

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 478

Have Ye Received the Holy Ghost Since Ye Believed?

By J. A. Hulse

There is a set of heretical doctrine being taught which is based upon a mis-application of the following question found in the Scriptures: "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" Certain groups have taken that quotation to try to prove that a saved person does not at once have, but may receive the Holy Ghost as

a "Second Blessing," playing upon the word "since," and have led many unstable souls astray.

Let us look at the whole passage, and compare it with other Scripture, and see if we can understand the truth of the matter.

"And it came to pass,

that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether

there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that

(See SPIRIT on page 24)

Can Science Disprove the Bible?

So in the fields of biology, physics, and astronomy, theories and "facts" which were once accepted as true had to be modified or replaced by new ones. Karl Popper, a leading philosopher of science, sums up the situation:

"First, although in science we do our best to

(See SCIENCE on page 21)

Introducing the Other Denominations

By L. L. Gwaltney

When and where did the Baptists originate? The Baptist people are with us, actually living and moving and having their being in this, the twentieth century. When and where did the churches which now compose the Baptist denomination have their origin?

We know when and where and by whom the Church of England was

founded. It was founded in England by Henry VIII in 1534, and founded because the Catholic Church objected to his divorce of Catherine of Aragon in order to marry Anne Boleyn. Accordingly Henry defied the Pope, organized a church of his own — the Church of England — and placed himself at its head.

(See OTHER on page 19)

Important! Maker Recalls All Human Beings

The Maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same

(See RECALL on page 21)



Quiz The Pastor -- #30

How Many Humans and Animals Were On Noah's Ark?

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: How many humans were on Noah's Ark, and did the Ark hold all those animals?

Answer: By reading Genesis 7:13 we see that there are eight people in Noah's Ark. Notice: "In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the Ark." See also First Peter 3:20 where it is written that "eight souls were saved by (through) water." All others "in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died" (Gen. 7:21-22). Since all of human life died in the flood,

it was through the three sons of Noah and their wives that the whole earth was repopulated (Gen. 9:19; 10:1-32). The earth was repopulated with cattle, beast, fowl, etc., by the animals that survived the flood by being on the Ark (Gen. 7:8-9, 14-15, 17, 19).

As to your question as to how Noah's Ark managed to hold all those animals, you must be aware of the fact that the Ark was a large barge-like vessel that was not designed to sail but only to float. We find in Genesis 6:15 the dimensions of the Ark as being 300 cubits long (450 feet) by 50 cubits wide (75 feet) by 30 cubits high (45

feet). This means that the volumetric carrying capacity of the Ark can be calculated to be at least the equivalent of that of 22 standard railroad stock cars. A single stock car can transport 240 sheep, so we can figure the Ark could have carried at least 125,000 sheep. The average dry-land animal undoubtedly is considerably smaller than a sheep, as there are only a few large animals. Only land animals went into the Ark as all manner of species of aquatic life survived outside the Ark. The Ark had three stories and each story contained rooms or nests to store either animals or their food (Gen. 6:14). Some have concluded that about 50,000 animals were on the Ark which is far less than the 125,000 that could easily have been aboard. There was, no doubt, ample room for food storage and for living quarters for the eight people on the Ark (Gen. 6:21).

I don't think that Noah

had to go and trap and capture all those animals, for God told him that these animals "shall come unto thee" (Gen. 6:20). After Noah built the Ark, at a specific time, God worked through the instincts of the animals and programmed them to head for the Ark to be preserved from the flood waters. Not all animals came aboard the Ark, only those that God moved to do so. The rest perished (Gen. 7:21). ▣

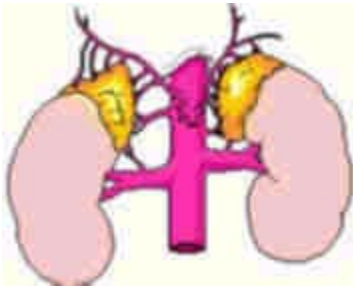
Court Rules Against Prayer

...A federal appeals court has upheld a judge's ruling that the Great Falls, South Carolina, Town Council cannot open its meetings with a prayer that mentions Jesus Christ. A three-judge panel of the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruled that such prayers amount to an unconstitutional government advancement of one

(See COURT on page 21)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Adrenal Glands

God's Masterpiece — The Human Body Message #30

The Amazing Ductless Glands

By Arthur I. Brown

Today we begin the study of what are, in some important respects, the most amazing tissues in the human body. I refer to what are called Ductless Glands. It is well known that the various vital activities of the living body are wonderfully coordinated, so as to promote efficient action of the whole mechanism. This coordinated action among the different organs is managed in two ways: first, through the ramifications of the nervous system, which sends out its thousands of nerves and ganglia from brain and spinal cord to all parts of the body; and second, by the action of certain chemical substances produced in part of the body and carried by the blood to other parts upon which action is exerted. Our present investigation concerns the second of these methods.

The distinctive feature of the glands manufacturing these chemicals is that they do not discharge their products through ducts or tubes in any particular location, but pour them immediately into the circulating blood which carries them to their

destination, often a remote part from the secreting gland. These organs are known as ductless or endocrine glands, and their products, the internal secretions, play an extremely important part in the physiological workings of the body.

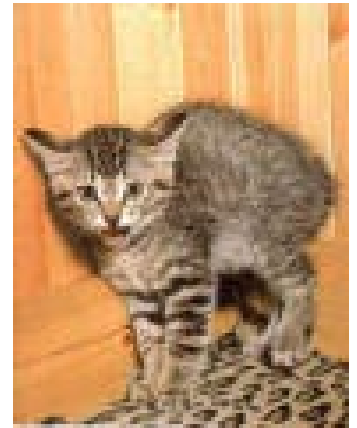
These glands include: the Adrenal Glands, the Thyroid Gland, the Parathyroid Glands, the Thymus Gland, the Pituitary Body, the Pineal Gland, the islets of the Pancreas, the Sex Glands, and the glands of the mucous membrane in the upper portion of the small intestine. These glands secrete two different kinds of chemicals: those which stimulate activity, known as Hormones, and those which lessen or inhibit activity, called Chalone. Much has been learned about these mysterious substances, but our knowledge is still far from complete, so what I shall give you can be only part of the truth. However, we know enough, I think, to convince us that they are the most marvelous bits of tissue in the body.

The Adrenal Glands or Suprarenal Capsules are two small bodies resting on

the upper poles of the kidneys, hence their name. There are two types of tissue in these glands, the outer portion known as the cortex, and the inner called the medulla. The secretion from the cortex seems to be essential to life, but apparently the medullary secretion is not. From this inner part, epinephrine or adrenin is derived, its most important action being the elevation of blood pressure by contracting the muscular walls of the small vessels. Also it causes the liver to release glycogen and change it instantly into glucose or sugar. Another effect of adrenin, as many asthmatics know is to relax the muscles in the walls of the bronchioles, thus quickly relieving the bronchial spasm which is characteristic of asthma.

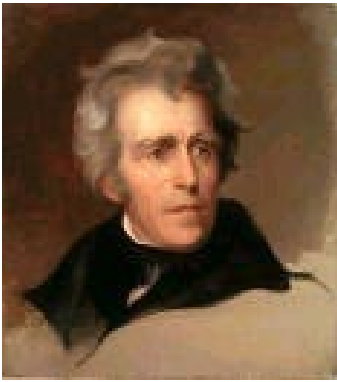
There is no evidence to show that adrenin is secreted under normal conditions of rest. It is the emergency hormone, and has been aptly termed the drug of fright, fight, and flight. In other words, sudden fear will produce adrenin through stimulation of the central nervous system, which desires to provide ample supplies of

blood to brain, heart, lungs, muscles, and nervous system. This will enable the individual better to cope with whatever danger must be met. It adds physical power to muscles by stimulating the liver to release glycogen, and a man or woman, or even an animal can fight to better advantage when thus equipped. You have seen the hair rise on the cat's neck when facing a dog.



Her adrenal gland has just responded with a dose of adrenin spurted into the blood stream, as the cat's G.H.Q. asked for quick assistance in fighting the dog. Try to take a bone from a dog; note the hair rising on his neck and the angry growl — adrenin again. Dare to make some uncomplimentary remark about the child in mother's presence, and watch the hair fly under those circumstances! This adrenin is a potent adjunct to muscular power. Under its influence, and possibly motivated by fear, you might be able to break the

(See BODY on page 22)



Andrew Jackson

Andrew Jackson, the old fighter, boldly stated his reliance on God when he closed his first inaugural address on March 4, 1829, by saying:

"And a firm reliance on the goodness of that Power whose providence mercifully protected our national infancy, and has since upheld our liberties in various vicissitudes, encourages me to offer up my ardent supplications that He will continue to make our beloved country the object of His divine care and gracious benediction."

God In Our Government

Jackson closed his second inaugural address on March 4, 1833, with this fervent prayer:

"Finally, it is my most fervent prayer to that Almighty Being before whom I now stand, and who has kept us in His hands from the infancy of our Republic to the present day, that He will so overrule all my intentions and actions and inspire the hearts of my fellow-citizens that we may be preserved from dangers of all kinds and continue forever a united and happy people."

Freedom of Speech?

A sign at a business establishment in Philadelphia, PA read: "We Would Rather Do Business With 1,000 Al-Qaeda Terrorists Than with a Single American."

This sign was prominently displayed in the window of a business in Philadelphia. You are probably outraged at the thought of such an inflammatory statement. One would think that anti-hate groups from all across the country would be marching

on this business ... and that the National Guard might have to be called to keep the angry crowds back. But, perhaps in these stressful times one might be tempted to let the proprietors simply make their statement ... We are a society who holds Freedom of Speech as perhaps our greatest liberty and after all, it is just a sign.

