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a voice of independent Baptists

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Was The Church of Christ A Baptist Church?

[This is a portion of a sermon published in **The Baptist Bulletin**, April, 1953.]

We call our church a Baptist church. We admit such a name for a church does not occur in the Word of God. But neither does the expression *substitution* occur in the Bible, yet we know the substitutionary death of Christ in our place is an outstanding doctrine in this Book. The word *Trinity* is not found in the Bible, yet every true Christian believes in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost as three persons in one Godhead.

Let me pause and ask you a question. Would you rather have a church with the proper title, yet full of error, unbelief and worldliness, or would you rather have a church where the Word of God is preached and practiced with a name, or denomination, not expressly found in the Scriptures?

Yet in calling our

church a Baptist church we are using a name, or denomination, found in the Word of God. The name Baptist was applied to the forerunner of the Son of God (Mt. 3:1). The word itself means: "One who baptizes" (Young's Concordance). John the Baptist

The devil doesn't care how religious people are, just so they trust in something or someone other than Jesus for salvation. He uses all sorts of schemes and devices in order to get people to trust something else, at least in part, for salvation. But it is fatal to plus Jesus with anything. Just as well trust something else wholly for salvation as to trust something else a little bit for salvation.

was one who baptized. That is why he was denominated, or called *Baptist*.

John received his baptism from Heaven (Mt. 21:25-27). All of the twelve disciples were baptized with John's baptism (Acts 1:21-22). The twelve disciples

Among all the things with which Satan tries to plus Christ, there is nothing more deadly than *baptism*. Just as well depend upon a stone god to bring about remission of sins, as baptism. A water god is as absurd as a stone god.

The Catholic Church started the doctrine of baptismal salvation, under the prompting of Satan. Since

(See **MASON** on page 23)

(or eleven) were later commissioned to go to all nation's, make disciples, and baptize them in the Trinity (Mt. 28:16-20).

They were also, the ones who baptized, and therefore were baptizers, or Baptists, whether the name was applied to them officially or not. Since the New Testament church baptized believers, it was a church that baptized, and it was a Baptist church, even though it was not specifically called Baptist. Is it wrong, then, if we come right out in these days of denominational confusion and identify ourselves **BAPTISTS**?

As To The Nature of The Church

"Oh," but someone says, "while it is true that the New Testament church baptized believers into its fellowship, and was, in that sense, a Baptist church, yet there is quite a difference between the church and the Baptist churches of today."

(See **BECK** on page 24)

By Frank Beck

By Roy Mason

Does Water Wash Away Our Sins?

Quiz The Pastor -- #6**Information Given About The Virgin Birth of Jesus****By the late Nick Michalinos**

Question: I'm interested in the birth of Jesus. I want some information about the Virgin Birth.

Answer: Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a young lady who lived in the town of Nazareth. She was "A virgin" (Lk. 1:27). She had plans to marry a man who lived in the same town named Joseph to whom she was engaged.

It was at this time that the angel Gabriel appeared to her, and declared she was to conceive in her womb, and "bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus" (Lk. 1:31), and this was to be done in a miraculous way without sexual contact with any man (Lk. 1:34-35). Her betrothal to Joseph was good in that she could be married, and thus protect her good name when the baby Jesus would be born.

Now, when Joseph discovered his future wife was with child, he sought to privately put her away (Mt. 1:19), but an angel appeared to him in a dream, and told him to go ahead and marry her for her pregnancy was a fulfilled prophecy found in Isaiah 7:14 where we read, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign (miracle): Behold a (*the*) virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name, Immanuel."

Joseph then took Mary as his wife, but though they lived together, they did not live together sexually, as husband and wife, until after Jesus was born (Mt. 1:25). The Holy Spirit takes special care to insert this verse with this intimate detail to show us that the unborn Savior could not possibly be sinfully infected by a human father. His


Father was God the Father. He was "the Son of the highest" (Lk. 1:32). "His only begotten son" (Jn. 3:16).

Since the sin of Adam (Gen. 3), all humans born thereafter, without exception, inherit a sin nature from their parents. Like begets like (Rom. 5:12; Psa. 51:5; 58:3; Eph. 2:3). Since the Word of God teaches our Lord Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:15), then in some way He must be apart from sinners, that is, He must be born without a sin nature. He must escape the corruptible taint of the sin nature that contaminates the whole human race.

If Jesus was born with a sin nature, He then was no different than any other sinner. He therefore would have died because of His own sin, and He Himself would have been in need of a Savior. However, the Wisdom of God resolves this dilemma. The problem is solved by the Virgin conception and birth of our Lord. Through the Virgin Birth, He will by-pass the normal means of transference of the sin nature.

Obviously, the answer lies in the fact that the sin nature is passed from the father to the child, and not from the mother to the child. Jesus did not have a human father because God was His father. Mary was the mother of His body, but did not transmit her sin nature to her infant Son. Mankind needs a Savior that is of such infinite worth as to provide salvation for

all. Only God Himself can meet this need.

Yet, He must die (Rom. 6:23). Can God die? No! God, who is "Spirit" (Jn. 4:24), can clothe Himself in a human body that can die (Heb. 10:5; Jn. 1:14), but it must be a body that is without a sin nature, and thus live sinlessly. Thus, the necessity of the Virgin Birth. Our Lord was sinless, immaculate and impeccable, for "in him was no sin" (1 Jn. 3:5). "He knew no sin" (2 Cor. 5:21), and in this way He was divinely qualified to "taste death for every man (Heb. 2:9), and to believe in Him as our Savior gives us assurance we shall be saved (Acts 16:30-31). 

Looking For A Pastorate?

There's a lot of talk about pulpit committees and prospective pastors being perfectly frank with one another. Surely in deliberations affecting the life of the church and the preacher, there should be no deliberate misrepresentations, but how much should a church and a pastor-to-be know about each other? Is it possible to be too frank? Granted that both are earnestly seeking the leadership of the Holy Spirit, general information about each other might be better than to go into all the details about each other's peculiar characteristics.

For example, suppose a

(See **LOOK** on page 22)

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Distinguishing Marks of A New Testament Church

By M. L. Moser, Editor

The mission of a New Testament church is identical with the mission of Christ (Jn. 20:21). In the 17th chapter of John we have the will of Christ for His churches. Whatever His mission was in the world, our mission is in the world. His mission was to save sinners (Jn. 3:17), and our mission is to do the same by pointing them to Christ. And yet today, even in some Baptist churches, they are utterly failing in the one mission their Savior gave them to do. Book reviews, nature stories, and civic activities are the sermons of the day, instead of the blood-bought redemption of sinners through Jesus Christ.

In the first chapter of Acts this mission is enlarged upon. It not only points out our mission, but also points us to our source of power. We must have power enough to place the gospel throughout the whole world at one and the same time, and that power must come from the Holy Spirit. The power derived by man's efforts is not sufficient. This power then cannot be realized through the power of education, organization or even cooperation. The power must be a supernatural power; one given from God. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of

hosts (Zech. 4:6). Churches depending upon gaining power through cooperative organizations shall always be weak, because they have not tapped the main source of power.

The main and central passage of Scripture which gives us our mission in detail is in Matthew 28:16-20. This must be the commission that each church operates from. Each church must do all that is included in the commission, and equally so, they should not add anything to this commission. There are several things included in this commission and we should note well what it includes.

First, we are to make men born-again believers or disciples. This is the first mission of the New Testament church. If we fail in this point, we cannot do the others. This is the main emphasis of the New Testament church. Following the example of Christ, we see that His method was to make disciples first before He baptized them (Jn. 4:1). How is this to be accomplished? "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Cor. 1:21). The preaching of the gospel will reveal Christ to the hearts of men and the very moment they receive Christ as their personal Lord and Savior they are a disciple

or a Christian.

Baptism has no part in the salvation of any person. Only faith and faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ can save a person; plus nothing and minus nothing. Paul's preaching always made it clear that baptism had no saving efficacy whatsoever. "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel" (1 Cor. 1:17). Or we might place it in our own words, "For Christ sent me not to baptize but to evangelize," and there is a world of difference between the two. Because salvation is placed before baptism in every instance in the New Testament, we can readily see that only a Baptist church fulfills the commission in this point. Others will sprinkle (baptize as they call it) small infants or else they immerse for the purpose of saving the person. Either of these two is unscriptural and is not fol-

lowing the command of Christ.

The second part of the command of Christ is to make them Baptist. This is seen in the command to baptize the disciples. This command was given to the people who had been baptized by John the Baptist, hence it was Baptist baptism. A requirement for being an Apostle was that he be baptized by John the Baptist (Acts 1:15-26). John's baptism was Christian baptism and from the material that John prepared, Christ built His church and His church was a Baptist church.

There are four requirements for Scriptural baptism.

(1) A regenerated person. A person who is not born again is not a proper candidate for baptism. If he is immersed, then he has not been bap-

(See **MARKS** on page 22)

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.

—The Editor



Flying In The Clouds

By Louis A. Turk

What makes flying into low clouds so “deadly” for young pilots? Not yet having learned how to trust or use the “attitude” instruments (those which indicate the airplane’s position in relation to the ground), the new pilot flying by Visual Flight Rules (VFR) will, in fog or clouds, become totally disoriented. Within minutes he is unable to tell if he is turning, going straight, climbing or diving. Since he can’t “see” anything outside his cockpit, his “feelings” will betray him. It’s even possible to steer into a diving spiral to the ground. The problem is not control, but rather that his *sense of feel* leads him astray. Thus, what for the “instrument” rated pilot would have been a successful, even routine, flight, for the pilot with only “visual” ratings may mean disaster.

So it is in the Christian life. To follow feelings when in the fog and clouds of life is tragic. You will be misled if you allow feelings to dictate during times of problems, or even during times of merriment or elation. How many preachers have missed great and marvelous blessings, because during a time of troubles they sincerely (and actually) *felt* that God was

through with them in their particular field. How foolish to make a life changing decision when our heads are in the fog and all we base our decision on is fickle feeling!

Alas, how often a commitment to marriage (which Biblically speaking is for life, Rom. 7:2) based on the *feeling* of love, quickly ends in divorce. True “agape” love is not just a feeling, but rather is *godly action* regardless of how we feel. For example, a Christian wife will not always feel like doing things to show honor and respect to her husband. Especially if she feels he does not deserve respect. But true love will oppose the old Adamic nature, and compel her to honor him anyhow — and good feelings will follow her godly actions as a side benefit.

The bumper sticker philosophy “if it feels good, do it” brings sure and systematic devastation to its followers. The dope addicts, the drunks, the homosexuals, the whores, the slothful and the gluttons all find the root of their problems in this philosophy of life. It is a downward spiral of degradation to destruction. They commit such sin because it “feels good.” Their sin, however, produces

enormous problems resulting in depression (that means “feeling rotten”). Now these people have to “feel good” no matter what the consequences, so they “do their thing” (sin) again. They like the way it makes them feel.


It’s amazing how we humans can be so easily deceived into believing the very *cause* of our problems (sin) is the solution! One whore was actually told by her psychiatrist her severe mental depression was caused by not being active enough in her trade! Or, “What I need is another drink!”

