

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 464

How To Kill A Church

By Davis W. Huckabee

New Testament churches do not naturally die; they are so constituted that they cannot die a natural death. They may, however, be killed, but even in this, they can hardly be killed by outsiders except by the annihilation of the entire membership. Churches are most often killed from the inside; their own members kill them. A church is not

just an organization; it is also an organism — a living thing, and as such, it has the potential of either growing and thriving, or of languishing and dying. The Lord promised that His church, considered as an institution, would not die (Mt. 16:18), but this only means that there will be a continuity of churches like the Jerusalem church until

His return; it does not guarantee the continued existence of any individual church. How then may a church be killed?

I BY STAYING AWAY FROM IT

The Scriptures liken church members to the members of a physical

body (1 Cor. 12:12ff), and just as certain organs of the human body cannot be removed without death coming to the body, so it is with the church, the body of Christ. When the members of the church start staying away from it, this soon leads to its death.

This is generally a gra-

(See **CHURCH** on page 21)

Two Questions

A skeptic once derided a Christian by asking him, "Say, George, what would you say if when you die you found there wasn't such a place as heaven after all?"

With a smile the believer replied: "I should say — well, I've had a fine time getting there anyway."

Then the Christian sent a boomerang back to the skeptic not quite so easy to answer.

"I say, Fred," he asked, "what would you say if, when you die, you found there was such a place as hell after all?"

Was Your Grandmother An Ape?

By Roy Mason

Evolution is taught as a *fact* in most schools of this day. Students are taught evolution in the grades, then in high school, and on through college and university. The teaching of biology, botany and geology is *based on* evolution. Many of our denominational colleges teach evolution. The teaching of evolution is significant religiously because it is incompatible with the

teachings of the Bible. It has had wide-spread practical effects on the moral life of the human race, for as some one has said, "Monkey men make monkey morals." Young people leave college believing that they are but highly developed brutes, and they go out into the world to live and act like brutes.

Evolution has been

(See **APE** on page 5)

A Strange Thing

It is strange how many people, should you approach them about the matter of having their names erased from the church roll, would cry in thundering tones, "NO," and yet many of these people refuse either to attend or support the church of which they are members.

For instance, I know of a man right now whom the deacons went to see about being absent from the

(See **STRANGE** on page 7)

Quiz The Pastor -- #18**True Baptists Can Trace Their Origins Back To the New Testament****By the late Nick Michalinos**

Question: In a recent article, you made it appear that Baptists can trace their history back to the New Testament. Many Baptists do not agree with this position.

Answer: True Baptists, as individuals and as churches, do not have a single voice or hierarchy to speak for them in matters of doctrine and practice as do some religious groups. Therefore, I cannot speak for all Baptists. I can only speak for myself, and the church to which I am privileged to pastor, and for many true Baptists who agree with my position that the people known today as Baptists can trace their origin and existence "back to the New Testament."

Woe be unto the church that cannot trace its

existence, doctrines and practices back to the New Testament, thereby admitting that their church is not a true New Testament church. I believe Baptists can trace their origin back to Christ as their Founder and Head.

In Matthew 16:18, Christ stated that He would "build his church" and that "the gates of hell would not prevail against it." I take this to mean that His church would always be in existence and is in the world today. His enemies, His foes, described here as "the gates of hell," would "not prevail against it" (His church).

Therefore, down through the centuries, there have always been New Testament churches. Either Christ meant what He said,

or He didn't mean it. There is no middle ground. Bible believers believe He meant what He said. His promise has not failed. He that promised is able to perform. New Testament churches have not passed off the scene, and then later reappeared or rediscovered at various times under the supposed inspired leadership of some men or women who lived hundreds of years too late to be the founder of New Testament churches.

It so happened, and is a matter of divine record that Christ founded His own church during His personal ministry, and as Head, He promised that "the gates of hell would not prevail against it," and that He would be with it "until the end of the age" (Mt. 28:20).

There have been many Johnny-come-lately denominations and cults that have sprung up the last few hundred years all claiming to be New Testament churches whose human founders can be identified as well as the very year and place their denominations and organizations began.

Within our limited space, I want us to now see what historians and men of non-Baptist faith have to say about Baptist church origin.

(1) Cardinal Hosius, the president of the Council of Trent, dates the history of Baptists back to at least 354 A.D. He wrote this in 1554 A.D.

(2) Mosheim, noted great Lutheran historian, places Baptists before the rise of Luther and Calvin.

(3) Zwingli, the Swiss reformer and co-worker with Luther and Calvin in 1525, admits the existence of Baptist back to the year 225 A.D.

(4) Robert Barclay, Quaker, places "small hidden Christian societies, who have held many of the opinions of the Anabaptists, have existed from the time of the Apostles."

(5) John Clark Ridpath, Methodist, says, "I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist church as far back as A.D. 100, though without doubt there were Baptists then, as all Christians were then Baptists."

(6) Alexander Campbell, founder of the "Christian" church says, "From the apostolic age to the present time, the sentiments of Baptists have had a continued chain of advocates, and public monuments of their existence in every century can be produced." There are others, but these must suffice for now.

We do not seek to establish our claims as to our first century origin by the Baptist name. Churches of those early days were simply called "churches" for they were all of one faith, and thus needed no distinguishing name, except to identify a church at a certain place, for example,

(See **ORIGINS** on page 5)

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God's Masterpiece --Man's Body #4**The Human Embryo**

By Arthur J. Brown

In the preceding article we discussed the little embryonic man. At that time he was just a few weeks old — a cute little fellow not very handsome, we must admit, but he's coming on! Towards the end of the first month of development, he is a small creature about one-sixth of an inch long, with head abnormally large, the other extremity being the termination of the spinal column, and improperly called a tail. He has no arms or legs, and his face and neck have not yet formed, but his tiny heart has been beating for a few days and lies close to his brain.

Young as he is, he has started to form lungs, what is to be the liver is just beginning to make its appearance, and he is "planning" to produce a pair of kidneys. By the end of the month he is about one fourth of an inch long, having made good process. As this second month progresses, many changes occur, some of which have already been noted. The wide mouth is narrowing, the cheeks are forming, and the broad nose is beginning to make its appearance. We noted that he looked like a brainy fellow from the

appearance of the bulging forehead and large head.

Those curious limb buds are getting longer, the free end flattening out to resemble a paddle. Then five parallel ridges appear at the end of the paddle, with shallow grooves in between. Gradually these grooves cut clear through and he now has his five fingers and five toes. Concurrently with this we see constrictions forming across each limb to mark off elbow and wrist, knee and ankle. It is altogether a surprising process.

During this second month the sexual organs develop and by the end of the month the sex is clearly evident in the internal parts, and usually also, externally. And here is a surprising feature. The first formed sex organs are identical in male and female. Even milk glands begin to form in both sexes near the end of the second month. Presently however, the sex chromosome exerts its authority, and the embryo is changed definitely into either male or female. As this eighth week closes the embryo begins to look more human and as he comes to the third month, he gets a new name. No more shall we call him an embryo — now

he is a fetus.

Early in this period, the teeth carpenters are very busy gathering their materials, enamel, dentine, and cement, laying down buds for the twenty temporary teeth which will not begin to appear until about six months after baby is born. But there is no dallying here — everything must be on time. Also, the teeth sockets are arising in the jaw bones which are getting firm and hard.

It will be six months yet before that first wonderful cry will be heard, but now in this third month the vocal cords whose vibrations produce the voice sounds, begin to appear; they are not yet perfect, of course, but they take their place in the line of formation.

During all these nine months of growth, it must be remembered that baby is surrounded by water, a marvelous contrivance to prevent shock to his delicate organism. Being in water, of course, he is unable to breathe — if he did he would simply drown in the amniotic fluid.

Are you wondering where he gets his food? You might well do so and it's a remarkable story. When the first cell found itself inside mother's body, we can imagine that it looked around and said, "Well, where shall I take up my abode — where can I find some food and water and oxygen?" So, it digs a little spot for itself in the lining of the uterine cavity,

through the action of what is known as the trophoblast, which forms on the outer edge of the little ball of cells, and literally eats its way into this portion of mother's body. As these tissues are digested by the trophoblast, the uterus begins to take part in the process, cooperatively, and forms a protective wall, known as the placenta which henceforth lies between baby and mother, and is the amazing "go-between" bringing from mother all the food that baby requires, its oxygen, and its water. This is made possible by the formation of pipes running both ways — really arteries and veins. The fetus takes the food, burns it up in its own digestive mechanism, and then sends back the ashes or garbage for mother to handle. The cord that contains these arteries and veins running between mother and child, is called the umbilical cord, passing from baby's navel into the placenta, where all the mixture takes place.

It must be clearly understood that there is no direct mixing of mother's blood and the child's. But the babe does get all its nourishment from mother by the process of osmosis, that is, absorption from the maternal blood, through very thin membrane in the placenta. The child manufactures its own blood but gets all the necessary

(See **BODY** on page 18)

Eternal Security of the Believer -- Part 3

100 REASONS AND 100 SCRIPTURES PROVING THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

By M. L. Moser, Sr.

51. The believer shall never hunger.

John 6:35: "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

52. The believer will in no wise be cast out (Not under any circumstance).

John 6:37: "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

53. Christ will not lose a single believer.

John 6:39: "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

54. The believer is more than conqueror through Christ.

Romans 8:37: "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

55. Christ will raise up the believer at the last day.

John 6:38-40: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

56. Whosoever eats the bread of life shall never die.

John 6:51: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

57. The believer justified by faith, to be saved from wrath.

Romans 5:9: "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

58. Nothing can separate the believer from Christ.

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor

depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

There is nothing in death that can.

There is nothing in life that can.

There is not an angel that can.

Good angels would not, bad angels cannot.

Principalities cannot. Satan is head of principalities of darkness.

Powers cannot. Satan is Prince of the powers of the air.

Things present cannot separate.

Things to come cannot.

Heights cannot. There is nothing above that can separate us.

Depth cannot. There is nothing below that can separate us.

