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Faithfulness In A Day of Apostasy

By Harry A. Ironside

The circumstances in which the apostle Paul who was found as the prisoner of the Lord, when penning his second letter to Timothy, largely gave answer to the place in which faithfulness to the truth is likely to put one in these closing days of the dispensation. Whether believers may be called on to endure actual persecution, even to deprivation of liberty, as Satan's plans are developed, may be an open question. But it is very evident that the gospel of the grace of God and the great truths connected with the mystery of Christ and the church were never in greater disfavor among so-called leaders in Protestantism than at the present time.

Rome's attitude toward the gospel has always been distinctly antagonistic, and persecution would be as severe today, did she have unrestrained power as in the bloody centuries just before and after the Reformation. But it is a

new thing to find men of prominence in Protestant churches and great semi-religious organizations lined up under the Protestant banner, boldly denouncing the gospel and holding up to ridicule those who preach it. More than that, so much as in them lies, they have not refrained from using the most unprincipled means where-

by to hinder the usefulness of men who proclaim salvation through the atoning Blood of Christ, and especially those who thus set forth the glorious truth of the Lord's near return.

It is a solemn fact that the Word of God predicts just such an apostate condition as the last state of the professing church on earth. And it behooves all

lovers of Christ and His truth to bestir themselves to increased faithfulness and devotion in days such as these. Never was there a time when it was so necessary to "*Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.*"

Faithful preaching and faithful living go hand in hand. The time has already come when men, generally, will not endure sound doctrine. In accordance with their own carnal desires they are heaping to themselves teachers whose sentimental platitudes, and whose well-rounded unscriptural methods, tickle their itching ears. Having turned away from the truth, they turn eagerly to all kinds of fables and are ready to believe anything or everything that hides man's true condition and obscures the cross, with eternal issues that hang upon the

Faith Functioning In Christian Life

By J. B. Gambrell

There are many analogies between natural and spiritual things. Paul thought of Christian work in terms of agriculture when he wrote, "Paul may plant, Apollos waters, but God giveth the increase." The truth is the seed and hearts the ground, good or bad, into which the seed is cast. The Holy Scriptures abound in like expressions, making the spiritual plain to us by means of things visible. We must always think of

Christianity as a living thing, like natural objects, corn, wheat, etc. It has form, but the life is before the form and vastly more important than form. The form does not create life and never can.

It is at this vital point that Baptismal regeneration, as a dogma, has enthralled a large part of the world. The Romish and Greek churches, with their vast

(See **FAITH** on page 22)

(See **IRON** on page 2)

Quiz The Pastor -- #37**Is Thanksgiving Day Found In The Bible?**

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: Is Thanksgiving Day found in the Bible?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IRONSIDE . . .

(Continued from page 1)

acceptance or rejection of the gospel message.

Everyone who desires the Lord's approval at His soon coming judgment seat may well take to heart the solemn admonition: "*Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*"

One does not need to be what is commonly called an "evangelist" to do the work of one. Every believer who circulates gospel tracts, every one who uses his pen to write to his unsaved friends seeking to impress upon them their need and God's remedy, every personal worker as well as those who take the public platform telling out the "old, old story," is doing the work of an evangelist. Gospel days are nearing their close. The dispensation is fast coming to an awful end for those who are in rebellion against God and His truth. The Lord's return is drawing near. Let us spend and be spent for Him in our brief season for faithful testimony.

The love of many waxes cold. Imitators of Demas, who loved the present world and left Paul, abound. The times demand men like faithful Luke and "*profitable*" Mark who value what is of God and will stand unflinchingly for His truth whatever the cost.

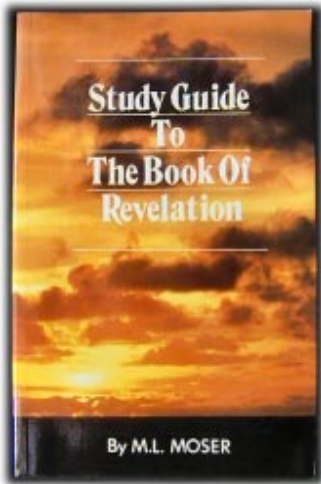
(See **IRON** on page 23)**THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE**

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Preached April 29, 1976 -- Message #18

The Doctrine of the Nicolaitanes

By M. L. Moser, Editor



“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 has 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.

This morning, we found that the Lord had something to commend this church for and that He had some things for which He was going to rebuke the church. Also, this morning we talked about the doctrine of Balaam or Balak. This evening we want to notice what He says in verse 15 concerning this second major difference that they had. He says, *“So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.”*

We do not know very much about the Nicolaitanes. We know a little about them, but all we really know is what we read about them here in this book, and to a certain extent, in some of the histories that were written about the first, second and

third centuries.

We find here that the Nicolaitanes felt that they had a license to sin. They felt that because they were saved, and had eternal life, they could go out and live any way they wanted to, and they could not lose their salvation. We have some that are like that today. We have those like that today. They try to hold on to the doctrine of the eternal security and yet live in sin. They say *“I am saved for eternity. I cannot lose my salvation. Therefore that means I can go out and do whatever I want to and I’m still going to be saved.”* And they sort of act like that. I have known some like this, who felt that since they were saved and had eternal life, they could just go out and live like the devil, and they rather well try to go out and live like the devil.

Now this is not true. The Lord tells us that this is not true. There is an error that is prevalent among such people, and the error is that you can be saved and not have a change in your nature, and that simply is not true. When one is born again, and receives Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, they are changed, as Paul says in the book of Corinthians, *“Behold all things have passed away, behold all things are become new.”* The reason is because there has been a change in their nature, and as one person ex-

pressed it some years ago, their *“want-tos”* were changed as well. They used to *“want to”* do this, and they *“wanted to do that,”* and they *“wanted to”* do the other, but now since they have been saved they now want to serve the Lord. They want to go to church. They want to live for the Lord. Their *“want tos”* have been changed.

But what about that person who says that they are saved, and because they have eternal life and cannot lose their salvation, they can go out and live anyway they want to and not worry about it, and just really *“live it up”* so to speak. Well, the Apostle John tells us in another book that such people have never been saved, their nature has not been changed. All things have not really passed away because their desires and their love is still to enjoy the pleasures of sin. John tells us that since their desires have not changed, and their *“want tos”* have not changed, this shows that they have never been truly saved.

Turn with me to the Book of First John. I want you to note how John affirms these statements. He doesn’t say *maybe* these are true; he doesn’t say it *might* happen; but these are just plain statements of fact. He is dogmatic in the way that he says it. Beginning in verse 15, *“Love not the*

(See **REV** on page 11)

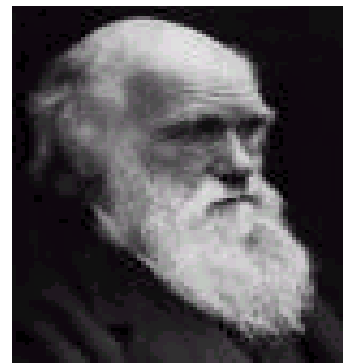


No Compromise On Marriage

By Roy L. McLaughlin

Darwin and the Mind of Man

By Bolton Davidheiser



On March 14, 2005, a county judge in San Francisco, Calif., struck down the state's marriage law with very sweeping language that left no room for compromise. This decision once again highlights what we who support biblical marriage are up against.

Without question, the most frightening aspect of this liberal judge's decision was his declaration that the meaning of normal marriage serves no rational purpose — a clear sign of the extreme radical left worldview.

Excuse me Judge, normal marriage joins the two sexes together and gives them the opportunity to provide children with a mother and father. You can't get any more rational than that! It's the joining together of two of the "same-sex" that is absolutely "irrational."

But, wait, there's more. Judge Kramer also flatly rejected as "separate but equal" a brief filed by California's attorney general defending the state's domestic partnership law. In

fact, Judge Kramer's reasoning is a warning to anyone who thinks there is a "middle ground" on marriage. He declared that the state's attempt to provide homosexual couples with some of the benefits of marriage actually undermined the state's efforts to preserve the normal definition of marriage.

Watch this, my friends, because if Judge Kramer's reasoning regarding domestic partnerships or civil unions is widely embraced by other judicial activists, as I suspect it will be, legislative efforts to compromise on marriage will prove detrimental. No politician can now credibly claim, as so many do, that they support traditional marriage and civil unions for same-sex couples. Civil unions and domestic partnerships are a "Trojan horse" judges still use to radically redefine the institution of marriage.

The bottom line is that we are rapidly losing the right to govern ourselves and to redefine our common

(See **MARRIAGE** on pg. 24)

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?"

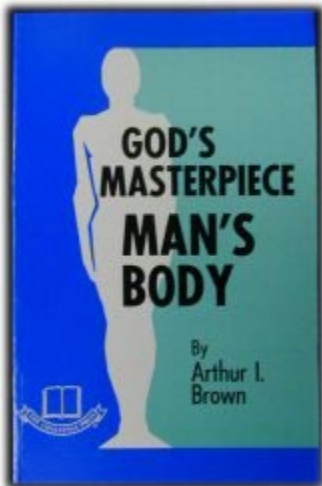
In his autobiography, which he wrote in his old age for his children, Darwin said, "But then arises the doubt — can the mind of man, which has, as I fully believe, been developed from a mind as low as that possessed by the lowest animal, be trusted when it draws such grand conclusions? May not these 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 spi-

(See **DARWIN** on page 21)



God's Masterpiece -- The Human Body #26

People Who Bleed To Death

By Arthur I. Brown

We are now engaged in a study of the amazing fluid which circulates throughout the body, moving through approximately 50,000 miles of pipes, propelled by the greatest pump in the world — the heart — which is a small muscular organ weighing about three-quarters of a pound, and contracts seventy-two times a minute. This blood, some of whose wonders are examined in the preceding articles, makes up about one-twelfth of the body weight, so that a normal adult possesses about twelve pints of this precious life-giving liquid.

