

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 488

One Baptism — In Water

Disobedience to Divine Commands Is Not A Work of the Holy Spirit

“There is ... one baptism” (Eph. 4:4-5).

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into (with reference to) Jesus Christ were baptized into (with reference to) his death?” (Rom. 6:3).

“Our fathers ... were all baptized unto (with reference to) Moses in the cloud and in the sea” (1 Cor. 10:1-2).

Use of scriptural terms in an unscriptural sense is a favorite trick of modernists that has been adopted by some so-called interdenominationalists who pride themselves on their supposed orthodoxy or fundamentalism. So it has become fashionable in certain circles to speak of a “spiritual baptism” of which the Bible tells us exactly nothing.

Satan has never introduced among God’s people a heresy so ridiculous but that he has been able to find men willing to prostitute some degree of

scholarship in its defense. So it has been with the practice of baby baptism, pouring and sprinkling as substitutes for believers’ baptism. There have been a few scholars of limited ability or honesty, or both, who have tried to justify these unscriptural practices by perverted interpretations of scripture.

A Lost Battle

But among competent scholars the scriptural meaning of “baptize” and “baptism” is no longer a matter of debate. Everyone knows that the ordinary literal meaning of baptize in the New Testament is to dip, plunge, or immerse in water — and whatever figurative meaning the word may occasionally have must be derived from and based upon this literal sense.

Martin Luther, John Calvin, and John Wesley, whatever their doctrinal

By Rosco Brong

errors, were at least, unlike some of their followers, scholarly enough and honest enough to admit that scriptural baptism was immersion, and that sprinkling in its place was an innovation for the sake of convenience rather than obedience.

Figurative Baptisms

An elementary principle of honest translation and interpretation is that *the literal or ordinary meaning of a word is always to be preferred if it makes good sense in the context*; figurative or unusual meanings are to be adopted only when demanded by context.

Undoubtedly in Mat. 20:22, Mk. 10:38, and Lk. 12:50 Jesus was speaking of a figurative baptism or immersion in the sufferings of the cross. So the baptism in fire mentioned in Mat. 3:11 and Lk. 3:16 is

evidently not a dipping in water. Some interpreters think the reference is to the “fiery trial” of 1 Peter 4:12; others refer the language to the lost in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15), in which case the baptism is quite literal, except that it is in fire instead of water.

In The Holy Spirit

The Bible also speaks of a baptism *in* (not “with”) the Holy Spirit. Mat. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16 — these six times and nowhere else do we read that Jesus was to baptize in the Holy Spirit. *This baptism in the Holy Spirit took place on the day of Pentecost, symbolizing the dedication and accreditation of the church as an institution, even as baptism in water symbolizes the dedication and accreditation of the individual believer.*

Just as an individual believer is scripturally

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Quiz The Pastor -- #37

Is Thanksgiving Day Found In the Bible?

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: Is Thanksgiving Day found in the Bible?

Answer: □ Thanksgiving Day as we know and observe it today is not found in the Bible, but the idea and principle is found throughout the Bible. The American observance of Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful tradition, and if the proper intent is present, it is a good way to honor, and to offer praise unto God.

The Psalmist asks, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits (mercies, blessings) unto me?" (Psa. 116:12). Again, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Psa. 103:2). We have done well as a nation to set aside a day in which we, whether in sincerity or not, recognize God as the source of our material blessings, and take the

opportunity to "thank Him." It would be even better for us to manifest our "thanksgiving" on every day of the year.

One of the sinful traits of mankind since the beginning has been the sin of ingratitude toward God as is stated in Romans 1:21 "neither were *thankful*." This is a sad commentary on mankind, but its indictment comes from God Himself. So often in our dealings with our fellowmen, when a person gets what he wants, he neglects to say, "Thank you," and this thoughtlessness is even more distressing in that the same attitude often characterizes man's treatment of God (2 Tim. 3:2).

The saints of God are commanded, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God" (Eph. 5:20). "In every thing, give thanks: for this

is the will of God concerning you" (1 Thess. 5:18; "Be ye thankful (full of thanks)" (Col. 3:15). Under the law of Moses, Israel brought "thankofferings" to the Lord (Lev. 7:12, 15; 22:29; 2 Chron. 29:31), and continually gave "thanks" (Psa. 92:1; 100:4; 105:11).

Can we today do any less? Of all the blessings our gracious God has made available to man, is the spiritual blessing of *salvation*. We read in Colossians 1:12 we are to give "thanks unto the Father" because He has made us worthy (fit) to be a sharer in the inheritance of the saints of light, and has "translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son (Christ)" along with the blessing of receiving the forgiveness of sins, pardoned by the court of heaven.

How wonderful! All of this and much more was provided by our Lord Jesus Christ when He died for our sins, and was raised again from the dead "for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). Is it no wonder that the great Apostle Paul under inspiration wrote, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15). Remember, "It is a good thing to give *thanks* unto the Lord" (Psa. 92:1). □

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baptized in water only once, so the church as an institution was baptized in the Holy Spirit only once, that is, on the day of Pentecost. The additional manifestation in the house of Cornelius was simply to convince Peter and other Jewish church members that Gentile believers rightfully belonged in the same church.

Not An Individual

Never in all the New Testament is a single individual said to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. *This was a baptism of the church as such, not of single believers as such.* Let us not confuse fillings with the Spirit or gifts of the Spirit with baptism in the Spirit.

If we are members of a scriptural church, in scriptural succession from the first (Baptist) church in Jerusalem, then *our church was baptized in the Holy Spirit at Pentecost*, once for all. If we have not such a church, no fake "Pentecost" will change the fact.

Baptized "Into" Moses

A preposition is a weak peg to hang a doctrine on, but the phrase "baptized into Jesus Christ" in the King James version of Romans 6:3 has long been

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THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

M. L. Moser, Editor
 Pastor Emeritus
 CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
 15601 Taylor Loop Rd.
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72223
 Church Phone: (501) 868-7703
 Email: mlmoser1@juno.com
 Editor's Phone: (501) 258-3221

Preached on May 6, 1979 -- Message #30

The Woman Jezebel

By M. L. Moser, Editor

“And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts; and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Rev. 2:18-29).

This morning, we looked at the first part of this letter to the church at Thyatira, particularly concerning those things which the Lord complimented; the things whereof He was able to tell them that there were things that were admirable within that church. I want us to look this evening at a complaint that the Lord has against this church. He says, beginning in verse 20, *“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to*

commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not” (Rev. 2:20-21).

Now in the beginning of our studies we pointed out the fact that these seven different churches correspond to the seven feasts in the Book of Leviticus and to the seven parables in the thirteenth chapter of the Book of Matthew. Each of these churches represents, besides a specific letter to a specific church, also periods of time that are to come to pass.

For instance, this church, the church of Thyatira, is representative of that time between 606 A.D. and 1500 A.D. or about the time of what is called the Reformation Period. As we look at these things concerning these seven churches, we find that the things mentioned about each church correspond with the things that took place during this period of history. Here we read concerning this woman Jezebel, concerning the things that she was allowed to do within that church.

Now we turn back for a few moments to the 13th chapter of the Book of Matthew, and look at the parable that corresponds with this same church. Notice in verse 33 of Matthew 13 that it talks about a woman as well. Verse 33 reads: *“Another parable spake he unto*

them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world” (Mt. 13:33-35).

Here in this parable it also speaks about a woman. I want us to look tonight at some of the things that this woman has done. We read verse 33 again, *“The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.”* I want us to note that this corresponds with this church in the Book of Revelation in that both of them have a woman that is involved in the introduction of false doctrine into Christianity or into Christendom. Now that is contrary to what the general interpretation of this parable is. The general interpretation of this parable is that the meal is the world. Something bad that needs a new transforming principal put into it. If you were to hear the average prea-

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God's Masterpiece — The Human Body #28

What Makes Your Heart Beat

By Arthur I. Brown

In this article I want to deal with some odds and ends of our present study which concerns the blood, circulating throughout the human body, performing daily miracles of marvelous precision.

The time taken by the blood to travel around the body from the heart and back again has been determined in animals by injecting a solution of methylene blue into one jugular vein and finding how long it takes to make the round trip and appear in blood drawn from the other jugular. The time is about 25 seconds. The same journey in man would probably require a few seconds longer — pretty rapid traveling.

The circulation in the smallest blood vessels — the capillaries — may be watched with the aid of a microscope, in the web of frog's feet. The lumen of these tiny pipes is so narrow that the corpuscles may be seen traveling in single file with great regularity. Sometimes the cells get blocked at the entrance to a vessel, which then for a time contains only plasma. To escape from such a bloc, the corpuscles frequently alter

their form and also, in turning corners, manifest considerable elasticity. In the larger capillaries the colored corpuscles are seen only in the center of the vessel, surrounded by a layer of plasma, in which a few colorless corpuscles may be seen moving very slowly or clinging to the walls of the vessel.

In the larger vessels, the stream of blood moves in jets corresponding with the pulsations of the ventricle. It is natural to ask what causes the chambers of the heart to contract so regularly. And the answer seems to indicate the presence of a Supreme Controller of this essential action, placed right in the heart itself. In the wall of the right auricle between the entrances of the large veins in a condensed portion of sensitive tissue called the SINO-AURICULAR NODE (S.A. node). In the normal heart, the impulses always commence here, which therefore is the spot which determines the rhythm of the heart. Because of this, the S.A. Node has received the name of the pace maker. From this node nerves acting as telegraph wires pass into the various

chambers of the heart, carrying the messages from G.H.Q. A serious condition known as heart block is due to some defect in the S.A. node or in the conducting mechanism of the heart. I shall not ask you to remember many other details like this, but I am asking you how this amazing setup and control could possibly have originated except through the wisdom and skill of a Great Creator. Any other explanation is simply absurd.

Behind the action of the S.A. node, of course, are nerves — the Vagus and Sympathetic — which seem to be directed by a third nerve, Depressor, which arises in the wall of the big artery — issuing from the heart — called the aorta. This Depressor nerve conveys messages to the central nervous system, which responds by sending orders down to the S.A. node and along to the different heart chambers. I shall not attempt a discussion of heart affections, but have told you enough to reveal the astonishing intricacy of this pumping mechanism, my purpose being always to show the need of a supernatural

origin.

