

# The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 472

## *Satan and the Book of Revelation*

*By M. L. Moser, Editor*

We are continuing with our introduction. We want to remind you of a few things that we previously covered, so that we might tie on where we left off.

From this book we learn that John the Apostle is the author (1:4, 9; 22:8). This is John, the one who is referred to as “the beloved disciple,” the son of Zebedee, one of the

three inner-circle disciples, Peter, James and John. The book was written around 96 A.D., and though the critics of the book try to give it an early date to say that it was all fulfilled during the days of Titus and Nero, they are completely in error because this is a book of prophecy. It speaks of events that are yet future.

The purpose of the book is found in the first verse of this chapter, “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ.*” The book does not contain “revelations” (plural) but is one great revelation. Its name is not “the book of revelations,” nor “The revelation of Saint John the Divine” (John was not divine, 1:9), but “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

As you study and read this book, that ought to be your purpose and your motive; it is to read and to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ. Don’t read it simply to try to learn what is to take place in the future. It is a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and as you read and study this book,

(See **REV** on page 19)

## **Job — Satan’s Second Onslaught**

**By Chas. H. Stevens**

The second chapter of Job opens with the word, “again.” “Again, there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord” (Job 2:1). Satan is a repeater. It is a great mistake to assume that Satan, once defeated, will

give up. This fact is clearly seen in the wilderness temptations. Three times the devil came at our Lord, each time from a different angle. Few, if many Christian victories are won once for all. Life itself is a warfare. The young Christian often labors under the false impression — “saved, satisfied, happy on the way and never expect

to turn back.” It sounds good but it isn’t that easy. Satan’s approach to Eve was manifold. First, he raised the question, “hath God said?” Next, “you shall not surely die.” Third, “then your eyes shall be open and ye shall be as gods knowing good and evil.” So Job suffers Satan’s second assault that brought him to the brink of despair.

### **Satan Travels In Good Company**

“Satan came along among them to present himself before the Lord.” His chief work is often done in the church in company with God’s children. Satan’s masterpiece is not the drunkard, or the thief

(See **JOB** on page 7)



## Quiz The Pastor -- #24

# Was Jonah Really Swallowed By A Whale?

By the late Nick Michalinos

**Question:** Do you really believe the story in the Bible about Jonah and the whale?

**Answer:** The story of Jonah and the “whale” has for many years been an object of ridicule by those unbelievers of higher learning and those who are Biblical skeptics. The Bible story as found in the book of Jonah has more than its share of destructive critics. Some, with great delight, put forth a special effort to discredit the “Jonah and the whale” story. Some Biblical liberals claim that the story was never to be taken as a historical fact, but instead they say, it is in reality an allegory or parable.

I believe the Bible record of the book of Jonah without question. Jonah was a real prophet of God.


He is mentioned in Second Kings 14:25 as “Jonah, the son of Amittai the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.” The Jews of old never doubted the authenticity of the book of Jonah and therefore accepted it as an historical fact. Better still, the Lord Jesus Christ also accepted Jonah and the book of Jonah as true. Christ said that Jonah was a prophet of God (Mt. 12:39) and in the course of His ministry Jesus verified the fact that Jonah went to the city of Nineveh and preached to the people for three days and they repented and were thus spared severe judgment from God (Mt. 12:41).

It was on the way to Nineveh that Jonah was swallowed by the whale, and regarding this incident,

Christ said: “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man (Jesus) be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Mt. 12:40). Here Christ is comparing Jonah’s true experience to His own burial and resurrection, pointing out the miraculous nature of both. If one denies the actuality and factuality of Jonah’s experience, then he stands guilty of charging the Lord Jesus Christ with either ignorance or deception, but in either case he takes away the Deity of Christ. Skeptics beware!

Please notice something else, the Bible nowhere says that Jonah was swallowed by a “whale.” In Jonah 1:17 we are told that God “prepared a *great fish* to swallow up Jonah and Jonah was in the belly of the *fish* three days and three nights.” Then we are told that “the Lord spake unto the *fish* and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land” (Jon. 2:10). Since God “prepared” the great fish, rest assured its mouth, throat, belly, etc., were “prepared” to receive the rebellious prophet and to keep him alive. In Matthew 12:40 the Greek word for

“whale” means “a great sea monster” and not particularly a “whale” as we know it. If we put God into the story, all supposed problems vanish.

Bear in mind that God sent the storm that threatened to sink the ship on which Jonah was sailing, and when Jonah was cast into the sea, the storm suddenly ceased (Jon. 1:4, 15). Here then are two more miracles found in the first chapter of the book of Jonah, plus three more miracles are found in Jonah 4:6, 7, 8. God is a God of miracles. He is Almighty. If He can “create” and sustain all things mentioned in Genesis one and two, then why should we think it an incredible thing if He should prepare a living aquatic submarine for one of His prophets for a three day and three night stay? After all, the tomb received our Lord’s dead body for three days and three nights, but He arose alive by the power of God. 

### THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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The best of men and the most earnest workers will make enough mistakes to make them humble. Thank God for mistakes and take courage. Don’t give up on account of mistakes.

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Faith makes a promise — faith believes it, hope anticipates it, patience quietly awaits it.

God's Masterpiece -- The Human Body -- #12

## Lymph — An Invaluable Body Fluid

By Arthur I. Brown

While we are on the subject of blood, something ought to be said about lymph. I have described to you how blood plasma, together with some colorless blood corpuscles, escapes through the thin walls of the capillaries, and irrigates the various tissues of the body. This fluid finds its way, through a distinct system of spaces and vessels, back into the great veins, and so returns into the blood stream as lymph. This is a modified form of blood plasma which has lost a portion of its solids in nourishing the various tissues through which it passes, and which has received all kinds of waste materials from the tissues themselves, including bacteria and toxins.

The spaces and vessels by which it flows back again into the blood together with certain glands of peculiar structure — called lymphatic glands — form the lymphatic system. These vessels which traverse the entire body are of extraordinary minuteness, their number and length far surpassing that of the blood vessels — many thousands of miles of them. Lymph is an alkaline fluid of specific gravity

1.015, and clots when withdrawn from the lymph vessels.

The lymphatic of the small intestine — lacteals — do not differ in structure from ordinary lymphatics. They contain chyle, a fluid, white and opaque like milk, which holds much of the digested fat that has been absorbed from the intestine. The filtering system designed to eliminate bacteria, waste material and toxins of all kinds and to prevent them from being emptied into the blood stream, constitutes another astonishing evidence of design. If these impurities were not removed, the results would be disastrous. So we find millions of lymph nodes scattered throughout the body, little balls of cells in a framework of connective tissue and muscle fibers. The entire wall of the intestinal canal is filled with them, like a frontier occupied by guards. Each of them is an effective filtering apparatus. When the lymph passes through, the muscles contract, holding back the poisonous materials and squeezing fluid and cells out of the balls. So the fluid is filtered many times before it gets

into the blood. On their way to the heart the lymph vessels pass through several larger groups of lymph nodes called lymph glands, the structure of which is such that the lymph oozes slowly through a maze of tissue as through the pores of a sponge. Each lymph gland is a laboratory and quarantine station, treating the lymph chemically and bacteriologically, controlling its composition, and above all removing dangerous particles. These glands are actually police stations arresting dangerous invaders and protecting the body from disease. This is wholly beyond our understanding, unless we know there is an Omniscient God behind the entire process.

In various parts of the digestive tract, lymph nodes are grouped to form special organs. The two best known groups are the tonsils in the back of the mouth, and the appendix attached to the large bowels just where it joins the small intestine. The tonsils are placed in the throat to catch and arrest bacteria and they perform a great job. Often they have had so much work thrust upon them that they become overloaded with infection and must be removed. The same applies to the appendix. The point to remember is that the entire body from surface to interior is covered with lymph vessels which absorb all foreign bodies that they receive, so that the interior

of the body and the blood may be kept clean and sterile.

Lymphatic vessels arise in the spaces of the connective tissue of the various organs, probably as minute irregular branching spaces or clefts, which intercommunicate with each other. The lymph vessels are formed of just a single layer of cells, infinitely small in calibre. They are gathered up into larger vessels with swellings at intervals. Could evolution originate these valves and design the whole intricate process of filtration? These vessels, absolutely innumerable, gather all the lymph gradually into two main trunks, the larger of which, the thoracic duct, is scarcely greater in size than a crow-quill, and empties into the large subclavian vein up on the left side of the neck, and so reaches the circulation. The lesser thoracic duct which collects the lymph from the right arm, and the right side of the head, neck, and chest, is much smaller and empties into the vein of the right side of the neck.

What a task our bodies have to protect us from the millions of bacteria by which we are surrounded! Our skin, our hair, every part of the body surface is covered with these small organisms, many of them able to produce disease if they can reach the blood

(See **BODY** on page 17)

## I Know Your Greatest Sin

By Buell H. Kazee

It is not drinking or smoking.

It is not lying or stealing.

It is not gambling or robbery or wasting your money.

It is not stinginess or selfishness.

It is not laziness or failing to provide for your family.

It is not gossip or criticism of others.

It is not refusing or neglecting to go to church.

It is not rudeness or unkindness to others.

It is not swearing or using vulgar language.

It is not jealousy, envy or hatred of others.

It is not dishonesty or failing to meet your obligations.

It is not adultery or other sex sins.

It is not murder.

All these are sins and some of them are bad, but none of these is your greatest sin. Would you like to know what it is? If you will read on, I will tell you.

God created all this great universe wholly for Himself. It is exceedingly vast beyond our imagination and studded with beauty and wonder of which we have never dreamed.

You and I, His human beings, are a part of that creation, perhaps the most important part, for in us He meant to recreate Himself.

He made us in His own image and likeness. He made us so He could commune with us and enjoy us. We were to possess the earth where we began and to associate with Him right here on earth.

Of course, I do not know all the plans God had for His creatures here on the earth, for life here was changed so soon and so suddenly that little more was revealed. However, we do know that God told His first man and woman to multiply and fill the earth with more creatures who were made in the image of God. Wouldn't it have been wonderful to see this whole earth filled with perfect human beings, with all of them looking and acting like God their Creator and talking with Him every day? This would have been the greatest and most glorifying thing God could do. He would have a whole planet of creatures like Himself.