I have told you something about its composition and uses, and now will continue this phase of our discussion. New discoveries are continually being made concerning the blood, and our ideas are changing in regard to many of its remarkable properties and functions. What I give you here is correct according to present understanding and probably not

far from the exact truth.

We have seen how the ingested food is acted upon by the various digestive juices and in the form of chyme — the name given to the softened and digested mass — is gradually absorbed through the thin internal wall of the small intestine. Millions of little fingers, called villi, projecting into the interior, apparently remove forcibly the sugars, peptones, proteoses, and fats, the latter changed into fatty acids and glycerin by steapsin, the principal fat-splitting enzyme. Then these fatty acids combine with the alkali of the intestinal fluids to form soaps, which in solution are absorbable. You might be curious to know what becomes of the soaps. Some are absorbed as such; some form an emulsion with other fats. This emulsion results from an operation which divides the fat into fine particles. These will be suspended in the alkaline solution. Eventually, fat appears as a white emulsion called chyle in the absorbing vessels of the small intestine. All this is a most complex system of infinite exactitude which works quietly and constantly so that the blood gets the food

and fuel substances which are absolutely necessary for the life of the 50 to 100 million million cells scattered throughout the body. These changed foods are taken by the cell individuals and by some unknown process assimilated and burned up. These cells dump their garbage into the moving blood stream, which carries the waste products to skin, lungs, and kidneys, and so removes them from the body.

We have seen how the blood protects us from invading enemies in the form of bacteria, a remarkable defensive mechanism working largely through certain white blood cells known as phagocytes — body policemen which call in large reinforcements when there is need to repel a dangerous army of disease-producing germs. These germs are eaten and destroyed by these courageous and always-on-the-job leucocytes.

I have described to you some of the wonders of blood clotting, a remarkable process, depending on a series of complex operations, which begin when the cut skin cells release a strange substance known as thromboplastin, as do the small blood platelets found

in large numbers in the blood and placed there for this purpose. Then we discovered there are some unfortunate individuals who have a defective blood-clotting mechanism and suffer from the disease of hemophilia, in which it may be impossible to stop a small flow of blood so that death results.

There are many interesting facts connected with this disease. By way of reminding you of the essential features of this phenomenon, let me repeat briefly what clotting or coagulation is. First among the factors in thromboplastin or thrombokinase, a protein substance carried in the tiny bodies known as platelets floating in the blood stream. These platelets are ready to break open whenever there is need, and their chemical content is thrown into the circulation along with a similar substance secreted by the cut skin cells.

The second clotting factor is prothrombin, also a protein, but instead of being carried in little containers, it is in solution in the blood stream. Prothrombin is manufactured by the liver, and one

(See **BODY** on page 6)

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 5)

of the necessary building blocks for its manufacture is vitamin K.

The third factor, calcium, is found everywhere in the body — bones, teeth, and tissue cells. These three factors unite their efforts to form thrombin which, however, is not the clot. The last operation consists in the action of thrombin on fibrinogen, which is always present in the blood, changing it into insoluble threads of fibrin, a network in which platelets and blood cells become enmeshed, hardening into a tangle of fibers and cells. Thus the fibrin plugs the leak, walls off the break, and seals the circulation once more into a closed system.

One aspect of hemophilia, the bleeder's disease, which always intrigues the student of the human mechanism, is its link with heredity. We have seen how the disease runs in families, affecting only males. The way this happens is so astonishing that I shall try to explain it to you in simple terms without too much detail. We know that each human germ cell contains in its first phase forty-eight chromosomes. The cells of women have two of the peculiar kind known as X-chromosomes, while the male cells have only one X-chromosome. Instead of the second X-chromosome,

the cells of men have an entirely unique structure known as the Y-chromosome. So, when the combination is xx, the possessor is always a female, when xy, always a male. We have noted how the germ cells split into two new cells, each carrying twenty-four chromosomes, and this means that whereas each of the divisions from the female cell will carry an x, only one of the divided male germ cells will be an x carrier, the other having the y.

If the male x cell chances to fertilize either of the female x cells, the product will be xx — a girl baby. If the male y cell combines with the female x cell, the baby will be a boy. It is obvious that the boy inherits his x-chromosome only from his mother, whereas the girl, getting two x-chromosomes, gets one from each parent. And this is the important feature — the genes which determine the blood-clotting faculty are carried in the x-chromosomes.

The presence of a normal x-chromosome in the germ cell fixes the pattern for normal blood-clotting, and decrees that the fertilized cell will mature into an individual whose blood coagulates in the normal way. If one of a woman's x-chromosomes is normal and the other defective, the normal chromosome will always

dominate the defective and fix the blood pattern for normal coagulation. It would be necessary for both her x-chromosomes to be defective for a woman to be hemophilic. But a man has only one x-chromosome, the one he inherits from his mother, and if it should chance to be defective there is no escaping its control. He is irrevocably set for hemophilia.

This means that the women whose cells carry one defective x-chromosome are unknown as carriers, for although they are not afflicted with the disease themselves, they are able to transmit it to their sons who chance to inherit their mother's defect. It is not absolutely impossible for a woman to be a bleeder, although there seems to be no authentic medical record of a female hemophiliac. If a carrier should marry a bleeder, and a girl baby should be born, there would be a fifty-fifty chance that she would be the product of a merger between the two defective x-chromosomes, and a bleeder. Such a union apparently has not occurred, for reasons which are sufficient but into which it is not necessary to go.

Our body's anti-clotting mechanism, very wonderful in its working, is not always perfect, for some reason or other. Then clots may form within the circulation, a condition known as thrombosis, the clot plugging the

blood vessel being known as a thrombus. Coronary thrombosis, or angina pectoris, is the formation of such a clot in any of the vessels which supply the tissues of the heart, and is a very common cause of heart failure. Sometimes the clot breaks loose from the wall of the blood vessel and travels in the blood stream. It is then known as an embolus, these drifting clots frequently causing death, especially if they lodge in the lungs, brain, or heart.

Is it not amazing that so many varied and complex processes, profoundly delicate and intertwined, can still go on in an orderly and routine manner, responding to changing conditions and sudden dangers in a way which staggers our imagination? Think of the materials circulating in the blood at any given moment — cells, platelets, foods or nutrients, enzymes, hormones, vitamins, metals and other minerals, acids and bases, coagulants, wastes and other poisons — all of these handled in superb fashion and in a mysterious manner quite beyond our understanding. Can any one dare to say this is the chance product of evolution? Who but God could possibly devise and regulate these infinitely complex operations?

In the next article I continue this subject and tell you more curious features regarding blood and its cir-

(See **BODY** on page 7)

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 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 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! □

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 6)

culation. Now for the rest of this article, I want to bring home to you again some of the truths which the Bible gives us about blood. In Leviticus 17:11, I read: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh atonement by reason of the life." This is an unexpected scientific affirmation, emphasized also in Deuteronomy 12:23 where we are told, "The blood is the life."

It is needful that we frequently remind ourselves of the incalculable value of the blood of Christ which was shed for us. As Jesus approached Calvary, you recall how He instituted that blessed ordinance of the bread and wine. And I read in Mark 14:23-24: "And he took a cup and when he had given thanks, he gave to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many."

Romans 5:9 tells us: "Much more then, being now justified by his *blood*,

shall we be saved from wrath through him." And in the first chapter of the letter to the Ephesians, I read that He "foreordained us unto adoption as sons through Jesus Christ ... in whom we have our redemption through his blood."

So, according to God there is no salvation for any of us apart from the blood of Jesus Christ. We gain heaven, not by trying to live a good life, not by being good citizens in our community, not by making the world a better place in which to live, not by any "works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy." You may be saying to yourself that you do not accept the Bible's authority. Well, do you know, it makes no difference what you think about the Bible and God's statement of His plan? It is not your idea about God that is important. It is His idea about you, and your relation to Jesus Christ. There is absolutely no salvation in any other way. You and I must surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ, if we are to escape Hell. What do you profit by gaining the world and losing your soul? Jesus Christ will save you instantly and completely for time and eternity, if you come. Will you do it? Words cannot describe Him and His beauty, but I know that HE'S WONDERFUL! [Next month: "The Pump The Drives the Blood."]



Q: How do computers show that evolution has an “information” problem? A:

A living organism is very much like a computer, made up of both hardware and software. The computer’s hardware is the physical parts that you can touch and feel, like the screws, cabinet and wires. *Our* hardware is the physical body that one can touch and feel. The computer’s *software* is the information that’s programmed and loaded into the computer, instructing it how to function. Without the program, the hardware will just sit there. *Our* software is the genetic code contained in each of our cells. Without this information, the body will cease to function. Do you think that if you placed *all* of the parts necessary to build a computer and left it long enough that eventually you could return and find a fully functioning computer? Of course not. Everyone recognizes that it takes intelligence to design and build a computer, yet humans are still considered by some people to be products of chance. Why, then, do many people reject

World News Roundup

the Creator God and still insist that human beings are the result of chance processes? The answer’s in the Bible beginning in Genesis — they are in rebellion against their Creator. — AIG

* * *

Harbinger of America’s Future. — Throughout history, the law has served several functions. In a free and morally upright society, it provides a framework within which the people can safely live their lives and pursue their dreams. In a dictatorship however, it devolves into a weapon by which the strong control the weak. The incredible events in Florida during this past week prove that the law has ceased to serve its original purpose

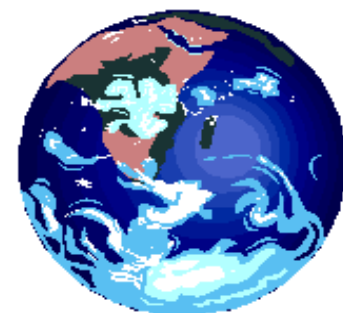
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It’s 1984 All Over Again. — “In recent weeks there have been stories about automobile companies installing ‘black boxes’ in their cars without informing car buyers. These will record all kinds of information that could be made available to the government, including speed, miles traveled, miles per gallon and so forth. Worse, they could be rigged to record conversations, and there goes your

privacy. Some cars already have these black boxes. “There’s nothing like having a government spy riding around in your car with you, which is what this amounts to. Today, more than ever big brother is intent on watching us, listening to us, gathering personal information about us. Anything to keep us in line. We zipped past 1984 24 years ago but more and more it’s looking as if somewhere down the road we made a U-turn.”