You may ask what kind of business would dare post such a sign? A Funeral Home. □

Former Labor Secretary Predicts Religious War in America

Robert Reich keeps calling for a war on evangelicals. Does he really mean it? Writing for the liberal magazine *The American Prospect*, former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich calls for a war against conservative religious believers. "The great conflict of the 21st century will not be between the West and terrorism. Terrorism is a tactic, not a belief," he writes.

The true battle will be between modern civilization and anti-modernists; between those who believe in the primacy of the individual and those who believe that human beings owe their allegiance and identity to a higher authority; between those who give priority to life in this world and those who believe that human life is mere preparation for an existence beyond life; between those who believe in science, reason, and logic and those who believe that truth is revealed through Scripture and religious dogma. Terrorism will disrupt and destroy lives. But terrorism itself is not the greatest danger we face. That's a remarkable comment, but even more remarkable is that Reich has been calling for (or at least predicting) this war for a long time. In the past, his use of war language has seemed rhetorical and metaphoric but was it?

"The outcome of the 2004 presidential election will depend partly on what happens between now and Election Day in Iraq and to the U.S. economy. But it will also turn on the religious wars fueled by evangelical Protestants, the ground troops of the Republican Party," he wrote in December.

Democrats can hold their own in these wars if they respond vigorously to the coming assault. Democrats should call all this for what it is a clear and present danger to religious liberty in America. For more than three hundred years, the liberal tradition has sought to free people from the tyranny of religious doctrines that would otherwise be imposed on them. Today's evangelical right detests that tradition and seeks nothing short of a state-sponsored religion. But maintaining the separation of church and state is a necessary precondition of liberty. The religious wars aren't pretty. Religious wars never are. But Democrats should mount a firm and clear counter-assault. In the months leading up to Election Day, when Republicans are screaming about God and accusing the Democrats of siding with sexual deviants

(See WAR on page 11)

Message #8 — February 25, 1979

Vision of the Son of God

By M. L. Moser, Editor

“And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou

sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven church” (Rev. 1:12-20).

Here we have a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the preceding verses, verses 8-10, all of a sudden, John heard a voice from the Lord Himself. He says: “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet” (Rev. 1:10). As he turns to see where the voice came from, verse 12 says: “And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks.” He then describes for us the One whose voice he had heard.

This vision is very similar to a vision that we see in the Book of Daniel. We’ll turn there in a few moments and see the vision that Daniel had. John says: “I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks.” These candlesticks are really lampstands. They’re not to be identified as those that were in the temple.

Remember that John is here on the Isle of Patmos. He is not in the temple, nor has he been carried by means of a vision to the temple, but he is here on the Isle of Patmos, and these lampstands are not like the lamps that were used in the temple.

In the temple there was one central lampstand. Each lampstand was two-sided with three candle holders on each side, so that each lampstand would be a holder of six different candles. This is not what we find here. Each of these is a separate lampstand, not combined on one lampstand as were the ones in the temple, but a separate lampstand, and there are seven of them. These are representative of these seven churches of Asia.

John is commanded by the Lord, saying: “What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia” (Rev. 1:11). These churches are then identified for him. He says: “Unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.” So these lampstands each one is typical or symbolic or

representative of one of these seven churches.

If I had a map before me, I would be able to pinpoint these seven churches in Asia, and you would note that these seven churches make a general circle. We see that the Lord is standing in the midst of the seven churches. The churches, being in a circle, shows that the Lord is equidistant from each of these seven churches, indicating that the Lord is able to see, to oversee, to instruct, to assist and to help all of these churches. So what we find now, is that the Lord is going to deal with the churches as individual churches.

That’s the way the churches were in the New Testament. All seven churches did not combine to make what the world refers to as the “universal church.” In the Bible, each church was a separate individual church, not all the churches together making one huge denomination, or one huge invisible church. In truth, there is no such teaching anywhere in the Word of God as a universal, invisible church, but every church was a separate, distinct indepen-

(See REV on page 6)

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 5)

dent body. When you talk about combining all the Christians into one body, this is referred to as the family of God, never the church of God. Everyone that is saved, born-again, has been born into the family of God, but this is not synonymous with the church. The church, in the Bible, is always a local, visible body. It can be located geographically. It has its own building or location, it has its own pastor, and this is what we find among these seven churches, the Lord standing in the midst of seven literal churches. That each lampstand was made of gold, the costliest and most precious metal, indicates that a church is altogether the most precious thing on earth. It is the pure gold of the world (Eph. 5:25, 27, 29).

These are not all the churches in existence then. There were churches in Galatia, Colossee, Thessalonica, Corinth, Rome, Antioch of Pisidia, another in Antioch of Asia, and the church in Jerusalem just to name a few. So there were many other churches, but these seven churches were selected by the Lord because they are representative of seven different kinds of churches. We will go into that when we get into the second and the third chapters of the book of Revelation as he begins with

the church of Ephesus and concludes with the church of Laodicea. The Lord is now standing in the midst of the churches. They are responsible to the Lord and the Lord is the One that will govern these churches.

Next, we find that it says that He looked at these churches. "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle" (Rev. 1:13). John having seen Him while He was here on earth, saw that He resembled "the Son of man" though he did not know it until informed of this in verse 18. This can be explained by the difference in the clothing Jesus wore on the earth and the garments which He is wearing now. This is one that is like unto the Son of Man, but He is more than just the Son of Man. In the seventh chapter of the Book of Daniel we find in verse 13 of this chapter that Daniel saw one who was the same as the one that John sees in the Book of Revelation. Daniel says: "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him" (Dan. 7:13). This one that is like the "Son of man" is the Ancient of days as well as the Son of man.

We must remember

that while Jesus Christ was here upon the earth He was the Son of man. When Jesus Christ ascended into glory He was the Son of God, and when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this earth, He returns to this earth as the Son of man. When He returns to this earth to receive this universal kingdom that He will have upon the earth, He will receive it as the Son of man, so that He might judge the earth in righteousness.

The Lord came to this earth and was born and became a man. We must remember that while Jesus Christ was upon this earth He was both man and God at the same time. Not half man and half God, but He was all man and all God. If you cannot understand how that could be, then join the crowd, I don't either, but this is exactly the way it is revealed to us in the Bible, and we accept this by faith, that Jesus Christ was God manifest in the flesh. When Jesus Christ was born in the city of Bethlehem, He was the Son of man and the Son of God at the time of His birth, so that He was always God.

There were a few who tried to make a distinction that He was born a man and was not God at the time of His birth, that He became God at a later time. Some say that He became God when He began His public ministry. Others say that He became God at the time of His baptism. Still

others say He became God at the time of the Transfiguration. The Bible tells us that He was born the Son of God, that He was God from the very beginning.

He is also the Son of man. The distinction being made is that He had no sin in Him whatsoever, for He had no human father, God was His Father. He was born of the virgin Mary. As far as the physical birth is concerned it was a normal, natural birth. That which was supernatural was the conception, for Mary did not know a man. She had no man to become the father, but God was the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has been known by the name, the Son of man, which He Himself calls Himself, to show His office. He has been identified with the human race in order that He might make redemption for us by going to the cross of Calvary as a man, but as the God-man He was able to pay the penalty for our sins.

This is the same Jesus Christ, the Son of man, in the midst of these churches in His judicial character. He is the One that is to judge the churches, and when we get to chapters 2 and 3 and the specific individual letters that the Lord writes to these churches, we see Him in His official character or His official capacity as the Judge of the churches. We

(See REV on page 7)

REVELATION . . .
(Continued from page 6)

must remember that He also is our judge. Just as we found Him walking in the midst of these seven churches, so the Lord still continues to walk in the midst of the churches today in His official capacity as the Judge of the churches. That means that He is in our presence today as the Judge of Central Baptist Church, so that He knows and He judges us.

Now when I talk about judging, I do not mean judging in the sense that a judge sits upon a judicial bench to issue a judgment of condemnation. He is the judge in the sense that somebody judges as far as rewards or premiums are concerned.

I give you an illustration of what I mean. We have a livestock show in October every year here in Little Rock. There is usually a group of young boys and girls who work in the 4H club or the FFA, raising animals. They might be a bull, a boar or a calf, or some other kind of an animal. They will raise it, groom it and do every thing necessary to win the Blue Ribbon. When they are here in October, there will be a group of judges that will come by. They do not come by to judge whether it is a bull or not. It's already a bull, but they are judging it as far as how perfect it is; as to its overall appearance, and as

to its conduct and all of these things.

This is exactly the way the Lord judges these churches. He's not judging these churches to determine whether they are true churches or not. Every one of them is. He's not judging them to determine whether they are going to heaven or to hell, but He is going to judge them as far as their condition, character, and as far as their works are before the Lord. That's exactly the way the Lord judges Central Baptist Church in Little Rock and every other church. He judges us according to our character, our works and things of this nature to determine our rewards. So we find now that He is in the midst of these churches.

He talks about these candlesticks as being the churches. A candlestick gives light, and the Bible speaks about the fact that we as individual Christians are light-bearers in the world. I want us to note three verses of Scripture. In Matthew we find, where Jesus speaking says, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 5:14-16).

In the Book of Reve-

lation a New Testament church is referred to as a candlestick. In Matthew chapter 5 we find that believers are referred to as "the light of the world." The Lord tells these believers, when you have a light, when you have a candle, you do not hide it under a bushel, but you put that light upon a candlestick in order that it might give it's light unto all that are in the house and then into all the world.

This shows the Lord's intention for every believer. You as a saved person, when you became a born-again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you became a light in this world. The Lord intends that that light is to shine and this light is to be placed in the proper place, and the proper place for the light is to be placed on the candlestick. That's what the Lord says. He says that we do not take a candle and put it under a bushel but we take that candle, or that light, and we put it upon the candlestick. This is God's intention for every child of God. God intends for every saved person to put their lamp or their light upon a candlestick. The Lord put the candlestick in the world in order for you and me to have a place that we might serve the Lord.