The instrument rated pilot flies safely and confidently through the fog and clouds. Why? Because he relies on, and believes in, his airplane’s instruments. He rejects all impulses to act upon his feelings. He knows if his feelings conflict with the instruments then his feelings are *wrong*. It is *vital to trust the instruments!* Your very life depends on them.


Likewise, to guide our ship of life on a successful and prosperous journey the instrument which God has provided to guide us through the clouds of life must be fully trusted. Though the storm around us rages, coming safely through is easy — provided we base each decision on God’s blessed Word, the Bible. It cannot be stressed too much when problem clouds block our vision of the future, we must reject every impulse to obey the feelings and emotions of the

flesh. Instead totally trust the Word of God. This means *daily* Bible study. Said Jesus, “*Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God*” (Mt. 22:29).

Daily meditation (reading with the intention of personally applying and obeying) in God’s Word is the key to success in life. Persuade yourself to meditate in God’s Word every day, *whether you feel like it or not*. Other problems either dissipate or become easier to solve, and you will prosper in other areas of life too.

“*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt have good success*” (Josh. 1:8). 

Three Views

Why, What, How, Books. A writer said recently that there are three kinds of books about religion. He said there are the “why” books, the “what” books, and the “how” books. According to his estimate the “why” books deal with the reason for being Christians at all, the “what” books deal with the content of the Christian message, while the “how” books deal with practical ways of making religion real and workable for ones-self and for other people. 

Expert Links bin Laden To Christian Persecution

A leading authority on religious persecution sees a connection between the Osama bin Laden terror network and persecution directed against Christians in a host of countries.

"He's tied in with a lot of persecution," said Paul Marshall, British-born author of *Their Blood Cries Out* and a senior fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom in Washington, D.C.

"In many settings it's radicals within his network who are carrying out persecution," Marshall said. "This is going on in the Philippines, Indonesia and to some extent Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and, of course, Afghanistan." Meanwhile, bin Laden is allied with other terrorist groups in Algeria and Nigeria that have been killing Christians, Marshall said.

"Bin Laden's had a lot of cooperation with Sudan, a major country in the world killing Christians," Marshall said. "The death toll in Sudan since 1998 is 2 million; that is more than every war in the Middle East in this past century. Most of these victims are Christians."

Marshall views bin Laden as the figurehead of a far-reaching organization that seems to lack hierarchical structure. "If Osama bin Laden drops dead tomorrow, the situation has hardly changed. Zawahiri

would take over, and he's probably worse," Marshall said, referring to Egyptian doctor Ayman al-Zawahiri, bin Laden's top lieutenant.

"Whether bin Laden is the principal brains and organizer behind the operation, there is considerable doubt," Marshall said. "When I say bin Laden, I'm referring to a network of these organizations. It's not as if an order comes down from Kabul or Kandahar to Indonesia to go out and attack these people. They are allied. They have common goals. It's not top-down.

Persecution also continues in Muslim countries without ties to bin Laden, Marshall said, noting, "You get persecution in the Islamic world apart from bin Laden." He added the Saudis, bin Laden's "enemy number one" have arrested 15 Christians in the last two months and tortured at least three of them.

"While bin Laden's family roots are in Saudi Arabia," Marshall said, "he loathes the Saudi government's cozy relationship with western powers. He believes they have allowed infidels into the holy land and they must be destroyed. He wants to get western troops out of Saudi Arabia."

Next on bin Laden's hate list are moderate Arab governments, Marshall said. "He wants to over-

come those Muslim regimes that have sold out to the West, such as Egypt, Jordan and Malaysia."

Third, he wants to attack those who in his view oppress Muslims, according to Marshall. That would include Israel, Russia, India, America and several other countries.


"That's his priority list of grievances, but it's not his military list of priorities," Marshall said. "He can't do anything about the first two groups unless he does something about the U.S., because they're the ones who stop him. So in terms of his strategy, America ... needs to be addressed first."

In some respects, Christians are a greater problem than Jews in bin Laden's eyes because he perceives Christians as larger and more powerful, Marshall said. "For him, America is Christian, Britain is Christian, Europe is Christian. ... He believes the Jews control the media and the American government. He really lumps Jews and Christians together."

As devastating as Sept. 11 events were, Marshall said, Americans are simply part of a larger world picture.


"In Kaduna, Nigeria, over 5,000 people have been killed since the imposition of Islamic law," Marshall said. "In Pakistan in 1997, the city of Shantinagar was leveled, razed, a city of 20,000 people. The death toll in

Indonesia, is 5,000 to 6,000."

"This is a great evil, and we can fight it and reduce it," Marshall said. "But we can no more end all persecution than we can end all terrorism. ... No congregation in America should meet without praying for the persecuted church." — ABN 

Cooperation A Fundamental Southern Baptist Doctrine?

"Within the hastened ecclesiological development in the two decades of the twentieth century it was thought that unification of doctrine must be sought. In 1925 the Southern Baptist Convention dared to make such a pronouncement. The immediate occasion was the current doctrinal controversy, but, as always in the history of creed-making, the deeper cause was the underlying centralization.

The convention even endeavored to give a doctrinal approval and support for the centralized administration that had developed. *Cooperation* (Article 22) is placed in the same category as the *Unity of God, The Deity of Christ, Regeneration, etc., as an article of faith!*" W. W. Barnes (**The Southern Baptist Convention, A Study in the Development of Ecclesiology**, pg. 8). 

We've Found God Again

By E. Ralph Hostetter

These words came from a CBS-TV channel, introducing a Hollywood-related program of all things: "And we've found God again."

The statement was part of a prologue listing values such as flying the American flag, coming together as a nation and a revival of patriotism; values that were rediscovered following the worst terrorist attack on American soil in history, leaving more than 6,000 dead at the New York Trade towers, the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., and United Flight 93 in a field in Pennsylvania.

Prayers seemed to be on the lips of most Americans last week. President Bush prayed and called for a day of prayer; the Cabinet prayed; the Congress prayed; the Supreme Court prayed; and the churches across America held special prayer services.

The prayers of the thousands lost in the carnage came from the lips of Americans all across the land.

But our school children, probably the most frightened and psychologically damaged of all our population, were denied the solace and comfort of seeking help in prayers to their God.

Their prayers were denied by a 1963 Supreme

Court decision prohibiting prayer on public school property.

And yet the president prayed in the (public) White House; the Supreme Court prayed in the (public) Supreme Court building; the Congress prayed and sang "God Bless America" in the (public) Capitol building.

Denial of prayer in public schools resulted from a decision by the high court under Chief Justice Earl Warren, "interpreting" the "establishment clause" of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The "establishment clause" represents only half of the first clause of the First Amendment. The term "establishment clause" was joined to give the impression that the entire clause was all about prohibiting Congress from establishing a state religion. Not so!

The complete wording of the clause in the U.S. Constitution is: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The liberal Warren Court addressed only the first part of the so-called "establishment clause."

The case, *Murray v. Curlett*, involved certain state laws requiring the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and reading of verses from the Bible. The U.S. Congress had never made any law that could remotely resemble the establishing of

a religion.


By apparently ignoring the second part of the "establishment clause" — "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" — the Warren Court, for all intents and purposes, "threw the baby out with the bath water" by denying all prayer in public schools, including voluntary prayers of student bodies.

The term "prohibiting" is a far cry from the "free exercise thereof." The Warren Court, in its zeal to make law, closed the door on all prayer.

Today the Supreme Court decision of 1963 has grafted onto itself the prohibitions of Christmas nativity scenes in public squares as well as the banning of the Ten Commandments, the basic law of civilization, in town halls and court houses across America.

"Kick God out of America" seemed to be the movement in this country until 8:42 a.m. on September 11, 2001.

A means must be found to have the U.S. Supreme Court revisit the entire first clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to give meaning to "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

"And we have found God again" ... This simple quotation may well pave the way to permit Americans to freely exercise their God-given right — and constitutional right — to pray whenever, or wherever they wish. 

Think Awhile!


By Don N. Kitch

Our large American cities are plagued with a smog problem — polluted air. To date, no one has come up with the right answer. Not only do we have an air pollution problem, we have a water pollution problem. Not only our water and air, but our morals are becoming more polluted, year after year. It is not a good situation.

An enterprising company in Rome has hit upon an idea that appeals to some tourists. Souvenir vendors in Rome are selling sealed cans of "fresh Italian air." The idea seems to be that a tourist, seized with melancholy when he gets home, can at least open a can of "fresh Italian air" and have a satisfying whiff of Italy!

One must have a vivid imagination to get a "lift" out of opening a can of air from Italy!

The earnest child of God who seeks the face of God in prayer, can get much more than a bit of air from a foreign land; he can receive a whiff of the atmosphere of heaven, that will thrill his soul! What a blessing to be able to go to the prayer closet, close the door and commune with God!

Have you prayed today? 

What Is Soul Liberty?

By Nile Fisher, Dayton, OH

The doctrine of soul liberty is the Baptist distinctive. It lies behind all the distinctive beliefs of historic Baptists and demands them. It is a doctrine misunderstood, maligned and misrepresented.

What is soul liberty? The answer to that question should be clearly impressed upon the mind of every Baptist.

I. The Doctrine Defined.

Every man living has as much inherent right to have dealings with God through Jesus Christ as every other man. There is no man living who has the right to put himself between the soul of another man and God, and say, "Unless you pass through my hands and have dealings with me, you cannot have dealings with God."

This doctrine is revealed in two relationships"

The relationship of the Divine and human through creation. What is the divine distinctive? It is this: that God possesses personality. The distinctive of personality is consciousness. The distinctive of consciousness is self direction — the power of choice. What is the human distinctive? It is the same as the Divine, for man was made in the image of God.

Man is a personality. The distinctive of personality is consciousness. The distinctive of consciousness is self direction — the power of choice. God, with sovereign power of choice, elects to have dealings with men whom He has endowed with the power of choice. In these dealings, the power of choice in both parties is safeguarded, and it becomes a crime against God and man to tamper in this area.

The relationship of the Divine and human through grace. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Tim. 2:5-6). God has given His Son as the sufficient mediator. He has given the Bible as the sufficient revelation. And He has given the Holy Spirit as the sufficient agent to bring men to God through Christ on the basis of the revealed Word of God. The Great Commission provides for human agency in carrying the message to men, but the human agent must not put himself, his religion, or his manipulations between the soul of another man and God. That is soul liberty. It is the most distinctive thing known to mankind.

II. The Doctrine Opposed

It follows as surely as night follows day that Satan should oppose this doctrine. Central to all Satanic warfare against the true religion of Christ is the endeavor to destroy the distinctive soul liberty.

This opposition has followed five lines:

1. *The attaching of magical powers to ceremonies and ordinances.* The idea was at work at the close of the first century, when it was taught by some that water was a worthy vehicle of God in producing life and sanctifying. Thus a man stepped between the soul of the sinner and God and said, in effect, "Unless I baptize you, you cannot have dealings with God — you cannot be saved." There is no soul liberty here.