* * *

What do bathtubs have to do with the age of the universe? A: The bathtub is actually a wonderful way to show the difficulty in trying to age-date the universe using scientific methods. Imagine one day that you come home and find the bathtub half full of hot water, say 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Then you want to learn how long the water has been in the tub. There are many theories that you can explore. First, the water came out of the tap nearly boiling hot and has been cooling for a long time. Or secondly, the water was run at 150 degrees and has been cooling for less than an hour. Or maybe the water has been in the tub for only about 5 minutes, because someone knew you were coming home.



Mathematically there’s *no* way that you can prove any one theory to be more accurate than the other. The only way to *really* know is to *ask someone* who was there when the water was run in the tub. The same holds true for the age of the universe. The only way to know is to ask someone who was there. Since God was the only One there when the universe was created, we find our answers in God’s Word—and the universe is only *thousands*, not billions, of years old. — AIG

* * *

Senate Repeals Policy on US Tax Money for Overseas Health Clinics. — In a blow to pro-life Americans, the U.S. Senate voted 52-46 on Tuesday to repeal a Reagan-era policy that blocks U.S. aid from flowing to foreign groups that perform or advocate abortion. Supporters call it the Mexico City Policy, while critics call it the global gag rule. The policy, imposed by President Ronald Reagan in 1984, was re-

(See **WNR** on page 21)

La Voz Del Desierto



Arrebatamiento ...¿De la Iglesia o de los Salvos? Parte I

Por Marcos A. Curet

Algún día que sólo Dios sabe, el Señor Jesucristo vendrá a llevarse a todos aquellos que confían en Él. Él viene a encontrarse con todos los verdaderos creyentes en el aire (1ra

Corintios 15:51-52; 1ra Tesalonicenses 4:13-17). Esto es lo que se conoce como el *Arrebatamiento de los Salvos*.

Ahora, ¿por qué será que muchos, inclusive

bautistas, llaman a este evento de forma equivocada, *Arrebatamiento de la Iglesia*? ¿Será porque desconocen que el Señor Jesús edificó Su Iglesia y que los hombres también han edificado sus iglesias? ¿Será porque desconocen que en la actualidad existe la Iglesia del Señor, la que Él edificó con los discipulos que le preparó Juan el

Bautista (una Iglesia Bautista), y las edificada por los hombres? ¿Será porque desconocen que el Señor Jesús, es cabeza únicamente de Su Iglesia, la que Él fundó, y no de las iglesias fundadas por los hombres? Todas las iglesias fundadas por los hombres, tienen por cabeza un hom-

(Vea CURET en la pág. 10)

Talibanes Bautistas

Traducido de "The Baptist Challenge" Octubre 2004

Recientemente salió a la luz publica un informe sobre un predicador que asistió a una reunión de la organización "Compañerismo Bautista de la Biblia" (BBF) en Salem, New Hampshire. Dicho pastor observó que muchos de los presentadores mencionaron los "nuevos vientos" que están soplando entre los bautistas fundamentalistas. Estos presentadores advirtieron sobre aquellos que se preocupan sobre tales

cosas como la manera de vestir de las mujeres, sobre el pelo largo en los hombres, de la música "Rock," y sobre la alabanza contemporánea.

Los que todavía predicán contra tales cosas (y estos son pocos) fueron llamados "Bautistas Talibanes." ¿Me pregunto si Pablo era un Talibán Bautista? Él escribió 1ra Corintios 11:14-15 que el pelo largo en hombres es una vergüenza y que el pelo

largo en mujeres es una gloria. ¿Si no importan el pelo y tales cosas, por qué está ésto en la Biblia? Mis amigos, ciertamente existen vientos nuevos que soplan entre los bautista fundamentalistas, y son los vientos del error hablados en Efesios 4. Y ésto se refiere a los vientos de compromiso y mundanidad. Estos errores están siendo vertidos al aire de parte de los labios de los predicadores que han

negociado la buena batalla de la fe por un ministerio cómodo y popular.

Regularmente escucho a hombres y mujeres con corazones heridos porque no encuentran una iglesia sana en su área. Estos han visitado iglesia tras iglesia, y todo lo que encuentran son pastores comprometidos que no desean "menear" el barco. Estas familias quieren criar a sus

(Vea TALIBAN en la pág. 10)

CURET . . .

(Viene de la pág. 9)

bre: su fundador.

El que creyentes, que pertenecen a Iglesias fundadas por los hombres, usen la expresión *Arrebatamiento de la Iglesia*, se puede entender hasta cierto punto: ellos conocen el fundador de su iglesia, y saben que fue un hombre, y no Cristo. Para poder incluirse dentro de la Iglesia que Jesús edificó ellos, utilizan la expresión *Arrebatamiento de la Iglesia*, partiendo de la premisa errónea de que los salvos de todas las iglesias son parte de la Iglesia que Jesús edificó.

Si la Iglesia como Institución fuese cosa de hombres, el Señor no hubiese puesto tanto interés y dedicación en la edificación de ésta (Mateo 16:18; Efesios 5:25-27). Pero, la Iglesia del Señor, la que Él edificó con aquellos discípulos que le preparó Juan el Bautista (una Iglesia Bautista), es una Institución Divina (1ra Timoteo 3:15). Juan el Bautista tenía autoridad de parte de Dios para bautizar (Lucas 20:3-6; Juan 1:33-34), y fue el que le preparó el camino al Señor (Marcos 1:1-8), es decir, les predicó

a unas personas, los hizo sus discípulos, y los preparó para que recibieran al Señor como su maestro, cuando Éste comenzara su ministerio (Juan 1:35-42).

Si damos por correcta la expresión *Arrebatamiento de la Iglesia*, estaríamos diciendo, o que únicamente serían arrebatados los salvos que pertenecen a la Iglesia que Jesús edificó, y los salvos de las otras iglesias serían dejados; o que únicamente las personas salvas que existen son las que pertenecen a la Iglesia que Jesús edificó, y que en las otras iglesias fundadas por los hombres no existen personas salvas, o que todos los salvos que hay en las diferentes iglesias, componen la Iglesia del Señor y que por lo tanto, es lo mismo decir *Arrebatamiento de la Iglesia*, que *Arrebatamiento de los Salvos*; lo cual es incorrecto. La expresión correcta y bíblica es *Arrebatamiento de los Salvos*, pues en este evento se va la Iglesia que Jesús edificó con todos sus salvos, y también los salvos que puedan haber en otras iglesias. Tenemos que tener claro que la Iglesia no salva, sino Cristo.

Que las iglesias fun-

dadas por los hombres utilicen la expresión *Arrebatamiento de la Iglesia*, lo podemos entender, pero que un miembro de la Iglesia que Jesús edificó, una Iglesia Bautista, utilice esta expresión, es algo inconcebible, pues demuestra un desconocimiento craso de la historia de la Iglesia Bautista.

Si el Señor hubiese tenido en mente, que Su Iglesia estuviera formado por los salvos de todas las iglesias fundadas por los hombres, no hubiese puesto tanto interés en edificarla Él mismo, durante su ministerio aquí en la tierra (Mateo 16:18; Hechos 2:47). Hubiese dejado que los hombres edificaran sus iglesias, y de los salvos de esas iglesias, Él haría un escogido para edificar Su Iglesia; pero sabemos que eso no fue así. Él edificó Su Iglesia, y le prometió perpetuidad hasta que viesiese por ella: para presentársela a sí mismo como una Iglesia gloriosa.

Esa Iglesia ha existido siempre a través de los siglos, y se conoce en la actualidad con el nombre de Iglesia Bautista: Cristo prometió su perpetuidad "... y las puertas del Hades no prevalecerá contra ella."

Las Iglesias Bautistas son las únicas que tuvieron su comienzo con el ministerio terrenal de Cristo, cuando edificó Su Iglesia. El resultado de una Iglesia organizada con personas bautizadas por un

predicador bautista (Juan el Bautista), es una Iglesia Bautista. Solamente los Bautistas pueden trazar su historia a través de los siglos hasta Cristo. Iglesias Bautistas como esta primera Iglesia, han permanecido desde aquel día hasta nuestros tiempos. Como vimos anteriormente, Cristo prometió que no dejarían de existir.

Ahora, ¿por qué hay tantos Bautistas que utilizan la expresión *Arrebatamiento de la Iglesia*? Quizá porque desconocen la real historia de la Iglesia Bautista. [Continuará]. ▀

TALIBAN . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

hijos en las trayectorias de la verdad y de la separación bíblica, pero las iglesias menosestiman su enseñanza y cortejan los niños hacia el mundo. ▢

Islam Enemigo No. 1 De América

El Pastor Marc Monte compara el Corán con la Biblia en su tesis de 69 páginas, y concluye que la "religión del Islam según presentada en el Corán es una religión de odio. El Corán es en sí mismo la pieza literaria más significativa que se haya conocido en el mundo. Las enseñanzas de Mahoma son responsables por más muertes que las causadas por Hitler, Stalin, y Musolini combinados."

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REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 3)

world.” That is a command. You have no choice. He says, “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.*” Now notice the following statement, “*If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*” Now that’s the truth. This is God’s word for us. “*If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*” What this says is, that person is not saved. Now let’s go on. “*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world*” (2:16).