Nor any other creature. NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

59. Christ will complete salvation until the end.

Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

60. The believer to be preserved spirit, soul, and body.

1 Thessalonians 5:23: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

61. God cannot lie.

Titus 1:2: "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."

62. Jesus is able to save unto the uttermost.

Hebrews 7:25: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

63. The believer is born of incorruptible seed.

1 Peter 1:23: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Can the devil corrupt that which God says is incorruptible?

64. The believer is to be like Christ.

1 John 3:2: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

65. The believer is perfected forever.

Hebrews 10:14: "For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."

66. The believer believes unto the saving of his soul.

Hebrews 10:38-39: "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

67. The believer made righteous through Christ's obedience.

Romans 5:18-19: "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

68. Because all things work together for good to the believer.

Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

69. Because the believer is so helpless that he cannot place his sins upon Christ. God must do it or him. Therefore salvation is by grace.

Isaiah 53:6: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

70. Because Christ did not come to help us, but to save us.

Luke 19:10: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

71. Because the Holy Spirit abides in the believer forever.

John 14:16-17: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

72. Because God, not being a man, cannot lie.

Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

[To Be Continued Next Month]

ORIGINS . . .


(Continued from page 2)

"the church at Ephesus," "the church at Corinth," etc.

But as time went by, false organizations sprang up calling themselves churches, and it became necessary to use distinguishing names. As for Baptists, they have been called by different names down through the centuries like Montanists, Waldenses, etc. but all were called by one name, Ana-Baptists ("Re-Baptisers" of those that came from unscriptural organizations, or who were not scripturally baptized.) These names were usually given by their enemies. The "Ana" in the name "Ana-Baptists" was dropped in the days of Martin Luther, and the name Baptist was retained unto this day.

In closing, let me briefly state two things. First, Baptists are not Protestants. These folks called Protestants began with Martin Luther who was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, but "protested" against its teachings and came out of that church, hence the name "Protestant." Baptists were *never* in the Roman Catholic church.

Secondly, Baptists believe that every accountable sinner who sincerely repents toward God, and has faith in Christ as Savior is saved, whether he be a member of a Baptist church or not.

Salvation is in *Christ*, not in a denominational tag. "Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). 

APE . . .

(Continued from page 1)

defined as "Continuous progressive change, according to certain laws, by *means of resident forces*." No God is necessary — change is by *resident forces*.

Theistic Evolution

Modernistic preachers have tried to reconcile the Bible and religion with evolution by saying that evolution is just the way that "God works." The truth is, the Bible and Christianity cannot be reconciled to evolution. Genesis teaches beyond question that man was made as *a special creation* — not by age long process (Gen. 1:26-27). It teaches that various species were made "after their kind" (Gen. 1:24-25). Had man come into existence through evolutionary process he would have had a mate. But the first man had no mate, and one was *made outright* for him (Gen. 2:21-22). Evolution and special creation can't be reconciled. If evolution is so — the Bible is not so. If the Bible is so, then evolution is a big lie!

(See APE on page 24)

What Is Baptist Faith and Order?

By Chester E. Tulga

Faith and order are inseparables in the Bible. A sound faith must have the expression of a sound order for its implementation. The whole Bible rings with exhortations to sound faith, warnings against compromise and apostasy and exhortations to sound doctrine. Unsound doctrine, heresy and apostasy are clearly condemned and the Christian warned against risking contamination with them.

The whole Bible emphasizes proper order. The universe in which we live is the greatest example of order. The creation is an example of order and order is seen in the Genesis account of creation. Creation is an example of order, while evolution is a philosophy of chance.

The Old Testament is very definite on order in worship. God intends to be approached and worshiped in His way, not man's way. There is an order of approach to God in the Old Testament. There are certain sacrifices which are carefully specified and their presentation meticulously outlined. The Book of Numbers is remarkable for the order of the host which is carefully set forth.

The Old Testament abounds in instances where God refused to accept those who violated divine order.

Cain's sacrifice was rejected. Nadab died for he offered strange fire before the Lord (Num. 26:61). Those who presumed to carry the ark of God in a new cart fell under God's judgment (1 Chr. 13:9). The prophets thundered against wrong ways to pray, wrong ways to worship, wrong ways to offer sacrifices and especially that violation of faith and order which combines faith and idolatry.

Christ gave a church order. It is no accident that there were twelve apostles. There were two ordinances given. A great commission was given to the church. The great redemptive facts were accomplished as a basis of Christian doctrine.

There is an order of the ministry. "And God hath set some in the church, first, apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (1 Cor. 12:28). Note "set", "first", "secondarily", "thirdly",

"after that", "then." Here is an example of God's regard for order.

There is order in the Great Commission — disciple, baptize, teach. Here is the New Testament order. It is not to be abbreviated or changed in order, for to do so alters the faith.

There is order in evangelism: repentance, faith, baptism, church. There is order in the ordinances: first baptism, then the Lord's Supper. They are not to be sepa-

(See TULGA on page 7)

The Family Pew

By David Henry Deen

I am your Family Pew:

I came across the ocean with your forefathers.

I have followed the march of peoples wherever they have gone.

I was hewed out of the trees of the forest.

I was warmed by the presence of those who would worship the living God.

I am more than a board—I am an institution.

I have extended my comfort to saint and sinner;

I have felt the heart-throbs of those who sought the presence of God.

I have had a place in rude hut or log church;

I have been made beautiful in the majesty of the sanctuary.

I have seen the bloodstains of those who fought for liberty.

I have made my contribution to the welfare of those who stood for truth and righteousness.

I have been taken to the depths of the cave and into the bomb cellar.

I cannot be destroyed as long as men worship—I am eternal.

I am a connecting link between the home and the world around; I am the first line of defense.

I bring comfort to the lonely.

Often I have been deserted by men who sought softer seats;

Men turn from me at their own peril; if they forget me they may lose their own souls.

I bear my mute testimony when the pastor exhorts.

I am your Family Pew—I can be useful only as I am occupied!

A New Danger For America

Muslims Groom Candidates For 2004

A leading Islamic lobby group is on a nationwide tour to introduce Muslims to American politics. Building an influential voting bloc for the 2004 elections and eventually seeing Muslim candidates on ballots for everything from city council to congressional seats are two aims of the Virginia-based Muslim American Society (MAS), the St. Paul Pioneer press reported.

The MAS also wants to increase campaign donations for politicians who have represented Muslim interests, including civil-rights protections and immigrant issues.

On Saturday (May 24) MAS will lead a civil rights march and rally in Washington, D.C. it touts as the largest gathering of Muslims ever in the nation's capital.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, American Muslims, who traditionally focused on foreign policy, increasingly have made domestic policy their biggest concern, the St. Paul paper said. At a day-long workshop in Inver Grove Heights, Minn., participants discussed issues such as mosque expansions, Islamic slaughterhouses and racial profiling. The workshop turned 60 eager participants

into lobbyists and, possibly, potential candidates, the Pioneer Press said.

"It's not just talking about issues that affect Muslims," workshop organizer Jessi Frenzel told the paper. "It's our duty as American residents to speak up on a lot of issues. To be a good citizen is to be a good Muslim." Frenzel said he is considering a future in politics.

About 700 Muslims ran for public office in 2000, and 153 were elected, the St. Paul paper reported.

Rahma Farah, 18, who participated in the workshop, said the experience made her optimistic about the future of Islam and U.S. politics. One day, she told the St. Paul daily, there may even be a Muslim president of the United States. "Who knows?" Farah said. "Maybe in 2020." —CNS

[Editor's comment: According to news reports, the aim of the Muslims is to see the United States become a Muslim nation.]

STRANGE . . .

(Continued from page /1)

church services for a long period of time, asking him if, since he had not attended for so long, he didn't desire that his name be erased?

He pleaded with them

not to erase his name, saying, "I wouldn't want to die and not be a member of the church."

Since that time, several months ago, I have observed this man's presence at church only one time.

Strange, isn't it?


TULGA . . .

(Continued from page 6)

rated or reversed.

There is order in polity. The local church is the only organization recognized in the New Testament. It must not be subordinated to human societies not of divine appointment. All organizations are to be a part of it, subservient to it and not separated from it. The multitude of free-lance organizations today who have no responsibility to the churches and whose only interest is to live off the churches, have no

basis in the Word of God. The local church ordains the ministry. It may consult sister churches, but it is not bound by their decisions. The local church is the sole judge of the qualifications for membership in its body, the sole judge of the validity of every baptism presented for its approval and the sole judge of the ordination of any candidate for its pulpit who may be presented. This is New Testament order.

Much lip service is paid in these days to the independence of the local church, but there is a refusal to recognize the total sovereignty of a local church under God. Baptists believe in the independence of the local church, but many of them dislike a church that takes its independence seriously. There is Baptist faith and order and the two are inseparables. 

Christlikeness

Oh, that my tongue might so possess
The accent of His tenderness
That every word I breathe would bless.
To those who mourn, a word of cheer;
A word of hope to those who fear,
And love to all men far and near;
Oh, that it might be said of me,
"Surely thy speech betrayeth thee
As a friend of Christ of Galilee."



A Fetus, or Not? — The following is a thought-provoking story. A prostitute seven months pregnant was found shot to death in a ditch. The baby was taken and rushed to a hospital where doctors waged an expensive but vain 17-day fight to keep it alive. The two thoughts that this story provoked were these: (1) If the 7-month-old fetus wasn't a person, why did doctors waste so much money and energy trying to save it? (2) If it was a person, why would it have been perfectly legal in many jurisdictions for the mother to have had the *choice* of killing it by abortion?