2. *Infant baptism.* This came as a matter of course. If a soul cannot be saved without baptism, then infants who die without it will be lost. To resolve the dilemma infant baptism was instituted. There is no soul liberty where a man steps between the infant's soul and God, and without its knowledge or consent, pretends to baptize that little one into the Kingdom of God.

3. *Attaching binding powers to men and offices.* Orders were established in the ministry. Power became localized and hierarchies grew up. If one man has as much inherent right to deal with God as another, one group has as much right as another, without control or interference.

Soul liberty is lost where hierarchy reigns.

4. *The Union of Church and State.* It began with Constantine and soon spread over all Europe. The most hideous and monstrous thing ever foisted upon mankind is the control of religion by the State. Under such a system, nonconformists are either penalized or punished. Soul liberty cannot exist in such a climate.

5. *Robbing the people of the Bible.* Religious authority was taken from the Bible and placed elsewhere — in the church, in the councils of religion, or in the State. The Bible became a dangerous book in the hands of the people, for it claims authority above all else. There is no soul liberty in this arrangement.

III. The Doctrine Defended

There is a trail of blood through the ages by the people who would not surrender this great doctrine. There was a pilgrim church in every age that insisted upon this truth. The record of the Paulicians, Albigenses, Waldenses, and a host of other groups prior to the Reformation, the Anabaptists during the Reformation, and the Baptists since the Reformation, is a record of suffering, privation, and often death to defend and preserve soul liberty. It is a thrilling account of a heroic people that gave us our present

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World News Roundup



House OKs Prayer Resolution. — The U.S. House of Representatives has adopted a non-binding resolution encouraging schools to establish a time students may use to pray for the country. The House approved the resolution in a 297-125 vote. The resolution, which has no standing legally, says, “... it is the sense of Congress that schools in the United States should set aside a sufficient period of time to allow children to pray for, or quietly reflect on behalf of, the nation during this time of struggle against the forces of international terrorism.” While the measure received criticism from some defenders of church-state separation inside and outside Congress, supporters of the resolution said it is consistent with the reactions of the American public and its leaders. The measure cites President Bush’s call for Americans to pray for those who suffered from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. During debate, Rep. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said, “It is permissive, not mandatory; respectful, not dictatorial; and it recognizes that at a time and place of tragedy in our country, it is only

appropriate that America’s children have the opportunity in their own way to reflect or to pray.”

Can’t Be Saved Without Baptism? — If salvation was really dependent upon water baptism by immersion, would that mean that an astronaut in space who suddenly came to Christ could not be saved until he got back to earth? What about a lone Eskimo in the frozen north? What about a traveler lost in the Sahara desert who was dying of thirst? Fortunately, Scripture does not call for a baptizing pool as a requirement for salvation, but we are saved through faith ... it is not by works (Eph. 2:8-9). — CC

Missing Baptist Members. — Southern Baptist churches total 15.9 million members but only 5.5 million are in attendance on any given Sunday morning — only 33%. A new study showed that the typical Southern Baptist church has 233 members but an average attendance of only 70 persons for Sunday morning worship. It may be as bad or worse in some other de-

nominations. — CC

Christians Pray With Muslims, Jews. — Across America, Christians, Muslims and Jews are praying and worshipping together more than at any other time in history. Surveys show that the majority of church members maintain that all religions actually worship the same God and that a person must work, at least in part, his own way to heaven. Christians who pray with Muslims and other non-Christians do not show true love to them but lead them to believe that their god actually exists, hears and answers prayer. Muslims reject the Trinity and do not believe that Jesus died and rose again. — CC

Building a UN Army. — The U.S. has been gradually turning control of its military over to the United Nations. So-called “arms control” is not a drive to *eliminate* weapons of war but to monopolize them. We seem headed for a point in the “global governance” scheme where no state would have the military power to challenge a progressively-strengthened UN Peace Force. A

UN with sufficient power to enforce world peace would use that power to impose world tyranny. — CC

The Jackson “Shakedown”? — When Jesse Jackson shows up in corporate offices demanding not just racial equity in hiring but millions of dollars paid to his organizations, most businesses give in. Like shop owners in a Mafia-controlled neighborhood, they pay protection money and count it as cost of doing business. — CC.

MacArthur Says Graham Has “Unorthodox Views.” — In a letter to a Grace Partner, John MacArthur takes issue (and rightly so) with some remarks Billy Graham made in an interview with Robert Schuller a few years ago when he said that those who may not even know the name of Jesus will be in heaven, etc. MacArthur commented that based on what he told Schuller,

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La Voz Del Desierto

Algunos Hechos Bautistas

“Lo primero de todo y lo esencial para todos, es la libertad de conciencia, la que desde el principio ha sido el trofeo de los Bautistas. El derecho de adorar a Dios, según los dictámenes de la conciencia de cada individuo, es una deuda que el mundo debe exclusivamente a los Bautistas, es una verdad completamente aceptada en todos los círculos de los individuos bien informados. Algunas citas de varios historiadores de nota, serán suficientes en cuanto a este asunto” — Dr. J. W. Porter.

Bancroft dice que “la libertad de conciencia, libertad ilimitada de la mente, fue desde el principio el trofeo de los Bautistas.” El juez Story escribe: “En el código elaborado por ellos en Rhode Island, leemos, por primera vez, desde que el Cristianismo ascendió al trono de los Césares, la declaración de que la conciencia debe ser libre y que no se debe perseguir a los hombres porque rindan su adoración a Dios de la manera que estimen conveniente.”

Un corolario de la libertad de conciencia es la entera separación de la Iglesia y el Estado. Su trágica lucha está marcada, desde el principio

hasta el fin, con sangre y lágrimas. Sra. Hutchinson, durante el reinado de Carlos I escribió de los Bautistas perseguidos: “Oh misericordioso cielo ¿no hay lugar bajo tu circundante bóveda donde no haya agonía para que el alma se libre?” “Los Bautistas han resuelto el gran problema. Ellos combinan la convicción más resuelta, la creencia más tenaz en sus doctrinas especiales, con una tolerancia admirable de la fe de los demás cristianos.” — New York Tribune.

En la Alianza Evangélica de Chicago, un poco antes de su muerte, un gran historiador Presbiteriano dijo: “Los Bautistas constituyen una Iglesia gloriosa, porque ellos dieron su testimonio, y todavía están dándolo en favor de la práctica primitiva del bautismo, de la pureza de la congregación, y de la separación de la Iglesia y el Estado, y de la libertad de conciencia, y han dado al mundo el ‘Progreso del Peregrino’ por Juan Bunyan, y a ministros tales como Roberto Hall y Carlos H. Spurgeon, y a misioneros tales como Judson.”

Guizot en su “Historia de la Civilización” demuestra que el gobierno despótico y opresivo y los gobiernos civiles de Europa,

se originaron del gobierno de la iglesia de Roma. Así Gervinus, Philip, Schaff y otros historiadores demuestran que los principios del gobierno libre de las iglesias de los Bautistas se han extendido e impregnado en todos los Estados Unidos, “han dado a una nación continental sus leyes” y están bajo el movimiento democrático que ahora está sacudiendo todas las naciones europeas.

“Por los principios de la libertad, de la libertad de conciencia, y de ser cada cristiano sacerdote de Dios, los Bautistas han dado a los Estados Unidos libertad religiosa. Ellos han hecho esto a costa de sus propiedades, de sus buenos nombres, de su libertad personal y de sus vidas. También contra la unión de la Iglesia y el Estado, no solamente de los Católicos, sino también de las iglesias Protestantes paidobautistas, no obstante la persecución que sufrieron de ellos.”

El gobierno de los Estados Unidos se formó conforme al modelo de una iglesia Bautista. Tomás Jéfferson asistía con frecuencia a una iglesia Bautista, cerca de Monticello, Estado de Virginia, de la cual era pastor el Rev. Andrés Tribble. El Sr.

Jéfferson, quien con frecuencia presencié los cultos de negocios, se impresionó mucho con su gobierno democrático y de la manera como trataban sus negocios, sacó por conclusión que tal plan de gobierno sería el mejor posible para las colonias Americanas. Sabemos también de otros autories, que el Sr. Jéfferson tomó sus ideas para el Gobierno Americano de una Iglesia Bautista.

La primera bandera Americana fue hecha por Betsy Ross, una Bautista. El gobierno del Estado de Rhode Island fue el primero en el mundo que clara y completamente incluyó los principios de la libertad religiosa. Esto fue debido a Roger Williams y a Juan Clark, ministros Bautistas.

El mundo debe gratitud eterna a los Bautistas por haber puesto la gran comisión en su verdadero lugar. **Correspondió a Guillermo Carey, un Bautista, implantar el trabajo de las misiones modernas.** Hasta que Carey se embarcó para la India, en 1793, no había habido un misionero extranjero por siglos. Desde entonces Dios ha honrado

(Vea VOZ en la página 10)

VOZ...

(Viene de la página 9)

a los Bautistas, haciéndoles exploradores de esta gran obra. **¿No deberían ser ellos (los Bautistas) más celosos y activos que los demás?** Si Dios demanda de nosotros conforme a lo que El nos ha dado, y de hecho lo hace, sin duda que nuestra deuda sería grande. "Los campos están blancos para la siega" y Dios demanda de nosotros que enviemos obreros a las mies. Cuando un Bautista deja de ser misionero, deja de ser Bautista, y es, por lo tanto, uno que lleva un nombre que no le corresponde. Todos los maravillosos esfuerzos que se han hecho para evangelizar al mundo se deben solamente a la iniciativa de los Bautistas.

Las iglesias Bautistas son las únicas que durante la dispensación cristiana y hasta el siglo presente han contendido en pro de la separación de la Iglesia y el Estado, y la completa libertad de conciencia.

De todas las denominaciones principales las Iglesias Bautistas han sido las únicas Iglesias que han enseñado y puesto la sangre antes que el agua, es decir, salvación antes que el bautismo, y la posesión de Cristo antes que la profesión; y ellos

son las únicas Iglesias, por consiguiente, que han sido y son el gran fuerte contra la "salvación bautismal."

De todas las grandes denominaciones los Bautistas son los únicos que siempre han luchado y aún luchan en favor de una Iglesia compuesta de miembros regenerados. **La primera Biblia en Inglés con referencias fue hecha por Juan Conne, un Bautista, en el año 1637.** El libro que ha sido traducido a más lenguas y circulado más que cualquier otro, excepto la Biblia, es el "Progreso del Peregrino" y fue escrito por Juan Bunyan, un ministro Bautista. **Los Bautistas han dado al mundo las misiones modernas, y cada misionero de cualquiera denominación está siguiendo el ejemplo de los Bautistas.**

Juan Clark organizó la primera Iglesia Bautista en los Estados Unidos en Nuevo Puerto, Rhode Island, en 1636. Clark recibió su bautismo en la Iglesia de Londres, de la cual el Rev. Stillwell era pastor, y esta Iglesia recibió su bautismo de Holanda y los Bautistas Holandeses de los Bautistas Valdenses, y estos de los Novacianos y los Novacianos de los Donatistas, y éstos de las Iglesias apostólicas, y éstas de **Juan el Bautista y Juan el**

Bautista lo recibió del cielo (Juan 1:31-33).