So God intends for every saved person to become a member of a New Testament church. God did not intend for you as a saved person just to

go on trying to serve the Lord in your own fashion, in your own way, for He has prescribed the way and that way is through a New Testament church. The church is the candlestick. This is what He tells us in verse 20: "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches." The Lord says that we are to put our candle, our light, on a candlestick.

Now I ask you, have you put your light on the candlestick? God's requirements are that you do that. God intends for you to become a member of New Testament church. If you have been saved, and have never joined or become a member of a New Testament [Baptist] church, then you are not obedient unto the Lord. The Lord intends for you to let your light shine, but He has prescribed the way that you are to do that, and it is by putting your light upon the candlestick, and a candlestick is a New Testament church.

I might also advise you, as did the Apostle Paul, and as did the Apostle Peter, that you make certain that you are putting it on a New Testament church. Of all the various denominations in

(See REV on page 12)



“God” Restored To Courtroom. — A judge has been ordered to restore references to God when he enters the courtroom and when witnesses swear to tell the truth. North Carolina’s Supreme Court sided with county officials who argued that District Judge James Honeycutt could not unilaterally change courtroom procedures. The high court ordered Honeycutt to stop using a revised oath omitting the phrase “so help you God,” and administer the oath as required by state law. Honeycutt also was ordered to let bailiffs open court sessions with a proclamation that includes “God save the state and this honorable court.” Honeycutt had threatened to hold bailiffs in contempt if they continued to use the phrase. The judge told officials in March that he was revising the oath because of the growing number of non-Christians and people of diverse beliefs served by the court system.

* * *

Moscow Restricts JW’s. — A Moscow court

World News Roundup

upheld a ban on activities by the Jehovah’s Witnesses in the capital. The ruling by the Moscow City Court upholds a lower court decision earlier this year that prohibited Jehovah’s Witnesses from engaging in religious activity. The ruling arose from a Russian law that allows courts to ban religious groups that are considered to be inciting hatred or intolerant behavior. Jehovah’s Witnesses spokesman Christian Presber said the decision will prevent the group from renting space for worship, holding bank accounts or otherwise supporting its religious activities. Russia’s 1997 religion law enshrines Orthodox Christianity as the country’s predominant religion and pledges respect for Buddhism, Islam and Judaism — called traditional religions — but places restrictions on other groups.

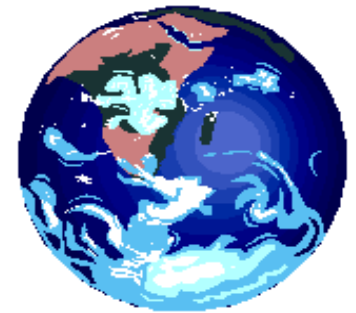
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Senate Votes To Expand Hate-crime Law. — The Senate voted 65-33 to give homosexuals protection under the federal hate-crime law. Sens. Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor, both Democrats from Arkansas, voted for the amendment. Current law permits the federal government to assist local and state authorities pro-

secuting limited types of crimes committed on the basis of the victim’s race, religion or ethnic background. The legislation approved in the Senate would broaden it on two counts, allowing federal involvement in many more types of crimes, and adding sexual orientation, sex and disability to the list of covered categories.

* * *

New Bible Translation promotes fornication — Archbishop of Canterbury praises version for “extra-ordinary power” A brand-new translation of the Bible — praised by Britain’s archbishop of Canterbury, that nation’s senior Christian voice — flatly con-tradicts traditional core Christian beliefs on sex and morality. Titled “Good as New,” the new Bible is translated by former Baptist minister John Henson for the One organization, to produce what the group calls a “new, fresh and adventurous” translation of the Christian scriptures... “Instead of condemning fornicators, adulterers and ‘abusers of themselves with mankind’” says Ruth Gledhill, the London Times religious affairs correspondent, “the new version of his first letter to Corinth has St. Paul advising Christians not to go without



sex for too long in case they get ‘frustrated’.” “The new version, which Dr. Williams says he hopes will spread in epidemic profusion through religious and ir-religious alike, turns St. Paul’s strictures against fornication on their head,” adds the Times....In keeping with the times, translator Henson deftly translates “demon possession” as “mental illness” and “Son of Man,” the expression Jesus frequently used to describe himself, as “the Complete Person. ...” — (WND)

* * *

Palm Beach Apologizes to Women in Nativity Lawsuit — A six-month legal battle over a holiday display has come to an end in Palm Beach, Fla. The town has publicly apologized to two of its residents for failing to respond to their repeated efforts to donate Christian Nativity scenes to be displayed alongside two Palm Beach-sponsored Jewish Menorahs. The town also will pay \$50,000 in attorney fees to the Thomas More Law Center, the

La Voz Del Desierto

¿Porqué Debemos Ser Bautizados?

Por M. A. Curet

Hoy en día hay gran controversia entre muchos cristianos sobre el tema del bautismo. Las enseñanzas que encontramos en la Biblia acerca de este tema, son muy simples y claras. Todos deberíamos ser capaces de entenderlas de la misma manera.

¿Quién Debe Ser Bautizado?

Solamente aquellos que

han sido enseñados y que creen (Mt. 28:19-20). Solamente las personas a las cuales se les ha predicado el evangelio de Cristo, y que están dispuestas a llegar a ser discípulos de Cristo, pueden ser bautizadas.

Hay iglesias que bautizan a los infantes, a los niños y hasta inconversos. Ellos dicen que un bebé es un pecador cuando nace y que por lo tanto

debe ser bautizado para el perdón de pecados; ya que si un bebé muere sin ser bautizado, irá a un lugar de tormento. Jesús dijo: "De cierto os digo, que si no os volviereis, y fuereis como niños, no entraréis en el reino de los cielos" (Mateo 18:3). Los adultos deben llegar a ser como niños, en la malicia, para poder entrar al reino de los cielos. Por los versículos arriba expresados, podemos en-

tender que si un bebé o un niño inocente muere no será condenado. Los bebés y los niños inocentes no son pecadores.

La salvación es por fe, creer en el evangelio, y un niño no conoce lo que es la fe, por lo tanto no pueden ser bautizados. "Y yendo por el camino, llegaron a cierta agua; y dijo el eunuco: He aquí agua; ¿qué

(Vea BAUTISMO en la pág. 10)

El Valor Del Dinero

Con dinero podemos comprar una cama, pero no descanso, una casa, pero no un hogar. Pero la salvación que Cristo nos ofrece no se puede comprar, ni con todo el dinero del mundo porque sólo Dios la da (Apoc. 7:10).

Las cosas que el Dinero ofrece son temporales, lo que Dios ofrece es para la eternidad. El amor de Dios fue tan grande que dio a su Hijo unigénito por nuestros pecados (Rom. 5:8). Aún así, se niegan a aceptarlo, siendo rebeldes, despreciando al Señor, teniendo el pleno conocimiento de que

visitando el Templo o calentando una silla no se salvará nadie.

Evalúen sus vidas aquellos que no le han aceptado, ¿es la vida que prefieren vivir?, sin dirección, sumergidos en el mundo de pecado, teniendo presentes que si el Señor viene de un momento a otro se condenarán en el infierno (Jn. 3:36).

Aprovechen la oportunidad que les brinda Dios de vivir una vida separada del pecado teniendo la certeza de vida eterna que es el regalo más valioso que tenemos aquellos que

La Paz De Acuerdo Al Islam

Para los musulmanes el mundo está dividido entre lugares controlados por los no-musulmanes (territorio de guerra) y la tierra donde prevalece la ley Islámica. Esto es un estado permanente de guerra aunque pueden haber treguas temporeras para el Islam. Las treguas no duran mas de 10 años, ya que los

le hemos aceptado (1ra Juan 5:13).

Aprovecha ese regalo de vida, no lo pienses más, acepta a Jesucristo como el único Salvador personal de tu alma hoy. □

infielos no deben descansar en sus laureles. Cualquier tierra que los infieles posean es una posesión ilegal. Por lo tanto, para los musulmanes, el "jihad" no es agresión, sino tomar lo que es de ellos legítimamente. La guerra sagrada (JIHAD) es un deber religioso, debido al universalismo de la misión (Musulmana) y la obligación de convertir todos al Islam mediante la persuasión o por la fuerza. □ □ □ □

"El temor de Jehová es el principio de la sabiduría" -- Prov. 9:10

BAUTISMO . . .
(Viene de la pág. 9)

impide que yo sea bautizado? Y Felipe dijo: Si crees de todo corazón, bien puedes. Y respondiendo, dijo: Creo que Jesucristo es el Hijo de Dios" (Hechos 8:36-37). Después que Felipe le predicó al eunuco acerca de Cristo, pasaron por cierta agua a la orilla del camino. El eunuco le preguntó a Felipe qué le impedía ser bautizado, Felipe le contestó inmediatamente, que no había nada que le impidiera ser bautizado si creía que Jesucristo era el hijo de Dios.

Una persona debe creer que Jesucristo es el hijo de Dios antes de que pueda ser bautizada escrituralmente. Un bebé no puede ser bautizado porque no es capaz de creer en Cristo. Un bebé no puede leer palabras, no puede escribir las o entenderlas cuando están siendo enseñadas. Por lo tanto, sería imposible para un bebé conocer o entender el evangelio de Cristo.

¿Cómo Deben Ser
Bautizados Los
Creyentes?

El bautismo es una sepultura. "Porque somos

sepultados juntamente con él a muerte por el bautismo; para que como Cristo resucitó de los muertos por la gloria del Padre, así también nosotros andemos en novedad de vida" (Romanos 6:4). Cuando un creyente es bautizado en el agua, él imita la muerte, sepultura y resurrección de Cristo. Simbólicamente, el hombre viejo pecador, es sepultado en el agua, como el cuerpo carnal de Cristo fue sepultado en la tumba de José de Arimatea, y sale del agua como una nueva criatura.