These are the three doors by which sin enters our being. These are the three methods or the three gates by which Satan tempts us and causes us to sin. He says, “*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world, and the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time*” (1 Jn. 2:16-18). This shows us that those who claim to be saved but say that they can get along

without the church, and you don’t have to be a church member to be saved, or you don’t have to be baptized to be saved, you don’t have to go to church to be saved, and that you can do what you want and you’ll still be saved are not really saved. Notice what John says, “*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us*” (1 Jn. 2:19). So John tells us that those who say they are saved but continue to live in the world, and continue to show that their love is for the things of the world and not for the things of God, John says “*they went out from us because they were not all of us.*” They were not really saved to start with.

Notice one other thing he says in chapter three. He says “*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*” (1 Jn. 3:2). So he talks about the believer; that one that is a child of God and says, “*Now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he (Christ) shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*”

Now notice a statement he makes in that very next verse. “*And every man that hath this hope in him,*” that is every saved man, every one that is born of God, every one that has received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, “*every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure*” (1 Jn. 3:4). The believer, the saved person, the child of God then is going to make an effort to purify his life. That means he’s not going to live in sin. It doesn’t mean that he’s going to live a perfect life. It doesn’t mean that he’s going to be perfect while he is here on this earth, but it does mean that he is going to *try* to live perfect. He is going to make an effort to live perfect. He is going to seek to purify his life even as God is pure and the Lord gives us a command to “*be ye holy even as God is holy.*”

Now, the Nicolaitanes weren’t this way. The Nicolaitanes taught that since we were saved, we now had a license to go out and live in sin and we couldn’t lose our salvation. Chances are we don’t have anybody here with us tonight that would say that, but I do believe, sometimes, that it is possible for people who would deny believing that, to act like that. They live like that, though they would deny the statement, but their actions indicate that they do not see any reason why they should try

to live a clean, pure separated life. “After all, I’m saved, what more could you want? I can’t lose my salvation.” They act like it even though they would not say it.

Now the word Nicolaitanes, the Lord says, “So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.” Don’t ever think God cannot hate. God hates sin! God does hate. In the book of Proverbs, we find in chapter six that not only does God hate sin, but God hates certain people. Now that shocks some people because they just never had the idea that God could hate anybody, but God does. I want you to notice in Proverbs chapter six, there are some seven things that the Bible says God hates. May I remind you that whatever God hates we ought to hate.

Notice beginning in verse 16, “*These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him.*” Now note these seven things, first “*A proud look.*” That’s the person that goes around with a “better than thou” type of spirit. That’s the kind of person that is always looking down upon others and pointing a finger of accusation against them, and always making themselves out to be better than what they are. Sometimes I think they are not aware of it. I’ve had

(See **REV** on page 12)

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 11)

some people through the years of my ministry here at this church come to me, and they're always pointing out what somebody else is doing. They're critical. Now it may be what that somebody else is doing is wrong, but what they are doing indirectly is bragging upon themselves over the fact that they don't those things. They have a superior attitude that they're more spiritual and that they're better than what these other people are. They're proud of themselves. They have a "better than thou" type of attitude, a "holier than thou" type of attitude. So the first thing we find is a proud look.

Secondly, "*A lying tongue.*" Thirdly, "*and hands that shed innocent blood.*" Fourthly, "*An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations.*" Fifthly, "*Feet that be swift in running to mischief.*" Now all of these are actions. All of these that we have read are deeds. God hates these deeds. God hates these attitudes. God hates these actions, but the last two are the people themselves. There are certain people that God says He hates. Who are they? Verse 19.

"*A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*" Anyone who claims to be a Christian, or perhaps doesn't, if they

spend time in telling lies about a church, or about the pastor of that church, or if they spend their time trying to sow discord among the brethren, God says He hates that kind of person. He hates that person. So it becomes a very serious matter to sow discord among the brethren, for God says He hates a person who does that. The Bible says that we are to dwell together in unity, and God intends for His church to be a church that is in unity. But here is the man or woman that is seeking to sew discord and to break up the unity of the brethren. God says He hates that individual.

I mentioned to the men in our prayer meeting this morning that I had just come from Kansas at a Fellowship meeting, and while I was there, I learned of Baptist churches having some difficulties within their membership. I'll not take time to mention this individual by name, but his church supports our mission work in Mexico. It is not a very large church. It is in the Dallas area, and this year they lost 57 families out of that church, (and that's about all he had to start with), and he said he was just having to start all over again. You'd be surprised how many Baptist churches have experienced very serious difficulties this past year because of a man or a woman sewing discord among the brethren. Now we haven't had that but

others have, and God says he hates that person who sews discord among the brethren.

Now here's the Nicolaitanes. These Nicolaitanes are here in this church at Pergamos. Remember that we find them mentioned once before in the 6th verse of this second chapter relative to the church at Ephesus. We find that the church at Ephesus was commended because it says, "*But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.*" So we find that these Nicolaitanes were instigating problems there at Ephesus, but the Ephesus church didn't find any within them who would subscribe to it, or least the Ephesus church must have taken care of it. But now we find, not only are there *deeds*, but here in the church at Pergamos it says there are those that hold the *doctrines* of the Nicolaitanes.

Now the word "Nicolaitanes" comes from two Greek words. Nearly all names and words in both the Hebrew and the Greek have meanings, and if you can ascertain the meaning, often time it gives you an additional insight into what it is talking about. So what you have to do is get a dictionary, a Greek dictionary called a Lexicon. Sometimes you can use a concordance, if it is an unabridged concordance, an exhaustive concordance, and you can look up the

words and find out what they mean, and where they came from. The word Nicolaitan comes from the word "Nikao" which means "to have the upper hand, to dominate or to conquer," and the word "laos" meaning "the people or the laity." Together it means "the conquerors of the people," or the "rulers of the people." It is during this time that the "clergy" came into being whereby the "clergy" became a kind of caste that was over the membership of the church. This is a time when a priestly hierarchy, a religious hierarchy, sprang up to dominate the people. These preachers began to assume the title of a Bishop and began to assume the role of a dictator over the church. Finally, the one who was pastor of the most influential church in the city became a ruler over all the other churches that were in his city, and began to classify themselves as a diocese. This was the beginnings of the hierarchy that developed into the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church.

Now this evil was rejected in Ephesus. They wouldn't have anything to do with it. But here in the church at Pergamos, we find that they tolerated it and they allowed it to grow. This develops into the system of a hierarchy as exemplified in the Roman Catholic Church, and which

(See **REV** on page 13)

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 12)

is prevalent among most Protestant churches today in a slightly modified form. This is what led to the final corruption of this apostate church.

Now Baptists are not immune from this. I have here a book entitled "**The Southern Baptist Convention: A Study in the Development of Ecclesiology.**" The author of this book is Dr. William Wright Barnes. When he wrote this book in 1934 he was Professor of Church History in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention. This book has since been republished in 1946 and it has since been republished again. It is available today. [It is not available in 1994.] It has not been changed at all. It could be updated, but it has not been changed.

Dr. William Wright Barnes, not only was the Professor of Church History at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, but he also was the Head of the Church History Department. When the Southern Baptist Convention decided to have written a history of the Southern Baptist Convention, the one man they turned to to write that history was Dr. William Wright Barnes, so that the official history of the Southern Baptist Convention was written by

Dr. Barnes. He is dead now, but when he wrote this book, he was one of the most respected and influential men in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Now I want to read just a part of the introduction to this book. I want you to think of it considering these Nicolaitanes that were there in the church at Pergamos. He says, "the effort has been made to show that there has been an ecclesiological development, a church development, in Southern Baptist life comparable to the development that took place in the first centuries of Christian history, a development that laid the foundation of the Medieval Catholic church out of which came the Roman Catholic Church of modern times. It is a far cry from the Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15) about A.D. 50 to the Council in the Vatican in A.D. 1870, but during those eighteen centuries, a development took place that completely changed the character and the form of the outward manifestation of Christianity. J. H. Newman in his book 'Essay On Development of Doctrine' claims that the development was the natural unfolding of the inner-spirit and life."

Now listen to this statement. "The Southern Baptist Convention in 89 years, 31 years of Convention life preceding, has not made any such development, *but the first step has*

been taken. It remains to be seen how many more steps may be taken."

He continues, "*When a Southern Baptist of the twentieth century says 'convention' or 'denomination' he means just about what a second century Christian meant when he said 'catholic church' that is, universal church. There has developed a thinking in terms of a corporate consciousness comparable to that which pervades the Christian literature of the second and third centuries. The term Southern Baptist Church is not quite orthodox, but within another generation or two, it may attain wide popularity and perfect ecclesiastical respectability.*"

Dr Barnes didn't have to wait another generation, for when he wrote the "**History of the Southern Baptist Convention,**" he subtitled it "A History of a Great Denomination." What Dr. Barnes says in this book is that the Southern Baptist Convention is already setting up a hierarchy following the same pattern as did the Roman Catholic Church. I don't have time to read all these things, but this book is just filled with this. And what is true of the Southern Baptist Convention is true of every other organized work among Baptists, whether it be the American Baptist Association (ABA), the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA), the Baptist Bible Fellowship (BBF) with their headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, or the World Baptist Fellowship (WBF) with their headquarters in Arlington, Texas, or the General Association of Regular Baptists (GARB), or any of these others. Every one of them is setting up according to the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes which says that the people are to be ruled over by their hierarchy. And that's exactly what you have. Now if you want to know why Central Baptist Church is an independent Baptist church, that's why, because God is not the author of any of these organizations. Everyone of them is a man-made organization. They are following the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes and God says "whose deeds I hate, which thing I hate." God did not intend for the preachers to get together and to form their hierarchy and then dominate and control the churches.