A un Bautista se debe el movimiento de la Escuela Dominical de nuestro tiempo. Es aquí en donde debe corregirse un error que ha prevalecido por mucho tiempo, y que debiera haberse corregido hace mucho. El Rev. B. W. Spilman, de la Junta de Escuelas Dominicales, ha señalado que *Guillermo Fox, un Diácono Bautista, organizó la primera Escuela Dominical moderna en el año de 1783.*

Generalmente se pretende que Roberto Raikes principió el movimiento de la Escuela Dominical; pero no obstante esta pretensión, es incontestablemente cierto que la escuela que principió el Sr. Raikes, fue solamente una escuela diaria, en la que nunca se enseñó la Biblia, aunque la escuela se reunía los domingos. Su escuela era del todo secular en su carácter, y muy parecida a nuestras escuelas públicas en el presente, la que se clausuró sin tener sucesora. No existe ni la más remota señal de evidencia alguna contemporánea de que Roberto Raikes haya tenido algo que ver con alguna Escuela Dominical. Los Bautistas tuvieron Escuelas Dominicales en Gales más de un siglo antes de que Roberto Raikes naciera.

Los Bautistas han conservado para el mundo el significado de Iglesia del Nuevo Testamento. Son ellos los únicos que a través de los siglos han luchado y luchan todavía para

sostener que sólo las personas regeneradas pueden pertenecer a la Iglesia. Por supuesto que muchas de las iglesias predicán la regeneración pero tienen entre sus miembros muchas personas no regeneradas; pero esto en ninguna manera afecta nuestra posición de que los Bautistas son los únicos que exigen que todos sus miembros sean regenerados.

Juan D. Rockefeller, el hombre que era más rico en el mundo, era un Bautista. Es digno de consideración que la oferta más grande que se ha hecho para la noble causa de la educación, se hizo por un Bautista. Esta fue una sola dádiva de Juan D. Rockefeller, que montó a \$31,000,000 de dólares. El ha dado más de \$100,000,000 de dólares para la educación. Ha dado \$12,500,000 para el trabajo de investigación médica, (y no sabemos cuántos millones más habrá dado para el bienestar de la humanidad).

Particularmente en los Estados Unidos los Bautistas sobresalen en influencia, número, dinero y pedagogos. Los Bautistas tienen más estudiantes en sus escuelas y colegios que cualquiera otra denominación. El Dr. Juan Clark, un ministro Bautista, concibió y organizó una escuela en Rhode Island en 1675 de la cual se organizó el sistema excelente de las escuelas de

(Vea VOZ en el página 11)

Iglesia Bautista El Redentor
Central Lafayette #17, Arroyo, PR 00714
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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

VOZ...

(Viene de la página 10)

(gobierno en los Estados Unidos y que se encuentran en otros países.

La Sociedad Bíblica Británica fue organizada por José Hughes, un ministro Bautista, siendo el principal conmovedor de la Sociedad. Este es el resultado del amor preeminente de los Bautistas por las enseñanzas de la Biblia y la lealtad a todos sus mandamientos.

La primera sociedad organizada para la revisión de la traducción de la versión de la Biblia que ejecutó el rey Jacobo, fue una sociedad Bautista (La Unión Biblia Americana). Esta fue el resultado de su amor y lealtad a la Biblia. Su propósito fue traducir cada palabra de la Biblia Inglesa.

Los Bautistas tienen casi dos veces más convertidos a Cristo en los países foráneos que todas las demás denominaciones principales, no obstante que otros reciben en sus iglesias muchos como cristianos nominales (de nombre).

Las misiones Bautistas foráneas cuentan con menos de una cuarta parte del dinero que gastan las denominaciones principales pavidobautistas. Son también los Bautistas quienes han demostrado la verdad de la profecía de Cristo referente a la Iglesia. El predijo la perpetuidad de sus iglesias, y ha usado a los Bautistas para verificar

su profecía.... No es necesario trazar la sucesión a través de los siglos para demostrar su existencia continuada desde los días de Cristo.

Juan A. Broadus, en su "Comentario de Mateo," dice: "Todas las cosas terrenales pasan por esta puerta de muerte; pero no será así con la Iglesia de Cristo por la cual se dió a sí mismo, y por lo tanto nunca dejará de existir."

El Dr. T. T. Eaton dice: "Los que se oponen a la 'Sucesión Bautista' no tienen un fundamento lógico en qué basarse para organizar una iglesia de material preparado por otras iglesias, ni con aquellos bautizados por ministros Bautistas. Cuando los Bautistas entran en el plan de unión por un proceso de compromisos y conciliaciones, ellos están negociando por una caja para los muertos y por un lote en el panteón."

Ha sido bien dicho: "El pasado está seguro, podemos mirar atrás y verlo; el presente está seguro, podemos mirar a nuestro alrededor y verlo, y el futuro está seguro, aunque no podemos verlo todavía, porque atrás de la sombra misteriosa, en lo desconocido, está Dios en la obscuridad velando sobre las obras de su mano."

Con amor fraternal a todas las almas de cualquier credo, lavadas con la sangre de Cristo, con un reconocimiento gozoso de la verdad que ellos tienen mezclada con sus errores. Trabajemos y oremos para

que venga el tiempo bendito cuando todos ellos reciban toda la verdad y nada más que la verdad, como se encuentra en el Nuevo Testamento. (Del Libro: "Los Bautistas a Través de los Siglos" de C. L. Neal).

Por M. A. Curet

WNR...

(Continued from page 8)

Graham's theology includes some unorthodox views. He added: "He claims that the Body of Christ encompasses non-believers and that God's mercy is wide enough to encompass people who don't follow Christ. ... Obviously [his] comments to Schuller (and later to Larry King) have caused a great deal of confusion. ... Can Billy Graham ... truly believe people can be saved *without* the gospel? ... Billy Graham is the highest profile evangelist of our time, and when he makes statements about the gospel people listen. And because he wields so much influence, when those statements are unclear, or contradictory, problems arise. ..." We have disagreed with certain of Dr. MacArthur's teachings in the past, but he is on target in taking Graham to task on this issue. — CC

Scholars Publish Dead Sea Scrolls. — A half-century after the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls was found in desert caves, archaeologists celebrated the near completion of the

publication of the ancient texts. "It's a very happy moment that we can say today that all this is completed," Emmanuel Tov, the project's editor-in-chief, said at the New York Public Library. "After 54 years of excitement, expectation, tribulation, much criticism and a little praise, with the help of much inspiration and even more perspiration, the publication has been finalized." The scrolls, which date from 250 B.C. to A.D. 70, were discovered between 1947 and 1956 in 11 caves overlooking the western shores of the Dead Sea. For decades, access to all the scrolls was tightly guarded by a small group of international scholars. After the release of bootlegged copies of some of the texts and an archive of scroll photographs, a new group of nearly 100 scholars took charge of the scrolls in 1991. Tov, a professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, was named head of the project, and he pledged to expedite their publication. The 900 scrolls and commentaries in 37 volumes were primarily written in Hebrew and Aramaic on more than 15,000 leather and papyrus documents. They were found near the ruins of the ancient settlement of Hirbet Qumran, nine miles south of Jericho in the West Bank. They are believed to have been written by the Essenes, an austere and insular Hebrew sect.

(See WNR on page 12)

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 11)

Voodoo Gains Attention in America. —

Proponents estimate there are now about 1.5 million adherents of voodoo in the United States, where the main centers are New Orleans, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Brooklyn. Voodoo is a major religion of the nation of Haiti, where people practice it with Catholicism, noted Jim Jones, writing for Knight Ridder Newspapers. Outlawed at times in Haiti and other places, voodoo is derived from an intricate West African faith brought by slaves to Haiti, where it was mixed with Catholicism and the religious practices of Haitian Arawak Indians. In America, voodoo has been influenced by spiritualism, the belief that the dead can communicate with the living. Jones quoted Robert Stewart, a faculty member at New Orleans Theological Seminary, who has researched the religion for his denomination and for a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) special. Stewart believes the religion is growing, based on the many voodoo sites on the Internet and on the trend among black Americans to go back to the irreligious roots. People also come to visit the grave of priestess Marie Laveau, "like they do the tombs of Bernadette, Theresa, and other Catholic saints," said Miriam Chamani, founder and Queen Mother of the Voodoo Spiritual Temple at

the edge of New Orleans' French Quarters. — Baptist Bulletin

* * *

Association Dismisses Church. —

A North Carolina Baptist association has voted to dismiss First Baptist Church of Elkin for accepting members who have not been baptized by immersion. Johnny Enloe, director of missions for the Elkin Baptist Association, said the association voted 70-16 to dismiss the church at its recent annual meeting. —BP

* * *

Harry Potter Books Promote Pagan Beliefs. —

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention in their 2001 meeting held November 6-7, 2001 passed a resolution on witchcraft and sorcery noting that "the Harry Potter book series and its subsequent materials are inconsistent with biblical morality and ethics and promotes pagan beliefs and practices." It resolves "that we will firmly denounce and speak out against any books or materials that promote witchcraft, sorcery and the casting of spells and the meaning of charms and specifically the Harry Potter book series and subsequent materials." Additional, the resolution stated that the convention "will notify businesses that promote and sell the Harry Potter book

series and subsequent materials of the material's anti-Christian theme."

* * *

Home Schooling Not Only By Christians. —

The face of home schooling may not be as pious as most people think, researcher George Barna reports. Only 49% of families who home school are born-again Christians and only 15% could be classified as evangelicals, despite the widely held belief that conservative Christians dominate home schooling groups, according to a recent report from the California-based researcher. The federal government's latest report on home schooling places 850,000 students in this category (according to 1999 numbers), although some experts believe the number is twice that. But it is clear that home schooling is no longer a fringe pursuit; rather, it is a viable alternative to public education that churches can support in a variety of ways.

* * *

Gays Sue Oklahoma City Over Gay Banners.

A gay pride group has filed a federal lawsuit against the city, alleging its free speech rights were violated by a policy that keeps its banners off city flag poles. The Cimarron Alliance Foundation also says the

city policy is discriminatory and violates its equal protection rights. Under the policy, organizations are prohibited from using city light poles or benches to promote social, religious, or political issues. The city rejected the foundation's application to display banners during Gay and Lesbian History Month in October. The policy was approved in August after people complained about the group's banners, which were flown from city flag poles earlier in the summer. The American Civil Liberties Union is supporting Cimarron in the legal action.

* * *

Franklin Graham In Trouble For Remarks On Islam. —

We disagree with Franklin Graham on his ecumenism, but applaud him for speaking out against Islam. MSNBC says he is "in trouble" with political friends for recently calling the entire Islamic religion "wicked, violent and not of the same God." "I don't believe this is a wonderful, peaceful religion," said Graham. "When you read the Koran ... it instructs the killing of the infidel ... those that are non-Muslim." Asked to clarify, Graham repeated his charge that Islam, as a whole, is evil. "It wasn't Methodists flying into those buildings, it wasn't Lutherans," said Graham. "It was an attack on this country by people

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WNR . . .

