

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

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The Multiplicity of Denominations An Evil

J. B. Gambrell was a graduate of the University of Mississippi, editor of the Mississippi Baptist Record, and served as president of Mercer University of Macon, Georgia. He later became editor of the *Texas Baptist Standard* and a member of the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of Ft. Worth, Texas. In 1917 he

By James B. Gambrell

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

daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14).

“They have healed also the hurt of the

Taking these words as suggestive, I shall proceed directly to the discussion of a matter which has long

appeared to my mind to be of grave concern to all Christian people. It requires no argument to convince Bible-readers that the first churches had a common faith, as they had also a common Lord and a common baptism.

At the beginning there was unity in belief and practice. This is clear upon

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Time

All of us are perplexed occasionally as to what to do next because of time limitations. Seldom does anyone say, “What will I do to kill some time?” If and when he does, he shows that he is a poor manager of life.

The prodigal son had an answer for the way in which he wanted to spend his time and money — and soon they were both gone. Then he came to his senses and returned to his father.

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Evolution Debate Heads to Pennsylvania Court

By Martha Raffaele

Eighty years after the Scopes Monkey Trial, the latest legal chapter in the debate over the teaching of evolution in public schools is to unfold in federal court.

The Dover Area School District on Monday was to start defending its policy of requiring ninth-grade students hear about “intelligent design” before biology lessons on evolution.

Dover is believed to be

the first school system in the nation to require students be exposed to the concept under a policy adopted by a 6-3 vote in October 2004.

Intelligent design, a concept some scholars have advanced over the past 15 years, holds that Charles Darwin’s theory of natural selection cannot

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Under The Seat?

One of the members of a certain church instilled into his family the belief that the collection is a vitally important part of the service. Consequently, his little boy, Thomas, never came to church without his contribution.

One Sunday, as the elders began to take up the collection at the morning service, Thomas looked along the pew to see if the various members of the family were provided with

(See **SEAT** on page 2)

Quiz The Pastor -- #41

Is It Possible Jesus Christ May Have Committed Sin?

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: I know that Jesus didn't sin, but could He have committed sin?

Answer: □ This is such an important question, and as always our answer must come from the Word of God. There are various ideas about your question, such as whether the temptations confronting Christ were actually real or a sham; or, as some others teach, Christ could have sinned, but He didn't.

There can only be one right answer, and that answer is that it was absolutely impossible for Jesus the Christ to sin. Scripture will affirm this without question.

After His baptism, our Lord went into the wilderness for forty days, and there He was "tempted of Satan" (Lk. 4:2). The temptations were as real as Satan himself. The three

different challenges hurled at the Lord Jesus by this malignant one were designed to get Him to sin, but he failed, for Christ did not sin.

We know that Christ was Creator-God (Jn. 1:1, 3), and was thus said to be "God manifest in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:15; Jn. 1:14). "God was in Christ" (2 Cor. 5:19), for "within him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9).

Now, we are plainly told that "God cannot be tempted with evil" (Jas. 1:13). Since Christ was "God manifest in the flesh," there was no internal weakness within Him that would cause Him to respond to temptations, and thus commit sin for "God cannot be tempted with evil."

Man commits sin because of his sin nature, as

Paul states, "For I know that *in* me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7:18). Weaknesses abound within man, he is easily "drawn away of his own lusts and enticed" (Jas. 1:14). Man has a built-in "luster," but not so with God or the perfect humanity of Christ.

God is not "such a one as ourselves" (Psa. 50:2). Satan came to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and they fell easy prey to his "wiles," but when he tempted Christ, the last Adam, Christ said, "the prince of this world (Satan) cometh and hath *nothing in me*" (Jn. 14:30).

"Hath nothing in me" means Satan could not find a vulnerable entry into the Holy Nature of our Lord in order to get Him to commit sin. There was no opening or dent in His Holy Armor. He did not sin. He could not sin.

In Hebrews 4:15 we read, "For we have not an high priest (Christ) which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." This verse tells us our Lord "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without (did not commit) sin."

The temptations were real, but *temptability* does not suggest *susceptibility*. There is no evil in temptation itself. His Holy human nature was *impeccable*, incapable of sin, of wrong doing, of committing

evil. He challenged His enemies, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" (Jn. 6:46).

If Jesus was peccable while on earth, that is, capable of sinning, then there is the possibility He could sin today in heaven, for He is "the same *yesterday, today, and forever*" (Heb. 13:8). What He was "yesterday," He is "the same" today. If He was capable of sinning "yesterday," why not "today?" Imagine God's plan of redemption hinging on the uncertainty of whether our Lord would sin or not sin! This is blasphemy!

The Bible teaches the impeccability of Christ. He did "always" those things that pleased the Father (Jn. 8:29). He was in the "likeness of sinful flesh" (Rom. 8:3), but not *in* sinful flesh. He was "holy ... separate from sinners" (Heb. 7:26). □

SEAT . . .

(Continued from page 1)

a contribution. Noticing a guest of his sister's empty-handed, he whispered:

"Where is your money?"

"I have none," was the reply.

Time was short and the necessity great. In a flash, the little fellow met the emergency by saying:

"Here, take mine. That'll pay for you, and I'll get under the seat!" □

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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

The First Thanksgiving

Having the God-implanted desire to spread the gospel of Christ in remote places, a company of about one hundred Pilgrims settled in Plymouth in 1620. Of their purpose Governor Bradford wrote: "A great hope and inward zeal they had of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way there-unto, for the propagating and advancing of the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world: yea, though they should be but even as stepping stones unto others, for the performing of so great a work." Never could these devoted men and women have imagined how the Lord would later use the people and the resources of the great new land to carry the gospel to all parts of the world.



The First Thanksgiving

When a year later Governor Bradford called for a day of united thanksgiving, only half of their number had survived the rigorous winter. These could thank God that they were still alive and that He had blessed the summer with an abundant harvest. December 13, 1621, was

the day set for them to render thanks to the Lord. For three days the people gathered together to pray, sing hymns, and listen to sermons. They partook outdoors of bountifully laden tables.

This thanksgiving festival of the Pilgrims spread to other colonies in the

New World. Later during the Revolutionary War the struggling young nation on eight different occasions observed a special day of thanksgiving for military victories.

From 1863 when President Lincoln asked that the nation observe the last Thursday in November "as the day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father," Presidential proclamation each year has called for a national Thanksgiving Day. In 1941 Congress fixed the fourth Thursday in November.

