

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

VOL. XLI, No. 10

October 2003

WHOLE NO. 468

Present Day Evangelism: Human or Divine?

By Chester E. Tulga

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zech. 4:6).

“In our twentieth century evangelism men are urged to be saved before they know they are lost, to believe without being convicted of their need. The fruit is picked before it is ripe, and of course, the

work is bound to come undone” (Oswald J. Smith).

“People, *it seems*, may now be ‘in Christ’ without being new creatures, and ‘new creatures’ without casting old things away. They may be God’s children without God’s image; and born of the Spirit, without the fruit of the Spirit” (John Fletcher).

The religion of our day

is a curious mixture of the Bible, the ideas and notions of sinful men, the methods of an unregenerate world. Evangelism today partakes of this confusion, with its shallow Biblical message, its dependence upon brilliant human personalities, its slick methods of getting decisions, its avoidance of the offense of the cross. There is something seriously

wrong with the evangelism of today, with its emphasis upon numbers, and the poor quality of its converts. It is too much dependent upon human might rather than divine power, its dependence upon human methods rather upon the methods of the Holy Spirit, its dependence upon human

See **TULGA** on page 22)

The Saved — From Death To Resurrection

By Roy Mason

What happens when a real born-again person dies? Some claim, notably the Seventh Day Adventists, that body, soul, and spirit sleep. They attempt to prove this — and do prove it to all who are unfamiliar with the Scriptures. They quote such passages as “The dead know not anything.” Yes, the Bible says that, but reference is exclusively to

the body. Of course the body knows nothing — but the person has moved out of the body. No one can believe in soul-sleeping who makes a thorough, impartial study of the Scriptures.

But, just what happens when a Christian dies::

1. His Body Goes Back to the Dust (Gen. 3:19). The body is com-

(See **SLEEP** on page 23)

Editor Moves Back To Little Rock October Issue Late

By the Editor

As most of you know, during the late sickness of my wife who had Alzheimer’s Disease, we moved to the Dallas, Texas area in order to be close to our sons who lived there.

It was never my desire to live permanently there, as the Central Baptist Church in Little Rock has been my home church since I was five years old, as we moved to Little Rock

in 1931 when my father became pastor of the church., and then following his retirement because of ill health, the church called me as pastor in 1965, and I remained as pastor until 1990. I then resigned in order to devote the last years of my life in writing and continuing the work of Challenge Press and **The**

(See **EDITOR** on page 2)

Quiz The Pastor — #6

Who Are the 144,000 People In Revelation?

By the late Nick Michalinos

ase tell me who the 144,000 people are that are mentioned in the book of Revelation?

Answer: The 144,000 you are asking about are mentioned twice in the book of Revelation, in chapters 7:3-8 and 14:1. Unless someone has been previously tampered with theologically, he can read these verses and easily come up with the obvious conclusion that these folks are all members of the tribes of Israel. They are Jews belonging to the nation of Israel. They are of the Jewish race. Listed in Revelation 7:4-8 are the 12 tribes of Israel. Dan is not mentioned in Revelation 7 because he was guilty of idolatry, and thus he was omitted and separated from the rest of the tribes, according to God's warning

(Dt. 29:21; see also Lev. 24:11; Judg. 18:1-2, 30-31; 1 Ki. 12:28-30. Levi has taken Dan's place.

In verse 4 we read: "And I heard the number of them that were sealed (God's servants, vs. 31): and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of *all the tribes of the children of Israel.*" And then the count begins in verse 5, "Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand," and then so on down through verse 8 with a complete total list of 12 tribes, each tribe having 12,000 sealed servants which brings to the total of 144,000.

This same group is mentioned in Revelation 14:1-5. There is no reason to believe they are not one


in the same. They are said to be "redeemed" ones, sealed with Christ's and the Father's names written in their foreheads, and "they are virgins," for they have not defiled themselves with "women."

Obviously, they are unmarried men, 12 thousand from each of the 12 tribes. They are *not Gentiles*, but Jews actually belonging to one of the tribes of Israel. They are not "spiritual" Israel, or the church, for they are named by *tribes* which is a frequent designation in the Bible referring to natural Israel after the flesh. They are direct descendants of Jacob, the father of the heads of the 12 tribes.

Remember that Jacob's name was changed to "Israel" (Gen. 32:27), thus the "children of Jacob" are said to be the "children of Israel." This group of 144,000 are converted Israelites chosen and sealed by God to serve Him during this brief and special time of the tribulation period.

Several cults have taken it upon themselves to teach that the 144,000 are not Jews at all, but are an elite, exalted, anointed number within their own cultic denomination. They claim the 144,000 are the only ones said to be "born again." To this kind of teaching, we ask the question: To what "tribe" of Israel do these Gentiles belong? Are they male "virgins?"

I personally have no

problem with the right Biblical interpretation as to who these 144,000 are. They are saved Jews, clear and simple, sealed during the Tribulation time. 

EDITOR . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Baptist Challenge along with overseeing the mission work of the church in Mexico.

I have recently married Jerry Blakely, one of the ladies of the church in Little Rock. Her husband was saved under my ministry, but had died from cancer some 12 years ago. Both Edith and I had known her since 1945, and I had been her pastor for most of those years, so the Lord brought us together again.

I sold my house in Red Oak, Texas (Dallas area) and have now bought a house here in Little Rock. For those of you who may wish to write us, you may write us in care of the Central Baptist Church in Little Rock, 15601 Taylor Loop Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227. The church phone is (501) 868-7703 and my home telephone number is (501) 224-1942.

Due to this move, this October issue of **TBC** is late in getting completed, as my books are as yet unavailable as they are still packed in boxes, along with much of the material that I use for **The Baptist Challenge**. I hope to get back on schedule just as

(See **EDITOR** on page 11)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

M. L. Moser, Editor

Pastor Emeritus
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
15601 Taylor Loop Rd.

Little Rock, Arkansas 72223

Email: mlmoser1@juno.com

Editor's Phone: (501) 224-1942

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

The Ark Sailed First

Two famous ships, Noah's Ark and the Mayflower, carried humanity to new beginnings

From the Magazine Section, Arkansas Democrat, July 28, 1957

By Balys Kennedy

On the high seas last month, a very little vessel, wholly dependent on the vagaries of capricious winds against its sails, slowly made its hopeful way across the Atlantic toward these shores. This little boat was a gift from England to the American people. Its prototype was the Mayflower that reached Plymouth Rock on Dec. 21, 1620, with a group of passengers known later as Pilgrims. They were seeking a new way of life in a new world.

The Mayflower II¹ is as nearly an exact duplicate of the original as possible in size, sails, equipment and general appearance. The little vessel will assuredly be an attraction for years to come for the American people.

The original Mayflower had a passenger list of 101 and a crew of 48. When they reached this new land, they had been aboard ship since leaving England on Sept. 16, but before departing the vessel they signed a pact endorsing the will of the majority in governing their future way of life. They were starting anew, and all things must



be different from what they had left behind.

The Mayflower Compact said, in part: "(We) do by these present solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and of one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and reservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid: and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinance, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience."

Forty-one signatures were placed on this compact, among which were such names as John Carver, William Bradford, Edward

Winslow, William Brewster, Myles Standish and John Alden.

The little vessel that brought those brave travelers to these shores has had a lasting force in the history, literature and lives of many people in this country. Several prominent American families proudly trace their ancestry back to one of those early settlers who sailed across the Atlantic on the Mayflower.

But there was once another ship that made a far greater impact on human history and genealogy than did the Mayflower. This ship was made under the direction of God, who gave the specification for it in its entirety. This ship was of great size, for God told Noah: "And this is the fashion which thou shalt make of it: the length of the ark shall be

300 cubits, and the height of it 30 cubits" (Gen. 6:15).

The cubit was generally taken to be the length of the arm from the elbow to the fingertips, but because of the difference of the length in various persons, the cubit came to be thought of as about 18 inches. However, it could have been longer.

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible says: "But that the ancient cubit was more than 18 inches has been demonstrated by Mr. Greaves, who traveled in Greece, Palestine, and Egypt in order to be able to ascertain the weights, moneys and measures of antiquity. He measured the pyramids of Egypt, and comparing the accounts which Herodotus, Strobe and others give of their size, he found the length of a cubit to be 21 inches and 888 decimal parts of 1,000 or nearly 22 inches. And from this it will appear that the 300 cubits of the ark's length made 547 feet; the 50 for its breadth, 91 feet two inches; and the 30 cubits for its height, 54 feet eight inches."

(See **ARK** on page 24)

Where In the Bible Do You Find Any Reference To Hallowe'en?

By Roy Mason

This is a question that may be very quickly and correctly answered. The answer is — *we do not find it in the Bible*. Yet it is a day that is observed by nearly every church to be found anywhere. And it is a piece of wickedness for any church to observe. Halloween in any way, shape, form or fashion. This statement will be hotly resented, but it is so just the same, and there is no way of denying or getting out of it.

Why Is It Wrong To Observe Halloween?

Because it is an unscriptural observance. “To the Word and the testimony” (See Isa. 8:20). The Bible is supposed to be our guide, and why have something that has no slightest mention in the Scripture? Christianity is cluttered up with all sorts of things that have no Bible warrant.

Because Day Observance — With a multiplicity of “Days” is taught against in the New Testament (See Gal. 4:10). Heathenism and Catholicism both have lots of “days” to observe. True Christianity makes little of

“days.”

Because Hallowe'en Was Established By the Catholic Church as a Church “day.” In Kelly's “Book of Hallowe'en” (from public library), page 29, we read: “A day in May was chosen by Pope Boniface IV in 610 for consecrating the Pantheon, the old Roman temple of the gods, to the Virgin and all the saints and martyrs. ... The day was changed from May to November.” We merely trail along after Catholicism when we have anything to with Hallowe'en.

Because Hallowe'en — adopted by Catholicism — came straight from the blackness of rank, raw, heathenism. Proof: Encyclopedia Britanica says: “Hallowe'en and attendant ceremonies long antedate Christianity. The two chief characteristics of ancient Hallowe'en were lighting of bonfires, and belief that this was the night when witches and ghosts walked abroad.”