(Continued from page 12)

of the Islamic faith.” The White House distanced itself from his remarks, saying Pres. Bush “views Islam as a religion that preaches peace. . . .” But, it practices violence toward the U.S. and Israel. — CC

* * *

Hispanic Growth Rate In U.S. Is Stunning.

— The 2000 census showed that 35.3 million Hispanics make up 12.5 percent of the U.S. population, while 34.7 million African Americans constitute 12 percent. Half of all U.S. Hispanics live in just two states, California and Texas. These figures have stunned church outreach groups. — CC

* * *

Patriotic Signs Debated.

— The Jay Sekulow-led American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) announced Oct. 9 it is offering to defend any school district or student organization that displays “God Bless America” in school settings. The offer follows an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) demand that a school district in northern California remove a sign that includes the words, “God Bless America.” “At a time when America desires to exhibit patriotism, the ACLU sees fit to undermine the Constitution by attempting to

exert a heavy hand of censorship,” said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the ACLJ. “The ACLU is out of step with the law and is reacting in a manner that is totally absurd and irresponsible. The message, ‘God Bless America,’ is constitutionally protected speech and the ACLU’s legal analysis is both skewed and very troubling.” The ACLU, in a letter to the school, contended the words “God Bless America” reflect a “hurtful, divisive message” and “must be replaced immediately.” It claimed the display is a “clear violation of the California and United States constitutions, as well as the California Education Code.” — BP

* * *

Pakistani Baptists Seek Prayer.

— When the bombing in Afghanistan began Oct. 7, Baptists in a church in neighboring Pakistan had just concluded the evening service. The pastor, Daniel Sardar, has asked Baptists around the world to pray for believers there and their Christian witness, according to a Baptist World Alliance report. Sardar indicated the government has protected his church so far and members are safe, but reported a lot of anti-American resentment in the area where they live. He said Christians are accused of being pro-America. He emphasized that Osama bin Laden is a hero of Islam in that part


Baptists and Individual Communion

By Howard A. Kiethley

QUESTION: — Is it scriptural for a pastor to take the Lord’s supper to members of the church who are hospitalized or otherwise totally unable to attend the regular services of the church?


ANSWER: — The pastor who submits this question recognizes that some Baptist pastors serve communion to the sick and shut-in while other Baptist pastors only observe communion in a regular service of the church. Pastors who practice serving communion to the sick and shut-in of their congregation testify to the blessing that such a service brings these members. Such testimony might appear, therefore, to be adequate justification for such observance. Then, too, the widespread custom of many pastors, other than Baptist, in performing such a service, would also to some seem to bear favorable weight in that direction.

But we independent Baptists must make our appeal to the Scriptures. Even then we don’t always agree on how to do that. As Baptists we believe the Lord has left His church two ordinances: baptism and communion. We hold that these ordinances were not given to individual Christians to observe when and where they choose but rather they were given to the church to be observed by the church. For example, we believe baptism is to be observed by the church upon its ordering and at a meeting of the church. That meeting need not necessarily be in the building where the congregation meets but at a time and place designated by the congregation to which it is invited. Probably most of our pastors frown upon baptism being administered at camps or conferences or any other place by anyone when such is not done by order of the church. Baptism is a church ordinance, and not an individual ordinance. Nor does the church deputize the pastor to baptize anyone when and where he may choose to do so.

It seems to me the same holds true in respect to communion. It is also a church ordinance to be administered by the church to the church. No individual member is the church. When communion is served it is served to the church. If, in the providence of God, a child of His is hindered from participation in this service in the church, and since there is no saving grace bestowed in its observance but rather a blessing, such an one will find his blessing in the Word of God, in prayer, in Christian fellowship and in whatever means of service possible to him. It has never been my practice to serve communion to shut-ins. 

— ABN

tians to observe when and where they choose but rather they were given to the church to be observed by the church. For example, we believe baptism is to be observed by the church upon its ordering and at a meeting of the church. That meeting need not necessarily be in the building where the congregation meets but at a time and place designated by the congregation to which it is invited. Probably most of our pastors frown upon baptism being administered at camps or conferences or any other place by anyone when such is not done by order of the church. Baptism is a church ordinance, and not an individual ordinance. Nor does the church deputize the pastor to baptize anyone when and where he may choose to do so.

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A Bible Conference In Every Church

By Chester E. Tulga

Why a Bible conference?

1. These are days of apostasy and widespread heresy. Apostasy must be condemned and heresy exposed. This should be done with the Word of God.

2. These are days of Biblical illiteracy. Many congregations actually know little about the Bible. The Sunday School is not enough. The regular services are not enough. Churches need systematic expositions of the great books on the Bible. They need messages on prophetic themes. They need instruction in the great doctrines of the faith. Baptist churches need to have the doctrines and principles of New Testament Baptists expounded. We need Baptist Bible conferences in every church.

3. These are days of incredible religious confusion, careless and even dishonest interpretation of the Word of God. Men are professing to believe the Bible while at the same time they shamelessly warp it to fit their own notions and support their own schemes.

4. The radio and television has become a disseminator of apostasy and heresy. When the radio came into being, Christians hailed it as an opportunity to get the gospel out to the unsaved. It has served that

purpose. But Satan also saw a great opportunity to sow tares among the wheat, to dress up heresies as Christian truths and to prosper religious racketeers who prey upon the people of God. The radio and television brings every religious notion under the sun into the living rooms of our people. We must combat this by systematic religious teaching, by emphasis upon the doctrines of the faith and by exposing error.

5. Churches which have separated from apostate organizations need to keep their people indoctrinated. New members are coming, young people are growing up who know little about the battles of the past. They need instruction.

6. In these days of shallow, surface religion, we need Bible conferences that stress the deeper truths of the Christian life, definite commitment to do the whole will of God, the need for sacrificial living in this day of extravagance. Our people should be growing in grace, not going stale. Our new converts should be growing up, not remaining babes.


7. These are days full of alarming trends and startling advances in science. The world hovers constantly on the brink of total war. Man is trying to conquer the universe. Has the

Fresher Through Pressure

Have you ever heard of fish exercising? A team of researchers from the Physiology Department of Scotland's Saint Andrew University has built a water tunnel that forces a fish to maintain its position against an artificial current.

"What we are doing," said head researcher Dr. Ian Johnson in an interview, "is the equivalent of a human being taking up jogging or cycling. If we can keep them swimming in a steady stream of

Word of God anything to say to these times? The prophetic word should be brushed off and re-studied. The great eternal purpose of God should be re-studied. The meaning of history should be inquired into. Have we a message for these times?

It is time for New Testament Baptist churches to revive the annual or the quarterly Bible conference. It is time for Baptists to look again into their glorious history and restate their principles. It is time for Baptists to throw off the spell of interdenominational essentialism, by which man determines the essentials, and preach the whole counsel of God. It is time to lay aside our timidity and preach again the glorious doctrines that made us a great people. Let's revive the Bible conferences! 

water, we can promote better muscle developments, which in turn means better quality flesh." Tubby trout and flabby flounder, look out! (*The Calgary Herald*, 3/7/81).


Under pressure? Then learn from the Scottish experiment. God often keeps us fighting against a current in order to develop spiritual stamina and stability.

That's what God did for David before He permitted him to be crowned king. David was hunted and hounded by Saul, always kept on the go, never allowed to settle down and stagnate.

Oh, the wisdom of God in the methods He uses to keep us in trim! We prosper through pressure. We succeed through stress. We triumph through trial.

This is what the Apostle Paul discovered. When God gave him a thorn, He also enabled him to triumph. "*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me*" (2 Cor. 12:9).

Learn this lesson, then, O my soul. God will place me not in the quiet ponds where all is still, but in the surging stream where I am called upon to exercise the muscles of faith. In the pressure I will gain strength.

The message is clear: We are fresher through pressure. — The Prairie Overcomer 

Future Punishment

By Ben M. Bogard

“Be not afraid of them that kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, fear him” (Lk. 12:4-5).

I. Adventists, Russellites, and others claim that hell is the grave.

If that be true then I can kill you and cast you into hell, for I certainly have the power to kill your body and dig a grave and bury it out of sight. But Jesus said a man might kill another, but he could not cast the one he killed into hell. This proves that the grave is not hell, for if the grave is hell one man can cast another into hell, a thing Jesus said one man cannot do for another.

1. *There is something beyond the grave to be feared.* If the Universalists are right in declaring that all men will finally come into harmony with God, and therefore into happiness, the warnings of the Lord are useless.

2. *The fear of man is reduced to the minimum when we realize he cannot do us harm beyond the narrow limits of this life.* Every man must die once anyway whether it is what we call a natural death or by violence. It

matters little which it may be to us. The important thing is to be ready for it when it comes.

II. Some will be cast into hell.

Just what does hell mean? Is the fearful description real or figurative? These questions are frequently heard. The fact is it matters little to us whether the description is literal or figurative. If literal we certainly will want to avoid the punishment. If figurative, we have but to remember that a figure is intended to picture the fact. If you see the picture of a man, while you know the picture is not the real man, yet by that picture you can know what the man looks like. Even so the figures or pictures of hell must represent what the reality is. If these pictures are true, the reality is something to be feared and avoided.

1. *It is represented as a lake of fire and brimstone.* “And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb” (Rev. 14:10). Let this be literal or figurative, it certainly is bad and nobody but a fool will take chances concerning it.

2. *It is worse punishment than to die without mercy.* “He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden

under foot the Son of God, and counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith Christ was sanctified, an unholy thing, and done despite the spirit of His grace” (Heb. 10:28-29). If to die without mercy is less punishment than those who go to hell receive, it shows that natural physical death is not what is meant by hell.

3. *It is represented as great sorrow and agony in darkness.* “Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Mt. 23:15). Whatever is meant by this we certainly can see that it is something dreadful to be avoided. There must therefore be punishment beyond the grave.

4. *The punishment shall be worse than to be consumed by literal fire.* “Verily, I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city” (Mt. 10:15). Sodom was burned up by literal fire. But the punishment of the wicked is worse than that. So the Adventist’s theory of burning up like a piece of paper is seen to be incorrect.

5. *The punishment is to be eternal.* “Suffer the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 7). “These shall go away into everlasting punishment” (Mt. 25:46). If the punishment is everlasting there will be no end to it.

III. There will be no future probation or chance for salvation.

Many flatter themselves, with the Russellite theory that after death they will be given an opportunity to correct the mistake of rejecting the truth in this life. But what saith the scriptures?

1. *Better not have been born than to die in sin.* “Woe unto that man by whom the son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born” (Mt. 26:24). It could not be truthfully said of any man, who will have a future chance to correct errors and then spend an eternity of bliss, that it was good for him not to have been born. Not any encouragement for procrastination here.

2. *There is no remedy for those who die in sin.* “He that being often reproved and hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy” (Prov. 29:1). If there was a future chance for the sinner there would be a remedy. But those who die in sin will have no remedy.

3. *The fire is unquenchable.* “He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire” (Mt. 3:12). A fire that is unquenchable is one that can’t be put out. It must therefore burn on forever. Let this fire be literal or figurative, it can never stop.

