

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

VOL. XLII, No. 3

March 2005

WHOLE NO. 484

The Sinfulness of Open Communion

“Open Communion” says that all professed Christians should be invited to take the Lord’s Supper with a church whether or not they are church members and regardless of their faith or church membership. Permit me to point out the sinfulness of such a practice.

1. This practice relies upon the heresy of universalism. If the true church is universal and every child of God is born into it; then “Open Communion” would be fine, but we see in the Bible that each local congregation is a body within itself and should observe the Supper within that body (1 Cor. 11-12). “Open Communion” slaps the Lord’s churches in the face by universalizing them, denying the Bible teaching concerning what a church is. The great “ecclesia” for church in the New Testament means “an assembly” or “congregation” of true followers of Christ and is *not used even one time* in a universal

sense, although many times in the institutional sense!

2. It degrades the Lord’s churches to an equal basis with worldly man-made churches! “Open Communion” recognizes all churches as being equally scriptural and these

Recently Mr. Maury Maverick died. he was a Marine in WW II, a lawyer, a politician, as a member of the diabolical ACLU, defended draft dodgers and civil rights cases. He wrote for the *San Antonio Express-News* attacking fundamental Christians and our Founding Fathers. Said that America was never a Christian nation and accused Jews of stealing the Holy Land from Palestinians. He promoted abortion, pornography, and evolution. He opposed prayer, Bible reading and

By Isaac J. Smith

various churches preach conflicting doctrines, thus presenting Christ as being divided against Himself. Christ did build His church (Lk. 6:12-13; Mt. 16:18), and it certainly is sinful to equalize them with churches built by Martin Luther, John

The Death Of An Infidel

creationism in schools; accused the U.S. of starving Iraqi children and was a terrible influence on younger reporters.

Strip-Tease At A Funeral?

After the grave-side service, unknown to all, including his family, he secretly hired a stripteaser woman who casually walked up to the casket and began taking off all her clothes but a g-string and

(See **DEATH** on page 4)

Calvin John Wesley, William Miller, Alexander Campbell, Amy McPherson, and many others too numerous to mention.

3. “Open Communion” ignores every restriction in the Bible except one and misapplies it. Is it sinful to fly in the face of God’s inspired Word by ignoring and disobeying it? We find the following restrictions in 1 Corinthians 11:

(1) Must be taken only in a local church body (Vs. 2, 20).

(2) Cannot be taken as a feast (Vs. 22).

(3) Cannot be taken with division and broken fellowship (Vs. 18-21).

(4) Right elements must be used (Vs. 24-26).

(5) Should judge ourselves and be judged by the church (Vs. 31; 1 Cor. 5:12).

(6) Must be united in doctrine (Vs. 18; Acts 2:41-42).

(7) Finally the Supper

(See **OPEN** on page 24)

Quiz The Pastor -- #35

Who Are the Woman and Child of Revelation 12?

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: Who is the “woman” mentioned in Revelation 12 and who is her “child”?

Answer: □ The “woman” is the nation of Israel and the “child” can be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. It was from Israel that Jesus Christ came as pertaining to His human lineage. In the book of Hebrews we are told that “He took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham” (Heb. 2:16). In Isaiah 7:14 we have reference to the manner of His conception, His birth, and His identity. “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you (Israel) a sign; Behold, a virgin (Mary) shall conceive, and bear a son (Jesus), and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us).” He is of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:8-10; Mt. 2:4-5; Heb. 7:14; Rev. 5:5), and the royal family of David (Lk. 1:32-33; Jn. 7:42).

In Revelation 12:5 we are told that “she (the “woman” of Vs. 1, Israel) brought forth a man child (Jesus), who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron (Rev. 19:15); and her child (Jesus) was caught up unto God, and to his throne.” This text shows a time lapse from our Lord’s birth and His brief 33 years of life, and then His ascension into heaven or being “caught up unto God” the Father in heaven (Mk. 16:19; Acts 1:9-10). Then, in Revelation 12:6, there is another lapse of time that brings us to the last half of that period of time known as the Tribulation Period which lasts for seven years in its full span, but here only 3 1/2 years, the second half, are mentioned. Notice: “And the woman (Israel)

fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” This time is 1260 days (Rev. 11:3), or 42 months (Rev. 11:2), or 3 1/2 years which is the second half of the seven years of Tribulation. From this verse we can see that those Israelites, dwelling in the land of Israel at the beginning of the Great Tribulation Period when the Anti-Christ reveals himself (Mt. 24:15), are to “flee unto the mountains” (Mt. 24:16) for safety (Rev. 12:13-16). Satan’s persecution of Israel will intensify beyond words during time but God will intervene in their behalf. If you will notice that the “great dragon” mentioned here in Revelation 12 is the same personality known as “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan” (Rev. 12:20:2). His hatred of Christ and Israel knows no bounds. □ □

The Prosperity Gospel Works

Well, it works for Paul Crouch and his Trinity Broadcasting Network. The following is taken from the Los Angeles Times.

Crouch has long preached that giving to TBN will bring great financial blessings. The more you give, the more God will reward you. Crouch said during a Telethon last November, “He’ll give you thousands, hundreds of thousands. He’ll even give millions and billions of dollars.”

Crouch has done rather well with his “prosperity gospel.” TBN collects more than \$120 million a year from viewers [more than any other TV ministry]. The donor’s help fund generous salaries for Crouch (\$403,700 a year) and his wife, Jan, (\$361,000) and an array of perks, including a

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Islamic Leader Says Muslims In America Must Dominate

Omar Ahmad, chairman of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), made the following enlightening statement in 1998:

“If you choose to live here (in America) ... you have a responsibility to deliver the message of Islam. Islam isn’t in America to be equal to any other faith, but to become dominant. The Koran, the

Muslim book of scripture, should be the highest authority in America, and Islam the only accepted religion on Earth” (“American Muslim Leader Urges Faithful to Spread Word,” Lisa Gardiner, San Ramon Valley Herald, Fremont, Calif, July 4, 1998). Ahmad was speaking before “a packed crowd” at the Flamingo Palace banquet hall in Fremont. — FBIS

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Theater At Pergamos

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. 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. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him

that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it” — Rev. 2:12-17.

Each of these churches represents four different things, one being a letter written specifically to that individual church, but there is a historical reference also, in that each one also represents a certain period of history. For instance, the church at Smyrna represents that period of intense persecution during the years of 170 A.D. to 315 A.D. Here we find that the church at Pergamos represents that period in history from 315 A.D. to 606 A.D. During the Smyrna church age, the Church and the State opposed each other, and there were at least 10 severe persecutions that came upon the churches during that time, all of them at the hands of pagan nations, the worst of which was under Diocletian. Now

The Book of Revelation -- Message #15

The Church At Pergamos

By M. L. Moser, Editor

we find that Satan is going to change his tactics. Rather than attacks by the State against the churches, we find a marriage of Church and State, where Church and State are combined or married. Pergamos represents this marriage.

The city of Pergamos or Pergamum as you find it some places, lay north of the city of Smyrna. It was built upon a hill 1000 feet high and became the seat of the Acropolis and other large buildings. There was a building called the Acropolis at Athens, Greece. I have seen it. For those that have not and you would like to see it, you will get a better view of it by going to the replica of the Acropolis at Nashville, Tennessee. The one in Athens is in disrepair. It has been left in its natural state, and so much of it is in ruins. Some of the columns have been broken and some of the statues have fallen over, others have been beheaded, things of this nature. But the Acropolis in Nashville has been made as a close replica of the one in Athens, so if you want to see the Acropolis, you can find this one in Nashville. This one is in the city of Pergamos. As an Acropolis, it had places for

various gods and goddesses of the region. It was famed primarily for these structures, particularly the one in honor of Zeus along with the other gods.

For those of you that have gone to Mexico and have visited the city of Guanajuato where we lived for a number of years, you will recall that on a high mountain peak called Cubelete, there is a huge statue of Christ. Those of you that have been there remember that this statue stands upon a huge altar which forms a circle with the end of it open toward the North. Within this circle, niches have been made similar to triangles in a pie. Each one has been prepared for a State deity or god or goddess from the various areas of Mexico since it has been built as a place of worship for all of Mexico. The main altar is for the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico. But each of these separate places is prepared for a god or a goddess that comes from a particular area or a particular state.

For instance, in Guadalajara, they have what is called the Virgin of Zapopan, a small Indian doll about three feet tall. This

(See REV on page 20)



What Happened To Church Member Discipline?

By Bobby Bowman

In bygone years, it was not uncommon for a wayward member to be disciplined by the church. One can imagine the picture of a dad, with tears streaming down his face, moving for the church to withdraw fellowship from his own son who had strayed off into gross sin and would not respond to counsel by his parents nor the pastor. Those were difficult experiences for the church and always for the family involved.

Most of us, however, can recall instances when discipline was indicated but never carried out because the wayward one was a deacon's family or even the pastor's. In many churches, failure to discipline wayward members in the past has rendered church discipline impossible.

I once heard of a former church staff member who left his wife in a sinful relationship with another woman. The man was still a member of the church where he had served. The problem was that the church had overlooked so many other

instances of members who had brought reproach on the church that to treat this case would have had possible repercussions for past disciplinary failures. Nothing was done and the church suffered from it.

When situations are merely "swept under the rug," a church is rendered spiritually weak and members will not take seriously their obligations to live according to the Church Covenant. I'm sure many will remember when that was displayed prominently in the church and people affirmed their loyalty to it when becoming members. If there is no "code of ethics" to which a member must subscribe, there may be no sense of responsibility.

Some will say, "We don't need a Church Covenant if we teach members what the Bible says." That sounds good, but in real life we are not able to comprehensively teach enough of the Scripture to form a moral code of conduct except the Ten Commandments. An instrument such as the

Church Covenant condenses, in a very practical way, many scriptural principles to which church members can affirm their loyalty, and offers a very practical code of conduct. I believe the rebirth of affirmation of loyalty to the Church Covenant would not be a step backward, and may become a very significant step forward.