Dios los promete a los creyentes que la sangre de Cristo los lavará y los limpiará de todo pecado (1ra Juan 1:7, 9). Cómo es que esto sucede, no lo sabemos, pero debemos de creerlo porque así lo dice la palabra de Dios.

Rociar o poner agua en la cabeza no es una sepultura. El rociar o poner un chorrito de agua en la cabeza de una persona no imita la sepultura de Cristo. Es imposible sepultar a alguien en un vaso de agua, y nadie puede salir hecho una nueva criatura de una cantidad de agua tan pequeña. La palabra bautismo quiere decir: sumergir, inmersión, zambullirse. Una persona debe ser

sumergido en el agua para poder ser bautizado escrituralmente. Si una parte del cuerpo no se cubre por el agua, la persona no está bautizada verdaderamente, porque el bautismo es una sepultura. Todo el cuerpo debe ser sepultado en agua para que el bautismo sea conforme a la Biblia. "Y mandó parar el carro: y descendieron ambos al agua, Felipe y el eunuco; y bautizóle. Y como subieron del agua, el Espíritu del Señor arrebató a Felipe; y no le vió más el eunuco, y se fué por su camino gozoso" (Hechos 8:38-39).

Después de Felipe haber predicado el evangelio al eunuco, él inmediatamente mandó a parar el carro, y ambos, el eunuco y Felipe, descendieron al agua. El eunuco no discutió, ni pidió ser bautizado por rociamiento o por un chorrito de agua en la cabeza, porque él entendió, por el mensaje de Felipe, que el bautismo era por inmersión. Deberían bastar unos pocos pasajes de la Biblia o un sermón corto, para convencer a muchos "creyentes" de hoy en día, que solamente el bautismo por inmersión es el que encontramos en la Biblia.

Debemos ser bautizados porque el bautismo es una ordenanza dada por el Señor a Su Iglesia (Mateo 28:19). Si queremos ser obedientes a sus mandamientos, debemos hacerlo como dice la Escritura (Juan 8:31-32). □

Noticias Alrededor Del Mundo

No Se Destruya Un Huevo de Aguila. — Es legal matar a un bebé por un procedimiento horrendo usando el medicamento conocido como D&X. Sin embargo, en California es ilegal destruir un huevo de águila, y hay una multa grande. No oímos discusión sobre en qué etapa se convierte el «embrión aguilita» en águila o cuando tiene «vida significativa». Usted rompe un huevo de águila, usted mata a un águila. Es así de simple [12/0 Reader's Digest].

* * *

TV Homosexual. — La empresa pornográfica MTV está avanzando con sus planes para abrir una red televisiva homosexual que estará en todos los planes básicos de cable. Enchufe, el nombre de la red de 23 horas, ofrecerá programación de la forma de vida y estilos homosexuales. MTV piensa al parecer que la homosexualidad ahora tiene aceptabilidad [Revista del Mundo.]

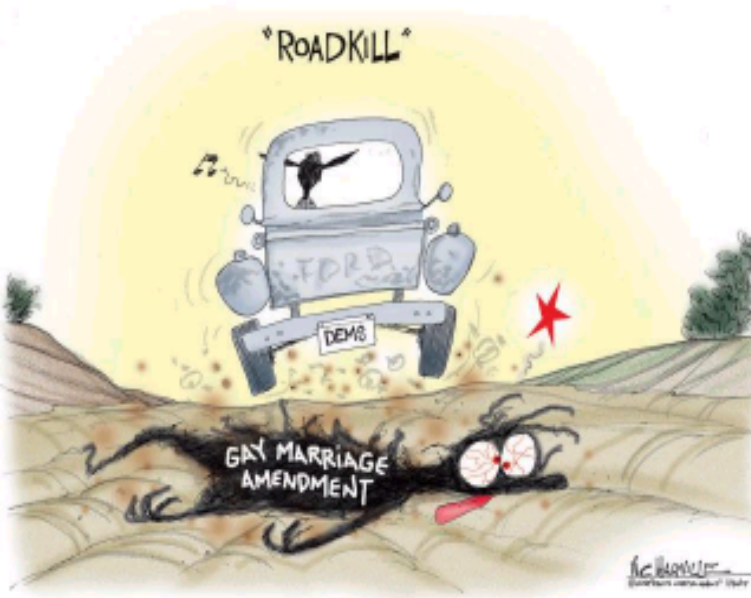
"Por lo cual también Dios los entregó a inmundicia, en las concupiscencias de sus corazones, de suerte que contaminaron sus cuerpos entre sí mismos" — Romans 1:24

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Most 'Gay Supportive' Ticket Ever, Advocacy Group Says

The John Kerry-John Edwards ticket is the "most gay-supportive in American history," a homosexual advocacy group proclaimed on Tuesday. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute says it has analyzed Sen. John Edwards' positions on 13 issues important to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and found that while Edwards was "supportive" in nine categories, his positions were "unclear" in three others. The group says Edwards opposes a Federal Marriage Amendment, but to their disappointment, "he does not support extending equal marriage rights to same-sex couples." Nevertheless, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute is highlighting Edwards' "record of strong support for key issues" important to advocates of the LGBT agenda.

John Kerry and John Edwards make up the most gay-supportive national ticket in American history," said Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman. "But, in order for them to win the enthusiastic support of the gay community, a critical part of their base, they will have to take a



strong and bold stand on supporting our civil rights." Foreman is urging Sen. Edwards to use his "strong southern and populist roots to speak out against the ugly, divisive and anti-gay campaigns being waged all across the country in the guise of 'protecting' marriage." Those "ugly" campaigns include efforts to pass a proposed constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman — the way it has been since the beginning of time, conservatives note. Foreman said Edwards should "call these tactics what they are — partisan, debasing, and profoundly un-American." The Task Force notes that Sen. Edwards has supported non-discrimination protections for homosexuals; inclusion of sexual orientation in hate crime statutes; ending the ban on homosexuals serving in the military; and domestic

partnership benefits. The analysis was based on voting records, public statements, and policy platforms, the Task Force said.

"With the presidential contenders locked in a statistical dead heat, both sides are trying to energize their bases of support," the Task Force said in its press release. "For the Democrats, the gay community is a key ingredient to victory," the group added. According to exit polls, the gay, lesbian, and bisexual vote comprises at least five percent of the general election vote and traditionally votes heavily (70 percent-plus) democratic, the NGLTF said. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force describes itself as the oldest national organization working to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people at the local, state and national level. — CNS

WAR . . .
(Continued from page 4)

and baby killers, Democrats should remind Americans that however important religion is to our spiritual lives, there is no room for liberty in a theocracy. The phrase clear and present danger isn't just a cute phrase. It's the phrase the Supreme Court used in the 1919 Schenck v. United States decision, allowing for the restriction of freedoms. In that decision, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote, "Words which, ordinarily and in many places, would be within the freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment may become subject to prohibition when of such a nature and used in such circumstances as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils which Congress has a right to prevent."

That's a hint, then, that Reich really believes that religious speech should be curtailed, that religious conservatives should be limited in opposing gay marriage, abortion, and the free exercise of religion in public schools and elsewhere (three issues that Reich specifically mentions). "Democrats should be clear that the issues of abortion and stem-cell research are about religious liberty," Reich says. If either of these is

(See WAR on page 15)

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 7)

the world today, and of all the various religions in the world today, Jesus Christ did not begin all of these. God is not the author of confusion, and yet Satan has so confused and divided our world today, that we have all kinds of denominations, and churches. Many sincere, honest believers, those who are really saved, have put their lamps on a false lampstand rather than a true church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, when we seek to put our light on the candlestick, we need to make certain that the candlestick we use is the one that is a New Testament church, because everything that goes by the name church today is not a New Testament church.

We need to understand that everything that goes by the name Baptist is not a New Testament church. We need to investigate and make certain that when we do join a church, that it is one patterned exactly according to the New Testament churches; that they have the same doctrines as we find in the Word of God. This is where God intends for us to be, to put our light upon the candlestick in order that together we might have our light shine into a world filled with darkness.

In Philippians we read: "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without

rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15). In the Gospel of John, Jesus speaking says: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (Jn. 8:12). This shows us that Jesus is the light of the world, but we are to manifest that light through these vessels that we have here, through the body that we own.

A lampstand and the lamp or the candle has no light within itself. Take a kerosene lantern, and when you light that lantern, we know that the light is not in the lamp itself. It is in the oil that comes from the base of the lamp, and the wick brings the oil to the top, so that it is really the oil that gives forth the light as the oil burns, not the lamp. This is exactly the way the Lord intends for you and me to be. The oil, or the Holy Spirit of God, is inside us already (Rom. 8:9), and we are to allow that light to shine forth through us. It will not be us actually being the light, but we will be cleansed vessels that allows that light to shine through us and Jesus will still be the light of the world, but we will be the vessels through which that light shines. The cleaner your vessel the better that your light will shine.

We have some lamps at home on the mantel of

our fireplace that we use in case we have the loss of electricity. It hasn't happened often, but we used them in one of our ice storms that we had this winter, and we were able to light those lamps and we used them for light. Now if that chimney on that lamp had been very dirty, then we would not have gotten very much light out of those lamps. So we try to keep those chimneys on those lamps just as clean as they can be, so that the maximum amount of light shines, because the cleaner it is, the more light that we will have. This is exactly the way it works with us as believers. When we keep a cleansed vessel, then our light will shine the brightest and be the most effective and this is, of course, what the Lord intends for us to do. We are not the light ourselves, but we are the vessels through which the light shines. Since the church, the lampstand, is where the Lord intends for the candles to be placed, the churches then are presented in the Scripture as the light in the midst of a world of darkness.

Take one little match over here by itself, it doesn't give very much light, but if you put a group of them together, you have a big light, and that's the way it is with a New Testament church. The Lord intends for us to put our candle upon the lampstand, upon the candlestick.

Now beginning in verse

13 we look at the description that John gives us of the Lord Himself. "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were while like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters" (Rev. 1:13-15).