Permit me to present again for the sake of emphasis, some of the features of blood which you ought not to forget. I am taking it for granted that you who read are anxious to learn more about your body, and, after all, what gives greater satisfaction than to increase our knowledge?

And so I remind you of the composition of blood. First, there are the living cells floating or swimming in the stream. Then there is a numerous group of chemical substances held in solution or suspension. And finally, there is the liquid medium, water. The corpuscles are of two kinds — colored, containing 63 percent water and 37 percent solids, of which 95 percent is hemoglobin, that strange chemical for seizing oxygen and releasing it promptly whenever asked to do so by a tissue cell anywhere; and colorless cells called leucocytes, the active policemen always on the alert to arrest invading enemies and protect us from harm with their lives. The blood plasma, of which we hear so much today, is

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the fluid portion consisting of 92 percent water, holding in suspension proteins, the most complex molecules in the body made up of thousands of atoms, lipins, inorganic salts, glucose, amino-acids, urea and other waste substances. Practically every substance found in any part of the body is present in the blood, in greater or lesser amount, on its way to and from the various organs. But the blood proteins which, by the way, are now the subject of intense experiment by scientists everywhere, and to some extent its salts, are peculiar to the blood. The chief salt in the blood plasma is sodium chloride — table salt — which is much less abundant in the cells. Another important salt in the plasma is sodium bicarbonate — baking soda — which plays an essential role in respiration.

The blood pressure within the vessels continuously forces a certain amount of plasma through the very thin walls of the capillaries into the spaces between the cells. This fluid is called lymph. It has practically the same composition as the blood plasma, but with a somewhat smaller proportion of proteins. Also, it contains leucocytes, which push themselves rather easily through the walls of the capillaries. Lymph, therefore, is practically blood

without any red corpuscles, a colorless fluid which acts as a sort of “middleman” through which exchanges of dissolved food and waste matters are effected between the blood and the cells.

Since lymph is continually filtering from the blood through the thin walls of the smallest vessels into the spaces between the cells, it is easily seen that it must, just as continually, be removed from these spaces, and this is made possible by a system of vessels called lymphatic vessels. These have the same structure and distribution as the capillaries and veins of the blood system. They ramify through all the organs of the body alongside the blood vessels. The flow of lymph through these pipes is in the same direction as that of blood in the veins. The small lymph channels empty into larger ones, and they into successively larger ones, until eventually the largest finally open into some of the large veins of the blood stream, thus returning the lymph to the blood. So round and round the fluids travel. It has been estimated that there are anywhere from 50 to 100 thousand miles of blood vessels in the body, and probably almost that mileage of lymph channels. This mechanism is so vast and intricate and so exact, that it surpasses the imagination.

At this point I draw

your attention to the important place occupied by water. We often say that blood is thicker than water. This is true, for blood is thickened water — about five times thicker. Water is not usually listed among the food factors, but in terms both of the amount required and the frequency with which it must be renewed, water is first among the body’s nutritional needs. One can do without fats, carbohydrates, proteins, mineral salts, vitamins, for weeks, but, if at the same time, he is deprived of water he generally dies within a few days.

Water forms two-thirds of the body by weight. Even the gray matter of the brain is mostly water; everyone has water on the brain. It forms the principal part of cells, and of the juices which fill the spaces between the cells it occurs in lymph, in the secretions of the glands, muscles, and other tissues. When you read the printed page, you see the words through a thin film of water which covers the surface of the cornea, and vision fails if this water supply fails. As you breathe, the air passes through a thin layer of water coating the membranes of the lungs. When you hear my voice, the sound vibrations are carried through water in the inner ear, the vibrations in water striking the ends of the auditory nerve. Even the bones contain considerable water. God makes the

common things absolutely indispensable, and more than that, He takes very common folks and makes them His ambassadors and servants and witnesses.

To me that is a most precious and comforting truth. I read in 1 Corinthians 1:26: “For behold *your* calling, brethren, that not *many* wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called but God chose the foolish things of the world that He might put to shame them that are wise; and God chose the weak things of the world, that He might put to shame the things that are strong; and the base things of the world, and the things that are despised, did God choose, and the things that are not, that He might bring to nought the things that are: that no flesh should glory before God. *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who was made unto us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption:* that according as it is written, he that glorieth let him glory in the Lord.”

You will have noticed many times how differently God evaluates things from the way man forms his opinions. In the 2nd chapter of this epistle we are informed that to the natural man of the world the things of the Spirit of God are nothing more than foolishness. How true that is! There may be some listen-

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Former Labor Secretary Predicts Religious War in America

Robert Reich keeps calling for a war on evangelicals. Does he really mean it?

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

The true battle will be between modern civilization and anti-modernists; between those who believe in the primacy of the individual and those who believe that human beings owe their allegiance and identity to a higher authority; between those who give priority to life in this world and those who believe that human life is mere preparation for an existence beyond life; between those who believe in science, reason, and logic and those who believe that truth is revealed through Scripture and religious dogma. Terrorism will disrupt and destroy lives. But terrorism itself is not

the greatest danger we face.

That's a remarkable comment, but even more remarkable is that Reich has been calling for (or at least predicting) this war for a long time. In the past, his use of war language has seemed rhetorical and metaphoric, but was it? "The outcome of the 2004 presidential election will depend partly on what happens between now and Election Day in Iraq and to the U.S. economy. But it will also turn on the religious wars fueled by evangelical Protestants, the ground troops of the Republican Party," he wrote in December.

Democrats can hold their own in these wars, if they respond vigorously to the coming assault. Democrats should call all this for what it is, a clear and present danger to religious liberty in America. For more than three hundred years, the liberal tradition has sought to free people from the tyranny of religious doctrines that would otherwise be im-

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ing to what I'm trying to say and you are thinking: "Dr. Brown is all right until he gets to talking about religion." Have you ever thought that? Let me tell you something will you? I do not spend much time in speaking of religion. I am much concerned about persuading you to get acquainted with a Person — the Lord Jesus Christ. That is I would have you to be a Christian rather than a religionist; and there is a real and vital difference, as you can easily see.

When Paul was called, he was told by his Lord that he was to be a minister and a witness, and as I see it, that is the business of every Christian. It is a magnificent calling which is given chiefly to common people like you and me. Isn't it wonderful that God seems to prefer just ordinary folks who will offer themselves, and then He gives them power to be used for Himself? I have no ambition to be among the *great* of the earth. But I do have a deep and consuming desire to get people to know Him who has revealed Himself to me and has permitted me

to work for Him.

Oh, it doesn't matter in the least where or how He uses us — just so that He permits us to have any place beside Him. I am sure that His children will one day be crowned with unspeakable honor and glory as we take our places among the redeemed throng, and share some of that glory which will then be accorded to our King of kings and Lord of lords. That prospect overshadows everything which might disappoint us down here. Here we shall not be very popular, of course, and we shall be in the minority. But Jesus warned us about that and reminded us that, as the world ignored and hated Him, so we cannot expect anything else.

At the same time we are not fighting a losing cause. Our Lord will soon be triumphant, and I am on the winning side. What about *you*? If you are not a Christian, how you need Him! And if you are a Christian, are you a surrendered child of God, or walking with the world? Our Savior deserves our best — for HE'S WONDERFUL! [Next Month: "What Makes Your Heart Beat." □]

Alone With Jesus

Alone with Jesus! What a sweet and holy spot! What a blessed refuge to which the soul may betake itself from the charge of Satan, the ac-

cusations of the world, and the sorrows of life! Sweet spot for the heart to unfold itself, to tell its hidden tale

(See **ALONE** on page 7)



Did you know that 52 of the 55 signers of the Declaration of Independence were orthodox, deeply committed Christians? The other three all believed in the Bible as the divine truth, the God of scripture, and His personal intervention. It is the same Congress that formed the American Bible Society. Immediately after creating the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress voted to purchase and import 20,000 copies of scripture for the people of this nation. Patrick Henry, who is called the firebrand of the American Revolution, is still remembered for his words, "Give me liberty or give me death." But in current textbooks the context of these words is deleted. Here is what he actually said:

"An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies

of nations. The battle sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death."

These sentences have been erased from our textbooks. Was Patrick Henry a Christian? The following year, 1776, he wrote this "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great Nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For that reason alone, people of other faiths have been afforded freedom of worship here."

Consider these words that Thomas Jefferson wrote on the front of his well-worn Bible: "I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus. I have little doubt that our whole country will

soon be rallied to the unity of our Creator." He was also the chairman of the American Bible Society, which he considered his highest and most important role.

On July 4, 1821, President Adams said, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President of the United States reaffirmed this truth when he wrote, "The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country."

In 1782, the United States Congress voted this resolution: "The Congress of the United States recommends and approves

the Holy Bible for use in all schools."

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in the ear of infinite love, tenderness, and compassion. Alone with Jesus!

How different a front would Christianity present to the world if the Lord's people were oftener there! What humanity and gentleness and love would characterize all their dealings! What holiness stamped on every brow, that all might read! What few judgments passed on others — how many more on ourselves! What calmness and resignation and joyous submission to all the Lord's dealings!

Be much "alone with Jesus." Then will the passage of glory be one of sunshine, whether it be through the portals of the grave or through the clouds of Heaven. □

History Forgotten



Allstate Fires Manager For Christian Beliefs Concerning Homosexuality — Allstate has fired a manager because he expressed his Christian beliefs concerning homosexuality. Matt Barber was a manager in Allstate's Corporate Security Division. On his own time, and without identifying himself as an employee of Allstate, he wrote a column posted on several websites which was critical of same-sex marriage. An outside homosexual group complained to Allstate about the column. Because of their support for the homosexual agenda, Barber was immediately fired and ushered off company property. The message is clear: To work for Allstate one must not publicly express their Christian belief in the Bible's teaching on homosexuality. Barber was fired because he did. Homosexuals can criticize and condemn the Bible's teaching and they are welcomed, but Christians must remain silent.