Many years ago I had the privilege of leading a 70-year-old man and his entire family to the Lord. A couple of days later, he showed up at my house and said to me, "I have been saved and I know, as a Christian, I will have certain responsibilities to the Lord and to His church, what are they?" I discussed much of the Scripture with him but the thing that caught his attention and to which he heartily subscribed was the Church Covenant.

No, we should not rush to discipline wayward members, but we do a disservice to the member and the church when the

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DEATH . . .

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shoes. As the crowd looked on in astonishment and horror, she did a seductive dance. One woman covered the eyes of her little girl and with her other hand covered her father's eyes. Apparently Maverick wanted to make one last effort to show his utter contempt for God, the Bible, and morality. But he certainly was not laughing where he was. He was begging for mercy like the rich man in Luke 16. He didn't believe in Hell, but he does now!

A Deist Like Jefferson?

He boasted that he was a Deist like Jefferson and not one reporter knew enough history about Jefferson to challenge Maverick. President Thomas Jefferson, our third president, has been slandered so much by dishonest liberals that many people actually think he was an unbeliever. But facts show that Maverick was nothing like Jefferson and his ignorance of Jefferson was inexcusable!

Jefferson's Record

Jefferson came from an aristocratic family and was highly educated in law, government, philosophy, and the Bible. Unfortunately, in early life he was influenced

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DEATH . . .

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by French Deism, the belief that the Creator was unknowable and that our Lord Jesus was just a good man. Because of his early belief he is gleefully quoted by Bible-haters today who claim that American Founding Fathers were not Bible believers. However in later life Jefferson gave up Deism and had a spiritual experience, but left very few details of it.

He was an officer in the War For Independence and served in many political offices. He is known today as a president and, with the help of others, drafting the Declaration of Independence.

**President Of
Washington's School
Board**

As our third president, Jefferson was the second to live in the new Capitol of Washington, which was still under construction. As president, he established the board of education in conjunction with the churches and required that the Bible and hymnal of Isaac Watts be taught daily in the schools. He even published an edited edition of the life of Christ for the schools. I have a copy.

**Established Christian
Services In House of
Representatives**

Since the churches

were slow to build in Washington, Jefferson directed that Christian services should be held every Sunday in the large chamber of the House of Representatives, using visiting pastors, which he attended regularly when he was in town. This practice continued after his presidency and was the largest Christian congregation in America for nearly a hundred years.

**Attended Church
Regularly**

While in Philadelphia, he attended Christ Church (Presbyterian), along with George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, Alexander Hamilton, Francis Hopkins, and Betsy Ross. In Virginia, Jefferson attended Bruton Parish Church (Episcopal) where George and Martha Washington were members. He read the Bible regularly in Latin, Greek, as well as English. His own Bible was in four volumes and well worn with countless passages and underlined and notes in the margins. No Deist would do such things!

The Wall of Separation?

His famous statement "a wall of separation" between church and state was in answer to a letter from Connecticut Baptists who heard a rumor that the Federal Government was planning to establish a

National Church like Europe which would require all to be members and pay taxes to support it. President Jefferson assured them that the wall *was against the government not against the churches*, and that the First Amendment was to protect the churches from government interference and encroachment! But today dishonest lawyers and judges have reversed the First Amendment and made it against the churches and the rascals blame Jefferson for it, and they refuse to quote his entire letter!

If Jefferson could see the disaster caused by a small minority of satanic lawyers and judges by removing prayer and Bible reading from the schools, he would condemn them as demonic anti-American Bible haters, liars, hypocrites, and traitors to him and America!

The Pilgrims and other Forefathers came to America to establish a new Christian nation in obedience to the Great Commission. They also came to escape religious persecution by minority rulers and establish religious freedom based on the Bible and majority rule.

No More Majority Rule!

Nearly 90% of Americans want prayer and Bible reading restored to the schools, but a satanic minority (less than 10%) of radicals have prevented it!

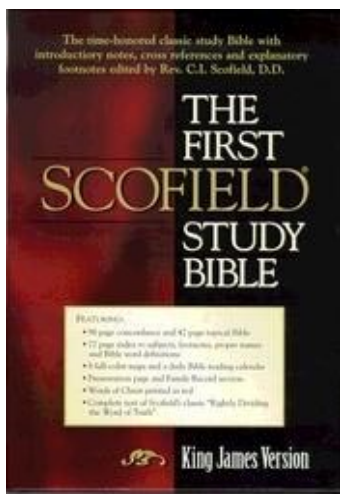
The majority's rights are sacrificed to pacify a radical, anti-Bible few! This is not democracy, but the tyranny of a minority, the very thing that our Forefathers left Europe for. Jefferson and our Forefathers would denounce us.

The Supreme Court ruled against student-led prayer at football games at Santa Fe, Texas. Only two families objected, a Mormon and a Catholic and the rights of hundreds of other families and students were denied. This is not democracy, but anti-God tyranny and dictatorship. After serving as President, Jefferson led in establishing the University of Virginia and directed that all students attend chapel *daily* to pray and hear the Bible read and preached!

**President Thomas
Jefferson's Prayer**

On March 4, 1805, President Jefferson issued the following National Prayer for Peace: "Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage, We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and our manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

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The New Scofield Reference Bible speaks of a “true” church as distinguished from visible and local churches. It also insists that the Holy Spirit “formed” the church on the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after Christ’s resurrection, but —

I. Christ Built His Church, as He said, “I will build my church” (Mt. 16:18).

A church is an assembly, or congregation, of baptized believers who work and meet *together* in order to worship and obey the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. She can exist without her own separate edifice, or building.

The church which Christ built was not built in a day. It was a process rather than an event. It consisted of individuals who were saved, baptized, and taught to obey Christ who called them to Himself. She was a group of believers called out from the world and united with Christ as

leader.

The church, as the body of Christ, would do the same kind of work that Christ did — teaching, preaching, and healing (Mt. 4:23).

The twelve disciples, with Christ as their Head, Leader, and Shepherd (*poimen*, pastor Jn. 10:11, 14), did real church work in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. They preached the gospel, baptized converts and taught them, and healed the sick. They cast out demons, comforted the sorrowing, and ministered to people’s needs, even as true and real churches do now.

The membership list of the first church Christ built is emphasized by being recorded four times: Mt. 10:2-4; Mk. 3:14-19; Lk. 6:13-16; Acts 1:13. The Twelve were the foundation of the first church (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 2:20), placed in the church by Christ, the chief cornerstone (Jn. 15:16).

“I will build (*oikodomeso*) is future tense. Christ is still building His churches. Acts 9:31 tells of churches in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria which were still being built, or edified (*oikodomoumene*). The same word for “building” is used of the church at

Corinth (1 Cor. 14:3, 5, 12, 26). The Corinthian church needed *continuous* building, as all churches do. The church at Ephesus likewise was continually being built (Eph. 4:12, 16, 29). Those churches had started long before, but their building continued.

Parents say, “We are going to build Johnnie’s health.” A pastor says of his new charge, “I am going to build a mission-giving church.” A lawyer says, “I will build a good case.” All those mean that they will continue to build *what they had previously started*. So with Christ in Matthew 16:18.

The four Gospels reveal that Christian believers, before Pentecost, had the soul-saving gospel; converts were baptized and had the Lord’s Supper; they were instructed in church truths, obeying Christ, being ordained by Him, and were organized enough for their needs. They had programs for evangelism, missions, teaching, healing, and counseling; they had divine power to heal the sick and to raise the dead; they had the Holy Spirit; they had prayer and business meetings; they were “*added unto*,” and they had Christ as their Head. The first

New Testament church was very much alive.

An amateur taxidermist saw an owl in a barber shop. “Look at that owl,” he said; “its eyes are off color; its neck is too short; its feet are crooked; whoever stuffed ...” Then the owl turned its head and winked at the barber!

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DEATH . . .

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Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

“Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.

“In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail, all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” Oh, how we need Jefferson’s prayer today! — The Missionary Challenge. □

Scofield’s Untrue “Church”

By S. E. Anderson

(Reprinted from *The Baptist Challenge*, August 1972)



The Lord Will Square The Score

By R. Nelson Colyar

“Babylon the Great” is now in the making — an apostate world-church supporting the anti-Christ world-kingdom, “drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” Beware, ye saints! Her doom is sealed. Be not deceived. Don’t be taken in by false claims in the name of Jesus Christ.

John heard the voice of an angel come down from heaven, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies” (Rev. 18:1-3).

This is the description of an apostate world-church, of a pseudo-Christendom, “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” It is a paganized federation of churches which has perverted the gospel of Christ to their

own destruction, and to the destruction of millions of souls which look to her for guidance. Notice how this “habitation of demons and hold of every foul spirit” has played politics with the kings of the earth (spiritual fornication), and how it has made commerce rich with “the power of her luxury” (margin). Beware, ye saints, of church federations and denominational organizations: they have the power to deceive you and to drag your children into the paw of the Beast.

Then John says: “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins are reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, *I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow*. Therefore shall

her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her” (Rev. 18:4-8).

This is prophecy written 2000 years ago, which is now nearing the time of fulfillment. The day of judgment upon a pseudo-Christendom is near at hand. Her sins are now reaching up to heaven. Anti-Christian church federations are boastful now. Many Protestant and some so-called Baptist denominations have already been drawn into her orbit of power. A world federation of churches is now formed. This movement takes in believer and unbeliever alike. It moves to dominate the “Christian” world by its power over the pulpit. This pagan, pseudo-Christian movement is the “hold of every foul spirit.” She “saith in her heart, I sit a queen and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” Supported by national governments, she sits a *Queen*. Married to the Anti-Christ, she is no *widow*. Drunken on the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of

Jesus, she boasts she will see no sorrow. But her utter destruction shall come as a devastating fire — “she shall be utterly burned with fire.”

The true prophet of God must cry out: “Get out of her, ye saints, ye people of God, ye sheep of His pasture! What are you doing grazing in the Devil’s pasture? — Why are you caged with ‘every unclean and hateful bird’? Could it be that you are more interested in her luxuries than you are in the continuance of the gospel unto your children and to your children’s children? Despiseth thou the church of the living God, and helpest thou them that hate the Lord? This harlot world-church, with her name written right out upon her forehead, **MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**, shall receive her reward from Him whose holy name she blasphemeth. Come out of her, quickly, beloved people of God. If not, you are partaker of her sins. Either repent of your al-

(See COLYAR on page 15)



Child Euthanasia Already Happens Everywhere, Says Dutch Hospital.