Pennsylvania's Hate Crime Bill. — Pennsylvania's governor signed a bill Dec. 3 that gives homosexuals statewide protection against hate crimes and verbal harassment (3/03 *OBF Visitor*). According to Ellen Sorokin of *The Washington Times*, the bill targets preachers who use biblical texts against the homosexual lifestyle. — CC

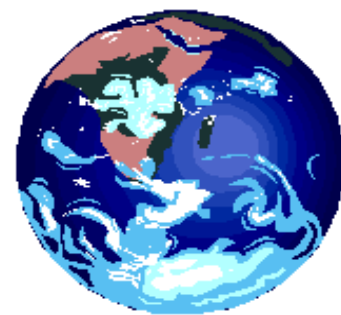
World News Roundup

This Is CNN. — Last week, CNN executive Eason Jordan revealed that his company deliberately covered up news of Iraqi brutality in order to keep its bureau in Baghdad. ... For the last twelve years, CNN has provided the West with the dominant news image of Saddam's Iraq. It was the jewel in the crown of CNN's international reporting reputation. But, now we know, from the unwitting pen of CNN's morally obtuse chief news executive, that it was always a false image CNN was broadcasting. The hard news was kept secret. The propaganda flowed like wine. CNN was running a straight propaganda-for-profits deal with Saddam. Until CNN brings in honest news executives, no prudent viewer should trust CNN's current and future reporting from other foreign capitals. — *Washington Times*.

Gambling's Dark Side. — Nationwide, there are 5 million problem gamblers. The 3/31 *USN&WR* says an army of lobbyists has anted up huge contributions to political candidates touting gambling as the answer to education and other

problems. But it also mentioned gambling's "dark side," which includes: increased crime, betting addictions, trouble for local businesses, create a younger generation of gamblers, and other hidden costs. Gambling has left a trail of broken lives, homes and families (*Canadian Revivalist*). Money can't buy happiness. The wealthiest are also some of the most miserable. Gambling is an addictive epidemic and is almost always associated with covetousness and deceit. — CC

Man Forced From Home To Accommodate Bats. — Grant Griffin just can't sleep in his home anymore. His one-bedroom apartment in Bradenton, Fla., has had some unwelcome company — a colony of bats. During the day, bats can often be found in his sink or other areas around his home. At night, the bats' incessant noisemaking keeps Griffin awake. Besides being a nuisance, the bats are dangerous. Griffin and his girlfriend have both discovered small bites on their bodies. The seemingly simple solution: have the bats exterminated. The bats,



however, are classified as "native wildlife" by the state of Florida and cannot be poisoned or trapped. So Griffin is forced to live with the bats in his home. "I'm about as freaked out as I can get ... I feel like there are things crawling all over me," Griffin told the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*. If the bats were rabid, Griffin could have the colony exterminated. That is not a likely solution to Griffin's problems, however, as less than one-half of one percent of all bats are rabid. Until it can be determined if the bats are rabid, Griffin has been spending the night at friends' homes to avoid dealing with his unwelcome housemates. Griffin's landlord offered to put screens over the holes where the bats enter and exit his home to collect food, but this posed another problem. During the summer, at the peak of the bat mating season, blocking the entrances and exits the bats use would cause the babies to die for lack of food and create an un-

(See **WNR** on page 12)

La Voz Del Desierto

La Seguridad Eterna Del Creyente

O 100 Razones ● 100 Pasajes Excriturales ● Probando Seguridad Eterna

Por M. L. Moser, Sr.

“Seguridad Eterna del Creyente,” “Perseverancia Final de los Santos,” y “Salvación por Gracia” no son mas que diferentes métodos de expresar la misma doctrina. Sin embargo, para que no haya una mala interpretación de parte de muchos tocante a la doctrina, es lo mejor dar antes las razones por qué creemos en la Seguridad Eterna, y exponer algunas cosas que no está conectadas con la doctrina.

COSAS QUE NO SE CONECTAN CON LA DOCTRINA

1. Que todos los miembros de la iglesia son salvos.

Reconocemos que hay muchos miembros de la iglesia hoy quienes nunca han nacido otra vez. Solamente aquellos que han confiado y creído definitivamente en Jesucristo son salvos.

Hebreos 3:14: “Porque participantes de Cristo somos hechos, con tal que conservemos firme hasta el fin el principio de nuestra confianza.”

1 Juan 2:19: “Salieron de nosotros, mas no eran de nosotros; porque si fueran de nosotros, hubieran cierto permanecido con nosotros; pero salieron para que se manifestase que todos no son de nosotros.”

2. Que todos los que esstán unidos en el trabajo de la iglesia con salvos.

Hubo apóstoles falsos, obreros engañosos aún en los tiempos del Nuevo Testamento; y voy también, hay muchos obreros religiosos que no son salvos, y, por lo tanto, inseguros.

Mateo 7:22-23: “Muchos me dirán en aquel día: Señor, Señor, ¿no profetizamos en tu nombre, y en tu nombre lanzamos demonios, y en tu nombre hicimos muchos milagros? Y entonces les protestaré: Nunca os

conocí; apartaos de mí, obradores de maldad.”

1 Juan 4:1: “Amados, no creáis á todo espíritu, sino probad los espíritus si son de Dios; porque muchos falsos profetas son salidos en el mundo.”

2 Juan 7-11: “Porque muchos engañadores son entrados en el mundo, los cuales no confiesan que Jesucristo ha venido en carne. Este tal el engañador es, y el anticristo. Mirad por vosotros mismos, porque no perdamos las cosas que hemos obrado, sino que recibamos galardón cumplido. Cualquiera que se rebela, y no persevera en la doctrina de Cristo, no tiene á Dios: el que persevera en la doctrina de Cristo, el tal tiene al Padre y al Hijo. Si alguno viene á vosotros, y no trae esta doctrina, no lo recibáis en casa, ni le digáis: ¡bienvenido! Porque el que le dice bienvenido, comunica con sus malas obras.”

2 Pedro 2:1-3: “Pero hubo también falsos profetas en el pueblo, como habrá entre vosotros falsos doctores, que introducirán encubiertamente herejías de perdición, y negarán al Señor que los rescató, atrayendo sobre sí mismos perdición acelerada. Y muchos seguirán sus disoluciones, por los cuales el camino de la verdad será blasfemado, y por avaricia harán mercadería de vosotros con palabras fingidas, sobre los cuales la condenación ya de largo tiempo no se tarda, y su perdición no se duerme.”

2 Timoteo 3:13: “Mas los malos hombres y los engañadores, irán de mal en peor, engañando y siendo engañados.”

2 Timoteo 4:3: “Porque vendrá tiempo cuando no sufrirán la sana doctrina; antes, teniendo comezón de oír, se amontonarán maestros conforme á sus concupiscencias.”

(Vea **ETERNA** en la pág. 10)

ETERNA . . .

(Viene de la pág. 9)

1 Timoteo 4:1-2: “Empero el Espíritu dice manifiestamente, que en los venideros tiempos algunos apostatarán de la fe, escuchando á espíritus de error y á doctrinas de demonios; que con hipocresía hablarán mentira, teniendo cauterizada la consciencia.”

3. Que los santos no deben ser tentados. Aún Cristo fué tentado.

Mateo 4:1: “Entonces Jesús fué llevado del Espíritu al desierto, para ser tentado del diablo.”

Hebreos 4:15: “Porque no tenemos un Pontífice que no se pueda compadecer de nuestras flaquezas; mas tentado en todo según nuestra semejanza, pero sin pecado.”

2 Pedro 2:9: “Sabe el Señor librar de tentación á los píos, y reservar á los injustos para ser atormentados en el día del juicio.”

Hebreos 2:18: “Porque en cuanto él mismo padeció siendo tentado, es poderoso para socorrer á los que son tentados.”

1 Corintios 10:13: “No os ha tomado tentación, sino humana: más fiel es Dios, que no os dejará ser tentados más de lo que podéis llevar; antes dará también juntamente con la tentación la salida, para que podáis aguantar.”

4. Que los santos no caen.

Los santos pueden caer y lo hacen muchas veces, pero ellos no pueden caer, y ser perdidos eternamente. Que los santos pueden caer se enseña en varios pasajes.

Miqueas 7:8: “Tú, enemiga mía, no te huelgues de mí: porque aunque caí, he de levantarme: aunque more en tenebras, Jehová será mi luz.”

Proverbios 24:16: “Porque siete veces cae el justo, y se torna á levantar; mas los impíos caerán en el mal.”

Salmos 37:24-25: “Cuando cayere, no quedará postrado; porque Jehová sostiene su mano. Mozo fuí, y he envejecido, y no he visto justo desamparado, ni su simiente que mendigue pan.”

Salmos 118:13-14: “Empujástemme con violencia para que cayese: empero ayudóme Jehová. Mi fortaleza y mi canción es JAH, y él me ha sido por salud.”

Salmos 145:10-14: “Aláberte, oh Jehová, todas tus

obras; y tus santos te bendigan. La gloria de tu reino digan, y hablen de tu fortaleza; para notificar á los hijos de los hombres sus valentías, y la gloria de la magnificencia de su reino. Tu reino es reino de todos los siglos, y tu señorío en toda generación y generación. Sostiene Jehová á todos los que caen, y levanta á todos los oprimidos.”

5. Que los santos perseveran solos.

Como el creyente no puede salvarse a sí mismo, así ningún creyente puede guardarse por sí mismo. Nuestra habilidad depende de Dios.

Salmos 37:39-40: “Pero la salvación de los justos es de Jehová, y él es su fortaleza en el tiempo de angustia. Y Jehová los ayudará, y los librará: y libertarálos de los impíos, y los salvará, por cuanto en él esperaron.”

Salmos 40:17: “Aunque afligido yo y necesitado, Jehová pensará de mí: Mi ayuda y mi libertador eres tú; Dios mío, no te tardes.”

Romanos 8:31: “¿Pues qué diremos á esto? Si Dios por nosotros, ¿quién contra nosotros?”

Romanos 8:37: “Antes, en todas estas cosas hacemos más que vencer por medio de aquel que nos amó.”

2 Timoteo 1:12: “Por lo cual asimismo padezco esto: mas no me avergüenzo; porque yo sé á quién he creído, y estoy cierto que es poderoso para guardar mi depósito para aquel día.”

Salmos 37:28: “Porque Jehová ama la rectitud, y no desampara sus santos: para siempre serán guardados: mas la simiente de los impíos será extirpada.”

Judas 24: “A aquel, pues, que es poderoso para guardaros sin caída, y presentaros delante de su gloria irreprehensibles, con grande alegría.”