As we lift our hearts again this year in gratitude to God, may He give us grace to dedicate our abundance "for the propagating and advancing of the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ in ... remote parts of the world." □ □

**If my days were untroubled and my heart always
light, would I seek the fair land where
there is no night?**

**If I never grew weary with the weight of my load,
would I search for God's peace at the
end of the road?**

**If I never knew sickness and never felt pain,
would I search for a hand to help
and sustain?**

**If I walked without sorrow and lived without loss,
would my soul seek solace at the foot
of the cross?**

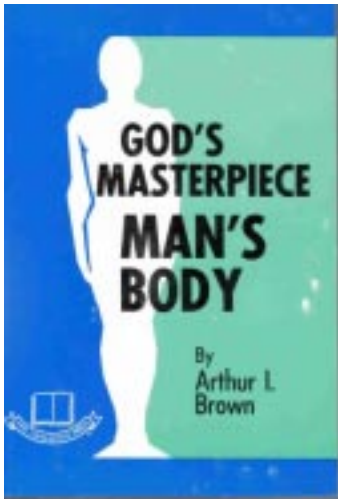
**If all I desired was mine day by day, would I kneel
before God
and earnestly pray?**

**If God sent no winter to freeze me with fear, would
I yearn for the warmth of Spring
every year?**

**I ask myself these and the answer is plain, if my
life was pleasure and never
knew pain**

**I'd seek God less often and need him much less,
for God is sought more often in
times of distress.**

**For no one knows God or sees Him as plain
As those who have met Him on the "Pathway of Pain."**



God's Masterpiece — The Man's Body #30

Protein — The Most Complex of all Chemical Compounds

By Arthur I. Brown

I have been discussing with you recently in several articles the necessity for the close association which exists between the digestive and circulatory systems. For the sake of clearness and emphasis it is well to review occasionally the facts we have learned. In this way you will not so easily forget the things I am bringing to you. I am aware how easy it is to let them slip.

We have seen how the food of various kinds, placed in the mouth and carried into the stomach and on into the intestine, undergoes certain mysterious and necessary changes, in order that the countless millions of cell-people scattered throughout the body may be able to utilize it. In the mouth, the saliva, which contains an enzyme, ptyalin, converts some of the softened carbohydrate food into maltose, acting on it only for a few brief seconds. The passage of the food through the esophagus is due to movements of its muscular

wall. These movements, characteristic of the food canal in all its considerable length, are called peristalsis, and consist of a series of waves of contraction and relaxation, always tending to push forward the contents of the tube.

In the stomach the food is stored temporarily — from one to four hours or longer — depending on the amount and nature of the food, and passed along gradually to the intestine. In the stomach the food is liquefied and dissolved, and partially digested. In the inner lining of the stomach, are thousands of small glands which pour out a fluid called gastric juice. This fluid contains about four percent of hydrochloric acid, which kills many of the bacteria always swallowed with food, and contains an enzyme, pepsin, which begins the digestion of proteins by changing them, partly at least, into peptones, preparing them for further action in the intestine. As digestion proceeds, the liquefied and acidified food gradually leaves the stomach and is pushed into the small

intestine, which is about twenty-five feet long.

In the small intestine, the food is mixed with three secretions the intestinal juice, produced by small glands in the intestine itself, the bile secreted by the liver; and the pancreatic juice, secreted by the pancreas, which is the chief digestive gland of the entire system. Its secretion contains three powerful enzymes: tyrosin, steapsin, and amylopsin, acting on proteins, fats, and starch respectively. The fats are changed to fatty acids and glycerol by steapsin. Amylopsin acts like ptyalin, changing starch to maltose and then into glucose by a substance known as maltase, present in both pancreatic and intestinal juices. Tyrosin acts on proteins and peptones, converting them into amino-acids, which we shall study in a moment.

The intestinal juice, to which two little attention is paid when we think of food digestion, also contains sucrase and lactase, which act on sucrose and lactose. Another important enzyme in this secretion is erepsin.

It acts on peptones, but not on the natural proteins; that is, in the last stages of protein digestion, erepsin seems to perform the most important job of changing peptones into the all-important amino-acids. Now these three enzymes, pepsin, trypsin, and erepsin, acting in this order, bring about the complete digestion of proteins. I have told you how the greatly changed foods, sugars, fats, and proteins, are absorbed by osmosis into the blood stream, the fats going into the lymph stream along with a special route into the subclavian vein on the side of the neck, while the rest of the absorbed foods find their way into the liver, thence to the heart, which sends them on their journey through the body.

Today I promised to bring you some remarkable facts about proteins, the small building bricks of which are the molecules of amino-acid, the only form of protein which can be taken into the blood vessels. The supreme importance of proteins has only recently come to occupy a leading place in all discussions of nutrition.

I want to pass on to you the very latest findings in this interesting field. Proteins are found in all living matter, and protoplasm contains fifteen percent of protein material. They are the most complex of all chemical compounds,

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BODY . . .

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containing thousands of atoms in each molecule. All proteins contain the elements carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen, while most of them contain sulphur, many phosphorus, and a few have other elements, such as iron, in small proportions.

Because they are invariably present in living material, they are considered, as a primary, an indispensable characteristic of life; hence that name, taken from the Greek, meaning "first." There are thousand of different proteins but all contain about fifteen percent nitrogen. The foods which have the largest amount of proteins are meat, milk, eggs, and cheese. Among the vegetables, beans, peas, lentils, and cereals are richest in proteins.

The final stage of their digestion is the amino-acids, some twenty-two of which have been identified. The simplest of these is glycocoll, and the most complex, tryptophane.

The properties of the various proteins differ according to the amino-acids which they contain and the manner in which they are joined. The animal body cannot manufacture these amino-acids, so they are supplied ready for absorption and immediate use. In the tissues, the wear and tear of the muscles must be replaced

by the amino-acids. These are necessary to the growth of the body. You will remember how the proteins are digested and changed, first into proteoses, then into peptones, and lastly for absorption into amino-acids.

The hemoglobin which gives the red color to the blood cells, is a valuable protein, while the blood plasma, which is ninety-two percent water, has 6.5 percent proteins in it. This shows how necessary for our life is a steady supply of this food distributed constantly to every living cell. It is claimed that, of the twenty-two known amino-acids, at least eight of them are necessary for normal human body growth, but practically nothing is yet known about the quantities of each which man requires. Generally speaking, animal proteins — those from meat, milk, eggs, fowl and fish — are of higher nutritional value than the commonly-used vegetable proteins, since they contain all the essential amino-acids. Man usually gets his protein requirement from both animal and vegetable food, and this seems to be the ideal method, and the way man has lived from the earliest times.

Most foods rich in protein furnish the vitamin B complex as well as minerals and fats. During most illnesses there is a disturbance in protein metabolism. In any acute infection this is pronounced,

and one of the recent discoveries is the importance of proteins in resistance to infection. Today when there are so many food shortages, it is doubly important that we watch the protein intake. Micro-organisms are foreign proteins which immediately interfere with the normal functioning of the body. The great amount of malnutrition brought about by the war has emphasized the nutritional importance of proteins with respect to growth, lactation, bone-marrow functioning, recovery from shock, wound healing and immunity.