“Thus it is clear that the main celebration of Hallowe'en was purely Druidical.”

We may explain that the Druids were ancient pagans inhabiting the

British Isles.

From American Book of Days, pg. 538 (Public Library) we gain the following statement: “Among the Druids, it was the eve of festival of Saman, lord of death, who called together the souls of the wicked that during the year had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals.” ... the early Christian (Catholic) church adopted the day.


“Hallowe'en is a time when it was supposed that witches and ghosts were most likely to wander abroad” ... a single judge in Nancy (France) condemned 800 women as witches. In Tolous 400 were executed at one time. At Theves 7,000 were put to death.”

Thus we see that Hallowe'en was connected with belief in witchcraft, and this belief brought about the wholesale butchery of thousands. Why should we perpetuate a thing that has had such an unsavory history?

Because the things connected with Hallowe'en are Anti-Christian. Such as (1) Fortune Telling, (2) Witches, (3) Ghosts. In Old Testament times fortune telling was punished with

death. True, the Hallowe'en celebration presents all this in jest, but it is wrong to joke about these things of such serious moment.

Because it is attended with vandalism and hoodlumism. Wanton destruction of property occurs at this time. We have known of whole towns turned topsy turvy at this time.

But the worst thing is for churches to fall in line with something that has no shred of Christianity — something entirely from evil paganism — and to feature it. It is an inexcusable compromise. Christianity ought to be clean and free of everything of heathenism. Christians shall have to answer before God for turning their churches into places of spooks and goblins and witches and fortune telling. It is desecration of holy things, and belittles Christianity. Let us stay clear of it. 

Measure of A Man

Not—“How did he die?”
But—“How did he live?”
Not—“What did he gain?”
But—“What did he give?”

Iraq in the Bible

By Sumner Wemp

Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible. But, do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq! However, that is not the name that is used in the Bible.

The names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar and Mesopotamia. The word Mesopotamia means between the two rivers — more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The name Iraq means country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Bible. Here's why:

Eden was in Iraq — Gen. 2:10-14.

Adam & Eve were created in Iraq — Gen. 2:7-8.

Satan made his first recorded appearance in Iraq — Gen. 3:1-6.

Nimrod established Babylon. The tower of Babel was built in Iraq — Gen. 10:8-9; 11:1-4.

The confusion of languages took place in Iraq — Gen. 11:5-11.

Abraham came from a city in Iraq — Gen. 11:31; Acts 7:2-4.

Isaac's bride came from Iraq — Gen. 24:3-4, 10.

Jacob spent twenty years in Iraq — Gen. 27:42-45; 31-38.

The first world empire was in Iraq — Dan. 1:1-2;


2:36-38.

The greatest revival was in a city in Iraq — Jonah 3.

The events of the book of Esther took place in Iraq — Esther.

The book of Nahum was a prophecy against a city in Iraq — Nahum.

The book of Revelation has prophecies against Babylon, which was the old name of the nation of Iraq — Rev. 17, 18.

No other nation except Israel has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq. 

Do You Know What Sacrifice Means?

Two wealthy Christians, a lawyer and a merchant, joined a party that was going around the world. Before they started, their minister earnestly asked them to observe and remember any unusual and interesting things that they might see in the missionary countries through which the party was to travel. The men promised — carelessly, perhaps, to do so.

In Korea, one day they saw in a field by the side of the road a boy pulling a

(See **SACRIF** on page 12)

The Movies

They move our youth away from God,
From Christian paths our fathers trod;
From honor, honesty and right
To deeds that curse, corrupt and blight;
From beautiful, uplifting truth
To falsehood, hurtful to our youth;
From morals fine and grand and clean
To passions low and base and mean.

They move our youth to sin and crime,
From sacred things and things sublime;
They move to nudity in dress
And take much virtue girls possess;
They move from modesty in style,
And lead to evil all the while;
From traits that we delight to trust
To lewdness and destructive lust.

They move our youth to rob and steal,
And lie and cheat and falsely deal;
To think it matters little how
They stoop to wrong, and yield and bow
To get a living out of life;
Or whom they court and choose for wife;
That if they want to separate
They'll find some other for a mate.

The movies move,—hear this, oh, please—
They move the church from off her knees,
And rob her of her grace to win
Lost souls from wreck and ruin and sin;
They move the money from the poor
And send the beggar to your door;
They move and millions flock to see
The wicked scenes that should not be.

They move our youth to pleasures wild,
And start to ruin many a child;
They move from children clothes and bread
And send them hungry off to bed;
They move and sway a mighty throng,
And always lead from right to wrong;
Who named the movies named them well,
For fast they move our youth to hell!



Taking a Public Stand Against God May Be Detrimental To One's Health

By Bob L. Ross

Ever since we opened our book store in the building we built in the summer of 1975, we have had a very large banner containing the Ten Commandments hanging above the main aisle, facing the door, greeting every one who enters or even takes a peek thru the glass doors before opening time or after we have closed. The Commandments are available to be read during all daylight hours.

To me, this display is something akin to the passage in Deuteronomy 11:20: *“And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates.*

“Time and human experience throughout history have demonstrated that taking a stand against God and His Commandments can be detrimental to one's health. Judge Moore of Alabama was

recently ordered to remove his monument of the Ten Commandments, which were written by the finger of God on Mount Sinai. How would you like to be in the shoes of those responsible for this act of publicly taking such a stand against the displaying of God's Word?

Remember the experiences in the lives of others who have publicly sought to humiliate the Almighty and set aside His revealed will? Adam and Eve turned from the commandment of God and brought death to themselves and to their offspring. Lot's wife disregarded the commandment of God and was turned into a pillar of salt.

Pharaoh hardened his heart to the command of God and he was washed into eternity by the waters of the Red Sea. Nebu-

chadnezzar exalted himself above God and soon found himself transformed into a human beast feeding off the grass of the ground.

Haman took a stand against those who stood for the Word of God, and reaped his own destruction in consequence of his scheme.

Judas sold out Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and his life ended in a disgraceful death. Herod accepted acclaim as being a god, and became a gourmet dinner for the worms. Nero, Emperor of Rome reigned 54-68 AD, tried to exterminate the church of God, became an utter maniac, and like Judas committed suicide.

Hitler, who disregarded the commandment of God and tried to exterminate the Jews, made a hole in the ground called a bunker and ended his own life by suicide while Berlin

was being bombed to rubble.

Madalyn Murray O'Hair did not want prayer in school, won her case, and eventually wound up in a grave along with her son and another relative, murdered by her own kind — atheists.

John Lennon said he and the Beatles were more popular than Jesus, and was shot to death by one of his psycho admirers.

Ted Turner has not come to his end as yet, but he has suffered several setbacks since he shot-off his mouth about things Divine.

Cassius Clay, who turned from the true God to Islam and spent a lot of his time and mouth proclaiming he was the “greatest,” as Muhammad Ali he is reduced to somewhat akin to a zombie.

(See **HEALTH** on page 7)

The Ten Commandments

The meaning of the phrase “Ten Commandments” is called by the Hebrews, “Ten Words.” The “Ten Words” is a unique document among all written documents in the world and throughout human history. It is a comprehensive decree that sets forth the perfect guideline by which man can walk upright before God and glorify Him as the only true and living, sovereign God. Since mankind is by nature depraved, the Ten Commandments regulate human behavior so that all peoples could co-habit without chaos. Jesus said that the whole law was wrapped up in two great commandments. “*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the*

first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Mt. 22:37-40).

There are two major divisions in the Ten Commandments: the first four commandments regulate man’s behavior toward God and the last six regulate man’s behavior with his fellow man. The first four instruct man how to love, honor, reverence and worship the one true and living God. The remaining six commandments teach how that we are to love and respect our neighbor as ourselves. There is not one sin that is not covered by the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Words were written by the hand of God Himself “*And he gave unto Moses when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God*” (Ex. 31:18). “*And he [God] declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform [even] ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone*” (Dt. 4:13).

The “Ten Commandments” were a declaration of the Moral Law that God had already put in the hearts of all men. The Amplified Bible reads this way: “*When the Gentiles who have not [the divine]*

law do instinctively what the law requires. They are a law to themselves, since they do not have the Law. They show that the essential requirements of the law are written in their hearts and are in operation there; with which their conscience (sense of right and wrong) also bears witness; and their [moral] decision — their argu-

ments of reason, their condemning or approving thoughts — will accuse or perhaps defend and excuse [them]” (Rom. 2:14-15).

The foundation of the law rests upon the eternal godhead and is a declaration of His nature and character which is holiness, righteousness and justice.

(See **TEN** on page 14)

HEALTH . . .

(Continued from page 6)

A man in California who called himself “Krishna Venta” and tried to pass himself off as Christ was bombed by his own disciples. The story of these and others who have opposed the Word of God all have the same ending. I for one would not want to be in the shoes of those who find some excuse for setting aside the Word of God. □

A Little Walk Around

When you’re criticizing others
And are finding here and there
A fault or two to speak of,
Or a weakness you can tear;

When you’re blaming someone’s meanness
Or accusing one of self—
It’s time that you went out
To take a walk around yourself.

There’s a lot of human failures
In the average of us all.
And lots of grave shortcomings
In the short ones and the tall.

But when we think of evils
Men should lay upon the shelves,
It’s time we all went out
To take a walk around ourselves.

We need so often in this life,
This balancing of scales,
This seeing how much in us wins
And how much in him fails.

Before we judge another,
Just to lay him on the shelf,
It would be a splendid plan
To take a walk around ourself.



