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WHOLE NO. 475

The Multiplicity of Denominations An Evil

By James B. Gambrell

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was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention and served four terms as president.

* * *

"They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace" (Jer. 6:14).

Taking these words as suggestive, I shall proceed directly to the discussion of a matter which has long appeared to my mind to be of grave concern to all Christian people. It requires no argument to convince Bible-readers that the first churches had a common faith, as they had also a common Lord and a common baptism.

At the beginning there was unity in belief and practice. This is clear upon the face of the inspired records, and it is equally clear that it was the will of our Lord that this happy state of things should continue. A caution was given against those who caused divisions contrary to

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"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:7-8).

The writer of this book is not "John the Baptist." This is John the Apostle. He is the writer and when we read in verse 4 "John to the seven churches" we

Message #5 -- Preached February 4, 1979

Vision of the Second Coming

By M. L. Moser, Editor

are talking about John the Apostle. Now He is a Baptist, but he is not John the Baptist who was the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every writer of the New Testament was a Baptist. That's all there were during the days of the New Testament. All were Baptists. The church that the Lord Jesus Christ started was a Baptist

church, and the writers of our New Testament were all Baptist preachers, and all the apostles were Baptists. So this is a John, a Baptist, but not "John the Baptist" that we read about in Mark 1, who was the first prophet of the New Testament dispensation. This is John the Apostle.

I want us to see the vision, the coming of the

Lord Jesus Christ in His second coming. *"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."*

This is speaking about the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. This coming has been spoken about many times in both

See **REV** on page 2)

Quiz The Pastor -- #27**The Christian and War**

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: What should be the Christian's position on war?

Answer: War seems to be the lot of mankind from the beginning, since man fell in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3). It is doubtful if there has ever been a decade in which war did not break out somewhere on planet earth. The Bible says that "wars and fightings" come among us because of the "lusts that war in our members" (Jas. 4:1). It is a human nature problem. Wars are the normal and inevitable extension of the fallen nature of man. It is written: "Their feet are swift to shed blood. Destruction and misery are in their ways and the way of peace have they not known" (Rom. 3:15-17). Since Cain killed Abel (Gen. 4:8), we humans

seem bent on shedding the blood of our fellowman, whether as the aggressor or as the defender.

The Christian's participation in his country's wars is part of his responsibility as a good citizen. War today is a total thing. We all share to some degree participation in war, even through the paying of taxes.

We, as Christians, have dual citizenship, a heavenly as well as an earthly citizenship, and as such, we are to "render unto Caesar the things of Caesar, and unto God the things of God" (Mt. 22:17-21). Sometimes "the things of Caesar" includes the battlefield, and the sorrow and grief that goes along with it. However, there may be times when Caesar's demands may intrude into our God's will for our lives,

and thus, we must decide "to obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29).

The Holy Spirit through Paul commands saints to pray for those in authority (1 Tim. 2:1-3), and to submit ourselves to them (Rom. 13:1-7; Tit. 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-15). It so happens that a Roman Caesar was ruling over the Roman government when Paul penned these words. This governmental authority is "ordained of God" (Rom. 13:1-7), and commits itself to the protection and good of its citizen whether it be through our many law enforcement agencies on the local level, or our armed forces on the national level.

No one in their right mind enjoys killing another human, but sometimes in the course of events it becomes a necessary thing. When Abraham's nephew Lot, along with others were taken captive by four kings, Abraham got together 318 men, and pursued them and "smote them" (Gen. 14:12, 14-15). There is "a time of war and a time of peace" (Eccl. 3:8).

The same God that commanded His people, "Thou shalt not kill" (murder), (Ex. 20:13), also commanded His people to drive out the Canaanites from the land that was promised to them, and thus possess the land.

Moses referred to the Lord as "a man of war, The Lord is his Name" (Ex. 15:3). David wrote, "He (God) teacheth my hands

to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms" (Psa. 18:34). When Nehemiah led the returned remnant to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, each worker had a tool in one hand, and a weapon by his side or in his other hand (Neh. 4:17-18). There were no pacifists or objectors present here. Even God's and Satan's angels are said to war against one another (Rev. 12:7). At His return, our Lord Jesus Christ "will judge and *make war*" at Armageddon (Rev. 19:11), and a great slaughter will take place.

I'm convinced the Bible teaches it is the Christian's responsibility to participate in the defense of his country. Refusal to do so would lead to the invitation for an enemy to come in, take over our country, and enslave us and take away our precious freedoms. One day, the "Prince of Peace" will return to earth, and rule in Righteousness, and it will be at that time we "shall learn war no more" (Isa. 2:4). □

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 1)

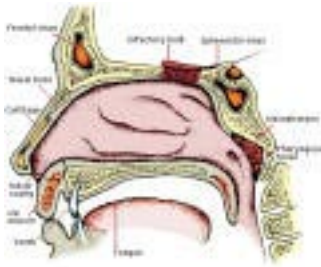
the Old and the New Testaments before we reach this point in the Book of Revelation. For a few moments I want us to read several verses of Scripture, some in the Old Testament and some in the New Testament, referring to this.

Daniel writes: "I saw

(See **REV** on page 6)**THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE**

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God's Masterpiece The Human Body #15

Your Nose Is a Human Vacuum Cleaner

By Arthur I. Brown

We are studying just now the business of respiration or breathing, and have had our attention drawn to the various respiratory organs, the first of which is the nose, the outer portion curiously constructed of bone, cartilage, skin, and some muscle. I pointed out to you that in the nasal cavity are three bones — the turbinates — hanging from the side wall, shaped like shells, and dividing the space into upper, middle and lower portions. The upper part of each fossa is the olfactory or smelling part, for here the branches of the olfactory nerve are placed just where the inspired air strikes first as it takes an upward swing, of necessity, due to the position of the nostrils. So the first testing ground is here. Everything which has an odor gives off small particles which seem to strike the sensitive nerve-ends, as if they were wires hanging down exactly for this purpose. When the odoriferous particles strike the tiny hammers, the message is at once carried along the telegraphic system up through a

perforated bony plate in the base of the skull and to the olfactory center of the brain in what is called the temporal lobe.

You might think of the nose as a traffic regulator for the air we breathe. Since the nasal orifices open downward, as I have just told you, the air must rise upward, passing horizontally backward and downward, spending quite an appreciable time in this ample space. There are good reasons for this delay in getting into the lungs, since in passing the various stations the air is given different treatments to safeguard the body. I shall note some of these.

Opening into the nasal chambers are certain air spaces or sinuses — four of them, called maxillary, frontal, sphenoidal, and ethmoidal, taking the names of the bones in which the spaces are built. The nasal cavities and all of the sinuses are lined with mucous membrane, given this name because it secretes a sticky mucus which prevents the air from drying out the passages, arrests foreign particles of dust and bacteria, and of

course, moderates the temperature of the air on its way into the lungs. It is so constructed that nasal respiration moistens, filters and warms the inbreathed air.

A good many people are bothered with their sinuses, a favorite topic of conversation. When the mucous membrane of the nose becomes inflamed and swollen, the openings from the nose into the various sinuses may become closed. Absorption of the air in the sinus occurs and a negative pressure results. Or the sinus may become filled with mucus or pus, creating a positive pressure. In either case the abnormal pressures produce symptoms of which the most common is headache. The tendency, by the way, is to overtreat the nose with sprays, and oily drops, and sometimes unnecessary operations. The obvious need here is that the sinus should be drained, and there are various methods of bringing this about.

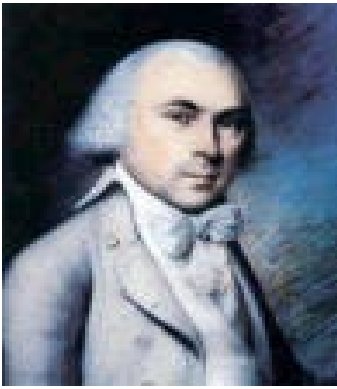
Is not this method of heating the air ingenious and effective? Cold air drawn from the outside, loaded down with dust and germs would constitute a great and constant menace to health. So, the Creator lined the nose with an elaborate series of hot water pipes spread out in immense numbers in all the spaces and around the turbinate bones. These pipes are, of course, blood vessels radiating blood heat

which raises the temperature of the air on its way from the nostril to the pharyngeal tonsil as much as thirty degrees.

In addition to this, warm fluid exudes from many glands and lymph spaces, evaporating in the warm nasal interior, and so saturating the passing respiratory air with water vapor. And there is yet another way of supplying steam for the nose, which is most interesting. To the outer side of the eyeball God has placed a watering apparatus for the sensitive eye — to wash it free of dust, and to keep it clean and free from irritation — the lachrymal gland. The salt-watery solution from this gland passes over the cornea and finds an outlet at the inner corner of the eye, through a lachrymal duct with its opening in the lower lid right at the junction with the nose. The liquid tear solution passes along this duct and into the nose where the warm surface causes immediate evaporation rising upward like a cloud of steam. How is it possible to look at these various devices and say there is no God?

Just a few words about our nose as a vacuum cleaner. It is easy to see that dust ought not to be permitted to enter the lungs easily. The first cleansing from dust is at the entrance to the nose where the bristly hairs arrest the in-

(See **BODY** on page 23)



James Madison

When James Madison gave his first inaugural address, he spoke of “the guardianship and guidance of that Almighty Being whose power regulates the destiny of nations.”

On June 18, 1812, Congress declared that the United States was at war with Great Britain and on July 9, 1812, President Madison issued the following proclamation.

“Whereas the Congress of the United States, by a joint resolution of the two Houses, have signified that a day may be recommended to be observed by the people of the United States with religious solemnity as a day of public humiliation and prayer; and

“Whereas such a recommendation will enable the several religious denominations and societies so disposed to offer at one and the same time their common vows and adorations to Almighty God on the solemn occasion produced by the war in which He has been pleased to permit the injustice of a foreign power to involve these United

God In Our Government

States:

“I do therefore recommend the third Thursday in August next as a convenient day to be set apart for the devout purposes of rendering the Sovereign of the Universe and the Benefactor of Mankind the public homage due to His holy attributes; of acknowledging the transgressions which might justly provoke the manifestations of His displeasure; of seeking His merciful forgiveness and His assistance in the great duties of repentance and amendment, and especially of offering fervent supplications that in the present season of calamity and war He would take the American people under His peculiar care and protection; that He would guide their public councils, animate their patriotism, and bestow His blessing on their arms; that He would inspire all nations with a love of justice and of concord and with a reverence for the unerring precept of our holy religion to do to others as they would require that others should do to them, and,



How To Make Money Out of Holes

By Marvin Balding

All those big square, block openings in the sides of War Memorial Stadium (Little Rock, Ark.) have led me to believe that the people who built it purchased an oversupply of holes.