Resistance to invasion by disease-producing bacteria is basically a protein problem — a problem of protein digestion. When the resistance is of a high degree, as determined largely by the protein condition, the blood policemen — the leucocytes — known also as phagocytes — germ-eaters — speedily go into fierce action and very rapidly destroy the invading enemies, calling on G.H.Q. for ample reinforcements from the reserve army always on call. A constant supply of protein is needed by the tissues which manufacture the army of phagocytes, and when this is interfered with in any way, the consequences may be disastrous. The reserves may be quickly exhausted and because of protein deficiency, the battle for life is

lost to the pathogenic organisms which have invaded the body. Wound healing is greatly accelerated in some mysterious way by giving large amounts of protein, either in the form of food or otherwise. One of the effects of blood plasma is to supply the needed protein, the effects of which are truly miraculous and known by many today. All scientific magazines are printing articles by our scientists showing the result of experimentation with this marvelous ingredient of animal and plant food.

Is there any chance about this? The answer is that there must be an intelligent and divinely wise Personality behind all this intricate mechanism which effects such profound changes in the body and which fights for us day and night, depending on the supplies brought to the organs which are so constituted as to deal with them in a highly scientific manner, changing them rapidly into a form that the body can utilize.

The Omniscience of our Creator caused Him to know exactly what our bodies would need in order to defend themselves against innumerable enemies. This defensive mechanism, largely contained in the blood, is one of the most remarkable evidences of design. The operations are so elaborate

(See **BODY** on page 24)

Have You Been Saved or Deceived?

By Buell H. Kazee

Large numbers of people sincerely believe they have been saved, but they are deceived. The Lord tells us that many will come in the last day saying to Him, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name have cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works" (Mt. 7:22). There will be false prophets, and preachers, and church workers, and many other professing Christians, who actually believed they were saved and doing God's work, who will hear the Lord say unto them, "I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Mt. 7:23). So, my friend, you can be deceived about this matter of your salvation.

You may say, "I know I am saved because I feel like I am." You can be mistaken in feeling. Only when feeling is in line with God's Word is it the right feeling. Satan can give you a feeling which may satisfy your understanding, but still it would be false. "But," you say, "I believe I am saved." Well, you may be, but you can be mistaken in your belief, too. Only when faith is in line with God's Word is it right. It must *be* right, not just seem to be

right.

Satan is the great deceiver. He is out to give you faith and experience which seem to be exactly those which God gives, but which are actually false. Counterfeit is his method. Satan has many preachers, who themselves are deceived, and who sincerely believe they are preaching the truth of God. They mean well, but they have not followed closely the Word of God. Thus they may, in their preaching, deceive many. You may be one of those who have conscientiously followed what you heard, and felt something which you took to be the true salvation, but you may be deceived. The following study is to help you see the truth.

First, Satan Deceives In Conviction

He gets preachers to preach on sins instead of sin. They preach about your conduct instead of your condition. They emphasize the sores on the body instead of the disease within. They preach about what you do instead of what you are. They preach about your sins of lying, stealing, cheating, cursing,

drunkenness, sinful habits, adultery, wife-beating, breaking the sabbath, and other like sins. By emphasizing these, all of which are wrong, they make the sinner feel condemned and bad, because of what he has done. This brings morbid regret to the sinner, a feeling which he thinks is conviction. He is embarrassed before his sins; but he is not embarrassed before God.

Holy Spirit conviction makes a man look, not so much upon his sins outwardly, but upon himself inwardly. He sees himself as a sinner against God; a Christ-rejecting, hell-bent rebel against God's will. This comes from preaching on what a man is rather than what he does. Holy Spirit preaching emphasizes the disease rather than the sores. This brings to the sinner a feeling that he is *lost*. "Undone" is the word we used to use in describing this feeling. Yes, we know we had done wrong, but more than that, we knew we were hopelessly doomed because we were afflicted with the disease of sin, and that there was no remedy except Christ. *This is Holy Spirit conviction.*

The conviction of depression because of our sins, which Satan gives, is a conviction of the "flesh" (fleshly mind); but the conviction which the Holy Spirit gives is of the Spirit, and is based on the truth of what we are rather than on

what we have done.

Second, Satan Deceives In Repentance

Remember, Satan would keep your mind on your sins instead of on Christ. So, he has the preacher bring before you a list of your sins, thereby producing a feeling of morbid sadness in you, and causing a feeling of embarrassment before your awful record. Under the spell of great "religious" fervor (and Satan is a master in producing this exciting fervor which outwardly resembles Pen-tecost, but which is really of the "flesh") you are driven by this depression to do something about your sins.

Now, what can you do about your sins? The only thing *you* can do is to be sorry for them. And Satan says, "That's it; be sorry for them." But being "sorry" for sin is not repentance. That is all the flesh can do, but that is not repentance. Repentance is changing your attitude toward God, and agreeing that He is right in condemning you to hell because of what you are, not just what you have done. Repentance is taking a sinner's place under the sentence of death, and submitting your case to the mercy of God. Being sorry for sin won't remove it. Only what Christ has done can do that.

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KAZEE . . .

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But Satan says, "Now go on down to the mourner's bench, and pray and cry and mourn, and let God know how sorry you are for what you have done, and when you have done enough to make God believe that you are really sorry for your sins, you will feel better." So goes the deceived sinner to the place of mourning for his sins instead of the Cross for salvation. Finally, when he has cried and prayed and let out his depressed feelings, emotional relief comes. Like a woman who cries out her burden and then feels relieved, the depressed and embarrassed sinner does all the flesh can do in being "sorry" for sins, and seeks that emotional release which he mistakes for forgiveness.

**Third,
Satan Deceives In the
Experience of Salvation**

By the wrong kind of preaching the sinner is led to believe that when "he feels better" he has been saved. He goes entirely on feeling and Satan goes with him. By encouragement from those who ask, "Now don't you feel better?" and who exhort him to "trust the Lord and claim the blessing", he feels at last that he has "prayed through" and arises to proclaim, "I feel better! I've got the blessing!" And

Satan whispers, "That is salvation. That is what the others got. Now you have it, and you are saved." Under the spell of fleshly religious fervor, it is easy to do, once the sinner has gone through what we have described. And, he is sincere, but may be deceived.

The Holy Spirit, through the right kind of gospel preaching, would direct the sinner not to try to do anything about his sins. He would tell the sinner to look to Christ who has already done all that can be done, or that is necessary about his sins. He would tell the sinner to take his place before God as a sinner, submitting to God's judgment of him (which is repentance), and then look to Christ as the one who has satisfied the Father about his sin, and who, by His death, has redeemed him. Then the sinner can say: "Because I have taken a sinner's place, and have looked to Christ to save me, on the authority of God's Word I can declare I am saved. I know it is true because God says so, and I feel it because I believe His Word." This is the true salvation; none other is.

**Fourth,
Satan Deceives In Living
A Christian Life**

The man who is "saved" by feeling, or "getting the blessing" is dependent on that feeling to keep saved. He is saved as

long as he feels like it, according to him. But faith has to walk many a mile without feeling. So, the days of depression come, and he loses a sense of that presence which he thought he felt. He is trusting his feeling, and his feeling has gone. He no longer has that assurance, the temptations

of the former life come back to him, and he has no one to sustain him. He falls into sin, and is embarrassed again. At least he concludes he has "fallen from grace," and either goes on in sin again, or seeks to be saved again.