Autistic Boy Dies At Healing Service. — An autistic 8-year-old boy died while being restrained during a church prayer service held in an attempt to cure him, and one man connected with the small storefront church was arrested, police and a church official said Sunday. The boy's mother took him to the Faith Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith for the prayer service. Several church members prayed over him for more than an hour until someone noticed he wasn't moving and called 911, Bishop David Hemphill Sr. said. "The boy just had a problem in his mind, and what we were doing was asking God to fix it," Hemphill said. "He chose to fix it by taking him back home to him." — Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 8/25/03

California Protects Cross-dressers. — Already facing a recall election, California Gov. Gray Davis has signed into law a controversial bill protecting "transsexuals" and "cross-dressers" in hiring and employment

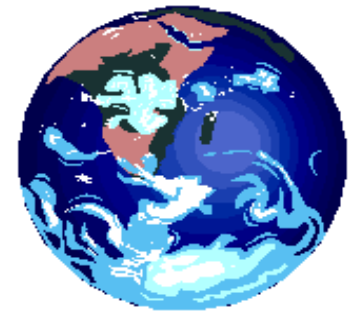
World News Roundup

practices. Because the bill does not include an exemption for religious businesses, those such as Christian bookstores could be faced with a \$150,000 fine if it is proven they discriminated against a transsexual or cross-dressing applicant — for example, a man wearing a dress. Davis signed the bill into law Aug. 2, according to the governor's website. Randy Thomasson, founder and executive director of the Campaign for California Families, said in a release that Davis has awarded cross-dressers "unprecedented power" to "persecute the Boy Scouts and religious businesses," as well as "the power to financially crush a Bible bookstore." By signing the bill Davis has "earned his recall," Thomasson said.

UN-thinkable. — Iraq was to co-chair a UN conference on disarmament? Libya has taken its seat as the new head of the UN Commission on Human Rights? No kidding. These examples in "Hey, UN, Inspect This!" are just a few of the reasons we should get out of the UN, and the UN should get out of the U.S. — *Reader's Digest*, 9/03

Humor and Good

Health. — The September 2003 issue of the *Reader's Digest* has an article entitled "But Seriously, Folks ... Humor Can Keep You Healthy." The article mentions the fact that the Bible makes the statement "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: (Prov. 17:22) and then proceeds to point out that medical science today has proven that the Bible when written was as up-to-date as the 21st century. The article in part says: "The idea that laughter can be therapeutic certainly isn't a novel one. The Bible says "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Examples are then given how humor has helped in the crippling arthritic disease called ankylosing spondylitis. Norman Cousins, afflicted with this disease made use of programs such as "Candid Camera: and episodes of the Marx Brothers, and said: "I made the joyous discovery that ten minutes of genuine belly laughter has an anesthetic effect and would give me at least two hours of pain-free sleep." Gradually, according to the article, the pain went away, he became more mobile, and he did what doctors didn't expect: He got better. The article further states: "Researchers at the University of Texas followed 2,478 people ages 65 and older for six years. They found



that subjects who scored high on a happiness questionnaire had a much lower risk of stroke than their down-in-the-dumps counterparts. The happier folks were, the more protective the effect seemed to be." Japanese researchers found that a little laughter around the dinner table might help people with type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease. At an American Heart Association meeting in November 2000, University of Maryland Medical Center cardiologists presented research suggesting that laughter may be a buffer against heart attacks. The full article is well worth reading.

Can We Blame Abortion and Lawlessness On Evolution? — The root cause of social problems is sin — the rebellion against God's Word. But in people's minds today, what really justifies this rebellion against God's Word? If we're honest, it's evolution.

(See WNR on page 11)

La Voz Del Desierto

10 Errores Fundamentales de los Adventistas Del Séptimo Dia

Por Julio C. Morales H., Cárdenas, Tabasco, México

[Parte Tecero]

En todo esto, como verá el lector, en esta supuesta visión de la Sra. de White. Aquí encontramos una abierta contradicción en contra de las claras enseñanzas del Supremo Legislador y Maestro intérprete de la ley; y cuando un doctor intérprete de la ley le preguntó al Señor Jesús cuál mandamiento era el más grande de la ley. Jesús le respondió y le dijo: “Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, y con toda tu alma, y con toda tu mente. Este es el primero y grande mandamiento. Y el segundo es semejante a éste: Amarás tu prójimo como a ti mismo. De estos dos mandamientos depende toda la ley y los profetas” (Mateo 22:34-40). De modo que a la Sra. Elena G. de White le podemos decir lo que el Señor Jesús dijo a los saduceos: “Erráis mucho, ignorando las Escrituras y el poder de Dios” (Mateo 22:29). En su famosa y monumental obra “El Conflicto de los Siglos” escribe y dice la Sra. de

White:

“El sello de la ley de Dios se encuentra en el cuarto mandamiento de Dios. Esto equivale a decir que el sábado es el sello del Dios vivo” (págs. 503-504).

El Doctor Urías Smith, el más erudito de los escritores de la denominación Adventista del Séptimo Día, en sus famosos Comentarios de las Profecías de Daniel y el Apocalipsis, dice de Apocalipsis 7:1-8, que el sello del Dios vivo es el sábado del cuarto mandamiento del decálogo, y afirma lo mismo que dice la Sra. de White.

En su famosa obra monumental “El Conflicto de los Siglos” páginas 503-504, edición 1939, ella dice que el sábado es el sello del Dios vivo, que marca, señal o sello son términos sinónimos tratando así de buscar apoyo para poder sostener su teoría y la aplicación que ellos hacen de ciertos pasajes del Antiguo Testamento, (Gén. 17:11; Rom. 4:11); pero estos pasajes se refieren a

la circuncisión como señal del pacto entre Dios y los hijos de Israel. Y aquí se toparian con una insuperable contradicción; ¿cuál es el verdadero sello del Dios vivo, la circuncisión o el sábado, séptimo día de la semana? Y al parecer las Escrituras (Gén. 17:11 y Rom. 4:11) son más claras y más contundentes para apoyar la circuncisión como el sello del Dios vivo. Pero yo estoy segurísimo de que la profetiza Sra. Elena G. de White y el Doctor Urías Smith están profundamente equivocados en sus comentarios y en sus aplicaciones acerca del sello del Dios vivo. Y el error consiste, que desde que comenzó el movimiento de Guillermo Miller por el año 1831, basado en un solo pasaje de la Biblia (Daniel 8:14), y después del gran chasco y la gran desilusión todos los fundadores construyeron sus doctrinas en el Antiguo Testamento, y dejando a un lado casi todo el Nuevo Testamento, o más bien interpretando el Nuevo

Testamento a la luz tenue del Antiguo Testamento, al revés, y no en la forma correcta como debe de ser, estudiando el Antiguo Testamento a la luz del Nuevo Testamento, como el Señor Jesucristo lo enseña claramente (Jn. 8:12; 9:5; 12:46).

De manera que si la Sra. Elena G. de White y el Doctor Urías Smith hubieran estudiado cuidadosamente el Nuevo Testamento no habrían caído en estas graves contradicciones y falsas interpretaciones de las Escrituras. Pues es bien claro y a la luz del Nuevo Testamento que “el sello del Dios vivo” para esta dispensación del Evangelio de la gracia de Dios es el Espíritu Santo, el Consolador (2 Cor. 1:20-22; Ef. 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Tim. 2:19). Estas son Escrituras que nos hablan con toda claridad acerca de que el “sello de Dios vivo” es el Espíritu Santo, la tercera Persona de la Deidad.

Todos los verdaderos creyentes que hemos pasado por la experiencia

(Vea **SEPTIMO** en la pág. 10)

EPTIMO . . .

(Viene de la pág. 9)

del nuevo nacimiento, arrepentimiento verdadero y fe viva y personal en el sacrificio propiciatorio de nuestro Redentor y Salvador Jesucristo, somos salvos y estamos sellados con el Espíritu Santo de la promesa, y como herencia ya tenemos las arras del Espíritu hasta el día de la redención (Ef. 1:13-14).

Y para terminar este tratado quiero exponer algunos conceptos y algunas observaciones acerca de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día.

1. En primer lugar, ellos, los Adventistas del Séptimo Día están en una situación muy peligrosa en cuanto a su salvación. ¿Por qué ellos no predicán directamente al plan de la salvación a las gentes que están perdidas en sus delitos y pecados? Lo digo por experiencia porque a mí en lo personal no me predicaron el evangelio que es el poder de Dios para la salvación (Rom. 1:15-17). Pues yo recuerdo todavía que un día de la hermosa primavera del año 1937 una comisión compuesta de tres hermanos Adventistas nos visitaron por primera vez, y el Hno. Prisciliano de la Cruz, que fue él que tomó la Palabra de Dios en sus manos y abrió en Génesis 2:1-3, comenzó en esa Escritura a explicarnos del sábado, y habló largamente en toda esa tarde, pero todo acerca del sábado y no nos

habló nada del Evangelio de la gracia de Dios. Y así viví por muchos años, pero nada sabía del nuevo nacimiento, ni del verdadero arrepentimiento, ni de la verdadera fe en su obra expiatoria de nuestro Redentor y Salvador Cristo Jesús. Y creo que es la experiencia de la mayoría de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día, ellos están todavía bajo la ley, y no bajo la divina gracia del Señor.

2. Los Adventistas del Séptimo Día no confían plenamente en los méritos infinitos del sacrificio expiatorio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, y de aquí, precisamente que ellos tienen que depender de las obras de la ley para alcanzar la justificación, la cual nunca alcanzarán por las obras de la ley (Rom. 9:30-33; Gál. 2:15-21; 3:1-11; 5:1-4).

3. Los Adventistas del Séptimo Día le dan más importancia a la ley moral que a la obra gloriosa y completa del Espíritu Santo (Gál. 5:22-26; Ef. 5:9-10).

Es inútil lo que están tratando de hacer, pues el mismo Señor, supremo Legislador, y maestro Intérprete de la ley, dijo a los fariseos que ninguno de ellos guardaban la ley (Jn. 7:19-24; Hch. 7:51-54). Esteban el santo mártir afirmaba lo mismo. Esta es la pura verdad y la experiencia de cada verdadero creyente (1 Jn. 1:8-10). Por otra parte, los creyentes dependemos de la obra expiatoria de

nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo para nuestra eterna salvación, y dependemos y confiamos definitivamente en el poder de la gracia del Espíritu Santo para nuestro nuevo nacimiento, para nuestro verdadero y profundo arrepentimiento para con Dios nuestro Padre, y para que El ponga esa verdadera fe en un Redentor crucificado. Y como una obra completa y perfecta el Espíritu Santo nos sella y deposita en nosotros las arras de su divina gracia quedando así santificados para siempre hasta el día de nuestra redención (Ef. 1:3-14).