1 Pedro 1:5: “Para nosotros que somos guardados en la virtud de Dios por fe, para alcanzar la salud que está aparejada para ser manifestada en el postrimero tiempo.”— **(Mas el mes próximo)**

Juan 14:1-6

“No se turbe vuestro corazón: creéis en Dios, creed también en mí. En la casa de mi Padre muchas moradas hay: de otra manera os lo hubiera dicho: voy, pues, a preparar lugar para vosotros. Y si me fuere, y os aparejare lugar, vendré otra vez, y os tomaré a mí mismo: para que done yo estoy, vosotros también estéis. Y sabéis a dónde yo voy; y sabéis el camino. Dicele Tomás: Señor, no sabemos a dónde vas: ¿cómo, pues, podemos saber el camino? Jesús le dice: Yo soy el camino, y la verdad, y la vida: nadie viene al Padre, sino por mí.”

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The Danger of Drifting

By H. B. Speights

“Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip (or drift away from them)” (Heb. 2:1)

The chief danger for all of us is drifting. This scripture warns us of that danger. The first word of this verse points backward to a list of characters of great faith and integrity. Though they be dead, yet by example, they tell us that to avoid drifting we must have a close walk with God. The Bible is filled with such admonitions. “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.” Then, to be a little more personal, the Bible rings this call, “Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.”

1. People drift because it is easy. No effort is required to go with the tide, and it is very easy going. But the current never goes upstream. That would be contrary to the laws of nature. Life is a fight, and to go against the current means an upward go. It is at this point the Bible gives warning to all, “Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion.” One does not have to do anything to drift. We all know more than we act upon but so many know and do nothing


about it.

2. People drift when they fail to attend church services. After a few Sundays of negligence and indifference and “Forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” people wake up and find themselves in trouble. What is the reason? No church, no spiritual growth. The Bible tells us that this is one thing we had better not forsake. No effort is required to stay home or not go to church because it is going with the tide. “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” is the Bible’s warning at this point.

3. People will naturally drift and lose their spiritual power when they neglect their prayer life. There is no substitute for prayer in Christian living. The church and the Christian alike will find their strength declining when they cease to pray. Either is powerless without prayer. Yielding to temptation is sin, and Jesus gives us a way out — “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.” “Ye have not because ye ask not” is simple enough to show that when we do not pray we drift.

4. Daily neglect of Bible reading will cause people to drift. One’s life is habituated by the things he practices. To ignore the right practices and habits in the spiritual realm results in declining spiritual strength. “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a

workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” is the Bible’s exhortation, and will keep Christians from drifting. “That I may know” was Paul’s prayer for knowledge, and it kept him up with God’s plan for his life. One day when so many went away from Jesus to talk with him no more, He said to His disciples, “Will ye also go away?”

“Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.” 


God Is Back Of Everything

Dr. Beattle of Aberdeen, in the corner of a little garden wrote with his finger the initials of his son’s name; then he sowed garden cress in the furrows, covered the seed and smoothed the ground.

Ten days later the boy, with astonishment told his father that his name was growing in the garden.

“Yes,” the father said, carelessly, “I see it, but what is there in that worth noticing? Is it not mere chance?”

“No, something must have made me.”

Then the father told him anew of the great God of the universe. 


It will cost you your sins if you come to Jesus, but it will cost you your soul if you do not!

The Third Verse of Any Song

I am the third verse. I have two older brothers and one younger brother. We all go to church. My brothers are recognized, respected and so well thought of that they are often asked to take part in the service. I am neglected, ignored and from all appearances considered good for nothing.

One time, long ago, a minister spoke kindly of me. In fact, he said I was the most attractive one of my family. He said I was beautiful, and good, and the congregation agreed. That was the best day of my life. My heart went out to that man.

I like to go to a certain church whose people seem to think well of the whole family. They treat us all alike, and sometimes if there is a cousin or two that goes along they receive equal attention also. I like those people for that. There is something harmonious about including all the members of the family.

I have felt so bad at times that I did not think that life was worth while, but I have hopes that in the next world, when the leader of the celestial chorus raises his star-studded baton, in the paean of praise which shall ascend to the throne of God, the poor third verse will not be omitted. 

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bearable stench in the house. Griffin has another, more permanent solution in mind for dealing with the bat problem in his house. He has made plans to move. — CNS

* * *

Fonda Honored By Planned Parenthood. —

In recent years, much was made of the conversion of activist actress Jane Fonda. But her sincerity was jeopardized with many pro-lifers by her gift of \$4 million to help elect pro-abortion candidates in the last national election. Now she has been honored by Planned Parenthood with the Margaret Sanger Award. Pro-lifers had welcomed the news of her “conversion” and hoped that Fonda was changing her ways. But last month’s award — the highest Planned Parenthood gives — leaves to question the validity of her conversion. Sad to say, but Hanoi Jane’s actions, promoting the killing the unborn, indicates she is still fighting on the wrong side. — CC

* * *

Legal Watchdog Sues Postal Service Over Islamic Regulation. —

The U.S. Postal Service overstepped its bounds when it told a North Carolina customer he

couldn’t mail Christian literature to his son, who is serving as an Army National Guardsman in the Persian Gulf, a legal watchdog group said. Postal regulations that prohibit the mailing of “religious materials contrary to the Islamic faith” to Persian Gulf countries are unconstitutional, said John Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute, a public interest law firm based in Charlottesville, Va. “What you have here is a soldier who is fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom for the very freedoms that we have in this country, and he is being denied those freedoms, and I don’t think that we should allow that,” Whitehead said. Whitehead filed a complaint with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia alleging that the Postal Service violated the free speech and religious rights of National Guardsman Daniel Moody and those of his father, Jack Moody of Lenoir, NC., when postal officials told the father he couldn’t send Christian comic books and a book of Bible verses to his son in Kuwait. — CNS

* * *

Children’s Nursery Rhyme Triggers Racial Discrimination Lawsuit. —

A Southwest Airlines flight attendant’s use of a popular children’s rhyme — “Eenie, meenie, minie, moe” — has resulted in a

federal racial discrimination lawsuit against the airline filed by two African American women asking for unspecified financial damages. One of the two women suing over the allegedly offensive nursery rhyme claims hearing the rhyme caused her to be bedridden for three days and suffer from “unexplained memory gaps,” according to court documents. Southwest Airline passengers Louise Sawyer and Grace Fuller allege they suffered racial discrimination on the flight in February 2001 when flight attendant Jennifer Cundiff said over the plane’s intercom, “Eenie, meenie, minie, moe, pick a seat, we gotta go.” The two women say they were the only passengers standing in the aisle at the time. — CNS

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UN Is Dangerous. —

The goal of the United Nations from its inception was to be a vehicle for establishing a world government. It has been an enemy of freedom and of our nation’s sovereignty. “While the U.S. fights terrorists, the UN. harbors them.” Yet, the General Board of the apostate American Baptist Churches USA has urged prayer for the pro-terrorist, anti-American UN that it might “continue to be a voice, a forum and instrument of peace” (3/31 *C.News*). The SBC is yoked with the

ABC in the Baptist World Alliance. — CC

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Action To the Bible Denied. —

As Christians around the world prepare to mark their most important holiday, hundreds of thousands of believers in southeast Asia face the prospect of celebrating Easter without free access to the Bible. In a decision indigenous Christians in eastern Malaysia have found incomprehensible, their government in Kuala Lumpur — which considers itself one of Asia’s more successful democracies — has banned the Bible in their native tongue. The Iban, the largest of 27 indigenous ethnic groups in Sarawak province on Borneo island, have since 1988 had access to the entire Bible in their own language, published by the Bible Society of Malaysia. But now the mainly Muslim government’s Home Ministry has named the Iban-language Bible as one of 35 publications it is banning because they are considered “detrimental to public peace.” Among the other books listed are Christian books in Bahasa Malaysia and Bahasa Indonesia, the national languages of those two countries. They include translations of books in English by well-known Western evangelical authors J.I. Packer and John

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Stott. Others are books on Islamic subjects. The books were listed in a ministry statement that cited various publication laws and said the “printing, import, production, reproduction, sale, circulation, distribution and possession of books listed under the schedule are banned in the country.” Anyone found guilty of breaching the ban faces up to three years in jail, fines of up to \$5,200 or both. About 9 percent of Malaysia’s 23 million people are Christians, and most live in the east of the country. Iban is spoken by more than 400,000 people, members of a Borneo tribe

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Judge Returns ‘Harry Potter’ Books to Ark. School Library Shelves.

— A federal judge has ordered a school district in Arkansas to put the *Harry Potter* books back on its library shelves, a decision hailed by free speech and religious liberty groups. The ruling by U.S. District Judge Jimm Larry Hendren overturned an action of the Cedarville, Ark., school board, which voted that students needed a parent’s permission to check out the popular novels after the mother of a pupil complained the series was a “starting place to learn witchcraft, sorcery and other satanic ideas.” “The

court has rescued Harry Potter from the clutches of religious hysteria,” said Rev. Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. “Instead of waving a magic wand, the judge waved the Constitution,” Lynn noted. “In America, that’s more than enough.” Other groups involved in the case included the Center for First Amendment Rights, the Freedom to Read Foundation and the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression.

* * *

New Rights In California. — Cross-dressing and transsexual job applicants in California are one step closer to gaining new rights after the state Assembly approved a plan Monday that would fine businesses \$150,000 for refusing to hire them.

* * *

Federal Guidelines On Religion In Schools.

— The U.S. Department of Education issued a 4-page “Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Schools” Feb. 7 which included: Schools may neither encourage nor discourage religious activity, and must avoid both promotion and hostility. The heart of the law is official neutrality. Private speech endorsing religion is

protected; only *government* speech endorsing religion is forbidden. Students may read their Bibles or other scriptures, say grace before meals, and pray or study religious materials during noninstructional time to the same extent that they may engage in nonreligious activities. Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, and “see you at the pole” gatherings before school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other non-curricular student activities groups. Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written or oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content. — CC

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Hinduism’s Millions Of Gods.