The Baptist Bible Fellowship has done just this very thing even to a worse degree than the Southern Baptist Convention because the Baptist Bible Fellowship does not even have any churches in it at all. It is completely controlled by preachers. Preachers are the only ones that can be members of it. They are the only ones that can hold an office,

(See **REV** on page 14)

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 13)

and they elect these preachers in their annual meetings. The preachers elect the missionaries and they elect directors to control their missionaries, even as a bishop does in the churches that do have hierarchies. This is the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes and the Lord says that He hates such doctrines. The Lord intended that each Baptist church was to be an independent Baptist church with no hierarchy of any kind at all. Each church being an independent church, ruling, controlling themselves as a democratic body whereby they have nobody from the outside that can tell them anything that they are to do.

This same Dr. Barnes was asked to give testimony in Rocky Mount, North Carolina when a church, by a huge majority, sought to withdraw from the Southern Baptist Convention, but there was a small minority that wanted to stay with the Convention and they took it court in violation of First Corinthians chapter six which says you're not to take your brother to court. But they did. In court, they put Dr. W. W. Barnes on the witness stand, and asked him about the authority of a Baptist church. You ask a Baptist, and they'll say "Why we're free to do what we want to, even if we're in the Convention.

We do what we want to," even if they're in the Association. "We do what we want to. We are as independent as you are." But they are not. Dr. Barnes conceded this on the witness stand by stating it in this fashion, that though the Southern Baptist Convention does not have any *direct* authority over the churches, he says, they have an *influence that borders on authority*. And those are his words. They have an influence that *borders on authority*.

You talk about pressure. You let a preacher in the Southern Baptist Convention try to act independent and serve as he feels the Lord wants him to do, if it crosses the Convention, they can bring all kinds of pressure down upon him. My father used to be in the Convention. Ask him. He'll tell you. One of the first things he wanted to do was to use the Bible and study the Bible only in Sunday School, and the Convention brought all the pressure they could about that. And he said "What's the matter?" They said, "You've got to use Baptist literature if you're going to be a Standard Sunday School." So my Dad asked them, "Since when did the Bible cease to be Baptist literature?"

You see the literature is where they subtly bring in all of their "stuff." You ought to read this issue of the Quarterly, in fact, it'll be in **The Baptist Chal-**

lenge next month. Did you know they have a statement in the Young People's Quarterly for January-February-March in which the writer says that the Baptists, the Methodists, the Lutherans, the Christian Scientists, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Roman Catholics are all brothers in Christ, and working toward the same thing. Now I can't quote it verbatim, but that is in the Quarterly.

Well, you ought to smell the stink that was raised all over the Southern Baptist Convention about that. So they did write a letter about that and said "We're sorry we goofed." But there's "goofs" like that all along the way. This is why they want to be sure the quarterlies are put in these churches for study rather than to study the Bible. This is the same reason that the Catholics did not use the Bible, because if they would study and read their Bible they would soon learn that much of what goes on is contrary to the Word of God and they do not want the people to know this. That's why the hierarchy was set up, to control and dominate the "laity" by the "clergy." Well, the Lord says He hates it. He still hates it, and what God hates, we ought to hate.

And now He gives a recommendation and a warning in verse 16. "*Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my*

mouth." As I pointed out to you this morning, the way the Lord does this by the "sword of His mouth" is through the pastor of the church. He's not going to use a Bishop out here. He's not going to use some official out here in a denomination like an Associational Missionary or somebody else. If the Lord has any instruction for a church, He's going to use the "sword" which is the Word of God, and He's going to deliver it to that church by means of their pastor, and this is what the Lord says right here. So He urges them to repentance. That means He urges them to purge themselves of these heresies.

Finally, let me point out one thing in verse 16. He says "repent," but if there is no repentance, then judgment. This judgment that He is talking about is not the Second Coming of the Lord, but it is a quick coming in judgment upon those individuals that are guilty. It's not really with the church that the Lord will fight, but with those who actually live these wicked lives and are guilty of these evil doctrines. The target, as He says here, is "I will fight against *them*." There's the target, against "them", meaning those who are teaching and who are practicing such doctrines. He doesn't say exactly what He will do, but He will.

(See **REV** on page 15)

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 14)

Now verse 17, "*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*" This says churches (plural), showing that these letters are meant for all churches, so that whatever is applicable, each church is to take that which is applicable to them. Next He says, "*To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna.*" Now manna was the sustenance and life of the Israelites during their wilderness wanderings. Here in this verse, it is a symbol of the life-giving food that is given to those who remain faithful unto the Lord. It represents the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Jn. 6:35). And He says, "*To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna.*" You see, the sufficiency of Christ is hidden from the world, and it is in direct contrast to the allurements of the heathen world. Just as Israel received the manna from heaven as its food during their wilderness wanderings to replace the leeks, the onions, and the garlies of old Egypt (I couldn't ever be a Jew if they had to eat onions), He gave them manna to take the place of all of that, so that for the believer there is the offer of spiritual fellowship with Christ that the world knows nothing about. It's hidden from the world.

You see, the world

doesn't understand how you can be a Christian and be happy. They don't understand how you can be a Christian and really enjoy Christianity. They think it's miserable because it's hidden from them. Can't you imagine what those Arabs thought about those Jews during the wilderness wanderings? Here they were in their cities and they were having to eat leeks, onions and garlies, and all this other stuff, and they were feeling sorry, I guess, for those Jews out there wandering around the wilderness and without anything to eat at all. Yet they were eating manna which was angel food. They were eating better than the Arabs or anyone else.

And that's the way it is with Christians. The world feels sorry for us. We can't go out in the world, and we can't drink, and dance, and booze it up and have a great old time as the world does, and they feel sorry for us because we can't do this. We can't go to the moving pictures, and we can't do that, and we can't do the other, etc. and they feel sorry for us. Little do they know that God provides us "manna from heaven," our spiritual food. We're living lots better than what they are, they just don't know it. It's the "hidden" manna of the Lord. All they need to do is try it once, and they'd never go back to the other.

And then we have the

"white stone," and really, I don't think very many people know what this white stone means. I was talking with one of our members recently, and he was studying in preparation for the lessons that he was teaching in the Training Union hour. He came to me about a little old knotty problem that was in one of the lessons, and he says, "You know, I've read all these commentaries, and they just plain skip over it and don't even mention it." And that's usually the way it is with most of these commentaries. When you find something that is very difficult to dig out and find an answer and you don't know, you can read all the commentaries, and you find out they don't know either. So they hardly say anything about it at all. This is one of those problem areas, right here, as far as really understanding what the Lord meant though I'm sure those people knew.

Now here's the only thing that I believe that I have come up with that I think this might mean, and I wouldn't be dogmatic at all. He says, "*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.*" Now this stone is contrasted with the charms that were worn by the worshipers of all these heathen gods, and they had inscribed on them

the names of their deities. Many of them were considered "good luck" charms, and they'd wear them around their necks. St. Christopher is no longer a valid saint in the Roman Catholic Church, they've pushed him aside, but that's what they used to do. They'd take a little emblem or a little medal of St. Christopher and wear it around their neck and it was supposed to give them safety in traveling in their automobile, or things like that. Well, this is what the heathen used to do. They would take a stone and hang it around their neck and inscribe the name of their god on it, and that was supposed to put them under his supernatural protective care.

One other possibility in understanding this, and it's rather hard for us maybe to understand that they operated this way, but God could do it this way if He wanted to. This is supposed to have been a custom used in their courts in that day. The judges would have an urn, a large vessel with a small mouth on it, and they would put two marbles or something similar to marbles, a pebble, inside this urn. They put a white one and a black one in there, and then they would rattle them around on the inside, and then they would lean it over and let one pebble come out. If the white pebble came out, that sig-

(See **REV** on page 23)

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

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Pastor Of Judge In The Schiavo Case Speaks Out.

— We commend Pastor William Rice of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Florida, for speaking out unequivocally against the decision of a judge that is an “inactive” member of his church. The judge, George Greer, is the one who ordered that Terri Schiavo, a disabled woman, be denied a feeding tube that provides her food and water. Since Terri suffered brain damage in 1990 under mysterious circumstances, her husband has been locked in a fierce custody battle with her parents; he seeking to deny all rehabilitative care to Terri and to have her feeding tube removed; they fighting to keep her alive. He has lived with his girlfriend for 10 years and fathered two children out of wedlock. The feeding tube was removed on March 18 by order of Judge Greer and the case is currently in the federal courts. Pastor Rice observes: “This isn’t about letting someone die; this is about causing someone’s death. There is a huge difference. Like many pastors, I am not an expert in the law. I cannot debate

the variances of custody rights, or even debate the medical analysis of a Persistent Vegetative State versus a Minimally Conscious State. But I know right from wrong. I know what God thinks about human life. I know there is only one way to describe the prospect of starving a woman to death because she cannot feed herself. It is wrong. ... Terri Schiavo is not on life support. She is not dying. Good evidence exists to suggest that she is responsive. All she receives is food and water, the same as you and me. Are we to conclude that she is less than human because she cannot feed herself? Can a month-old child feed himself? Is an elderly patient stricken with some debilitating disease and unable to feed herself suddenly less human? ... This case seems complex but it is as simple as four words: ‘Thou shalt not kill.’ If you need a compass for this complex case, you’ll find it there.”

National Council Of Churches Official Warns Against Evangelizing In the Context of Relief

Work. — Shanta Premawardhana, director of interfaith relations for the National Council of Churches in the USA, has issued a set of guidelines that cautions Christian groups against engaging “in aggressive and inappropriate evangelism.” The directive, called “Listening to, Learning from and Living into Asia’s Pain,” is geared for those who are assisting the victims of the December 26 tsunamis. Premawardhana said evangelism is best left to local Christians. We see a clear choice between the National Council of Churches and the Lord Jesus Christ, who commanded, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

Liberal Baptist State Conventions See Themselves As Partners With The SBC. — The Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) and the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT), while permeated with theological modernism, see themselves as partners with the Southern Baptist Convention. This came out recently when the liberal Baptist World Alliance (BWA) announced that both organizations have been recommended for full membership. The heads of the BGAV and the BGCT testified that they are associated with the SBC.