4. *They shall be in the blackness of darkness forever.* “To whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever” (Jude

(See HELL on page 20)

Playing On One String

By D. N. Jackson

Dr. Billy Graham is the world's most popular evangelist. For his ability as a fluent speaker and power of persuasion with a simple and pure gospel of salvation message all soul winners cannot keep from admiring him. All Christians should be thankful that he has a message of salvation for all classes of people, from the peasants to rulers of nations. His crusades against the common vices of the day and for the general uplift of the down-and-outers are superior to any similar efforts of this century.

But a message of salvation and reform is not complete. The Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20) is an instrument of four strings: (1) Evangelization; (2) Enlistment; (3) Schooling; and (4) Perpetuity. Note how prominent all four appear as we read the passage:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

All four "strings" must be played in the name or by the authority of the divine Trinity — the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with

Christ in person as the involvement of expressed authority, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Mt. 28:18).

Dr. Graham, like many other evangelists, plays upon the first and only one string — *evangelization*, even betraying proper respect for the last three. He may emphasize enlistment in some sort of way, but, as far as we have been able to determine, it is to be done by being baptized and enlisted in "the church of your choice." By this he means the convert should join a church of any denomination, for he teaches the "church branch" theory, that is, all denominations are the several parts of one universal church, and therefore all denominations are of divine origin.

There is a simple rule in Logic, not to mention the Scriptures, that refutes the "church branch" theory. It says: "When two people differ, both may be wrong, but both cannot be right." Appealing to the Scriptures, the prophet Amos, denouncing the multiple religious relationships that had grown up in Israel, cried out: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). We can understand how there can be spiritual fellowship among all people who have

been born again (1 Jn. 5:1), but there cannot be a real doctrinal and organic fellowship among any except those of like faith.

The third "string" involves proper schooling in doctrine and practice: "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." This requires His churches to observe or carry into effect the doctrines He has taught His disciples and the method of work. Both are elaborated in the writings of His inspired penmen.

As an example of Evangelist Graham's softness on Baptist doctrine, we refer you to "an interview with Billy Graham" as printed in **"The Dallas Morning News,"** Sunday, February 3, 1963.

One question in the interview is in regards to the Southern Baptist Convention being in the "throes of a theological crisis," and in this connection mention was made of Dr. Ralph Elliott's dismissal from the faculty of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., which resulted from his refusal to cease publication in his book, "The Message of Genesis." In this book Dr. Elliott portrays some of the facts of Genesis as being myths, thus denying the literalism of the first book in the Bible.

In Dr. Graham's answer to a question involving his attitude toward Dr. Elliott's position, he dodged by saying: *"I'm not a theologian, and I want to stay out of the controversy."*

Does it take a theolo-

gian to form an opinion in regards to the position that the book of Genesis is mythological? That was a golden chance for a world-famous evangelist to take a stand for the fundamental doctrine and belief about the composition of Genesis. Jesus was bold to declare His acceptance of Genesis (Lk. 24:27, 44). Why not Graham? Paul was unashamed to speak up in behalf of Genesis (Rom. 4:3; Gen. 15:6). Why not Graham? But we are living in a day of softness and compromise.

The fourth "string" is "church perpetuity": "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." This means that the church founded by Christ will have His presence on earth till the end of the world, that is, this age. Christ here speaks to His church and promises her continued existence on earth. We believe that was a Baptist church, and as a body of people separated from the Babylon of religions she has an unbroken line of succession to this day. This view is extremely unpopular with the world and, sad to say, with many who march under the Baptist banner. This doctrine is quite unpopular even in Convention Baptist schools and literature, and is categorically denied by Evangelist Graham. In his "My Answer" column in newspapers, Dr. Graham said, in part:

"The Baptists as a dis-

(See **STRING** on page 17)



Did you Know That Ants Keep A Dairy Herd?

It's a lousy shame that people who park their automobiles under trees have to come out and find them covered with goo.

Many motorists think this goo is drippings from the trees. It is not. It is drippings from millions of lice, living in the trees. This is the word from the Davey Tree Expert company of Kent, Ohio.

The louse has a prettier name than that. It is aphid. The aphid is a tiny sap-sucker almost too small to see. It secretes the goo, known as "honey dew," as it feeds on leaves and branches, and then dribbles it in droplets.

While distasteful to the automobile owner, who has to work extra hard to wash this sticky stuff off his car, ants love it.

Ants like "honey dew," so much so, that they sometimes domesticate aphids and milk them, as man domesticates cows. Aphids, therefore, are often called "ant cows."

Thru the winter, ants have been observed caring for the eggs of the corn root aphid, a species of


louse also known as *Maidiradicus Forbes*.

Without learning who this Forbes was, or why he gave his name to a louse, research disclosed that some scientists believe that the corn root aphid is almost entirely dependent upon the ants for survival of the species, because of that egg business.

It is from May to October that the little louse behaves like one. He, or she, has an unusual sex life. For an aphid, the winter season is passed in the form of an egg. The egg was laid by a lady aphid which had a husband.

In the spring the eggs hatch mostly into wingless, husbandless females which bring forth more wingless females with no husbands, either. This process goes on and on thru the warm months.

It is only at the end of the season that males and egg-laying females become friendly, and the life cycle is restored.

What a life. —Chicago Tribune. 

STRING . . .

(Continued from page 16)

tinct denomination date from the time of the Reformation in the 16th century. The first Baptist Church in America was founded in Providence, R. I., in 1639 by Roger Williams."

Mr. Graham, who is not recognized in any academic circle as a scholar, and certainly neither a historian nor a theologian, makes two glaring errors in one broad

statement.

First, he is in error — a gross error at that — when he says: "*The Baptist as a denomination date from the time of the Reformation in the 16th century.*" Even Dr. MacKay, a Presbyterian, one time president of Princeton Theological Seminary, refutes this statement by Dr. Graham. Dr. MacKay says: "*The Baptists, who are the successors of the Anabaptists of pre-Reformation times, have stood for the necessity of personal religious commitment as the pre-requisite for Christian baptism*" (**The Great Religions of the World**, by Edward J. Jurji, p. 347).


The pre-Reformation Anabaptists had an ancestral line running through the Waldenses, Albigenses, Paulicians, Donatists, Novatianists, Montanists and back to the Lord's apostles and His day on earth.

Secondly, Evangelist Graham is in gross error again when he says the first Baptist church in America was founded at Providence, R.I., by Roger Williams. The weight of truth lies on the side of those who contend that the first Baptist church in America was founded at Newport, R.I., in 1638, under the leadership of Dr. John Clarke, who, with associates, came from England to America as Baptists. To the contrary, Roger Williams was never a day of his life a member of a regular Bap-

tist church.

It is most unfortunate that Evangelist Graham, who has become the Baptist image in the minds of millions of even non-Baptists, is so poorly informed on Baptist doctrine and history. But his position is the popular one, and it appears he is too eager to cut his sails to catch the popular breezes. Playing on, the last three "strings" of the Great Commission is not done by evangelists and other preachers who are popular with the world.

This article is written not for any degree of popularity, for this we do not seek after, but because we know that it is time for Baptists to speak out for the historic Baptist position. If the teachings of Mr. Graham were adopted and followed by Baptists, soon Baptist distinctives would disappear from the earth. And if all people would follow his teachings, there would be a *one-world church*, and it would not be distinctively Baptist.

We know there are many even among our own Baptist affiliation who admire Evangelist Graham. So do I. I admire him for setting forth the simple way of salvation, but I do not admire his gross errors in Baptist doctrine and history. Evangelism or any ministry is not complete when only the first "string" of the instrument of the Lord's commission to the churches is played. Let's make "full proof" of our ministry (2 Tim. 4:5). 



The Beauty of Women

By Mrs. Don N. Kitch,
Pastor's Wife

Women have always discussed their proper place in the home and in the church. Our foundation is God's Word. It is our premise and basis for precept and example.

First the home. The home was established before the church. The first example was Adam and Eve: "... she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:23-24). Deuteronomy declares the soldier to have one free year with his wife prior to war duties "... lest he die in battle" (Dt. 20:7). "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing and obtaineth favor of the Lord" (Prov. 18:22).

The first couple had two sons, Cain and Abel, obeying God's command to "replenish the earth." Children are a fulfillment of the home life "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully" (1 Tim. 5:14). "Marriage is honorable in all ..." (Heb. 13:4).

Guiding the home is **W O R K**, not a hobby. The woman's duties in the home are defined: "... to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Tit. 2:5).

There is nothing wrong with courtship in its proper time and place. Jacob served 7 years for Rachel and it seemed but a few days because of his love for her (Gen. 29:18-19). Older women were to teach their daughters to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children (Tit. 2:4). Each home has a divine command to teach their children to fear God and learn His laws and doctrines (Dt. 31:13; Isa. 28:9).

Women are the weaker vessels. The devil knew Eve to be weaker, so he approached Adam through her "... she ate and gave to her husband and he did eat" (Gen. 3:6). Even so the husband is to honor his wife as the weaker vessel (1 Pet. 3:7).

The principals of the Equal Rights Amendment are disgusting in light of the Scriptures. Quality womanhood has always shared the lime light.

Notable women besides Eve (Gen. 3:6) were: Miriam, the ambitious woman (Num. 21:1); Hannah, the ideal mother, gave her son unto the Lord (1 Sam. 1:20); Esther, the self-sacrificing woman, laying her life on the line (Est. 4:16). Ruth, a hard working widow woman, provided sustenance, yet was humble, and was rewarded for her obedience unto God by being in the lineage of Christ. The Shunamite woman being an example of hospitality to God's man (2 Ki. 4:8-10); Deborah, a prophetess, judged and delivered Israel from their enemies. Barak would not go without her to the battle (Judg. 4:4).

Mary Magdalene transformed from a life of gross sin to a servant of God, anointed Jesus with perfume (Mk. 14:3). Mary, chosen of God to bear the Christ Child (Lk. 1:29). Martha, the housekeeper, who fretted about serving her sister; Mary, chose the spiritual food over the physical (Jn. 12:2). The woman at the well, the evangelist, went forth telling others to come to Jesus (Jn. 4:4); Dorcas, the seamstress, full of good works and almsgiving (Acts 9:36); Lydia, the business woman whose heart the Lord opened, giving salvation to her and her family (Acts 16:14). She invited Paul and those with him to abide in her house. This act was evidence of a work done in her heart

toward God's servants.

The woman's ministry was extended to the prophet Elijah, where a special service was rendered (2 Ki. 4:10). Some notable women ministered unto Jesus in Galilee (Mt. 27:55). Also prophetess Anna is mentioned in the Bible (Lk. 2:36). She departed not from the temple, serving God with fasting and prayer. The four daughters of Phillip, all virgins which did prophecy (Acts 21:9). These women were not preachers, nor pastors. God forbids women to teach men or to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence (1 Tim. 2:12).

Women helped in beautifying the tabernacle with embroidery, sewing, spinning of the beautiful tapestry, hanging of blue and purple (Ex. 35:25-29). Crowning qualities of womanhood are: generosity to the poor (Prov. 31:2). The widow giving her all (Lk. 21:2-4). Mary using a very costly ointment on Jesus' feet and she wiped them with her hair, this was a memorial unto His burial (Jn. 12:3).