However, in order to create such a being, God must give him a will of his own. Otherwise, he wouldn't be like God. In so doing, the Creator would have to run the risk of His creatures breaking away from Him just as some of the angels did.

Well, this is just what happened.

Eve was deceived by

Satan. She really did not know the greatness of her sin, but Adam did, and he walked away from God with open eyes. He chose to go with Eve, who had become defiled, rather than to remain with God and leave her to His mercy. Since then, every child born of Adam's race has had a nature which is set against God's will. The whole world became a race of rebels.

The world which these rebels built upon this earth is what Paul calls "this present evil world." It is shot through with sin and misery and wretchedness, with heartache, sickness and death. God has already condemned it and has marked it for complete destruction, perhaps soon. "Death has passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." This death is the wages of sin.

But God has great mercy. Even though He would be entirely just in putting the last rebel of us in Hell forever, He loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die for our sins. He paid this price to redeem us. Upon this basis, He could offer us salvation and forgiveness of sin and still be just. The good news now is that God can still make of us what He planned for us to be in the beginning. Yea, He can make more of us now. Whereas we were His creatures, we can now become His children.

He is satisfied with the

sacrifice which Jesus made for us, and now He asks us to turn our hearts to Him, confess our sinfulness, bow to His judgment and place our hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ the Savior.

This is wonderful news for condemned rebels. It means that those who will do this may now become the actual children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, born of His Spirit and nature. One day God will raise all of these from the death which sin has brought upon them, and He will recreate their bodies to make them look like Jesus, His only begotten Son. He will then come in a judgment of fire upon this old sin-scarred earth and make it again a paradise where He can dwell in love with the millions of His great redeemed family. Just think! He will dwell with us here, just as He planned to do.

Meanwhile, He has sent me and others to tell you that He would like to make of you one of these glorious persons and by so doing accomplish His greatest glory. But, remember, in doing this He will not take away your freedom. He will not force you, but He will draw you. Do you not feel His drawing love even as you read?

Now, do you see? Here is your greatest sin: You were created by Him, for

(See **KAZEE** on page 24)



## An Open Letter To God

Dear God:

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still around. This will be short because I have things to do.

I'm sure you have been missing me in church. With all the company we've had lately, it is very difficult for us to make it for church, and Sunday School is out of the question. I'm sure you understand. By the time we get home and lunch prepared and the dishes cleaned, we're just too tired to make it back Sunday night. Besides my cup gets full on Sunday mornings (you understand you gave me a small cup).

It seems God that our preacher is always preaching about witnessing, visitation, being concerned and knocking on doors. God, you really don't expect us to believe in that old-fashioned religion, do you? After all, that's what we pay the preacher for.

Now that summer is here, I'm sure you can understand why our offerings have fallen off some. With all the camping and fishing, it takes a little more for our own use. When summer is over and our bills are caught up, we'll get faithful again.

Lord, it seems I'm always so busy on Wed-

nesday nights, I just can't make it to prayer service. Besides, you know that is the night we have our get-together from the office. You know I always pray when I get home if I'm not too tired. Three times a week is just a little too much to go to church. You don't want people to think I'm a fanatic, do you? After all, a person can pray at home as well as they can at church. Can't they?

Another thing, God, you remember Mr. Jones. I've visited him several times and he just will not come to church. He usually just laughs at me. I just can't understand his neglect and being so unconcerned. He always says, a Christian should live what they preach. I can understand his attitude, with all the hypocrites in the church today. Maybe some day you can open his heart God, I just can't do any thing with him.

God, we love our preacher, but you really need to straighten him out. The other day I saw him down in the slums visiting. He didn't even have a tie and coat on. What's wrong with him? He should know that you don't want people like that in our clean, beautiful church building.

After all, their poverty should be a sign of your disapproval of the way they live. The preacher is even talking about starting a Bible class in that area. God, please stop him before he ruins the good name of our church.

I know you probably get as tired of this as I do, but here we go again. The preacher wants to have a revival again this year. I don't know why. It seems a waste of time to me. Last year in the two services I attended, there was not one decision. He should see we don't need a revival. I guess he'll get his way though and they'll spend money running up the light bill and paying the evangelist. Lord, just show them they are wasting your money.

Better go for now, Lord. It's almost time for Walt Disney. When I get to heaven, we'll sit down and have a good talk and I'm sure you'll understand my reasons.

Mr. Average Church Member

Envy, strife, and  
a burden for lost  
souls cannot dwell  
in the same heart.

## Harry Potter Is Harmful

[The following letter appeared in the Baptist Forum section of the December 20, 2001 issue of the Arkansas Baptist News:]

After years of clinical involvement in adolescent treatment in the area of satanic and occult issues, I am alarmed at professing Christians who remain naïve regarding Satan's devices, in spite of Paul's admonition in 2 Corinthians 2:11.

Contrary to the protests of a recent letter writer, Harry Potter is neither harmless nor advantageous to our children. While it may be well-written, it remains an extremely powerful occult indoctrination and a potential recruiting tool. Parents who buy into this craze and allow their children access to it will be held accountable by a higher Judge.

With the help of Warner Brothers, Mattel and Coca-cola, witchcraft has been subtly repackaged. While Bible reading is banned in our schools, Scholastic Books helps hold 32 million school children captive to occult doctrine by encouraging teachers to read them aloud in class and providing resources to help

(See **POTTER** on page 24)



# Roman Catholic Inventions

Compiled by  
L. J. King, Ex-Romanist

*“Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men ... Making the Word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye”* (Mk. 7:7, 13).

This Romish church proclaims to the world that she has always taught and is teaching today the same gospel that Jesus and His apostles taught. But her doctrines and commandments are latter day inventions of popes and priests — and not to be found in the Bible — and there is no saving power in them.

The earliest invention is prayers for the dead and making the sign of the cross — both came into existence about 300 years after the Savior and the Apostles.

About 600 years after Christ, Gregory I established worship in an unknown tongue, or in Latin.

The worship of Mary and saints began about 600 years after Christ and the Apostles.

The Bible teaches all

our prayers should be addressed to God alone. Prayers were never offered to Mary and the saints by the Apostles and the members of the early Christian church.

The worship of the cross, images and relics was established about 788 years after Christ. It is impossible to find a single trace of this practice in the Gospel.

The baptism of bells does not come from Christ and the apostles; this baptism was invented 965 years after the beginning of the Christian church, by Pope John XIV.

It was about 998 years after the apostles that Lent was imposed by the Roman Catholic Church. Lent and the obligatory fast on Friday are commandments of men, not teachings of the Gospel.

Roman Catholic priests introduced the fabrication of holy water about 1000 years after the apostles. Thus this so-called holy water is merely a human novelty.

Gregory VII is the pope who made the law against the marriage of the priest, 1079 years after Christ.

The Bible teaches the marriage of the clergy.

“Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats” (1 Tim. 4:3) are called by Paul “doctrines of devils,” but are taught by the Romish church.

“A bishop (minister) then must be blameless, the husband of one wife” (1 Tim. 3:2).

Beads were invented by Peter the Hermit, 1090 years after the apostles. This machine is used for counting prayers, but the Bible does not speak of it.

Auricular confession, or confession to the priests, was also instituted by Pope Innocent II, during a session of the Council of Latran, 1215 years after Christ.

The sacrifice of the mass is a novelty, and has been in existence only since the eleventh century. The Gospel teaches us that the sacrifice of Christ was offered “once for all.”

The Roman mass is not a mystery but a great fraud; and one of the “lying wonders” of the anti-Christ.

About 1100 years after Christ the Roman Catholic

Church began the sale of indulgences. The Christian religion, as is taught in the Gospel, condemns such a traffic.

The Bible says — “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, ... but with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

The Roman Catholic Church uses a wafer in the Lord’s Supper, instead of bread. This change was made about the time the doctrine of transubstantiation was proclaimed an article of faith by Pope Innocent II, in 1215. In 1220 Pope Honorius III invented the adoration of this wafer, and thus the Roman Catholic Church worships a god made by the hands of man. The adoration of such a god is entirely contrary to the Gospel.

“The Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men’s hands” (Acts 17:24-25).

Since the year 1414, the

(See **ROMAN** on page 7)

**ROMAN . . .**

(Continued from page 6)

Roman Catholic Church has refused to give the cup or wine to the people in the Communion service. This institution of Christ was changed by the Council of Constance. The apostles taught that the Lord's Supper should be given with bread and wine.

Paul said, "For as often as ye eat this bread (not a cracker-god), and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come" (1 Cor. 11:26). And Jesus said, "Drink ye all of it."

The doctrine of purgatory was proclaimed an article of faith 1438 years after the apostles, by the Council of Florence. The Gospel does not contain a single word concerning the Roman Catholic purgatory.

Purgatory is a great monetary speculation — an invention of man inspired by the devil — one of the lying wonders of the anti-Christ, and the most gigantic and stupendous fraud and humbug of the ages.

Roman Catholic traditions were placed on the same level with the Holy Scriptures by the Council of Trent 1545 years after Christ. These traditions are simply teachings of men.

The Apocryphal books were placed in the Bible by the Council of Trent, 1546 years after the apostles.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise

the simple" (Psa. 19:7).

It was 1854 years after Christ that the Roman Church invented the doctrine called "Immaculate Conception," that Mary was born without sin. But the Gospel tells us that all human beings have sinned. Mary needed the "Saviour" (Lk. 1:47).

The infallibility of the pope is a new doctrine which was made in the year 1870. Before the year 1870 this dogma did not exist. No human being is infallible.

Christ is the Head of His church and holds the keys of the Kingdom and not Peter nor the pope of Rome.

Still the Roman Catholic Church claims never to change, or to teach new doctrines!

"To the Law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20).


"The doctrine of Limbo" — annex to purgatory — a place somewhere outside of heaven for little unbaptized infants — cruel, heathenish — pagan — inhuman popish doctrine. This also is a new invention and not found in the Word of God.

Jesus said concerning little children, "Of such is the kingdom of Heaven" — all babies who die in infancy — baptized or not, go straight to heaven. There is no Scripture for sprinkling holy water on an infant's head and calling that

baptism. That is a popish custom started in the thirteenth century by Pope Gregory. Baptism in water is for converted sinners.