When we turn to the book of Daniel in chapter 10 we find that Daniel has a vision that is very similar to the vision of John. "And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel; Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide

(See REV on page 13)

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 12)

themselves. Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling" (Dan. 10:5-11).

There is much of glory and majesty in Christ that cannot be pictured to the eye. Hence the vision which John had of Him is supplemented with titles and descriptions in order to deepen our appreciation of the true nature and sublimity of our great Lord and Judge. We find many similarities between these two descriptions, and the reason is, because each of these has had a vision of the Lord Himself. I want to point out to you the result that we find when men have a vision of the Lord.

First, they see that the garment of the Lord is both

a priestly and a kingly garment, expressing His dignity and judicial authority as the King-Priest (Ex. 28:4; 29:5; Lev. 16:4). It has gold. Gold represents His deity and His divine righteousness. When Isaiah had his vision of the Lord we find the same thing when he says: "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple" (Isa. 6:1). He then describes the glory of this One that was upon the throne, saying: "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isa. 6:3). We now see a girdle which speaks of service. The servant would gird Himself and wait upon the table. His hair is white as wool, exceedingly or perfectly white. This is symbolic of His wisdom, of age and of His Holiness, "the Ancient of Days" (Dan. 7:9-12; Prov. 16:31).

Let's turn to the seventh chapter of the Book of Daniel. Again we find that a vision of the Lord is described for us by Daniel. "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and

languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13-14).

So we see then, that He was as white as snow. Notice in verse 9 of this same chapter: "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire" etc. (Dan. 7:9). In other words, we find that these word symbols were symbolical of His holiness. His eyes, it says, were as a flame of fire — bright, sharp, penetrating. This represents His omniscience in that He sees all things and knows all things (19:12; Dan. 10:6; Heb. 4:13; Psa. 11:4), and incidentally, it also represents His wrath with those who do not do His commandments.

Then we find "his feet are like unto fine brass." This is representative of judgment. Brass was the strongest metal known in John's day. We have the Brazen Altar, judgment on the substitute (Ex. 38:1-2); the Brazen Laver, self-judgment (Ex. 38:8); and the Brazen Serpent, a type of the cross where God's justice was satisfied (Num. 21:9; Jn. 3:14). Notice also in the Book of Isaiah chapter 60. Something else

about the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. "The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious" (Isa. 60:13). So we see that His feet are glorious. Notice also in verse 14: "The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel." Here we find that His feet are to be made glorious. Feet are symbolic of absolute authority, control and victory over His enemies. (Psa. 8:6; 1 Cor. 15:25; Eph. 1:22; Heb. 2:8). "As if they burned in a furnace" indicates His feet were so bright that they seemed to be like the dazzling and brilliancy of metal heated in a furnace.

As far as the voice of the Lord is concerned, it says that "his voice as the sound of many waters." This is symbolic of His authority over peoples and nations (14:2; 19:6; Psa. 29; 93:4; Jl. 3:16; Amos 1:2; Ezk. 1:24; Dan. 10:6). We do not have to read all of these passages, but read Psalm 29 about the authority of the Lord over the peoples and the nations. In Joel we read: "The Lord

(See REV on page 14)

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 13)

also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel" (Jl. 3:16). Here we see that it is the voice of God as He speaks with authority. In the Book of Amos it says: "The Lord will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither" (Amos 1:2). Also read Jeremiah 25:30 and Ezekiel 43:2.

Then we find the stars that are mentioned in verse 16. "He had in his right hand seven stars" (Rev. 1:16; Psa. 18:35; 20:6; 110:1; Isa. 62:8; Acts 5:31; Eph. 1:20; Rev. 5:1, 7). These stars speak of His power, and you look to verse 20, and the stars are identified for us as the "angels" or the messengers, or the pastors of these seven churches. He walks among the candlesticks but has the stars in His right hand. Pastors have a relation to Christ and to the church which other members do not have. Their authority comes directly from Him and they are responsible directly to Him. This shows the holiness of their office. The office, therefore, should not be despised, but respected.

They are jewels on Christ's right hand. Now we will cover that later on as we do not have time now.

Then notice in the middle of verse 16, "And out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword." This means that it cuts both ways (2 Cor. 2:15-16). In Isaiah 11:4; 49:2; Eph. 6:17; Rev. 2:16; 2 Thess. 2:8; Heb. 4:12 and Rev. 19:13-15 all speak about the Word of God; the mouth of God. This is not a sword that He has in His hand, but it is a sword that proceeds out of His mouth and what it has reference to is the Word of God. So this is not a hand-sword but a Word-sword (Jn. 12:48). The Lord tells us that each one of us is to be judged by the Word of God.

So we find altogether that these are summarized with the countenance of His appearance by saying "and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength" (Rev. 1:16; Ex. 34:30; 2 Sam. 23:4; 2 Thess. 1:8; 2:8; Jn. 8:12; Mt. 17:2; Mal. 4:2; Jud. 5:31; Psa. 19:5). This is the appearance of the Lord. The churches are His lamps, the ministers or the pastors are His stars, but Christ is the Sun and we are to reflect and give forth all of this light that emanates from Him. Sin causes the rays of the sun to be withheld (Isa. 30:26 compared with Isa. 52:14).

What we find then is a sevenfold manifestation of the Lord. What a contrast

between the "man of sorrows" as seen in the Gospels, and the One seen here clothed in majesty before whom every knee will bow. Seven, as you know, stands for perfection. We have His head, eyes, feet, voice, hand, mouth and His countenance. This manifestation that the Lord gave unto John was to impress upon him a sense of His majesty and His glory. As such, it was to prepare Him to receive and to deliver these letters and these messages that He is about to receive. It shows him the authority of this One who will give him this message, and it gives him the authority to deliver that message.

In other words, these messages to these seven churches in the second and third chapters of the Book of Revelation, and this entire Book of Revelation which the Lord commanded John to write and to give to these churches, all comes to us with divine authority. This is God's special word for us who live within the last days, so that we might know the things that are soon to come to pass, or shortly to come to pass.

The Lord says, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him" (Rev. 1:7). You and I have a word from God. This is it, right here. This is the divine Word, and this Word of Revelation is

a particular word, a special word, for God has connected with it a special blessing to those who read, hear, and keep the words of this prophecy. He says: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand" (Rev. 1:3).

The blessing is upon those who read, those who hear and those who keep. If you just read and do not keep, there's no blessing. If you just hear and do not keep, there's no blessing. God intends for us to listen, to read it, and then to obey His word that He has here.

Now what was the primary word that we found from Him now? The primary word is: we are to be a light in this world. To be a light in this world, you must know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, else you do not have the Holy Spirit living within you. Secondly, the light is to be put upon the lampstand. If you have never been scripturally baptized and joined a New Testament church, a Baptist church, if you've never done this, then you have not kept the words of the prophecy of this book. These are words of instruction that God intends for us to obey and when we do this, then we can expect the blessing of the Lord to be upon us and our

(See REV on page 23)

(See WNR on page 15)
WNR . . .
(Continued from page 8)

group that represented the Christian plaintiffs, Maureen Donnell and Fern Tailer deNarvaez. "We won everything that we wanted," Donnell said in a press release issued Tuesday. "All religions will be treated equally. That's all we were fighting for."

* * *

ACLU Finds Pot Of Gold At the Foot of the Cross. — "Los Angeles County Supervisors decided to turn tail and run rather than fight a lawsuit threatened by the American Civil Liberties Union. Why such weak-kneed response? Because lawyers for the county ominously warned that the county might lose the case and have to pay the ACLU's attorney's fees. The ACLU is demanding that the county remove a tiny cross from its seal, one of nearly a dozen symbols it portrays. A third of the seal and the centerpiece is the Greek goddess Pomona standing on the shore of the Pacific Ocean. The ACLU doesn't object to her; portrayals of pagan goddesses are OK.

Six side sections of the seal depict historical motifs: the Spanish galleon San Salvador, a tuna fish, a cow, the Hollywood Bowl, two stars representing the movie and television industries, oil

derricks and a couple of engineering instruments that signify industrial construction and space exploration. The cross is so tiny that it doesn't even have its own section and consumes maybe 2 percent of the seal's space." "The reason that the Los Angeles County seal is such a big deal is not because it is a violation of the First Amendment. It is because there is a pot of gold hidden under it attracting the ACLU like honey attracts bees. A little-known 1976 federal law called the Civil Rights Attorney's Fees Awards Act enables the ACLU to collect attorneys' fees for its suits against crosses, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Ten Commandments. This law was designed to help plaintiffs in civil rights cases. But the ACLU is using it for First Amendment cases, asserting that it is a civil right NOT to see a cross or the Ten Commandments. The financial lure created by this law is the engine that drives dozens of similar cases nationwide. Every state, county, city, public park or school that has a cross, a Ten Commandments monument, or recites the Pledge of Allegiance, has become a target for ACLU fundraising."

* * *

Voodoo Politics — "Nine prominent Democrats, elected members of

the House of Representatives, have sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, begging him to send UN monitors to oversee the 2004 election. Texas representative Eddie Bernice Johnson led the latest effort to subvert the sovereignty of the United States and place us under the control of the increasingly-corrupt United Nations. Let me get this straight. A group of Democrats want to bring some people from countries like North Korea, Iran, Syria, China and Cuba — people that have never seen a democratic election in their lifetimes — to sit in judgment on our elections? What kind of voodoo politics is that?"

* * *

Faith Under Fire. — Pastor gets prison for sermon A Swedish court has sentenced Ake Green, a pastor belonging to the Pentecostal movement, to a month in prison, under a law against incitement, after he was found guilty of having offended homosexuals in a

WAR . . .
(Continued from page 11)

limited in any way, he suggests, America becomes a theocracy, regardless of whether it officially sponsors a specific religion. And that, the logic necessarily follows, demands a revolution.