What I propose is to organize a company which would break up those holes into openings of smaller and more useful sizes, and to finally, that, turning the hearts of our enemies from the violence and injustice which sway their councils against us, He would hasten a restoration of the blessings of peace.”

When Madison took the oath of office for his second term as president on March 4, 1813, he said:

“From the weight and magnitude now belonging to it I should be compelled to shrink if I had less reliance on the support of an enlightened and generous people, and felt less deeply a conviction that the war with a powerful nation, which forms so prominent a feature in our situation, is stamped with that justice which invites the smiles of Heaven on the means of conducting it to a successful termination.” □ □

sell them to anybody who wants to buy a hole.

People could very easily use up the smaller holes in the form of buttonholes, postholes and doughnut holes.

The man who first discovered that holes could be cut up into smaller sizes and transported had a heck of a time moving the first one. He was out in his yard, trying to get rid of a well by moving it to a new location. Every time he tried to dig the dirt away from around the hole, the hole disappeared.

Finally, he got the idea to drop several tons of ice down the hole. The ice caused the hole to freeze, making it easy to pull out of the ground. That man didn't know it, but he could have gone into business with that well hole. He could have chopped it up into little pieces and sold it for use in knotholes, keyholes, soda straws, macaroni, and golf courses.

With all the big holes stored up in the openings of the stadium, we would have enough material to sell to gas pipe factories. All we need to do is ship the holes to the firms, which would simply wrap sheets

(See **HOLE**S on page 24)



The Story of Tyndale and the first printed English translation of our Bible — 1525 A.D.

Historic Facts Everybody Ought to Know — Tyndale, an Ana-Baptist Was Hanged — His Body burned — For translating the Bible Into English

Over 500 Years Ago

“Nearly one hundred years before Columbus discovered America, there was a boy named John Gooseflesh, living in the old town of Mentz. His mother helped to make a living for the family by preparing parchment for the priests to write on. John liked very much to carve and cut with his knife. One day he was sitting beside the fire watching a pot of purple dye that his mother was heating and amusing himself by carving and cutting his name in wood. Suddenly one of the pieces of wood, with a letter cut on it, fell into the dye pot. He snatched at it, caught it, but dropped it again, this time onto a piece of parchment lying nearby. It fell upside down, and when he picked it up, there, on the parchment, was the letter ‘h’ clearly printed.

Printing Invented

“Years went by. The

boy of Mentz did not forget what happened that day by the fire in his old home. It had given him an idea that some way would be found to make books more easily than to copy them all out by hand as had always been done. So he cut little wooden blocks and dipped them in dye, setting them this way and that, making forms for them to be placed in and he finally had the first printing press the world had ever seen. You will find his name in every history ever written — John Gutenberg, it is in German.

No English Bible!

That happened in 1454. That very same year, a great battle was fought in Constantinople between the Christians and the Turks and the Christians were driven out of the city, at that time the greatest city in the world, where most of the schools of learning were located. Greek scholars came to live in all parts of Europe. All at once these wise men became very much interested in the Greek New Testament and began to read it instead of the old Latin one they had always read. They made many people think about

how wonderful it would be to have the Bible in the language of the people, so everyone, could read it. With the new study of the language and the new printing press, things began to happen.

William Tyndale

It began first in an old school in England where a young man named William Tyndale was studying. He was a good Greek scholar and had read the New Testament in the very language in which it was written. It had come to mean so much to him that he wanted it to mean something to all the people around him.

One day some students were talking about all this new interest in the Bible, and one man said very positively: “The Bible is not necessary. It is all foolishness to talk about translating it into English for the people to read. *All they need is the word of the pope.* We had better be without God’s laws than the pope’s laws!”

William Tyndale rose from his chair, and striking his clenched fist on the table shouted, “I defy the pope and all his laws; and,

if God spares me, I will one day make the boy that drives the plow in England to know more of the Scriptures than the pope does!”

It was not an idle boast. William Tyndale went right to work to make an English Bible that all the people could read. A rich merchant, Humphrey Monmouth, gave him his home to work in and day and night he worked, hoping some publisher would print it when he had it ready.

But Tyndale had forgotten that the Pope was very powerful. A Bible in the English language was just what the pope did not want. Presently all the authorities of England turned against him and soon, even his friend Monmouth dared not help him. Tyndale sadly said, “In England there is no room for attempting the translation of the Scriptures.”

Did he quit?

No! William Tyndale was no quitter. He just left England and went to live in Hamburg, Germany. Here he could never be sure his life was safe, for the English Catholic bishops and priests were so angry

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REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 2)

in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him” (Dan. 7:13).

In Zechariah we read: *“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn” (Zech. 12:10).*

In the Gospel of Mark we read: *“But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Mk. 14:61-62).*

Jude says: *“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed,*

and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him” (Jude 14-15).

For the last verses, we turn to Book of Matthew. *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Mt. 24:29-30).*

This coming of the Lord that we have been reading about and that we read about in Revelation 1:7 does not refer to the Rapture. It refers to the public manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ that comes at the close of the Tribulation Period. One out of every 20 verses in the New Testament concerns the second coming of the Lord.

You remember that the coming of the Lord for His saints, which appears at the Rapture, is a coming in which only the saints of the Lord will see Him. It is this coming that we read about in 1 Thessalonians 4 when all the dead in Christ shall be raised. They will be caught up together to be with the Lord, and all the saved that are living upon the earth shall be translated

at the same time (Jn. 14:3; Phil. 3:20; 1 Cor. 15:23). Only believers will see the coming of the Lord then, but at the close of the Tribulation Period, the Lord is going to return to this earth with His saints, and every eye shall see Him (Jude 14; Col. 3:4; Rev. 19:11-14). It is at the end of the Tribulation Period that these Old Testament verses are fulfilled.

Who shall see Him? “Every eye shall see him” refers to the Gentiles; “and they also which pierced him” refers to the Jews. Such verses where it speaks about them seeing him, such as, “those that pierced him shall see him,” and things of this nature (Jn. 20:23-29). These refer to the coming of the Lord at the end of the Tribulation Period. These two aspects or phases of the coming of the Lord are separated by a little more than seven years, the first taking place at the Rapture, the second at the end of the Tribulation Period.

Now this verse says: *“Behold he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him.”* This does not say that all shall see Him at the same time, nor does it say that all shall see Him in the same way, but it does say that every eye shall see Him. And that’s true. Even those who are already dead, one day are going to have to look the Lord face to face. Every eye shall see Him, even those who are dead. Those

who have already gone to hell, such as the rich man will, one of these days, have to see the Lord, for every eye shall see Him.

We read also that *“they shall look upon me whom they have pierced” (Zech 12:10).* This refers to the Jews. Those very Jews who participated in the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those very Jews who, when Pilate said unto them, *“What shall I do with Jesus which is called the Christ,”* cried out: *“Crucify him, crucify him, his blood be upon us and upon our children.”* They were responsible for the piercing of the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus Christ — that very group of Jews is going to see Him face to face. Every eye shall see Him, as we read in the book of Zechariah 12:10 and again when it says: *“And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced.”* One day they are going to see Him, the One that they pierced. This is talking about when Jesus Christ returns to this earth at the close of the Tribulation period and when every eye shall see Him.

It says *“Behold, he cometh with the clouds.”* Clouds always have a great significance in the Bible. They are particularly connected with the glory of the Lord. In the Book of Exodus. He says, *“And it came to pass as Aaron spake to the whole con-*

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REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 6)

gregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold the glory of the Lord appeared in the clouds” (Ex. 16:10).

In Psalm 104 we also read that this is connected with the Lord: “*Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind” (Psa. 104:3).* The Lord uses the clouds for His chariot. Remember how many times that the appearances of the Lord upon earth have been connected with clouds. In the Book of Genesis the Lord made a covenant with Noah and all of his posterity. He said: “*And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you and with your seed after you; and with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle and of every beast of the earth with you, from all that go out of the ark, and to every beast of the earth; and I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood, neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth” (Gen. 9:8).*

God said, “*This is a token of the covenant which I make between me*

and you and every living creature that is with you for perpetual generations. I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token, a covenant between me and the earth, and it shall come to pass when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud, and I will remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living creature and of all flesh and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh” (Gen. 9:12-15). God then uses a cloud, or the rainbow in a cloud, as a covenant between Him and with all mankind to declare that never again will He destroy this world by means of a flood.

Then when we get to the children of Israel, we find in Exodus 13:21 that God speaks to them. He used a cloud as a guide for them and they were to move when the cloud moved, and stand still when the cloud stood still. God spake from Mt. Sinai and it was also with a cloud (Ex. 19:16-19).

In Exodus 16:16, “*And it came to pass on the third day of the morning that there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud upon the mount and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud so that all the people that were in the camp trembled. Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God and they stood*

in the nether part of the mount. And Mt. Sinai was altogether on a smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire. And the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake and God answered him by a voice” (Ex. 19:16-19).

We see how the Lord appeared at the mountain and spake unto them by means of thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud upon the mount. We have the giving of the Law again and it was clouds that were there (Ex. 34:4-5). In the dedication of the tabernacle, at the completion of the tabernacle and after Moses and the priests had gone out, the cloud came in and filled the tabernacle so that they were not able to enter (Ex. 40:34-38).

At the dedication of the temple, the same thing occurred as the cloud moved in, signifying the visible presence of the Lord (1 Ki. 8:10-11). Concerning the offerings at the holy place and the mercy seat, it says, “*And the Lord said unto Moses, speak unto Aaron thy brother that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat which is upon the Ark, that he die not, for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat” (Lev. 16:2).*

In the New Testament we find the same true concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. At the Transfiguration of the Lord, and while the Lord was speaking to Peter, James and John upon the Mount of Transfiguration, God speaks to them. “*While he yet spake, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them and behold a voice out of the cloud which said, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him” (Mt. 17:5).* God speaks from the cloud, the cloud again signifying the glorious presence of God Almighty. In Acts 1:9 we have the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. He ascended in the clouds as we read in Psalms 104:3 where it says that He uses the clouds as His chariot. “*And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld he was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9).* This is what we are to see in the future.