John Upton, chief executive of the BGAV, said, “We see ourselves as a partner of the SBC,” and Charles Wade, executive director of the BGCT, said, “...we have had and continue to have a relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention” (“Baptist World Alliance will vote to accept Virginia, Texas conventions,” Associated Baptist Press, March 10). Though the Southern Baptist Convention voted last year to leave the BWA, it remains in close fellowship with the BGAV, the BGCT, as well as most of the other 200 members of the BWA. The Southern Baptist Convention’s conservative renaissance is a half-way, lukewarm sort of thing. In fact, it is somewhat of a shell game. It doesn’t call for clear separation from liberals. In fact, its leaders denounce separation and ridicule fundamentalism. Though the national seminaries have been somewhat purged of liberalism, most of the state colleges and universities are as worldly and liberal as ever. Even in the midst of the “renaissance,” a significant minority has voted against the “conservative” presidential candidates over the last 15 years. This is clear evidence that the SBC is a mixed multitude at its very best, and according to the Word of God that is

(See **FBIS** on page 17)

FBIS . . .

(Continued from page 16)

not good enough. How many theological liberals must an organization have before it can be labeled liberal?

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Persecution In Mexico.

— The following is from Worthy News, Mar. 7: “Although the problems of religious intolerance in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas have lessened in recent years, persecution of evangelical Christians still exists in small communities, according to Christian lawyer Abdias Tovilla. In the town of San Isidro Chejilte, Teopisco municipality, leaders determined to rid the town of evangelicals by requesting a change in the legal administration of their property. Last July, the town majority voted to change private property to communally-owned land, or ejidos, so that everyone’s property comes under the jurisdiction of the town. Leaders have vowed to expel the 34 evangelicals. In another case, the town leaders of El Retiro, Oxchuc municipality, have forbidden the Heaven’s Gate Church of Prophecy from constructing any type of building. According to Pastor Jorge Santis Gómez, town leaders also prohibit open preaching of the gospel. In Los Pozos, Huixtlan municipality, local

authorities have threatened evangelicals with expulsion, according to Notimex, a secular news agency. Two years ago, the traditional Catholics destroyed the evangelical church building in Los Pozos and dozens of evangelicals have been sent to jail for their faith, so the believers are taking these latest threats seriously.”

* * *

Disney Produces Film Adapted From C.S. Lewis Fable.

— Seeking to cash in on the current popularity of religious-themed movies, the Walt Disney Corporation is creating a series of films adapted from C.S. Lewis’ Chronicles of Narnia. The first, due for release in December, is The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Lewis believed in prayers for the dead and purgatory and confessed his sins to a priest. He denied the total depravity of man and the substitutionary atonement of Christ. He believed in theistic evolution and rejected the Bible as the infallible Word of God. He taught that hell is a state of mind. The Narnia fables are filled with heresy, promoting the concept of white or good witches and even teaching universalism. In the chapter “Further up and Further in” from “The Last Battle,” an individual is accepted by Aslan the lion (supposedly a mythical Christ figure) even though

he served Aslan’s arch-enemy “Tash” all his life. When this individual expresses amazement at being accepted, Aslan says: “Therefore if any man swear by Tash and keep his oath for the oath’s sake, it is by me that he has truly sworn, though he know it not, and it is I who reward him.” This is a lie of the devil and could be responsible for sending souls to eternal hell. There is no salvation apart from repentance and faith in Christ.

* * *

Darwinism Birthed By Unitarianism.

— High Street Chapel in Shrewsbury, England, was one of the many churches infected with unitarianism by the 18th century. This is the church where Charles Darwin (1809-1882) received his early religious training. The chapel was first built in 1691 by Francis Tallents and John Bryan, dissenters from the Church of England, but it took a turn to unitarianism with the appointment of Job Orton (1717-83), the minister at High Street from 1741-65 (“The Down Grade - Part 2,” The Sword and the Trowel, April 1887, p. 14). Though “many of his sentiments were sound and good,” Orton “was not considered fully orthodox.” That Orton did not hold to the full Godhead of Jesus Christ is evident by his comment on the name “The mighty God” in Isaiah 9:6.

He said, “The meaning of this I cannot tell.” Orton’s successors at High Street went further in their unbelief, denying the infallible inspiration of Scripture and the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith. By Charles Darwin’s day the High Street Chapel was a full-blown Unitarian congregation and George A. Case was the pastor (from 1797 to his death in 1831). Today the church is called Shrewsbury Unitarian Church, High Street, and a plaque inside the building says: “To the memory of Charles Robert Darwin, author of ‘The Origin of the Species,’ born in Shrewsbury, February 12, 1809, in early life a member of and a constant worshipper in this church.” Charles Darwin’s mother, Susannah, was a Unitarian, and Charles was educated for a short period at a school operated by the Unitarian minister George Case. Charles Darwin’s wife, Emma Wedgwood, was also a Unitarian. A biographer of Darwin speaks of “the vein of skepticism in the Darwin family” (John Wehler, Charles Darwin: Growing up in Shrewsbury 1809-25). Thus, Darwinism was a direct product of end-time theological apostasy.

* * *

The Purpose Driven Hostage.

— The following (See **FBIS** on page 18)

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(Continued from page 17)

is an excerpt from “The Purpose Driven Hostage” by Paul Proctor. “I’d wager to say that very few, if any Purpose Driven puppets ever really heard or understood what was being taught them in Ashley Smith’s emotionally charged interview as recorded by CNN (after her encounter with Brian Nichols, who had murdered several people, including a judge). Now that the euphoria has subsided somewhat, look again and reconsider carefully what she actually said: SMITH: ‘We went to my room. And I asked him if I could read. He said, “What do you want to read?” “Well, I have a book in my room.” So I went and got it. I got my Bible. And I got a book called The Purpose-Driven Life. I turned it to the chapter that I was on that day. It was Chapter 33. And I started to read the first paragraph of it. After I read it, he said, “Stop, will you read it again?” I said, “Yeah. I’ll read it again.” So I read it again to him. It mentioned something about what you thought your purpose in life was. What were you — what talents were you given? What gifts were you given to use? And I asked him what he thought. And he said, “I think it was to talk to people and tell them about you.”’ You see, Ashley made a significant choice that day

between the Word of God and the words of Warren. Like millions of others who keep Bibles around the house for a second opinion, she chose to read to her captor from Warren’s book instead of God’s Word. And because she made that choice and is still alive today, Ashley is now a hero in the eyes of a nation; and the media has proudly declared hers to be a salvation story and a miracle of deliverance from Almighty God. . . . The real travesty that day was this: The Gospel of Christ was not proclaimed, no one repented and no one was saved; at least not spiritually, which would have been a miracle indeed. According to the reports and interviews I’ve read, Smith and Nichols discussed a lot of heart-warming things in their lives but not Jesus Christ, the cross, His death, burial, resurrection, shed blood or redemptive plan for mankind. From what I can ascertain, their focus was, like Warren’s, on a Purpose Driven Life, not eternal life in Christ.”

* * *

Southern Baptist Chosen To Head The Independent Baptist Network. — A Southern Baptist has been selected to head the misnamed Independent Baptist Network. According to the Baptist Bible Tribune, the voice of the Baptist Bible

Fellowship International (BBFI), John Rawlings has announced that Gene Mims has agreed to head the IBN and oversee its newly established office in Atlanta. Mims was vice president of Lifeway Christian Resources, the chain of worldly, ecumenical bookstores associated with the Southern Baptist Convention, where you can find the raunchiest “Christian” rock as well as books promoting a wide assortment of heretics and compromisers, such as Mother Teresa, C.S. Lewis, Chuck Colson, and Billy Graham. Southern Baptists can’t be faulted for joining the IBN, but fundamental Baptists once knew better.

* * *

Pope John Paul II Dies. — After 26 years in office, Pope John Paul II, one of the most influential popes in history, died this week. His health had been deteriorating for a decade from the ravages of Parkinson’s disease. The 84-year-old was the second-longest serving pope in history. He was charismatic and personable, loved by young and old alike; he seemed to have a genuine compassion; he had deep and doubtless sincere convictions. But regardless of what human and religious goodness he possessed, from a Bible-believing standpoint the pope cannot be eulogized.

The Bible states that his false grace-works gospel is under God’s curse (Galatians 1:6-9), and it would be foolish to praise that which God has cursed. He was a false apostle (2 Cor. 11:13-15) who taught doctrines of devils (1 Tim. 4:1-5). The prophet Isaiah warned, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness...” (Isa. 5:20). By God’s grace, I do not want to be counted in that crowd. Words such as these, though true and righteous and scriptural and though spoken with a tender heart, sound harsh and cruel and unloving to this itching ear generation, because it has turned its ear away from the truth and has turned unto fables (2 Tim. 4:3-4). Oh, that the preachers who profess the name of Jesus Christ and stand in the pulpits would lift up their voices for truth instead of compromise! Instead, they heal the hurt of the people slightly and say, Peace, peace; when there is no peace (Jer. 6:14). By any standard, one of Pope Paul II’s greatest legacies is the expansion of ecumenism. Coming into office in 1978, he put shoe leather to the Vatican II Council of the 1960s. He broke down more “denominational barriers” than any man other than Billy Graham. This most traveled pope in history was the first to set

(See **FBIS** on page 19)

FBIS . . .

(Continued from page 18)

foot on British soil and speak in an Anglican cathedral; the first welcomed to America by representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention; the first to personally bless Muslims and Hindus and Sikhs; the first to speak in a Jewish synagogue. According to Bible prophecy, these efforts will not result in peace on earth or the establishment of the kingdom of God but the ushering in of the Antichrist and the fulfillment of the events described in Revelation 17. Lift up your eyes, dear friends, the hour is late, and if we are going to something for the cause of Christ, we better do it now!