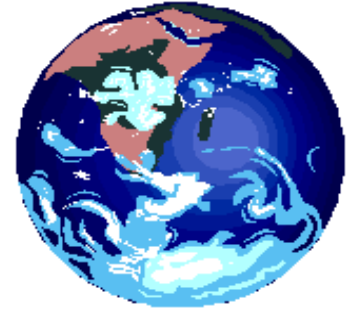
Islamic Group Calls

World News Roundup

For Use of Koran to Take Oath. -- An Islamic civil rights and advocacy group is calling on North Carolina judges to allow people to use the Koran when taking an oath, saying the use of the Bible exclusively represents "an inappropriate state endorsement of religion." The request by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) comes after Guilford County judges said they would not allow use of Korans in their courtrooms. "An oath of the Koran is not a lawful oath under our law," said W. Douglas Albright, Guilford's senior resident Superior Court judge. According to state law, swearing an oath constitutes putting one's hand on the "Holy Scriptures." Those who do not wish to take an oath using the Bible may make an "affirmation." "By stating that only one book qualifies as 'Holy Scriptures,' the court may be making an inappropriate endorsement of a single set of religious beliefs," said CAIR Legal Director Arsalan Iftikhar. "Eliminating the opportunity to swear an oath on one's own holy text may also have the effect of diminishing the credibility of that person's testimony," Iftikhar added. North Carolina's Administrative Office of the Courts last week issued a preliminary

opinion saying that state law allows people to be sworn in using a Koran rather than a Bible, CAIR noted. According to Iftikhar, CAIR will offer a free copy of the Koran to any judge in North Carolina or nationwide for use in oaths or "for personal awareness of the holy text." — CSN

Maryland Court Rules Ten Commandments Display Constitutional. -- A federal district court in Maryland ruled Tuesday that a Ten Commandments display in a park in Frederick is constitutional. The display, owned by the Fraternal Order of Eagles, was challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union, which ended up dropping its lawsuit, but Americans United for the Separation of Church and State filed a suit in June 2003 challenging the validity of the sale of the monument and the land on which it stood from the city to the FOE. "As there is no evidence of religious purpose for Frederick's display, and no indication that its secular purpose was insincere, the Court finds that Frederick had a secular purpose in displaying the monument," the court said in its ruling. "In light of these historical



and secular considerations, and the FOE's freedom to remove the monument at any time, no reasonable observer would believe the continued display on the Memorial Ground was intended to advance religion," the court added. The monument had been donated to the city in 1958 where it stood at first outside city hall. It was later moved to a city park where it stood alongside war memorials, a George Washington plaque, and other historical markers. The American Center for Law and Justice, which represented the FOE in the suit, praised the court's ruling that the monument can stay. The ruling comes just days before the U.S. Supreme Court is set to rule on the constitutionality of the Ten Commandments in two cases — from Texas and Kentucky." This is an important victory underscoring the argument we put forth from the beginning — that this monument does not reflect a government endorsement of religion, but merely reflects the fact that this monument has been apart of the fabric of this

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La Voz Del Desierto

La Necesidad de la Disciplina En La Iglesia — Parte 1

Por M. A. Curet



Si en una familia, en la escuela, o en el ejército, se necesita disciplina, cuánto más se necesitará para los propósitos de la Iglesia. La disciplina puede ser considerada como el proceso para obtener mejoramiento espiritual y eficiencia, así como para ser útil al crecimiento de la Iglesia. En la Iglesia la disciplina es tanto *formativa* como *corrective* aunque casi siempre se acepta la

expresión en su sentido último. En la Biblia, la doctrina de la disciplina formativa se hace clara al afirmarse que los creyentes deben hallarse siempre en un estado progresivo de crecimiento espiritual (Efesios 2:21-22; 4:12-13, 16; 2da Pedro 3:18).

La *disciplina formativa* de la Iglesia contempla la perfección de los santos como una meta muy importante. Un recién

convertido a la fe es un “bebé” en el evangelio, un niño espiritual, “*que tiene necesidad de leche, y no de alimento sólido.*” La disciplina formativa de la Iglesia contempla el crecimiento vigoroso del “*niño en Cristo*” hasta que se desarrolle como un “*hombre maduro.*” La disciplina formativa debe alcanzar a todos los miembros de la Iglesia con su influencia santificadora.

Los ancianos de cabellos blancos tienen que mostrar los beneficios del poder del Espíritu Santo manifiesto en frutos maduros. Los de edad media que se hallan en la perfección de la fuerza física, tendrán que demostrar quien los fortalece y conforta “*en el Señor y la potencia de su fortaleza.*” Y los jóvenes en la alborada de la vida

(Vea CURET en la pág. 10)

Noticias Alrededor Del Mundo

Amenaza de la Unión Americana de las Libertades Civiles (ACLU — Siglas En Ingles) Provocan Ruptura de Relaciones Entre Niños Escuchas Y las Escuelas Públicas. — Los Niños Escuchas de América están removiendo miles de tropas, de los Escuchas de las Escuelas Públicas, luego de la amenaza de parte de la Unión Americana de las Libertades Civiles, demandando a las instituciones que reciben fondos federales y aceptando a los Niños Escuchas en sus

predios. La ACLU envió una carta a los Niños Escuchas de América, en febrero, amenazando acción legal contra las Escuelas Públicas y otras agencias gubernamentales que permiten tales grupos, basados en el argumento que su patrocinio significa una discriminación religiosa y violenta la separación de Iglesia y Estado. Los Niños Escuchas de América comienzan sus reuniones sosteniendo tres dedos en alto y repitiendo un juramento en el cual los miembros hacen voto de

lealtad a Dios y al país, resolviendo ayudar a otros y mantenerse moralmente rectos. Central a la misión indicada por los Niños Escuchas está el desarrollo del carácter y entrenamiento de liderazgo basado en valores. Líderes del ACLU ven esta misión conservadora como un mandato a demandar legalmente, de acuerdo a documentos en la página electrónica de la ACLU. Mientras que los Niños Escuchas continúan determinando el número de las tropas que serán

afectadas, el portavoz nacional Gregg Shields dijo que unas miles serían afectadas. Los Niños Escuchas de América son la organización juvenil más grande en toda América y cuenta con unos 1.3 millones de adultos voluntarios. El defenderse contra una ola de pleitos contra la ACLU le costaría miles de dólares a las Escuelas Públicas. En vez de arriesgar un drenaje financiero, los Escuchas decidieron retirarse de las

(Vea MUNDO en la Pág. 10)

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habrán de ser sensibles a los toques formativos para convertirse en obreros en la viña del Señor. Todos han sido redimidos con la sangre preciosa de Jesucristo, y deben vivir para Él.

Una Iglesia que en la práctica y en la experiencia aprende la lección que se deriva de 1ra Corintios 12:12-27, entenderá el contenido de la disciplina formativa. Entonces cada miembro ocupará su lugar sin envidiar el de los demás. Nadie demeritará sus servicios o estimará en poco los de los demás. Nadie olvidará que los “*miembros que parecen más débiles*” en la Iglesia “*son los más necesarios,*” cada quien tiene algo que hacer. Una Iglesia como esa prosperará y crecerá como templo santo al Padre Celestial. En cambio si no aprende la lección de referencia, sus miembros permanecerán estancados en una infancia espiritual convirtiéndose en niños espirituales (Hebreos 5:12-13).

En cuanto a la expresión *disciplina correctiva*, implica la imperfección de los

miembros de la Iglesia y su riesgo de pecar. Esta es necesaria por causa de la depravación que hay en la sociedad, que deja sentir sus resultados en los creyentes y en la Iglesia. Todo esto ejerce su influencia en la disciplina de la Iglesia, en el honor de Jesucristo y en el interés por su causa; por tanto es de recomen-darse que la acción disciplinaria sea como la última apelación. Debe hacerse todo lo posible para ajustar diferencias y evitar escándalos entre los hermanos.

Hay dos mandamientos de Jesús, que si se obedecen con fidelidad, evitarán en cualquier momento escándalos entre los hermanos que están creciendo y que pueden llegar a afectar el trabajo de toda la Iglesia (Mateo 5:23-24; 18:15). Según el primer pasaje, el que ofende debe ir lo más pronto posible al ofendido y arreglar las cosas, y luego venir en amistad y opresentar su ofrenda. En el segundo pasaje, hay algo que el ofendido tiene que hacer, “*repréndele estando tú y él solos.*” El ofendido hará ver al ofensor su falta. A nadie debe contar lo que piensa hacer. No debe pedir consejo a nadie, no lo necesita. Nada es más

claro que el mandato de Cristo. “*Repréndele*” y tal cosa debe hacerse de forma oral, no escrita. El hermano ofendido debe hacerlo, y si lo hace, el ofensor debe reconocer su falta, pedir perdón y allí se acaba todo.

Sin embargo, si las pruebas presentadas contra el hermano acusado no son suficientes para formular cargo en su contra, déjese que quien presenta las pruebas las retire y se retracte con expresiones de seguridad de que no fue verdad y con pena por haberlas formulado. Una vez hecho esto, ninguno de los dos debe volver a mencionar el asunto.

[Resumen extraído del libro “*Doctrina Bautista En Un Año*”, Lección 42 por M. L. Moser, Sr.] □

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Escuelas Públicas, como una medida de mayordomía. “No deseamos obviamente que los pleitos costosos contra las escuelas sucedan,” Shields dijo, “En su lugar los Escuchas han intentado proteger los recursos de sus socios de la educación, moviendo sus unidades de las Escuelas Públicas a otras organizaciones comunales tales como el Ejército de Salvación u organizaciones religiosas cercanas.”

* * *

Militantes Musulmanes Atacan Comu-

nidad Cristiana. — Militantes musulmanes atacaron una comunidad cristiana en la aldea de Demsa, estado de Adama-wa, al norte de Nigeria, el pasado 4 de febrero, matando a unas 36 personas y desplazando cerca de 3,000 otras. Los cristianos que sobrevivieron han tomado refugio en la aldea de Mahyolope en el Estado de Taraba. El Reverendo Jolly Nyame, Gobernador del Estado de Taraba, expresó tristeza sobre los ataques y dijo que el país solamente progresaría a través de la coexistencia pacífica.