— The disclosure by a Dutch hospital that it has carried out euthanasia on terminally ill newborn babies has shocked pro-life groups, but the institution claims it is merely trying to bring into the open a practice already happening around the world. The Groningen Academic Hospital is asking the Dutch government to approve guidelines legalizing euthanasia on newborns described as enduring “unbearable suffering” and with “no hope of a future.” The hospital has admitted doing so in the case of three babies last year. In a statement issued Friday, Groningen pediatrics head Dr. A. Verhagen said that “worldwide, the U.S. included, many deaths among newborns are based on end-of-life decisions, after physicians reached the conclusion that there was no quality of life.” — CNS

ACLU and AUSCS Sue School Board Over “Intelligent Design.” — A federal lawsuit filed

World News Roundup

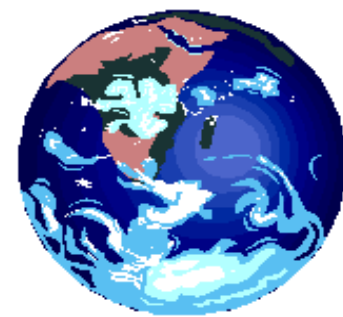
December 14 contends that “intelligent design,” if presented in public school science classes will violate students’ religious liberty by promoting particular religious beliefs under the guise of science education. The lawsuit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State in behalf of eleven parents, challenges a Pennsylvania school board’s decision requiring biology teachers to present intelligent design as an alternative to the theory of evolution. Intelligent design is a theory arguing that some features of the natural world are best explained as the products of an intelligent cause rather than evolution. The ACLU-AUSCS lawsuit argues that intelligent design is a religious argument that falls outside the realm of science. Pennsylvania’s Dover Area School Board is the first school district in the United States to require the teaching of intelligent design.

Just Call It Eurabia. — I used to wonder why the Jews of Europe, particularly German Jews, didn’t flee the Holocaust that would destroy six million of them by the end of World War II. Some did, of course, but many simply

could not conceive that their fellow countrymen would conspire to kill them. In a similar fashion, many Americans still want to believe that Islamists, the extreme Muslims characterized by the Taliban and al Qaeda, are just a minority of greater Islam. The wish that we will be embraced by those to whom we have brought freedom and democracy ignores the long history of Islam’s quest for world domination. — Alan Caruba.

German Women On Welfare Required To Work In Brothels.

— According to a recent report by Focus On The Family Correspondent Josh Montez, “Germany is forcing poor women to work in the sex business — or lose their benefits. (The country) is undergoing welfare reform, and one of the changes calls for women under 55 who have been out of work for more than a year to be forced to take any available job — including one in the legal sex industry.” One source said, “Only in a hyper-pornographic society like Germany’s will you find a story like this. In 2002, Germany legalized prostitution because the government believed it would help to combat the trafficking of women, and



cut links to organized crime.”

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

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How Should A Pastor Rule A Church?

By Edgar C. Carlisle

Let there be no mistake about it, a pastor is to rule a church. If you are a timid preacher I encourage you to ask God to fill your religious backbone with spiritual courage. Then step up to your line of duty and do what you are told: rule the church. But if you are a man who must always have your way, don't flex your authoritative muscles and roar, "I'm the pastor around here! And the Bible commands you to obey them that have the rule over you." I'd suggest that both of you take a serious look with me at how a pastor is to rule a church.

If you are a church member reading this, don't get scared. As you read this article you will find relief. I think you'll say, "Now, that's how I want my pastor to rule."

There are four clear-cut references in the New Testament which speak of pastors ruling churches. The first is "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine"

(1 Tim. 5:17). In this Scripture the word "rule" is from the Greek word "*proistemi*."

The other three references are in Hebrews: "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation" (Heb. 13:7).

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17).

"Salute them which have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you" (Heb. 13:24).

In these three scriptures the word "rule" is translated from the Greek word "*hegeomai*". These two Greek words, "*proistemi*" and "*hegeomai*," carry additional meanings that teach us how pastors are to rule. Their definitions fall into three categories: administration, protection

and ministration (service). Let's look at these definitions.

ADMINISTRATION (1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:7, 17, 24).

The above definitions reveal that the ruling work of a pastor involves leading and directing the affairs and activities of the church. He is the chief administrator. His office of bishop automatically places him over the congregation to lead the way and manage their ministries.

The pastor is to guide every phase of the church functions. He cannot hold every administrative office, but every leader in the church should look to and cooperate with the pastor. He has the responsibility before God of being the leader of the church. The members have the responsibility of obeying that leadership.

This does not give the pastor the right to be bullish. Pastors can sometimes push unwise programs. Ruling does not

make him a dictator. He is to guide as Thayer says, "leading as respects influence."

A pastor should lead wisely so that the people grow to respect his influence. It should be his spiritual influence, not his thundering demands, that produces cooperation from the members [though there is definitely a time for the pastor to make thundering demands — see Titus 1:13, for example!].

The second area of ruling involves:

PROTECTION 1 Tim. 5:17

The pastor rules by protecting the flock of spiritual sheep from religious wolves. Some dangers are from people outside of the church. Sometimes false teachers appear within the membership.

How does the pastor guard the church? By teaching them the truths of God's Word. Also by keeping them informed of

(See **RULE** on page 10)

RULE . . .

(Continued from page 9)

false teachings so the members will recognize heresy when they hear or read it. Many means of doing this are available to him.

The pastor needs wisdom in recognizing a hardened heretic within the membership. The bishop [local church pastor] must be careful not to attack, hurt and run off someone who is honestly confused, someone who has sincere questions and doubts, someone who is somewhat unstable. I have seen this happen. He must be discerning and cautious in his dealings. Yet he must not allow doctrines to be taught in Bible classes or homes that are contrary to the confession of faith adopted by the church. The members should stand with their pastor in such matters.

This doesn't mean every pastor is always right in every thing he teaches. He must allow some right to differ without driving away disagreeing members.

Demanding that every member and teacher accept everything the pastor teaches drives away many good Bible students and eventually digs his grave in that church.

The third aspect of ruling is:

MINISTRATION

1 Tim. 5:17 "proistemi"

Greek Dictionary De-

initions: Gingrich: "Be concerned about." Vine: "To attend to." Thayer: "To care for, to give aid." Newman: "To give help."

The above definitions insert a loving heart into the work of ruling. The pastor is to love every member and show it. This conditions his role of leadership and protection. Deeply caring about the members prevents him from being an overlord who either runs over members or runs them off [without proper and Biblical cause.]

Ruling involves ministering to or serving the members. According to Jesus in Matthew 20:25-28 if a pastor is a great ruler he is a great minister, a great servant. Sinful pride in a preacher is revealed when he throws his weight around. Meekness, humility and eagerness to lovingly help do not weaken his authority. It increases the members' respect for him. It heightens his ministerial stature. It enlarges his "leadership by influence."

Too often a pastor thinks of ruling only as being boss. But the above definitions reveal it to include the servant side. Any preacher who is unwilling to serve, help and aid his people will lose their positive response to his leadership. Like Moses, the modern pastor must temper courage with meekness. Like Christ, the pastor's example, superintending must be flavored with public humility.

RULING WITH GOD'S WORD

Is this all there is to ruling? Not quite. Hebrews 13:7 teaches: "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God."

This does not mean that just because a man teaches and preaches the Bible he automatically has the authority to rule over a congregation. Hebrews 13:7 reveals *how* he is to rule. He rules *with the Word*.

How? He reads to the people what Christ commands in the New Testament. He teaches the church out of the Holy Scriptures what God says for him and them to do. The members should then be able to read and see those commandments and practices as plainly as the pastor.

Demanding that the people obey the preacher is not ruling. Just because the pastor preaches something is not enough. If he says the Bible teaches an idea he should cite clear-cut scriptures that plainly say so. Members should beware of the man who insists that people trust him. They have a right to refuse to follow strange ideas they can't find in clear language in the New Testament. This blindly following men has resulted in confusion and chaos in Christendom.

God's man will have no fear of questions about his teachings. He will urge the members to think for

themselves and be "Berean Christians." They "searched the scriptures daily" to see if what Paul taught was true (Acts 17:10-11).

Ruling a church is teaching and urging the members to believe and do what Christ plainly commanded. Their obedience then is not just to the pastor. It is to Christ. The pastor becomes God's agent in achieving this obedience. This is how he is to rule a church.

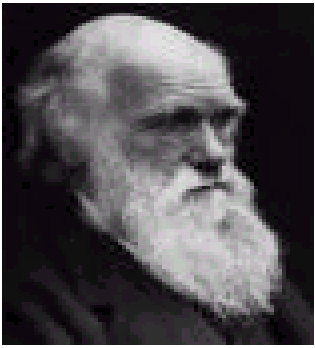
RULES BY FAITH

Hebrews 13:7 also says, "... whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." Pastors are to rule by their faith.

Faith involves doctrinal beliefs (see Jude 3). A pastor's doctrines should be clear to the people that they are God's doctrines. The members should be able to read in the New Testament what their pastor believes. Then he has the authority to urge the members to accept and follow those teachings. This is how he rules.

Faith also involves a personal trust in God (Rom. 1:17). The pastor must be a man of bold but wise trust in the Lord. The people should see him live this way and see how God blesses him. Then he can urge them to do likewise. This also is how the pastor

(See **RULE** on page 11)



Darwin and the Mind of Man

By Bolton Davidheiser, Ph.D.

About a year and a half before he died, Charles Darwin wrote to Thomas Henry Farrer, “I cannot put much or any faith in the so-called intuitions of the human mind, which has been developed, as I cannot doubt, from such a mind as animals possess; and what would their convictions or intuitions be worth?”