Jesus, speaking about His return says, “*And Jesus saith unto him thou hast said nevertheless I say unto you, hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Mt. 26:64).* Then, at the time of the rapture, “*We which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the*

(See **REV** on page 11)



Gibson's Passion Tops The Lists. — Evangelical enthusiasm for *The Passion of the Christ* film may surprise some since it was shaped from start to finish by a devout Roman Catholic and by a rather medieval Catholic vision. It seems to matter not with many Christians that it is a Catholic film and a huge money raiser for Rome's coffers. Those who buy tickets are giving money to promote a false works-righteousness salvation. From interviews we learn that Gibson calls Mary "Co-redemptrix" and "Mediatrix." He identifies with a Catholic traditionalism that rejects many Vatican II reforms. Traditionalists believe only Catholicism is the true path to salvation, though Gibson seems confused on this at times. It's another case where "the Book is better than the movie." — CC

Rome Rejects Justification By Faith Alone. — "We have the same vocabulary but a different dictionary" is what we used to say to Mormons who used Biblical terms but

World News Roundup

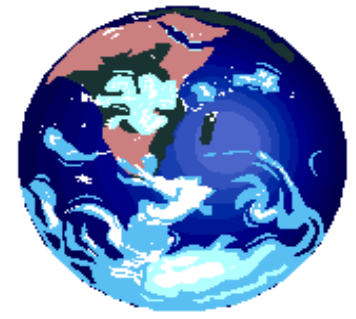
deceptively ascribed new meanings to them. Catholics and others today are making great inroads for their false-gospel religions by adopting this ruse (e.g., *Passion* movie). Mike Gendron had the following quote, in his Jan-Feb *Proclaiming the Gospel*, by John MacArthur: "Catholicism is a false system. It is not the church of Christ, it is the church of anti-Christ. If you follow Catholic theology you'll go to hell. I am not saying that to be unkind but to be truthful. Being truthful is the only way to be kind. People need to come out of that system. It is a system that exalts Mary and is a system of paganism mingled with pseudo-Christianity."

Tammy In Nude Film? — Tammy Faye Bakker Messner, of scandal-ridden PL notoriety, and porn legend Ron Jeremy [he has starred in over 1,600 pornographic movies] were to be in an upcoming episode of "Surreal Life 2" shot at a Palm Springs desert nudist resort (*Daily Haggis* via *Desert Sun*). They were to be told they have to play naked. A bad "sign of our times!" Tammy in recent months has championed homosexuals/homosexuality. — CC

Abortion of Child OK, But Better Not Destroy An Eagle Egg! — It's legal to kill a human baby by a horrendous procedure: the D&X. Yet in California it's illegal to destroy an eagle egg, and there's a large fine. We hear no debates about at what stage the eaglet becomes an eagle or has "meaningful life." You break an eagle egg, you kill an eagle. It's all so simple [12/03 *Readers' Digest*]. — CC

Gay TV. — The pornographic MTV is forging ahead with plans for an all-homosexual television network that will be on all basic cable plans. Outlet, the name of the 23-hour network, will feature gay-themed lifestyle and entertainment programming. MTV apparently thinks homosexuality now has mainstream acceptability. [World Magazine] — CC

World Has Converted The Church. — Through "contemporary Christian music" and "contemporary worship," the church has been converted to the "religion" of the world! Some of the largest presumably evangelical churches have designed their Sunday



morning services based upon what the ungodly want. Missing are the fear of a holy God's wrath against sin ... Seeker-friendly churches must not "offend" with the Truth, but pamper with the flattering "gospel of self-esteem, self-love, and positive thinking — a "gospel" that cannot save. As Paul foretold, "they will not endure sound doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:3). Creating large, rich churches is not new ... The Roman Catholic Church — the world's largest and wealthiest — grew out of a marriage between the Roman world and the church, making "Christianity" the state religion. Historian Will Durant explains: "... the world converted Christianity ... [Paganism] passed like maternal blood into the new religion, and captive Rome captured her conqueror" — CC

6000 Cases of Sexual Abuse Among JWs. — Present and former Jehovah's Witnesses who say they were sexually

(See WNR on page 12)

La Voz Del Desierto

¿Don De Lenguas?

Por Félix M. González B.

“Pero en la iglesia prefiero hablar cinco palabras con mi entendimiento, para enseñar también a otros, que diez mil palabras en lengua desconocida” (1ra Cor. 14:19).

A los pentecostales se les llama “carismáticos”, que viene de la palabra griega “*carisma*”, que significa “don” o “dones.” Sin embargo la Iglesia Pentecostal pone más énfasis al don de lenguas que a los otros dones que se mencionan en 1ra Corintios capítulo 12. Nosotros creemos que todo cristiano debería buscar y tener la llenura del Espíritu Santo, pero no creemos que estos hermanos pentecostales están en lo correcto, en cuanto al don de lenguas.

Ellos creen que el don de lenguas es la señal de que una persona ha sido llena del Espíritu Santo, y que también es un idioma celestial que se puede usar en la oración, citando como apoyo Hechos capítulo 2 y 1ra Corintios 14:2, 4.

La Biblia nos da muchas instrucciones de cómo orar, pero nunca nos

exhorta a orar en una lengua angelical que nadie, ni nosotros mismos podemos entender. Además ¿por qué hablar a Dios en una lengua desconocida si Dios entiende nuestro idioma? ¿Cómo van a ser edificados de esta forma los que oyen, si ni siquiera entienden lo que dicen?

La palabra “lenguas” en la Biblia que en el griego es “*glossa*” significa idiomas extranjeros, como se puede ver en Génesis 11:1-9, al igual que las “lenguas” que menciona Pablo en 1ra Corintios capítulo 14, como lo demuestran los versículos 10 al 11. De hecho las “lenguas” que se mencionan en este capítulo necesitaban ser corregidas y reprendidas porque los inconversos en la iglesia de Corinto creían que esos miembros estaban locos porque no entendían las lenguas confusas que ellos estaban diciendo (1ra Corintios 14:20, 23). Por eso el apóstol Pablo no quería que se hablara en una lengua que nadie podía entender sino que se hablara en “palabra bien comprensible” (1ra Cor.

14:9, 16-19, 33).

Por lo tanto, si Pablo se topara con estos hermanos pentecostales o carismáticos orando o hablando cosas que no se pueden entender, y uno de ellos dice que ese es el don de lenguas, Pablo no diría “*el Amén,*” pues él mismo nos dice que “*el que ocupa lugar de simple oyente, ¿cómo dirá el Amén a tu acción de gracias? Pues no sabe lo que has dicho*” (1ra. Cor. 14:16). Tenga en mente que Pablo estaba corrigiendo las herejías de esta iglesia carnal y tratando de hacer que estos “*niños*” cristianos dejaran sus juguetes religiosos y se pusieran a crecer.

En Hechos 2:4-11 podemos ver que las lenguas que hablaron los discípulos en Pentecostés no necesitaban corrección porque eran idiomas extranjeros que le fueron dados “*según el Espíritu les daba que hablasen*” y por eso los inconversos que estaban allí no tuvieron ningún problema para comprender lo que ellos estaban diciendo porque como dice 1ra Timoteo 4:1, cuando el Espíritu Santo

habla, habla “*claramente*” y no necesita ningún interprete porque “*Dios no es Dios de confusión*” (1ra Cor. 14:33) sino que hace todas las cosas “*decentemente y con orden*” (1ra Cor. 14:40).

Ahora ¿cómo podríamos describir las lenguas que se habla en las iglesias carismáticas? Fácil, son una mezcla de palabras y silabas que se repiten en una forma rápida una y otra vez. Jesús mismo condenó esa forma de balbucear y de usar “*vanas repeticiones*” similar a la de las religiones paganas (Mateo 6:7).

Además de esto, en el día de Pentecostés la verdadera evidencia o señal de una vida llena del Espíritu Santo no fueron las lenguas, sino la promesa de que los discípulos iban a ser “*investidos de poder desde lo alto*” para testificar y ganar almas para el Señor (Lucas 24:46-49; Hechos 1:4-5, 8). Eso fue lo que pasó en Pentecostés, donde todos sabemos que el resultado de ese poder fue la salvación de tres mil almas.

(Vea **DONES** en la pág.10)

DONES . . .

(Viene de la pág. 9)

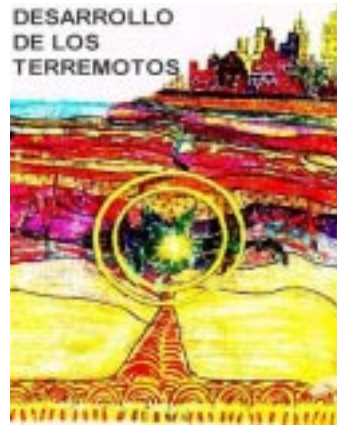
No es como creen muchas iglesias carismáticas que lo que hacen es hablar de las experiencias que ellos tuvieron o sintieron y luego dicen que eso es Pentecostés, pero si eso es Pentecostés entonces ¿dónde están las miles de almas que se convirtieron al Señor? Hay veces que en muchos de estos cultos ni siquiera se hace la invitación para saber si alguien quiere ser salvo, sino que más bien le dan más énfasis a las lenguas y sus experiencias emocionales que a la salvación de un alma. Por lo tanto la clase de lenguas que se habla en las iglesias carismáticas no son una verdadera manifestación del Espíritu Santo, porque esas lenguas que ellos hablan no son idiomas, como las que ocurrieron en Pentecostés, y no salva a nadie porque nadie las entiende.

Alguien posiblemente diga que si queremos evangelizar y ganar a las almas perdidas debemos hablar en lenguas porque es la señal de una vida llena del Espíritu Santo. Han habido grandes evangelistas y misioneros cristianos como Billy Sunday, Spurgeon, Charles G. Finney, Moody, y muchos

más que han vivido una vida entregada a la obra de Dios y que han ganado cientos y miles de almas para el Señor. ¿Acaso estos hombres no estaban llenos del Espíritu Santo sólo por el hecho de que no hablaron en lenguas? Sin embargo si se trae un carismático que no tiene buenos frutos y que nunca se ha ganado un alma en su vida, pero habla supuestamente en lenguas, a ese sí lo consideran lleno del Espíritu Santo. Eso no lo creemos.

Si hablar en lenguas es señal de una vida llena del Espíritu Santo entonces ¿por qué Jesucristo, Juan el Bautista, María, Elizabet, Zacarías y otros que fueron llenos del Espíritu Santo nunca hablaron en lenguas?