* * *

Billy And Franklin Graham Praise Pope; Franklin Says They Preach Same Gospel. —

Billy Graham called Pope John Paul II “unquestionably the most influential voice for morality and peace in the world during the last 100 years” (“Graham remembers pope’s warmth, courage,” Winston-Salem Journal (N.C.), April 2). In an interview with Katie Couric on NBC television, Franklin Graham also praised the Pope and claimed that they preach the same gospel. He said: “We disagree on a lot of doctrinal issues and I guess those disagreements

will always be there. At the same time we did agree on the fundamentals that Jesus Christ is the son of the living God who came to this earth to die for our sins and when he died on that cross and shed his blood he took the sins of the world with him on the cross; and if we confess our sins and repent and by faith receive Christ into our hearts God will forgive us and cleanse us. These are fundamentals of the faith we agreed on and support and we appreciate this man and the stand he has taken on so many of these moral issues.” We are glad that Franklin believes and preaches the gospel described in this testimony (apart from the “receiving Christ into the heart” part, which is not scriptural), but he seriously misrepresented the Pope’s gospel. The late Pope believed that salvation by grace alone through Christ alone by faith alone is heresy (see the anathemas of the Council of Trent). He believed that the sacraments are a necessary part of salvation, beginning with baptism, whereby one is born again, continuing in Confirmation, whereby one receives the Holy Spirit. Speaking at the confirmation of 800 young people at Turin, Italy, Sept. 2, 1988, the Pope said: “Jesus comes close to us; he enters our history precisely by means of these concrete, visible sacramental signs. . . . Confirmation is your personal

Pentecost. Today you receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who on the day of Pentecost was sent by the risen Lord upon the Apostles. Every baptized person as a believer needs to receive the moment and mystery of Pentecost; it completes and perfects the gift of Baptism” (L’osservatore Romano, N. 38, Sept. 19, 1988, p. 16). Nine days later, speaking in Harare, John Paul II said to the crowd gathered in Borrowdale Park: “You have thus become a new people, reborn in the Sacrament of Baptism, nourished by the Holy Eucharist, living in loving communion with God and with one another with the Successor of Peter and the Catholic Church throughout the world” (Ibid., p. 2).

* * *

Terri Schiavo Starved To Death. — Terri Schiavo, the 41-year-old brain damaged woman at the center of a “right to die” furor, died on March 31, thirteen days after her food and water were cut off by order of a circuit court judge, whose strange ruling was upheld by state and federal courts. Terri’s husband Michael, who fought for years to euthanize his wife, has been living with another woman for 10 years and has two children out of wedlock. He did not allow Terri’s parents into the room to bid their daughter a final farewell.

Though some news agencies have reported that Michael ordered an autopsy to be performed so the truth would be known about her condition, in fact the autopsy was mandated by state law. Bill Pellán, director of investigations for the Pinellas/Pasco Medical Examiner’s Office, testified: “We are not doing the autopsy because of a request coming from Michael Schiavo. We are investigating the cause of death as mandated by Florida law and for no other reason. Family requests are immaterial in that determination” (“Medical Examiner: Autopsy Decision not Michael Schiavo’s to Make,” ABC Action News, Tampa, Florida, March 30). Terri had been dependent on the feeding tube since suffering a heart stoppage under suspicious circumstances in 1990. Her parents believe that her husband had something to do with her present condition. Though brain damaged, she could breathe on her own and exhibited many signs of being aware of her environment. This was testified by loved ones, by her nurses, and by medical experts, including William Hammesfahr, a neurologist that was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology in 1999 for his work in brain injury and stroke. After spending 10 hours with Terri, he testi-

(See **FBIS** on page 20)

The Saboteur

He has been a member of the church for years, and always a generous contributor. He is in his place in the house of worship regularly, and lives a life of unquestioned moral quality. He can always be relied upon to be at a meeting of the board, and in matters of doctrine and belief he is altogether orthodox. He will lead in public prayer when called upon to do so, and no man surpasses him in private helpfulness to the widow and the orphan. He puts his church ahead of his lodge, his committee duties ahead of his own personal business, and his missionary pledge ahead of his club dues.

But he is guilty of sabotage!

Among his business friends who are not churchmen, he complains about “the way the church is run” — and thus alienates them further. He criticizes the preacher and the Sunday School teacher in the presence of his children— and thus incites them to rebellion against the church. He stirs up strife and spreads discontent among the people if he can not have his own way at the board meeting — thus sinning against the fellowship. He complains about the apportionments, declaring that, “The overhead is too high.” He becomes the center of a little group of malcontents

and “fights for a principle” until the life of the entire congregation is disrupted.

His generosity, his dependability and his moral character entitle him to a place of honor in the life of the church.

His spirit of criticism, his disposition to peddle gossip, and his derisive attitude, combine to make him a dangerous saboteur. □

FBIS . . .

(Continued from page 19)

fied: “She’s very aware. She’s not in PVS,” He told CNN, “With proper therapy, she will have a tremendous improvement. I think, personally, that she’ll be able to walk, eventually, and she will be able to use at least one of her arms” (“The Whole Terri Schiavo Story,” WorldNetDaily, March 24). Hammesfahr said at least 50 physicians he knows of, in private practice and related to medical universities, have said Schiavo is not in a PVS or in a coma (“Renowned neurologist disputes Schiavo is in a ‘persistent vegetative state,’” Baptist Press, March 21, 2005). Terri’s parents produced 33 sworn affidavits from medical experts that Terri was not in a Persistent Vegetative State. Though severely crippled, Terri was a living, breathing, conscious human being, and she was murdered. It is as simple as that. When Judge George

Greer mandated Terri’s death, not only did he require that her feeding tube be removed but also that no one be allowed to try to give her food or water. It is impossible to forget the March 23 newswire photo of a boy, about 12 years old, who was arrested and handcuffed by Pinellas Park (Florida) police when he tried to take a glass of water to Terri.

* * *

Unborn Babies Jumping In The Womb At 12 Weeks. — Images captured with new ultrasound techniques show unborn infants doing all sorts of amazing things only weeks after conception. The images, published in the book *Watch Me Grow* by ultrasound pioneer Stuart Campbell, show unborn

babies “jumping off the womb like a trampoline” at a mere 12 weeks, sucking their thumbs at 14 weeks, and opening their eyes at 18 weeks. One image shows a 14-week-old standing up, stretching, and sitting down again in his mother’s womb. “...thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them” (Psalm 139:13-16).

Appeal in Same-Sex Marriage

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court announced it will hear oral arguments in a case seeking to block the court’s ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in the commonwealth. As a result of the 2003 *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* decision, same-sex couples have been allowed to marry in Massachusetts since May 17, 2004.

The Thomas More Law Center, along with Citizens for the Preservation of

Constitutional Rights and other pro-family groups filed the lawsuit. ... The appeal asks the court to stay its decision, giving the Legislature more time to bar same-sex marriage by amending the Massachusetts Constitution.

As the Law Center argued in its brief, “What happens with the legal institution of marriage should ultimately depend on the democratic processes outlined in the Commonwealth’s Constitution rather than by judicial fiat.” □

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

newed by President George H.W. Bush, rescinded by President Bill Clinton, and reinstated by President George W. Bush.” It is my conviction that taxpayer funds should not be used to pay for abortions or advocate or actively promote abortion, either here or abroad,” Bush stated when he re-imposed the policy in 2001. The amendment that passed on Tuesday was attached to a State Department funding bill. It was sponsored by Democrat Barbara Boxer of California and Republican Olympia Snowe of Maine. Snowe said the policy “infringes on a woman’s right to personal, private medical care. This is a question of making sensible medical care available to women.” But conservative Republicans say U.S. taxpayers should not be forced to support the abortion-related services of foreign family planning programs.

* * *

Kansas Voters Say

Famous Last Words

“Government’s view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.” — Pres. Ronald Reagan

No to Same-Sex Marriage. — Kansas voters have overwhelmingly approved a state constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman — and effectively outlawing same-sex civil unions. The amendment passed with 70 percent support — a margin of 170,000 votes — according to preliminary returns. Tuesday’s vote makes Kansas the eighteenth state to adopt a state marriage amendment. Three more states — Alabama, South Dakota and Tennessee — will have marriage amendments on their 2006 ballots.

* * *

Zambian President Baptized. — The president of Zambia, acknowledging his faith in Jesus Christ, recently was baptized in a public service, Southern Baptist missionaries report. A crowd clapped and cheered as President Levy Mwanawasa rose from the water in an outdoor baptistry behind a Baptist seminary chapel in Lusaka, Zambia’s capital. The event drew hundreds of people, including public officials, leaders and pastors from the area and neighboring countries. — BP

* * *

Another School Under Attack. — Two Arkansas television stations reported that a controversy

is brewing over the fact that Beebe (Ark.) science textbooks now contain a sticker asking them “to consider evolution as a theory.” Although the stickers have been in place since the 90s with the “school board’s full approval”, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) now wants the stickers removed, saying it was an “entanglement of the clause dealing with religion and the public sector” and thus violates the 1st Amendment and “endorses religion.” ACLU spokesperson Rita Sklar said, “We’re not seeking press coverage, but hope the stickers are removed. We don’t want to do anything to aggravate the situation.” However, Beebe School District says they haven’t received any complaints and that it’s “a closed subject for now.”

* * *

Q: When evolutionists admit that there are problems with the theory of evolution, why are they unwilling to even consider creation as a possibility? A: After Adam sinned, what was Adam and Eve’s first response to God as He approached them in the Garden of Eden? They hid. Why did they do this? It’s because they felt guilty in His presence. They were ashamed of themselves in the presence of a perfect and holy God. Man has been trying to hide from

God ever since. When you think about it, evolution is a very effective way to hide from the Creator. Evolution teaches people there’s no God, so if they chose to believe this, then they don’t have to face Him. By not facing God in their unbelief, they’re hiding from Him, just like Adam and Eve tried to do in the Garden. This is one of the reasons why humanists don’t even want the possibility of creation permitted in public schools. To allow this is to open the door to showing these young people that they need to face up to the God against whom they have sinned and from whom they have been hiding—the God who sets the rules. — AIG

DARWIN . . .