In his autobiography, which he wrote in his old age for his children, Darwin said, “But then arises the doubt — can the mind of man, which has, as I fully believe, been developed from a mind as low as that possessed by the lowest animal, be trusted when it draws such grand conclusions? May not these be the result of the connection between cause and effect which strikes us as a necessary one, but probably depends merely on inherited experience? Nor must we overlook the probability of the constant inculcation in a belief in God on the minds of children producing so strong and perhaps an inherited effect on their brains not yet fully developed, that it would be as difficult for them to throw off their belief in

God, as for a monkey to throw off its instinctive hatred of a snake.”

Darwin strongly disagreed with Alfred Russell Wallace, considered the co-discoverer with him of the principle of evolution by natural selection, that the human brain did not evolve according to their theory because savage or so-called primitive peoples have better brains than the need or use in their culture. But Darwin himself had a better brain than he used, as is illustrated in a letter he wrote to H. N. Moseley in 1876.

Darwin’s letter concerned a peculiar tropical worm called *peripatus*. This worm did emit its viscid fluid from the posterior end of its body, it would not necessarily follow that some of these worms had evolved into spiders. But the fact that they secrete it at the anterior end shows that these glands did not evolve into the spinnerets of spiders. Yet Darwin says that if only *peripatus* did its secreting from the posterior end instead of from the anterior end he could make a beautiful

case for the evolution of the spinnerets of spiders. This is something like saying it is too bad that the Emperor Nero lived in the wrong country and in the wrong century, for otherwise we might make out a good case that he started the great Chicago fire instead of Mrs. O’leary’s cow.

Darwin’s desire to find evolution even where he

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RULE . . .

(Continued from page 10)

rules.

RULE BY WATCHING

The final step in ruling is found in Hebrews 13:7. Concerning the pastor it says, “... for they watch for your souls.” This word “watch” comes from “*agrupneo*” meaning to be watchful even to the point of losing sleep.

This does not imply that the pastor is to stay up nights spying on the members. This does reveal, though, that a pastor is to observe the lives of the members. Some of their conduct may cause him to

be so concerned that he stays awake at night praying for them. He may lose sleep searching the Word to find truths to help them. He yearns to see them return to righteous living. He prays for wisdom in how to reach and help those straying sheep. Then this pastor follows God’s Word and his inner leadings as to when to talk to them and what to say.

Ruling a church requires God’s grace, God’s wisdom, God’s leadership and God’s power. If any service requires utter dependence upon the Lord, it is the work of ruling a church. It is a full-time work. It is an honorable work. In fact, there is no greater work on earth than that of Holy Spirit-led ruling. The judgment seat of Christ will produce many glorious rewards for these humble, faithful servants of the Lord.

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed. Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind, neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Pet. 5:1-4) ■■■

SCOFIELD . . .

(Continued from page 6)

Even so today, many are parroting Scofield's mistake by saying, "The church could not begin until Pentecost." It did and it started well.

No verse says the church began at Pentecost. *No verse* says the Holy Spirit "formed" her. Was Scofield *evasive*, or naive, or what, in substituting "formed" for "built"? Christ said that He Himself would build the church. Why not believe *Him*? Who would trust a physician, druggist, or banker who juggled words to support a pet theory? (I have used Scofield Bibles nearly fifty years and plan to continue. Most of the notes are good, but not all.)

When Christ said, "I will build my church," He did not say it had not then been started.

II. Christ Was the Head of His Church, as He Said.

He told His disciples, "One is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren ... for one is your Master, even Christ" (Mt. 23:8, 10). So, already in the Gospels, He was "head over all things to the church" (Eph. 1:22), and He was already "head of the body, the church" (Col. 1:18).

Surely the church could be as real a church with Christ, the Head physically

present, as with Him absent and the Holy Spirit invisibly present.

The word, "shepherd," means pastor, and Christ was the only perfect pastor any church ever had. Why refuse the best example of *church* our world has ever known? Why ignore the church in the four Gospels as our model? Why not believe *what Christ said and did*?

III. Christ Was in the New Testament, as He said.

"This is my blood of the new testament," He said, in Matthew 26:28.

The four Gospels are *not* in the Old Testament as Scofield intimated in his notes on Exodus 19:1 and Acts 2:1. Not one verse says that Pentecost began a new era or dispensation, or any change in church activities. In fact the Greek New Testament does not mention "church" in Acts until 5:11.

Scofield has far too many dubious "pivotal" passages — Matthew 11:28; 13:3; 16:20-21; Acts 2:1 — all in questionable places. Far better are these: "The *beginning* of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mk. 1:1; "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John: (Mt. 11:13); "The law and the prophets were until John ..." (Jn. 1:17); "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (Jn. 1:17);

"That word (gospel) ... after the baptism which John preached" (Acts 10:37); "When John had first preached, before his (Christ's) coming ..." (Acts 13:24).

Notice that John the Baptist *did* preach the New Testament, saving gospel (Lk. 1:69, 77; 3:18). The "kingdom" John preached was the same from Matthew 3:2 to Acts 28:31. Of the multitudes who received that spiritual kingdom, nearly all were Jews; yet John's gospel included Gentiles also (Jn. 1:29).

John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit (Lk. 1:15); he saw multitudes converted and baptized (Mt. 3:5-6); he was 100% *Christian* (Jn. 1:15; 3:30); he was fully endorsed by Christ (Lk. 7:24-30) and by the apostles (Acts 1:21); he was as much a Christian as Stephen. All that makes him the first Christian martyr. He was *in* the New Testament dispensation. So was Christ in the days of His flesh whatever some dispensationalists may say.

Those who argue endlessly that the Christian era did not begin until Pentecost thereby rob us of precious Christian church truth in four of the most important books in the Bible. What a loss — a needless tragedy.

IV. Christ Saved Sinners In the Four Gospels, as He said.

Scofield's note on page 987 suggests that the four Gospels had only a group of "Jewish disciples" but that the Epistles have the "regenerate" — as though no one was regenerated in the Gospels, with the Savior there!!!

One dispensationalist wrote, "If the church was started prior to the cross, it has no Savior." Incredible! Christ came to save people from their sins (Mt. 1:21). He *did* save multitudes (Lk. 7:47-50; 19:9-10; 23:43; Jn. 3:16-17; 4:1-2; 12:47; 1 Tim. 1:15).

Nearly every man buys his first car, and his first house, "on time" or with a contract for future payments. The first New Testament converts, manifested by their immersion, trusted in Christ's future death and resurrection for the full payment of their salvation. Proof texts are abundant.

Some dispensationalists spake of "The rapture of the church," meaning all those saved since Pentecost. What about those saved — and who died — before Pentecost? And does any verse mention "church" in connection with the Second Coming of Christ? All *believers*, including all those in the kingdom will be caught up with Christ, even though they have failed to join a real church.

V. Christ Endorsed

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John the Baptist, as He said.

John was the greatest (Mt. 11:11-14; Lk. 7:24-30; 20:4-6).

John baptized Christ, witnessed by the Father and Holy Spirit (Mt. 3:13-17). What greater honor could any Christian have?

John prepared people, as the Twelve, for Christ (Jn. 1:35-45; Acts 1:21).

Scofield erred on page 1009 in saying it is the "Messiah's earthly kingdom" that the Baptist came to announce (Mt. 3:2; 11:11). Not so; he proclaimed a spiritual kingdom — the same kingdom mentioned twenty-six times after the resurrection of Christ. Why should one repent for a kingdom 2000 years away? Jesus said about the poor in spirit, "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:3). He also told us to seek the kingdom *now* (Mt. 6:33). He said the kingdom had already come (Mt. 12:28), and that it should be preached in all the world (Mt. 24:14). Paul preached it everywhere (Acts 19:8; 28:31).

Christ refused an earthly kingdom offered to Him by "a great multitude" of about 5,000 men (Jn. 6:1-15). He said His kingdom was "not of this world" (Jn. 18:36). From the first, He came to die for sins and to rise again. That act of redemption He portrayed

and promised in His baptism (Mt. 3:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 1 Pet. 3:21). He never shifted from a kingdom to a cross, as Scofield indicated (pg. 1021).

The kingdom preached from Matthew 3:2 to Acts 28:31 was the spiritual realm with Christ as King. Every saved person, obeying Christ, is in that kingdom. The repentant thief on the cross entered it then and there. The Ethiopian entered it the moment he believed, before his baptism.

That kingdom is similar to the so-called "true, invisible, universal" church of Scofield. If he had stayed with his definition of "church" on page 1021 (*assembly ... gathering of people*), if he had let the church *be* the church, if he had defined the kingdom correctly — then less confusion would follow. Christ did not say, "I will build two churches."

Every saved person is in the kingdom, before and without joining a church — which he ought to join. The smaller church(es) and the larger kingdom are like concentric circles, with Christ at the center of each. The New Testament age has only one kingdom but many churches (tools of the kingdom).

Since the churches are "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets" (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 2:20; 3:5), then John the Baptist as a prophet

(Lk. 7:28; 20:6) was part of the foundation of the church(es).

It seems that the antipathy of European theologians toward Baptists has resulted in downgrading John the Baptist. Whatever the cause, it is time we learned and followed Christ's high respect for the first Christian.

VI. Christ Baptizes Believers in the Holy Spirit, as He said.

"For John truly baptized *in* water; but ye shall be baptized *in* the Holy Spirit not many days from now," said Jesus in Acts 1:5.

The King James translators were anti-immersionists which explains their use of "*with* water" and "*with* the Holy Spirit" instead of *in* as in the Greek.

Six places identify Christ as our baptizer *in* the Spirit (Mt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16). In *no* verse is it said that the Holy Spirit baptizes anyone.

In ten places Scofield said the Holy Spirit baptizes each believer into "the body of Christ" (Pgs. 157, 987, 1016, 1162, 1163, 1174, 1244, 1272, 1275, 1324). In each case, Scofieldians are confused by the King James version of 1 Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body ..." A better version is "For indeed *we were all brought into one body by*

baptism, in the one spirit, whether we are Jews or Greeks ..."

The latter version fits the facts well. It was by immersion that 3,000 converts were "added unto" the church in Acts 2:41-47. The same baptism initiated the Corinthian Christians into their church (Acts 18:8). A convert cannot rightly join a church before, or without, baptism. Baptism, with its required evidences of conversion, is the last thing one needs to do in order to become a member of a church.