(See **KAZEE** on page 24)

Jesus And Alexander

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three,
One lived and died for self; one died for you and me.
The Greek died on a throne; the Jew died on a cross;
One's life a triumph seemed; the other but a loss.
One led vast armies forth; the other walked alone;
One shed a whole world's blood; the other gave His
own.
One won the world in life and lost it all in death;
The other lost His life to win the whole world's faith.

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three,
One died in Babylon; and one on Calvary.
One gained all for self; and one Himself He gave,
One conquered every throne; the other every grave.
The one made himself God; the God made Himself
less;
The one lived but to blast; the other but to bless.
When died the Greek, forever fell his throne of
swords
But Jesus died to live forever Lord of Lords.

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three,
The Greek made all men slaves; the Jew made all men
free.
One built a throne on blood; the other built on love.
The one was born of earth; the other from above,
One won all this earth, to lose all earth and heaven;
The other gave up all, that all to Him be given.
The Greek forever died; the Jew forever lives.
He loses all who gets, and wins all things who gives.



Schuller's Recipe For Disaster. — Dr. Robert Schuller was honored by the recent NAE meeting in Colo. Springs. He said, "To be born again means that we must be changed from a negative to a positive self-image. ..." He said, "There are some things in the Bible I cannot swallow, but you get saved, not by the Book but by the blood." — CC

Liberals Have Long Dominated Schools. — Nearly three-quarters of faculty members of U.S. colleges and universities describe themselves as liberals, and at elite schools, the proportion is 87%. Harvard professor Doris Kearns Goodwin in her biography of LBJ quotes him as saying: "The communists control our three TV networks and the 40 major communication outlets ... It's all in the FBI reports. They prove everything. Not just about the reporters but about the professors too." FBI director J. Edgar Hoover had earlier said the liberal press has been infiltrated by communists. Business

World News Roundup

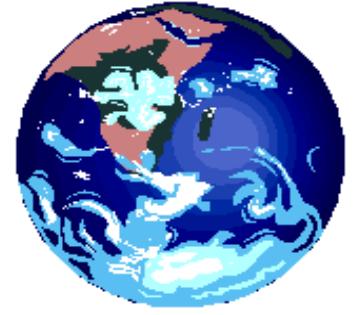
Week in 1981 said over 10,000 Marxist profs were teaching in U.S. colleges and universities. Communism is an evil, anti-God system that Christians must oppose and expose. — CC

Rick Warren's Defective Mega Church. — Rick Warren endorses women for all church positions. He is pro-ecumenical. He endorses unreliable Bible translations. His is the largest SBC church in the world. He says: "I'm Southern Baptist, our church is Southern Baptist, and we cooperate in SBC missions." One out of every ten churches in America is said to be a SBC church. Warren revealed his allegiance to the left-wing of the SBC when he told the Baptist Press the SBC's 2004 vote to withdraw from the apostate Baptist World Alliance was a major mistake. — CC

Networks Cover Iraq War as "Bad News Brigade," Survey Shows. — An analysis of the three network evening newscasts indicates that when providing coverage of the war in Iraq, ABC, CBS and NBC are "TV's Bad News Brigade." Network reporters are giving the

public an inordinately gloomy portrait of the war while downplaying the positive accomplishments of U.S. soldiers and Iraq's new democratic leaders, the Media Research Center (MRC) reported. (The MRC, the parent organization of **Cybercast News Service**, documents liberal bias in the media.)

Q: The word "day" — why is only Genesis the problem? A: The word for "day" is used over 2,000 times in the Old Testament. It can have a variety of meanings, dependent upon context. But, the only place where Christians have a problem agreeing on what the word "day" means is actually in Genesis 1. Do you ever hear of people not agreeing on what the word "day" means in books like Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth and so on? Of course not! So why is it *only* such an issue in Genesis 1? It's because many Christians have been indoctrinated to accept the supposed billions of years for the age of the universe. To fit this into Scripture is a problem. The only place they can even *try* to fit it is in Genesis 1. To do this, they have to reinterpret the obvious meaning of "day." This in itself should tell you that the



motivation for disbelieving literal days is that people want to *add* man's theories to the Bible. It's really that simple.

Churches Play Role In Film Releases. — In an effort to show Hollywood that evangelicals are a vital part of their potential audience, the producers of the latest end times film enlisted churches instead of movie theaters to premier "*Left Behind: World at War*" (Oct. 21). "*When Left Behind: World at War* opens ... it will do so through an entirely new distribution system that will not only challenge fundamental Hollywood rules but also provide churches with an enormous opportunity for outreach into their local communities," the Christian-themed film company Cloyd Ten Pictures said in a statement. "This film will be the first ever to open in churches, not theaters, across the nation." The church release will allow pastors at least 10 minutes after the film is shown to speak directly to the audience about the neces-

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La Voz Del Desierto

La Integridad de la Doctrina

Por Rafael Cepeda

Lo primero es la integridad de la doctrina. Hay que tener mucho cuidado con las adulteraciones, los sincretismos, los universalismos, las componendas, el “dejar hacer, dejar pasar.” Todo no está bien. Todas las religiones no son buenas como dice la gente. Todas las creencias no llevan a Dios. Y si nuestra fe no significa para nosotros lo único realmente valioso que tenemos algo digno de defenderse hasta con la propia vida, entonces es mejor no tenerla. Es cuestión de aferrarnos a la integridad de la doctrina y entonces vivirla íntegramente.

Después, cuidado en el

hablar. Si la doctrina significa tanto para nosotros, hemos de vigilarlos, para que nuestra palabra sea “sana e irreprensible.” Porque hay quienes se descuidan y hablan en tono despreocupado — a veces hasta blasfemo — de las cosas más serias y más sagradas. Hay que ser un cristiano alegre, pero no esclavo del choteo. Mucho menos cuando estran en juego los misterios de Dios y la obra de su Espíritu en el hombre.



Y en esto del hablar, un consejo más: “que a nadie infamen,” vale decir, que a nadie difamen,” vale decir, que a nadie difamen. Porque en veces se nos suelta la lengua — no ya juzgando a la doctrina, sino a los hombres — y lanzamos acusaciones más injustas y crueles que cabe imaginar. Yo he oído los absurdos y las suspicacias más infundadas acerca de una persona, y he sido impotente para contener tal avalancha

de insensateces, hasta que mucho tiempo después las he oído de nuevo, corregidas y aumentadas. Mucho cuidado hemos de tener antes de hacernos juicio definitivo: hemos de captar todos los elementos de juicio, sus fuentes, las circunstancias ambientales, el sentido de la acusación. Y si hemos de hablar del asunto, hagámoslo primero con la persona acusada. Si es culpable, se abre el camino para el arrepentimiento, la rectificación y el perdón. (“Creo en el perdón de los pecados.”) Si no lo es, la persona acusada estará sobreavisada, y actuará de modo que pueda probar su inocencia. □

El Rap La Música De La Rebeldía

Por Felix M. González Bulgarlá, Redactor

“Cercando andan los malos, cuando la vileza es exaltada entre los hijos de los hombres” (Salmo 12:8).