* * *

Estado de Tennessee (E.E.U.U.) Envía Enmienda Sobre El Matrimonio a Sus Votantes. —

La legislatura del Estado de Tennessee aprobó una enmienda constitucional el pasado 17 de marzo. Dicha enmienda será enviada a sus ciudadanos para un voto el 26 de noviembre del 2006. La enmienda prohibiría la unión matrimonial entre personas del mismo sexo dentro del estado. La Legislatura del estado aprobó la enmienda con un voto de 86-7. La misma fue aprobada por el Senado. La Legislatura del Estado de Tennessee es la cuarta en enviarle tal enmienda durante este año a los votantes, siguiendo acciones similares de los estados de Alabama, Kansas y Dakota del Sur. □

Iglesia Bautista El Redentor

Carretera 755, Km. 0.1, Barrio Pitahaya

H C-1 Box 3418

Arroyo, Puerto Rico 00714

(787) 839-3669 y (787) 839-5792

Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

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community for nearly 50 years,” said Francis J. Manion, senior counsel of the ACLJ. “It is clear the court understood that this monument reflected the fact that the Commandments served as a basis of western law and played a key role in the development of our legal system,” said Manion. “This is an important victory for the public display of the Ten Commandments as we eagerly await the decisions of the Supreme Court on this critical issue,” Manion added. The ACLJ has filed friend-of-the-court briefs in the Ten Commandment cases the Supreme Court is considering, and it has two more cases from Ohio pending before the high court which will be determined by the outcome of the Kentucky and Texas cases. — CSN

PTA Welcomes Pro-Homosexual Group, Snubs Rival Group. — Amid a dizzying array of acronyms, a weekend convention of the national Parent-Teacher Association in Ohio will include a homosexual “rights” group, but exclude a group made up in part of individuals who consider themselves former homosexuals. The convention, opening in Columbus, Ohio, Friday, will mark the second time that the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) has invited the homosexual

advocacy group, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Regina Griggs, executive director of the group, Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays (PFOX), sought her own group’s access to the convention this year and was turned down. “The PTA denied PFOX’s request to exhibit at the parent-teacher gathering because we support tolerance and inclusion for ex-gay students and teachers, which is an unpopular position with the PTA leadership,” Griggs stated. — CNS

Classroom Criticism of Evolution Prohibited.

— A Chinese scholar observed, “In China we can criticize Darwin, but not the government. In America you can criticize the government but not Darwin.” Censorship of criticism invites fraud. Evolution has suffered more embarrassments than any other “scientific” theory. The Piltdown man was a lie taught to schoolchildren for decades, even featured in the John Scopes Monkey trial textbook. Only five years ago a dinosaur-bird fossil hoax was presented as true on the glossy pages of National Geographic. If Darwinists want to teach that whales which are mammals evolved from black bears swimming with their mouths open, we should surely be entitled to criticize that. Yet school libraries have refused to accept books critical of

evolution, even when written by college professors. — Phyllis Schlafly.

Judge Rules Embryo A Human Being.

— An Illinois judge recently ruled that an embryo is a human being. His decision, if it survives a challenge, could have far-reaching effects. It would allow a couple whose embryo was mistakenly discarded by a Chicago fertility clinic to be able to seek legal damages as if they were the parents of a child who was killed after birth. He said a pre-embryo is a human being ... whether or not it is implanted in its mother’s womb. The human embryo is as fully human and as fully a person as a newborn baby, he said. It is estimated there are about 400,000 embryos stored in fertility clinics in the U.S. — BP

Gun Control Nonsense.

— Blaming guns for crimes is like blaming: (1) matches for forest fires, (2) cameras for pornography, (3) forks for obesity, (4) radar for a speeding ticket, or (5) pencils for spelling errors. ... Gun control is unconstitutional, and is not the answer to our crime problem. Criminals

are to blame for crimes. — CC

Methodist Church May Leave and Keep Property.

— A California congregation has won the right to keep its property after breaking its affiliation with the United Methodist Church. Members believe the denomination has departed from biblical teachings. This ruling has implications for other churches. — CC

In Islam Only Muslims Have Full Rights.

— The foundation for American liberties is the Creator who is the source of a transcendent moral law. In Islam morality depends on coercion or of trying to make sin impossible (such as requiring women to be fully covered to prevent men from feeling lust). It does not allow for freedom of religion but seeks to establish a divinized state by imposing quranic law. — CC

Falwell Has Praised The Pope In Ministry.

— Dr. Jerry Falwell on various occasions has praised the Roman Catholic pope and has had Catholics preach in his pulpit. Catholics comprised 30% of his Moral

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Majority membership. Dinesh D'Souza's 1984 biography said Falwell "is a staunch admirer of Pope John Paul II [and said] the Pope and Ronald Reagan are "the greatest in my lifetime." While admitting doctrinal differences, Falwell said: "I know many Catholic priests who are born again and who preach the same message that I do." D'Souza says: "To the chagrin and horror of fundamentalists, [Falwell] is sometimes seen at prayer meetings with Catholics and Jews. ..." "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3 — CC

* * *

Christian 'Hate Groups' Accused of 'Anti-Gay Crusade' — A civil rights organization that has spent the last 25 years monitoring "hate groups" and "extremists" such as the Ku Klux Klan now has a new target — the religious right — which the group claims is conducting a "holy war" against homosexuals. In the current issue of its quarterly magazine "Intelligence Report," the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) contends that "religious leaders have engaged in 30 years of name-calling and bogus 'science' in their attack on gays. But only now is their crusade reaching biblical

proportions." In response, the spokesman for one pro-family group said it's the SPLC that is guilty of "engaging in hate speech." Another conservative said his group wears the criticism from the SPLC as a "badge of honor." Along with an article on "Curious Cures" for homosexuality and a feature on the myth that homosexuals helped mastermind the Holocaust, the SPLC's latest Intelligence Report contains a timeline of the "anti-gay movement" from Anita Bryant's efforts to repeal a "gay rights" ordinance in Florida in 1977 to the present. Four organizations that were mentioned are: American Family Association, Concerned Women for America, the Family Research Council and Focus on the Family.

* * *

Campaigners for Same-Sex 'Marriage' Celebrate Double Win. — In the space of two days, the number of countries where homosexuals are legally entitled to "marry" has doubled, prompting celebrations from activists who believe each victory for them adds momentum to their cause. Canada's parliament on Tuesday approved legislation granting legal marriage equality to same-sex couples, and Spanish lawmakers on Thursday passed a similar law, dropping all distinctions

between same-sex and heterosexual couples, including the right to adopt children. Canada's bill must still get through the Senate, where little difficulty is predicted, while Spain's will come into effect once signed by King Juan Carlos. Similar laws were passed in the Netherlands and Belgium in 2001 and 2003 respectively. — CNS

* * *

Canadian Conservatives Vow to Continue Fight Against Same-Sex Marriage — The leader of Canada's official opposition Conservative Party is pledging to continue the battle against same-sex "marriage" in Canada even though parliament has approved it. Before leaving for a delayed summer parliamentary recess, Stephen Harper vowed to make same-sex "marriage" an issue at the next general election. Prime Minister Paul Martin is expected to call an election for next February or March. The House of Commons late Tuesday passed by a vote of 158-133 a bill that would make a practice already allowed in most of Canada's provinces and territories, legal across the entire country. — CNS

* * *

Amendment Would Reverse Ruling on Ten Commandments. — Over 100 congressmen have

introduced a constitutional amendment to protect religious expression on public property. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.) joined Rep. Ernest Istook (R-Okla.), other congressmen and pro-family groups to propose the Religious Freedom Amendment (RFA), an effort to reverse the U.S. Supreme Court ruling which removed the Ten Commandments from a Kentucky court-house. "Deeply religious European colonists escaped the two tyrannies of the crown and the church and came to America," said Bartlett in a statement. "Our founders created a country and a Constitution that protected the ability of individuals to freely express their respective religions in public life. "They had no fear of religion in the public square. They felt that religious faith was vitally important to create and maintain our democratic republic as a just society. What they opposed was a state religion. The latest pair of Supreme Court decisions adds to decades of confusion about what seems so simple to most Americans," said Bartlett. "The Supreme Court has sent a clear message to public officials everywhere: They will face an onslaught of expensive litigation unless they remove the Ten Commandments from public property," said Istook in a statement. "Intolerant people have

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The “Tater” Family

Practically every church has some interesting families in the membership. Others have some rather outstanding families in them. Still other churches number among their constituency families which are both interesting and outstanding. The latter is especially true of the Tater family. Arthur Flake is credited with saying that the family includes: Dic-Tater, Hesi-Tater, Imi-Tater, Agi-Tater and Spec-Tater.

Uncle Dic-Tater has some very lovable characteristics, and is usually easy to get along with, especially if he is allowed to have his own way. The truth of the matter is that he is going to have his way or else. His policy seems to be that of “rule or ruin,” and he

usually ruins.

Aunt Hesi-Tater is the amiable wife of Uncle Dic-Tater. She, too, has some very lovable qualities, but her greatest fault seems to be that of always waiting for someone else to go ahead. This characteristic is probably due in part to the dominant attitude of her husband. She is a rather timid soul, and quite hesitant about advancing her ideas or doing anything without waiting for the advice of someone else, especially her husband.

Cousin Imi-Tater is quite an attractive young lady, and has some qualities which are not seen in any other member of the family. Perhaps her greatest lack is that of originality. She always

wants to do what other people do, and that in spite of what God says: “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil” (Ex. 23:2).

Cousin Agi-Tater is the other girl in the family, and is quite different from her mother or sister. Although she seems to be possessed of unflagging zeal and unlimited energy, she is constantly stirring up trouble. She is somewhat of a loose-tongued busy-body. Apparently, she has not learned what God means when He says, “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people” (Lev. 19:16).

Cousin Spec-tater is the only son in the family, and

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seems to be obsessed with the idea that he is outnumbered by the feminine portion of the family. He is a quiet, humble, unassuming sort of fellow. His worst fault is that he never does any-thing. He simply sits or stands quietly by and looks on without much comment, about what the others do.