In New Testament times, before the sprinkling heresy began, baptism was the pivotal step whereby converts left their old lives and entered the new fellowship of churches. *Then* it was not disputed, denied, or delayed; it was obeyed promptly after conversion (Acts 2:41; 8:12, 38; 9:18; 10:48; 16:15, 33; 18:8). An unbaptized convert was disobedient; baptism was and is the *first* obligation of a new believer.

Anti-immersionists minimize baptism, contrary to Scripture. The one word, "baptized," describes the *entire work of Christ* and of John the Baptist in many places (Jn. 1:25-27, 31, 33; 3:22-23, 26; 4:1, 2; 10:40; Acts 10:37; 13:24. Why? Because *baptism portrays the gospel*, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 6:4; Col.

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SCOFIELD . . .

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2:12). In the light of the above sixteen clear verses, it is easy to see water baptism in 1 Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 3:27, Romans 6:3, and Ephesians 4:5.

Those who reject immersion place themselves with the Pharisees and lawyers who “rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized by him” (Lk. 7:30). John’s baptism was equated with the counsel of God which means His purpose, or will. Yet some dispensationalists dare to downgrade baptism to a mere optional ritual. No wonder they refuse to recognize it in 1 Corinthians 12:13.

The one body (1 Cor. 12:13) is the one church at Corinth, *for it was a body*. The “body” metaphor is used for the Corinthian church eighteen times from verses 12 to 27. As a body it met regularly “on the first day of the week” (1 Cor. 5:4; 10:16-17; 11:17-18, 20, 33; 14:23, 26; 16:1-2). An imaginary, invisible, universal church *cannot meet*, and never will meet. Therefore, Scofield’s “true” church *cannot be a body*, any more than bricks scattered all over a city can be a building.

The abuse and misuse of 1 Corinthians 12:13, is too much like the Mormons’ use of 15:29 in baptizing for the dead. In each case, confusing doctrine, like an

inverted pyramid, is built on one obscure or difficult verse.

1 Corinthians 12:13 cannot refer to Pentecost, for neither Paul nor the Corinthians were there (4:15). Never is it said the Holy Spirit baptizes anyone. It is Christ who built His church. He baptizes believers *in* the Spirit.

Some dispensationalists downgrade Christ (pg. 1162) by denying Him as Builder and Baptizer. They wrongly emphasize the Holy Spirit above Christ in Acts, but the names of the Father (with pronouns) in Acts number 275, of Christ 248, and of the Holy Spirit 57. The Holy Spirit inspired it that way.

VII. Christ Built Real Churches, as He said.

The only adjective used for a New Testament church in this age is the one Christ used “I will build *my* church.” That makes it a new, true church. The one He led, doing real church work in Palestine, was a true church. So was each of the churches in “all Judea and Galilee and Samaria” (Acts 9:31), many of which could well have been started when Christ’s first church won converts in many localities, baptized them and taught them, *all before Pentecost*. Why not? Would a missionary now leave his converts without organizing them for continued work and wor-

ship? No, nor would Christ — or Paul.

Scofield imagined an invisible, universal, non-assembling, and hence non-functioning, non-company of believers to be “the true church” (pgs. 1162, 1299, 1324). Then, are visible churches not true churches? (We know that a church may have unsaved members in her — look at Judas — but she can still be a real church. Scofield referred to his “true church” in thirty-eight New Testament passages).

The emphasis on an imaginary “church” gives comfort to irresponsible, lazy and useless Christians who refuse to join and support real churches. Their excuse: “we belong to the true church.” Such a foggy “church” is poor defense against heresies and cults; it is poor help to underpaid pastors and missionaries; it pays no utility or janitor bills; it builds no churches or parsonages; it supports no hospitals or orphanages. What does it do?

Scofield’s “true” church has no meeting place, meeting, pastor, deacon, treasurer, clerk, discipline, baptism, Lord’s Supper, choir, commission, responsibility, Sunday School or conference. So, is it true?

Why should anyone disembodied the church(es) Christ built? Is that treating Him fairly? Christ loved the church — of visible, imperfect people like us. He

wants us to have vigorous churches. But some dispensationalists emphasize an imaginary church, though some of them may belong to real churches.

Real, visible churches are the only organizations Christ left to do *all* His work, in *all* the world, in *all* the centuries. Why, then, weaken His ministry by exalting an imaginary, helpless thing over real churches? When we cheapen the real bodies of Christ, we cheapen the Head of those bodies.

The word “church” is sometimes used in a generic, or institutional sense, meaning all real churches. Christ used the word “church” twenty-three times, of which twenty-two meant local, visible, real churches. In Matthew 16:18 His use of “church” can mean all real churches. In Ephesians and Colossians the singular form stands for all real churches, just as a dozen other singular nouns in those books stand for all separate items so named.

Utterly impossible and meaningless, with Scofield’s misuse of “true,” are the metaphors for “church,” such as, body, building, candlestick, flock, pillar, and house. Each one has to be local, visible, tangible, and real to make sense. As for “bride,” one that is visible is preferred by most men! When we all get to heaven all real churches

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DARWIN . . .

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knew there was no evolution was so great the he allowed it to have more influence upon his thinking than he allowed to his rational brain. Since Darwin allowed his desires and emotions to have such control over his reasoning, it appears very unwise for others to put their confidence in his conclusions. Darwin did not trust the human brain because he believed it evolved from the brains of irrational animals. Christians should be wary in trusting the reasoning of the brains of unregenerate men in matters related to religion, Scripture, and God.

COLYAR . . .

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legiance with her, or share in her plagues.”

Yes, the Lord will even the score with a paganistic, modernistic, communistic churchdom that perverts the gospel and blasphemes the name of Jesus Christ. The time has come to call true, Spirit-born saints out of the churches of apostate Christendom and unto the truth. I make no apologies for advocating it. I believe that the Lord says to every God-called prophet of today, as He said to His prophet Jeremiah: “If thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them (the mockers) return unto thee, but return not thou unto them” (Jer.

15:19). The preacher has his choice, either to go with the mockers and scoffers, or to go with the Lord and His people. It is high time for them that are in the churches which deny the gospel of Jesus Christ, to make up their minds which way they are going. Paul the Apostle wrote by inspiration of God: “From such turn away.” The choice has to be made, and the sooner made the better.

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will be one bride — and visible. In the meantime, Christ can be the Head of each church, as He is of each man (1 Cor. 11:3).

Is the church an organism? No, for an organism is a single living thing such as a bug, a bird, or a beast. An organization is a systemized group of organisms; so a church is an organized group of Christians. A dictionary should settle the matter, but the word, “church” has been mangled so badly by heresies that a dictionary offers sixteen different definitions!

Let us show proper respect to vital membership in real gospel churches. That is Christ’s plan. We have no obligation to an “invisible” church.

In spite of some foggy dispensational distortions of New Testament church truth, each Christian is duty bound to support his nearby gospel church,

Jesus Christ Lord and Savior

He is the First and Last, the Beginning and the End!

He is the keeper of Creation and the Creator of all!

He is the Architect of the universe and the Manager of all times.

He always was, He always is, and He always will be ...Unmoved, Unchanged, Undefeated, and never Undone!

He was bruised and trying always to build her up in faith and works. That is the New Testament plan. There is no plan to build an imaginary invisible phantom.

brought healing! He was pierced and eased pain! He was persecuted and brought freedom! He was dead and brought life! He is risen and brings power! He reigns and brings Peace! The world can’t understand him, the armies can’t defeat Him, the schools can’t explain Him, and the leaders can’t ignore Him. Herod couldn’t kill Him, the Pharisees couldn’t confuse Him, and the people couldn’t hold Him! Nero couldn’t crush Him, Hitler couldn’t silence Him, the New Age can’t replace Him, and “intellects” can’t

▣ (See **LORD** on page 19)

God’s Invitation

There is a time, we know not when,
A place we know not where,
Which marks the destiny of men
To glory or despair.

There is a line to us unseen,
Which crosses every path:
The hidden boundary between
God’s patience and His wrath.

How long may men go on in sin,
How long will God forebear?
Where does hope end, and where begin
The confines of despair?

One answer from the skies is sent,
“Ye who depart from God,
While it is called today, Repent,
And harden not your heart.”

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

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Lordship Salvation?

— Recently I was asked the following question: “Is there any difference or a big issue with regard to receiving Jesus Christ to be our Savior and Lord? Must this be always connected to ‘Lordship Salvation’?”

REPLY: In my perspective, it certainly isn’t wrong to speak of receiving Christ as Lord and Saviour. The thief on the cross addressed Jesus as “Lord” when he got saved. That is true repentance. It is a surrender; it is bowing before God as God, before Jesus Christ as Lord. Jesus said there is no salvation apart from repentance. Lordship Salvation is going beyond this and making repentance into a drawn-out affair that causes untoward inward looking instead of once-for-all confidence in Christ. Lordship Salvation makes salvation into something difficult. It is making Christ “Lord of all areas of life,” and that is to confuse salvation with practical sanctification. Lordship Salvation is often accompanied with a denial that a Christian can be carnal. Another mark of Lordship Salvation is that an inordinate number of people

who thought they were already saved get “saved again” under that type of preaching. We know that some people will be deceived about their salvation even in good churches and that people can make false professions and then come to the point where they understand that they are not truly saved, but when it becomes common at a certain church for people who visit or join from other churches to end up “getting saved” again, that is a mark of Lordship Salvation.

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A Warning To Those Who Have Remained In the BBFI.

— The following was first published in Friday News Notes for June 27, 2003: We are thankful for the many churches that have pulled out of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International (BBFI) in recent years because of the great and rapidly growing compromise. It takes courage and conviction to leave an organization. At best, you lose friends and your motives are maligned. For missionaries it means the loss of support. Yet as far

back as the 1980s, it was clear that the fellowship was split between a New Evangelical and a fundamentalist camp, between those who defended Jerry Falwell’s deep compromise and those who opposed it. Things have gotten much worse since then. Falwell has gone farther and farther down the road of worldliness and error and ecumenism and those who are like-minded with him have increased dramatically within the fellowship. For those who are willing to pull their heads out of the sand and look at the facts, the situation is clear. The following warning was given 16 years ago by a former BBFI president Dr. Victor Sears: “Dr. Falwell is not basically a fundamental Baptist. ... [but] is a New Evangelical in the same compromising vein as Dr. Billy Graham. If we keep following the road paved by Falwellism, we of the (BBF) will lose our identity completely as old-fashioned, Bible-believing separatists” (Calvary Contender, June 15, 1987).