**More Pagan Bunk**

Holy candles — holy palm — holy salt — holy ashes — holy smoke — holy rags — holy hoods — holy capes — holy beads — holy bones — holy grease — holy Christmas trees — holy bachelor men virgins — holy unmarried virgin mothers — holy Benedictine rum, made in holy monasteries by holy monks, for holy nuns and holy priests — Ash Wednesday — Palm Sunday — Good Friday — Holy Week — Forty days lent — Easter — holy eggs — Pete's day — Pat's day — all souls day — all saints day — fish day — meat day — Saint Ann's day — (God's Grandmother) — Columbus day — candle-mass day — mother's day — Mary's month (May) — (Gal. 4:8-11).

Jesus and His apostles never hinted of any such teachings — and should be repudiated by every believer of the gospel of Christ. 

**JOB . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

or the adulterer. Satan plays for higher stakes, and in this passage there is a good illustration of this fact. If the sons of God suit his taste and purpose, he does not bother the blasphemer

or the murderer. These are sins of the flesh that proceed out of the heart of man. Satan hunts for big game. He is the promoter of the sins of the Spirit, pride, censoriousness and religious hypocrisy. He is a splitter of churches, a disputer of Christians, a discourager of the doubters. Like Judas Iscariot, Satan is religious and plys his trade with efficiency where it will be most effective.

**Satan Is Unashamed**

"Satan came along also to present himself before the Lord." He came to "the altar" quite frequently. Satan is as bold as a lion and is so represented. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). The devil is religious and suffers no embarrassment in his audacious, brazen intrusion into the presence of God. Being unabashed and unashamed he "presents" himself before God. The lowest depths of evil are marked by a shameless depravity which exhibits itself in religious hypocrisy. It is here that the fear of God and all reverence for His name disappear.

**Divine Sovereignty Assured**

"And the Lord said unto Satan, from whence comest

(See **JOB** on page 13)



### Catholics Change Rules For Communion.

— Catholic officials in at least three California dioceses have recommended changes in how parishioners receive Communion, to help prevent the spread of the flu. Worshipers in Sacramento, San Francisco and San Jose have been asked not to shake hands when offering others a sign of peace nor hold hands during the Lord's Prayer, according to the *Sacramento Bee*. Church officials suggest that parishioners wave or nod during the greeting time. In addition, the Communion wafer will not be placed on parishioners' tongues — instead it will be placed in the hand — and worshipers will not be allowed to drink from a common chalice of wine. Parishioners who help distribute the Communion elements will be required to wash their hands with antibacterial soap under similar guidelines distributed by the three dioceses. — RNS. [Editor's Comments: According to Catholic doctrine, the wafer used in Communion is changed into the actual body of Jesus Christ and the wine used in

## World News Roundup

### *Bible Conference In Little Rock*

The Central Baptist Church of Little Rock would like to extend an invitation to you to attend our "Missions Conference" scheduled for March 21-24, 2004. Our theme this year will be "Evangelize or Eulogize."

Just before His ascension our Lord & Saviour gave the "Great Commission" to the corporate membership of His churches to spread the saving Gospel throughout the world and to establish more churches of like faith & practice to perpetuate this awesome responsibility.

The question that each one of us must answer is "What am I doing *personally* to fulfill this job of world evangelism?" A handful of Christ's followers were accused of this very thing by the unbelieving Jews of Thessalonica saying, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also" Acts 17: 6. Wouldn't that be wonderful if we were accused of the very same thing?

Besides the scheduled speakers, there will be several chosen from the floor to bring what God has laid upon their hearts, so please come with a message ready to preach. We would also like to invite those of you that sing to prepare for specials that would be appropriate to minister to those who attend the conference.

Come for a great time of encouragement in singing and preaching the Word of God.

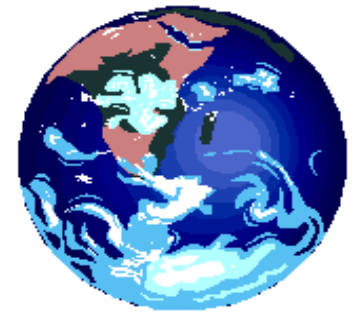
Serving the Risen Saviour,  
Pastor L.M. Potts

the Communion is changed into the actual blood of Jesus Christ — transubstantiation. This change by the Catholic church shows that no such change takes place and is just another of the false doctrines taught by the Catholic Church.]

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**SBC Theologian Says Non-Catholic Believers**

**Should Honor Mary.** — A Southern Baptist theologian says he wrote an article in *Christianity Today* on the Virgin Mary in hopes of encouraging evangelical Christians and other Protestants to pay more attention to her. Dr. Timothy George is dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.



George is also senior editor for *Christianity Today* magazine and has authored a doctrinal study for the Southern Baptist Convention. George says he wrote the article "The Blessed Evangelical Mary" because so many "Evangelicals and Protestants have reacted so negatively in the past to Catholic teaching on Mary that many of these non-Catholic Christians may have ignored constructive material about the mother of Jesus in the Bible." The article he said was "based on conversations he has had with Roman Catholics" whom he says gives "a great deal of devotion to Mary that we Evangelicals and Protestants feel is not appropriate biblically or can't be justified." George is involved with Evangelicals and Catholics. Together and he says most of the negativism to his article comes from "former Catholics who have become Protestants." — Agape Press

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**BBC Bans Reference**

(See **WNR** on page 11)

# La Voz Del Desierto

## El Bautismo

Por José Prado C.

El Nuevo Testamento establece que una profesión de fe en Cristo precede al bautismo. Bautizar un niño, pese a todas las argumentaciones en contra, es imponerle una religión y deberes eclesiásticos sin el previo consentimiento de su libre conciencia. Bautizar un niño es esclavizar una conciencia que Dios ha hecho libre. El llamado “bautismo infantil” es una pura invención del paganismo romano y que el Nuevo Testamento condena positivamente. Los bautistas creemos que todo niño que muere en la inocencia es salvo por el sacrificio de Cristo, pues el mismo Señor dice: “Dejad los niños venir a mí, y no los impidáis; porque de tales es el reino de Dios” (Lucas 18:16).

Como hemos dicho, creemos que la forma del bautismo es exclusivamente la inmersión en agua. El Nuevo Testamento no reconoce otra forma de bautismo (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Hech. 8:38-39; Juan 3:23). Si estos pasajes no significan la inmersión en agua nadie tiene el derecho ni la autoridad para cambiar

la forma del bautismo. Los bautistas preferimos ser fieles al Nuevo Testamento antes que sujetarnos a las opiniones de los hombres.

La palabra “bautizar” es una voz griega (*baptizo*) que fue introducida en el idioma español mediante el cambio de su desinencia y no traducida. Los léxicos griegos definen la palabra “baptizo” por “sumergir,” “inmergir,” “zambullir,” “hundir.” Si el bautismo fuera por “rociamiento” como algunos alegan, los excritores del Nuevo Testamento jamás usarían el término “*baptizo*,” ellos hubieran usado “*rantizo*” o “*keo*” que se traducen al castellano por “*rociar*” y “*derramar*.”

Juan Calvino gran teólogo y fundador de la Iglesia Presbiteriana, comentando a Juan 3:23 dice: “De las palabras de Juan (cap. 3:23) puede inferirse que el bautismo era administrado por Juan y Cristo, echando todo el cuerpo debajo del agua” (Com. sobre Juan 3:23). Martín Lutero, fundador de la Iglesia Luterana, dice: “Es griego el término *bautismo*; en latin puede

traducirse “*mersio*”; porque *immergimos* cualquier cosa en el agua, para que toda ella sea cubierta con el agua” (Obras, tomo I, pág. 71. Ed. de Wit., 1582).

Juan Wesley, gran teólogo y fundador de la Iglesia Metodista, comentando a Romans 6:4 dice: “*Sepultados con él*, aludiendo a la manera antigua de bautizar por *immersion*” (Nota en Rom. 6:4).

Como se notará, los tres testimonios que hemos citado no proceden de los bautistas sino de autoridades protestantes. Los tres eruditos citados, aunque no son bautistas, están de acuerdo en que la forma bíblica de bautismo es la inmersión en agua.

Algunos tienen la osadía de clasificar las enseñanzas de Cristo en esenciales y no esenciales, y luego deducen que si el bautismo no es esencial a la salvación no importe la forma en que se haga, ya sea por inmersión o por rociamiento. Afirmar que Cristo enseñó algo que no es esencial significa desconocer la autoridad divina de Señor como Maestro y

Revelador de la Voluntad del Padre. Los bautistas creemos que todo lo que enseñó Cristo es esencial, ya se relacione con la salvación, pero reconocemos en el Nuevo Testamento que es esencial a la obediencia de toda alma regenerado (1 Ped. 3:21). El Nuevo Testamento enseña que la esencia del bautismo es la inmersión (Col. 2:12), y nuestro deber es obedecer lo que Cristo ha mandado: “Vosotros sois mis amigos, si hicieris las cosas que yo os mando” (Juan 15:14). “Si me amáis, guardad mis mandamientos” (Juan 14:15).

Algunos critican a los bautistas de que somos “*exclusivistas y radicales*.” Pero, ¿qué significa exclusivismo y radicalismo? Es realmente lamentable que un cristino apele a semejantes argumentos de pura paja. ¿En qué consiste el exclusivismo y el radicalismo de los bautistas? ¿Será exclusivismo y radicalismo sujetarse al Nuevo Testamento como única Regla de Fe y Práctica? ¿Pueden llamarse radicales

(Vea PRADO en la pág. 10)

**PRADO . . .**

(Viene de la pág. 9)

y exclusivistas lo, que reconocen que todos los creyentes son espiritualmente iguales en la iglesia? ¿Somos exclusivistas los bautistas porque sostenemos el principio de la libertad de conciencia y la libre emisión del pensamiento? Si en esto consiste el exclusivismo y radicalismo entonces convenimos en que el Nuevo Testamento nos lleva a esa posición, y reconocemos sinceramente que es nuestro deber de cristianos mantenernos en ella.

La democracia eclesial del Nuevo Testamento no puede llamarse exclusivista. Ajustarse a las normas del Nuevo Testamento no puede ser una actitud radical; pero si el radicalismo consiste en ser fieles a esas normas que Cristo establece en el Evangelio, entonces reconocemos el radicalismo como un deber imperativo de la experiencia cristiana. Cristo dice terminantemente: "El que no es conmigo, contra mí es; y el que conmigo no recoge, derrama" (Mt. 12:30).