Woman's place is the running of the household, "keepers of the home" (Gen. 27:9). Rahab met an emergency, saved her household (1 Sam. 25:18). Women can help in church work, they held a prayer meeting down by the riverside. Paul was the only man present. Look over your congregation, mostly women (See **BEAUTY** on page 19)

Morality: The Old and the New

By Paul Tassell

Evidence is all around us of the tide of perversity and immorality which is engulfing our nation. Sexual promiscuity is rampant, and even clergymen in some circles are advocating the toleration of the same sins for which God judged ancient civilizations. In the October, 1965 issue of **Reader's Digest**, we find this statistical evaluation of the moral condition of our country: "Between 1940 and 1962, illegitimate births went from 40,500 to 94,000 in the 15-19 age group; from 27,200 to 77,300 in the 20-24 age group; from 10,500 to 34,000 in the 25-39 age group. ... Syphilis among adolescents more than doubled between 1956 and 1963 when promiscuity, production of illegitimate children, and even perversion have mounted to epidemic proportions and continue to increase."

The Avenues of the Ages are strewn with the wrecks of those individuals who thought they could flaunt the laws of God and get away with it. The Boulevards of Baseness groan the grim truths that the wages of sin are death. Down through the Corridors of the Centuries can be heard the echoes of evil men and women whose digressions into the sewers of degeneracy have damned

their souls. As one travels the Highways of History, he sees unmistakable evidence that "he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption." History proves that the Lanes of Lurid Luxury and the Paths of Perverse Pleasure are actually the Roads of Ruin and the Streets of Sin. History teaches us the changelessness of three powers with which we must reckon even today.


David was a man who learned that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." For a few moments of illicit pleasure with Bathsheba, David reaped a harvest which broke his heart and blighted his kingdom. His sin resulted in the murder of innocent Uriah, the rape of Tamar by Amnon, the murder of Amnon at the hands of Absalom, the abortive attempt of Absalom to overthrow David with the resultant death of Absalom. What a price David paid for the sin of immorality!

The rest of the Old Testament abounds in graphic object lessons showing that men and nations who "plow iniquity and sow wickedness, reap the same." The dust of centuries blows over the sun-bleached ruins of Babylon, Greece, and Rome. The harvest of sin which they so bountifully sowed has long since been

reaped.

America today is suffering because of her madness and preoccupation with illicit sex. Young Americans are today spending hours upon hours of their leisure time looking at that which is indecent, reading that which is degrading, and participating in physical intimacies which are draining from them the energies and capacities which make for a great nation. All other nations which have taken the path which America is now taking have ended in utter oblivion.

Looking at it from the positive standpoint, we must say emphatically that a young person who wants to be effective for God must stand unflinchingly against immorality. Holiness and Hollywood do not go together. Godliness and glamour are not compatible. The Rock of Ages cannot be joined with rock and roll. The Faith and the frug cannot get along on the same floor. A praying knee and a dancing foot do not grow on the same leg.

When doubts and fears storm the bastions of your soul, when degeneracy and despair batter the bulwarks of your heart, remember that the Holy Spirit within you is greater than the demon spirits outside of you. In Christ you can have serenity amidst the storms, calmness through the calamities, confidence despite the catastrophes, assurance amidst the agonies, and triumph through tribulations. 

BEAUTY . . .


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men and children. This is not as it should be but even today it is this way.

In Romans chapter 16 Paul commends Phebe, a servant of the church, along with eight other women mentioned as his helpers. Priscilla was also his helper, teaching with her husband, Apollos, the way of the Lord more perfectly (Acts 18:26; Rom. 16:3).

Many evil and wicked women are mentioned, such as Jezebel (1 Ki. 2:17) who had the prophets killed. Zeresh, in the book of Esther, had the gallows built to hang Mordecai. Job's wife gave such ungodly advice to Job, "*to curse God and die.*" Harlots and strange women have tempted men and enticed them to sin. Delilah deceived Samson, causing his defeat and death (Judg. 16:6).

Some very special distinctions of the women are:

1. Last at the cross (Mk. 15:47).
2. First at the tomb — Mary (Jn. 20:1).
3. First to proclaim the resurrection (Lk. 24:10).
4. First to give the good news to the Jews (Lk. 2:38).
5. They attended the first prayer service with the church (Acts 1:14).
6. First European convert was Lydia, a woman (Acts 16:14).
7. First to greet Paul and Silas, missionaries (Acts 16:13). 

HELL . . .

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13). If they are to stay in this darkness forever, where comes in the second chance?

5. *As death finds us so shall we continue in eternity.* "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still" (Rev. 22:11).

6. *Where the tree falls there shall it be.* "If the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there shall it be" (Eccl. 11:3). As death finds you so shall you continue to be.

7. *If you die in sin you CANNOT GO where Jesus is.* "And shall I die in your sins: Whither I go, ye cannot come" (Jn. 8:21). If there should ever come a future time when the ones dying in sin could go to be with the Lord, these words would be untrue. "Whither I go, ye cannot come." Such emphatic language precludes the possibility of a chance being given to repent after death. Adventists, Russellites and others usually offset this by saying the Lord said the same thing to His disciples in John 13:32-36. But He explained to His disciples that they could not go NOW, but shall hereafter. But in the ones dying in sin He plainly said to them that they cannot go where Jesus is.

IV. What is meant by the destruction of the wicked?


Does not the Bible declare that the wicked shall be destroyed, burned up as stubble and consumed? Certainly, but destruction does not mean annihilation.

1. *Even perfect people will be destroyed.* "He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked" (Job 9:22). Does this mean that He will destroy the perfect in the sense of causing them to cease to exist? Certainly not; but the word "destroy" is used in the sense of causing trouble and despair. Job was himself destroyed in that sense: "thou hast destroyed me on every side, and I am gone" (Job 10:10). Was Job out of existence? Certainly not. He was still alive and talking, yet he said he was destroyed.

2. *Israel had destroyed itself and yet continued to exist.* "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself" (Hos. 13:9). Was Israel out of existence? Verily, no. Israel still exists. So we see "destroy" is used in the sense of great trouble being brought on them. So God will destroy the wicked, that is, He will cause them great trouble and woe, and this destruction, this terrible woe and ruin, will be an "everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thess. 1:9).

V. Our future depends on our relation to God.

"What must I do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:30-31). "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."

There is no excuse you can offer when you face God. You have been sufficiently warned. God has made provision for your salvation and you need not suffer the damnation of hell. — Baptist & Commoner, October 20, 1920. 

SOUL . . .

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heritage.

It is little appreciated that the American conception of liberty grew out of the defense of this doctrine by early Baptists in this country, often under pain of severe persecution.

IV. The Doctrine Threatened

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers ..." (Eph. 6:12) ... "your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" ... (1 Pet. 5:8).

The battle is still being waged around soul liberty. Let none think the victory is complete and the warfare finished.


Catholicism, with its authority in the church, threatens the doctrine. The Roman system is a denial of soul liberty on every front. The advance of the Roman Catholic Church

marks the growing threat to the distinctive.

A growing liberal Protestantism, with its authority in modern scholarship, the ecumenical experiment, and the common experience of religion, is a threat to the doctrine. Soul liberty fades when the people must approach God through "the settled results of scholarship."

Interdenominational Fundamentalism, with its authority in a platform of bare essentials, threatens the doctrine. When men and churches are asked to come together on such a platform, where the distinctive cannot be distinctive lest it offend some of the brethren, soul liberty is but a myth.

An ecclesiastical denominationalism with its authority in denominational boards, is a threat to the doctrine. When a Baptist denominational octopus reaches its tentacles of authority into the life of a local church and threatens (either psychologically or actually) the absolute sovereignty of that church, the doctrine has degenerated to the state of dead orthodoxy.

Today, as never before, when little moral and spiritual midgets are expected to bow to the giants of religious conformity, we need a return to the rugged individualism of our Baptist forefathers. Once again we need to raise the standard of our great distinctive, willing to defend and propagate it at all costs. 

MARKS . . .

(Continued from page 3)

tized only “ducked.” If he went under a dead sinner, he comes out a dead sinner. Water will not change his heart.

(2) The right mode.

The only scriptural mode for baptism is by immersion. Any one who will make a detailed study of the different accounts of baptism in the New Testament can readily see that an immersion is the only mode which will satisfy each case. Further, the word itself comes from a Greek word meaning “to dip” or “immerse,” and all Pedobaptist scholars are forced to admit this fact. They say that the “how” doesn’t make any difference; one way is as good as another,” but it does make a difference. It determines whether one is following the command of Christ or changing the command of Christ to suit his own fancy. It is a matter of obedience.

(3) The right motive.

For those who believe that baptism is essential for salvation, even though they may use the scriptural mode of immersion, they do not have scriptural baptism. A person is baptized because he *has* been saved not *in order to* be saved.

(4) The right authority. The last requirement is the right authority. Jesus gave His New Testament church the authority to baptize and only His church. No individual has the authority to baptize even

though he may be a Christian or even a preacher. Any baptism which comes from any other church than the one Christ founded is not scriptural baptism even though it may meet all of the other requirements.

A simple way to determine what baptism is scriptural baptism today is to check history records and see what date the different denominations or churches were founded. A check of this nature will reveal that only one church has existed on this earth continuously from the time of Christ, and that is the Baptist church. Baptist churches today are the only churches who date their ancestry back to the time of Christ. The Roman Catholic church attempts to but miserably fails to do so. “**The Trail of Blood**” by J. M. Carroll will confirm this statement as will “**The Church That Jesus Built**” by B. H. Hillard of Lockland, Ohio.

The head and founder of every other denomination can be found in the histories. Christ said “I will build my church.” Any church begun by anyone else at any time after the lifetime of Christ cannot have scriptural baptism.

Thus we see then that the commission to the New Testament church was to make the new disciples Baptists. For those who reject the baptism of John the Baptist as Christian baptism, they place themselves with the Pharisees and other hypocrites who “rejected the counsel of God against themselves,

being not baptized of him.” This passage (Luke 7:30) is speaking of the baptism of John the Baptist. All present when Christ gave this command were Baptists as all had been baptized by John the Baptist.

It was given to them not as preachers or individuals, but as a church, for it was to be obeyed to the end of the age, and none of them would live that long. This command of Christ was a definite command to make men Christians by preaching the gospel to them and then make them Baptists by giving them Baptist baptism, for that was the only kind there was at the time the commission was given. No one else but Baptists can obey this commission because no one else has the kind of baptism that Jesus commanded Christians to submit to, and no one else can do what this commission enjoins, that is, make the disciples Baptists by giving them Baptist baptism.

Third, we are to indoctrinate them. We are to make them Christians and then make them Baptists and then indoctrinate them of the truths in the Word of God. Churches of today are fast losing this part of the commission. In most churches today very little doctrine is taught. Instead they have short programs every Sunday evening, which maybe once a year will touch upon some doctrine, and then in only a half-hearted way. Ask the average church member today why he is a Baptist,

and why he believes such and such a thing, and he’ll not be able to give you an answer.