Can Reich really mean what he says, asks Ramesh Ponnuru in National Review Online. His most recent column is a denunciation as a graver threat than terrorists of people who believe that the world to come is more important than this world, or that all human beings owe their allegiance to God. Many millions of Christians, Jews, Muslims, and other religious believers will reject Reich's witless rhetorical oppositions. One can believe in the political "primacy of the individual," the obligation of all people to answer to God, and the wrongness of any governmental attempt to make them answer to Him, all at the same time. But if our choice is between the primacy of individuals and the primacy of God if, that is, we are to choose between individual human beings and God then the vast majority of traditional religious believers would have to choose God. I certainly would. That would be the case for plenty of believers who are not sure what they think about abortion law, or want a higher minimum wage. All of us, for Reich, are the enemy. Religious believers don't have to accept the battle cry, Ponnuru says. "Reich is not my enemy, although I certainly want most of what he stands for politically not to prevail. I don't think we have to have the battle he forecasts. I hope we don't. In fact, I pray we don't." □

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

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Happy Hunters To Conduct Final Healing Crusade. — Charles and Frances Hunter, known as “the Happy Hunters,” are planning to conduct their final Healing Explosion in Houston, Texas, in October. For decades the Hunters have been teaching that every Christian can heal. In their book *How to Heal the Sick* they claim: “Yes, it is God’s will for you to be healed. ... Sickness does not bring glory to God — healing and health bring glory to God!” (Charles & Frances Hunter, *How to Heal the Sick*, p. 18). But the Hunters can’t even heal their own sicknesses. While conducting a healing crusade in the Philippines in 1987 Francis Hunter contracted conjunctivitis (“pink eye”) and had to go to the doctor. She admitted, “I could not get rid of it in spite of all the healing teams over there” (Charisma, May 1988). During a 1995 healing crusade in England, Mrs. Hunter broke her right heel and had to be brought home in a wheel chair! I attended a healing crusade conducted by the Hunters in Indianapolis in 1990. As far as I could

discern, all of the wheel chair bound people who attended left in the same crippled condition. God heals today. I have seen God heal in answer to prayer. We have practiced James 5:14-15 and have seen God heal, and I know many others who have done the same. But this is in the context of the assembly and its own leaders, not special healers who come from outside, such as the Happy Hunters or Oral Roberts, to have special seminars, crusades and meetings. And though God does heal through prayer, He does not always heal. We must submit ourselves to His will, whether it is for health or sickness. The perfect wholeness that was purchased in the atonement of Jesus Christ will be enjoyed in eternity, not in this life (Rom. 8:18-24).

* * *

Stay Tuned For A “Christian” Version of American Idol. — A “Christian” version of the American Idol television program is scheduled to debut later this year on Paul and Jan Crouch’s Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN).

The program, “Gifted,” is a joint venture of TBN and the Wright Entertainment Group, the company that represents Britney Spears and ‘N’ Sync (“American Idol ‘Christian’ Version to Debut,” Yahoo News, June 17). Gifted’s mission statement says, “It is our goal to wrap God’s message — His love — in acceptance, and in a way that blends seamlessly into ‘pop’ culture while still upholding the values we, as Christians, value most.” This is an unscriptural and impossible goal. Romans 12:2 says, “And be not conformed to this world,” while 1 Thess. 5:22 says, “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” The apostles did not seek to entertain the world or to make the truth of God’s Word acceptable to the world; they preached the truth without compromise and demanded that the world repent and be converted (Acts 17:30).

* * *

Catholic Bishop Warns That Diocese May File Bankruptcy Because of Lawsuits. — Gerald Kicanas, Roman Catholic bishop of Tucson, Arizona, says the diocese will file for bankruptcy rather than pay the \$5 million currently demanded by lawyers in a priestly sexual abuse case. The diocese has already paid out millions of dollars to settle other cases, and the bishop claims that they have

run out of money. A study commissioned by the U.S. Catholic bishops found that 81% of the sex crimes committed against children by priests during the past 52 years were homosexual men preying on boys (Washington Times, Feb. 28, 2004). The John Jay study covered the years from 1950 to 2002 and found 10,667 cases of abuse involving 4,292 priests. The study also found that the Catholic Church has spent at least \$657 million in lawsuits and treatment for priests, and that is based on statistics from only 86% of the dioceses.

* * *

Accused Priests Moved From Country to Country. — According to an 18-month investigation by the Dallas Morning News, between 100 and 200 Catholic priests were moved from country to country after being accused of sex offenses against minors. The first in the series of reports was published on Sunday, June 20. Reporter Brooks Edgerton, who appeared on the National Public Radio Morning Edition program on June 18, said: “We have found a systematic practice of moving the most serious abuse cases on to other countries to protect the accused.”

(See FBIS on page 17)

FBIS . . .

(Continued from page 16)

Educator Warns About Television's Influence. — Even non-Christian educators warn about the negative influence of television. An article by Sandeep Dhawa in the June 16 Himalayan Times (Kathmandu, Nepal) is entitled "Unplugging the Monster." The author, a school teacher, says: "Children under 10 years of age watch TV on an average of 30 to 35 hours a week, or about one-fifth of their waking hours. By the time a child graduates from high school, he or she will have spent 15,000 to 20,000 hours in front of the screen, compared to 11,000 to 12,000 hours in the school. A study found that an average child now witnesses more than 8,000 murders and about 10,000 other violent acts by the time he or she completes elementary school. Estimates are that by the age of 18 a youngster will have seen 40,000 murders and another 20,000 acts of violence on TV. ... Is there a solution? In 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' Roald Dahl says: 'So please, oh please, we beg, we pray/ Go throw your TV set away/ And in its place you can install/ A lovely bookshelf on the wall.'" If such a warning is coming from the world, should Bible believing Christians not be even more concerned about television's influence?

Preachers need to inform their people of this great spiritual danger and set a good example in their own homes.

* * *

"Rainbow-colored" Communion Bread At Methodist Gathering. — The following is from AgapePress, June 15: "Evangelical students are outraged over displays of homosexual activism at the United Methodist Student Movement's leadership conference. Hundreds of Methodist college students and campus ministers gathered at United Methodist Church-affiliated Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, in late May for 'Student Forum 2004.' The attendees took part in Bible studies, worship services, and community outreach, and also debated various resolutions. However, students like Ross Stark of Mississippi were disturbed by the large number of pro-homosexual measures that were discussed, as well as a communion service that included multicolored bread. Stark, who contends the bread signified approval of homosexuality, says he was offended by use of the multicolored bread as well as by the fact that the communion service was used to make a political statement. 'It was the fact that they know very well that the rainbow has been taken as a pro-homosexual sign, and then they incor-

porated the different colors of bread with that,' the 20-year-old student says."

* * *

Massive Hindu Temple Planned For Moscow. — The Hare Krishna organization is planning to build a massive temple in Moscow. The license to build the Grand Krishna Temple, which will be the largest Hindu temple in Europe, was obtained in January (ENI, May 7). \$10 million has been pledged by Alfred Ford, a great-grandson of automobile tycoon Henry Ford. The temple will have a 38-meter dome and room for 8,000 worshippers. The Hare Krishnas in Russia claim around 100,000 members and operate more than 100 temples.

* * *

Rush And the Thousand Clones. — From sea to shining sea, America's airwaves are filled with conservative talk radio. Rush Limbaugh rightly calls himself "the original for a thousand clones," and the clones have learned their lesson well and are not a whit behind their leader in loudness, pomposity, promotion of rock and roll, and a general absence of wisdom. Yes, they are conservative politically, but the Bible says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the know-

ledge of the holy is understanding" (Prov. 9:10). By that crucial standard, Rush and the thousand clones are just a lot of hot air. They have some common sense about such things as military preparedness and fiscal conservatism (in contrast to their liberal counterparts in politics), but sadly they know almost nothing about God and His holy Word. America is in desperate straits morally and spiritually, and the salvation offered by talk radio is empty. What America needs is not conservative talk radio but the fearless preaching by men of God who will rebuke our sin and call us to repentance in no uncertain terms. □

Rags To Paper

Dr. Guthrie was pleading for his Ragged Schools when a man rose, and said, "You expect to make decent folks of those people? The very rags on which your feet step as you go along the street are better than they!" Filled with indignation the doctor waved a piece of notepaper before his audience, and said, "Is not this paper made out of those very rags? If the paper mill can make white paper out of cast-off rags, Jesus can transform the most unlovely into His blessed image, for 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'." (1 Tim. 1:5).

OTHER . . .

(Continued from page 1)

By act of Parliament the reigning king of England, since the time of Henry VIII has always been the head of the Church of England.

Our English cousins (God bless them!) have a queer way of doing things, for when, in 1937 Edward VIII was in love with an American woman, a commoner and a divorcee, and a protest was made against his marriage by Premier Baldwin, who was representing the Church of England, Edward rejoined — “but you see, I am the head of the Church.” It was the head of the Church of England who stepped down from the throne to marry Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson, December, 1937. Just why a king, whether he happens to have any religion or not, should be the head of a church is incongruous to the American mind; and how a divorce in the sixteenth century could be the means of exalting one king to be the head of the Church and another divorce in the twentieth century should be the means of deposing another king is hard to understand. But, in spite of things not easily understood, the author is for the British people first, last, and always.

We know when and by whom the Lutheran church was founded. It was founded by Martin Luther

along about 1522. He studied law and gave it up to become a Catholic monk. He later became a professor in the University of Wittenberg. He lectured on Aristotle and the Bible, and anxious students overflowed his classes. The modern psychiatrists would ply their art on Luther in vain; they would be utterly confounded in making any explanation of him, for he would remain the same emotional, pious, envious, contrite, jealous, generous, and utterly fearless Luther. He was characterized by multiform attitudes, but there was nothing weak about him; and if things could be traced in detail from cause to effect, something of Luther’s spirit would be found in every Protestant church in Christendom, the Baptist churches along with the rest. But for the work of Luther, who broke the power of Romanism in Europe, it is probable that both England and America would today be predominantly Catholic instead of Protestant.