El hermano Dr. E. Y. Mullins, gran teólogo bautista, ha resumido la posición de los bautistas mediante los siguientes

axiomas:

(1) Axioma teológico: El Dios santo y amoroso tiene derecho a ser soberano.

(2) Axioma religioso: Todas las almas tienen igual derecho al acceso directo a Dios.


(3) Axioma eclesial: Todos los creyentes tienen derecho a privilegios iguales en la Iglesia.

(4) Axioma moral: Para ser responsable, el hombre tiene que ser libre.

Nota: Pero donde hay una jerarquía eclesial que se interpone entre Dios y el creyente, la conciencia no puede ser libre.

(5) Axioma religioso: Una iglesia libre en un Estado libre.

(6) Axioma social: Ama a tu prójimo como a tí mismo.

¿Podrá llamarse exclusivista y radical el que sustente estos principios en el Nuevo Testamento? Si en eso consiste el exclusivismo y radicalismo, yo me declaro exclusivista y radical en el Nuevo Testamento. Nuestro deber es ser fieles al Nuevo Testamento antes que acomodarnos a opiniones humanas. Los bautistas dependemos del Nuevo Testamento y a él tenemos que apelar y ajustar nuestra posición espiritual delante de Dios y de los hombres. 



# Mi Credo

Por John D. Rockefeller

**Cree en la dignidad del trabajo**, sea manual o intelectual, en que el mundo no está obligado a darle un medio de subsistencia, pero si debe proporcionarles a todos una oportunidad de ganársela.

**Creo en la supremacía del individuo** y en su derecho a vivir, a ser libre y a labrarse su felicidad.

**Creo que la verdad y la justicia** son los fundamentos de todo orden social y perdurable.

**Creo en la santidad de toda promesa**; en que **la palabra del hombre debe valer tanto como su mejor garantía material**; en que el carácter — no la riqueza, ni el poder, no la posición — es de supremo valor.

**Creo que toda promesa implica una responsabilidad, toda oportunidad** una obligación, y toda posición, un deber.

**Creo en que la ley** fue hecha para el hombre y no el hombre para la ley; en que el Gobierno es el servidor del pueblo, y no su amo.

**Creo que el ahorro es esencial** para una vida bien ordenada y que la economía es el primer requisito de una sana estructura económica, trátase del go-

bierno, de los negocios, o del individuo.

**Creo que es deber de todos prestar servicio útil** a la comunidad humana, y que sólo el fuego purificador del sacrificio consume la escoria del egoísmo y pone en libertad la grandeza del espíritu.

**Creo en que el amor es lo más grandioso** que hay en el mundo; en que él por su propia virtud vencer el odio; en que el derecho puede predominar, y predominará sobre la fuerza.

## Juan 3:16-19

Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que ha dado a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que en él cree, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna.

Porque no envió Dios a su Hijo al mundo para que condenase al mundo, mas para que el mundo sea salvo por él.

El que en él cree, no es condenado; mas el que no cree, ya es condenado, porque no creyó en el nombre del unigénito Hijo de Dios.

Y esta es la condenación: por que la luz vino al mundo, y los hombres amaron más las tinieblas que la luz; porque sus obras eran malas.

**Iglesia Bautista El Redentor**  
**Central Lafayette #17, Arroyo, PR 00714**  
**(787) 839-3669 y (787) 839-5792**  
**Marcos A. Curet, Pastor**

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

**To Saddam As “Dictator.”** — In the wake of Saddam Hussein’s capture from his Tikrit hole, the BBC has reportedly dug its heels in deeper on its anti-war stance. The Sun reports news executives at the British Broadcasting Company have banned the reference to Hussein as “former dictator.” In an e-mail sent to reporters, the news honchos ordered the words “deposed former president” be used instead. — World News Daily.

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#### **Tammy Faye In Drag.**

— Tammy Faye Messner has three words in response to those who think ill of her — “not true” and “onward.” The former Tammy Faye Bakker knows many people believe she played a critical role in the financial scandal that sent her ex-husband, Jim Bakker, to prison in 1989. She knows her public persona, which includes heavy makeup and sometimes loopy behavior, has made her a walking punch line at times. But Tammy Faye doesn’t care. She has remarried, moved to the Charlotte, N.C. area and has begun work on a Christian variety show that she hopes to syndicate. She’s also promoting a new self-help book, will appear on the WB reality show *The Surreal Life* (pre-

miering Jan. 11) and will host a drag bingo benefit in Durham, N.C. on Friday night to raise money for the Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina. “I’ve been around a lot of drag queens,” Messner said. “I see myself a lot. And they do a better job of me than I do.” Messner says she tries not to judge others, believing that she herself was condemned harshly and wrongly during Bakker’s teleministry corruption scandal. — Arkansas Democrat/Gazette 12/31/03)

\* \* \*

**Oxford Dictionary Changing The Definition of Marriage.** — The Canadian Oxford Dictionary is changing its definition of marriage to read, “The legal or religious union of two people,” Editor-in-chief Katherine Barber told CanWest News Service. It will say nothing about a husband and wife. Barber said that the definition must reflect changes in society. She criticized those who are opposed to the change, saying, “They don’t want to admit that gay people can have relationships that are just like their ideal heterosexual relationship.”

\* \* \*

**The Supreme Court Building and Religion.** — As you walk up the steps to the Capitol Building

which houses the Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world’s law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view — it is Moses and the Ten Commandments! As you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the two huge oak doors have the Ten Commandments engraved on each lower portion of each door. As you sit inside the courtroom, you can see the wall right above where the Supreme Court judges sit a display of the Ten Commandments! There are Bible verses etched in stone all over the Federal Buildings and Monuments in Washington, D.C. James Madison, the fourth president, known as “The Father of Our Constitution” made the following statement. “We have staked the whole of all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.” Patrick Henry, that patriot and Founding Father of our country said, “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the gospel of Jesus Christ.” Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher, whose salary has been paid by the taxpayers since 1777. Fifty-two of the 55 founders of the Constitution

were members of the established orthodox churches in the colonies. Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law would begin making law ... an oligarchy ... the rule of few over many. The very first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay, said, “Americans should select and prefer Christians as their rulers.” How then, have we gotten to the point that everything we have done for over 200 years in this country is now suddenly wrong and unconstitutional?

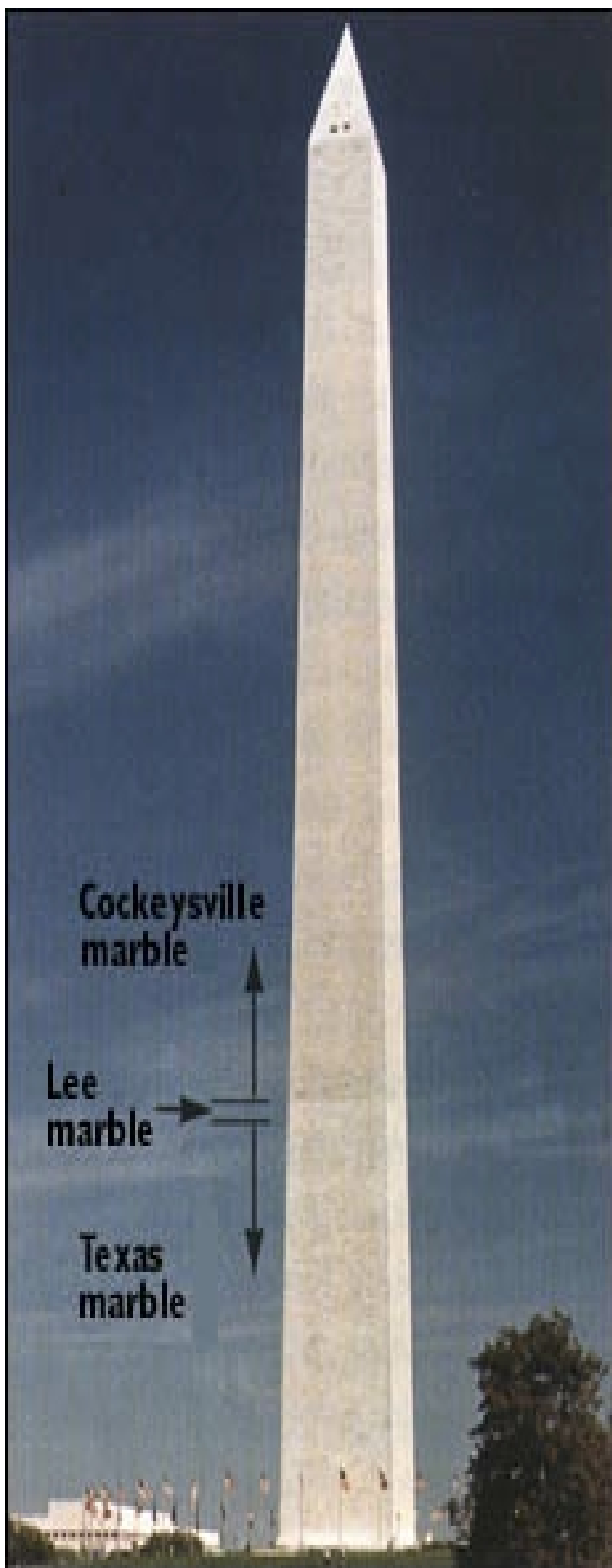
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**VA Accepts Homosexual Chaplains.** — The Metropolitan Community “churches,” the sole homosexual religious denomination in America has been approved to supply chaplains for the Veteran’s Administration use in Veteran’s Hospitals and other VA. facilities. The Metropolitan Community Churches said it encountered no resistance in its application process. They now plan to apply to provide chaplains to the military. — RNS

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**Abortion Training Mandatory In California?** — A bill is in the California Senate and would require

(See WNR on page 14)



## God In Our Government

On the aluminum cap atop the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. are two words: *Laus Deo!*

No one can see these words. In fact ... most visitors to the monument have no idea they are even there. But there they are ... 555 feet, 5,125 inches high ... perched atop the monument to the father of our nation ... overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia ... capital of the United States of America. *Laus Deo!*

Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words ... out of sight and, one might think, out of mind ... but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the world.

And what might those two words comprised of just four syllables and only seven letters ... mean? Very simply ... "*Praise be to God!*"

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848 when James Polk was President of the United

States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public.

It took twenty-five years to finally cap the memorial with the tribute *Laus Deo!* Praise be to God!