(Continued from page 4)

ders. 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 knew there was no evolution was so great that he

(See **DARWIN** on page 23)

FAITH . . .

(Continued from page 1)

millions, are subjugated by that human error and the Protestant world is struck through with its deadly virus. Pronouncedly unscriptural, a reversion of the processes of both nature and grace, a flat, universal failure in practice, it yet holds great ecclesiastical systems and stagnates the religious life of the world.

In the divine, as well as in the natural, order of things life must precede action and development. God is the eternal fountain of life, and He is the fountain of eternal life. This fountain and this eternal life have been made accessible to a world, dead in trespasses and sins, by the incarnation of Christ. God is in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. This He is doing through faith, which is both human and divine. It is a grace inwrought into the human heart by the Spirit, and is then freely exercised by the quickened, enlightened, responsible human soul.

It is through faith that we have access to the infinite bounties provided for us in Christ. Faith is the appropriating principle in Christianity. It connects the human soul with the living, divine Savior. By it we are filled with His fullness. By it we are grafted into Christ and partake of His divine nature.

It has just been said that faith is the appro-

priating grace or principle in religion. It roots itself in the deep, rich, warm soil of Gospel truth and draws the strength of the divine into the human life, transforming and growing it into the image of Him from whom it draws its life and nourishment. By processes too deep and mysterious for human research to explore, the lily, for instance, strikes its roots into the soil and feeds itself out of the earth.

It transmutes the elements of the soil into stalk, leaf, and into the beautiful flower. It is provided with an apparatus. In like manner the Christ life of the believer employs faith to nourish itself, that growth and activity, with usefulness, may result. It is a wonderful study, the place the Scriptures give to faith. But we must limit our studies in this article.

There are some outstanding truths arising out of the subject like mountains on a wide plain, to which we will do well to give heed. One is: Whatever people genuinely believe will determine their character and conduct, because faith transmutes the qualities of its object into the soul. This explains the heathen world in its darkness, coarseness, and deadness. No man rises above the object of his worship.

There is a universal law governing the race, which law is that people assimilate the qualities of the object of their worship. Religions

make people. The Turks are the victims of their religion, sensual, blood-thirsty, devilish. The way to change nations is to give them the true faith. Religion is the deepest, strongest, thing in the heart of humanity. It can never be eradicated. Education cannot civilize, as the world-war proves. It can polish and make efficient, but it cannot impart new life, nor make men good.

Another great truth stares us in the face. The strength of Christian character and the force of Christian life will depend on a knowledge of and belief in the deep things of God. We here encounter many shallow conceits floating on the cross currents of public thought. First of all, no one is, or ever can be, a Christian till his faith roots itself in the central postulate of the Gospel, the Deity of Jesus Christ. This is the profoundest mystery of revelation, yet entirely believable on overwhelming evidence, such as the Scriptures afford. Believing this, we begin to live. But we live as babes in Christ first. At once we are confronted with vital questions of food and growth. Paul tells in simple words that babes must be fed with milk, not meat. This means that the very important matter of adaptability must be studied. All along food convenient must be provided, and all along growth must be contemplated. The babes of today

must be nurtured, so as to become the strong men of after awhile. It is here that pastors have failed most.

Nothing can be more silly than the notion, often affirmed, with all the vigor and infallibility of stupidity and ignorance, that it does not matter what people believe just so they do right. What people do will depend on what they are, and what they are will depend on what they believe. Sound conduct will depend on sound sentiments and sound sentiments on faith rooted in sound doctrines. Herbert Spencer well said, "It is impossible to get golden conduct out of leaden sentiments." And the Scriptures teach that the way to get good fruit is to have good trees. Everybody knows these simple truths. Nobody has yet gathered figs of thistles, and nobody expects to do such a thing.

We are considering a structural principle in theology, and in all human life, one needing, in these days of flux and instability, a new statement, with many applications. Whatever faith roots itself in, will determine human character and action. "I believed, therefore have I spoken," said one long ago, and we may be sure he spoke what he believed. If faith roots itself in the truth, the believer will walk in the truth. It is deeply significant that Paul, over and over, based his exhortations to

(See **FAITH** on page 23)

FAITH . . .

(Continued from page 22)

lofty, heroic conduct on great doctrinal foundations. In Romans 12:1 he exhorts to consecration, connecting his exhortation back to the great doctrinal statements going before. And in the last verse of the 15th chapter of First Corinthians He appeals for steadfastness and fullness of service on the ground of the resurrection of Christ and all believers in their time.

There is a vital connection between strong doctrine and strong Christian character, with the logical strong service. When faith roots itself in the covenant of grace, in the sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love of God, revealed in the Salvation of

DARWIN . . .

(Continued from page 20)

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. □ □

the Elect, the fruits will be correspondingly rich, abundant and well flavored.

On the basis of the truth just written, we face a plain duty. If the people are to stand in these shallow, noisy times, when so many voices are heard saying lo! here and lo! there, they must be rooted and grounded in the truth. And if the world is to be conquered and made subject to Christ, men must feel the eternal verities in their hearts and fight with the force of a conquering conviction and with a faith that grips the immovable foundations of the divine throne.

This means that there must be preaching and teaching that go down to the fundamentals. Shallow teaching and preaching will make shallow Christians. It is the untaught, shallow soul that is swept any way and every way by every new broom that comes along. It is the shallow soul that withers soonest in times of spiritual drouth. The soul whose faith roots itself down into the deep things of God is like the tree planted by the river of water. Its leaf does not wither. It brings forth its fruit in season, and all because it is rooted deep in a rich well-watered soil.

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 15)

nified that that person was innocent of whatever the crime was that they were charged with. If the black

pebble came out first, it would indicate their guilt and therefore their condemnation. And they actually operated justice on those bases. Now don't think that operates on chance. God can overrule and operate that way. Sometimes I think it might be better than some of our jury trials we have around here. This is just one possibility. If so, the white stone that the believer would have would express the believer's complete exoneration. He is no longer to be considered guilty. He has been accepted by the Lord. The white stone indicating that he has been totally forgiven by the Lord.

And then it says, "*and in the stone a new name written which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*" That new name represents and indicates our Lord's granting a personal name for each believer, indicating that he belongs to the new creation. I don't know what that name is, but "There's a new name written down in glory and it's mine." And if you're saved, "there's a new name written down in glory, and it's yours." But if you're not saved, you don't have a new name written down in glory. If you're not saved, you're going to die and you're going to spend an eternity in hell. You don't have a white stone, and you don't have a new name. You're lost.

Now God gives the white stone, and God gives the new name, not on the basis of who we are, or because of what we are, nor on the basis of what we do. God gives us that new name and that white stone on the basis of what Jesus Christ did for us upon the cross of Calvary. He has saved us, forgiven us, and now we have the promise that we have a new name that's written down in glory. Do you? If you're not saved, you don't. If you're not saved, you have nothing. All that's in your future is hell. You're still under the black stone which means guilt and condemnation.

I want us to sing the hymn "There's a New Name Written Down in Glory." It's not exactly an invitation hymn, but as we sing this hymn, make it yours. Make it an invitation to you to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and thereby have a new name for you written down in glory. □

IRON . . .

(Continued from page 2)

I would press upon every Christian reader of these lines the importance of turning absolutely away from fellowship with those who are leading in the apostasy. The call of the Lord is distinct: "*From such turn away.*" "*Come out of her, my people,*

(See **IRON** on page 24)

IRONSIDE . . .

(Continued from page 23)

that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” “We would have healed Babylon, and she is not healed; forsake her.” “Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.” “Have no

fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

Christians will be held responsible for every penny they contribute to organizations that are apostate in character and for every act of fellowship that helps to make it easier for Satan’s emissaries to pursue this nefarious work. Faith-

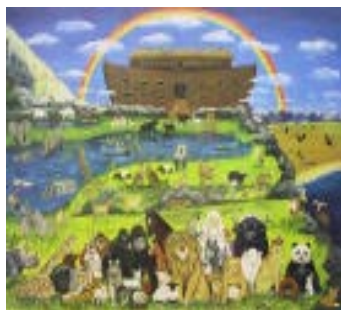
fulness to Christ demands separation from that which so gravely dishonors His name. □ □

MARRIAGE . . .

(Continued from page 4)

values for ourselves. Militant activists are using the courts to usurp the authority of our elected legislatures in order to force their “morality” on

the overwhelming majority. We will lose this battle for marriage one court case at a time unless the President and Congress act quickly. By the way, judicial appointments must be taken seriously. According to numerous press reports, Judge Kramer was appointed by former Republican Governor Pete Wilson. □ □



Noah’s Big Problem

In the year 2005, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in the United States, and said, “Once again, the earth has become wicked and overpopulated and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans.”

He gave Noah the blueprints, saying, “You have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights.”

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard ... but no Ark.

“Noah,” He roared, “I’m about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?”

“Forgive me, Lord,” begged Noah. “but things have changed. I needed a

building permit. I’ve been arguing with the inspector about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbors claim that I’ve violated the neighborhood zoning laws by building the Ark in my yard and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Development Appeal Board for a decision. Then the Department of Transportation demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark’s move to the sea. I argued that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem. There’s a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the spotted

owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls. But no go!

When I started gathering the animals, I got sued by an animal rights group. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. As well, they argued the accommodation was too restrictive and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the EPA ruled that I couldn’t build the Ark until they’d conducted an environmental impact study on Your proposed flood.

I’m still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I’m supposed to hire for my

building crew.

Also, the trade unions say I can’t use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with Ark building experience.

To make matters worse, the IRS seized all my assets, claiming I’m trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least ten years for me to finish this Ark.”

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky.

Noah looked up in wonder and asked, “You mean, You’re not going to destroy the world?”

“No,” said the Lord. “The government beat me to it.” □