— Hinduism is the world’s third largest religion and the dominant one in India and Nepal. It has 900 million adherents and about 1 million now live in the U.S. Hinduism seems polytheistic because Hindus worship many gods and goddesses. But Hindu gurus say that when they are worshiping those small gods — at least 33 million in all — they are actually bowing to Brahman, the supreme god, the impersonal ultimate reality, the world soul. They say the many gods merely represent various incarnations and manifestations of the supreme god. Hindus

believe that the soul never dies and reincarnation enables one to complete a journey to nirvana, a oneness with God. Hindu gurus describe their religion as monistic, which means there is no essential difference between God, man, and animals. They say everything is part of God and that the universe is one unitary, organic whole (3/8/03 *World*). Those in darkness need the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ (2 Cor. 4:4).

* * *

Iraqi Christians Apprehensive About the Future.

— Iraqi Christians are apprehensive about their future and waiting to see if a new government in their country will lean more towards a Western-style democracy or a Shiite regime with strict Islamic law, a Christian charity involved with churches in Iraq said. There are some 700,000 Assyrian Christians in Iraq — about three percent of the 23 million Iraqi population. One of the oldest Christian communities in the world, the earliest churches were established there during the first century. The area of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is referred to prominently in the Bible, and it appears to have been the location of the Garden of Eden, the Tower of Babel, Ur of the

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Chaldeans, where Abraham was born, Nineveh, the city to which Jonah was sent, and Babylon, the city to which Daniel and the Jewish nation was exiled. ... One Shiite leader earlier even threatened to drive the Christians out of Iraq and into the sea, and informational document produced by the Barnabus Fund said. ... Oodly enough, Christians living under the secular regime of Saddam had a better life or at least lives comparable to Christians living under other Arab or Islamic dictatorships in the Middle East. The turn toward Islam put more pressure on the Christian community, prompting a major exodus of Christians from the country. Some one-third to one-half of the community has emigrated over the last decade due to regime pressures. — CNS

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Christian Views Are Not Welcome. — Should evangelical Christians — whose Bible-based views often counter the so-called mainstream social, political and religious attitudes — be restrained from voicing their beliefs in secular settings? Two recent situations suggest that there is a growing effort to silence Christians who express their perspective on current issues. Secretary of Edu-

cation Rod Paige found this out last week when he suggested that America's public schools could stand to adopt better values systems, even those based on religious teachings. Asked if schools should embrace religious values, Mr. Paige answered, "Absolutely." Asked why there is animosity toward religion and God in schools, Mr. Paige said, "It's a real puzzle to me." Leftist groups erupted in anger over the comments. Barry Lynn, president of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State told the Associated Press, "The answer should be there is no hostility toward God in public schools — there's neutrality. This idea of animosity is right out of the religious right's playbook about how to discredit public education, and he buys into it." Maybe Mr. Lynn should pull his head out of the sand and see the amazing number of legal cases involving discrimination in our schools. Students wishing to start after-school Bible clubs are frequently told they cannot do so, even though the U.S. Supreme Court has said they can. Students face discrimination in scholarship awards because of religious studies. Students are told they cannot hand out Christian candy canes if they bear a religious message or turn in artwork that has a religious connotation. "Neutrality" is

hardly how I'd describe the religious environment in our schools. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network also criticized Mr. Paige.

* * *

UN-believable. — "The (United Nations Commission on Human Rights) is the primary U.N. organ responsible for human rights protection. The current chair is Libya. Yes, Libya. In addition to Libya, three of the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism are current members—Cuba, Sudan and Syria. On April 15, the commission adopted a resolution sanctioning the use of 'all available means including armed struggle'—which includes suicide-bombing—as a legitimate tactic against Israelis. Only five countries, including the U.S., voted against. The U.K. and France abstained, and Russia — Wall Street Journal editorial, 4/28/03

* * *

Supreme Court Won't Touch Ten Commandments Ruling — The United States Supreme Court Monday refused to get involved in a Ten Commandments case. The justices let stand a federal appeals court ruling that barred Kentucky from placing a large granite monument, inscribed with the Ten Commandments, on

the grounds of the state capitol in Frankfort. The federal appeals court said the display violated the First Amendment's "establishment clause." Wire reports said the Kentucky governor signed a bill in 2000, requiring the state to put the Ten Commandments monument on government property outside the Capitol. The American Civil Liberties Union sued the state on the grounds that placing the Ten Commandments monument on state grounds would be an unconstitutional government endorsement of religion. — CNS

* * *

Federal Court Nixes VMI Dinner Prayer. — The long tradition of saying grace before meals at the state-supported Virginia Military Institute is unconstitutional, even though the prayers are voluntary, a federal appeals court panel ruled on Monday. "In establishing its supper prayer, VMI has done precisely what the First Amendment forbids," the three-judge panel said in its ruling, which upheld a lower-court decision. "Put simply, VMI's supper prayer exacts an unconstitutional toll on the consciences of religious objectors," wrote Judge Robert B. King. The federal appeals court panel said the nondenominational

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prayer, said before supper, is not really voluntary, given the strict obedience demanded of VMI cadets. Monday's ruling may not be the final word. Virginia Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore said he will ask the full appeals court to rule in the case. Wire reports quoted Kilgore as calling prayer "part of the fabric of our country." — CNS

* * *

Test Question. Four high school boys, not yet into the spirit of the new school year, skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to their teacher that their car had a flat tire. Much to their relief, she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test this morning, take seats apart from one another and get out your notebooks." When they had settled down, she said, "First question: which tire was flat?"

* * *

Evolutionist Professor's "Religious Bigotry" Attracts Federal Attention. -- Federal officials are investigating a Texas biology professor who refuses to write letters of recommendation for his students if they don't believe in evolution. A legal complaint has been filed against Texas Tech Uni-

versity in Lubbock and professor Michael Dini by the Liberty Legal Institute (LLI), a religious freedom group that calls Dini's policy "open religious bigotry," the Associated Press (AP) reported. "Students are being denied recommendations not because of their competence in understanding evolution, but solely because of their personal religious beliefs." ... University officials said that the school stands by Dini, and his policies do not conflict with those of Texas Tech, the AP reported. — *Religion Today.*

* * *

Missionaries' Perils Grow As Muslim, Hindu Zealots Turn More Violent. — As Christian emissaries have throughout the Muslim world, their presence has increasingly proved to be a lightning rod for anti-American sentiment while provoking the anger of native Christian sects and Islamic clerics. ... The negative reaction is not limited to Muslim countries but has been seen in Hindu-dominated nations such as India. ... "With the rise of religious politics, whether they are Muslim or Hindu, missionaries come into the cross hairs of Muslim and Hindu fundamentalists," said Bernard Haykel, an assistant professor of Middle Eastern studies and history at New York University. "Certainly as the Arab and Muslim

world has become more radicalized Islamically, people have become more aware of missionaries and more irritated by them." ... Missionaries [have] found that proselytizing to Muslims was a dangerous business. Under Muslim law, conversion from Islam is punishable by death. — Columbus (Ohio) *Dispatch.*

* * *

Bill Gothard's Unbiblical Doctrines. — A new book on Bill Gothard, "A Matter of Principles," outlines his strange and unbiblical teachings. These include the necessity of circumcision for Christians, a ritual that engages a daughter to her father until she marries the "chain of command" system which says that no one should ever go against parental counsel, no matter how old the child is nor how wicked his parents. They must be obeyed even if they tell you to do that which is contrary to God's will (See Acts 5:29). Gothard holds the Galatian error saying that grace as unmerited favor is a faulty definition (he says grace is merited by a person's humility). Noah, Moses, and Gideon, etc. "possessed qualities that merited God's favor." The authors also discuss Gothard's cover up of the sex scandal involving his brother Steve who confessed to fornication with several women. -- CC.

We've warned about

Gothard before. Another serious error, he treats everyone who comes to his meetings as saved — Roman Catholics, Liberals, New Evangelicals, Fundamentalists, etc. A Fundamentalist should not be found dead at one of his meetings (though I have met some who defend him). As far as I can see, his definition of grace is in reality salvation by works and makes him an unbeliever. But there are many false professors and there are also many believers who never get beyond babyhood who do not know truth from error. Another sad truth is many professing believers simply are not saved. I am afraid our churches are full of them. God warns of Gothard, etc.: "For they that are such serve not the Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." — Cornerstone Baptist Church, Belmont, MA. Copied from *Christian News.*

Love Answers All

Where there is love
There must be faith,
And where there's faith
There's peace indeed.

Where there is peace
There must be God—
And where there's God
There is no need.

Fundamental Baptist News Service

By David Cloud

Mary Sharing Jesus' Throne and Cross. —

The Mary of Roman Catholicism is not the Mary of the Bible, and for this reason alone Catholicism must be rejected as the horrible apostasy that it is. On my recent trip to Rome, I visited Santa Maria Maggiore (Saint Mary Major). Of all of the countless Catholic churches dedicated to Mary, this is the principal one. A chief feature is the huge mosaic in the apse behind the altar depicting Jesus crowning Mary as Queen of Heaven. Mary is at Christ's right hand, sharing His throne. The church houses an icon of Mary that is titled "*Salus Populi Romani*," thus describing Mary as "the health and salvation of the Roman people." Through a side exit to the right of the altar, you enter a parking lot that features an amazing sight. I missed this on the trip but was told about it later. There is an ornate cross on top of a pole with Jesus on one side and Mary on the other. Mary is crowned and holding baby Jesus. What blasphemy! What damnable error! Woe to those evangelicals who by their example and philosophy are breaking down the walls of separation from this ancient

apostasy. Let's hear an answer about this from the Billy Grahams and Chuck Colsons and Hank Hannegraffs of this age, who tell us that Rome has changed, that she is not a cult, and that "certainly" she is not the harlot of Revelation 17.

* * *

The High Cost of Gambling. —

According to the Bible, there is no such thing as "mother luck," and "easy money" is a fable that only fools pursue. God warns: "Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven" (Prov. 23:5). The high cost of the gambling folly is evident even to those who do not believe the Bible. A recent study by the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, one of the world's gambling meccas, looked at members of Gamblers Anonymous. They had lost an average of \$112,400 on gambling during their lifetimes; 45% had been forced to declare bankruptcy; 57% had written bad checks to cover their losses or to feed their gambling frenzy; 65% of those who were divorced said the cause of the

divorce was gambling. That is only a part of the high cost of gambling.