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure ... a visitor can take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments: And from that vantage point one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfant ... a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape ... with the White House to the north ... the Jefferson memorial to the south ... the Capital to the east ... and the Lincoln Memorial to the west. A cross ... you say? How interesting!

And ... no doubt ... intended to carry a meaning for those who bother to notice. Praise be to God!

Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings the memorial stones share a message: On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16

(See **WASH** on page 13)

**WASHINGTON . . .**

(Continued from page 12)

and Proverbs 22:6.

Praise be to God! When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848 deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy ... *“one nation, under God.”*

I am awed by Washington’s prayer for America. Have you never read it? Now is your opportunity. Read on:

*“Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a*


*humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!”*

Laus Deo!

As you might have guessed ... I kind of like the idea that our Pledge of Allegiance includes the phrase “under God.” It is clear when one studies the history of our great nation that Washington’s America was one of the few countries in all the world established under the guidance, direction and banner of Almighty God, to whom was given all praise, honor and worship by the great men who formed and fashioned her pivotal foundations.

And ... when one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation’s capital ... one will easily find the signature of God.

We are a nation under God!!! Laus Deo!! Praise be to God!

“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain” (Psalm 127:1). 

**JOB . . .**

(Continued from page 7)

thou? And Satan answered the Lord and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it” (Job 2:3).

Jehovah takes cogni-

zance of Satan’s presence and interrogates him concerning his activity. In the first chapter we learned that God had hedged Job about. This was personal supervision. Here again we have brought home the thought that God had not lost sight of Job in the multitude of men.

God’s relationship was particular and providential. Satan could not touch Job without permission. Such permission has its restraints. “And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life” (Job 2:6). There is great consolation gained in the realization that just as God knew Job intimately and regarded him and his safety with a personal concern, so it must be with one and all. His love and concern are personal and minute. His watchcare never abates. Suffering and disappointment, it matters not how severe, if such is within the will of God, can be educational, disciplinary or vicarious.

**Satan Persistent**

Having been defeated in the first encounter in which he slandered Job before God, Satan comes back for more. He still insists that Job has his price even though the loss of his property and his seven sons and three daughters left God’s servant unscathed. “Then said his wife unto him, dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God

and die” (Job 2:9)!

The severity of this second test is seen from many angles. First, in the intensity his suffering, completely smitten in body with boils, there was left no way to turn for relief. We can well imagine with his strength exhausted and the weariness during the sleepless nights, the human constitution was taxed to the limit. Suffering protracted wears the nerves threadbare, tries the patience and can often bring one to the brink of exasperation.

Second, Job lost his personal dignity as he sat upon the ash heap, scratching himself like a plagued animal. Job had passed from abounding wealth and dignity to the poverty represented by a potsherd — a broken piece of pottery. The contrast was all but unendurable. Men suffer in proportion to their sensitivity of soul and the distance of their descent from a former excellence.

Third, Job’s visage was so marred until his three friends did not know him. “And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven” (Job 2:12). Few things are so calculated to destroy and discourage self-respect as one’s per-

(See **JOB** on page 14)

**WNR . . .**

(Continued from page 11)

medical schools to teach prospective OB/GYN doctors the art of abortion. The bill would make abortion training a routine requirement of OB/GYN residency programs.

\* \* \*

**California Group Wants Bible To Become Textbook.**

— A California group has submitted to the attorney general's office a proposed ballot initiative to amend the state constitution to make the King James Bible a textbook for public school students in grades 1 through 12 throughout the state. This amendment requires 598,105 voter signatures to qualify for the ballot. The case for "the King James Bible of 1611 is 'one of the supreme achievements of the English Renaissance, and is rightly regarded as one of the most influential books in the history of English civilization, which has served as a model of writing for generations of English-speaking people, and is an acclaimed literary work of great historic importance.'" Those backing this initiative say the King James Bible is worthy of study "such secular disciplines as history, literature, culture, poetry, law, language, ethics, science and philosophy." There would not be any

denominational instruction to accept or reject its religious components." Those sponsoring this amendment say that in 1980 the United States Supreme Court said the Bible may be "integrated into the school curriculum, where the Bible may constitutionally be used in an appropriate study of history, civilization, ethics, comparative religion, or the like.— WorldNetDaily.com

\* \* \*


**What Is Kwanzaa?**

— Kwanzaa is a festival celebrated by millions of black people from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. It recognizes the "seven principles of African culture, which are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith." If you think that sounds like communism, you are right. President George Bush traditionally sends his "warm greetings to all who are celebrating Kwanzaa." Kwanzaa was invented in 1966 by Maulana Ron Karenga, a violent radical who also invented a political movement to promote "black cultural nationalism" called "us black folk" (official Kwanzaa web site). Two of Karenga's followers murdered members of the Black Panthers in 1969 ("Did you have a happy Kwanzaa?" Joseph Farah, Jan. 10, 2002). In 1971 Karenga was convicted of torturing two

women in terrible ways and was sentenced to five years in prison. In the "big house," Karenga adopted Marxism, and in 1979, four years after his release, he was put in charge of the Black Studies Department at California State University, Long Beach. This is not surprising in light of the radicalism that permeates "higher" education in America.

\* \* \*

**Christian Killed In Egypt.**

— One was killed and several hospitalized when a bus plowed into a group of Christians who were trying to stop soldiers from destroying their church. This occurred on Monday, January 5, at the Patmos Christian Center about 20 miles from Cairo (Barnabas Fund). The center, which provides care for handicapped children and orphans, has been attacked nine times in six and a half years, even though it is legally registered with the government. 

**JOB . . .**

(Continued from page 13)


sonal appearance. Few experiences can be more traumatic than a look in the mirror and there behold after a long illness a face and body once attractive, now emaciated and withered.

Job lost the sympathy of his wife. In sickness and calamity this is about the

ultimate of human endurance.

**God's Assessment Vindicated**

"In all of this did not Job sin with his lip!" The Word does not tell us here of Job's inward thoughts. This comes out later. At least Job kept his doubts and fears to himself. There is great virtue in restraint. All thinking men and women have their moments of doubts but they do not have to confess these doubts to others. Martin Luther in speaking about doubts had this to say. "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair." We gather from these words about Job that God does not charge His own with doubts unexpressed, unentertained and pampered. It is rebellious words and complaints that dishonor God.

In all of this Job vindicated God's proclaimed faith in a man who was perfect and upright and one who feared God and eschewed evil. But the end is not yet. Job has many lessons to learn during which faith untried becomes faith confirmed. "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:7). 

## Fundamental Baptist Information Service

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### Gospel Music And Homosexuality.

— On December 9, FBI agents arrested Walbert Farmer and charged him with attempting to blackmail Dove Award-winning contemporary gospel singer Kirk Talley. The federal indictment claims that Farmer threatened to reveal that Talley is homosexual (“Man indicted for allegedly trying to extort gospel singer.” This sad bit of news is not surprising. In his autobiography, popular gospel singer Kirk Franklin said: “It’s a problem today in gospel music [referring to homosexuality] — a major concern — and everybody knows it. ... It seems that more than half the young people involved in dance, music, and the theater are openly gay. ... and the gospel music scene has not been exempt from that” (Franklin, *Church Boy*, pp. 39, 40).

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### Filthy Rap Getting Filthier.

— Rap music, popularized by the likes of foul-mouthed Eminem, continues its spiral into the moral cesspool. The following is from “Pop Culture Trends of 2003,”

Foxnews.com, Dec. 29: “Pimps moved off the street corner and into record shops, music videos and even grocery stores this year, as hip-hop artist 50 Cent claimed to be a ‘P.I.M.P.’ in his hit song featuring real-life former pimp Archbishop Don ‘Magic’ Juan; Nelly unveiled an energy drink called ‘Pimp Juice’; and pimp cups, hats and suits were ubiquitous on MTV.” Rappers have a lot to answer for before Almighty God for polluting the minds of young people.

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### Earthquakes In Places.

— An estimated 40,000 people died in a powerful earthquake that destroyed the historic city of Bam in Iran on Dec. 26. Earthquakes claimed the lives of 1,000 in Afghanistan in March 2002; 13,000 in India in January 2001; 2,400 in Taiwan in September 1999; 17,000 in Turkey in August 1999; 1,200 in Colombia in January 1999; 5,000 in Tajikistan in May 1998; 6,000 in Kobe, Japan, in January 1995; 10,000 in Latur, India, in September 1993; 50,000 in Iran in June 1990; 25,000 in Armenia in

December 1988; 9,500 in Mexico in September 1985; 25,000 in Iran in September 1978; 240,000 in Tangshan, China, in July 1976; 22,000 in Guatemala in February 1976; 33,000 in Turkey in December 1939; 28,000 in Chile in January 1939; 50,000 in Quetta, India, in May 1935; and 140,000 in Tokyo, Japan, in September 1923. “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places” (Matt. 24:7).

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### Liberal Bishop Terminates Conservative Church.

— Michael Ingham, bishop of the Anglican New Westminster Diocese in British Columbia, has ordered the closure of a church that refuses to go along with his immorality and theological liberalism. In June of 2002, Ingham made the decision to “celebrate permanent, intimate, loving relationships between persons of the same sex.” The deceived “bishop” thinks he can bless that which God’s Word calls an abomination. Because Anglican priest James Wagner of Holy Cross Church refused to accept the bishop’s decision, the church was terminated. Our prayer is that Wagner will go on now and obey all of the Bible; that he will be born again scripturally and will reject

infant baptism, sacramentalism, hierarchalism, amillennialism, and many other unscriptural Anglican doctrines and practices.

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### What Is Kwanzaa? —

Kwanzaa is a festival celebrated by millions of black people from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. It recognizes the “seven principles of African culture, which are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.” If you think that sounds like communism, you are right. President George Bush traditionally sends his “warm greetings to all who are celebrating Kwanzaa.” Kwanzaa was invented in 1966 by Maulana Ron Karenga, a violent radical who also invented a political movement to promote “black cultural nationalism” called United Slaves. Today it is called “the organization us,” which stands for “us black folk” (official Kwanzaa web site). Two of Karenga’s followers murdered members of the Black Panthers in 1969 (“Did you have a happy Kwanzaa?” Joseph Farah, Jan. 10, 2002). In 1971 Karenga was convicted of torturing two women in terrible ways and was sentenced to five years in prison. In the “big house,” Karenga adopted Marxism,

(See **FBIS** on page 16)

**FBIS . . .**

(Continued from page 15)

and in 1979, four years after his release, he was put in charge of the Black Studies Department at California State University, Long Beach. This is not surprising in light of the radicalism that permeates “higher” education in America.