Si el don de lenguas es una experiencia tan importante que demuestra buena fe entonces ¿por qué se menciona solamente en Marcos y no en los demás evangelios? Las lenguas ni siquiera se mencionan en ninguna de las cartas de las iglesias del Nuevo Testamento excepto la de Corinto la cual era una iglesia que Pablo decía que tenía que hablarles como a niños y carnales (1ra Corintios 3:1-3). De hecho en 1ra Corintios 12:31 nos manda a buscar "*los dones mejores,*" sin embargo el



“Y Habrán Terremotos En Diferentes Lugares”

Se estima que unas 40,000 personas murieron en el última terremoto de gran magnitud que destruyó la histórica ciudad de Bam en Irán, el pasado 26 de diciembre de 2003. Oros terremotos a través de la historia que han reclamado las vidas de un gran número de personas lo son: 1,000 don de lenguas se menciona como el más mínimo en importancia y el último en la lista de los dones del Espíritu Santo en 1ra Corintios 12. Mientras que en Efesios 4:8-12 y Romanos 12:4-8 el don de lenguas está fuera de la lista de los dones del Espíritu Santo.

Recordemos que es posible que una persona tenga dones pero no espiritualidad, como lo era la Iglesia de Corinto, la cual no le faltaba ningún don (1ra Corintios 1:7), pero era una iglesia inmadura y carnal. Por lo tanto, la vida espiritual que todos deberíamos de buscar y desear, es una vida controlada no por los dones del Espíritu Santo sino por el fruto del Espíritu Santo (1ra. Corintios 13:1-3; Gál. 5:22-23). □

en Afganistán Marzo del 2002; 13,000 en la India · Enero 2001; 2,400 en Taiwán · Septiembre 1999; 17,000 en Turquía · Agosto 1999; 1,200 en Colombia · Enero 1999; 5,000 en Tjikistan · Mayo 1998; 6,000 en Kobe, Japón · Enero 1995; 10,000 en Latur, la India · Septiembre 1993; 50,000 en Irán · Junio 1990; 25,000 en Armenia · Diciembre 1988; 9,500 en México · Septiembre 1985; 25,000 en Irán · Septiembre 1978; 240,000 en Tangshan, China · Julio 1976; 22,000 en Guatemala · Febrero 1976; 33,000 en Turquía · Diciembre 1939; 28,000 en Chile · Enero 1939; 50,000 en Quetta, la India · Mayo 1935; y 140,000 en Tokio, Japón · Septiembre de 1923. “Y oiréis gueras, y rumores de guerras: mirad que no os turbéis; porque es menester que todo esto acontezca; mas aún no es el fin. Porque se levantará nación, y reino contra reino; y habrá pestilencias, y hambres, y terremotos por los lugares. Y todas estas cosas, principio de dolores (Mateo 24:6-8). □

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REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 7)

clouds." So the clouds will become our chariot to heaven. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:17).

There are some other uses that are connected with clouds in the New Testament. When it was time for the two witnesses to be raptured into heaven it says: "And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended unto heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them" (Rev. 11:12).

So we see that the cloud, as far as the believer is concerned, can be referred to as a glory cloud. It is a time of glory for God's people. A time of glory in the fact that they saw the Lord as He went away in the clouds of glory, and the promise is that He will one day return with the clouds of glory. At His return, we too will be caught up and will go to be with Him in the clouds of glory. So it is a glory cloud for the believer.

Clouds have two different aspects. We speak often about clouds having silver linings, but sometimes the cloud that has a silver lining is the same cloud that has caused terrible destruction upon the earth. We may see clouds that have

just wreaked great water damage upon the earth as they poured out their fury and caused floods, yet may have a silver lining and we may be able to see beauty in them. We realize that cloud that may be a beautiful cloud in one sense, can be a cloud of terrible catastrophe in another sense. The Lord says that these clouds, though they may be clouds of beauty for the believer, though they may be clouds that we might look forward to seeing, yet they are clouds that are threatening clouds for the unbeliever. They are clouds that the unbeliever should not look forward to, but rather should dread.

We read concerning these clouds, "For the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west. So shall also the coming of the Son of Man be" (Mt. 24:27). The lightning is that which strikes terror in the heart of people as they realize the lightning can do such damage, and it signifies the terrible storm of the wrath of God that is soon to fall upon this earth. In the Book of Revelation we read, "Behold He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him" (Rev. 1:7). For the believer, these may be considered glory clouds. The Scripture that says "they also which pierced him," is referring to Jews who will see Him at that day. We will study this later on, that the Jews living at that day, will see Him

"whom they have pierced." They will turn in repentance and faith and will be saved, and for them, it will be a glory cloud.

For Gentiles who have heard the gospel and who have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, it will not be a glory cloud. For them, it will be a cloud that will strike fear and terror within their hearts. It will be as though you were outside and suddenly you see a tornado moving down upon you. There's no place to hide; no place to run; no escape from the tornado. As it begins to pour down upon you, you are frozen within your tracks as fear comes upon you because of that tornado. This is exactly the way that it is going to effect those here upon this earth who know not Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. That cloud that brings glory to those who are saved, and that they look forward to, will strike terror into the heart of the unbelievers. We read concerning this,

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and lo there was a great earthquake and the sun became black as sackcloth as hair, and the moon became as blood, and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind, and the heaven departed as a scroll when it is

rolled together, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places and the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains and the mighty men, and every bond man and every free man hid themselves in the dens in the rocks of the mountains and said to the mountains and the rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sitteth upon the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Rev. 6:12ff).

"Behold, every eye shall see him" but they will not want to see Him. They are going to cry out for the rocks and hills and the mountains to fall upon them so that they might have the face of God hid from them because they will not want to see Him, because they are lost. They know that to look God in the face, as a sinner, is to undergo the awful judgment of the Lord Himself. For they said, "For the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand."

Those who are saved, are going to look upon Him with great rejoicing; they're going to be glad to see the coming of the Lord. In fact, the Lord taught His people that this is what we are to pray for. If you go to the New Testament, you will see that this is what they looked forward to. Even John when he closed the writing of this book said

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REVELATION . . .

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“Even so, Lord Jesus, Come quickly,” and they prayed to the Lord that His coming be soon. They also prayed “thy kingdom come.” They looked forward to the coming of the Lord. “And it shall be said in that day, now lo this is our God, we have waited for him, and he will save us; this is the Lord, we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation” (Isa. 25:9). I ask you Christian friend, are you looking for the coming of the Lord? The Lord in teaching His disciples to pray in the model prayer taught them to pray, “Thy kingdom come.” Are you today praying for the soon coming of the Lord?

Well, you say “No, I’m not really, because I have many friends that are unsaved and things I wish to do.” Well, so did they. The Lord tells us to look forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. It will be glorious. It will be the Lord coming in the glory clouds of heaven for you and me. It will be a glorious coming. That verse said “Lo he is coming.” Lo this is our God. We have waited for Him and He will save us. This is our Lord, we have waited for Him. We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

Now that’s one aspect of the coming, that’s one look at the clouds. For you that are unsaved, it will not

be something you can rejoice in. These are people who are rejoicing over the coming of the Lord, these people are rejoicing over seeing the clouds; they’ve longed for this; they’ve prayed for this; they’re looking forward to this day. For you that are unsaved it will not be a day of rejoicing. It will be a day of terror; a day of fear. It says that you will cry unto the rocks and the mountains “fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sitteth upon the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand” (Rev. 6:16). And then God seals it. He puts His signature on it and says this is going to happen. “I am alpha and omega, the beginning and the ending saith the Lord which is and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.” God has signed it and says this is to come to pass.

God now places His seal upon all that is said in verse seven (1:8, 11, 17; 21:6; 22:13). “Alpha and Omega” are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, indicating the completeness of God and His eternal existence (Isa. 41:4; 48:12). “Which is and which was, and which is to come” has been used to describe the Father, but it belongs equally to the Son. He is “the I AM” (Ex. 3:14; Jn. 8:24, 58). “Almighty” is used eight times in Revelation and includes the ideas of

omnipotence and universal rulership.

Men may ridicule the second coming; men may make fun of the second coming, but God has signed here, right here, saying “I am alpha and omega, the beginning and the ending saith the Lord.” He is coming, and every eye shall see him. Not all at the same time, but every eye shall see him. One of these days you’re going to have to stand before God. You’re going to have to look Him right in the eye. You may want to turn your eyes from Him; you may not want to look Him in the eye, but you’re going to have to look Him in the eye. Then you’re going to confess and acknowledge that you are guilty of all crimes charged; that you have sinned. You have broken God’s laws, and worst of all, you have rejected Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You will try to turn your eyes from Him and find that there is a force that will not let you turn away and you’re going to have to look Him right in the eye, “Behold every eye shall see him.”

Are you ready? Are you ready to look Him in the eye? Will you be crying out for the rocks and the mountains to fall upon you and hide you from the face of the Lamb? It’s too late, because it is the day of judgment and “who shall be able to stand” the question is asked. The answer is

“None!” No one! You’re not going to be able to stand. The judgment of God is going to be poured out upon you. Are you ready?

□

WNR . . .

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abused by congregation leaders gathered in their first national caucus Saturday, sharing grievances about the handling of abuse complaints and discussing legal strategy. William Bowen, former leader of a Kentucky congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, said Saturday that more than 6,000 alleged sexual abuse victims have contacted a group he founded in 2001 to express “outrage at being silenced by the bad institutional policies” of the faith. — 3/28 Arkansas Democrat/Gazette.

* * *

A History of America’s Recent Wars!