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Worldly Christianity.

— The following is from Evangelicalism Divided by Iain Murray: “It is that evangelicals, while commonly retaining the same set of beliefs, have been tempted to seek success in ways which the New Testament identifies as ‘worldliness’. Worldliness is

departing from God. It is a man-centered way of thinking; it proposes objectives which demand no radical breach with man’s fallen nature; it judges the importance of things by the present and material results; it weighs success by numbers; it covets human esteem and wants no unpopularity; it knows no truth for which it is worth suffering; it declines to be a ‘fool for Christ’s sake’. Worldliness is the mind-set of the unregenerate. It adopts idols and is at war with God. Because ‘the flesh’ still dwells in the Christian he is far from immune from being influenced by this dynamic. ... Apostasy generally arises in the church just because this danger ceases to be observed. The consequence is that spiritual warfare gives way to spiritual pacifism, and, in the same spirit, the church devises ways to present the gospel which will neutralize any offence. The antithesis between regenerate and unregenerate is passed over and it is supposed that the interests and ambitions of the unconverted can somehow be harnessed to win their approval for Christ. Then when this approach achieves ‘results’ — as it will — no more justification is thought to be needed. The rule of Scripture is given place to pragmatism. The apostolic

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statement, ‘For if I still pleased men, I would not be the servant of Christ’ (Gal. 1:10), has lost its meaning.”

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The following statement by B.H. Carroll, is from Repentance and Remission of Sins, 1889:

“The preacher who leaves out repentance commits as grave a sin as the one who leaves out faith. I mean he must preach repentance just as often, and with as much emphasis, and to as many people as he preaches faith. To omit repentance, to ignore it, to depreciate it, is rebellion and treason. Mark its relative importance: You may make a mistake about baptism and be saved, for baptism is not essential to salvation ... but ‘Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.’ So said the Master Himself. Repentance is a preparatory work. For thus saith the Lord: ‘Break up your fallow ground and sow not among thorns.’ No harvest can be gathered from an unplowed field. The fallow ground needs to be broken up. ... Whoever starts this side of repentance makes a false beginning which vitiates his whole Christian profession. When true repentance was preached and emphasized, there were not so many nominal professors of

religion. *To leave out or minimize repentance, no matter what sort of a faith you preach, is to prepare a generation of professors who are such in name only.* I give it as my deliberate conviction, founded on twenty-five years of ministerial observation, that the Christian profession of today owes its lack of vital godliness, its want of practical piety, its absence from the prayer meeting, its miserable semblance of missionary life, very largely to the fact that old-fashioned repentance is so little preached. You can’t put a big house on a little foundation. And no small part of such preaching comes from a class of modern evangelists who desiring more for their own glory to count a great number of converts than to lay deep foundations, reduce the conditions of salvation by one-half and make the other half but some intellectual trick of the mind rather than a radical spiritual change of the heart.”

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Another Dead Rock God Celebrated. — An estimated 250,000 people turned up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on February 6 for a concert celebrating the 60th anniversary of the birth of reggae legend Bob Marley (“Lakhs turn up for Bob Marley Anniversary,” *The Himalayan*, Feb. 7). Performers extolled peace

and love, but rockers define these differently than the Bible. Rock & roll peace/love is a tranquil scene where people do as they please and enjoy emotional highs without moral restraint; whereas the Bible says “there is no peace to the wicked” and “this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments” (Isa. 48:22; 57:21; 1 Jn. 5:3). Marley is regarded as a prophet of the Rastafarian religion, which worships Ethiopia’s ex-emperor Halle Selassie as a god and considers Ethiopia the Promised Land. Marley is extremely popular and his music influential, though he has been dead since 1981. His photo can be seen in major cities throughout the world, as well as in the most out-of-the-way places, such as the back streets of Kathmandu, Nepal, or Nadi, Fiji. All of this reminds us of the worldliness of Contemporary Christian Music, which is evident in the fact that popular CCM artists listen to and imitate secular rock and do not warn of its evil influence. How many CCM artists do you know of that have warned about rock gods such as Bob Marley, Elvis Presley, Jim Morrison, and John Lennon, who have led multitudes to eternal hell through their glorification of rebellion against the Bible and their false christs? How many have urged young people to separate from the carnal music created by such men?

Former Abortionist Explains How A Nation Was Deceived. —

In an important report on the history of the pro-abortion movement in America, David Kupelian interviewed Bernard Nathanson, M.D., former abortionist who had a central role in selling abortion to a nation (“How Lying Marketers Sold Roe v. Wade to America,” *WorldNetDaily*, Jan. 20). Nathanson was co-founder of NARAL, National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws. He describes how the leaders of the movement came up with catchy but deceptive slogans such as describing abortion as “Freedom of Choice.” Nathanson says: “We persuaded the media that the cause of permissive abortion was a liberal, enlightened, sophisticated one. Knowing that if a true poll were taken, we would be soundly defeated, we simply fabricated the results of fictional polls. We announced to the media that we had taken polls and that 60 percent of Americans were in favor of permissive abortion. This is the tactic of the self-fulfilling lie. Few people care to be in the minority. We aroused enough sympathy to sell our program of permissive abortion by fabricating the number of illegal abortions done annually in the U.S. The actual figure was approaching 100,000, but

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the figure we gave to the media repeatedly was one million. Repeating the big lie often enough convinces the public. The number of women dying from illegal abortions was around 200-250 annually. The figure we constantly fed to the media was 10,000. These false figures took root in the consciousness of Americans, convincing many that we needed to crack the abortion law. Another myth we fed to the public through the media was that legalizing abortion would only mean that the abortions taking place illegally would then be done legally. In fact, of course, abortion is now being used as a primary method of birth control in the U.S. and the annual number of abortions has increased by 1,500 percent since legalization." Note the crucial role of the mainstream media in selling the deceptive abortion scheme.

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Rock & Roller Recognizes That Rock Is About Sex.

— I received the following perceptive observation from a reader on Jan. 27: "Last night on TV I came across a young man named Jeffrey Johnson leading a group of folks in prayer. They were anxiously waiting to audition for the TV show 'American Idol.' He introduced himself

as 'a minister who leads praise and worship; I prayed a lot over American Idol.' Johnson sang 'In the Still of the Night.' When he finished, Gene Simmons [of the rock group KISS] gave his assessment: 'I think you're a country artist, and I'll tell you why. If you sing pop lyrics, you're going to have a problem with your ministry. Because rock and roll by definition — and popular music — is about sexuality. The rules are different for country. You can sing Christian oriented lyrics and be acceptable, and you can sell millions of records.' It's alarming that Gene Simmons sees a problem with a Christian being involved with popular music; however, many in our fundamental Baptist churches are just like this Jeff Johnson — viewing rock music as an a-moral form of worship, or as [harmless] entertainment, ignoring overwhelming evidence to the contrary."

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Man Dies At Benny Hinn Healing Crusade.

— A 52-year-old man died of an apparent heart attack on January 22 while attending Benny Hinn's "healing" crusade in Bangalore, India ("When the miracle failed to save a life," Deccan Herald, Jan. 23). Bogus "faith healers" like Hinn bring reproach to the cause of Christ. (No one ever died when they were seeking healing from

Christ.) Benny Hinn claims to have received the anointing of the late female evangelist Kathryn Kuhlman, and that might well be true, as she also was bogus. In his book **Healing: A Doctor in Search of a Miracle**, Dr. William Nolen dedicates an entire chapter to his experiences investigating Kuhlman's healing crusades. Though sympathetic to Kuhlman as a person, Nolen was unable to document medically even one case of physical healing. At the time of his investigation, Dr. Nolen was chief of surgery at Meeker County Hospital in Litchfield, Minnesota. In his book *Occult ABC*, Kurt Koch described his own research into Kuhlman's healing ministry. He carefully followed up on a list of 28 cases of alleged healings in Minneapolis, Minnesota. "Ten had not been healed, seven had experienced an improvement in their condition, eleven had diseases in which the mind can play an important part. In the whole of this extensive report, there is not one clear case of healing from an organic disease." God heals today in answer to prayer, but He does not promise always to heal and there are no apostolic gifts of healing operative today.

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India Confers Award On Widow of Missionary Killed By Radical Hin-

us. — On Jan. 26, the Indian government conferred the prestigious Padma Shri award to Gladys Staines, the wife of missionary Graham Staines who, with his two young sons, was burned to death by a Hindu mob in 1999. After losing her husband and two sons, ages 10 and 8, Mrs. Staines stayed in India another four years to complete a leprosy hospital for needy Indian people. Eighteen men were sentenced to death for the Staines murders in Sept. 2003.

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Pop Rock Stars Support Radical Homosexual Organization.

— More than 30 pop and rock artists have joined forces to support the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) by donating songs to a benefit album, *Love Rocks*. The HRC is at the forefront of the push for homosexual rights, including "marriage," and the silencing of all opposition to homosexuality. The artists include The Dixie Chicks, Mandy Moore, Dolly Parton, Carole King, Yoko Ono, and Synda Lauper. Parton hosts the Southern Gospel Hall of Fame at her Dollywood center in Tennessee. The entertainment industry is at the forefront of tearing down the walls of biblical morality in society today.

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explain Him away! He is light, love, longevity, and Lord. He is goodness, kindness, gentleness, and God. He is holy, righteous, mighty, powerful, and pure. His ways are right, His word is eternal, His will is unchanging, and His mind is on me. He is my Redeemer, He is my Savior, He is my guide, and He is my peace! He is my joy, He is my comfort, He is my Lord, and He rules my life! I serve Him because His bond is love, His burden is light, and His goal for me is abundant life. I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise, the power of the powerful, the ancient of days, the ruler of rulers, the leader of leaders, the overseer of the overcomers, and the sovereign Lord of all that was and is to come.