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**Christian Rock Is Chum for Secular Rock.**

— One discerning Christian musician describes Christian rock music as “chum” for secular rock. Chumming is a fishing practice. The fisherman uses chum to attract the fish. The chum might be corn meal and salmon eggs (to attract kokanee) or fish entrails and blood (to attract shark). The fisherman tosses the chum over the side of the boat and if there are fish in the area they will sense the chum and move toward the boat (and the fisherman’s waiting lure or net). This is what Christian rock is for secular rock. Contemporary Christian Music creates an appetite for worldly music. In a test conducted in a British teen music club, the young people could not tell the difference between secular rock and Christian rock. The May 18, 1998, issue of *Alberta Report* contained an article entitled “Christian and Cool,” which described “Christian” musicians playing successfully in

secular music clubs in Alberta, Canada. They can make this “cross over” because their music is worldly, and the lyrics to the music are so vague and inoffensive that the unsaved do not mind that it is somewhat religious in nature. The worldly crowd is there for the rock music and its sensual effect, not for the words. As long as they can dance and groove to the music, they don’t care what the words are. The article mentioned teenagers who wandered into the club “without realizing all the acts were Christian.” Contemporary Christian Music does not influence the world to a truly biblical position and lifestyle; rather, Contemporary Christian Music draws professing Christians to the world.

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**The European Disunion.** — Newsweek magazine for Dec. 29 carried an article on the European Union entitled “The State of Disunion.” We are told: “At the heart of the European Union, there are splits within splits. . . . The defining quality of Europe right now is division, not union.” The article ends with this comment: “The coming few months will decide whether Europe’s disunion is a problem to be solved, or a state of being.” We can answer this from the Bible. It is a permanent state. In

God’s eyes, the old Roman empire has not ceased and will re-emerge in the last hours of this age as a 10-member empire headed by the antichrist. This was prophesied in Daniel chapter 2 by the image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream. The image, which was of a man, depicted the four world empires that would exist before the establishment of Christ’s kingdom. These are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The Roman empire was depicted by the two legs (showing the division of the empire into east and west) and two feet of the image (showing the final state of the empire). The ten toes depict the antichrist’s brief kingdom. We are told that it will be of iron mixed with clay, depicting its integral weakness and disunity. Daniel tells us that these ten kingdoms will be aligned but “shall not cleave one to another” (Dan. 2:43). We do not yet see the fulfillment of this, but it could be just around the corner, for we “know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (Mat. 25:13) and we must therefore be always ready.

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**Flesh and Bones Or Flesh and Blood?** — The New International Version is becoming popular even among fundamentalist churches, but it is one of

the very worst of the modern versions. Not only is it based on a corrupt Greek text but it is a loose dynamic equivalency translation. The following is from Dr. D.A. Waite’s excellent book *Defending the King James Version*: “[The NIV is so inferior] when it comes to the Words of God. [For example 2 Sam. 19:12 has ‘ye are my bones and my flesh.’] The word ‘bone’ in Hebrew is *etsem* and ‘flesh’ is *basar*. The NIV renders that expression ‘flesh and blood.’ Now, the word ‘blood’ is *dam*, not *etsem*. Blood is blood and bones are bones, and never the two shall meet. But the NIV translators don’t care. They’re giving the *thought*. They say, ‘Those stupid Hebrews, they say “flesh and bones.” Don’t they know any better? Don’t they know it should be “flesh and blood”?’ So we’re going to translate it “flesh and blood.”” They write their own ticket. They have a blank check and anything they want to do, they do it. The people in the pews, reading the NIV and comparing it to the King James Bible say, ‘Those silly King James people, didn’t they know any better? Look at this better translation in the NIV.’ . . . Now, here’s the thing: Whenever someone says, ‘The King James Bible says this, but the

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**BODY . . .**

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stream where they are able to multiply rapidly and secrete their dangerous toxins. We see the wisdom of God in devising so many protective agencies, placing them at strategic places, where they can function to best advantage.

The dust-laden air which we breathe is full of organisms. These bacilli do not live freely suspended in air, but exclusively as passengers on dust particles. Each dust particle is a balloon carrying several hundred germ passengers through the air. In the course of the day, their numbers increase vastly, reaching a maximum in crowded areas, railway stations, cafes, dance halls, and the like. We inhale thousands of them at each breath, but our bodies have developed an immunity, which prevents disease, unless our resistance becomes lowered, or certain unfortunate conditions prevail.

Not infrequently thousands of bacilli may be found in a teaspoonful of milk. Tuberculosis germs are found everywhere, but fortunately most people have developed strong immunity to this organism. Diphtheria and meningitis organisms may be found in the nose and mouth cavities of individuals who are otherwise in good health. We live in an environment alive with all kinds of

disease producing bacteria, but our bodies can manufacture gradually so many protective substances that a person who has swallowed the most dangerous bacilli for many years becomes quite immune.

If a culture of bacteria be passed through an asbestos or clay filter, the bacteria are kept back by the fine pores of the filter. But many diseases are caused by organisms so small that they pass through the finest pores. These are known as members of the virus family, and may be 20,000 times smaller than a bacillus. At least 3400 species have been recognized. They are the cause of measles, smallpox, colds, la gripe, poliomyelitis, rabies, and many other diseases.

A virus seems to be a crystal consisting of protein compounds, but as yet we know little about it, except that it remains to be conquered. Bacteria are able to manufacture toxins which, when poured into the blood, gradually kill. When any such foreign protein is introduced into the blood vessels and tissue spaces of the body, substances known as antibodies are produced in response to the bacterial toxins and are known as antitoxins. They seem to nullify the effect of the toxin by combining with it, thus making it harmless. These antitoxins, of course, are all different, depending on the nature of the infection.

## How Creation Should Remind Us Of Christ

1. When we enter a door we should think of Christ as the Door.

2. When we eat we should think of Christ as the Bread of Life.

3. When we drink — the Water of Life.

4. When we enter our home — the place He has gone to prepare.

5. When we enter a jewelry store, we should think of Him as the Pearl of Great Price.

6. When we see a tree — the Tree of Life.

7. When we eat grapes — the Vine.

8. When a child is born — the giver of life.

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This subject which deals with the way our bodies resist disease is an immense one. The discoveries which are being made are chiefly along the line of assisting the body-policemen, the white blood corpuscles, in their great attack on the invading organisms. In my next article, I shall tell you something about sulfa drugs and maybe about penicillin.

We have all learned, I am sure, how narrow is the line between health and disease. A person in apparently perfect physical vigor can be struck down, and in a few hours or days the grave receives the body which so recently was full

9. When we attend a funeral — the resurrection and the life.

10. When we think of language — the Word of Life.

11. When we enter a doctor's office — the Great Physician.

12. When we take medicine — the Balm of Giliad.

13. When we need a lawyer — the Advocate.

14. At a wedding — Christ as the Bridegroom.

15. Plant or buy flowers — Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley.

16. When we prepare a garden — The Seed.

17. When we gather our crops — Christ the Gardener and Harvester.

18. When we count or tend our stock — The Lamb of God.

19. At the Zoo — The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

20. When we turn on the light at night — Christ the Light of the World.

21. When we take a journey — Christ the Way.

22. When we build a house — Christ the carpenter.

23. When we think of our sins — Christ the Sin-bearer.

24. When we think of facts — Christ the Truth.

25. When we think of the heavens — The Bright and Morning Star and the Sun of Righteousness. ☞

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**BODY . . .**

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of life and vitality. It may be that one of the tiny vessels in the brain ruptured, blood was poured out, and pressure on vital centers brought speedy death. It may have been carelessness in dealing with a small cut in the skin, even a slight abrasion. On the skin was waiting a deadly streptococcus. A legion of them maybe had been there for a long time, but unable to break through this first line of defense. Finding themselves in the blood stream where warmth and nourishment are present in exactly the right amount, they multiply with deadly speed; the arm becomes red, swollen, painful, the fever center in the brain responds frantically, raising the temperature so that the leucocytes may work at their maximum power. All the reserves are called from the bone marrow, and countless millions emerge to enter the life-and-death conflict. Until recently the attending physician was practically helpless against a powerful infection of this kind. Many times, I have worked night and day, using every known remedy, only to see my patient rapidly slipping into eternity.

The hardest task a doctor has is to tell the loved ones that the patient is dying; and even more trying — to tell the sick one, if conscious. I recall these experiences as I have

mingled tears with those who would have given their own lives to save the life of son or daughter. Our prayers were unavailing, and we could not understand why God did not save the life. Always, however, is the comforting conviction: “He doeth all things well.”

I have visited men and women — and so have some of you — bedridden for years, knowing only suffering and weakness, and yet able to rejoice in the Lord and to thank Him for His goodness in giving salvation here and now and the wonderful prospect for the future, when heaven would be a reality and a new and glorified body a possession for the eternal ages.


It may be that I am writing to some today who are somewhat rebellious against God. You have prayed for healing — for yourself or for your loved ones — and your request has not been granted. But, remember that your sickness may prove to be your greatest opportunity of witnessing for the Lord. Illness is not necessarily an indication of God’s displeasure. We read: “Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”

We do need the chastening hand of God so often. We grow careless and drift back into worldliness; we have become carnal Christians.

Or if we have never accepted Christ, it may be that God finds He must lay the body low, in order to get any chance to deal with the soul. Never forget that *He loves us*. He desires the very best for us and knows better than we how to secure that best. If you are sick, use your sickness for the glory of God. If you are well, let your health belong to Him. Above all — do not be indifferent to the claims of Jesus Christ.

And remember what Christ has done so that you may secure and enjoy eternal fellowship with Him, when you will one day share His glorified body — a body which knows no

weakness, no weariness, no limitation. I am sure that those who have suffered much from bodily disease or frailty down here will greatly appreciate this gift of a perfect body — one which has substance, one which can take food and enjoy it, but does not need it, one which will live forever.

In every way it is worth while to be sure of this. There is only one way, and that is through Jesus Christ. Let me again plead with you not to turn away from Him — and you will find Him very **WONDERFUL!** [Next month: “The Powerful Sulfa Remedies and Penicillin.”] 