— Clinton went to war in Bosnia without UN or French consent, Bosnia never attacked us. He was offered Osama bin Laden’s head on a platter three times by Sudan and did nothing. Osama has attacked us on multiple occasions. In the two years since terrorists attacked us, President Bush has liberated two countries, crushed the Taliban, crippled al-Qaida, put nu-

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clear inspectors in Lybia, Iran and North Korea without firing a shot, and captured a terrorist who slaughtered 300,000 of his own people. We lost 600 soldiers. Bush did all this abroad while not allowing another terrorist attack at home. Worst president in history? Come on! The Democrats are complaining about how long the war is taking, but... It took less time to take Iraq than it took Janet Reno to take the Branch Davidian compound. That was a 51-day operation. We've been looking for evidence of chemical weapons in Iraq for less time than it took Hillary Clinton to find the Rose Law Firm billing records. It took less time for the 3rd Infantry Division and the Marines to destroy the Medina Republican Guard than it took Teddy Kennedy to call the police after his Oldsmobile sank at Chappaquiddick. It took less time to take Iraq than it took to count the votes in Florida!!!! Liberals claim President Bush shouldn't have started this war. They complain about his prosecution of it. One liberal recently claimed Bush was the worst president in U.S. history. Let's clear up one point: We didn't start the war on terror. Try to remember, it was started by terrorists BEFORE 9/11. Let's look at the "worst" president and mis-

management claims FDR led us into World War II. Germany never attacked us: Japan did. • From 1941-1945, 450,000 lives were lost, an average of 112,500 per year. • Truman finished that war and started one in Korea, North Korea never attacked us. • From 1950-1953, 55,000 lives were lost, an average of 18,333 per year. • John F. Kennedy started the Vietnam conflict in 1962. Vietnam never attacked us. • Johnson turned Vietnam into a quagmire. From 1965-1975, 58,000 lives were lost, an average of 5,800 per year.

* * *

S a m e - s e x Marriage Opens Polygamy Door, Family Experts Warn. — "Pro-family advocates are worried that legalizing homosexual marriage will lead to other perversions of the family and feel there is cause for concern among defenders of traditional marriage that the legalization of same-sex marriages could lead to a push for polygamy." Peter Sprigg, senior director of the Family Research Council's Center for Marriage and Family Studies "feels that within the next 15 to 20 years, a major effort to legalize polygamy will be underway in the U.S." "Family Research Council (FRC) president Tony Perkins agrees and says FRC spokesman as well as other

pro-family leaders have been confronting same-sex marriage advocates about the slippery slope downwards from homosexual marriage to polygamy and other distortions of the God-ordained family. And the answer, he says, has been silence." — Agape Press

* * *

Parents Need Check Children's Books. — A pro-family leader says parents in Wilmington, North Carolina, need to "raise Cain" about a controversial book in an elementary school library. At issue is a book in the library of Freeman Elementary School called King and King (Tricycle Press, 2002). It is about a prince who spurns a number of eligible princesses before falling for another prince. The illustrated children's story ends with the two men marrying and sharing a kiss.

* * *

Gay Pastor Acquitted In Church Trial. — A jury of 13 pastors acquitted "a lesbian Methodist pastor charged with violating church doctrine drew praise and scorn Sunday across a denomination that may see its divisions over homosexuality laid bare at a major conference next month." Karen Dammann openly "declared her sexual preference in February 2001, when she sought a

new church appointment. She and her partner of nine years, Meredith Savage, married this month in Oregon. They have a 5-year-old son." — AP

* * *

The following is from **Compass Direct**, March 29: "Last week a criminal court in northwestern Turkey postponed trial hearings against ultranationalists accused of severely injuring a Protestant Christian for distributing New Testaments and doing 'missionary propaganda.' In a cursory 15-minute hearing, the judge of the Orhangazi Criminal Court confirmed that Yakup Cindilli had been given physical and psychological tests by official medical examiners, as ordered. However, according to forensic results, the only way to determine whether Cindilli will fully recover from his injuries is to wait for another 15 months and re-test him. Accordingly, the judge set the next trial hearing for June 18, 2005. Five months ago, three members of the Nationalist Movement Party attacked Cindilli, 32, and injured him so severely that the Turkish convert spent two months in a coma under intensive hospital care. Ismail Kulakcioglu, pastor of the Bursa Protestant Church, submitted a written intervention

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plea to the court, stating that other members of his church had suffered 'similar attacks, threats and insults.' Defense lawyers promptly rejected the implications that Cindilli's injuries were life-threatening, and the

prosecutor recommended that the church's intervention plea be rejected."

* * *

Chinese Prisoner Crippled For Sharing Christ. — The following is from Agape Press, March

31, 2004: "Chen Jingmao, a 72-year-old church leader in South China, was recently beaten and crippled in prison as punishment for leading 50 prison inmates to faith in Christ. Chen, who was arrested on July 2001, had been charged with using an 'evil cult' to obstruct the law — this, referring to his association with the South China Church. Among the crimes described in the official court proceedings were recruitment of 'evil cult' members, organizing of 'secret illegal religious gatherings,' and distributing propaganda — that is, a church magazine called Salvation and China. According to China Aid Association (CAA) sources, Chen's legs were broken when the prison guards beat him, and he has been so severely injured that he requires assistance in daily activities. A source told CAA that during Chen's beating, the guards remarked that his action of leading others to Christianity had 'brought shame upon the Communist Party.' Bob Fu, president of CAA, called the news 'heart-breaking,' and said Chen's sentence was unjust and his brutal beating 'illegal, and inhumane, especially to a 72-year-old man.'"

Conclusion: Friends in Christ, do not be discouraged by any of this. It is God's will that we know the times and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. These

things remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ day by day? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14).

BIBLE . . .

(Continued from page 5)

with him for going on with his work that they hired spies to hinder him, to keep him from making friends and to prevent his ever getting his Bible printed.

There was a printing press at Cologne. So over there he went and found printers ready to go to work on his first English Bible. He tried to keep his work a secret for he knew the English Catholic bishops would arrest him if they knew the book was nearly done.

One day a warning came to him to flee for his

(See **BIBLE** on page 15)

Indifference

By Studdard Kennedy

When Jesus came to Golgotha,
They hanged Him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet,
And made a Calvary;

They crowned Him with a crown of thorns,
Red were His wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days,
And human life was cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham
They simply passed Him by,
They never hurt a hair of Him,
They only let Him die;

For men had grown more tender,
And they would not give Him pain,
They only just passed down the street,
And left Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them
For they know not what they do;"
And still it rained the winter rain
That drenched Him through and through;

The crowds went home
And left the streets without a soul to see,
And Jesus crouched against a wall
And cried for Calvary.

BIBLE . . .

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life. A Catholic priest had found out from a drunken printer that his English Bible was nearly off the press, and had come to arrest him. He snatched his precious sheets of paper, and fled from the town, going to Worms, where Martin Luther lived.

Printed In Germany

There the first English Bible was printed, two sizes being made, one large and one small, for he thought if the English Catholic bishops found the large ones, he might be able to hide the smaller ones.

Now they must be gotten to England. In barrels all covered with cloth and articles for sale, in bales that looked like cloth, in sacks of flour, in every way that could be found to hide them, they were sent across to England.

Did they get across?

They did, in large numbers, and the Catholic bishops found out they were being sold. Every seaport was carefully watched, and many a package of Bibles was found by the officers and burned. But more Bibles came. They could not stop them and some of them would always get to people who wanted to read them.

Finally the Catholic bishop of London had a bright idea! He decided he

would buy all the copies that were printed, through a merchant in Germany! Then there would be no more Bibles to come across the water. He did not know that the merchant he asked to do this was a friend of William Tyndale.

This friend thought he saw a way to help Tyndale. He knew that right at that time Tyndale needed money more than anything else, to pay his printers for the work they had done, and start a new printing of the Bibles. So he said, "My lord, I will be glad to attend to this matter. But it will take money to do it, for the men who have these books in Germany hold them at a high price"

"My dear sir," said the bishop, "Do your best to get them for me, all of them, for they are very bad books. I will gladly pay you whatever they cost, for I intend to burn them all and end this matter."

What fun it was to the merchant! He went to Tyndale, bought his books at a good price and brought them over to England, while Tyndale went right to work on a new printing, for he now had plenty of money. The poor Catholic bishop thought when he burned all these Bibles, there would never be another English Bible. Imagine how he felt when he learned that more Bibles than ever before were coming into England. So many came that the officers simply could not stop them.

"How can this be?" a man who had been arrested for helping Tyndale, was asked.

"I will tell you truly, my lord" the man replied. 'Tis yourself that gave us the money to print the Bibles!"

"That's a good one. Wasn't he mad, though?"

"He was so mad that he stirred up all England against Tyndale. All the great Catholic preachers began to preach about it, most of them thinking it would do a great deal of harm to have the Bible in the language of the people, a few very brave and wise men saying it would be much better for England. At last Tyndale won, for the Bible was everywhere. One old bishop said sadly, "It passeth my power, or that of any man, to hinder it now!"

So the Bible came to England, and from England to all the world. But the man who gave it to the world never knew what a glorious victory he had won. Away in a little German town, some spy of the English Catholic Bishops, or the pope of Rome should see him, working night and day that everybody might have the Bible, he longed for his home in England. He loved England better than his life. His enemies sent men to make him believe they were his friends, and persuade him to come home. But he knew what they wanted. He knew, once in England, they would arrest and kill

him.

Not all his enemies were in England, however. There was a man named Phillips whom he believed to be loyal and true. But Phillips was a spy sent by the pope to trap Tyndale. One night as Tyndale walked out from his home to enjoy the evening air, a band of men set upon him, bound him, and carried him away to a dark prison.

There was no trial. They knew they were going to kill him. He knew it, too. Gladly he laid down his life, for he had done the work he had set himself to do. The Bible was in England, in the language all the people could read. One day they led him out to a stake. They hanged him and then burned his body. He asked them if he might send a message to England and they told him "no."

Then he closed his eyes and prayed earnestly, "Lord, open the king of England's eyes."

Brave William Tyndale! No man ever gave more than he. The Bible we read he made possible for us, for from that first translation all the translations since have been made.

I never think of him without thinking of Jesus' words about Himself. "He laid down His life for His sheep." Surely William Tyndale followed the footsteps of Jesus. □

**Your prospects are
as bright as the
promises of God.**

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

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United Methodist Church Approves Homosexual Pastor. — On March 20, a jury of 13 United Methodist pastors ruled against the Bible and against their own denomination's laws in favor of lesbian pastor Karen Dammann. This is the third church proceeding that has exonerated Dammann. In 2001, Dammann told her bishop that she was living in a homosexual relationship with another woman. He subsequently called for a committee review of Dammann's ministry, which eventually led to the trial, because church law prohibits the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals. (Since 1972 the United Methodist Church has formally allowed homosexuals to be church members.) The last church Dammann pastored was First United Methodist of Ellensburg, Washington. She also pastored Woodland Park United Methodist Church in Seattle, whose current pastor, Mark Williams, is also a homosexual.