4. Los Adventistas del Séptimo Día están en la misma condición que los maestros judaizantes que estorbaban al apóstol Pablo combatió enérgicamente en casi todas sus cartas:

A. Pablo les dice que si ellos buscaban la justificación por las obras de la ley, de la gracia habían caído (Gál. 5:4).

B. Pablo les dice que si ellos dezechaban la gracia de Dios tratando de alcanzar la justificación por la ley, entonces por demás murió Cristo (Gál. 2:21).

C. Pablo les dice que si ellos querían seguir bajo las obras de la ley, se colocaban bajo la maldición de la ley (Gál. 3:10-11), porque es evidente que el justo por la fe vivirá (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:16-17).

D. Pablo les dice que ellos tienen un velo sobre su corazón (2 Cor. 3:15).


E. Pablo les dice que

su entendimiento se embotó y cuando leen el antiguo pacto les queda el mismo velo, y en verdad, solo Cristo puede quitar el velo (2 Cor. 3:14).

F. Pablo les dice a ellos que el ministerio de la ley había de ser abolido (2 Cor. 3:13).

G. Pablo dice claramente que el ministerio de la ley fue un ministerio de muerte y aquí habla claramente de las tablas de la ley grabadas en piedra (2 Cor. 3:6-7).

H. Pablo dice claramente que el ministerio de la ley grabada en piedra fue un ministerio de condenación (2 Cor. 3:9).

5. En conclusión la salvación es por gracia y solamente por gracia. Ni el primer hombre, nuestro padre Adán, no pudo guardar un solo mandamiento que le dió el Señor. Y Adán no era pecador. Dios nuestro padre lo hizo perfecto y lo puso a prueba con un solo mandamiento, y no lo pudo guardar. Sin embargo, Dios en su divina gracia hizo sacrificio típico y vistió con túnicas de pieles a la primera pareja caída confirmando y enseñando de una vez y para siempre que la salvación es por gracia y solamente por la gracia, y por la divina gracia para siempre jamás (Ef. 2:1-9; Rom. 3:23-26). 

“En el principio era el Verbo, y el Verbo era con Dios, y el Verbo era Dios.” -- Juan 1:1

Building Upon The Foundation

By Jim Almonds, Pastor
Mesa View Baptist Church
Grand Jct., Colorado

There was great excitement when the foundation of the temple was laid. Ezra 11 and 12 tell us that some of those in attendance sang, all the people shouted, the older men wept with a loud voice, while many shouted about for joy. All those present contributed to praising God and giving thanks to Him for the accomplishment of the foundation being laid.


Laying the foundation is very important in any building construction. Without a proper foundation the building will not be stable and will eventually collapse. Even in building lives for Christ the foundation is essential for salvation (1 Cor. 3:10-11). Without Christ as one's foundation, there is no salvation.

Today many are trying in vain to live a life for Christ, but they lack the proper foundation.

The only foundation worth having is Jesus Christ. He is the only way to Heaven (Jn. 14:6); there is no other way (Acts 4:12). Pastors need to preach that Christ was crucified, buried, has risen from the dead and is coming again: for He is the foundation of every Christian.

If you read the remainder of the book of

Ezra, you will see the temple was eventually completed. It suffered work stoppages and rebukes from the enemy, but it was completed by the grace of God.

Each born-again child of God will suffer trials and tribulations once the foundation of Christ is laid. However, each must strive to have a completed Temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19). We need to build properly upon our foundation (1 Cor. 3:12-15) in order to have our building completed. That gives God the glory and honor due Him. So, how is your building program coming along? 

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

Because people have been taught that man evolved from ape-like creatures, and that the Bible's account of origins in Genesis can't be accepted, then they believe they're not responsible to anyone but themselves. This means that ultimately they can do whatever they want. Evolution so permeates our society that more and more people believe that the Bible's not true. Therefore, they don't have to be obedient to God's Word. And the more people believe they're just

animals in the fight for survival, then why shouldn't they justify homosexual behavior or abortion? Evolutionists themselves admit this connection with evolution, abortion, and homosexuality. In the magazine *Scientific American*, an author admitted that social issues like abortion and homosexuality are in 'Darwin's beat.' The more people believe in evolution, and reject the Bible, the more we're going to see an increase in anti-God behavior:

* * *

No Bibles For Students. — The Elsberry (MO) School District decided the Gideons will no longer distribute Bibles so fifth-graders after a parent complained to The St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The Gideons previously made a presentation to students and later passed out Bibles to students who asked for them. The complaining parent, who did not want his name revealed, said he was upset that his child brought a New Testament home, because he felt this violated church-state separation. — (AP)

* * *

No Sex For Unmarrieds. — Indonesia will consider new laws to ban unmarried couples from having sex or living together, officials in Jakarta, Indonesia say. The

proposals, which would also forbid black magic, are expected to please religious leaders in the world's most populous Muslim nation, who have long said the legal system should better reflect Islamic sensibilities. Unwed couples guilty of living together would face a maximum two years in prison, said Abdul, Ghani Abdullah, director general of legislation. Extramarital and nonmarital sex, homosexuality under age 18 and forcing a woman to perform oral sex would also become crimes. Witchcraft remains strong in Indonesia despite Muslim disapproval. Its practice would be regulated, and witch doctors who offer to harm or kill another person would face up to five years in jail, Abdullah said. — (AP)

EDITOR . . .

(Continued from page 2)

soon as possible.

I would appreciate your continued prayers for me and these last few years of my ministry. I will be 78 years old this November 23, and I have just returned from speaking in the Annual Bible Conference at the Empire Baptist Temple in Sioux Falls, South Dakota where Bro. Ron Tottingham is pastor. I have recently spoken at Mesa View Baptist Church in Grand Junction, Colorado where Bro. Jim Almond is pastor, and at Tabernacle Baptist

(See **EDITOR** on page 12)

Editor and Wife




EDITOR . . .

(Continued from page 11)

Church, Lubbock, Texas where Bro. E. L. Bynum is pastor.

My health is still good although I face back surgery on November 6 which will take me out of commission for a few weeks, but other than that my health is excellent. I intend to continue publishing **The Baptist Challenge** and preaching in con-

ferences, seminars, revivals, etc. as long as the Lord enables me to do so. If any of our readers would be interested in having me preach for them, simply write me at the Central Baptist Church here in Little Rock or you may call me on the telephone.

I thank you for your continued prayers and I hope to get back on schedule with publishing **The Baptist Challenge** soon. 

SACRI . . .

(Continued from page 5)

crude plow, while an old man held the handles and directed it. The lawyer was amused, and took a snapshot of the scene.

"That's a curious picture! I suppose they are very poor," he said to the missionary who was interpreter and guide to the party.

"Yes," was the quiet reply. "That is the family of Chi Noui. When the church was being built they were eager to give something to it. But they had no money so they sold their only ox and gave the money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves."

The lawyer and the business man by his side were silent for some

Are You A Human Chameleon?

By William A. Sunday

The chameleon is said to have no color of its own. It takes its color from what it may be standing on. It is black or white, according as it may be standing on black or white. It may be a dull drab or red or brown or green or gray in quick succession. It is sadly true there are people who change their moral or religious state as readily as the chameleon its color.

At church they have as much religion as anybody. But it is different when they get home. They are as ready for any kind of company as an actor is to change his clothes. They find it easy to nod their heads approvingly with the majority, as a hen-pecked husband does. Whether or not they are at a theater on Sunday, or in prayer-meeting, it makes no difference to them.

They can adjust themselves to the amen corner

or a cabaret. They are temperance men when they happen to be with that crowd. But they can buy from the bootlegger if the wind happens to be from that way. Whether or not they say their prayers on going to bed depends on whether or not they room with a praying man, or one who takes his "night-cap." When they are in company that is chaste, they are as clean as an arctic snow-drift, but when they are with the street-corner crowd, they are as filthy as the sewer. Whether or not they are profane depends on whether or not they are found at a dog fight or at a Sunday School. They do not swear at Sunday School, but they will at a dog fight, especially if their dog happens to be at the bottom. But how quickly they can put on their prayer


(See **SUNDAY** on page 13)

moments. Then the business man said, "That must have been a real sacrifice."

"They did not call it that," said the missionary. "They thought it was fortunate that they had an ox to sell."

The lawyer and the business man had not much to say. But when they reached home the lawyer took that picture to his

minister and told him the story.

"I want to double my pledge to the church," he said. "And give me some plow work to do, please. I have never known what sacrifice for the church meant. A converted heathen taught me. I am ashamed to say I have never yet given anything to my church that cost me anything." 

Is It Fair?

There are 56 missionaries per million people in Africa.

30 missionaries per million people in South America.

20 missionaries per million people in Korea.

19 missionaries per million people in Latin America.

14 missionaries per million people in Japan.

9 missionaries per million people in India and Pakistan.

3 missionaries per million people in French Indo China.

Yet there are 1,448 ministers per million people in the United States.

Sometimes I have heard people, both ministers and laymen, say that they are missionary and believe in missions, but that we should begin our mission work at home first and then go out to the foreign field. In fact, I have heard preachers preach that home missions, meaning the United States, should always be first in missions, and then if any money is left over we should do missions in foreign countries. The fallacy in that is that these churches never seem to have anything left over to be used in foreign missions.

The Scriptures that I have heard them use to support such a doctrine are not "United States first," but

"Jerusalem first." They will go to certain Scriptures where it says "beginning at Jerusalem" (Lk. 24:47) or "and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem" (Acts 1:8), and from this go to the statement that we should begin missions here in America first.


I have heard sermons like that and instead of preaching "America first," they have preached "Jerusalem first," and if I believed what they preached, I would make arrangements to go on the first plane back to Jerusalem, because there are fewer believers in Jerusalem today than there were during the lifetime of the Lord Jesus Christ. If the Apostles had followed out the idea of "missions at home first and then foreign missions," none of us would have ever heard the Gospel because Jerusalem is not yet converted, nor is Judea, nor Samaria, and our business would be to preach the Gospel there until we had converted that section of the world and then move on to other areas.