## The Great God Statistics: The Modern Book of Numbers

When the structural pre-empts the place of the spiritual, a materialization of the faith results. The spiritual content of the Gospel becomes a possession which can be assessed by statistical analysis and quantitative measurements.

Missionary thrust is gauged by the number of conversions; Christian nurture is gauged by the number who attend church school; Christian piety is gauged by the number who attend the preaching service and prayer-meeting; Chris-

tian stewardship is gauged by the size of the budget; Christian efficiency is gauged by whether one technique is used, in preference to another. And the criterion for the selection of one technique over another is whether it produces a more statistical result.

The spiritual content of the gospel thus becomes a commodity which can be distributed and promoted. The gospel can be “spread” just as though it were salad dressing or peanut butter. — Baptist Program. 

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

this is what you are to see; what can I learn about the Lord Jesus Christ. What you find is the consumation of the Lord Jesus Christ and His work. We see all of these things that He has done in the past. Now as we read the Book of Revelation, we see how all of this work, the work of redemption, is going to culminate with the Lord Jesus Christ returning to this earth so that He might fulfill His work as the Last Adam.

We also pointed out to you that the word “revelation” means an apocalypse, an unveiling, a revealing, an uncovering, so that the Book of Revelation is a book that can be understood. It is not, as some say today, a book difficult to understand, but is a book that is easy to understand because it reveals itself. It interprets itself. All we need do is read the book, take it literally, and then it reveals itself to us. Even all the symbols that are considered to be difficult, interpret themselves, so as we study, and read it, we find it reveals itself to us without much difficulty. It all depends upon our approach and our motive in coming to the book.

Now the book was written during the times of persecution. We know that this persecution began under the Jews during the

times of the churches of Jerusalem and Antioch. You remember how they were scattered everywhere. Now under the Roman Empire we find that pagan Rome also brings a persecution upon the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. When John is writing this book, they are undergoing a time of severe persecution. Jerusalem has already been destroyed; many of the believers are wondering just what the outcome is going to be, and what is going to happen.

The Lord gives us this book as a message of hope. For all of those who were undergoing persecution, in reading this book, they will see that it is not hopeless, that there is light at the end of the tunnel. All of these visions are different aspects of the glorified Lord Jesus Christ as He returns in judgment and as He ultimately will be at the conclusion of all things.

The keynote of this book is to be found in four words “*Behold, I come quickly.*” These words are repeated over and over, showing us that the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is to be sudden and wholly unexpected at the time of His appearing.

We want now to look at the reasons why there are so many who teach that you ought not to study the Book of Revelation. Since this is “The Revelation of Jesus Christ,” and since this

book is the capstone, the final book that completes our Bible, we would think that men would urge us to read, to study, and to learn about this book. It is amazing to learn that there are many today who are supposed to be preachers, Bible scholars, and teachers of others, who readily say they do not understand this book, nor do they study this book, and they recommend

that you not study this book either. They say you cannot understand this book.

Why would men tell us such things as this? I think we can find some reasons why. The main reason is that Satan hates this book more than any other book. If you did not have the Book of Revelation, it

(See **REV** on page 20)

## A Little Walk Around

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

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

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

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

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

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

**REVELATION . . .**

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would appear that Satan is the winner; as if Satan is the victor. When you read the other books of the Bible, either Old Testament or the New Testament, you do not find the fulfillment of all these prophecies in the Old Testament. You do not find the fulfillment of these other prophecies that are in the New Testament. As far as all intents and purposes are concerned, if you do not have the Book of Revelation, then seemingly Satan is going to be victorious, has the world in his control, and is going to win the final victory.

It is when we come to the Book of Revelation that we see that the Lord puts everything in its proper perspective. Satan appears to have control of this world right now. He even appears to have control and charge of all the churches. He seemingly is winning on every front, but when you come to the Book of Revelation, you find that Satan is not going to win the final victory, nor is he going to be victorious in any sense at all. The Book of Revelation tells us all about his final defeat.

The Book of Revelation warns us about Satan. We find some eight times in this book that Satan is named. Five times in connection with the churches, showing that the main activity of Satan is through and in the churches of the Lord Jesus

Christ, and he does not want us to know that. This shows his main work is through the churches. Satan's work is not in the world, but in the churches.

Many people are misinformed about Satan. They think that Satan is down at the racetrack at Hot Springs or in all the beer halls, the taverns, in the places of wickedness, etc. That's not where Satan is. Satan doesn't spend his time there. Those people are already under his control. He doesn't have to bother them. They're already doing what he wants. He's satisfied with them, but Satan's sphere of influence, and Satan's sphere of activity is within the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is where Satan works today.

You know where Satan is now? He's right here in our midst. He is seeking to harm our services. Satan begins early on Sunday morning. He provides you excuses why you ought not to go to church. Satan will provide you with excuses why you're not able to stay for church or come to Sunday school or study your Bible, or do these things.

This is part of Satan's activity. Satan's idea is to provide you excuses why you do not sing in the choir. He provides you with excuses why you're not more regular and more active in your church work. He provides you excuses why you should not take

part in the activities of a church, such as visitation, calling on the telephone, doing work for your Sunday school class, or your department or whatever it is. These are the areas where Satan works. Satan works *within* the churches, not outside, but he does not want you to be aware of that, and he does not want you to know that. Satan works today in the churches, and in this book of Revelation, five out of the eight times we find his name mentioned, it is mentioned in connection with the churches. If you include the one time that he is called the devil in chapter 2:10 it means that six times his name is mentioned in relationship with the Lord's churches.

Satan will attempt to prevent the reading of this book. One of the reasons is because it reveals his character and nature. I'm sure that you have seen the caricature of Satan, where he is supposed to have horns, a long forked tail, a pitchfork in his hand, looking like a dragon breathing out fire and brimstone. This is the way that most people think Satan looks. Some people have the idea that Satan is

in hell and that he is the one stoking all the fires of hell. Well, don't you believe it. Satan is not like that at all.

We do find there are descriptions of Satan in this book. These are not physical descriptions but descriptions of his character and nature. In chapter 12:9 you read about Satan being called "the old dragon." You don't find Satan as a dragon in a physical sense, but he has the character of a dragon, being a destroyer, and one that is to destroy everything.

He is called a serpent in 12:9. That does not mean that he goes around slithering on the ground like a snake, but he has some of the characteristics of a snake. He is sly, cunning, stealthy, quiet, underhanded. He comes upon you and you are unaware of him until he is there, just as an old serpent would do.

He is also called the devil in 12:9. This identifies him for us. In 19:20 is the description of him that we see today, and that is as the false prophet. Satan today does not look, as some have described him,

(See **REV** on page 21)**WISDOM**

You are strong and willing — that's fine.

You hope to remain so — that's natural.

You may be disappointed — that's possible.

You will die — that's sure.

You'd better get ready — that's wisdom.

**REVELATION . . .**

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with horns, forked tail, pitchfork, etc. A being like that would never deceive anyone. If you saw someone coming toward you like that, you would turn and run, but instead, Satan comes as a false prophet.

Now a false prophet never tells you he is a false prophet. A false prophet never comes with a sign on his chest saying "false prophet." A false prophet tells you that he is a true prophet (2 Cor. 11:13-15). He tells you that he is a prophet of the Lord. How are you going to know whether he is a true prophet or a false prophet? The only way is by listening to what he has to say and comparing his message with the Word of God. That's how you tell whether a true prophet or a false prophet is speaking or not. You don't listen to what they say, as far as whether it sounds good or not, but you take it to the Word of God and prove it by the Word of God.

If you listen to Herbert or Garner Ted Armstrong, or some of these other heretics, sometimes they sound very good. They have real appeal to their voice; they have good "pulpit ability," or speaking ability. They sound very convincing because they're good orators and quote the Bible, and for this reason, they're able to deceive many. Well, how are you

going to tell? You don't go by the fact he quotes the Bible. You don't go by the fact that they have big churches, but you take their message and compare it with the Word of God. The Lord says that it is by the Word that we are to determine whether they are true or false prophets. Satan is a false prophet. The scripture says *try* the Spirits to see whether they be of God or not (1 Jn. 4:1).

That's how you tell whether it's the Holy Spirit that talks, deals or impresses you with something or not. We have many people today that never try the spirits and get involved in some of these charismatic movements such as speaking in tongues, divine healing, praying, etc. and they say, the "Spirit" just leads me to do all these things. Well, what spirit? You must try the spirits to see whether they be of God or not. The Holy Spirit never leads anybody to do those things.

I heard a preacher from South Carolina speaking in Texas say that once as he was preaching in a church (and he is supposed to be a Baptist), the Holy Ghost got such a hold of him, that he got in a "high-weaving way," and said that he actually jumped out the window of the church. He said he tried to get back in the window but it was too high, so he ran around to the front of the church, ran back down to the front of the church, got back into

the pulpit, and kept preaching, and never even missed a word. He said the Holy Spirit led him to do that. Now listen, the Holy Spirit never leads anyone to make a fool of themselves. The Holy Spirit never leads anyone to do things like that. The Lord says that everything should be done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40), and He never leads anybody to do those kinds of things. So you try or test the Spirits to see whether they be according to the Word of God. You just don't run off half-cocked like that at all.

Now a false prophet is that way. I hope you read the next month's issue of **The Baptist Challenge** about Oral Roberts. "Oral Roberts has his hand out and his hand is hot." That's what he says. Read the article about this in the March (1979) issue of **TBC**. These are the ways the false prophets act and operate. They deceive. They don't tell you they are false prophets, but you tell if they are false prophets or not by comparing what they say with the Word of God, and that's the only way you can tell sometimes. The Scriptures say that the ministers of Satan have transformed themselves into ministers of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:13-15), so they appear to be righteous. They appear to be religious. They are religious, but they're not the ministers of God, and Satan doesn't want you to learn

all these things. Since this book tells about Satan, he will try to prevent you from studying and reading this book so that you will not learn about him.

Finally, this book tells you about Satan's doom and his failure (20:10). He's doomed to lose. He's doomed to failure for the Lord is going to destroy him. He is going to be placed in an eternal hell. He is going to be the prime subject rather than using a pitchfork shoveling coal, making the fire hotter for all the unsaved who are also going to hell. He is going to be down there suffering in hell. After all, the scripture says, that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels (Mt. 25:41). He's not going to be king of hell; he's not going to be in charge of the domain of hell. He's going to be there suffering. That's his doom. It's certain; he can't change it, but he's hoping to change it. He knows what the Bible says, but he thinks he has power enough to overcome God and to overcome the Lord Jesus Christ, and thereby still win the victory. That's why he's still fighting; he still has hopes of winning the victory, but he will not.