* * *

Gibson Says Bible R-Rated And He Might

Make Movie About The Book of Maccabees. —

In an interview with conservative radio talk-show host Sean Hannity, Mel Gibson said the Bible is R-rated and he is considering making a movie about the book of Maccabees. Gibson appeared with Hannity in Las Vegas on March 17 sponsored by KXNT radio. When asked about the violence of his movie *The Passion of the Christ* and its R-rating, Gibson replied, "Well, the Bible is R-rated. I mean it's the most R-rated book I've ever read. There's murder and adultery all through it." While it is true that the Bible describes adultery and murder, it's descriptions of evil are not graphic, sensual, or titillating; they are not R-rated in any sense. Gibson also said that the graphic violence of his movie has made the suffering of Christ "believable now." It is obvious that he does not understand the divine authority and power of the Holy Scriptures, nor does he understand that the source of faith is solely the Word of God. When asked by Hannity what he might be inclined to do next, Gibson responded, "The story that's always fired my

imagination ... is the Book of Maccabees." This is an apocryphal book accepted by the Roman Catholic Church as authoritative. We wonder if the Protestants and Baptists who have given uncritical support to Gibson and his Jesus movie will follow him on his next jaunt. They have much of the credit for the wealth that is pouring into his pockets, the funds that will enable him to continue supporting his traditionalist Catholic faith with donations and by new movies. In just 3 weeks Gibson's movie has grossed \$270 million and is within \$11 million of surpassing *The Matrix Reloaded* as the No. 1 R-rated movie of all time.

* * *

Jesus Actor Says We Must Fight Evil Through the Rosary. — On a recent visit to Rome, Jim Caviezel, who starred as Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ*, said that it is important to fight evil "through the power of the rosary." He said this following attendance at a mass at the Church of San Giovanni ("Under the makeup, a man of faith," *AsiaNews*, March 20). This is the church that has the following words carved in Latin prominently on the front marble face: "Most Holy Lateran Church, Mother and Mistress of All Churches of the City and the World." This is also the home of the tomb of Pope Innocent III, who was a

great persecutor of those who refused to accept Roman doctrine and, in fact, was one of the fathers of the horrible, centuries-long inquisition. When asked how he acted the part of Jesus, Caviezel told the Catholic Zenit news service: "I began with the rosary, the rosary led me to confession, confession led me to the Mass, every day, and always when I have the Eucharist in my body, I feel more like being in Christ."

* * *

More Baptist Missionaries Murdered By Islamic Terrorists. — On March 15, four Southern Baptist social workers were killed and a fifth was wounded severely in Iraq when their car came under fire from automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades. (Eric Bridges, spokesman for the SBC International Mission Board, said the workers were not in Iraq "to convert the people" but to help them recover from the war — *Religion Today*, March 18.) In February, independent Baptist Pastor John Kelly of Rhode Island was murdered in Iraq and other Baptist pastors were wounded during an attack upon the van in which they were traveling. Pastor Kelly and other fundamental Baptist preachers

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were in Iraq to assist in the establishment of a new Baptist church. A Southern Baptist missionary was killed on March 4, 2003, when a bomb exploded at an airport in the southern Philippines. That same month the 14-year-old daughter of Southern Baptist missionary Philip Litle was killed in an Islamic suicide bombing in Israel. In November 2002, American missionary nurse Bonnie Whiterall was murdered in Lebanon, and a month later, three Baptist missionaries were murdered in Yemen. New Tribes missionary Martin Burnham was murdered by Islamic terrorists in the Philippines in June 2002.

* * *

A “Europe of the Spirit” — Representatives of the Catholic Church and liberal Protestant denominations from 15 countries have called for a “Europe of the spirit.” The call came at an ecumenical convention in Poland which was attended by Catholic cardinals and archbishops, the general secretary of the Conference of European Churches, delegates from Orthodox churches, and others. Pope John Paul II sent a message that was read to the gathering, calling for a “European unity of hearts and spirits.” The representatives called

for unity among all professing Christians as well as unity with Muslims and Jews, both of which were called “believers” in the message published by the convention. There will definitely be a “Europe of the spirit” one day, for we read about it in Revelation 17-18.

* * *

Supreme Court Has Come Close To Overturning Roe V. Wade Twice. — Papers of two late U.S. Supreme Court justices, Thurgood Marshall and Harry Blackmun, reveal that on two separate occasions the court has come close to overturning the wicked and godless 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion (Baptist Press, March 18). Blackmun wrote the majority decision in 1973. In 1989 the court under Chief Justice William Rehnquist was set to support limitations on abortion and even go beyond that to attack the Roe v. Wade decision itself when Sandra Day O’Connor changed her mind and refused to support Rehnquist. In 1992 the court was again on the verge of overturning Roe v. Wade when justice Anthony Kennedy switched his vote, joining Blackmun, Sandra Day O’Connor, and David Souter to support the murder of unborn children. In both cases, abortion was upheld by a slim majority of one, showing the grave

importance of Supreme Court appointments.

* * *

Study Shows Churches Moving Quickly In A Contemporary Direction. — According to a study done by Ellison Research, 51% of Protestant churches have moved in a contemporary direction in the past five years (Facts and Trends magazine, March-April 2004). The study also found that 74% of Protestant churches are using praise and worship choruses. And the average length of a sermon in a Protestant church is 31 minutes.

* * *

Anglican Clergy Call For More Sensitivity Toward Homosexuality. — The following is from the March 2004 issue of the Australia Independent Baptist Newsletter, edited from The Independent of London, Feb. 12: “The Church of England came under renewed pressure from its own clergy yesterday to update its stance on homosexuality and gay priests. In a debate at the General Synod in London, speaker after speaker urged the church to become more inclusive and less judgmental and accept that society was moving at a faster pace. Those who held a ‘more traditionalist’ view ‘were muted.’ The Church of

England says that while gay clergy can be appointed, they should remain celibate. A Church of England minister in south London ‘told the synod that his long-term relationship with another man reflected the real world that the church was failing to keep in step with.’ This same man was given applause when he stated, ‘I am not a heterosexual gone astray. I am a gay Christian, with a Christian life and relationship with God. I was elected to the synod as an openly gay priest. The reality is out there in the church; it must become inclusive.’”

* * *

CONCLUSION:

Friends in Christ, do not be discouraged by any of this. It is God’s will that we know the times and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. These things remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ day by day? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly,

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the doctrines of Christ. Our Savior prayed for the unity of His disciples.

The whole tenor of the New Testament scriptures strongly indicates unity. But in the course of time changes came. Instead of visible bodies known as the churches of Christ, all holding the same doctrines and practicing the same things, there are hundreds of schismatic bodies, each with its special doctrines and peculiar forms of worship.

The heresy of schism is not only acquiesced in by great multitudes of professing Christians, but it has been elevated into a doctrine and boldly proclaimed from many a pulpit. The present state of things is extolled as tending mightily to the conversion of the world. This is the popular view, and I am aware that to take a strong stand against it will bring upon me the charge of bigotry, narrowness, etc. Nevertheless I have strong convictions upon the subject, and taking all risks I shall write on the question as the Lord helps me. "*The Multiplicity of Denominations An Evil*" is what I shall attempt to show. Taking the text as a guide I shall notice—

I. The injury inflicted upon the cause of Christ by the multiplicity of denominations. II. The pleas for divisions, insufficient, un-

reasonable and unscriptural. III. The impossibility of a settled peace under existing circumstances.

I. The injury inflicted upon the cause of Christ by the multiplicity of denominations.

Under this head let us in the first place look at the mangled form of truth. The Scriptures present a perfect body of divinity, grand but simple. It was constructed and rounded out under the master hand of Deity. It is perfect. And more, it is exactly suited to the wants of our race. It needs no emendations nor reconstructions. And to realize the most perfect unity it is only necessary that all men humbly accept the simple system of truth revealed in the Scriptures. This has not been done. From very early times down through all the ages a process of adding to and taking from has been going on. Hence the various denominations of today. This is historically true, beyond dispute.

The Romish hierarchy is the slow growth of centuries, mainly the work of *men's* hands. Other sects around us have a kindred history, as might be shown did time and occasion allow. They all have some truth. Let us thank God for that! Yes and I will thank God that even in the Romish system there is truth, saving truth. The foundation rock is there in the doctrine of the divinity

of Jesus which Catholics hold. It is fearfully overlaid by tradition and superstition, but it is there, and again I thank God! I will add that it is my hope and belief that in Rome even and all her Protestant branches, there are many of God's own elect people. But while all these sects hold truth, they do not hold all the truth, and they maintain much that is not truth. Thus the Divine system of truth has been mangled. Will any one say there is no harm in all this. He would be a daring man who would so do.

A traveler, writing from Rome, laments that the petty nobility of that city irreverently tear down the magnificent old temples and take the stones to mix with other material in the construction of their private residences. And just so have men done with God's grand temple of truth. This can not be right. Such a procedure is attended by the most serious consequences and deserves the gravest censure. It is a work in which we will have no part and to which we will give no sanction.

But let us pass to notice that these divisions obstruct the course of truth. I accord to ministers of other denominations — many of them — the sincerest desire to forward the cause of our common Savior. This is done with the utmost pleasure, and it detracts nothing from what I am about to say. These good

men are hindered by the errors of their own systems. There have been Christ-loving, soul-loving preachers in the Romish church, who sought earnestly to bring the truth savingly near the hearts of the people. But their congregations were wrapped about with the grave-clothes of ritualism. They fought bravely, but the sword of truth was encased in a lifeless formalism, and could not cut its way to the heart. All error is a hindrance, as all truth is a help. It is painful to see good men struggling with their own errors.

Take the English church: it has much precious truth in its creed, but this is neutralized in large measure by much error. It is so everywhere. Even our Presbyterian brethren, with a doctrinal base all of pure granite, are embarrassed by their views of infant baptism and other kindred doctrines. A man who is bound to maintain that baptism is the seal of the covenant can not so powerfully enforce the doctrine of salvation wholly by the sovereign grace of God.

And more: whatever tends to hinder the free preaching of all truth in due proportion, must be an evil. The multiplicity of denominations has this tendency. In many places it is very unpopular to preach upon certain doctrines concern-

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ing which the sects are not agreed. Although clearly in the Bible, they are put under ban by a misguided public sentiment, lest the preaching of them should give offense. Many a man, too weak to stand against the prevalent sentiment, yields. The temptation to be silent is great, and the voice of truth is smothered. Men, who have been set for the defense of the gospel, speak with bated breath, because there are those before them who would take it as a personal unkindness, and an attack on their denomination, if the whole truth should be spoken plainly. Many a man who sees clearly that salvation must be entirely by grace, will not tell dying sinners so in unmistakable terms, because of the Arminian element in his congregation. There is a nervousness in pew and pulpit which is not favorable to the advance of scriptural views. Why, in many places certain denominations have pre-empted the ground, and it is held improper to go there and preach as the Scriptures most clearly teach.