And if that seems impressive to you, try this for size. His goal is a relationship with ME! He will never leave me, never forsake me, never mislead me, never forget me, never overlook me, and never cancel my appointment in His appointment book! When I fall, He lifts me up! When I fail, He forgives! When I am weak, He is strong! When I am lost, He is the way! When I am afraid, He is my courage! When I stumble, He steadies me! When I am hurt, He heals me! When I am broken, He mends me!

When I am blind, He leads me! When I am hungry, He feeds me! When I face trials, He is with me! When I face persecution, He shields me! When I face problems, He comforts me! When I face loss, He provides for me! When I face death, He carries me home! He is everything for everybody everywhere, every time, and every way. He is God, He is faithful. I am His, and He is mine! My Father in heaven can whip all the fathers of this world. So, if you're wondering why I feel so secure, understand this ... He said it and that settles it. God is in control, I am on His side, and that means all is well with my soul. Everyday is a blessing for GOD Is!

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Deceptive Bible Advertising. -- Zondervan is advertising the inclusive language Today's New International Version (TNIV) as "Timeless truth; today's language." A bigger lie was not told by former President Bill Clinton. In countless places the TNIV changes "he" to "they"; "brothers" to "brothers and sisters"; "father" to "parent"; etc. This might be today's language but it is not the truth and it is not accurate translation. No man has the authority to change the words of Scripture, because God has expressed His

thoughts in specific words, and to change the words is to change the meaning. For example, in Revelation 3:20 the Lord Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." It is a lovely invitation to individuals. But the TNIV changes this to "I will come and eat with them, and they with me." Who gave the NIV translators the right to change the pronouns? What audacity! Have they never read Revelation 22:18-19?

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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.

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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

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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

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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]. — CC □ □

REVELATION . . .

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is the patron saint of the area of Guadalajara, and they worship this little doll as the goddess of fertility, taking care of their crops for the year. During the spring she is taken out to the fields where the priest blesses the fields in the name of this goddess. In June she is brought back into the city of Guadalajara and rotated among the various Catholic churches where thousands pour into the churches to worship her. This is what they are trying to do in Mexico, they are trying to make something similar to this Acropolis where they can bring in the various gods and goddess from the various places of Mexico.

Here upon this temple site at Pergamos, they not only had this huge altar to Zeus, but they also worshiped other heathen deities, such as Athena, Dionysus, Apollo, Jupiter, Minerva, Venus and Bacchus. But mostly, they had the worship of Asklepios or Esculapius. This god was the physician god of that city and region, and its symbol was the serpent. As I thought about this, I wondered if maybe this was the origin of the caduceus, the symbol used by physicians today, which has a serpent on it. It has all come from this physician god that was located in the city of Pergamos and whose symbol was the

serpent.

This city was the first city of Asia that also had a temple for the worship of Augustus Caesar. It was erected around 29 A.D. which showed that they were very early in their allegiance to Emperor worship. Another interesting fact is that the title "chief temple keeper of Asia" was the title given to this city, showing the respect of the city and the supreme importance that they had in their worship of all of these heathen idols.

At the time of the writing of this book, this city was the very center of Emperor worship. This is what is referred to in verse 13 where the Lord says, "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is." At this time, Satan's seat was here in the city of Pergamos.

This city was also a cultural city. They had a huge library of over 200,000 volumes, second only to Alexandria, but the city now has long since vanished. It's no longer there. There's a small city by the name of Bergama that is near the ruins of the old site. But this is the city of Pergamos, a city steeped in heathenism; a city filled with idolatry; a city that had gods of all kinds; a city that was famed because they were noted as being the chief temple-keepers of all Asia. But in the midst of this city the Lord has one of His churches. The church of Pergamos.

Now the period of Pergamos, this period of time that we spoke to you about represents around 315-606 A.D. is a period of great corruption. This is when we find the most corruption infiltrating what we might term as Christendom. The reason is, it was a period of great corruption because it was the period of great compromise. Satan is now going to change his tactics. As we noted in our studies of the church at Smyrna, Satan was the great enemy of the churches. And the Lord prophesied and predicted and told them that they were going to be persecuted by the devil or by Satan. He said to this church at Smyrna, "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou are rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days" (2:9-10). So we see that the Lord says that intense tribulation, persecution is going to fall upon these churches until many of them are going to be martyred and put to death. But that did not stamp out Christianity. It did not kill the churches. In fact, the churches multiplied in spite of the fact that not only thousands but even millions of real true believers and

churches were slaughtered and killed during that time of intense persecution, yet if you read your histories, you find that they still grew and expanded; that there were entire sections of Europe where they were noted for their being so many of these that were called Anabaptists, in spite of all of the persecution.

And so, Satan is smarter than we are. He'll change his tactics. You know we sometimes make up our mind what we're going to do, and we will die trying to do it, even though we find out we're not getting anywhere with it, but Satan is not that way. If he finds one set of tactics fails, he'll switch. He doesn't mind changing if he finds something is not effective, he will switch to something that is more effective. And so persecution had failed, so now he stops the persecution and instead begins to infiltrate and to corrupt the churches. His plan was to favor the faith that he had fought, but by favoring it, getting on the inside whereby he might defile that which he found that he was not able to destroy. So the period of Pergamos is to be a time of great corruption caused by the great compromise of church and state.

Now this is exactly what the name Pergamos means. We pointed out to you that these names, each

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of them, have a significance, a meaning, and the name Pergamos comes from two Greek words. One *gameo*, which means "to marry" and preceded by the prefix "*per*", Pergamos, it means to marry twice, or "twice married." So here we find a church that's still claims to be the bride of Christ but in reality is married to the world. This well represents the condition under Constantine who professed religion and then merged or married Church and State together.

Now the world and, if you read your history books, will refer to this as the triumph of Christianity. The triumph of Christianity is supposed to have been when Constantine became converted. He went out there to his army; he told them to get out into the sea or the ocean, and he told them to take their swords and to brandish them in the air above their heads and to circle them around, and then to bend down and immerse themselves into the water, whereby all of them were "baptized", each one baptizing himself. And then he made the Church and the State to be synonymous in one head, whereby the State became subservient under the church and the state became the executioners for the church. So what the world terms the "triumph of Christianity" that occurred

there in the 4th century, around 325 A.D. was really the marriage of the Church and State under Constantine. And when this occurred, Constantine became the head of the Church as well as Emperor, and he retained and took on himself a title that is called "Pontifex Maximus" a heathen title that he claimed for himself, and which the Popes of Rome continue to bear even to this very day.

Now that title Pontifex Maximus. When the Babylonian cult of the Magians was driven out of Babylon, they found a place at Pergamos that would accept them. We'll get into that a little later on next week, but the title of the chief priest of these Magians was "chief bridge-builder." The heathen title "chief bridge-builder" and in Latin, that is translated "Pontifex Maximus." That is the title of the Pope, Pontifex Maximus, Chief Bridge-builder, and it is a heathen title that was a part of the old Babylonian heathen worship.

Now then, the apostate church had now formed. It was gradual. It did not begin all at once, but it was a gradual growth, and the way that it gradually began is in the same fashion that we find Baptist churches walking today, that is, they began their little organizations such as they have today in Associations, Conventions, and other organized groups called

Fellowships, or whatever they might be, and this is the means whereby the Roman Catholic Church began to form whereby there were certain Bishops that exercised authority, not over one church as the pastor, but they began a bishop over various churches and over various organizations.

Dr. W. W. Barnes who is now dead, but has a book that I have in my office, called "A Study In Ecclesiasticism, A Study of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1845", I don't remember the last date is, but around 1945. Who is Dr. W. W. Barnes? Dr. Barnes was head of the Church History department of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, a seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was the most respected historian of the Southern Baptist Convention, so much so, that when the Convention wanted to have a history written of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. W. W. Barnes was authorized by the Convention to be the writer of that history. I have it in two volumes in my office.

Now in this book, "A Study in Ecclesiasticism, A Study of the Southern Baptist Convention," Dr. W. W. Barnes, just completely tears the Southern Baptist convention all apart as far as their organization is concerned. He makes one statement within that

book. He says, Though the Southern Baptist Convention has not yet reached the state as has the Roman Catholic church, the first step has already been taken because what the convention is today is exactly like what the Catholic church was in the first two centuries of their existence. This is what he says. I didn't say that, he did. Now I haven't quoted him verbatim, word for word. If I had thought in time, I would have brought the book into the pulpit with me and read it to you.

This is how Roman Catholicism began. It began by them organizing churches into these organizations and then pastors, who were pastors of the larger churches that were more influential began to exercise authority over the other churches, until ultimately they headed themselves up in one man, a man by the name of Constantine, who took for himself the title "the chief bridge-builder" Pontifex Maximus.

By now, the church had become fully corrupted. The church had become a political institution. It is now like that mustard seed that we find in the Parables of Matthew 13. Turn there for just a moment. Now we are not taking these seven parables in Matthew 13 and studying each one with each church, but one study within itself, is to take the seven feast days that you

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find in the book of Leviticus, and the seven parables that you find in Matthew 13, and the seven churches that you find in Revelation 2 and 3, and you find that the first feast, the first parable, and the first church are all talking about the same thing. The second feast, the second parable, the second church talk about the same thing. They all relate to the same general study, and they are all interrelated.

Now in the 13th chapter of Matthew, we read, "Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof" (Mt. 13:31-32).

Now the mustard seed is a small seed. I think some of you ladies may have even had one at one time or another. I have seen necklaces that had a little container on the bottom of it, and inside of there was a little small mustard seed. Sometimes you can find these at a religious book store. I have seen some of these, and it is a little mustard seed. Now the mustard seed is the smallest of seeds, or at

least, one of the smallest of seeds. When it is planted it just comes up as a small plant. Now some of you may have planted mustard seeds before in order that you might have some in your garden. I don't know that this would be exactly the same mustard seed here as what you would have in America, but I am sure it is very similar, but this seed never grows into a tree. And what the Lord is telling us in this parable is that you have a huge abnormal growth; a seed that should simply grow into a small plant, and just produce a few other seeds, we find that instead, this plant grows into a huge tree; it becomes, it says, "But when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree," a tree so huge that it said "the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."