Do you belong to the Tater family? If so, which member are you? □

ing to the dictates of conscience: The people retain the right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage and traditions on public property, including schools. The United States and the States shall not establish any official religion nor require any person to join in prayer or religious activity.” A two-thirds vote in the House and Senate is required to pass the constitutional amendment. Then, it must be ratified by three-fourths of the 50 states, without necessary approval by the president or the governors. □

The Tares Among the Wheat

The tare grows abundantly in the East. It is a kind of rye-grain having a broad-bladed leaf closely resembling the wheat amongst which it is generally found, and from which it can scarcely be distinguished in the early stages of growth. The only way farmers can readily identify the tare is when the harvest approaches. The wheat grows heavy and bends over, but the small-bearded grain, arranged along the upper part of the stalk of the tares, stands perfectly erect.

At harvest time the farmer cuts the heads off the tare and gathers them in a pile and they are burned, then the wheat is gathered and put into the barn.

The taste of the tare is bitter, and eating even a small quantity produces severe sickness. If mixed with wheat in bread it will cause dizziness.

Animals also suffer from this poisonous grass, and experience much distress from the irritation caused by the sharply-spiked grain. □

been attacking the Ten Commandments, the Pledge of Allegiance, voluntary prayers at school, and other religious expression, but this amendment will halt those attacks,” added Istook. The amendment reads: “To secure the people’s right to acknowledge God accord-

***If the Church Wants A
Better Pastor,
It Only
Needs To Pray For The
One It Has***

REVELATION . . .

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cher preach today, and he were to preach upon this parable of the woman and the leaven, this is what he would tell you.

He would tell you that the meal is the world, but the world is bad, and therefore there must be something good injected into it. This then brings you to the leaven, and the average interpretation is that the leaven is the gospel; that it must be hid within it before it can affect any change. So, they say, that the gospel, the leaven, is brought secretly into the world whereby it gradually permeates the world. What we have then is a woman that is the preacher. The woman is the one who hides the leaven in the meal or in the world, making it a woman that is the preacher, the one that hides the gospel in the hearts of men. The result is we find the whole is leavened. According to them, it tells us here in the 13th chapter of Matthew that the world is to be permeated with the spirit of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, resulting in a converted world. This ultimately leads to what is called Post-millennialism.

Post-millennialism teaches that the world is going to get better and better and better; that the gospel is to be infiltrated, underhandedly, secretly in the world, until ultimately the entire world is to be

converted to Christ. When you have the whole world converted, then the Lord comes back at the end of the millennium. What it amounts to is that the churches make the world ultimately so perfect that they bring in the millennium here upon the earth, and at the close of the millennium Jesus comes back. This is referred to as Post-millennialism. Post-millennial meaning that the Lord comes back post-millennium or after the millennium. May I point out to you some reasons why that interpretation is wrong, why it is not right.

The first reason is that it changes the scriptural use of the meal and the leaven. Their interpretation makes the meal bad and the leaven good which is exactly the reverse of what we find in the Bible. In your Bible you find that the meal is always good and the leaven is *always* bad. The meal is not considered to be evil but the leaven is evil.

But in this parable they say the meal is very favorable to the leaven, but we do not find the world favorable to the gospel. In reality, we find that the world is opposed to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The world never has been favorable to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second thing, the hiding of it, suggests secretness and underhandedness. Again, this is never thought of as far as

the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is concerned. The Lord does not work secretly or underhandedly, but the Lord always works openly. But who is it that does his work secretly? You notice in the parable in Matthew 13:24-25 it shows us who it is that works secretly and underhandedly. It says: "*Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*" This is Satan; it is Satan. Verse 39 says, "*The enemy that sowed them is the devil.*" So we find then that this woman that is secretly hiding this leaven within the meal, is actually doing the very work of Satan and using the very tactics of Satan. This is his method.

Again, the manner of the work here is more suggestive of sin than it is of grace. What you find with leaven is that it mixes with the meal and then it gradually operates. This is not the way salvation works. Salvation is not a gradual process. Salvation is not something in which the sinner *gradually* becomes a Christian, but salvation is instantaneous. Sinners are not converted by *gradually* being converted by the gospel. God is not a "mixer" but a "separator." God never has mixed sin and the gospel together so that *gradually*

the gospel gains victory over it. You do not find any evidence of this any where in the world at all.

If this is the way the gospel were to operate; if it operates by a leavening process, surely in 2,000 years, we should be able to find at least one city, some where, that has been totally converted unto the Lord. Surely we should be able to find some town, some country, even in 2,000 years, that has gradually been leavened with the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that they would be totally converted unto the Lord.

In reality, we find the very reverse is true. In fact we find the city that had the most gospel preached in it, the city of Jerusalem, is further from the truth today than they were during the days of the New Testament. We do not find this true any where. So we see that the leaven cannot represent the gospel, for the gospel does not operate nor work in that fashion.

Now if the leaven then does not represent the gospel operating within the meal, which they say is the world, and is good, then just what does this parable represent? How does it apply to our message that we are studying over here concerning the church at Thyatira?

First of all, let's establish the fact that leaven is false doctrine. In your Bible leaven is always used

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REVELATION . . .

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in a sense of that which is evil and bad. In Matthew 16:6 we read, “*Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.*” The Lord here is warning His disciples by telling them to “take heed,” that is to be on guard, and what are you to guard against? You are to guard against the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. This has reference to false doctrine.

Notice also in the Book of Galatians chapter 5 and verse 9. The apostle Paul, writing to the churches of Galatia, writes about leaven. He says the result of this, (and he is talking about being saved by works; he’s talking about false doctrine), “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” We can’t go into all of it tonight, but go back into the Old Testament and you find that the Jews when they celebrated the Passover, one thing they could not have was leaven. In fact they had to make a clean sweep down “fore and aft” throughout their whole house in order to make sure that there was no leaven any where at all within the house. This was every where.

Now you will find, that those who make the leaven the gospel concede that in every case in the Bible, leaven is always representative of false doctrine and

that which is sin and bad, except in this one case. What you would find then, if in this chapter of Matthew leaven referred to the gospel, it would be the only exception to the rule that says that leaven is always representative and typical of that which is sin and of that which is false doctrine.

Now the meal is representative of the world or Christianity that has been corrupted by false doctrine. This is exactly what occurred during the time of the church of Thyatira. It began around 606 A.D., when Gregory VI ascended the throne and became the first real Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, and continued to the period of the Reformation. It is the time when the most leaven or false doctrine was brought in and inserted into so-called Christianity. The meal then represents Christianity that has been corrupted by false doctrine. The woman represents false churches and we find this true here in the Book of Revelation.

When we get to chapters 17 and 18, we will see that this harlot woman, the Great Whore, is the bride of the Anti-christ of the last days, and is referred to as the City of Seven Hills or mountains, the city of Rome. We don’t have time to go into that tonight, but we will study that later on. It is this woman that hides the leaven within the meal.

Now preachers that follow this pattern are those preachers that hide things contrary to what the Lord Jesus Christ wants, while pretending to be servants of the Lord. This is how false doctrine gets in.

Now we have this happening in so-called evangelical circles today. I don’t know how many of you are aware or acquainted with the phrase “Neo-orthodoxers,” or “neo-orthodoxy.” This is exactly what is happening among so-called fundamental churches today. *Neo* means new, orthodoxy means doctrinal soundness. What the “Neo-orthoxers” have done is take the same phraseology, the same words that we commonly use, but apply to them a different meaning, so that they will declare that they believe in the inspiration of the Bible when they do not. Some of them will even go so far as to say that they believe that the Bible is all God’s Word, but when you pin them down to it, they are miles apart from what historically Christians have meant.

When we say that we believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, we mean that God Himself inspired the writings of the words of God in this Bible, so that these words are without error — an infallible book with no contradictions, no mistakes, no errors whatsoever. It is the perfect Word of God. But they don’t mean that! They

don’t want you to pin them down to it. It is the same with the doctrine of the resurrection and other major doctrines. They say “Sure we believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ” but when you pin them down to it, they do not believe in the *bodily* resurrection of Jesus Christ. They believe that the “spirit” of Jesus lives on; that His teachings lives on, but they do not believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. They say that they believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. They say “Why sure, every woman is a virgin at the time she brings forth her first born child,” but that is not true. That mother ceased to be a virgin about nine months before the birth of that baby. This is Neo-orthodoxy. Our books, literature, magazines, radio, cassette tapes, television, etc. are filled with this kind of teaching, those who say one thing and you understand one thing by it, but they mean something entirely different. They are using it as a means to undercut and to undermine the faith of young people and those who are yet babes in Christ.

Let me use Southern Baptist Quarterlies as an example of how this is being done. Quarterlies are made for Adults, then they have Quarterlies for Young People, Intermediates, and the Juniors. I don’t know

(See **REV** on page 19)

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

P. O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48106
fbns@wayoflife.org

Evangelicals Join Global Aids Prayer Partnership.

— Organizations such as the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), Campus Crusade for Christ, World Vision, and Operation Mobilization have endorsed the Global AIDS Prayer Partnership (GAPP). Ted Haggard, president of the NAE, is the honorary co-chair of the Partnership. The organization's goal is to "mobilize the Church for united prayer around the issues of AIDS to release the power of the Holy Spirit to bring healing to the nations..." ("Pastor Ted Haggard Joins Partnership," Assist News Service, May 2). Where does the Bible speak of such a thing? There is not a hint of this in Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-48; Acts 1:8). Nor do we see a hint of it in the ministry of the apostles or in the early churches. The Bible does speak of the "healing of the nations," but that is in the book of Revelation after the return of Jesus Christ (Rev. 22:2). Every evangelical involved in this would profess that the Bible is his sole authority for faith and practice, but that is only in

theory. In practice, it is no such thing. In practice, his authority is whatever silly thing is currently in vogue.

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Creationist Sees Evidence Against Evolutionism In New Find.