Churches of today should remember the command or charge of Paul to Timothy that we are to “exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine, for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables” (2 Tim. 4:2-4). I am afraid that this is the case with many of the churches today. Preachers who really preach the Bible in its entirety are not wanted in the average pulpit today; they are unwelcomed. Baptists of today should wake up to this important part of their commission and should indoctrinate the people.

The last function of a New Testament church is to be a missionary church. This does not mean that the word “missionary” must be in the name of the church, but it means that they must be missionary in practice. There are many churches today who have the words “Missionary Baptist” over the door, and yet do no mission work at all. Many of these do not even make a pretense of doing missionary work. These churches are the kind who “talk the talk, but don’t walk the walk.” Hardshells (Primitive Baptists) fail utterly at

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MARKS . . .

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this point as they do not "go." They do not preach the gospel. They have no gospel to sinners, yea, they have no gospel at all.

A New Testament church must be a missionary church. To do this mission work best one should consult the churches in the New Testament in order to learn how this is done. When one does, he will find that it was the churches themselves who sent out the missionaries. The Holy Spirit spoke to the churches when calling men to go as missionaries as is seen in the calling of Saul and Barnabas, "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2). There was no Mission Board, Directors, Secretaries, etc. or any other society to regulate the work of missions, but each individual church had control of its own work. The missionaries (Paul being one of the main ones) made reports back to the local church (Acts 14:26-28), and never through a board or agency. There is no scripture anywhere for a Mission Board, Missions Committee, Mission Secretary, Mission Director, etc., or anything else other than a New Testament church. These different organizations are all foreign to the Scriptures and wholly man made.

Thus we see that the commission was given to a church that had these four distinguishing marks. The Founder of that church was baptized by the first Baptist preacher and organized His church out of material baptized by that same preacher. Its members were all baptized by the first Baptist preacher or by those who were baptized by him. This church had no overlords or ruling elders or bosses. All of these marks fit no other church but a Baptist church. It was therefore a Baptist church to whom the Lord gave this commission and since all other New Testament churches are patterned after this church and working under the same commission, all New Testament churches are Baptist churches.

Does this mean that there are no Christians in other denominations? No! There are Christians who are members of other denominations, but it does mean that there are Christians in other denominations who are not obedient Christians. They have not received New Testament baptism, nor are they members of a New Testament church, the church that Christ founded.

Will they be lost because of it? No! But they are losing many of the joys of their salvation which comes by obedience to Christ, and as such will lose some of their rewards because of a lack of obedience.

Have you had New Testament baptism? Are you a member of a New Testament church? A Baptist church is the only church which can answer for these two problems.

**LOOK . . .**

(Continued from page 2)

prospective pastor had written a certain well-known church for a frank and detailed description of the situation as it really was. The following letter might well have been the reply:

Dear prospective pastor:

This is in reply to your most recent communications in our deliberations concerning the possibility of your becoming our pastor. You said there was no need to waste your time nor ours for a visit by us to your church field nor a preliminary visit by you here until we know a little more about each other. At a calculated risk we are trying to be perfectly frank as you suggested.

Your first question had to do with our town and the possibility of growth for our church. We are in one of the important towns of the empire and we should have great opportunity for church growth. It is a rough town, however, and not famous for its culture. Business is booming here but so is the devil. We are afraid it would not be the best place to rear your family since many of the people here are outright pagans.

Since you asked, we

must admit our church has factions. they go all the way back to some popular preachers we had here. Each faction still champions one of these preachers though we have been reprimanded about this wrong. Our church did have a good start for one of God's great preachers began the work here and labored with us a year and a half.

Sorry to say we are not without some moral problems in our membership. Some of our members are known to be involved in immorality and we likely have at least one case of incest. Drinking and divorce are also too prevalent among us.

Our members don't always get along too well. In fact, we have some members involved in court scrapes with each other now. We also have some loud-mouthed women whom we have tried to shut up at least in church.

Our services are not always orderly. Some people don't eat at home before coming to the Lord's Supper and grab everything in sight. We have a good deal of speaking in tongues and sometimes several going at once. These tongue speakers think they are gifted above everyone else but we have others who think they are more important in the church.


All of us are not straight on doctrine. Some of our members have even doubted the resurrection of Christ but we hope all this

(See **LOOK** on page 23)

The Preaching That Never Convicts

Preaching today is long on interpretation and short on application. Proper interpretation, with a minimum of application will give you a reputation for orthodoxy with a minimum of safety. It is not interpretation that gets you into trouble, but application. The country is full of men of the cloth who are good interpreters but who shy away from applying the Word of God to contemporary life.

One is reminded of the pastor who was waited on by the deacons demanding his resignation. "But," he remonstrated, "don't I argue, and don't I spoutify?"

"Oh, yes," a deacon answered, "but you don't specify wherein." 

LOOK . . .

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has been corrected by a helpful letter from our former preacher.

These are some of the little things we thought you would want to know. If you feel led in our direction, we would be happy to answer any of your questions. Let us hear from you soon. Just address us in care of the church. The church secretary likes to keep up with the activity of the pulpit committee.

Frankly yours,
The Pulpit Committee

MASON . . .

(Continued from page 1)

baptism was held to have saving power, it wouldn't do to let an infant run the risk of going unbaptized, so they started the practice of sprinkling infants. Protestantism (and Baptists are *not* Protestants), brought infant baptism over from their mother church — the Church of Rome.

While various groups — like the Mormons for instance, hold to the necessity of being baptized for salvation, the so-called "Church of Christ" people are the most vigorous in teaching that baptism is necessary for salvation.

How They Seek To Justify Baptismal Regeneration

The following Scriptures are their stand by:

1. Acts 2:38. A.T. Robertson, world renowned Greek scholar says that the expression "for the" can with propriety be translated, "because of" and he cites numerous instances where the expression is so translated, and where any other translations would not make good sense. However, the best proof that Peter did not mean to teach that one is saved wholly or in part by baptism, is his own specific statement in Acts 10:43, "Whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." No mention whatsoever of baptism. If Peter didn't mean that remission of sin comes through faith in Jesus, then he contra-

dicts himself.

2. 1 Peter 3:21. They quote the part that says, "baptism doth also now save us," and leave out the expression "in like figure whereunto." "Figure" signifies that baptism has an illustrative purpose here. As a matter of fact water did not save Noah (and the flood is being spoken of here). It was water that drowned and killed. It was the ark that saved, and the ark was a type of Christ. That is what we mean when we speak of people being "in the Ark of safety."


3. Mark 16:16. It is stated that "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," but what is it that damns or condemns? The answer given is, "but he that *believeth not*." That makes plain that condemnation is for unbelief — not for failure to be baptized. Incidentally, the Church of Christ people who harp so on the 16th verse, pay no attention to the 17th and 18th verses, but condemn the Holiness people for their insistence on these verses.

What Is Against Baptismal Regeneration?

1. The types of the Old Testament. The Passover for instance. The blood of the Lamb was sufficient to save from death, without anything being added. "When I see the *blood* I will pass over you."

2. The plan of salvation itself. God's plan is to

save by grace, through faith alone. That is what is taught in Ephesians 2:8-10. The "not of works" rules out any human activity or merit — any work of any kind. Despite attempts to deny it, baptism is a form of human effort — it is *works*.

3. Specific examples of salvation apart from baptism. Note some samples of these: (1) "Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace." Jesus said this to the sinful women. No mention of baptism. He saved this woman without even suggesting baptism. (2) The Penitent thief. Baptismal regenerationists have duck fits in an effort to squirm out of this, but there is no honest squirming out possible. The thief was saved and was promised that he was going that day where Jesus went. He wasn't saved under the Law — he was saved by grace through faith exactly as all others who are saved at all. (3) Cornelius and others (Acts 10:44-48). The Holy Spirit came on those people following their exercise of faith, and before baptism. Manifestly they were baptized because it was plain that they had been saved — not in order to help save them. 

Abraham Lincoln. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how a man could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.

How To Ruin Your Children

1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.

2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he's cute. It will also encourage him to pick "cuter" phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.

3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21, and then let him "decide for himself."

4. Avoid use of the word "wrong." It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car that society is against him and he is being persecuted.

5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around — books, shoes, clothes. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility on others.

6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on, attend any movies he wants to, watch any TV program that suits his fancy. Be careful that the silverware and his drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feast on garbage.


7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they will not be too shocked when the home is broken up later.

8. Give a child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you had them?

9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustration.

10. Take his part against neighbors, teachers, policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.

11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I never could do anything with him."

12. Prepare for a life of grief. You will be likely to have it. 

BECK . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Let me ask: "What are the differences?" The New Testament churches preached the sacred Scriptures; so do true Baptist churches today. The New Testament churches, therefore, preached salvation by the sovereign grace of God (Eph. 2:8-9); so do true Baptist churches today. The New Testament churches preached that believers in Christ were saved forever (Heb. 10:38-39); they preached the eternal security of the saved (Jn. 10:27-30); so do true Baptist churches today.

The New Testament churches practiced the burial of converts in baptism, believers baptism into the church (Acts 18:8; Col.

2:12; 1 Cor. 12:13). It was a church that baptized, therefore a Baptist church. Baptist churches do the same today. In this and other doctrines and practices, Baptist churches are different from any of the denominational churches of our day, and in many cases from the interdenominational churches and movements of our day, but exactly like the true apostolic church.

The New Testament churches were independent in government. Each church was its own denomination. No presbytery, no synod, no bishop could tell them what to do. The majority in the church ruled. They chose their own apostles (Acts 1:15-26); selected their own officers (Acts 6:1-6); consented as to whom should be baptized into their fellowship (Acts 10:44-48); ordained and sent forth their own missionaries (Acts 13:1-4); settled their own doctrinal differences, and made their own doctrinal statements or creeds (Acts 14:26-31). They received their own members (Rom. 14:1), and dismissed whom they should (1 Cor. 5).

In all of these matters there is no difference in the practice of Baptist churches today. They are exactly the same as the New Testament churches. Hence, true Baptist churches are New Testament churches. They are just as denominational as were the churches in the New Testament and no more.

My friend, take your New Testament and read it; look at it closely. While you will not see signs on the doors of the churches in the New Testament with the words "Baptist Church" painted thereon, you will hear the same preaching in those early churches as true Baptists preach today, and you will discover the same democracy in their church government, the same independency as Baptist churches exercise today; and you will notice that the baptism of believers by burial as stressed in the New Testament is the same order and mode unchanged as used today by our Baptist churches.

Therefore if I am a Christian and not a member of a Baptist church, I ought to be, for it is the same New Testament church as the apostles'. I have no right to continue in a church begun by some pope or reformer.

Therefore, if I am a Christian and only a member of a ministry that is authorized by the Word of God, I will not tithe or give my money to self-exalting numbers-boasting independent works apart from the New Testament church, such as the many youth rallies, radio fellowships, evangelistic parties, missionary agencies, I will support only the New Testament church of which I am, or ought to be a member.

I will do these things *now*. I will do them from *now on*. God help me!