Now when you turn to the 18th chapter of the book of Revelation, we find something about these birds that lodge in the branches of the tree. Now we're talking about the same thing. This is Babylon. This is Satan's apostate church that we're reading about here in chapter 18, it says "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying,

"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of

devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird" (Rev. 18:1-2). We find that we are reading here about this false apostate church of the last days, and when it talks about that, she has become the dwelling place of all of these evil and hateful birds. We are reading about the fact that in this apostate church, she has become the recipient of all of the false doctrines and the corruptible doctrines that there are in the world. This is exactly what occurred during the times of Constantine.

During the time of Constantine, the church that Jesus started was to be a little small church, an individual church here, another church there, each one being a separate and individual church, never combining or merging together into a great big "tree" or a great big church. But that's exactly what happened in the days of Constantine. They brought all of these churches together into what might be termed a huge ecumenical church that was going to bring all of these churches together. And when they did so, they opened up their branches for all of the fowls of the air to defile. This talks about all the false doctrines that came in and all of the false religions that were brought in, because it was during the time of Constantine and his successors, that things that had been

called heathen, all of a sudden were "Christianized." Heathen priests, all of a sudden became "Christian" priests. They had been the priests of this false religion, a heathen pagan religion, but now Constantine issued orders that they were to become Christian priests, and everyone was to become a follower of Christianity. And so this priest who may have been a follower of Minerva, or Apollo, or Jupiter, all of a sudden became Christian priests. They did not change their form of worship, they did not change their idols. They did not change their practices, they simply changed the titles, and they said that this would now be Christianity.

As an example. The Virgin of Zapopan that I mentioned to you earlier, the Virgin of Zapopan is the patron saint of the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco in Mexico. Now that little Indian doll, I do not have any idea how old that practice may be, but it is much older than Roman Catholicism. When the Spaniards came over to the Americas, the Indians of Jalisco, the Tarascan Indians, were worshiping that little Indian doll. It was a part of heathen, paganism. But, in order to convert these Indians to Catholicism or Christianity as they referred to it, they allowed

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them to just simply bring that heathen doll into the Roman Catholic church and it then became a Christian celebration. It's the same heathen practice that it was before, but they now do it under the name of Roman Catholicism. This is why you find that Roman Catholicism is a mixture of all of the heathen pagan religions of the world.

The beads they use in their rosaries did not originate with Catholics. That is a part of the old Babylonian worship. In fact, in China, they do the same thing to their heathen gods. It is not Christian at all. We have a book in the church library, that if you have not read, you should read. It is titled "The Two Babylons" written by Hislop. It is documented. It is factual. It will show you that just about 99% of everything that you find within Roman Catholicism is nothing more than a so-called Christianizing of the heathen worship of the old Babylonian religion. The same thing is true of the Masonic Lodge. Nearly all of it is nothing more than a conversion of old heathen Babylonian worship. This is what we find Constantine brought into the Roman Catholic Church.

The heathen temples were changed. And they became Christian churches. And then I thought about this today, that all the children were Christened.

President Jimmy Carter. I heard it on the radio this morning, he was visiting his son in Calhoun, Georgia, this weekend, and the reason they went there is because they were going to church where their grandchild was going to be christened. Well, I think that's a misrepresentation on the part of the reporter who wrote that. It shows that he doesn't know very much about Baptists because, so far as I know, Baptists don't christen anyone. If they do, I'm not aware of it. They have another name for it, they call it "baby dedication." It's the same thing, it just has a different label.

Have you heard of these churches, Baptist churches, that have "Baby dedication day?" It's the same thing as Catholic christening. It's the same thing. No change at all. You won't find anything in Scripture about it at all. Any Baptist church that has "Baby Day" in which they bring the babies to the front for Christening, is a copying of Roman Catholicism. That's where it came from. This is the church age of Pergamos when all of this corruption brought in and formed Roman Catholicism.

One other thing concerning these corruptions. You know the heathen have always had their special feast days, their days in which they have feasting and drinking. So what did they do? They brought all of these days in as well, and they now call them "Christian" days. Christmas.

Do you know where Christmas came from? It's a Roman Catholic day. In fact, the name Christmas means "Christ Mass." And Christ-mas is not a Christian day at all. It was brought over from heathenism. In Mexico they worship the fire god on Christmas day. In certain areas of Mexico, you can go out on Christmas eve, and you will find that the Indians will go up on top of the mountains and build huge bonfires, all in worship and honor of the son of the fire god. They say that the son of the fire god was born on December 25th, so they have their celebrations on Christmas, December the 24th, just like people up here have their partying and everything on Christmas Eve, December the 24th as well. Christmas is a heathen, pagan holiday.

Lent, Easter, all of these are heathen pagan holidays. Now if you don't know very much about them, get you an Encyclopaedia, any Encyclopaedia, and just look up the word Christmas. Look up the word Easter. And as you read them, and as you see what those articles tell you, they will tell you that they were all heathen, pagan holidays that had been brought over by the Roman Catholic Church into Christianity and it is a part of the marriage of the Church and all these heathen, pagan religions into one church that would then be married with the State, with the Church and State having the same head, Constantine, being both the

head of the church and the head of the government. This is a time of Pergamos. The time of the marriage of Church and State.

Next, we're going to look at this seat of Satan, because it is when Satan has done his most damaging work. He did not really do a lot of damage by persecution. Oh, he killed millions of people, but seemingly, like that hydra headed monster, you cut off one head and two heads appear. And that's exactly what happened with believers and with churches. They killed one Christian and yet his witness would cause others to believe, and Christianity spread like wildfire, and he found out that he couldn't destroy them by persecution. So what he did was to modify his tactics, and Satan became the arch-corruptor of Christendom. Rather than turn against it, now he was going to embrace it, and by embracing it, he was going to defile it, corrupt it, and if he could, destroy it from the inside.

Next message, we're going to look at Satan's seat, or Satan's throne. We'll look as to where Satan came from, and what he was doing here in the city of Pergamos at this time.

Notice that at the end of every one of these letters the admonition is given, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." We're to listen. We're to hear, with the idea of obedience to whatever the Lord has for us. □

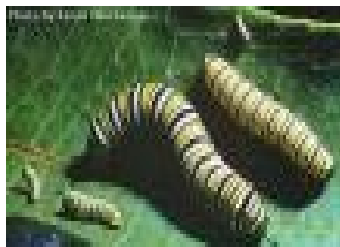
The Monarch Butterfly and the Milkweed

Question: Is it true that monarch butterflies and the milkweed plant depend upon each other?

Answer: It is true, and it's really an *amazing* story. Milkweed is poisonous. When damaged or bitten into, it sends extra poisonous sap to the area as a way of protecting itself.

Monarch caterpillars, though, feed on milkweed. However when they hatch, they're not entirely immune to the milkweed's poison and they *could* die from eating their food, especially as the milkweed would send extra poison to the section being eaten.

To overcome this problem, the caterpillar cuts out a circular section of the leaf that has low concentrations of the poison, and take it aside to feed on while the plant is busy sending lots of poison to



the wound. As the caterpillar feeds on the leaf section it had cut out, it *builds* its immunity to the poison. This enables it to eat the milkweed without any problems. In doing this, it also becomes poisonous *itself* to predators! So, the poison of the milkweed protects the monarch, and the monarch in return pollinates the milkweed!

This relationship *defies* evolution — how many monarch caterpillars died trying to figure out how to become resistant to the milkweed's poison? Of course, God created it this way! — AIG □ □

power of God.”

4. “Open Communion” rejects church discipline. Therefore is wicked and sinful (1 Cor. 5:11-12; 2 Thess. 3:6). If one is only to “examine himself,” then he is not to be examined or “judged” by the church.

5. Those who believe in “Open Communion” invite extremely sinful church members and even the unsaved to the Lord's table (1 Cor. 5:11-

12) whereas God says, “Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils (1 Cor. 10:21). The Lord also says, “*with such an one know not to eat*” (1 Cor. 5:11) If, then, the Book tells us there are such with whom we should not eat, is it not sinful to invite them to eat with us?

6. An “Open Communion” Baptist in order to be consistent must eat with the Roman Catholic who prays to priests and images of saints and goes to a human confessional and kisses the Pope's toe! He must eat with the “Campbellite” whose sins have been saturated in water but not “purged” by the blood. He must eat with the Unitarian who flatly rejects the Deity of Christ. He must eat with the *modernist* in all of his depredations and looseness. He must eat with the Methodist who corrupts the Lord's baptism. He must eat with the “sinless perfectionist” who the Bible says is a “liar” and have “no truth in them” (1 Jn. 1). He must eat with the catalog of corrupt church members of 1 Corinthians 5:11.

Therefore, away with this open communion modernism and let us stay with the Paulicians, Waldenses, and Ana-Baptists who kept the pure Apostolic doctrine and handed it to us in purity. If we are

going to believe in the “universal church” we should join the Catholics who have taught it for these 1500 years! □

DISCIPLINE . . .

(Continued from page 4)

matter is never addressed by the church. Somehow we must find a way to get back to holding church members responsible for their actions, especially when reproach is brought on the church. If a church loses her testimony in the community because of failure to address situations requiring discipline, she loses much of her reason to exist. Church discipline of members may be in order. — Baptist Trumpet.

CROUCH . . .

(Continued from page 2)

TBN-owned jet and 30 homes across the country, among them a pair of Newport Beach mansions and a ranch in Texas. Ed. How anybody could think that this sort of thing is of God, I do not know. Nonetheless, he and others like him, (Benny Hinn, Copeland, Price, etc.) do not lack for followers. Yes, Crouch works the “prosperity gospel” for all it's worth, and it is worth a lot to him. — The Cornerstone Challenge, Belmont, MA via Christian News.□□□□□

Salvation from first to last is by faith in the justifying righteousness of Christ.

OPEN . . .

(Continued from page 1)

is restricted to a self-examination of each church member (not professed Christians), after all other restrictions including the church's right to judge (1 Cor. 5:11-12). Its membership is a reflection upon holy Scripture. Twisting it and rejecting it to suit one's own self. Therefore, “they do err not knowing the scriptures, neither the