The fallacy of that doctrine is the fact that Jesus says in Acts 1:8, "And ye shall be witnesses unto me *both* in Jerusalem, etc." The word *both* means that home missions and foreign missions are to be carried on at one and the same time. If we are to begin at one place and preach there until everyone there is converted before

we move on, we will forever remain in one place, because none of us ever have 100 percent results. If we are to be obedient to the Lord, we must be foreign missionary minded as well as home missionary minded. In fact, for awhile the church in Jerusalem was not obedient in taking the Gospel into other areas of the world, and the Lord brought persecution down upon the church in Jerusalem to force them to scatter abroad and the result was as Luke records, "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committing them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went *every where* preaching the word" (Acts 8:3-4).

Looking at the statistics noted, one wonders from a human standpoint, if it is fair that some countries should have so much Gospel while other countries scarcely have heard the Gospel. The Bible clearly teaches that everyone who dies without trusting Jesus Christ, as his Lord and Savior spends an eternity in Hell, and it applies to the heathen in Africa, Mexico, China, India, or any other country or area in the world, and it is our responsibility to see that every man has the opportunity to hear the Gospel at least once before he dies. God has ordained that men are to be saved


by the preaching of the Gospel, and the Gospel and its preaching has been given to the churches to carry forth to all the nations of the world. When we limit our preaching to "home missions" instead of expanding it into foreign mission, we are not obedient to the Lord's commission to His churches.

A noted preacher has asked the question, "why should any man hear the Gospel twice until every man has heard the Gospel once?" and that question remains as one to induce us to be missionary. Are all men lost? Do we not have a responsibility of taking the Gospel unto all men? Mark 16:15 clearly states that we are to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." 

SUNDAY . . .

(Continued from page 12)

meeting face when they see the preacher coming.

They can change the subject to anything wanted if given the countersign or the password that proclaims the man a sinner. They say grace at table and have family prayers if their guests are religious, but they are ready to play poker and drink liquor if their guests are of that breed. As soon as they find which is wanted, sheep or goats, they will furnish the meal. Whether they shout "Hosanna" or "Crucify him," all depends on the day of the week, and the crowd they are with! 

TEN . . .

(Continued from page 7)

The law is rooted in and grows out of God's sovereign love and mercy. Because of God's mercy, all people lost and saved exist under the merciful hand of the Almighty. By His mercy we live and move and have our being. By His mercy we enjoy life and health. By His mercy He put within our nature a consciousness of His existence; that we may know that He is the one and only true God. *"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation, that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring"* (Acts 17:26-28).

The fall of Adam brought about the total depravity of the human race. The consciousness of right and wrong restrains men from carrying out every imagination of his sinful heart and allows us to exist together in the world. This means that unsaved people are capable of doing good deeds, though the Holy Spirit does not

dwell in them as He does in the saved. Even people in remote parts of the world who never heard of the "Ten Commandments" are found to have certain moral codes and ethics.

Our society is rapidly becoming more and more secular in its attitude toward God. Paul, in Romans 1, warned that there would be a day when mankind as a whole would seek to remove God from their thoughts. The Ten Commandments is under attack today by liberals who hate God and hate His Word. They wish to remove anything from the public eye which reminds them of their sinfulness and their sinful nature. The platform of liberal politics is to either make laws to justify their sinful behavior or eliminate existing laws which condemn their sinful behavior. If the precious Ten Commandments are taken away from our society, then we have no absolute to regulate morality; therefore, chaos is sure to follow.

The Constitution of the United States was founded upon the Ten Commandments. If the Commandments are taken out of the social/moral equation, our society will collapse and go down like the twin towers of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The ACLU and other like organizations are wicked terrorists who are bent on destroying a system of morality and a peaceable existence for humanity

BIG versus Little Christians


A study of the characteristics of big and little Christians gives interesting contrasts:

1. Big Christians stand for the whole Word — little ones permit adulterations.
2. Big Christians set themselves for the defense of the gospel — little ones belittle those who are zealous for it.
3. Big Christians back their pastor — little ones betray him.
4. Big Christians get into their church's program — little ones stand on the sidelines.
5. Big Christians brave a battle for Christ's sake — little ones flee for self's sake.
6. Big Christians call for the whole gospel — little ones decry its full preaching.
7. Big Christians help if they can, underwrite church finance — little ones dodge the privilege of so doing.

upon this planet. The people in Noah's day ignored the law of God and did that which was right in their own eyes. Universal moral decay resulted, and God destroyed all but eight souls upon the earth.

Process theology says that it is lawful to do whatever seems right for the moment. The Bible gives us good advice, but sin is only what you make of it. Sin, then, becomes relative and virtual.

This also defines amorality. The American Heritage Dictionary defines amorality as "not admitting of moral distinctions or judgments; neither moral nor immoral; Lacking moral sensibility; not caring about right and wrong." Believe it or not, like it or not, we have developed into an amoral society that is on a slippery path down-ward to destruction. *"Be not de-*

ceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). The truth is, there is not one of the Ten Commandments that you or I can break and not sin; therefore, we are obligated to keep them all. *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one [point], he is guilty of all"* (Jas. 2:10). All the world shall stand before the Great White Throne Judgment and be judged according to their works. The Ten Commandments will be the document that will condemn the world to eternal punishment because they have not the righteousness of Christ imputed unto them. Doing away with the Ten Commandments on the wall of a Court House or even the U.S. Supreme Court building will not do away with God's law or His judgment. 

Faithfulness In a Day of Apostasy

By Harry A. Ironside

The circumstances in which the apostle Paul was found as the prisoner of the Lord, when penning his second letter to Timothy, largely gave answer to the place in which faithfulness to the truth is likely to put one in these closing days of the dispensation. Whether believers may be called on to endure actual persecution, even to deprivation of liberty, as Satan's plans are developed, may be an open question. But it is very evident that the gospel of the grace of God and the great truths connected with the mystery of Christ and the church were never in greater disfavor among so-called leaders in Protestantism than at the present time.

Rome's attitude toward the gospel has always been distinctly antagonistic, and persecution would be as severe today, did she have unrestrained power as in the bloody centuries just before and after the Reformation. But it is a new thing to find men of prominence in Protestant churches and great semi-religious organizations lined up under the Protestant banner, boldly denouncing the gospel and holding up to ridicule those who preach it. More than that, so much as in them lies, they have not refrained

from using the most unprincipled means whereby to hinder the usefulness of men who proclaim salvation through the atoning Blood of Christ, and especially those who thus set forth the glorious truth of the Lord's near return.

It is a solemn fact that the Word of God predicts just such an apostate condition as the last state of the professing church on earth. And it behooves all lovers of Christ and His truth to bestir themselves to increased faithfulness and devotion in days such as these. Never was there a time when it was so necessary to *"Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."*

Faithful preaching and faithful living go hand in hand. The time has already come when men, generally, will not endure sound doctrine. In accordance with their own carnal desires they are heaping to themselves teachers whose sentimental platitudes, and whose well-rounded unscriptural methods, tickle their itching ears. Having turned away from the truth, they turn eagerly to all kinds of fables and are ready to believe anything or everything that hides man's true condition and obscures

the cross, with eternal issues that hang upon the acceptance or rejection of the gospel message.


Everyone who desires the Lord's approval at His soon-coming judgment seat may well take to heart the solemn admonition: *"Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."*

One does not need to be what is commonly called an "evangelist" to do the work of one. Every believer who circulates gospel tracts, every one who uses his pen to write to his unsaved friends seeking to impress upon them their need and God's remedy, every personal worker as well as those who take the public platform telling out the "old, old story," is doing the work of an evangelist. Gospel days are nearing their close. The dispensation is fast coming to an awful end for those who are in rebellion against God and His truth. The Lord's return is drawing near. Let us spend and be spent for Him in our brief season for faithful testimony.

The love of many waxes cold. Imitators of Demas, who loved the present world and left Paul, abound. The times demand men like faithful Luke and "profitable" Mark who value what is of God and will stand unflinchingly for His truth whatever the cost.

I would press upon every Christian reader of

these lines the importance of turning absolutely away from fellowship with those who are leading in the apostasy. The call of the Lord is distinct: *"From such turn away."* *"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."* *"We would have healed Babylon, and she is not healed; forsake her."* *"Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach."* *"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."*

Christians will be held responsible for every penny they contribute to organizations that are apostate in character and for every act of fellowship that helps to make it easier for Satan's emissaries to pursue this nefarious work. Faithfulness to Christ demands separation from that which so gravely dishonors His name. 

Modernism has slapped God in the face, pushed Him out beyond the Great Dipper with Science, chased the devil into Africa to scare the heathen with, and is now trying to flag down a hell-bent world with a shirttail Bible.

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

610368, 48106
@

Adulations For the Wrong King. — Another anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley has passed (August 16) and with it the sad sight of 30,000 rock fans flocking to Elvis' grave in Memphis. The anniversary services feature an evening candlelight vigil, just like a religious event, which it is. It is the fervent religion of rock and roll. Even though "the king" died more than a quarter of a century ago, an incredible 600,000 fans annually visit Graceland, his former home. That is an average of more than 1,600 every single day of the year! What misplaced affection. What foolishness. There is only one who is deserving of such adulation, and that One is not in a grave!

* * *

57% Catholics Back Homosexual "Marriage." — A Canadian poll has found that 57% of Roman Catholics and 38% of those who identify themselves as Protestants support homosexual "marriage" (Sermon Audio, Aug. 6). Sadly, the number of born again believers in Canada is very small. The majority does not concern

itself with eternal matters but worships the vain gods of sports, food, comfort, and pleasure. Bible believers do not have to be in the majority, though, to have a vast influence in a nation. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

* * *

United Church of Canada Endorses Homosexual "Marriage." — At its 38th General Council last week, the United Church of Canada called upon the federal government to endorse homosexual "marriage." This is not a surprise, as Canada's largest Protestant denomination has long been on the cutting edge of liberal apostasy. The United Church of Canada was the first to ordain open homosexuals beginning in

1988, and in 1992 it approved a ritual for blessing homosexual unions. As far back as 1964, the United Church published a Sunday School curriculum questioning, among other things, the virgin birth and resurrection of Christ and claiming that the first 11 chapters of Genesis are myth, Noah didn't build the ark, and David didn't kill the giant Goliath. Bill Phipps, who was elected moderator of the United Church in 1997, said that Jesus Christ is not God and is not to be worshipped.