Ciertamente la vileza de los hombres (y mujeres), es

exaltada hoy en día en la glorificación de las estrellas del rap y reggae. Los mercaderes de estos géneros musicales no les importa cuántos jóvenes conducen al vicio y a la corrupción, ya que trafican

la vulgaridad y la violencia, haciendo millones a costa de los jóvenes al arruinar sus vidas, de manera que dan “... los niños por una ramera, y vendieron las niñas por vino para beber” (Joel 3:3).

Examinemos pues la fiebre actual de la música rap la cual está haciendo mucho más daño que la música rock.

El rap se caracteriza (Vea RAP en la pág. 10)

RAP . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

por un ritmo fuerte y vibrante, en la que su música y lírica, son una “vana repetición” con una ruda mezcla de lenguaje indecente y jerga callejera; parece ser la razón de su gran popularidad (vease **Mateo 6:7**). Pero, ¿qué nos dice la Biblia acerca de ésto? “Ninguna palabra corrompida salga de vuestra boca, sino la que sea buena para la necesaria edificación, a fin de dar gracia a los oyentes” (**Efesios 4:29**). El rap también constituye una rebelión contra las normas sobre el modo de vestir, el arreglo personal y la moralidad sexual. No es extraño que se haya convertido en un estilo de vida.

Los elementos básicos de la venganza personal, codicia, sexo y violencia son los temas principales de la mayoría de la música rap. Esta música induce a una perversión moral tan severa, que en cuestión de meses escuchándola, un joven puede llegar a ser totalmente pervertido. Ha dejado de ser una música sugestiva para convertirse en música “pornográfica.”

Fijese como describió un crítico un concierto de

rap: “*Los cantantes competían entre si para ver quién pronunciaba las blasfemias y obscenidades más impactantes. ... Los hombres y las mujeres que bailaban semejaban tener actos sexuales en el escenario.*” Uno de los promotores del concierto dijo lo siguiente de una representación que recibió mucha publicidad: “*De cada dos palabras que salen de su boca, una es obscena.*” Sin embargo, la música que se tocó esa noche se consideraba rap común.

En vista de la mala reputación que tiene la música rap, ¿quisiera un joven cristiano identificarse con un estilo de vida que incluso muchas personas del mundo consideran impropia y desordenada (**Tito 2:6-8; Ira Tesalonicenses 5:22**)? Es cierto que algunas canciones de rap no son tan malas, pero ¿sería sabio afiliarse a cualquier tipo de música que en su mayor parte ofende las normas cristianas (**Prov. 24:1-2, 19-20**)? El hecho de que seamos cristianos no significa que somos immune a estos tipos de ataques que Satanás hace a través de su música. La Biblia dice en **Gálatas 6:8** que: “... *el que siembra para su*

carne, de la carne segará corrupción.” Escuchar música carnal sólo puede tener un efecto negativo en nosotros (**Romanos 8:5-8**).

El profesor de música Joseph Stuessy dijo: “*Cualquier tipo de música afecta nuestro estado de ánimo, nuestras emociones, actitudes y nuestro comportamiento. ... Cualquiera que diga: ‘Puedo escuchar heavy metal o rap, sin que me afecte,’ está muy equivocado. Lo único es que afecta a diferentes personas, a diferentes grados, y en diferentes maneras.*” Pero, quizá más significativo es este comentario de Bob Larson cantante rock convertido evangelista: “*Una mente que ha estado invadida por la pornografía musical o lo largo de la semana no puede fácilmente ser remodelada con sólo unas pocas horas dedicada a la instrucción cristiano el domingo.*” Un proverbio pregunta: “*¿Tomará el hombre fuego en su seno sin que sus vestidos ardan?*” (**Proverbios 6:27**)?

Ciertamente deberíamos comenzar comprobando cualquier composición de palabras o música con **Filipenses 4:8** y hacer estas preguntas: “¿Es verdadera?, ¿es honesta?, ¿es justa?, ¿es pura?, ¿es amable? ¿es de buen nombre? ¿es digno de alabanza?” Si no cumple con estas normas y no piensas acerca de lo que estás escuchando,

entonces encontrarás que tu mente subconsciente está siendo lentamente envenenada por estas celebraciones de lujuria y maldad, no importa cuán buen cristiano pienses que eres.

Hacemos un llamado a nuestro niños y jóvenes para que no se contaminen con esta música. Y si ya han participado en alguna forma de ella, aún tienen tiempo de apartarse y entrar a participar de las preciosas bendiciones que tiene Cristo para nosotros (**2da Corintios 7:1**). □ □

La Paz De Acuerdo Al Islam

Para los musulmanes el mundo está dividido entre lugares controlados por los no-musulmanes (territorio de guerra) y la tierra donde prevalece la ley Islámica. Esto es un estado permanente de guerra aunque pueden haber treguas temporeras para el Islam. Las treguas no duran mas de 10 años, ya que los infieles no deben descansar en sus laureles. Cualquier tierra que los infieles posean es una posesión ilegal. Por lo tanto, para los musulmanes, el “jihad” no es agresión, sino tomar lo que es de ellos legítimamente. La guerra sagrada (JIHAD) es un deber religioso, debido al universalismo de la misión (Musulmana) y la obligación de convertir todos al Islam mediante la persuasión o por la fuerza. □ □

Iglesia Bautista El Redentor

Carretera 755, Km. 0.1, Barrio Pitahaya

H C-1 Box 3418

Arroyo, Puerto Rico 00714

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

Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

sity of a personal relationship with Christ. — BP

* * *

“Choose Life” Plates Approved. — A pro-life attorney says an Arkansas woman has discovered that when people try to challenge “Choose Life” license plates, they lose. Abortion proponent Tamara Brackett has dismissed her federal lawsuit which sought to strike down Arkansas’s “Choose Life” specialty plate, along with the entire system of authorizing specialty and vanity plates in the state. Eric Stanley with Liberty Counsel says he is very pleased the suit was dismissed. “Several organizations had intervened in the lawsuit to protect their specialty license plate — colleges, universities, the Fish and Game Commission — and we intervened on behalf of pregnancy centers and individuals who had the Choose Life license plates and would receive funds from them,” the attorney explains. “Thankfully she dismissed that lawsuit because there’s been precedent around the country that has established that these types of cases are losers — and I believe that she found that out.” Stanley says abortion advocates have no shame when it comes to their efforts to silence anything

that contains a message that supports life rather than death. [*Rusty Pugh*]

* * *

“American Girl” Supports Pro-Abortion, Pro-Gay Group. — American Girl, “known for its popular line of dolls, books and toys aimed at preteens, is calling for support of Girls, Inc., a group that promotes homosexuality and abortion. The company has been selling an ‘I Can’ bracelet with the promise that 70% of the proceeds would go to the controversial group. American Girl has also promised to make a \$50,000 donation to Girls, Inc.