This Book, not only tells you about Satan and his doom, but it tells you also about his character. Satan is the instigator of all evil. If you want to know where it all began, it began with

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**REVELATION . . .**

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Satan. He is the instigator of all evil.

Did you ever do anything wrong? Then don't blame God. Blame Satan or yourself. Sometimes we blame Satan with more things that we ought to give him credit for. Wasn't it Flip Wilson who said "The devil made me do it?" I don't think we ought to blame the devil with everything. Sometimes we do things simply because we want to do it, and try to place the blame on the devil. You can't do that. If you do something wrong, don't blame the devil if you wanted to do it. He might entice you; he might tempt you, but he can't make you do it. You do it because you want to. Though he may instigate it, yet you yourself do it because you want to do it, but he will be the instigator, and he'll do everything in his power to enable you to do anything that's wrong.

Not only that, but he is the corrupter of churches. We read in the New Testament about churches that apostatize. A believer, a Christian, a child of God cannot apostatize. They cannot lose their salvation. A church can, and if a church does, it is because Satan has managed to worm himself into the inside whereby he corrupts that church and leads that church into apostasy. Satan is the one who does it.

Occasionally we have little problems in our church. Some of them haven't always been so little, but we do have difficulties or problems within our church, as do all true churches. When that happens, there may be somebody that wants to leave and go to another church because they say our church has problems and I don't want to be in a church that has problems. Let me tell you now, that any church that tries to do the work of the Lord is going to have problems. Satan is going to see to it; that's his job, and if you ever find yourself in the membership of a church that never has any difficulties, never has any problems of any kind, then you can know that Satan is satisfied with that church. Satan is going to cause problems within a church that works for the Lord.

The thing is, *don't let him use you*. He will use Christians, he will use believers, and he will use those who are members of that church to cause problems within that church. There can be all kinds of problems with a church. Sometimes they are doctrinal problems. Sometimes you may have a member of the church that may be doctrinally right on many things, but doctrinally wrong on others. He (or she) will sow seeds of discord within the church by teaching things contrary to the Word of God, and

contrary to what the pastor teaches. You can only have one pastor within a church, and that pastor is accountable and responsible to God for everything that is taught in that church. This is not only in the pulpit, but also in the Sunday school, Training Union, Bible Class, or any other area of the church. The Bible places the responsibility for all teaching in the church underneath the pastor.

When there is somebody teaching a doctrine contrary to what the pastor teaches, it will not be long until the church is divided. That ought not to be. That doesn't happen often but even one time is too often.

Sometimes, Satan causes difficulties within a church over other things. I'm thankful we've never had it here, but I can name

(See **REV** on page 23)

## *Don't Just Belong*

If you think your church the best,  
Tell 'em so!

If you'd have it lead the rest,  
Help it grow!

When there's something to do,  
Let them always count on you.  
You'll feel good when it is through,  
Don't you know?

If you're used to giving knocks,  
Change your style;  
Throw bouquets instead of rocks,  
For awhile.  
Let the other fellow roast,  
Shun him as you would a ghost,  
Meet his banter with a boast  
And a smile.

When a stranger from afar  
Comes along,  
Tell him who and what you are—  
Make it strong.  
Never flatter, never bluff,  
Tell the truth, for that's enough;  
Be a booster, that's the stuff—  
Don't just belong!

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 22)

more than one church that has had difficulties deciding who was going to play the organ and who was going to play the piano. You might consider that a small thing, but a Baptist church in Colorado had a split in which a sizable group left that church, divided over who was going to play the organ. Two people wanted to play it, and it so happened that one of them was the pastor's daughter. I don't know the ins and the outs as I wasn't there at the time, but I know that it caused such a difficulty over who was going to play the organ that it caused a split in the church. Several families left the church simply because the one they wanted to play the organ didn't get to play the organ, even though she was going to play the piano instead. There were two of them, and one could play the organ and the other the piano, but they both wanted to play the organ, and it split the church. Who causes things like that? Satan does. Sometimes Satan uses good people, God's people, saved people, to cause trouble within a church. Don't let Satan use you. Don't be tools of Satan. He is the corrupter of the churches and he will do it from the inside if he is able to do so.

He is also the persecutor of the churches. Persecution often comes

from the outside, and Satan is always behind it. I am sure that we'd be surprised how many churches that are true, sound, Bible-believing churches have difficulty with forces on the outside seeking to persecute them. I don't mean that they are going to boil us in oil, or take us out and throw us to the lions, but there are differences made sometimes between churches. If your church is in the World Council of Churches (WCC), the National Council of Churches (NCC), or one of these ecumenical-type organizations, you will find that you have no difficulty with the government at all. You can secure your tax-exempt status with no problem at all. If you want a building permit or if you want to modify your building, you usually don't have any difficulties with the government either. But, if your church stands for the truth, and will not join the World or National Council of Churches, or any of these other ecumenical organizations because they believe all such organizations are of the devil, they won't have anything to do with them. Because they don't, then they run into problems with the Federal Government and the IRS and all these other things, and none of the others do. It is a form of persecution.

Here in the United States we see that the Federal Government is

persecuting churches right now, especially in the area of private schools. I hope you read that article in this month's issue of **The Baptist Challenge** about private schools and how the government is trying to close churches down, or make these churches submit to the bureaucracy of the Internal Revenue Service, or else forfeit their tax-exempt status. What they do with private schools, church-owned schools, if they can get by with that, then the same rules that apply to a church-owned school will apply to a church or else you won't get a tax-exempt status. If you don't know what we're talking about, you haven't been reading your papers recently, and especially **The Baptist Challenge**. What they're trying to do, is to tell you that you have to have 20% minorities (which means black) in your school, and if you don't, you have to prove to them that you have actively gone out and recruited them. If you find that they don't have the money, then you have to prove that you have donated them a scholarship and paid their expenses to come to your school. Then you must prove that you have 20% of the faculty members minority, and if you haven't, then you have to prove that you have gone out and recruited blacks to become members of the faculty. If you don't have them, you at least have to prove that you tried to get

them anyway. These are just some of the requirements imposed on a church in Mississippi. You're guilty until you have proved yourself innocent to the IRS or else they will close your school by removing your tax-exempt status. If they can do that with a school, it is only one step further to do that with a church. That's a form of persecution.

Satan is behind all of this! Satan seeks to destroy every New Testament church, and he is going to use all these methods. He is going to instigate evil; he will seek to corrupt the churches, and he is going to be the persecutor of the churches because he is the enemy of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan hates the book of Revelation because he knows that if people could see the end from the beginning they would not be so quick and willing to follow him. If people knew the result, they wouldn't be so quick to follow him.

Another reason why Satan hates this book is because the gospel message is preached in the Book of Revelation. "*And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood*" (1:5). Again, "*And one of the elders answered, say-*

(See **REV** on page 24)

**POTTER . . .**

(Continued from page 5)

them “teach” it. Children as early as kindergarten are force-fed instances of human sacrifice, the sucking of blood from dead animals and possession by spirit beings. The ritual and technique in the Potter books are amazingly accurate.

Witches in tales of old, always the “bad guys,” were evil, scary and were ultimately defeated by the tale’s hero. No child wanted to emulate the witch in the old fairy tales. Not so with Harry Potter. The Potter series has so reinvented sorcery and witchcraft that your children now see such evil characters as positive role models.

Occult indoctrination is the inevitable next step for our children. We who should have sounded a warning have invited our children to follow the Wiccan Pied Piper to their destruction.

Harry Potter has desensitized our children

**FBIS . . .**

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NIV makes it a little plainer, ‘you don’t know whether it really is plainer or just a fairy tale, because the NIV translators don’t stick to the words of God. What the NIV says is not necessarily what the Hebrew or Greek says.”

into believing that witchcraft is harmless.

It is high time believers started behaving like salt. The welfare of our children’s souls hangs in the balance.

D. L. Spurlin  
Batesville, Arkansas

**KAZEE . . .**

(Continued from page 4)

Himself, for His own glory, and your greatest sin is your refusal to let Him do what He pleases with His own. You were created to “glorify God in your body.” Your refusal to do this is your greatest sin. In fact, it is your damning sin. And why not? Where else can you go if you don’t want to be with your Creator and Savior? Many have turned to Christ and have been saved. You must repent or perish. You must be a bad sinner, for it took the blood of Jesus Christ to save you. Will you still rebel and resist God’s will? Mercy is fading, but even now you can come. “Believe on (that is, put your trust in) the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 23)

*ing unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which*

*came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 7:13-14; Heb. 9:22).*

You see the gospel is preached in these verses. In the first chapter it says “*Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*” That’s the way sins are removed. Sins are not removed by joining a church. Sins are not removed by being baptized. Sins are not removed by keeping the commandments. Sins are not removed by keeping the Law. Sins are removed by only one way, and that is through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has “washed us,” and that word “washed” means “loosed” us from our sins in His own blood. It is the modernist who wishes to eliminate the blood. They wish to take all the songs from our hymn books that sing about the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. “What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus, What can make me whole again, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” The song we sang a moment ago, “There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Emmanuel’s veins, And sinners plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains.” Satan does not want people to know about the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, because this is the only way that sin

can be removed.

Do you know that? Have you learned that? Do you know that the only way that your sins can be removed is by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ? Hebrews 9:22 says that it is the only way that our sins can be removed, by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no cleansing apart from the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Have your sins been washed away? Are you free? Have you been “loosed,” for that word “washed” in verse 5 means “loosed.” That’s what your laundry detergent does when you put it in your washing machine, it “looses” the dirt from the fabrics that you put in there. That’s what washing is. It loosens the dirt so that it can all be washed out and drained out through the drain. That’s what Jesus does with His blood. He cleanses us; He washes us; He “looses” us from our sins, so that when we stand before Him, we stand before Him as though we had never sinned at all — pure, spotless and white. We have been washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This book tells us about that. Satan does not want you to know that. Satan does not want you to realize that your sins can only be cleansed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

[Next Month: “The Interpretation of the Book.”]