Again, downright opposition to the truth is another evil growing out of the multiplicity of denominations. Truth is exclusive. It will form no alliance with error; nor will it agree to a truce with heresy. From this inherent disposition of truth

it follows that often it must be crushed to make room for that which is not the truth. It is no part of my plan to discuss baptism in this article, but I will allude to the baptismal controversy for an illustration of the truth of the statement just made.

It is no more than just to say, that if ever *any* question ought to be regarded as settled beyond doubt, it is that which now so much disturbs the world. By every proof, immersion is the act which Christ and His Apostles both taught and practiced. Yet in how many ways is this divine institution attacked? Every theory is invented which tends to subvert it. Ridicule and even the charge of indecency are employed to destroy this institution of the gospel and make room for innovations.

Other truths have fared no better. How much the cause of Christ has been impeded by such opposition to His truth no one can know. I do not mean to say that men have wantonly opposed the truth, but only that they have been under the influence of a strong denominational bias, and so have done what they otherwise would not have done. The evil effects, however, are the same.

I have said that the existence of conflicting sects prevents the free preaching of the truth. Look at the other side of the question. The multiplicity of denominations greatly pro-

motes the preaching of heresy. Men will propagate the creed of their church, and that, too, without taking any great pains as a rule, to find out whether the creed has the sanction of the Scripture. Now, no one can fail to know that where there are so many differences there is no little heresy. Things differing from each other can not be equal to the same thing. All are not right; all can not be right. There are, beyond dispute, grave heresies abroad, and these heresies are the like of the sects. Take from Rome her "infallibility dogma," her "Baptismal Regeneration," etc., and she would be Rome no more. And so, if what is unscriptural were taken from *all*, there would be a great deal accomplished toward unity. But with what energy do preachers uphold the inventions of men. How earnestly, even bitterly, do men contend for denominational peculiarities unknown to Apostolic times, and how blind are many to all reason. I suppose, if I say that a full half of all the preaching done in the world is in support of denominational dogmas for which there is no scriptural warrant, you would hardly doubt it.

Let us reflect for a few moments upon the difficulties thrown in the way of the ungodly by the multiplicity of denominations, each with its peculiar teachings. Many a

time I have gone to an ungodly man to urge him to seek Christ, and have been met with something like this. "I hear so many different things, that I don't know which is right. Sometimes I think they are all wrong, and that my chance is about as good as any." The world is confused, and no wonder it is.

Not long ago I was assisting in a protracted meeting. There was a young man attending the meeting, who seemed to be under deep concern for his soul. We tried to point him directly to Christ for salvation. Others advised him to join their church, telling him that he would be more likely to be converted in that way. Others still urged him to be baptized right away, assuring him that in this act of obedience his sins would be washed away. There were still others who told him of the power of the church to do what was needful for him. The poor man, confused, went back to the world, and is now utterly hardened. This is only one case of thousands.

Now, just for a little time think how the path of obedience is blocked up before the feet of young converts by denominational influences. A person gives his heart to Jesus, and wishes at once to obey his dear Lord and Savior. In the Scriptures the path of duty is very plain, but he is

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not sent to the Bible to learn his duty. He is told to go with his family, or to consult his convenience, or he is urged by one to do *this*, and by another to do *that*. Confusion is spread around him. Maybe he goes to his Bible and reads the simple law of Jesus touching baptism, the first public Christian act. He sees his duty; but he is not let alone to perform it. If he cannot be argued out of the conception of the meaning of the command, he may be persuaded that he need not obey it, seeing that it is not essential. If he is a minor, or if the subject is a daughter or a wife, sterner measures may be employed. This is no fancy picture.

I must just mention here that, under the influence of sectarian zeal, the Word of God is trampled under foot of men, and the authority of the Highest set at naught. In proof of this, I need only refer to the hundreds who readily confess that they believe immersion to be of divine origin, but who, nevertheless, refuse to leave their denomination to obey Christ. Are there not some such among my readers?

I must call your attention to another point which, to my mind, is important. By the injection of error into the religious world, we are called upon to repel it. There are some

men among us who seem greatly to enjoy this business. They are properly called "heresy hunters," and, so far as appearances go, they would be extremely miserable if the whole world were to come suddenly right. As for preaching Christ simply, they seem not to have been called to do that. The denominational wars have given us a race of theological pugilists from whom we may well pray in the language of the prayerbook. "Good Lord, deliver us." But, after all, error must be met! Straightforward, peaceloving men are often compelled to leave a work they love better, to repel the attacks of error upon the citadel of truth. The necessity is thrust upon us, and often we must leave off building the walls to repel the enemy. Thus time and effort are lost, and, what is still more serious, often an unholy spirit is fostered. I verily believe the low state of religion in many places is to be attributed to denominational wars, which have been warmer and longer, perhaps, than was necessary.

In the next place, I must briefly call your attention to the untold waste caused by the multiplicity of denominations. Take almost any village of a thousand inhabitants, and you will see from five to six churches. These have generally, with much inconvenience, built houses of worship, and are

maintaining a sickly existence. As many ministers, as churches, address handfuls of people, for which they receive a mere pittance. The strength of these bodies, in many cases, is wasted in strife among themselves, instead of being directed unitedly upon *the ungodly* in the community.

Now, I ask, in all reason, what is the use of this waste? Let us suppose that instead of all these churches, there was one, with one house and one minister, preaching the truth, all the truth, and nothing but the truth, and that all the people of God were united in every good word and work. How much better it would be for that community. And then, think of those other men going out to preach the same truth to the destitute. On this plan, how quickly could the gospel be sent to every community on the face of the earth!

This is an intensely practical point. It is a matter that ought to lie with ponderous weight upon the conscience of the Christian public. The present state of things is wrong, radically wrong.

The last point that I will mention under this head is **the promotion of infidelity by the multiplicity of denominations.** Our Savior prayed that His disciples might be one, even as He and His Father are one, that the world might believe that His Father had sent Him. There is a

powerful force in unity to strengthen faith; there is a powerful force in division to weaken faith. The prayer of Christ teaches this truth, and reason and observation confirm it. Not all the avowed infidels in the world can inflict so deadly a wound upon the faith of the age as Christians and professed Christians are doing by their open divisions. Their diverse teachings, open strife, petty jealousies, palpable denials of the doctrines of Christ, and the changes which they take to themselves the liberty of making in the divine order of things, act disastrously upon the highest interests of the world.

We have but glanced at the evils growing out of a multiplicity of denominations. Time would fail us to enumerate all of them, or to adequately discuss them. But let us pass on to notice that: —

II. The pleas for division are insufficient, unreasonable and unscriptural.

There are many such pleas. Only a few of the more prominent can be mentioned here.

"**There is variety in all the works of God, and it is reasonable that there should be variety in religion.**" This is very specious. If God had not prescribed a religion, I

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would agree that endless variety might be right. As it is, there is no serious objection to variety in the mere circumstances of worship. If my Episcopal friend wishes to preach in a gown and surplice, I will not deny him the pleasure, though it is not at all to my taste. That is a circumstantial matter, and differences concerning it amount to nothing important. But when my friend teaches "baptismal regeneration," etc., then we must part, for the point is vital. Yet we cannot hold different views on that question without sin on one side or the other. If baptismal regeneration be the truth of God, clearly we all ought to accept and teach it. If, as I believe with all my heart, there is no such thing taught in the Scriptures, then my friend in the surplice is very wrong to palm off such a notion upon the world. There is no room for variety, if we all keep to the truth on the question.

Now, this reasoning applies to every doctrine of the Bible. If God had meant that there should be different churches, with different creeds, He would have made different revelations to suit. As He has revealed but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one system of doctrine throughout, it is clear that He meant there should be unity

in all these matters.

"People cannot all believe alike, and therefore we must not expect them to do so."

Is there any natural difficulty in the way of any one's believing what God has revealed for our acceptance? Let those who are willing to risk it tell the Judge in the last day that they could not believe what He taught them. There is no valid excuse for not accepting the truth, and God will have none. We may be sure of that.

"It is wise to have different denominations, so that all may be suited." This plea proceeds upon the notion that people are to be pleased in religion. The idea is radically wrong. It reverses things. It is *our* duty to please God by an humble and willing obedience to the truth. The Almighty has not undertaken to suit the world. Besides, if this plea be well founded, we have need of still other denominations, for there are many people yet unsuited. Such excuses will not heal the hurt inflicted upon the cause of Christ.

"All the denominations are branches of the church, and right, each in its own way." Is this true is the first important inquiry. We have all heard much of the branches of the church. Where is the proof that the church has branches differing one from the other? Looking into the New

Testament, we find many churches, but they were of the same faith and order. In vain do we search the sacred records for a trace of these divergent and antagonistic branches. Has the church really branched? Whence come the denominations of the present time? History informs us. If I say that they are branches of the Romish apostasy, I speak only an historical truth. Let no one say that I am uncharitable. I must speak the truth. That may humble, but should not offend. Is it not known to every one that John Calvin led out the Presbyterian branch, Martin Luther the Lutheran branch, and Henry VIII the Anglican branch? Methodism is a branch of the last named.

Is Rome the true church of Christ? No Baptists and but few Protestants think so. Rather, she is the scarlet-robed persecutor of Christ's church. If Rome be not the real church, then are not these denominations branches of the false church; for they are the offshoots of that body, and, as the celebrated Methodist minister, Dr. Bond, aptly said, "The hues of Romanism are inlaid throughout all Protestantism." So much in vindication of the truth, as touching the branch theory which satisfies and misleads the consciences of many.

Upon the last part of this plea, I wish to say that *no* one exactly believes it.

It sounds broad and charitable to hear men say, "all are right, each in his own way." but people frequently say more than they mean. In this case, they say more than they can mean. The mind of a sane man is not constructed to believe that "yes" and "no," with reference to the same thing, can both be true. We cannot believe both sides of a contradiction. When my brother, down the street, preaches up infant baptism and I preach it down, every one knows that somebody is wrong. It is idle to say that each one is right in his own way. There is but one right way, and that is the Scriptural way. If he affirms that the Scriptures teach such a doctrine, and I deny it, one of us has the misfortune to be wrong. When our Calvinistic brethren preach up the doctrines of grace, and our Arminian brethren preach them down, somebody is point-blank wrong. And just so it is with every point of disagreement.