* * *

School Bans Pre-game Prayer: Coach Quits. — “A high school coach in New Jersey had two words for school officials who told him he had to stop leading his team in a pre-game prayer — I quit! That’s what Marcus Borden of East Brunswick High School did in response to his school’s orders,” said Tim Ellsworth. “Borden had been coaching the team for 23 years and leading a pre-game prayer for the entire time. The resignation leaves the district without a popular coach and the players without a role model they respected. In addition to his work on the football field, Borden founded an event called the Snapple Bowl, a charity

endeavor that has raised more than \$150,000 for disabled children. — BP

* * *

Abstinence Emphasized On College Campuses. — “A new club emphasizing chastity is meeting in an unlikely place — the campus of Princeton University. The group is called Anscombe, after an English philosopher and staunch Roman Catholic who defended the church’s teachings on sex. Student-driven, the club is there to support kids who’ve chosen to remain abstinent. . . . At the University of Colorado at Boulder, Jonathan Butler has founded the College Coalition for Relationship Education (CCRE) to help kids navigate college life. “It can be very difficult to

find people who believe in what you believe,” he explained, “so I hope CCRE will be a beacon for those who believe in sexual abstinence so that they know there are other people that believe in the same things that they hold dear to their hearts.” Robert Rector, senior research fellow for domestic policy studies at The Heritage Foundation, said teens who abstain are less likely to attempt suicide, more likely to have stable marriages and more apt to succeed in life. “Abstinence from sex allows teens to focus on more important tasks. It also means that they have stronger character traits inside them that are enabling them to go on and succeed.” he noted. “That’s a very positive message.” —FOF ☐☐

If a task is once
begun,
Never leave it 'till it's
done.
Be the labor great or
small,
Do it well or not at all
John 17:4



“Her ways are the ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace”
— Prov. 3:17.

Solomon was called the wise man of his day. He was a philosopher whose intellectual brilliance has never been excelled in any age of the world. He not only spoke from inspiration but by observation as well. He knew wisdom’s way because he had walked therein. And he also knew vanity’s way because he had followed it through all of its cesspools of sin. He speaks of vanity’s way as a way of vexation of spirit: a way disappointing to all who follow it. Having seen the folly of a life of pleasure and the value of a life of service to God, he speaks by authority when he says, “Wisdom’s ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace.”

Let us note that there is a vast difference in a way and a path. The one indicates a broad way, the other a narrow way. Wisdom’s Way is broad enough to take in all of her paths. In the rough and rugged mountains of the world we see more paths than ways, and only skilled

Wisdom’s Way

By L. S. Ballard

footmen and climbers can follow those paths.

I. Wisdom’s Ways

1. Wisdom’s way is a highway. All dangerous obstacles have been removed therefrom, and hence it runs smoothly and pleasantly. What a joy to drive, or ride over a great highway where there are no dangerous curves or rough places to disturb the tranquillity and joy of the journey. There is no joy like the joy of walking in Wisdom’s Way. Its beginning is salvation, its termination is the new Jerusalem. And O what wonderful blessings are received by those who walk therein. Enoch followed this way through the gates into the eternal city of God. Elijah traveled this way until God sent an airplane to convey him to heaven.

2. Wisdom’s Way has a fixed goal for which it steers, and that goal is the glory of God. There is absolutely nothing in Wisdom’s Way to rob God of His glory. No selfish person walks there. No one seeking personal honor can be found there. Only the consecrated, the meek and the humble are conspicuous

in this way. All the Christian’s walk and works in Wisdom’s way are for the glory of God. So if you see one who is self-conceited, proud and arrogant, seeking personal glory, you may know that he is walking in his own way, which is the way of the foolish. The great apostle Paul walked in Wisdom’s Way, forming a resolution from which he never departed. “This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13-14).

3. Wisdom’s Way is the way of useful service. It always puts usefulness before pleasure and profit. Those who put pleasure and profit before service to God, leave Wisdom’s Way to walk in their own way. Pretended service to God not backed with a scriptural design and a right motive is an abomination in the sight of a holy God. Christian activity based upon the Word of God, promoted by sacrificial endeavor honors the Lord and makes life’s way pleasant for those performing the service and those for whom it is done. There is no strife, jealousy, selfishness, hatred, or bitterness in Wisdom’s Way. There is no place for selfish clans and political propaganda in Wisdom’s Way. It is a broad way, which provides room, work

and position for all who desire to walk therein. There are no clashes and wars in this way for wisdom is free from all such Satanic maneuvers.

In short Wisdom’s Way is God’s way, which leads onward and upward to the higher nobler things in life and reaches forth for the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, the goal of which is the glory of the great and holy God who gave us our being in the world, and who has provided for us in heaven a house not made with hands.

4. Wisdom’s Way is the way of sweet fellowship. All those who walk there go hand in hand, having sweet communion one with another. “How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity.”

Taking the Jerusalem church as our example we find first of all, that they had fellowship in doctrine, and by the way doctrine is put first. Secondary they had fellowship in their social functions, “and in breaking of bread.” And thirdly they had fellowship in prayer.

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common” (Acts 2:42-44).

The entire membership

(See **BALLARD** on page 13)

BALLARD . . .

(Continued from page 12)

of the Jerusalem church walked in Wisdom's Way and therefore had sweet fellowship one with another. Let it be remembered that the activities of any New Testament church, to have fellowship, must be based upon the Word of God. And if there is not fellowship in doctrine, there can be no fellowship in other matters. A church that takes the Bible strictly as its rule of faith and practice, and adheres to its precepts only, rejecting the traditions of men, will have fellowship in doctrine, and therefore fellowship in all other matters, for the reason doctrine covers everything pertaining to the church and its work.

5. Above all, to walk in Wisdom's Way is to walk with Jesus Christ. Since Jesus walks there His hand is under all of our burdens, His heart of sympathy is in all of our sorrows. If you have not had any sorrows remember that your time will come sooner or later, and then you will need the loving arm of the Son of God to uphold you. But if you are not walking in Wisdom's Way, you may feel after Him, but He will not be found. God permits His own children to wrestle with their own problems alone, who do not walk with Jesus. But those who walk with Him shall travel on to reign with Him in glory, while those who

walk in their own ways will build upon the sand, and to their shame will be saved so as by fire with all of their works burned up.

Wisdom's Way does not lead through the honky-tonk, the night club, the beer garden, the dance hall, nor the corrupt, obscene shows of our day. When you turn into those places, you leave Wisdom's Way and dissolve partnership with the Son of God, and thus fellowship is broken with Him.

