, for oft the way is rough and long.

And our lips falter and forget their song,

And we proclaim the Word men will not heed.

Will you not pray for us? Alone we stand

To stem the awful tide of sin and shame,

To cast out demons in the mighty name

Which is alone the hope of every land.

Pray, pray for us! We are but vessels frail;

The world's appalling need would crush us down

Save that in vision we behold the crown

Upon His brow who shall at length prevail.

Not yet the crowning! Fields must yet be won,

Lives freely yielded, martyr blood be spilt,

Love cast out fear, redemption blot our guilt,

Ere we behold the kingdom of God's Son.

**FELLOWSHIPS
AND
CONFERENCES**

ISHPEMING, MI

September 17-18, 2001, Old Fashioned Baptist Church, 321 S. 4th St., Ishpeming, MI 49849, John Coleman, Pastor.

* * *

SIoux FALLS, SD

October 1-3, 2001, Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S. Hawthorne, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Dr. Ron Tottingham, Pastor.

* * *

COLDWATER, MS

October 7-11, 2001, Victory Baptist Church, Dan Hall, Pastor. (662) 233-2102, (888) 289-8745.

* * *

LEXINGTON, KY

October 22-24, 2001, Bryan Station Baptist Church, 3175 Briar Hill Rd., Lexington, KY 40516, Al Gormley, Pastor.

* * *

FT. WORTH, TX

October 29-31, 2001, Lake Worth Baptist Church, 4445 Hodgkins Rd., Ft. Worth, TX 76135, Jerry D. Lock, Pastor.

CINCINNATI, OH

November 12-15, 2001, Central Baptist Church, 7645 Winton Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45224, James W. Love, Pastor.

We shall be happy to list the dates of Fellowship meetings or Bible Conferences of independent Baptist churches. Please notify us far in advance.

PRO...

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and gather some general information to dispel your initial difficulty.

(8) Make your decision and take action. Indecision is nothing more than a waste of time.

(9) Don't let time dictate the sequence you follow. Stick to your priorities.

(10) Control the outside interference. Set aside regular times during which you accept only emergency calls. Ask your secretary to take messages from all other callers and instruct your staff to check with you later.

Although these tips will allow you to do more work, and hopefully more important work, some tasks require special approaches. Just because you have set up an activity list with priority labels, you won't necessarily complete every task you should do. Neglected jobs usually fall into two categories — the tedious and the intimidating. Here are a few more tips to help you accomplish these tasks as well:

(1) Ask, "Why am I avoiding this task?" Once

Egotism and the Ministry

"Egotism, or a disposition to bring forward a person's self, is a characteristic of a weak mind and a contracted heart. It is not an agreeable feature in any man's character; but it is peculiarly disagreeable when it is a leading trait in the character of a man who, from the office he fills, should be distinguished by the wide comprehension of his views, and the generous liberality of his affections. Such a man is a minister of the gospel; and there is something incongruous and disgusting in one whose mind ought to be habitually employed about the glory of

your difficulty is put into words, you'll find it easier to handle it.

(2) Remember the benefits. Once it's done, it'll be off your desk and in your mind.

(3) Break the job down. Make a list of smaller steps which will generate momentum toward completion of the total job.

(4) Make specific plans. Define your basic strategy and make some decisions.

(5) Take small steps. Organize the facts and consider your options.

(6) Recall similar projects of success. This should help you tackle current problems.

Implementing these principles at this point is the key. Can you really afford to procrastinate any longer? □

the Divine character — the order and stability of the Divine government — the restoration of a ruined world to purity and happiness — the incarnation and sacrifice of the Son of God — the transforming and consoling influence of the Holy Ghost — the joys and the sorrows of eternity — and whose grand business it ought to be to bring these things, in all their reality and importance, before the minds of his fellow-men — it is incongruous and disgusting in such a man to appear primarily anxious to draw men's attention to himself — seizing every opportunity to bring himself into notice — exhibiting the truths of the gospel chiefly for the purpose of displaying his own talents — calling men's attention to them more as his opinions than as God's truth, and less ambitious of honoring the Savior, and saving those who hear him, than of obtaining for himself the reputation of piety, or learning, or acuteness, or eloquence. This is truly pitiable; and if angels could weep, it would be at folly like this" (John Brown (**Epistle to the Galatians**, pp. 53-54).

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 and if you can send out Emails, please notify those on your mailing list about TBC being available. Thanks.