* * *

Astrology Proven Wrong. — The following is from the London Telegraph, Aug. 17: "Astrology's central claim — that our human characteristics are moulded by the influence of the sun, moon and planets at the time of our birth — appears to have been debunked once and for all and beyond doubt by the most thorough scientific study ever made into it. For several decades, researchers tracked more than 2,000 people — most of them born within minutes of each other. According to astrology, the subject should have had very similar traits. The scientists failed to find any evidence of similarities between the 'time twins', however. They reported in the current issue of the Journal of Consciousness Studies: 'The test conditions could hardly have been

more conducive to success . . . but the results are uniformly negative.' Analysis of the research was carried out by Geoffrey Dean, a scientist and former astrologer based in Perth, Australia, and Ivan Kelly, a psychologist at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. Despite the skepticism of scientists, astrology has grown to be a huge worldwide business, spawning thousands of telephone lines, Internet sites and horoscope columns in newspapers and magazines."

* * *

Presbyterian Youth Vote For Homosexual Ordination. — The 500 high school students at the Presbyterian (Church USA) Youth Connection in Louisville earlier this month voted "to affirm the call of homosexuals, bisexuals and transgendered persons to all areas of ministry" (*Religion Today*, Aug. 13). The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's youth organization, meeting in Atlanta in July, also voted to support "the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of non-celibate individuals in committed relationships of all sexual orientations." The Bible solemnly warns that "evil communications corrupts good manners" (1 Cor. 15:33), and this is evident

(See **FBIS** on page 17)

FBIS . . .

(Continued from page 16)

in the corruption that controls the minds and hearts of the youth in these liberal denominations.

* * *

New Book Warns That Homosexual Agenda Is To Silence Churches.

— A new book titled “The Homosexual Agenda: Exposing the Principle Threat to Religious Freedom” warns that the goal of homosexual activists is to silence the churches. The authors are Alan Sears and Craig Osten of the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF). Sears warns: “You could give the homosexual activists whatever they want today — marriage, all the benefits, everything — but they will not be satisfied until the Church is absolutely silenced on this issue. The bottom line is that as long as the Church says that homosexual behavior is sinful, they feel stigmatized.” While we do not agree with Sears’ scriptural misuse of the term “church” here to refer to the indiscriminate mass of congregations and denominations, we have no doubt that this is indeed the homosexual’s agenda. It is something that we should pray much about. At the same time, we are convinced that the root of North America’s moral and spiritual problems is not the

homosexual agenda or the “pro-abortion” movement; it is the deep compromise and apostasy in the churches. Homosexuality, abortion, and such are symptoms of the deeper spiritual problem. Similar conditions existed in Israel of old, and God said the prophets were the root problem — “from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land” (Jer. 23:15). That is why I focus more in my reporting ministry on such things as doctrinal error, worldliness, compromising preachers, and ecumenism within the churches than I do on societal and political ills.

* * *

The UN Is Not Our Friend.


— The following is from Calvary Contender, March 15, 2003: “The United Nations conducted 33 peacekeeping missions in 28 countries from 1996 to 2001, with 15 still underway as of Jan. 2002 (3/11 *USN&WR*). The U.S. pays 27 percent of the rising cost, and provides troops and arms to the UN’s global police force. When UN Sec’y General Kofi Annan recently accepted the Nobel Peace Prize, he avowed more concern for the security of the Islamic jihad states than the United States and warned the Bush administration against planning further attacks on Iraq and other terrorists (12/22/01

World). Fight terrorism we must, but does it make sense for us to use up our armaments in UN ‘peacekeeping’ missions while rogue-nation sponsors of terrorism continue to stockpile theirs to use against us?”

* * *

Beware of the Anti-Fundamentalist Message of CCM.

— One of the messages that permeates Contemporary Christian Music is its dislike of fundamentalism and strong preaching. This is a powerful warning to strong Bible-believing churches. When fundamentalist churches bring CCM into their midst, they are associating with people who are their avowed enemies and who will undermine the fundamentalist position. Consider a few of quotes from our book *Contemporary Christian Music Under the Spotlight* (the source of the quotes can be found in this book): The Chinese CCM group For You advertises their music as “spiritual but

not preachy.” Steven Curtis Chapman says he tries to communicate in a way that will not be “abrasively preachy.” Morgan Cryar says his songs deal with youth issues “without being preachy.” The lyrics to Donna Summer’s music is described as being “un-preachily as possible.” Randy Stonehill says: “I don’t want to preach at people.” Michael W. Smith, one of the most popular Contemporary Christian Musicians, says. “My songs are not preachy — at all . . .” In reviewing Steve Taylor’s music, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer noted “there is little preaching in his songs.” CCM writer/performer Wayne Watson says: “I won’t write a song that says, ‘You better get right with God.’” Music-Line Magazine describes Steve Camp’s music in these terms: “Though potent, the message never overwhelms or becomes preachy.” Many other examples could be given. No wonder these people are popular even in this apostate hour. 

Pass It On!

We would appreciate it if our readers would pass the information on to others that **The Baptist Challenge** is now available on the Internet.

A mention in your church bulletin or paper giving the Internet address would be appreciated and if you can send out Emails, please notify those on your mailing list about **TBC** being available. Thanks.

God's Masterpiece -- Man's Body #8

The House We Live In

By Arthur I. Brown

We are now engaged in what I'm sure is proving to be a subject of extreme interest to everyone in our audience — the Human Body. I am making no effort to give any detailed, over-technical descriptions of either Anatomy or Physiology, nor am I trying to impress you by an unnecessary use of scientific terminology. If these articles are to be of service, they must be simple. I desire that every teen-age child might understand what I am saying.

Our body is likened, often, to a house, a city, a kingdom, a machine. Let us think of it just now in terms of a house — a brick house. In this kind of structure we see the individual bricks and we may have watched the workman lay the separate bricks in their proper place as the building was going up. Our house is built from tiny cells which are the bricks of the human building. We have not been able to watch the unseen hand which placed them carefully in position, but there they are.

These cells which make up the walls are not yet the finished house. Before a house can be a home, there must be doors and windows, walls must be

plastered and papered or kalsomined, floors must be laid, and embellished with rugs or linoleum or carpet. Then, there must be a complicated system of electrical wiring to enable the lighting fixtures to function; a telephone system must be installed, plumbing put in for the heat and water supply, a heating unit is necessary. Other things are needed. The individual rooms must be made fit to live in; some will be combined according to the architect's plan and the wish of the owner. There will be a foyer or lobby, and a corridor leading to living room, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom. If the house happens to be of a certain design, there might be a store attached or included, and an office, with a moving picture theater in one part, a repair shop for odd jobs to be done, and there would be also, to complete the whole, a radio broadcasting and receiving center, with photographer's studio close by.

That would be an elaborate house, we will agree, but your body is infinitely more complex and all inclusive than this. Let me indulge in a little detail, which is necessary for any kind of understanding of

this wonderful organism about which we know so little. These cells, or bricks, as we may think of them, are living, and as they unite one to another, they form the various tissues of the body — four different kinds. These are:

1. Connective Tissue, including different varieties, (a) Areolar, which is the material which covers with a fine film the muscles and is cleaned off in dissecting. It is the most widely distributed and generalized of all the connective tissues. (b) Fibrous Tissue — found in ligaments, tendons and the various fibro-serous membranes of the body. It is very strong and tough, and is un-stretchable. (c) Elastic Tissue, consisting largely of elastic fibers and found in various parts of the body just where this quality of elasticity is needed. (d) Reticular and Lymphoid Tissue, met with in mucous membranes and in glands. (e) Adipose or Fatty Tissue, which is really areolar tissue enclosing fat cells. (f) Cartilage, in which the cells are generally rounded and without branches. It is firm and elastic, and transparent, often combined with elastic fibers. Cartilage may be temporary or permanent, the former term being used when it is subsequently becomes calcareous only through the onset of old age. The permanent cartilages are very important and are found covering the ends of the bones in the

more moveable joints, also at the ends of the ribs, in the windpipe and bronchial tubes, the nose, and various cartilages of the cartilage is used, either white fibro-cartilage, or yellow elastic cartilage, into the differences of which it is not necessary that I go.

(g) Bone is the seventh and last form of connective tissue, and obviously a very important form. The cells of bone are much smaller than those of cartilage and the bone is made up of two parts, one hard and rigid, composed of earthy substances, the other tenacious and elastic, the animal portion. The hard part of bone amounts to two-thirds of its weight, and the animal proportion is the remaining one-third. If a hard bone is steeped long enough in mineral acid, the contained phosphate and carbonate of calcium or lime will be dissolved. This decalcified bone will be of the same shape as the original but is flexible and elastic, so that it can be bent in any direction.

While cartilage is almost wholly devoid of vessels, there are many in bone, and fine branching canals run throughout — called Haversian canals. Wrapped around bone is a wonderful tissue called periosteum, which has two layers. The outside layer carries vessels, and nerves, while the inside layer consists of cells similar to

(See **BODY** on page 19)

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 18)

white blood corpuscles from which the bone is developed. These inner cells are the bone carpenters whose job it is to repair fractures and grow new bone when needed.

The second kind of tissue is that which is composed entirely of cells with but little or no intercellular substance. This is known as Epithelial tissue. The cells forming an epithelium may be only one layer deep or many layers, the latter arrangement found in exposed situations like the skin, where there are from ten to fourteen layers of cells one on top of the other, the superficial always flaking off as they become dead.

The third kind of tissue is muscular, the predominant feature of which is its power to contract. There are three forms — non-striated or plain, found in the abdominal and pelvic organs and some other parts. Its contractions are usually outside the control of the will, hence it is known as Involuntary Muscle. Striated muscle is controlled by the will of the individual and is known as voluntary. Cardiac or heart muscle is the third kind with some special peculiarities with which we are not concerned.