II. There are paths in Wisdom's Way: "And all her paths are peace."

1. There is the path of personal faith in Christ which is indeed a path of peace. "Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God" (Rom. 5:1).

Faith is a personal matter. No one can believe for you, neither can you believe for anyone else. There are many things in Wisdom's Way which are common to all, but your personal faith in God is a matter that concerns you and no one else. No one can enjoy the direct benefits of your personal faith in God but you. Therefore it is a narrow path made for your feet. People are not saved by blocks or groups through the faith of one individual, but each one must have faith for himself. Personal faith in Christ brings personal salvation. Each one saved must meet

God on the basis of his personal repentance toward God and his personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. There is the path of personal service to God. You and you alone can fill that place. When God saved you He cut your life to fit that pattern, and no one else will fit in that place. God has something for which every man is fitted to do, and that makes each of us a part of God's great plan. In the material world one man may at times take another man's place and carry on for him, but not so in the spiritual world. You cannot lift the responsibility from the shoulders of anyone, neither can he lift it from yours. One individual could as easily eat or drink for another as you could shift your responsibility to another, or take another's responsibility from him.

When we walk in the path of personal service to God, we follow the path of peace. What a joy there comes into your heart at the close of the day to know that you have done the will of God and finished the work that He had for you to do on that special day. It stimulates your faith and braces your hope to take upon you the obligations of another day. And so the path grows brighter and sweeter with each day's service. Find your place and then fill it to the glory of God. Don't blame others for your failure to do a job that God had for you to do.

Jesus says: "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls"

3. There is the path of personal hope. He who refuses to walk in the path of personal hope has no peace in his soul. If one lives only for the joys and pleasures of this life and has no hope for the years to come, he lives to meet with a great disappointment when the shadow of death falls upon him. "Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." To live without hope is to be fearful in this life and miserable in the life to come. But he who can look out across the centuries and say in his heart, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that I shall see him for myself and not another," possesseth a treasure on which there can be no price. The man without hope is a man without a country here or hereafter. It is the Christian hope that keeps the life strong and pure. "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 Jn. 3:3).

Our personal hope is in the return of Christ to this world to take over the earth which long has been controlled by Satan. He says "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again, and receive you unto myself;

(See **BALLARD** on page 15)

The Lord Will Square The Score

By R. Nelson Colyar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The true prophet of God must cry out: “Get out of her, ye saints, ye people of God, ye sheep of His pasture! What are you doing grazing in the Devil’s

pasture? — Why are you caged with ‘every unclean and hateful bird’? Could it be that you are more interested in her luxuries than you are in the continuance of the gospel unto your children and to your children’s children? Despiseth thou the church of the living God, and helpeth thou them that hate the Lord? This harlot world-church, with her name written right out upon her forehead, MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH, shall receive her reward from Him whose holy name she blasphemes. Come out of her, quickly, beloved people of God. If not, you are partaker of her sins. Either repent of your allegiance with her, or share in her plagues.”

Yes, the Lord will even the score with a paganistic, modernistic, communistic churchdom that perverts the gospel and blasphemes the name of Jesus Christ. The time has come to call true, Spirit-born saints out of the churches of apostate Christendom and unto the truth. I make no apologies for advocating it. I believe that the Lord says to every God-called prophet of today, as He said to His prophet Jeremiah: “If thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them (the mockers) return unto

(See COLYAR on page 15)

The Birthmark of Apostasy

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affections, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those who are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
— 2 Tim. 3:1-7

The Holy Spirit here by the apostle Paul most clearly and characteristically describes our day. Apostasy is on. Spiritual blindness rules in high places and in low places. Mighty men are in the grip of the down-grade tendencies of this hour. Being so, they are blind. They clearly show that they are, “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” Being blind, they refuse to understand. They heap

opprobrium upon the heads of all who differ with them. Apostasy grips their hearts.

Now, because of the apostasy of this hour, shame upon shame is heaped upon the church of the living God. The Founder, Christ, is pushed aside. The Holy Spirit, the Guide, is ignored, and the laws of the church are trampled beneath the feet of those who are “lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, traitors, heady, high-minded” etc.

Because of the apostasy of this hour, crime after crime is committed against high heaven. God’s instruction, “This is the way, walk ye in it,” is taboo. The will of man supplants the will of God. The methods of man supplant the method of God. The pride of man supplants the precious truth of God.

Because of the apostasy of this hour, travesty upon travesty is perpetrated in the name of God. Organization supplants agonization. Compromise supplants courage. Culture supplants the cross. Works supplant grace. Manipulation supplants the ministry and the might of the Holy Spirit. My, my, how tragic is this hour. ❏

COLYAR . . .

(Continued from page 14)

thee, but return not thou unto them” (Jer. 15:19). The preacher has his choice, either to go with the mockers and scoffers, or to go with the Lord and His people. It is high time for them that are in the churches which deny the gospel of Jesus Christ, to make up their minds which way they are going. Paul the Apostle wrote by inspiration of God: “From such turn away.” The choice has to be made, and the sooner made the better.

BALLARD . . .

(Continued from page 13)

that where I am, there ye may be also” (Jn. 14:2-3).

4. Last but not least, **there is the personal path of love.** All who walk in the path of peace. There can be no peace without love and where love reigns supremely, peace thrives most graciously. Love and peace do not dwell in the same house with strife, bitterness, backbiting and destructive criticism. Love covers a multitude of sins, says the wise man. Therefore, those who walk in the path of love, live with

God, for God is love.”

You do not know the measure of my love for God, neither do I know the measure of your love, but God knows. Our actions may determine our love for Him, the Master says: “By their fruits ye shall know them.” Our walk of love reveals our Christian character.

There are two kinds of criticism: constructive and destructive. Constructive criticism is always second person, made to the individual concerning his faults; destructive criticism is always third person, made concerning the faults of the individual to others. Constructive criticism is always made in love, never in the spirit of bitterness.

“Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up; doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth ... and now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor. 13:4-8). ❏

**When God measures a man, He
puts the tape around the heart
instead of the head.**

1 Samuel 16:7b

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

P. O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48106

fbns@wayoflife.org

Guru Plans International Peace Palace.

— Transcendental meditation guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi is planning to build an international peace palace on an island off of the eastern coast of Canada. His Community of Global Peace purchased the island off Nova Scotia because they claim it is the most easterly point on mainland North America and the first place on the continent to see the sun rise (“Spiritual Guru Looks to Build Meditation Centre,” The Prince George Citizen, Oct. 17). Maharishi’s followers “believe that enough people around the world practicing yogic flying—achieved by hopping in the air while sitting cross-legged—will create peace and bring a stop to conflict.” Mahaishi was the Beatles’ guru for a short time during the 1960s. “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But

ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness” (1 Thess. 5:1-4).

* * *

Church of Sweden’s Liturgical Committee Calls For Blessing of Homosexuals.