— The following is from Religion Today, April 14: "The president of Answers in Genesis says the recent discovery of a dinosaur bone in Montana supports the biblical creationist theory of a young Earth. According to an article published in last month's Science magazine, in 2003 scientists found a Tyrannosaurus Rex thigh bone during an archaeological dig. The research team had to break the bone in pieces in order to fit it into a helicopter, and when they did so, they discovered the fossil contained well-preserved soft tissues, including blood vessels. Ken Ham, president of the creationist group Answers in Genesis (AiG), says this important find supports the biblical view of the Earth's timeline. 'The reason this is such startling news is because you just wouldn't expect soft tissue and cells like this in a bone sup-

posedly 70 million years old,' he says. The general consensus among scientists prior to the find was that such soft tissue could not survive for tens of millions of years. Now, the dinosaur remains have many evolutionists scrambling to accommodate their evolutionist ideas about origins. But what AiG scientists would say about the find, Ham observes, 'is that it's totally consistent with the fact that these bones aren't that old and probably date back to the time of the flood just a few thousand years ago.' However, he doubts evolutionists will give consideration to the possibility that the T-Rex bones are only thousands rather than millions of years old."

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Spurgeon's Warning Against Anythingarianism And Pan-indifferentism.

— The following is from one of Charles Haddon Spurgeon's warnings against "the downgrade" in doctrine and the deep evangelical compromise of his day, especially in the Baptist Union. The sermon was titled "Progressive Theology" and was published in the Sword and the Trowel, April 1888. Spurgeon labeled the mood of the hour "*anythingarianism*" and warned: "It is thought to be mere bigotry to protest against the mad spirit which is now loose among us. *Pan-indifferentism is rising like the tide; who can hinder it? We are*

all to be as one, even though we agree in next to nothing. It is a breach of brotherly love to denounce error. Hail, holy charity! Black is white; and white is black. The false is true; the true is false; the true and the false are one. Let us join hands, and never again mention those barbarous, old-fashioned doctrines about which we are sure to differ. Let the good and sound men for liberty's sake shield their 'advanced brethren'; or, at least, *gently blame them in a tone which means approval.* After all, there is no difference, except in the point of view from which we look at things: it is all in the eye, or, as the vulgar say, 'it is all my eye'! In order to maintain an open union, let us fight as for dear life against any form of sound words, since it might restrain our liberty to deny the doctrines of the Word of God. ... *This spirit is in all the churches more or less; indeed, it seems to be in the air.* The prince of the power of the air is loosed in an extraordinary manner for a season, misleading even the godly, and triumphing greatly in those whose willing minds yield full assent to his deceitful teachings."

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Disney Boycott

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Called Off. — The American Family Association (AFA), which has called for a boycott against the Walt Disney corporation since 1996, ended its protest this month. (The boycott was joined independently by the Catholic League, Focus on the Family, Assemblies of God, Presbyterian Church in America, the Southern Baptist Convention, and others.) Tim Wildmon of the AFA said, “We feel after nine years of boycotting Disney we have made our point” and “it is harder than ever before to find evidence of new missteps by Disney.” We believe this is a ridiculous statement. Nothing of real substance has changed at Disney when measured biblically. The problem with Disney is not only its promotion of the homosexual agenda or the increasing immorality of its movies. The heart of the problem for a Bible believer is Disney’s damnable New Age Gospel and this was a large part of its fare long before it got involved with the edgier type of movies through its partners Miramax and Touchstone. Walt Disney was an atheist and his cartoons prepared generations of children to think that witches are innocent fun and that there is such a thing as “white magic” and “good sorcery.” Recent examples of Disney

movies that preach a New Age Gospel are the Lion King, Pocahontas, and the 1994 movie Squanto: A Warrior’s Tale. The main message of Squanto is this: The Indians worship the same Creator God as the Christians and in fact have more to teach the Christians about morality than the Christians them. In the end, the pagan Indian teaches the Pilgrims to live in peace and to be compassionate. The movie concludes with what is assumed to be the first “Thanksgiving” in America, with the Christians and the pagan Indians worshipping the same God together, the pagans saying “amen” to the Christian’s prayer and the Christians saying “amen” to the pagan’s. In the midst of the “thanksgiving” feast, Squanto stands and tells the enraptured crowd: “In the world there are many people, with all kinds of customs and beliefs, speaking many languages, but there is only one moon, one sun, one mother earth. And there is only one tribe. Let’s live together in peace!” This movie preaches a humanistic, new age lie, that all men are children of the same God; no one is lost and no one therefore needs redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ. Men only need to act upon the goodness that is within them and follow their hearts and there will be peace on earth. I have no doubt that many people are in eternal

hell because of the false gospel preached by the Disney Corporation, and the solution is wisdom on the part of believing parents who understand that nothing truly good for their children’s spiritual well-being is going to come out of Hollywood and who therefore jealously and lovingly filter what comes into their homes. My advice to Christian parents is to get rid of the television altogether. I have never met a parent that regrets having done so, but I know many who regret that they didn’t.

* * *

Billy Graham Still Preaches The Gospel of Inclusion. — “Billy Graham Still Preaches the Gospel of Inclusion” was the title of an article published by Gannett News Service on May 16. It contained a rare interview with Graham. The article noted that more than 1,300 Protestant and Roman Catholic churches are sponsoring Graham’s June crusade in New York City. Graham told the reporter: “I am inclusive ... I’ve felt that the Lord would have me just present the Gospel and stay out of all these divisive things.” It is impossible to reconcile this philosophy with the Bible. If Billy Graham is a God-called preacher, his commission is in 2 Timothy 4:2, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke,

exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” There is no divine authority for a preacher to proclaim some small part of the Word or to avoid reproof and rebuking or to neglect preaching *doctrine*. There is also no divine authority for a preacher to yoke together with heretics in evangelism and to turn his “converts” over to their churches.

* * *

Catholic Diocese In Kentucky Agrees To \$120 Million Settlement.

— The Roman Catholic diocese of Covington, Kentucky, has agreed to pay \$120 million to settle claims by more than 100 people who allegedly have been sexually abused by priests during the past few decades. The diocese has already paid more than \$10 million to settle a further 56 abuse claims. Earlier this year the Catholic diocese of Orange County, California, announced that it will pay \$100 million to settle a priest sex-abuse case. In 2004, the diocese of Tucson, Arizona, and the archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, filed for bankruptcy in the face of mounting legal costs. They had already paid out more than \$63 million to settle 141 claims. In 2002 the archdiocese of Boston agreed to pay \$85 million to settle sex-abuse claims

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INDEPENDENCE . . .

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William Holmes McGuffey is the author of the McGuffey Reader, which was used for over 100 years in our public schools with over 125 million copies sold until it was stopped in 1963.... President Lincoln called him the "Schoolmaster of the Nation."

Listen to these words of Mr. McGuffey:

"The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our notions on the character of God, on the great moral Governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions. From no source has the author drawn more conspicuously than from the sacred Scriptures. From all these extracts from the Bible I make no apology."

Of the first 108 universities founded in America, 106 were distinctly Christian, including the first, Harvard University, chartered in 1636. In the original Harvard Student Handbook, rule number 1 was that students seeking entrance must know Latin and Greek so that they could study the scriptures: "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life, John 17:3; and therefore to lay Jesus Christ as

the only foundation for our children to follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments."

James Madison, the primary author of the Constitution of the United States, said this:

"We have staked the whole future of our new nation not upon the power of government; far from it. We have staked the future of all our political constitutions upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten Commandments."

Today, we are asking God to bless America. But,

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posed on them. Today's evangelical right detests that tradition and seeks nothing short of a state-sponsored religion. But maintaining the separation of church and state is a necessary precondition of liberty. The religious wars aren't pretty. Religious wars never are. But Democrats should mount a firm and clear counter-assault. In the months leading up to Election Day, when Republicans are screaming about God and accusing the Democrats of siding with sexual deviants and baby killers. Democrats should remind Americans that however important religion is to our spiritual lives, there is no room for

liberty in a theocracy. The phrase clear and present danger isn't just a cute phrase. It's the phrase the Supreme Court used in the 1919 Schenck v. United States decision, allowing for the restriction of freedoms. In that decision, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote, "Words which, ordinarily and in many places, would be within the freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment may become subject to prohibition when of such a nature and used in such circumstances as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils which Congress has a right to prevent."

That's a hint, then, that Reich really believes that religious speech should be curtailed, that religious conservatives should be limited in opposing gay marriage, abortion, and the free exercise of religion in public schools and elsewhere (three issues that Reich specifically mentions).

"Democrats should be clear that the issues of abortion and stem-cell research are about religious liberty," Reich says. If either of these is limited in any way, he suggests, America becomes a theocracy, regardless of whether it officially sponsors a specific religion. And that, the logic necessarily follows, demands a revolution.

Can Reich really mean

what he says, asks Ramesh Ponnuru in National Review Online. His most recent column is a denunciation as a graver threat than terrorists of people who believe that the world to come is more important than this world, or that all human beings owe their allegiance to God.

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

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what all labels they have on them, but they have them for different groups. In many of the major denominations today, they will have a lesson for the Adults in which there won't be anything wrong in it at all. It will be fine. But, if you were to get the Young People's Quarterly, and were to read the lesson that is in there, you'd find that in the Young People's Quarterly they inject false doctrine. Now they don't do it to the Adults. That would upset the adults. Perhaps most of the adults are pretty well doctrinally straight. But they will insert their false doctrine in the Young People's Quarterlies as well as in the younger ones, and by doing so, they corrupt the minds of the younger ones. By the time they reach adulthood they have already been corrupted, and it has been done underhandedly and secretly by not putting it in the Adult Quarterlies where the older ones would know different, and know better and would raise cane about it.

I think I told you just last week, or maybe two weeks ago, about the fact that the Southern Baptist Convention got in trouble over one of their Quarterlies. I don't know who the writer of the material was. I don't have a copy of the Quarterly. It was put out by the Religious News Service and the Evangelical

Press Service. The writer of this Quarterly made the statement that all Christians are out for the same thing. Among those he mentioned as Christians were the Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Moonies, the followers of the Unification Church. He also mentioned the Roman Catholics, the Christian Scientists, and the Unitarian Church. None of these are Christians, and yet there it was right there in the Quarterly. But somebody found out about it and raised cane, so they issued an apology and said "we goofed." But see, the doctrine was there. It had already been taught. It was taught to these Young People. This is the way false doctrine is brought in. It is done underhandedly and secretly by preachers that come out of the seminaries. When I was in the seminary in New Orleans, most of those preachers that came out were modernistic and liberal, but the churches they went to were still fundamental and believed in the truths. So they had to do what they were doing secretly and underhanded.