We know when and by whom the Presbyterian church was founded. It was founded by John Calvin, who was born in 1509 and died in 1564. It was during his life that the Presbyterian church came into being. The Reformation, which began with Luther, made Calvinism possible. Calvin was one of the world’s greatest men. He was a scholar, theo-

logian, logician, author, and preacher of great ability. As a lad he was so fond of Latin and argument that his young friends named him the “accusative case.” Calvinism was a direct antithesis of Arminianism; that is, predestination as opposed to free will, and Calvinism became the doctrine and faith of the Church of Scotland. The theocracy — that is, the government of a state by the immediate direction and administration of God, which he founded at Geneva (Switzerland)— was transplanted by the Puritans to New England, and much that is good in American life to this day is due to the influence of Puritanism. The one scar upon Calvin is found in his consent to the death of Michael Servetus, a physician, and theologian, by the Presbyterians of Geneva. Calvin, however, counseled that Servetus be beheaded while the authorities (a government ruled by God) burned him and his writings at the stake. But to stone for this the Presbyterians the world over, in 1903, subscribed to the erection of a monument to Servetus on the very spot where he was burned. It was an act on the part of the Presbyterian church to make amends so far as possible for a wrong the Presbyterians committed at a much earlier and darker day.

We know when the Congregational churches

were founded. They were founded in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth by Robert Browne about 1581. His followers were first called Brownists. Later they were called Separatists, and still later Independents, and finally they were called Congregationalists. The first Congregational church was organized in London about 1592. They were dissenters from the Church of England, which was founded by Henry VIII. Congregationalism denies that there is any scriptural sanction for uniting the churches of a nation or province into one ecclesiastical system to be ruled by bishops, superior to the pastors of local congregations, or by a presbytery or synod. In this the Congregationalists agree exactly with the Baptists but differ from the Baptists in that they practice infant baptism. The Congregationalists (or Independents) were persecuted under the reign of Elizabeth and some of them were put to death.

The history of American Congregationalism in its early years is practically the same as the history of American Puritanism, since the majority of the early Puritans were Congregationalists. These were the people who founded Harvard University in 1636 (the same year they banished Roger Williams from the Massachusetts Bay Colo-

(See OTHER on page 20)

OTHER . . .

(Continued from page 19)

ny). In 1643, the four Congregational colonies, namely: Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, and New Haven, formed a confederacy. They became equally as intolerant as the Church of England from which they had fled to America.

The Congregationalists have produced many great men. One who lived two generations past was Henry Ward Beecher. He was not only a powerful preacher, but a great abolitionist. While Daniel Webster was debating with John C. Calhoun and R.Y. Hayne in the Senate on the institution of slavery, Wendell Phillips and Beecher were traveling the country over stirring up the people against slavery. The story is told of how he (Beecher) was speaking on abolition in a barn on one occasion and had placed his hat on a pile of hay. A hen walked in front of him toward the pile of hay. He facetiously remarked: "What a wonderful creature!" As he went on with his discourse the hen laid an egg in his hat, and the next day the paper came out with this:

There is a Congregational preacher

Who said to a hen, "What a wonderful creature,"

And just for that, she laid an egg in his hat

And thus for Henry Ward

Beecher.

Another great minister of the Congregational faith was Dr. S. Parks Cadman, who has recently passed away. He was a powerful preacher, with a marvelous command of the English language, and probably had a greater store of general information than any man of his day. In talking about the denominations, he once said to this author: "Immersion was the original mode of baptism. All scholars are agreed to that. But I wish we could have unity granting immersion to all who desire it." Apparently, immersion as a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord had no meaning to him; and seemingly it never occurred to him that unity could be obtained more easily if others would return to what he admitted was the New Testament mode.

We know when and by whom the Disciples, or the Christian church, as they prefer to be called, was organized. It was founded by Alexander Campbell (1788-1866). His father before him, Thomas Campbell, was a Scotch Presbyterian minister and belonged to the "Covenanters." That, in a word, means that when James VI, who was the Presbyterian king of Scotland, became James I of England, according to the law of England he also became the head of the church. Now his son, Charles I,

who was later beheaded by Cromwell, wished to substitute the form of worship of the Church of England, with its prayer book and creed, for the form of worship which the Presbyterians were already enjoying in Scotland. Accordingly the Presbyterians (1638) bound themselves by covenant to resist this. The blood was pricked with sharp instruments from their arms, caught in a vessel and the covenant sealed with their own blood. The persecution of the Presbyterians was terrific but the covenant held, as is evidenced by the fact that Presbyterianism is to this day the Church of Scotland.

Now Thomas Campbell, the father of Alexander Campbell, was one of these Covenanters. He migrated in 1807 and settled in Bethany, Virginia. His son, Alexander, and the other members of his family came a little later. The elder Campbell made an attempt to unite all religious denominations into one body and in this effort he was assisted by his son, Alexander. Failing in this, Alexander Campbell succeeded in organizing the Disciples of Christ. He engaged in many religious debates, was a prolific writer and published many volumes, the most of which were controversial. His object was to organize a church which, at the time, was not so much interested in the unconverted as to

have people of other churches, particularly the Baptists, come under his leadership. This created considerable acrimony, repercussions of which are felt to this day in Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and a few other states.

The Methodist church was founded by John Wesley (1703-1791). He lived and died a member of the Church of England. His heart was strangely warmed at Aldersgate, May 27, 1738, and when his heart was warmed fire went out of it which warmed half the world. He, backed by George Whitefield, saved England, which was in a state of utter moral degeneracy, and re-awakened America. His first effort was to revive a sense of piety in the Church of England, but, since the doors of the Church were closed to him, he betook himself to an old building in London called the foundry. This place had been formerly used by the government in casting brass cannon. The Church of England, having closed its doors to him, he went to the fields and byways and hedges with his preaching and teaching, and it was from his classes that the Methodist church eventually sprang. He was a man of spotless character and prodigious labors. Probably no man has ever lived who put forth a greater effort in Christian work than John Wesley.

(See OTHER on page 23)

RECALL . . .

(Continued from page 1)

defect in all subsequent units.

This defect has been technically termed, "Sub-sequential Internal Non-morality", or more commonly known as SIN, as it is primarily expressed. Some other symptoms:

- [a] Loss of direction
- [b] Foul vocal emissions
- [c] Amnesia of origin
- [d] Lack of peace and joy
- [e] Selfish, or violent behavior
- [f] Depression or confusion in the mental component
- [g] Fearfulness
- [h] Idolatry
- [i] Rebellion

The Manufacturer, Who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect is providing factory authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this SIN defect. The Repair Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R.

Once connected, please upload your burden of Sin through the Repentance procedure. Next, download Atonement from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

- [a] Love
- [b] Joy
- [c] Peace
- [d] Patience
- [e] Kindness
- [f] Goodness
- [g] Faithfulness
- [h] Gentleness
- [i] Self-control

Please see the operating manual, Holy Bible (Believers-Instructions-before-Leaving-Earth), for further details on the use of these fixes. As an added

(See RECALL on page 23)

SCIENCE . . .

(Continued from page 1)

find the truth, we are conscious of the fact that we can never be sure we have got it. ... We know that our scientific theories always remain hypotheses. In science there is no 'knowledge' in the sense in which Plato and Aristotle understood the word, in the sense which implies finality; in science, we never have sufficient reason for the belief that we have attained the truth. ... Our attempts to see and to find the truth are not final, but open to improvement; ... our knowledge, our doctrine is conjectural; ... it consists of guesses, of hypotheses, rather than of final and certain truths (quoted in John Robbins, "An Introduction to Gordon Clark: Part 2" in The Trinity Review, August 1993, p. 3).

Even Dr. Paul Kurtz (drafter of Humanist Manifesto II) states, "The

change of a theory is to the credit of science. Science is not absolute. It's not fixed. It's not final. It's an open method of investigation" (quoted in John Ankerberg, Secular Humanism, 1986, p.14).

Theologian John Robbins explains why science is of such a nature: One of the insuperable problems of science is the fallacy of induction; indeed, induction is an insuperable problem for all forms of empiricism [attempts to attain knowledge by the senses]. The problem is simply this: Induction, arguing from the particular to the general, is always a fallacy. No matter how many white swans one observes, one never has sufficient reason to say all swans are white (Robbins, p. 2). So science is, "always learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth" (see 2 Tim 3:7). As such ... science cannot prove the Bible is false. A discipline which is always changing, and which can never be sure it has actually arrived at truth, cannot be used as a standard for determining truth. ... To determine issues of truth and falsehood, and right and wrong, we need an unchanging and infallible standard. And this standard is found only in the Bible.

The Bible is God's unchanging revelation of truth. Only it presents a reliable, logically consistent, and coherent explanation of reality (Acts 17:22-31). As

such, the Bible is the standard by which all claims to truth, including those of science, are to be judged. It is also the starting point for discussing all ethical issues.

"To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). □

(See WNR on page 21)

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 14)

sermon, according to Ecumenical News International. Green had described homosexuality as "abnormal, a horrible cancerous tumor in the body of society" in a 2003 sermon. Soren Andersson, the president of the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender rights, said on hearing Green's jail sentence that religious freedom could never be used as a reason to offend people. □

COURT . . .

(Continued from page 2)

religion — Christianity. Darla Kaye Wynne, a Wiccan high priestess, sued the town after its leaders refused to open meetings only with non-sectarian prayers or one religion — to allow members of different faiths to lead the prayers. Wynne said she was ostracized for refusing to stand and bow her head during Christian prayers. □

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 3)

hundred yard record for speed! You will not forget this drug of fright, fight, and flight.