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Presbyterian Church USA Plays Politics With Biblical Morality —

The liberal Presbyterian Church USA is trying to have it both ways with the problem of homosexual marriages. On the one hand, the denomination's court ruled in 2000 that its ministers are allowed to "bless" same-sex unions, but on the other hand, they cannot marry them. Neither position is scriptural, of course, but it has been a long time since this organization gave more than lip service to the Bible. Some of their pastors are ignoring even these loose guidelines. One is Pastor Stephen Van Kuiken of Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has been "marrying" homosexuals, and on April 21 a regional church court found him guilty of disobeying the denomination's laws. The punishment was a mere public rebuke. His church remains in the denomination; he remains in the ministry; and he vows to continue his crusade. The PC-USA is playing politics with the truth, but the Bible warns that there is a day of accounting coming for those who play at church.

* * *

Rawlings Forecasts Merger of Four Baptist Groups. —

The following

is from the Calvary Contender, April 2003: "The Rawlings Foundation sponsors an annual meeting of Baptist Bible Fellowship state chairmen just before the Mid-Winter BBFI meeting each Feb., mainly to hear Dr. John Rawlings' [Dr. Falwell's mentor] vision for today's leaders. This year he challenged state and national leaders to reverse the trend of splitting, and 'dared to forecast a coming together' of many independent Baptist groups. He invited such leaders to the 3-day pre-meeting as: Bill Monroe, David Bouler, Tom Messer, Dino Pedrone, Gary Coleman, Willie Weaver, and David Bryant. Based on their responses, a meeting was proposed for Sept., 2004, to be hosted by Highland Park Baptist Church (TTU-Chattanooga) with an invitation to pastors in the Southwide Baptist Fellowship, World Baptist Fellowship, Independent Baptist Fellowship Int'l [not IBFNA], and BBFI to participate. These four groups include the majority of independent Baptist churches in America." Concluding Note from Brother Cloud: This is a very sad turn of events, though it is not surprising, considering the fact that Rawlings has upheld Jerry Falwell's compromising hands for a long time.

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Instead of crying out against the deep worldliness and spiritual disobedience that is spreading through groups such as the BBFI and Southwide, Rawlings is calling for men to ignore the compromise and to unite with one another in spite of it. The hour calls for truly spiritual leaders who will call God's people to holiness and truth.

* * *

Lutherans Call For More Unity With Rome.

— The head of the Lutheran World Federation met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican this month and appealed for closer unity. Christian Krause told the pope, "Our congregations are waiting for this visible sign and living experience of unity in Christ" (ENI, March 14). Krause said that since the 1999 joint declaration on the doctrine of justification, "Catholics and Lutherans in many places around the world saw each other in a very new way, as sisters and brothers in faith." He pleaded, "When we clasp one another's hands we must not let go of them again." Recently I visited the St. Jakob Lutheran Church in Rothenburg, Germany. Inside the church is a Mary altar featuring a large wooden panel with a carving that depicts God

the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit crowning Mary as Queen of heaven.

* * *

Bible Translation Banned In Malaysia.

— Malaysia, which is largely Islamic, has issued a ban on 35 books considered "detrimental to public peace." There are 12 Christian books on the censure list, and one of those is the Iban translation of the Bible. Others are translations of books in Bahasa Malaysia (the national language) by well-known Protestant authors. It appears that the authorities are concerned that the use of the word "Allah" in these books could offend Muslims, who believe that they have the exclusive right to that word for God. The word "God" in the Iban Bible is translated "Allah Taala." The Iban people were once known as the wild headhunters of Borneo Island. The translation of the Bible into their language was completed in 1988 by the Bible Society of Malaysia. It is doubtless a dynamic equivalency version, but it is the best that these people have, and it is wrong for the Malaysian government to ban it.

* * *

Definition of Ecclesiastical Separation.

The following is from the *Calvary Contender*, Oct. 15, 1988: "Broadly speaking, ecclesiastical separation is the refusal to join or collaborate with, or the withdrawal of fellowship from, an ecclesiastical organization or religious leader that deviates from the standard of Scripture, or that does not believe and obey the Word of God in doctrine or practice. Negatively, it is the refusal to join hands or make common cause with those who deny or disobey the Scriptures. It is an unwillingness to become associated or involved in any kind of ecclesiastical relationship that breaks down the divinely ordained distinction between God and Satan, truth and error, light and darkness, good and evil, or obedience and disobedience to the Word of God. In short, it is organizationally to 'abhor what is evil' (Rom. 12:9). Positively, it is separation until holiness, righteousness, godliness, purity, truth, and Christlikeness in all its forms. It also means an identification with those who believe and obey the Word of God. It is organizationally to 'cleave to what is good' (Rom 12:9)."

* * *

God's Law Hasn't Changed, But America Has. — The city council of Rolling Hills, California, repealed a ban on adultery

and other immoral conduct that has been on its books since the town was established in 1957. The repeal will go into effect on May 30. After joking that the action was a "pro-adultery thing," Councilman James Black commented, "Good for us!" Most towns and cities in America had such laws in the past. For example, nearby Torrance has a law dating to 1924 that bans unmarried men and women from living together or occupying the same hotel room. These righteous laws are either dropped or simply ignored today because America is turning its back on the God of the Bible. God's law hasn't changed, but America has.

* * *

Episcopalian Bishop Says Jesus Was A sinner. — Episcopalian Bishop Charles Bennison of Pennsylvania says that Jesus was a sinner. In an article titled "The Challenge of Easter," the blaspheming apostate bishop stated that Jesus "acknowledged his own sin [and] knows himself to be forgiven." Bennison also says that the church wrote the Bible and thus can rewrite it. The Episcopal Church of America is a good place for Bennison. Retired Episcopal bishop John Spong of nearby New Jersey claims that Jesus (See **FBNS** on page 18)

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was not born of a virgin and denies practically every doctrine of the Bible.

* * *

Charismatic Healer's Daughter Dies. —

Pentecostal evangelist Rodney Howard-Browne, who teaches that God promises physical healing, was puzzled when his daughter died on Christmas morning, but he does not intend to change his false doctrine. His 18-year-old daughter had cystic fibrosis since infancy and the doctors had told the Howard-Brownes that she would probably not live a long life. Howard-Browne said that until the very end they believed God for healing and that “the more she suffered, the more we attacked the enemy” (Charisma News, March 5, 2001). After his daughter's death, Howard-Browne said, “My daughter dying is the worse career move the devil could have made. We're going after 100 million souls and he will pay.” Note that he assumes that the sickness was of the devil. Please understand that we are not making light of the great loss that this family has faced in the death of their beloved daughter. What we are pointing out is the gross error of the doctrine that healing is promised in the atonement. Howard-

Browne plainly teaches that the believer has been redeemed from sickness: “When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He redeemed us from the curse of the law — poverty, sickness and spiritual death. For spiritual death, Jesus gave us eternal life, for sickness, divine healing and health, and for poverty, wealth” (Howard-Browne, *The Touch of God A Practical Workbook*, Volume 2, p. 55). He further teaches the word-faith doctrine. “Whenever the Word of God is spoken in faith from the lips of a believer, then God's healing power is activated” (*The Touch of God*, p. 37). that is what he teaches others, but when it comes to his own life, he demonstrates that such doctrine is false. God often heals in answer to prayer, but He does not always heal and some sickness if for His glory and sovereign purpose (2 Cor. 12:7-10). God is in control of the believer's life, not the devil. (Howard-Browne calls himself the “Holy Ghost bartender” to explain the strange “spiritual drunkenness” that has often attend his meetings.).

* * *

United Methodist Bishop Says Christians and Muslims Serve Same God. — United Methodist bishop Joe Sprague of Chicago said recently that the god of Islam is the God of the Bible. he said, “I

believe they're worshipping the same god, albeit from a very different vantage point — and I would say the same for the Jewish community.” Sprague also denies the virgin birth and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Charges of heresy were brought against Sprague but a committee of bishops dropped the charges. It appears that they no longer believe in heresy, because if Joe Sprague is not a heretic, there is no such thing..

* * *

Feminist Appointed As New Head of the Y.W.C.A. —

Feminist extraordinaire Patricia Ireland, former president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), has been appointed as the new chief executive of the 145-year-old Y.W.C.A. (Young Women's Christian Association). This illustrates how completely apostate the YWCA and its counterpart the YMCA have become. In the 1990s the pro-abortion, pro-lesbian Ireland lived with another woman in Washington, D.C.

* * *

The Motivation For Christian Rock. — I am convinced that the chief motivation for the merger of Jesus and rock music is, simply put, the love of rock and roll. In an article

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materials from mother, and in a very real sense is dependent on the parent for everything.

No doubt, our Lord experienced the same dependency, humanly speaking, during the nine months of development inside the body of His mother.

I am able, obviously, to give you only an outline of these miraculous changes, but it is not necessary that you should be troubled with the small details. I am trying to show you a few of the steps through which we all pass before we are born.

The digestive system takes on a degree of activity in this third month. The cells lining the stomach begin to secrete mucus — a lubricating substance which assists in the passage of food through the digestive organs and probably protects the stomach lining from the action of hydrochloric acid formed by the glands in the wall of the stomach. The liver begins to secrete bile and empties it into the intestine. The kidneys start to function, secreting urine which gradually seeps out of the fetal bladder into the amniotic fluid surrounding the child. Most of the waste products of the babe's metabolism, however, are still passed through the placenta into the blood of

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BODY . . .

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the mother.

Bones and muscles are steadily growing, giving form, contour, and strength. The face begins to look not quite so wrinkled and wizened although it cannot yet be called beautiful, by any stretch of the imagination. The jaw and cheek bones are developing, and the nasal bones are forming a distinct bridge to the nose. Centers of bone formation are

appearing in the cartilages of hands and feet, although wrists and ankles are still cartilage or gristle.