Again, we find that this parable puts the woman in the place of preaching. God has never called a woman to preach. The Lord has laid down the requirements for the preacher, and two of the requirements for the preacher eliminate a woman right off the bat. It says, first of all that the one who is going to be the preacher

must be the "husband of one wife" (1 Tim. 3:2). There's no way a woman can become the husband of one wife.

Secondly, it says that he must be the ruler within his own home (1 Tim. 3:4), and God has placed the husband and the father as the one who is the head of the home and responsible for the training and the raising of those children within the home. There's no way that a woman can meet those qualifications.

Thirdly, the Lord has said that the woman is to keep silent in the church. Several places the Apostle Paul writes about that in the Books of Timothy. It talks about the fact that the woman is not to usurp authority over the man (1 Tim. 2:11-13). This is Bible. This is Scripture. Regardless of what the ERA says, this is what the Bible teaches. To believe that this woman in the 13th chapter in the Book of Matthew is a preacher who is going to permeate the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, contradicts the very place that God has given for women. One of the messages that I'm going to preach relative to this church at Thyatira is going to be the place of women within the church. Before I get through, we're going to talk about the women's place in the church and show you how God has a great place for women within the church. There have been great women of

the past, and you read about them in your Bible, but they were not preachers, because God never has called a woman to preach.

Now, in spite of that, this is a very controversial subject among denominations today, including Baptists. There are churches today that have split over this issue. Many churches have left their denomination over the fact of the ordination of women preachers within them. There was even a big division right here in Little Rock in the Episcopal Church as to whether they could ordain a woman to be an Episcopal priest. Well they did it. But so have Baptists.

I'm not sure what the numbers are right now, but at one time I had a count of over 30 women preachers that had been ordained in Southern Baptist Convention churches and some of them were in positions where they were being paid out of Cooperative Program funds. [It has now reached several hundred since this was preached.] And yet the Bible never has approved the ordination of women preachers.

The result in this parable is that the whole was leavened. Now this does not mean that the world is going to be permeated by the gospel of Jesus Christ and become converted. It means the very opposite. When you

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read through this Book of Revelation you find that the world is going to be in universal corruption and that Christendom is to be taken over by the Antichrist so that the churches of the last days are to be combined into an apostate church, a church that is unfaithful, a church that is unfit for the Lord, and this is the work of this woman Jezebel.

In verse 20 of this second chapter of the book of Revelation we read, *“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.”* Here is the result of what false doctrine has done. It has caused the seduction of the Lord’s servants to commit fornication. That is not only talking about physical adultery or fornication, but it is talking about spiritual fornication. Spiritual fornication is the following after false doctrine, “to eat things sacrificed unto idols.”

Now I want us to go back into the Old Testament for just a few moments, and I want you to turn with me to the Book of First Kings. I want to notice some things about the woman Jezebel in the Old

Testament. Now I doubt seriously if that woman in Thyatira was literally named Jezebel, but she had the same characteristics of this Jezebel of the Old Testament.

Isn’t it odd, that you never hear anybody named Jezebel today. If you had a daughter you wouldn’t name her Jezebel would you? Why? Because you know what she was characterized by. She was King Ahab’s queen, a heathen queen. She was not a Jew to begin with. I am talking about the record in the 16th, 17th and 18th chapters of the Book of First Kings. She was not a Jew but a Canaanite. The word Canaanite means “trafficker” or “trader.” She was a worshiper of Baal who was the male god, Ashtaroth, being the female god. This is a part of the old Babylonian religion, and the old Babylonian religion is the forerunner of the Roman Catholic Church today. The Babylonian religion consisted of many practices that are now carried on in Roman Catholicism and have also been borrowed by the Protestants and are being carried on in Protestantism as well.

I want to remind you again about a book that we have in our church library that you ought to read. It is called **“The Two Babylons”** written by a man by the name of Hislop. If you have not read it, be sure that you read it. In this

book, and others, you will find that there are things practiced today in Catholicism and Protestantism that date back to the old ancient Babylonian worship of Baal. Let me just give you some things.

Priestly rites, the clergy and the laity. Now these distinctions of “clergy and laity” are nowhere found in the Bible. There is no such thing as a “clergy” appearing on a pedestal and then the “laity” the members of the church being down here in a lower class. The Lord says we are all brothers in Christ Jesus. There is no distinction in the Bible between what they term “clergy and laity” but there is an equality among believers.

Then there are the orders of clergy. Now some have more “orders” than others. In the Catholic Church, of course, they have friars, brothers, priests, bishops, archbishops, cardinals all the way up to the Pope. In Protestant churches they have some titles that are very similar. The idea of having “sisters” or “nuns” all goes back to Babylon and the “nuns” were the religious prostitutes of ancient Babylon worship.

The monasteries where they had certain things set aside; the celibacy of the priests, meaning that the priests were not allowed to marry; robes, candles, incense, all of this was a part of the Babylonian heathen worship of Baal.

Idolatry, that is the images and relics, the worshiping and bowing before images, and the bowing down before relics such as the bones of a saint. The bowing down to a piece of cloth with the supposed imprint of Christ on it is a more recent example. Scientists are investigating it today with modern technology to try and determine whether it was really the burial robe of the Lord, etc. The worshiping of all these things and practices were practiced in the ancient Babylon religion.

Another heathen practice is the money basis for religion, that you must pay to have a Mass said. You must pay to have anything done. Finally they came out with the doctrine of the Infallibility of the Pope. I’m not sure what year that came about, in the 1800’s maybe 1862 or 1872, but that’s the first time that Roman Catholics had to believe that the Pope was infallible when he spoke. They term it, *ex cathedra*, that is, when he spoke as the spokesman for God. They admit that he’s human and that he is subject to error. They admit that he has sins both in his public and private life and that many of the Popes were immoral and corrupt, but they say when he ascends what they claim is the throne of the Apostle Peter, and speaks as the Apostle

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or as the Pope, then they say he is infallible. Catholics claim that he cannot say one thing that is sinful, one thing that is wrong when speaking for the church. Now before 1862 (?) you didn't have to believe that, but after 1862 (?) you *must* believe it or else you're going to go to hell. That's Catholic doctrine

It is interesting to note that the priest or bishop who led the opposition to that doctrine was the bishop of the diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1862 (I'm not sure of the exact year), it was the Bishop of Little Rock that went to Rome and lobbied and argued and did everything he could to prevent the Cardinals and the Pope from adopting the doctrine of the Infallibility of the Pope. It was a Little Rock Bishop that led the fight against that doctrine. But he lost. So what did he do? He said okay, then I was wrong, so he came back home and became a good Catholic Bishop again and he accepted the infallibility of the Pope. Today every Roman Catholic is required to believe in the infallibility of the Pope. They do so because they say he is the voice of God; that when he speaks, it is the same as God speaking.

Note the titles of the Pope. We talked to you about one of them last week, Pontifex Maximus. It came from the old Baby-

lonian religion and it means "chief bridge builder" and it was the title of the heathen pagan priests of the Babylonian religion that Catholics have brought over into the Catholic religion.

Catholics have brought into so-called Christianity many pagan religious days, such as Halloween, Lent, Easter, Christmas, all of these are pagan days that were observed in the times of the Babylonian religion. Because Catholicism wanted to bring the heathen and pagans into their church, they allowed them to come in and to bring all of these days in with them. They then simply christened these days, changed their titles, gave some of them a Christian name and allowed them to continue the worship of these heathen pagan days. Some of them retain their pagan names even to this day.

Now I haven't given you proof of this tonight, but if you want to read about it, get an encyclopedia, any encyclopedia. Get the encyclopedia Britannica, the World Book, Comptons, or Colliers, or any of them. Read any encyclopedia you want and read about Christmas, Easter, Halloween, or any of these "Christian" days, and you will find out that all of these were a part of heathen paganism that were brought over into so-called Christianity by the Roman Catholic Church.

Now let us turn to this

Jezebel and notice some of the things about this Jezebel. In 1 Kings 21:25 we find she "ruled the roost." Her husband was subject unto her even though he was the king. Notice in verse 25 "*But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.*" Now turn back to the 16th chapter of First Kings and we find that it was Jezebel that established idolatry among the children of Israel. It says in verses 31-32, "*And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.*"

In chapter 18 and verse 19, we see how quickly the Baal worship grew. "*Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.*" Jezebel, then, took it upon herself to support all the Baal worship by having these four hundred and fifty priests of Baal and the four hundred prophets of the

groves, making a total of 850 that ate right in the king's house. This is what Jezebel did. She established idolatry throughout the whole kingdom. In addition she tried to exterminate the true prophets of the Lord.

Notice in verse 13 of First Kings chapter 18, "*Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid an hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?*" Notice in Second Kings chapter 9 and verse 7, "*And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel.*"

Not only that, but we find that Jezebel confiscated the properties of the people. In First Kings chapter 21 verses 14 and 15, "*Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead. And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.*" Now all of these things are characteristics of the Roman Catholic

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Church.

Notice again in First Kings 21 and verse 23 that she was under the curse of God. The prophet speaking says, *“And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.”* This woman Jezebel was the personification of wickedness in that she led the Israelites into idolatry and to the practice of the immorality connected with the worship of the heathen deities or the heathen idols.

Notice in Second Kings chapter 9 and verse 22, *“And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many.”* One woman destroyed Israel.

One woman because of her conniving was able to bring in Baal worship into Israel’s worship. She deceived the children of Israel and took over all religions and her priests became more numerous than the preachers of the Lord, so much so that Elijah was standing by himself against 850 of those who were the priests of Baal.