Death inevitably results, if the outer portion of the gland, the cortex, is removed. The substance secreted by the cortex is called cortin, and is concerned with the metabolism of salt, sugar, and starch. Lack of it causes a continuous loss of salt and water from the blood, leading to death. Disease of this portion of the adrenal gland is known as Addison's Disease, and is marked by weakness, anemia, general debility, feeble heart action, and bronzing of the skin. Treatment consists in administering the adrenal cortex of animals along with large doses of salt and glucose. Results are not satisfactory, however.

The Thyroid gland is situated in the neck, in front and at the sides of the windpipe. It consists of two lateral almond-shaped lobes joined by a bridge or isthmus, the whole resembling the shape of the letter H. It has a large blood supply, and is the iodine organ of the body. It seems to govern the temperament of individuals probably through the action of iodine.

Iodine is widely distributed in nature, possibly millions of tons of it in the earth, derived from the weathering of rocks and

mountains, and being swept down by mountain streams. Ocean water has a high iodine content, so that plants and animals of the ocean are rich in it. The ordinary bath sponge contains a high proportion of iodine, as do many fish, particularly the haddock and cod. We know what a treasure chest of valuable substances is the oil extracted from cod liver, among these being a great deal of iodine.

From the soil, iodine passes into plants and thus into foods. Garlic has an especially high iodine content, and has been held in high esteem since ancient times as a food and a healing remedy. Indeed, it is praised in the Bible. It has four times as much iodine as the onion, and five times as much as the radish and lemon. Among the common daily foods, eggs, milk, and butter, contain iodine.

In the human body there is approximately one-twentieth of a gram of iodine, part of it stored in certain organs, the rest circulating in the blood, which constantly delivers it to the cells. Half the iodine in the body is found in the muscles and about one-tenth in the skin, with fully one-fifth in the thyroid gland, a small piece of tissue weighing only one-thousandth of the weight of the body.

In the thyroid, iodine is combined with an aminoacid to form a compound known as thyroxin, this united to a

second protein compound, and these two combined with a third, forming a very complex compound known as colloid. It has been calculated that the body uses daily one mg. of thyroxine. The function of the thyroid gland is to regulate body metabolism. If it fails during infancy, a condition is produced called cretinism, which begins to show itself when the child is about six months old. The normal signs of progress are delayed. The ability to sit, walk and speak, is slow in developing, and mental growth is so retarded that the child may become an idiot. The bony skeleton is stunted, and fat is deposited in excess in the upper parts of the body. A cretin of fourteen years of age may have the mentality of a child of three.

When thyroid deficiency develops in adult life, the result is myxoedema. The body metabolism is much diminished; all the functions are below par. The subject feels the cold intensely, muscular movements become sluggish, and there is loss of memory, with slowness of speech and thought. The skin becomes coarse and dry, the hair falls out, and certain deposits gather under the skin. Cretinism may be prevented and myxoedema cured by timely and continuous administration of thyroid gland substance, which is equally effective given by the mouth or by injection.

An enlargement of the thyroid gland is known as a Goitre. There are two main types, one called simply goitre, where there is usually plenty of colloid material but little iodine. The gland may reach an enormous size and so create physical discomfort. In the old days these very large goitres were not uncommon, but today are seldom seen, since a surgical operation is safe and effective. It is commonly due to a deficiency of iodine in the diet. In districts where many of these cases are found, small regular doses of iodine act as an effective preventive.

The other form of enlargement is much more serious, and is known as exophthalmic goitre, marked by increased activity of the gland and an excessive production and liberation of thyroxine. The metabolic rate is greatly increased; increased oxidation causes increased appetite. The skin is flushed and moist, and the patient does not feel the cold readily. Because the sympathetic nervous system is sensitized, there is dilation of the pupils, the upper eyelids are drawn back, and the eyeballs pushed forward. This latter symptom constitutes exophthalmia, hence the name "exophthalmic goitre."

When we remember the small size of all these

(See BODY on page 23)

OTHER . . .

(Continued from page 20)

His brother, Charles, could outsize him; others could outreach him, but no one ever lived who was able to outwork him. Nor has the influence of but few men who have yet lived drawn deeper or reached farther, for it is through Wesley that Methodism is now reaching the world.,—{Next Month: From John the Baptist To Gregory I, Period: A.D. 1 to 550}.] □ □

RECALL . . .

(Continued from page 20)

upgrade, the Manufacturer has made available to all repaired units a facility enabling direct monitoring and assistance from a resident Maintenance Technician, the Holy Ghost.

Repaired units need only make Him welcome and He will take up permanent residence on the premises!

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids the Manufacturer's warranty, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on JESUS.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to

enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice!!! □

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 22)

ductless glands and the important part they play in the functioning of the body, we are amazed at the potency of the hormone messengers which are sent out to various parts of the system, doing nothing themselves except to give orders. The vastly complex intricacy of the mechanism is beyond our imagination to grasp. Again, only God could bring these things to pass.

How these and countless other operations function we have no idea. They are among the "secrets" of God. We read of these in several places. In Deut. 29:29, we read: "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us." And in Proverbs 25:2: "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing." Eliphaz the Temanite speaks in Job 5:8 and says: "I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause; who doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number." A God who can accomplish all these things is One to have as Friend and

Protector. Men of all ages have turned to Him and found Him able to solve every problem. But these physical wonders that we are thinking about are not nearly so important as some others. In 1 Corinthians 2:9-11 we find these profound words: "As it is written, eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."

What are these "deep things of God," or "the secrets of God?" I do not suppose that God attaches supreme importance to His power to build mountains and plants and animals and even human bodies. That work, infinitely wonderful in our eyes, is easy for Him. God attaches more importance to the creation of a child of His through the miraculous plan He devised to save humanity than to the creation of the vast heavens and earth. In the former, He has no opposition, but in the latter, our wills, the hatred of Satan, and all his false system, tend to enslave the mind and will of sinful man. The saving of a single soul is a tremendous operation in

God's sight. He yearns over those who will not turn to Him and accept His love and pardon. To be scorned, ignored, and set aside by those you love is a terrible thing. Have you made His heart glad by confessing your sin and surrendering your life to the Lord Jesus Christ and trusting in Him? Why not do it now? He's a wonderful Savior! □ □

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 14)

work. Our light will then shine and men will see the Lord Jesus Christ in us, and we will lead men and women to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The cleaner we keep our vessel, the better that people will be able to see Jesus Christ in us.

What kind of vessel are you? How clean is your vessel? Earlier we talked about the fact that it says that John was in the Spirit in the Lord's day. How well do you keep the Lord's day? Is your vessel clean? How well do you do the things that the Lord intends for you to do? Is your vessel clean? The promise of the blessing is upon those who read, who hear, and who keep. If you've not done it, you ought to, you should. □ □

We believe in the sun, though it is hid in a cloud; we should not doubt the goodness of God, even though He hides His face.

SPIRIT . . .

(Continued from page 1)

is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:1-5).

These men had made professions, and no doubt, some one had immersed them in the same manner that John the Baptist had been baptizing, but I doubt that they had actually been baptized by John, since John had been be-headed about 22 years before this time. In fact they do not say that John baptized them, but that they were baptized "unto John's baptism," that is, it looks like John's baptism.

I think that Paul understood by their conduct and the fruit of their lives that, even though they had made professions, they really had not been saved, therefore he asked them the question: "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" Their answer was that they hadn't even heard of the Holy Ghost, which was proof that they had not been saved. How could men have been saved, and baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Mt. 28:19), when they had not even heard whether there be any Holy Ghost or not?

In verse four Paul explains to them that John's baptism was because of repentance, and faith in One who would come after John came, that is, Jesus Christ. We don't have the record of all that Paul may

have said to these men, but it must have been a gospel message, "How that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again, according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3-4); the Old Testament prophets; for true baptism is a picture of death, burial, and resurrection.

Paul told these men that John had told the people of the soon coming of the Messiah, who would die as the Lamb of God, taking away the sin of the world, be buried, and the third day, rise again. I think Paul also told them that the Messiah had come, and all these things which John had said about Him had been fulfilled, for the word says that "When they heard this," that Christ had already come, they were ready to be baptized — and were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus — having repented toward God and believed (or trusted) in Jesus as the Christ.

Their former immersion was not Scriptural baptism. Not that John's baptism was not Scriptural, for it was, because he was sent from God, and there is not even a hint in the New Testament that John's baptism was ever done away, or would ever be done away in this age. They didn't have John's baptism, they had something like it — it looked like it. After Paul had preached to them the true gospel of repentance and faith, they

accepted baptism which was, and is yet, John's baptism, handed down from one true church to another, even until this present time. This baptism which they now received was Scriptural, for it was upon saved men — not to make them saved — but because they were saved.

Now I refer you to two passages of Scripture which I think is enough to prove that the Holy Ghost enters every believer at the time of believing. Certainly not before belief, but after — immediately after.

In the second chapter of Acts, after Peter had preached the gospel to that large crowd of Jews, and had convinced them that they were guilty of crucifying their Messiah, they asked: "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter's reply was "Repent ... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (or the Holy Ghost as a gift). Who would receive the Holy Ghost? Those who repented received remission of sins, and the Holy Ghost as a gift, and were baptized as a token of that saving grace which they had received. "They that gladly received his word (Repent) were baptized" (Acts 2:41).

The second Scripture reference (Ephesians 1:7-14), was written by the hand of the same Apostle Paul about ten years after he had talked with these twelve men at Ephesus as recorded in Acts 19:1-5, and is addressed to "the saints

which are at Ephesus." Speaking of Jesus Christ, Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, says: "In whom ye have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace ... In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest (or assurance) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession (our bodies), unto the praise of his glory." You will notice that this is the order: first, they heard the word of truth, the gospel of salvation; second, they believed, not just about Him, but in Him; and third, they were sealed (made sure; a finished transaction), with the Holy Spirit, which is the assurance of our salvation while we wait for the redeemer to come back for us.

Friend reader, have you received the Holy Spirit? "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself ... He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 Jn. 5:10-12). □

Man's way leads
to a hopeless end

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God's way leads
to an endless
hope.