With all the charity which characterizes our brethren of other persuasions, I have always noticed that they do not think as much of our doctrines as they do of their own. This is very natural, I will admit; but, at least, if we are all right, each in his way, they should not inveigh against what we hold to be the truth. I have a decided impression that if any or all

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of them could succeed equal to their wishes, the Baptist branch would soon be no more; we would be converted to other views. As for myself — and I am persuaded I speak the honest sentiments of my brethren — I would be glad to see the whole world converted to Baptist views. I cannot say that a man is right, and straightway seek to change him. The *all-right* theory is clearly all-wrong.

I must come now to the last division of the subject, and speedily to a close.

III. The impossibility of a settled peace under existing circumstances.

We hear the cry, "Peace, peace! when there is no peace," and there can be none till truth is triumphant. Error is a disturbing element, and those who have foisted innovations upon the Christian system are responsible for disturbing the peace of Israel. Those who maintain these errors are also responsible. The responsibility lies altogether with those who have forsaken the old paths. To earnestly defend the faith once delivered to the saints, is a high Christian duty. As matters now stand, there can be no peace; we will not hold our peace; we dare not do it. Sprung directly from Christ and His holy

Apostles, and descended through a long line of martyrs, Baptists have a duty to perform in vindicating the old faith, which they must not shirk. Our obligations to Christ and a proper regard for the highest interest of the race alike urge us to stand fast by the old landmarks of gospel faith. *We have no terms of compromise to offer, and there are none we can accept.* Our orders have been received from the Captain of our salvation; it only remains for us to obey them, and insist, to the last, that others do the same. Just as long as men preach baptismal regeneration, we will preach against it. If men will insist on an unregenerate church-membership, we are bound to oppose them. We will not even agree to the substitution of sprinkling or pouring for gospel baptism. Nor will we take infants instead of believers as proper subjects for baptism. And just as sternly will we oppose the inversion of the ordinances, putting communion before baptism, though this would please many people whom, in other matters, we would gladly accommodate.

I trust that we know well the difference between servants and Master, and that, being servants, we will make it our chief concern to obey. We will have no personal feelings in our advocacy of the truth, but in love we will speak the truth fully, plainly, con-

stantly, till, under God, it prevails over the world.

It is related that there was great commotion and anxiety in the Romish Council which passed the Infallibility dogma. Many of the more prudent bishops feared the rupture of the church by such a bold measure. After the famous dogma was passed, surrounded by an excited crowd of prelates, Archbishop (now Cardinal) Manning, of England, holding the paper aloft in his hand, said, "Let all the world go to bits, and we will reconstruct it on this paper." The religious world is going to bits. Gradually, but surely, Protestantism is growing out of its Romish wrappings. Infant baptism is not now believed in as it once was. Right views of both the design and act of baptism prevail more and more. Even Rome cannot now hold the masses in her grasp as she has done in the past. The age is one of unrest. The means of communicating knowledge are constantly multiplying. Men are everywhere coming into a large inheritance

of personal liberty and responsibility. Truly, the old world of thought and faith is going to bits, and, under God, Baptists are called upon to reconstruct it, not around an infallible(?) man, but upon the infallible Word of God, which endureth forever. The very times admonish us to stand fast in the old ways, and to give to the simple truth of Jesus, which makes men free indeed, a consistent, earnest, and life-long advocacy.

And may the God of all grace, the God of peace, give us evermore the help of His Spirit, and, through the truth, hasten the day when all lovers of Jesus shall see eye to eye and speak the same things. □

FBIS . . .

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as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14).

Building

You're building each moment,
In architect's role,
A character dwelling—
A home for the soul.
So while you are building,
Don't potter and slack;
Just build a fine mansion,
Not merely a shack.

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 3)

truders as far as they are able. Then, inside the nose, in fact throughout the entire respiratory canal right into the air-chambers of the lungs with the millions of air-sacs there, are found numberless little hairy projections called cilia, waving like wheat on a wind swept field. During life these hairs are in constant motion, lashing to and fro about twelve times per second. They stand out from the cells which line the whole surface, about ten or twelve to each cell.

The movement of this vast army of hairs is directed always toward the outer world, as they attempt to guard the precious inner parts from invasion by strangers of any kind. In order to keep the nasal and respiratory passages clear, see what we have. First, the hairs to catch dust; next, a sticky mucus to arrest what the hairs have missed; then, a system to eject the mass. This latter seems to consist of a telegraphic communication from the nerves of nose and throat that they have arrested thousands of enemies and want them tossed out again. G.H.Q. receives this message and immediately sends a command to the muscles of nose and throat and chest, with the result that a sneeze or cough results with the complete ejection of the invading army.

And yet, in spite of all precautions and contrivances, we are continually breathing in enormous quantities of dust particles, which are loaded down with germs. Only the air over the ocean at a distance of about 600 miles from the coast seems to be dust free. Even on top of the Alps a breath of air has been found to contain 10,000 dust motes. In what would be considered a clean suburban area, one inspiration takes in about 125,000,000 particles, increasing to fifty or more billions as we get closer to the ground. In the course of an ordinary lifetime a modern city dweller takes in about forty-five pounds of dust into the lungs. Workers in dusty trades, such as stonemasons, stokers, miners, cement workers, and grinders of all kinds, may easily inhale more than one hundred pounds.

The nasal cavity seems to be closely associated with the rest of the body. If a hot-water bottle be placed on the abdomen, not only does the abdominal skin become red, but the nasal mucus membrane reacts similarly. If the feet are warm, the nasal cavities are well supplied with blood and are warm; when the feet are cold, the nose cavities become chilled and pale. This is the reason for wearing rubbers in cold wet weather, not simply for comfort but to protect the body from a troublesome

head cold which often results. Under the latter condition the mucus glands stop secreting, so the bacteria slip past into the naso-pharynx, down to the bronchial tubes and into the lungs with many complications familiar to all of us.

One thing which strikes the observer, as he studies these things, is the care with which impurities and enemies are prevented from entering the body. If they do gain entrance then the defensive mechanism of the blood and tissues comes into immediate action. The air we breath, the water we drink, the food we eat must be pure if we are to remain healthy and vigorous. No one will disagree with this statement. But when it comes to the question of spiritual cleanliness, there is immense carelessness and apparent ignorance everywhere.

Poison getting into our body, unless restrained and counteracted, will result in death. Impurities in thought, word, and deed, weaken the soul and spirit just as surely. Men and women who will listen attentively to advice regarding the body laugh at and ignore far more important advice regarding the spirit. We use the body for but a few years at most, and then discard it. Granted that it should be carefully tended and guarded, but what about the infinitely important soul of man? This is supremely valuable. Listen to what the Lord said

about it in Matt. 8:36, 37: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

How necessary it is to place a proper valuation on the possessions of life and not to value excessively these physical bodies. Again our Lord warns us against paying so much attention to feeding the body and clothing it, while we neglect that which will decide our eternal welfare. In Luke 12:22, 23 He says: "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment."

Spiritual disease runs rampant throughout the world. The natural man who pays no attention to God or heavenly things, is doomed to death because he has decided to ignore God's faithful and loving warnings. The carnal Christian, having accepted Christ as Savior, and drifted back into worldly pursuits, is a spiritual midget, showing no growth, suffering from paralysis of the will, without joy in this life or reward in the next, and yet a child of God. What a tragedy! As you read my words, friend, will you classify yourself? Where do you come in? Then, the

(See **BODY** on page 24)

HOLES . . .

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of metal around them, and presto! — a gas pipe.

The street repair department is often careless in the way it picks up holes and moves them around. Workmen will do a good job of crowding a hole out of the pavement, by the use of asphalt, and then throwing the hole onto a

truck. But before they can throw the hole into the river, it falls off the truck, and there you have another chuck-hole. It seems that the city can't quite get all these holes picked up off the streets, and automobiles nearly get lost in them.

I believe somebody could take those excess openings out of the stadium and make good use of them. They could be cut up into

handy sizes and shipped to the war zone for use as foxholes. Any little pieces left over could be sold as bulletholes, worm holes, and gopher holes. Some of the tiny little chips of holes could be sold to the Swiss, who mix them with cheese.

In the meantime, we are stuck with a lot of big black, square holes that detract from the appearance of the stadium. They hang heavily over our heads, and if they fall, somebody's liable to get hurt. — Ark. Democrat □

Calvary

By Elias Newman

I did not see Thee lifted high
Amid the savage mob;
I did not hear Thy rending cry,
“Forgive them, O my God!”
But, Lord, I know it was for me
Thy blood and tears were poured;
And now, through weeping eyes, I see
My wounded, precious Lord.

I did not see the awful sight
That hid Thee, O my Lord;
I did not see Jehovah smite
The Shepherd with the sword;
But now I know the judgment fell
Upon Thy sacred Head,
To save my guilty soul from hell
And raise me from the dead.

I did not hear Thy loud last sigh
When love's great work was done,
That rent the veil, the earth and sky,
And told that life was won;
But, Lord, I know that Thou hast died
And tasted death for me;
Exalted at Thy Father's side,
My Lord, my God I see.

BODY . . .

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third class is the spiritual — a Christian who loves to be God's witness, and to be separate from the world and its allurements, always growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you belong here? I hope so.

If you are in the latter section, then you are preventing impurities from soiling your body and spirit. Your thoughts and affections are centered on God; you delight in His will; you are looking for the wonderful Day when Jesus comes to take us to Himself; you are wise because you are winning souls.

Our actions are the natural result of our thoughts. Then what are you thinking about? I read in Col. 3:2 “Set your mind on things which are above, not on things which are on

the earth.” Does Heaven and its glories, God and His purpose for you, loom large on your daily horizon? Think it through.

One more word from God. It is in Phil. 4:8 — “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true ... honest ... just ... pure ... lovely ... of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, *think on these things.*”

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

The Creator has placed guards for our bodies. He Himself will guard our hearts and minds, if we permit Him. Who would be without this strong Defense? Is He your Savior? Yes — HE'S WONDERFUL!

[Next month: “More Wonders of Respiration.”]

The only state that permits a woman to work more than eight hours a day is the state of matrimony.

* * *

America's number one energy crisis is Monday morning.

* * *

Heads, hearts, and hands could settle the world's problems better than arms.

* * *

Two good openings for a young man are the legs in a pair of overalls.