And now the little fellow at the end of this month, having bones, and muscles and joints, begins to try them out, thus producing spontaneous movements of arms, legs, shoulders, and even fingers. The third and fourth months are the periods of the greatest growth, for he grows from six to eight inches during these eight weeks, and is about one-

half the length he will be at birth. He is still a gnome-like creature, head much too large apparently, body too broad and legs much too short. At two months the head forms almost one-half of the body; from the third to the fifth months it is one third, at birth one fourth, and in the adult about one tenth the height of the body.

But in this fourth month, the head is much more erect, as if showing pride in development where before it hung downward, giving anything but a handsome appearance. The back is becoming straighter, the face is well modeled, eyes wide apart, hands and feet quite well formed. The fingers and toes are a bit too wide yet and are rather tightly flexed. The fingerprints are beginning to appear and also the toeprints.

The skin of the body is generally dark red in color and quite wrinkled; it is red because the skin is still very thin and the blood vessels are very near the surface. There is very little fat in the body of a fetus before the sixth month, and it is fat which removes the wrinkles. We all know what loss of fat will do in a previously well nourished adult. The individual will look very old if many pounds have been lost.

This fourth month is an eventful one for mother. The developing individual is tired of keeping quiet and now begins to assert himself. In fact he knocks

at the door to be let out — at least, that is what it seems like. He stirs, stretches, thrusts out very vigorously arms and legs, and the first energetic movements are perceived by his mother. There can be no doubt there is a living form inside and it gives a real thrill to the expectant parents.

In my next chapter I may be able to complete this description of the infant's intra-uterine life and growth — certainly a fascinating phenomenon which has no explanation apart from an omniscient Creator. Let us hear again the words of the 139th Psalm: "For thou didst form my inward parts: thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb ... I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... Thine eyes did see mine unformed substance." It's all very remarkable, isn't it? A God who can do all this is surely able to carry out His will in everything. Do you know, I feel that it's worth while to give Him right of way in the life, and I'm not surprised when David goes on to say: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

It requires courage to come into the presence of God and pray like that; to ask Him to search the heart and to examine every

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The Fountain

There is a fountain on the other side,
That flows so free from the throne of God.
Those who partake of the Fountain here,
Have nothing to lose, nothing to fear.
Christ has said in His Word—
Whosoever will let him come.
I will not cast out but will keep,
Those that anchor on this street.
Empty self and let Him take your place,
For there is a day coming when it won't be grace.
It will be an awful fate.
To see those that never partake at the gate.
There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth,
Men fighting each other for failure to see
That the Door of mercy which was so free
Has been shut and will not hear their plea.
If you have anchored by this stream,
All is pleasant and sweet as a dream.
God is your Father and Christ your brother,
All there is to do is praise each other.
Arise and awake, to our sword let's go.
Tell others of their plight before it's too late.
Then we shall hear on that great day
"Come in thou faithful and always stay."

BODY . . .

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thought, and find out if there is any sinful or wicked way inside anywhere. Dare you do that? Dare I? I could not if it were not for one thing. Whatever my sin may be, I know the Bible says, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from *all* sin" (1 Jn. 1:7). I surely do believe that, and so when I go to God — and I go frequently, — I always tell Him that I'm His child through faith in Jesus Christ, and I know, whatever my sin may be, it has been covered and blotted out by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. You say you cannot understand how that could be? Well, I do not really *understand* it, but I believe it, and that is all that's required. Will you try it?

When I think of how the Lord humbled Himself to become one of us it is the most wonderful revelation ever given to mankind; He grew just as we did — He spent those nine months coming to the perfect development of a little baby boy. He was quite dependent on His mother's care. He got hungry and she satisfied His hunger. As Paul puts it in Philippians 2:7: "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men ... He became obedient unto death, even the death of the

cross."

What are you going to do about it? You *must* do something — and there is just one of two roads to take — either the one which leads to Christ and heaven, or the other which leads to death and the judgment.

Will you not get acquainted with this Savior? HE'S WONDERFUL!

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published on the Weekly Wire on March 30, 1998, Michael Henningsen discussed the newfound popularity and commercial prosperity of Christian rock. In 1987 Henningsen attended an Alice Cooper concert as well as a Stryper (an early Christian rock band) concert in one seven-day period. Henningsen, who is not a Bible-believing Christian, observed that although the bands and message were different, the crowd was the same at both concerts. He then makes this telling comment: "Saints and sinners each of us in our own way, but with one common bond that brought us together for outwardly dissimilar events: the rock moved our spirits." Yes, the rock moved their spirits. My friends, if something appeals greatly the unsaved, we can be sure that it is not spiritual! Christian rock is not holy; it is not sacred; and yet Jesus Christ is holy. "For such an high priest became

us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens" (Heb. 7:26).

* * *

Saskatchewan High Court Rules In Favor of Homosexuals and Against Bible.

-- The following is from the Canada Family Action Coalition, Feb. 10, 2003: "In a ruling given virtually no media coverage, the Court of Queen's Bench in Saskatchewan, ruled that a man who placed references to Bible verses on homosexuality into a newspaper ad was guilty of inciting hatred. The December 11, 2002 decision was in response to an appeal of a 2001 Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (HRC) ruling which ordered both the Saskatoon StarPhoenix newspaper and Hugh Owens of Regina to pay \$1,500 to three homosexual activists for publishing an ad in the Saskatoon newspaper quoting bible verses regarding homosexuality. The purpose of the ad was to indicate that the Bible says no to homosexual behaviour. The advertisement displayed references to four Bible passages: Romans 1, Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, on the left side. An equal sign (=) was situated in the middle, with a symbol

on the right side. The symbol was comprised of two males holding hands with the universal symbol of a red circle with a diagonal bar superimposed over top. Justice J. Barclay rejected the appeal ruling: 'In my view, the Board was correct in concluding that the advertisement can objectively be seen as exposing homosexuals to hatred or ridicule. When the use of the circle and slash is combined with the passages of the Bible, it exposes homosexuals to detestation, vilification and disgrace. In other words, the Biblical passage (sic) which suggest that if a man lies with a man they must be put to death exposes homosexuals to hatred.' Janet Epp Buckingham, Legal Counsel for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada told LifeSite that 'The ruling that a verse from the Bible can be considered to expose homosexuals to hatred shows the danger for Scripture if Bill C-250 passes.' Bill, C-250, proposed by homosexual activist MP Svend Robinson would see 'sexual orientation' added to hate crime law as a prohibited ground of discrimination."

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Restrictions on Pastoral Hospital Visits in the U.S.A. and Australia.

— There is an (See FBNS on page 24)

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dual thing, starting first with the neglect of the business meetings because “it doesn’t matter whether I am there or not. The others are going to run things to please themselves.”

The night services are really the acid test of a church member’s love for the Lord, for many people come to church for the morning services simply because there is nothing else to do except stay home. Of course, there are many professed Christians who will even forsake the House of God Sunday morning in order to sleep in; these are the very most unfaithful kind. But of those who attend the Sunday morning services regularly, many could not be gotten out for evening services for anything. But the same excuses that are thought valid for staying away from church services, will not do when one is invited to a party, or when money is to be made by being in a certain place, etc. But the Lord will one day settle up the accounts. “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits” (Prov. 16:2).

Some church members permanently forsake the church, never more to return; but if we consider the connections between the two verses in Hebrews 10:25-26, we find that this is an indication that the

individual was only a false Christian. The same is true in 1 John 2:19: “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

II STARVING IT

A church lives and grows only by conversions and the additions of those converts to its number, and therefore if it is not nourished by conversions as a result of preaching and praying, it will soon die off from lack of additions. Souls being saved are a blood transfusion to any church. “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47). God does the adding to the church, yet He does it through the prayers and the preaching and the witnessing of His people.

A church may be killed by starving it of spirituality. We must remember that the degenerate Church of Rome was once a New Testament church until it lost its spirituality. Heresy in doctrine is first preceded by heresy in practice; i.e., by a carnal life. How may this be prevented? By its members living a sanctified (dedicated) life from day to day (not week by week, nor month by month). But dedication requires self-

denial, and all too many professed Christians are unwilling to do this.

Then it is possible to starve a church to death by not supporting it with one’s prayers and finances. A church is a business — the grandest, most worthwhile business in the world, and therefore it must have money to operate. Because it is a heavenly business, it needs, in addition to money, the prayers of the Lord’s people. Some professed believers are much more diligent in running down the church, the pastor, and those who are faithfully working in the church, than they are in praying for these and helping them. The same thing is true of Christians as it is of mules: *They can’t pull while they are kicking, and they can’t kick while they are pulling.*

As to the failure of God’s people to support the church financially, Malachi 3:8-10 is still in the Bible, and it calls the withholder of the tithes and offerings just what he is — a thief. Nor will it do to say “But that’s in the Old Testament.” The division of the Bible in the Old and the New Testament is strictly a man-made division; the Scriptures themselves know nothing of this. But in any case, 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 obligates believers to support the church in precisely the same way that the Tabernacle was supported — by tithes and offerings (See especially

Vs. 14).

III BY STRIFE IN IT

Strife has probably killed almost as many churches as any other one thing. When two people are in disagreement, and both are utterly selfish, it will cause a strife which will grow until it consumes the whole church, unless the church takes steps to end the strife. Strife is a mark of spiritual immaturity and carnality: “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. ... For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal; and walk as men” (1 Cor. 3:1, 3)?

Strife generally has its roots in pride, for where there is strife, both parties proudly assume that they are right, and will not admit even the possibility of being wrong. At the same time, neither will try to see the other’s point of view, nor will either admit that the other could be right in the least degree. It is a fortunate church which does not have such an undercurrent of strife.

Strife is also promoted by self-righteousness in that one looks down upon others, while exalting self in his own mind. He takes the attitude of the Pharisee in Luke 18:9ff. Pride stands

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in the way of humility, which is always the first step toward repentance.