The fourth kind of tissue is the nervous, made up of various kinds of nerve cells, whose function it is to carry

impulses or messages to and from the central headquarters in the brain and spinal cord.

Having now classified tissue, I will give you some additional facts regarding a few of the forms. Think of the elasticity of the connective tissue in the skin, which permits stretching and yet resumes its former smooth appearance under normal conditions.

Each of these connective tissue fibers in the skin is a tiny unit that must breathe, eat, exercise and rest daily in order to maintain its health. Proper care of this tissue pays good dividends to the seeker after beauty. What ought to be done? Here are a few beauty hints, ladies, given without charge! A healthful diet is necessary (this will be considered later): sufficient periods of rest for the body and mind, and daily exercise for the skin by massage. This regular kneading of the skin prevents sluggishness of the blood circulation and keeps it well toned and full of life. Waste products which tend to collect in the glands of the skin are forced out of the ducts leading from these glands, thus enabling the tissue to function more easily. This does not mean that really old tissues can be rejuvenated, but by proper care, you can postpone the inevitable accompaniment of age appearance, which is seen so constantly in loss of elasticity and consequent

unsightly wrinkling.


This connective tissue is found everywhere in the body. It fills the corners and odd spaces, and surrounds the surface of organs, almost like a cellophane jacket. The brain is contained in an ingeniously woven bag called the *dura mater*, two Latin words which mean “hard mother.” Here is a tough protective covering caring for the brain with the solicitude of a mother. The spinal cord also has its tissue cover, like an umbrella wrapped in its case. Each bone, joint, and muscle would be incomplete without this same tissue. In the next article I shall tell you more about these different tissues.

Imagine any human architect sitting down at a desk, and trying to plan a body. The most eminent body of anatomists and physiologists, along with scientists from every other realm uniting their combined mentalities, and laboring for a thousand years could not begin to devise the thousands of contrivances which confront us wherever we touch this human body. We rightly have respect for the great achievements of scientists who have investigated and labored ceaselessly and have uncovered very many remarkable facts; but scientists themselves would be the first to acknowledge that to plan these things is utterly beyond them.

We are not belittling science when we affirm

that science needs a God such as the Bible postulates in order to provide any adequate explanation for what we see everywhere. Leading scientists are profoundly conscious of the impenetrable mystery which encircles them. Some may feel a sense of baffling and irritation, but view it with reverent humility, and that surely is the only attitude to take.

And yet today, in many quarters, Christian preaching has lost its victorious and aggressive note. There seems to be a fear that in some of that opinion, let me say to you that your apprehension is unfounded. Every discovery in every realm of scientific investigation, viewed intelligently, supports the claims of the Bible.

Today as always, we can unite with the great Apostle Paul and shout triumphantly: “I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: for it is the POWER OF GOD unto salvation to everyone that believeth.” I am proud to take my stand beside such a Gospel and such a Christ. Are you afraid to take your stand with Him today? If you are, listen to what God says: “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed, for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will hold thee up with the right hand of my righteousness.” ISN’T HE WONDERFUL? 

Christ and His Missionary Authority

By W. Lee Rector

“He being dead yet speaketh”

The Word of God does not leave us in the dark about the work of Jesus Christ. It is dominantly missionary. We can, in full truth, affirm that the Lord Jesus was, is, and ever shall be a *Baptist* missionary operating among the sons of men.

As a missionary, He stands out unique above all of His fellows. He is His own authority, which authority was bestowed upon Him by His heavenly Father (Mt. 28:18).

To effect His work of soul winning in an alien world, He first established His church to be His mouthpiece and His witness. In Mark 3:13-14, we find Him calling His disciples together and from among them He chooses twelve, ordains them, makes them apostles, sets them first in the church, and then sends them forth to preach. These facts are also supported by Luke 6:12-13 and by 1 Corinthians 12:28. The church is His witness, and its business is to witness unto the ends of the earth throughout the ages (Acts 1:8; Mt. 16:18).

To effectuate His work of soul winning and to hold it true to His own righteous purposes, He delegated limited authority to the church He founded during

the very incipency of His ministry on earth. To it, He says: “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Mt. 16:19).

Thus it is seen that the Lord, the founder and the head of His church, delegated it authority to “bind” and to “loose.” This “binding” work embraces the ordination of preachers, the call of pastors, the election of missionaries, the winning of souls, the voting of the saved into the fellowship of the church, the baptizing of the saved in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, the teaching of the commands of the Lord Jesus, the observance of the Lord’s Supper, the preaching of the Word, and the furtherance of the gospel.

The “loosing” authority embraces church discipline, firing of pastors, and cleaning of God’s house.

The authority to “bind” and to “loose” is executive and judiciary. The Lord did not bestow legislative authority upon His church. Its ministry is limited to the field of “binding” and “loosing.”

While the ministry of the Lord’s churches is limited to “binding,” and to “loosing,” some brethren, while professing to know this, refuse to accept such a limitation. They go forth and set up messenger assemblies (Conventions,

Associations, organized Fellowships, etc.), assuming that the limited authority of the local churches is transferred by the election of messengers to the messenger assembly, and (See **RECTOR** on page 21)

To Give Is To Live

Forever the sun is pouring his gold

On a hundred worlds that beg and borrow;

His warmth he squanders on summits cold.

To withhold his largeness of precious light

Is to bury himself in eternal night.

To give is to live.

The flower blooms not for itself at all,

Its joy is the joy it freely diffuses.

Of beauty and balm it is prodigal,

And it lives by the life it sweetly loses.

No choice for the rose but the glory or doom,

To exhale or smother, or whither or bloom.

He is blind whose hand is not open wide

To help the need of a human brother.

He doubles the life of his lifelong ride,

Who gives his fortunate place to another.

And a thousand million joys are his

Who carries the world in his sympathies.

To deny is to die.

The seas lend silvery rain to the land,

The land its sapphire streams to the ocean.

The heart sends blood to the brain of command,

The brain to the hand its lightning motion,

And ever and ever we yield our breath,

Till the mirror is dry and images death.

To live is to give.

RECTOR . . .

(Continued from page 20)

that said assembly has authority to elect missionaries for the churches, or to recommend missionaries to the churches. When an assembly so assumes it clearly exercises a legislative role, since such action is definitely an extra-scriptural affair. Unless such brethren can find an expressed precept, or declaration, or example in the scriptures showing where Christ, or the Holy Spirit, or the Apostles, or local churches ever ordered, or acknowledged, or exemplified messenger assemblies in a role of electing missionaries for local Baptist churches, then all should admit that such an election or recommendation by messenger assembly action is unscriptural, and a clearer usurpation of authority not granted by the Lord.

The Lord runs His house upon His own authority. Churches execute for Him upon the authority He bestows, namely, authority to "bind" and to "loose." For churches to step outside of said authority to "bind" and to "loose" and begin to legislate they become rebel before God and false to the founder the head of the church.

Again some brethren assume that individual Baptist churches can join an organization with other Baptist churches, and all of

them together, acting upon the sum of the authority they possess, can project a mission program for the Lord. Now, the trouble with this is, "Tain't so." A sovereign church can't join anything and still be sovereign within its sphere of operation. The moment it enters into anything else, its activities are limited by the will of the larger whole.

To assume that church authority is transferable to messenger assemblies and to act upon said assumption lays the foundation for ecclesiasticism. Rome assumes that Christ's authority was handed to the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Peter's authority was handed to a succeeding spiritual head, and this head handed his authority to another head, and as a consequence, the Pope of Rome professes to be the Vicegerent of Christ on earth. Assuming that said authority is transferable, the Pope and his cardinals legislate for the Catholic Church and the Pope issues the bulls. If church authority is redelegable, then Catholics have priority of claim over us Baptists. Church authority is not redelegable, and for Baptists to practice it is to betray the Lord.

Episcopacies assume that the authority of Christ in His churches is transferable to conferences, and as a consequence, they have built up their Episcopal hierarchies and legislate for churches holding their

common faith, and now Baptists, since 1845, have come to make the same assumption. Conventions and Associations assuming that church authority is transferable to messenger assemblies, have built up our Baptist hierarchies and we are committing the same affronts against high heaven and usurping the same authority that these ecclesiasticisms have and do usurp. Frankly, every thoughtful Baptist will revolt against a Baptist ecclesiasticism just as quickly as he will revolt against a Catholic or an Episcopal hierarchy.

Since the Lord, the founder and the head of His church, is its full authority, then His followers have no other alternative, if they would honor Him and the truth, than to turn to Him for all that they would do. When they do so turn, they find that He has set the Holy Spirit up in His churches in His stead and that His authority is under the Holy Spirit's control. The release of the Lord's authority is subject to the will of the Holy Spirit, and to Him only, and the Holy Spirit releases heaven's program through the Lord's churches only as Christ, the head, bids Him speak and do (Jn. 16:13).

Accordingly, today, if we would be faithful in our church missionary endeavors we shall turn to the Holy Spirit, the Vicegerent of Christ in His houses, to find the Lord's will. We

shall heed the seven fold injunction of our Lord as set forth in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, saying, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Our Lord is God, the possessor of all authority, and He operates His authority only through the Holy Spirit, the divine paraclete, and we, little stones out of which the Lord builds His temple, must yield ourselves willing and unreservedly into His hands for use and service. Thus the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, will use church members scripturally and gloriously only as they make themselves subject to the guidance, the enlightenment, and the enduement of the Holy Spirit.

"So mote it be."

A Notable Quote

Satan divides and subtracts; Jesus adds and multiplies.

Which Fib Is Bigger?

Two boys were arguing about what their fathers were able to do.

Said Billy: "You know the Atlantic Ocean? Well, my dad dug the hole for it."

"That's nothing," replied Gary. "You know the Dead Sea? Well, my dad is the one who killed it."

TULGA . . .

(Continued from page 1)

persuasion rather than the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Evangelism Today Reflects the Compromising Spirit of the Times

The tendency of the churches to compromise with the times, to become infected with alien ideas, and to place unity and fellowship above the demands of truth, has produced its own type of evangelism. This evangelism so deeply infected with the spirit of the times almost universally counts its converts, but seldom weighs them; it brags about the quantity it produces and says little about quality. It is often a form of proselytism, instead of evangelism. It is often sheer religious promotionalism, instead of a movement of the Holy Spirit. Its central figure is generally the evangelist instead of the Lord Jesus Christ and its converts are often converted by and to the evangelist, instead of Christ. The dominant topic of conversation in the community is generally the personality of the evangelist instead of the saving power of Christ. Twentieth century evangelism is generally man-centered instead of God-centered.