Turn now to this New Testament Jezebel. Let’s go back to the Book of Revelation again. This New Testament Jezebel apparently was like this old

Jezebel. She stands for, typifies, and represents the same things of the Jezebel of Ahab’s day. Now this Jezebel was a member of the Nicolaitan sect, because you read in the 14th and 15th verses where the Lord says, *“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes which thing I hate.”* You’ll notice in verse 20 that this is what the prophet said, or what John says that this woman Jezebel did. *“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols”* (Rev. 2:20). So what she did then was to encourage immorality, immoral conduct, all under the guise of religion.

Also this woman was a woman of prominence and influence. She even had more influence than the pastor had. She had so wormed herself in among the membership of the church that she had greater influence than even the pastor of the church — a

woman in the church with more influence than the pastor. Have we not seen this in some churches today? How sad!

Now what were Jezebel’s sins? She assumed authority that God did not give. That’s exactly what the Catholic Church has done, Papal authority. They have what they call “Bulls” or “Dogmas” that are issued by the Pope. They are said to be infallible, therefore they are said to be the rules of the church, and Catholics are bound, required, obligated to accept all the “bulls” or the “dogmas” of the church as from God. Now this replaces God. Only God has that kind of authority. Yet we find this is what the Catholic Church has assumed. She declared certain doctrines to be her own, or her own doctrines to be of God, and she made her appeal to tradition rather than the Word of God.

I went to a Catholic church in New Orleans on Monday nights while I was a seminary student. There was a Catholic church right behind us called “The Little Flower of Jesus Church.” I have a sign somewhere in my office that I got off a telephone pole in the neighborhood. They were to have a big dance at this church (I didn’t go to the dance incidentally), and they were advertising this dance. Printed in red on a poster that had been nailed on to the telephone pole was a picture of a red devil

with horns, a pitchfork in his hand, and a long forked tail. Underneath it, it said, “Red hot dance band.” And where? At “The Little Flower of Jesus Church.” I went to this church on Monday nights where they had the instructional class for those who wanted to learn about Catholicism. It was for Catholics who wanted to come to learn more. It was also for those who had married non-Catholics so that they might get the non-Catholic to come so that they could use it as a means of instructing them whereby they might ultimately be converted to Catholicism. It was also there for anybody that wanted to come and learn about Catholicism. Well I went, and I told the priest, the Monsignor who was in charge, who I was, and that I was a student at the Baptist seminary in New Orleans. I also told him that I planned to go as a missionary to Mexico, which was a Catholic country, and that I wanted to learn what Catholicism was directly, rather than to get it by hearsay or by what others might say. I didn’t use the phrase, but I wanted to get it “directly from the horses mouth” so to speak.

So this is what I did. I have two books in my library that this Monsignor gave me. One is called **“The Sacrifice of the Mass”** which explains the

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Mass from the Catholic viewpoint, and the other book is called "**Faith of Our Fathers**" written by Cardinal Gibbons which gives the doctrines of the Catholic Church. I was in all these instruction classes. One day he was talking about some things, and some of these Catholics said "Well we don't see that, why are we to believe it? Where is it taught in the Bible?" He pointed out to them that they believe in many things that are not taught in the Bible, but they are the traditions of the Catholic Church and they are to accept all the traditions of the Catholic Church as though they were Bible. They are to be considered as the same.

I will tell you one thing hurriedly about what brought all this up. He was talking about John the Baptist and Jesus when they were both in their mother's wombs. It mentioned that when Mary came close to Elizabeth that John the Baptist, in the womb, leaped for joy. The Monsignor said that this proved that John the Baptist was born without original sin; that he was converted while he was still in the womb and that's when he leaped for joy because that's when he was converted. Therefore when he was born, he was born without original sin.

A mother in the class,

(and she was also expecting), began talking to the priest and she said "Well now, I don't see anything about that that is miraculous. That is pretty common. I've had several children, and I have one now on the way, and it is nothing unusual for a baby to move and for the mother to feel movement," etc. Then she said, "I don't see where this really proves that John the Baptist was born without original sin." He argued with her a few minutes more, and finally, after she reached a point that she still wasn't going to believe it, he said, "Well, this is the tradition of the Catholic Church and therefore we must accept it, and we must believe it." That satisfied her, so she accepted it, and she believed it. So this is what we find. They have raised or elevated tradition up to the same level as though it were the Word of God.

Now this woman Jezebel was allowed to teach and to seduce the Lord's servants to commit fornication and to eat things offered to idols. Now the word "seduce" never means error, but it means "a fundamental departure from the truth." Fornication is not only physical fornication but it is spiritual fornication, a mingling of the world and false religions, and spiritual fornication is far worse than physical fornication.

We have Baptists today that are committing

spiritual fornication, in that they are having dialogue and going to meetings with Catholic priests. One of the preachers considered today as one of the most respected men of our country is Dr. W. A. Criswell of Dallas' First Baptist Church. He himself is doing this. The **Dallas Times Herald** quoted him as being in a Catholic church in San Francisco or Los Angeles. He talked about his being present for the celebration of the Mass in a Catholic church, and how he had never felt the Spirit of the Lord any more than he had when that priest celebrated the mass. Twenty years ago he would have cut his tongue off before he would have ever said anything like that. He was one of the leading opponents of John F. Kennedy running for President because he was a Roman Catholic who believed in the supremacy of the Pope. Today, he is one of the Baptists that are now cooperating and being a part of such practices.

This is typical and representative of how false doctrines are continuing to be brought into Christendom. Today it is sweeping the world in the ecumenical movement as they are trying to bring everybody into it. Who did it all? This woman Jezebel. "*Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a*

prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols" (Rev. 2:20). Now notice, "*And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not*" (Rev. 2:21). God gives space for repentance, but she did not. There is no hope. She's gone too far. I am afraid there are Baptists that God has given "space to repent" and they "repented not." They've gone too far.

What is true of a church of yesteryear can be true of churches today. We need to make certain that we are not influenced by these false doctrines of "Baal worship" that have been brought into Christianity by a gradual infiltration of false doctrine, whereby we become participants of the false doctrine as well. Many of them were brought into Protestantism from Catholicism, and now they are being brought into Baptist churches from Protestants.

One thing, as an example. Did you know that in the early 1900's any Baptist that celebrated Christmas was excluded from that Baptist church. Now they have brought Christmas right into the church. They have their Santa Claus, they have their Christmas tree, etc. They've got the whole works. Where did they get it? Roman Catholicism! The

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INDEPENDENCE . . .

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how can He bless a Nation that has departed so far from Him? Prior to September 11, He was not welcome in America. Most of what you read in this article has been erased from our textbooks. Revisionists have rewritten history to remove the truth about our country's Christian roots, which is the very basis of what this country was founded on! □

BRONG . . .

(Continued from page 2)

a favorite with baptismal regenerationists. They are conveniently or willfully ignorant of the fact that identical translation of the same Greek preposition *eis* in 1 Cor. 10:2 makes "our fathers ... all baptized into Moses."

Of course, *nobody is ever dipped into Christ, any more than anybody was ever dipped into Moses*. The Greek preposition in both these passages should be rendered "with reference to" or "because of," either of which translations will give good sense.

Wild Wuestern Whimsy

A reader wants to know what I think of the so-called "expanded translation" by Kenneth S. Wuest of Romans 6:3 and Ephesians 4:5. I quote:

"Do you not know that

all we who were placed in Christ Jesus, in his death were placed?" (Rom. 6:3).

"One Lord, one Faith, one placing into [the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit]." (Eph. 4:5, brackets included.)

I answer: *that is not translation, expanded or otherwise; that is mere wild Wuestern whimsy.*

The Greek word transliterated baptize does not mean to place or place into in any such free and easy sense. It means to dip, plunge, or immerse in water — unless the context obviously demands another element.

No reputable Greek scholar ever dreamed of such "translation" in former years, but now, driven to desperate expedients to promote the "invisible church" fantasy, modernistic Bible dictionaries and commentaries of pseudo-scholarship are chirping a chorus of "*spiritual baptism*" — *such a thing as invisible and nonexistent in the Bible as the invisible church itself.*

"Shut Up To Moses"

Amusingly consistent only in its inconsistency is the same Wuestern "translation" of 1 Cor. 10:2:

"And all had themselves immersed, surrounded by the cloud [above] and the sea [on both sides], thus shut up to Moses [as their leader], (Brackets are part of quotation.)

"Shut up to Moses" indeed! At least, thank God, we are not shut up to Wuest. If that is translation, a dozen generations of formerly respected English translators missed their calling.

Only One Baptism

According to the Bible (Eph. 4:5), *there is only one (literal) baptism, and that is the baptism in water instituted by John the Baptist by divine commission, received by the Lord Jesus, and by Him committed to His church to be observed as an ordinance for disciples (believers) only, as a first act of obedience, to be followed by the observance of all His commandments.*

When men speak of a fictitious "spiritual baptism" not mentioned in the Bible, and belittle the one baptism (in water) that is taught in the Bible, we can be sure that their strange doctrine is not the work of the Holy Spirit. □

REVELATION . . .

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same thing with all of these heathen pagan days. We need to be careful for doctrines such as the doctrine of falling from grace, the doctrine of baptismal regeneration; sprinkling for baptism; all of these things came out of Roman Catholicism. We protect ourselves through the church truth that we

preach. We do not receive "alien" baptism or baptism from any other denomination, and we practice closed communion, limiting it to the membership of the church observing the Supper. We need to be careful lest we become tainted with some of those same false doctrines as well. □

FBIS . . .

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by 552 plaintiffs. In June 2003, the archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, agreed to pay \$25.7 million to settle cases filed by 243 people. Well over \$1 billion has been paid out by the Roman Catholic Church in the USA in the last 20 years. A conservative Catholic organization documented this wretched business in the fall/winter 2002 issue of the magazine *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, observing: "the overwhelming majority of sexual abuse cases in the Catholic Church — about 90% — involve homosexual priests preying on teenage boys. The major media and the U.S. culture at large want to deny or spin the homosexual factor out of the scandal." This publication estimated that the abuse involves "somewhere between 2,500 and 6,500 priests and an estimated 100,000 victims." Oh, hey, I have an idea. Why don't evangelicals and fundamentalists join hands with Roman Catholics to "bring American back to God"!