One of the most tragic forms of church strife is when a member, or group of members, get their feelings hurt by the preaching (which is very common when the preacher is faithful to preach against sin, and to declare the members' duty). Often the dissident members will mount a campaign to run the preacher off, and the most common excuse used is that he is a "dictator." Now I have no sympathy with a genuine dictator in the pulpit, but ere a man of God is stigmatized as a dictator, men had best consider what the preacher is commissioned and commanded to do: he is to "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (1 Tim. 5:20). "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee" (Tit. 2:15).

On the basis of these, and the many other similar texts, the preacher has a duty to not only declare the truth, but also to rebuke those members who are living wayward lives, and no one has a right to call him a dictator for only doing his duty. This is not to say that

he may use the pulpit to chide members for personal differences of opinion, nor that he should jump upon and spur every one for every little misstep. The wise pastor will quickly learn to use Christian psychology even in the most serious breaches of Christian ethics, and that "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Prov. 15:1). A belligerent or overbearing preacher will produce only heartache for himself and discouragement for the church.

Strife between the members of a church and the pastor often destroys a church for the simple reason that by rebellion against the pastor, the members are rebelling against the Lord, for though the church may vote to call a man as pastor, yet if they are led of the Lord in doing so, the pastor is made the superintendent or overseer (Grk. "bishop") over the flock (Acts 20:28). Not only so, but the preacher, when he stands to declare the gospel, is an ambassador for Christ, beseeching men in the stead of Christ to be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:18-20). And yet more so, when he preaches Christian responsibility to believers, they are obligated to obey and submit themselves, for the pastor is accountable to God for them, and thus it is a solemn thing to disobey when the pastor is only endeavoring to lead one on to serve the Lord better

and more faithfully. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17).

Some churches degrade the pastoral office to that of a mere figurehead, and treat the pastor with less respect than any layman in the church; sometimes they let their independency and autonomy go to their heads, and they think they can run the preacher off any time they don't like what he says. But it is noteworthy that the Scriptures give not a single example of the dismissal of a pastor from a church, nor of a church even challenging the authority of the pastoral office.

It is to be granted that the church has authority over its members, including the pastor, but it is also true that the pastor is a man specially called of God to his office, and he stands in a special relationship to God, and while on rare occasions it may be necessary to dismiss and exclude a preacher because of immorality or heresy, yet a church should be very slow to take any action against one of the Lord's prophets without good reason. "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses" (1 Tim. 5:19). "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no

harm" (Psa. 105:15).

IV BY STUBBORNNESS

In the Scriptures, stubbornness is a sin that is compared to witchcraft and idolatry (1 Sam. 15:22), and yet some people seem to delight in stubbornly resisting all spiritual progress and activity in the church. It is no virtue to be so set in one's ways that one hinders a church from changing for the better. No church was ever so perfect when it started but that it has room to change for the better. Indeed, sanctification is itself a progressive changing for the better of individuals, and if the members daily change for the better, so should the church. The sin of the Sardis Church was that it stubbornly refused to repent of sin (Rev. 3:3), and consequently it slowly died on the vine, all the while refusing to admit its cold and indifferent state. There is such a thing as dead orthodoxy — a doctrinal soundness which is devoid of any real love to Christ.

Some say, "Well, it is my life, and it is my business whether I repent or not," but this is not true, for every person is an example to someone else, and his bad example will lead others astray, perhaps concerning something much worse. Besides, the corruption of a church

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member is a corruption of that much of the church, and “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (1 Cor. 5:6). No one can afford to indulge any sin, because sin in church members is what kills churches.

There are many ways to kill a church, but the important thing to notice is the solemn consequences of tearing down a church of the Living God: “If any man defile (‘destroy’ — the Greek word is the same as that translated ‘destroy’) the temple of God (a church, as the preceding verse shows), him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Cor. 3:17). It matters not what excuses may be given, if an individual or group of individuals so conduct themselves as to cause the death of a church, they had better prepare to shortly face the judgment of God in the loss of their physical lives.

A church is of more importance than the collective rights of all the members, for a church exists, not just for its own present members, but is a witness to many who may never join it, but who may be led to the Lord through its ministry. Not only so, but the rights of future members must also be considered when taking any action that might be detrimental to the

church. Many carnal church members, in their zeal to get their own way, justify their own sins, soothe their own pride and hurt feelings, do not care that they may quench the only faithful lighthouse of the truth in their community. Nor that future generations may not have opportunity to hear the gospel and to be saved because a church was destroyed by the carnality of its members. The attitude of some is “I’m saved, so let the rest of the world go to hell for all I care.” Such an attitude hardly evidences genuine salvation. If it be true that “whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him” (1 Jn. 3:17), how much more so is this true of those who have no concern for the welfare of the souls of others? God pity the man who destroys a church: if he is saved at all, he puts himself under the judgment of physical death for putting his own selfish wants and will above the welfare of a church of the living God.

V**SELFISHNESS**


All of the foregoing points may be summed up in this one, but we venture to make a few more comments which fall specifically under this heading. We live in the most

affluent society that this world has ever known. Add to this the fact that this generation has greater means to get the gospel to every race, nation and tribe of people than any previous generation. Radio, TV and the Press make evangelism possible as never before. But what happens? Instead of using these means for the glory of God, men become so selfishly involved in them that all of these become definite detriments to the truth.

It has been found that people spend hundreds of times more on pets than on all religious enterprises combined, and Newscaster Paul Harvey reports that for every dollar that is spent on churches, \$12,000 is spent on crime. It should be obvious from this that we are working at the wrong end of the problem.

There are many foreign mission fields on which a native missionary can be supported for only \$25 to \$30 per month — no more than what many people spend per month on cigarettes alone, yet how many individual Christians does one hear of doing this? Often when mission needs are presented to the church by the pastor, someone will counter with the proposition that “We ought to use some of our money on home missions.” Certainly home missions are essential, if they are truly mission projects, but unfortunately all too often

the term is used to excuse the spending of the Lord’s money on something that caters only to the fleshly nature of the church members, such as having the tallest steeple in town, or the most modernistic building design, or the largest organ, or the fanciest choir robes, etc. By “home missions” some only mean, “Let’s spend the money locally on something that we can get the benefit of.” For the money that the Lord’s people have spent foolishly and for mere fleshly gratification in the last hundred years, the world could have been reached with the gospel several times.


What has all this to do with killing a church? Just this: giving to missions is the thermometer which shows the spiritual atmosphere of a church. It is generally the gauge of godliness in the church. Call it home missions or whatever one pleases, but the selfish use of the Lord’s money for the gratification of the members of a church will kill that church as quickly as almost any one thing. May God give us more sound and serviceable churches by stirring up church members to be more dedicated and obedient. 

Are you killing your church by your sinfulness, by your selfishness, by your neglect? Then repent before both the church and yourself are destroyed.

FBNS . . .

(Continued from page 20)

an ongoing attack both in America and Australia upon the liberties of pastors to visit needy souls in hospitals. According to a new federal law in Australia “clergy” can only visit patients who have signed a permission form. (That new law also restricts churches from putting the from putting of members on prayer lists without specific permission from each person.) In the United States, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 is bringing its own restrictions. While seeking to protect a patient’s supposed right to privacy, this act requires pastors and pastoral care providers to register with hospitals and to visit only those patients who have stated that particular denominational preference on a “denominational consensus sheet.” Authorized church representatives can only make visits to their own patients. The U.S. government has no business making such regulations interfering with the free exercise of religion. Pastor Gaylord DeMoure of Gooding Road Baptist Church, Girard, Kansas, who sent me this information, explained in his e-mail that he has received periodic letters from the Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center describing the new regulations. While there is no “right to privacy”

mentioned in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, there is most definitely a right to the free exercise of religion and the freedom of speech, both of which are being interfered with by this Act. 

APE . . .

(Continued from page 5)

Why Did Men Start The Evolution Theory?

Back behind it was deep-seated antagonism toward God and His Word. The unregenerate heart hates God and wants nothing to do with him.

Unregenerate men will do anything to try to rule God out. Thinking men must find some sort of explanation for the existence of things. The philosophic explanations of the past are absurdities, and men did not want to accept the Bible explanation, so what sort of an explanation could they devise? Evolution is the answer, “Evolution is man’s best *guess* without God.”

Evolution Is Guesswork — Not Fact, Nor Science

Science is that which is *known*. It is substantiated fact. Evolution is in the nature of hypothesis. It has not been proven. Modern scholars are *bullied* in being evolutionists. To go against the theory is to go against the popular and accepted thing, and many


dare not be so unorthodox as to do this. Nevertheless some of the greatest scientists have denounced evolution. Typical of these (and a number can be named) is Sir W.J. Dawson, the English scientist, who said “It (evolution) is utterly destitute of proof.”

Evolutionists Have Lied In Seeking To Prove

Go into our great museums (like Field Museum, Chicago) and you will see a series of figures molded and carved to show man’s ascent from the brute. School children by the thousands are impressed that evolution is true by viewing this “chain.” But the whole “chain” is a chain of lies. The whole thing has been concocted out of imagination! One of the “links” in the evolutionary chain is the famous “Piltdown Man,” reconstructed from some bones found in a gravel pit at Sussex, England. This link was recently denounced by scientists themselves as a fake and a fraud. We quote

the following from the United Press, November 21, 1953, “Three sleuthing British scientists declared today that the skull of the fabulous ‘Piltdown Man’ accepted for 40 years ... as a relic of man’s earliest history is a phony.” The article goes on to show how some of the bones were colored by chemicals to give the appearance of age. This is but a sample of what men have resorted to in order to try to prove their hypothesis.

The Mule Stands In The Way

The evolutionary theory requires the belief that one species evolves into another higher up. This is contrary to observation and experience. Creatures of one species *do not* cross the boundary line into another. When attempt is made to cross species the result is a *hybrid*. The common *mule* is a sample. A common old stubborn Missouri mule stands between the evolutionist and the proof of his theory. Long live the mule! 

Spurgeon Says

Afflictions cannot sanctify us, except as they are used by Christ, as His mallet and His chisel. Our joys and our efforts cannot make us ready for heaven, apart from the hand of Jesus who fashioneth our hearts aright, and prepareth us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.