The Dominance of Human Personality In

Present Day Evangelism

But doesn't God use human personality? He does. When human personality is transformed by the Holy Spirit, when human personality is willing to be secondary to the personality of Christ, when human personality so preaches that men forget the person and see Christ — then God uses personality.

In our day we have a different idea of the place of personality in evangelism. It is often enhanced by egotism, it frequently uses the dress and adornments of the world to get added glamour, it employs clever devices to attract attention, it directs attention to itself more than the Christ. This is the day of the peacock, not the day of subdued godly personality. The face of Moses shown with the reflection of the Divine holiness. This is dreadfully old-fashioned in this day of human glamour.

Evangelism Today Relies On Human Might Rather Than Divine Power


The power of organization is great and often shows astonishing results. When men are herded together into a mass, when a crowd psychology is developed, when a brilliant personality moves and influences the crowd, astonishing results can be achieved without the Holy Spirit. The cooperation of

the Holy Spirit can only be secured on *His terms* which are often unacceptable to men. When the same numerical results can be achieved by organization, men are tempted to employ organization. But there is a distinct difference between the converts which are the product of human organization and those converts which are produced by the Holy Spirit.

Evangelism Depends Too Much On Human Methods Rather Than Divine Power

There is a high pressure evangelism which is unhealthy. Sometimes it is a glamorous personality, sometimes it is produced by crowd psychology and sometimes by high pressure methods. As a result we are getting converts who are converts because they could not withstand the pressure, or converts who are influenced by the contagious spirit of the crowd, or converts who are influenced by a persuasive attractive personality. When all these things are used by the Holy Spirit then real children of God are produced, when these methods are used by men without the Spirit of God, they result in proselytes who claim to be children of God, but show no real evidence of the new birth. Mass pressure is a form of exploitation which can be used for promotional ends and weak individuals can be

squeezed by mass pressure like an orange until his will is worn down, and his resistance is overpowered. This sometimes looks like the work of the Holy Spirit but the quality of the converts is low.

Evangelism with its dependence upon human personality, human methods, crowd psychology, its lowest common denominator message that gives little offense, its willingness to compromise the distinction between true and false churches, is not the evangelism of the New Testament. 

[In view of the above article, please read the following article as an example of "modern-day evangelism."]

* * *

For the past few years we have read in Arminian papers about a church in Texas multiplying about as fast as skin rash. We often wondered what methods were being used to get so many people, even in an Arminian church. Recently, we read a message by the pastor (now former pastor) of that church in which at least one of the methods is referred to. The reader can see for himself:

"You know, many times in our church at Garland our invitations have been so long. I recall one night we had a man saved on a Sun-

(See **TULGA** on page 23)

SLEEP . . .

(Continued from page 1)

posed of the same chemical elements that are to be found in the dust of the earth, and at death the body begins to go back to dust. It is always sad to see people spend huge sums laying away the body, and it is sadder to see people come to haunt a cemetery, for such place the main emphasis on the mere house in which the loved one lived.

2. The Spiritual Part — The Real Self That Lived In The Body Departs “To Be With Christ, Which Is Far Better.” This is what Paul tells us by divine inspiration (Phil. 1:23). Again he says, “absent from the body, present with the Lord.” Stephen as he died saw heaven and Jesus standing as if to welcome him, and he said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” What did Stephen expect? He expected to be received immediately into the Lord’s presence.

3. It Would Seem That Christians Are Given Some Sort of “Habitation” For the Period of Their Stay in Heaven until the Time of the Resurrection (2 Cor. 5:1-8). Paul says there that he does not desire to be “unclothed, but clothed upon.” He seems to en-vision a “clothing” following the dissolution of the earthly tabernacle. Read also

Revelation 6:9-11. There we have some Christian martyrs, and they are not asleep, but evidently in heaven, and note, it says: “*And white robes were given unto them.*” Then they were told to patiently wait the order of events that the Lord had in store. Do not the “white robes” connote temporary “garments” — a medium of expression — some put it that way, in which to make kind of a “body” if you want to put it that way, in which the believer shall be clothed until he receives his immortal body. The point we want to make is that the saved do not become mere “ghosts” floating around like mist. We shall exist in a state that “*is far better.*” That statement should assure us of the happiness of that state that is between death and resurrection.

4. The Scriptures Seem To Teach That The Saved In Heaven Shall Know What Is Taking Place Here On This Earth. Read Hebrews 12:1-2 and ask, “who constitutes the cloud of witnesses spoken of there?” The answer is “The heroes of faith, coupled with other believers.” Read Matthew 17:1-8. One of the gospel writers tells us that Moses and Elijah spoke to Jesus concerning “his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.” What do we learn from the transfiguration scene?

(1) That the saved

dead are not asleep. Moses and Elias were neither asleep, nor were they “walking in their sleep.”

(2) We learn that they knew where Jerusalem, and knew what was going to take place there. How did they know all this unless they were conscious of what was transpiring on the earth?

(3) We learn that the saved are recognizable, and that they retain their identity.

Also in the story of the Rich man and Lazarus, related in Luke 16, the rich man knew that Lazarus was on earth, and he knew that he had five brothers here, and he wanted them warned. All of this, evidence that he still knew what was taking place on this earth. No escape from this.

5. The Scriptures Teach That When Jesus Returns To The Region Above To Issue The Summons That Calls His People Up From The Earth To Meet Him, He will bring the spirits of the saved. First Thessalonians 5:14 says, “Even so them also which sleep in Jesus *will God bring with him.*” What sleeps? The body of course. What does Jesus “bring with him?” The spirits of the saved. The sleeping body shall be raised, and body, soul, and spirit shall be rejoined. Thereafter we shall have our permanent bodies.

Where will we be from

the time of the resurrection, until the time when Jesus shall come visibly to this earth “in power and great glory to reign?” Seemingly there is a period of several years involved here. Will the saved be back in Heaven — or will Jesus have some other place for this period? Anyhow, we can count on two great things taking place during this period. First, there will occur the *Judgment of Works*, at which we shall be given rewards. Second, will be the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. □

TULGA . . .

(Continued from page 22)

day night — a regular service, not a revival — on the 62nd stanza of the invitation hymn! Twenty-five people were saved that night.”

Reading this, and keeping in mind the Arminian teaching current today about soul winning and being filled with the Spirit, one wonders if the foregoing statement gives us an example of this Spirit-filled soul winning. If so, some folk might have tendencies toward believing that simply “wearing people out” with singing and pleading is synonymous with Spirit-filled soul winning. And if this is all the “special anointing” that the “soul winners” have, it seems that the only qualifications for soul win-

(See **TULGA** on page 24)

ARK . . .

(Continued from page 3)

The shape of the ark was probably unlike that of other vessels, which are made to cut through the waters in travel. There was no need for travel in the ark; its purpose was simply to float as nearly stationary as it would. McClintock and Strongs' Encyclopedia says that the original Hebrew word for the ark was "*tebah*," which indicates a chest. A chest-like shape would allow more storage; with its three stories, the ark had ample capacity for its purpose.

In 1844, George Bush, a professor of Hebrew and Oriental literature at New York City University, published a book entitled "Critical and Practical Notes on Genesis," in which he used the smaller 18-inch cubit to compute that "the ark consequently possessed a capacity of storage equal to that of 18 ships of the line of the largest class, which, upon a moderate computation, are capable of carrying 20,000 men, with stores and provisions for six months' consumption, besides 1,800 pieces of cannon. As all the various, distinct species of four-footed animals may be reduced to 200 or 250, it cannot for a moment be doubted that the ark would contain the specified proportion of these, birds, insects and eight human beings, with the requisite supplies of food for a year.

The majority of the passengers in the ark were quite different from those on the Mayflower. Following instructions from God, Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives entered the ark on schedule. "They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in. And the flood was 40 days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth and every living substance was destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth 150 days" (Gen. 7:14-17, 23-24).

The Mayflower crossed an ocean to take its passengers to a new, freer life in a faraway land, but the ark was lifted up and set down again a short distance away in a God-cleansed earth, where the occupants also began life anew. And their rules and regulations came directly from a higher source.

A far more solemn agreement was made when

Noah and those in the ark emerged into the newly-cleansed earth than the man-made Mayflower Compact. God made a very impressive covenant with Noah and all future mankind — that He would never again destroy all flesh by a flood. He placed a rainbow in the sky as a token of His promise, saying: "And it shall come to pass when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bows shall be seen in the cloud: and I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh" (Gen. 9:14-15).

And the mandate was given the flood survivors as they started life anew like that which was given Adam and Eve in the newly-created earth: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Gen. 1:22; 9:1).

Only a few persons in the country can trace their family tree back to those who had passage on the Mayflower. But all present humanity can trace its genealogy back to those in the ark, for in Noah's three sons lay the genetic potential of their varied progenies that populate the present world. All earthly life, for that matter, exists today because a great, chest-like vessel safely and surely rode the crest of a devastating, global

flood in the year 2370 B.C. and preserved a seed, or new beginning, for all creatures, rather than for only a few.

"These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations; and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood" (Gen. 10:32). "[God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation" (Acts 17:26).

Both ships, the ark and the Mayflower, carried humanity to a point of a new beginning but the ark had by far greater influence on the history of mankind.

¹Mayflower II, a 92-foot, 190-ton reproduction of the Pilgrims' ship, reached Provincetown, Mass., June 12 and sailed to Plymouth Rock June 13. The voyage took 53 days, 14 less than required by the Mayflower's 1620 trip.

TULGA . . .

(Continued from page 23)

ning would be ability to endure long services and extend strong, forceful pleas.

They say that even the strongest American would break under the wearing brain-washing tactics of the Communists. In Arminian circles, it seems that similar tactics are being used to get "decisions." — The Baptist Examiner. 