— The liturgical committee of the Church of Sweden has approved plans to introduce a service for blessing homosexual couples. “The final decision will be made by the Church Assembly later this month, but the proposal won a large majority of the committee” (“Swedish Church Says Yes to Gay Blessings,” The Local, Sweden’s News in English, Oct. 17). Homosexuals in Sweden can form partnerships that are granted most of the rights enjoyed by heterosexual marriage couples. “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring

upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (2 Pet. 2:1-2).

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Roman Catholic Leaders Warn That Some Parts of Bible Not True.

— The Roman Catholic bishops of the United Kingdom have issued a publication warning their people that the Bible is not entirely accurate. The document, titled “The Gift of Scripture,” says, “We should not expect to find in Scripture full scientific accuracy or complete historical precision” (The London Times, Oct. 5). The foreword is written by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor of England and Cardinal Keith O’Brien of Scotland. The document says the early chapters of Genesis are legendary and the book of Revelation is not to be taken literally and does not describe the end of the world. The document also warns against fundamentalists who take the Bible as infallibly inspired, claiming that the fundamentalist approach is dangerous.

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Bible Printing Press Confiscated In Cuba.

— On the morning of October 9, secret police in the communist state of Cuba raided a home and confiscated a small printing press and

Gospels of John. Officials called the Scripture printing operation “subversive and dangerous” (WorldNetDaily, Oct. 18). A pastor was taken into custody for interrogation. “Elsewhere in Cuba, threats of demolition of house churches have never been so high. Recently, the government outlawed them and plans to hunt them down and close them. Many house churches have had equipment such as pews, homemade benches, musical instruments, Christian literature and anything else confiscated by police.”

* * *

Two Interesting Statements About Contemporary Christian Music.

— The following statements were made to me by e-mail, and I am thankful for permission to quote them: “I had this idea a few years back to take used baby diapers, composed of paper and plastic, and recycle them into paper and plastic dinnerware. Of course, they would be completely cleaned and sterilized—shredded, bleached, melted down. It would be extremely environmentally friendly, too. But I would not sell a package ... not even one to Al Gore. Why? Because the use of the plastic and paper in diapers have made the

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substance unsuitable for dinnerware. Much the same, the use of some musical beats and tempos within our culture to promote sin makes those beats and tempos unsuitable for praise and worship. You just can't clean rock 'n roll up enough to make it good enough for God" (Randy Bissell). "I was a child of the sixties and the seventies and grew up in churches where they encouraged 'modern' music to attract the youth. Sure it attracted me but it did not make me a Christian, nor did my non-repentance confession of faith that is encouraged in these world pleasing churches. Praise the Lord, I am now truly born again — freed from a bondage to alcohol, and a redeemed murderer. My solace is in worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ through lovely hymns and Scottish metrical psalms. My dearest moment was sitting at the graveside of Francis Ridley Havergal (not ten miles from where I live — in a gorgeous English country churchyard, where her father once ministered) and singing 'Take my life and let me be, Consecrated Lord to thee.' Modern singing with its beat — and off beat — massive sounds and the pop stage leadership is totally manwards and not Godwards. Jeremiah 6:16, 'Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways,

and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls....' The modern neo-evangelicals and dog-barkers ignore this as they know better than God. Let's read the last sentence of that verse, 'But they said, We will not walk therein.' What is plainer than that?" (Andrew Hall).

* * *

Europe's Native-born Enemy. — The following is excerpted from The Berean Call, Sept. 12: "Last Nov. 2 Theo van Gogh, Dutch filmmaker and descendant of the painter, was cycling through Amsterdam. He was accosted by Mohammed Bouyeri, who shot him six times as van Gogh pleaded, 'We can still talk about it! Don't do it!' Bouyeri then cut his throat with a kitchen knife, practically severing his head. Bouyeri was not done. He then took a five-page Islamist manifesto and with his knife impaled it on van Gogh's chest. On trial now in the Netherlands, Bouyeri is unrepentant. In court he turned to van Gogh's grieving mother and with infinite cruelty said to her, 'I do not feel your pain.' He feels instead glory. Van Gogh had made a short film about the oppression of Muslim women. Bouyeri was acting 'purely in the name of my religion,' championing his

faith by butchering a filmmaker critical of it. Bouyeri is no newly arrived immigrant. Nor is he, like the Sept. 11 hijackers, a cosmopolitan terrorist sent abroad to kill. He was born and bred in Holland. Likewise, three of the four London bombers were second-generation Pakistani Brits. The most remarkable discovery is that Europe's second- and third-generation Muslim immigrants are more radicalized than the first."

* * *

Alpha For Catholics. — The Alpha program is a charismatic evangelistic outreach that has been used to garner new members for liberal Protestant churches throughout the world. It began at Holy Trinity Brompton Anglican church in London, England, in 1990, and has spread rapidly. More than 7 million people have attended Alpha courses in 160 countries. The program is so shallow that it is acceptable across all denominational lines. In

a recent interview with Christianity Today, Nicky Gumbel, who oversees Alpha, said there is even an Alpha for Catholics. The Alpha program has achieved this ecumenical acceptance because it is doctrinally weak. It refers to salvation, the cross, the death of Christ, etc., in such a vague manner that false doctrine is not refuted. It says salvation is by grace, for instance, but it does not say that salvation is by grace *alone* by faith *alone* through the blood of Christ *alone* without works or sacraments. It refers to the Bible as God's Word in a general sense, but it does not explain that the Bible is God's inerrant, infallible, supernatural Word that must be revered and obeyed in every detail, that the Bible *alone* is the authority for faith and practice. If Alpha were that specific, it is certain it would not be ecumenically popular in this apostate hour. The program also seeks to lead attendees into unscriptural charismatic experiences. □□

**Many a good man has failed
because he had his wishbone
where his backbone should
have been.
Joshua 1:9**

The Importance of Christian Training

Max Jukes lived in the state of New York. He did not believe in Christian training such as the Sunday School affords. He married a girl of like character. From this union they have studied 1,026 descendants. 300 of them died prematurely. 100 were sent to the penitentiary for an average of 13 years each. 190 were public prostitutes. There were 100 drunkards. The family cost the state \$1,200,000. They made no contribution to society.

Jonathan Edwards lived in the same state. He believed in Christian training. He married a girl of like character. From this union they have studied 729 descendants. Out of this family have come 300 preachers, 65 college professors, 13 university presidents, 60 authors of good books, three United States congressmen, and one vice president of the United States; and outside of Aaron Burr, a grandson of Edwards who married a questionable character, the family has not cost the state a single dollar. The difference in the two families: Christian training in youth and heart conversions to Jesus Christ.

**God's house is a
hive for workers not
a nest for drones**

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fully explain the origin of life or the emergence of highly complex life forms. It implies that life on Earth was the product of an unidentified intelligent force.

Critics say intelligent design is merely creationism — a literal reading of the Bible's story of creation — camouflaged in scientific language, and it does not belong in a science curriculum. Eight Dover families are suing the school district, alleging that the policy violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

"The intelligent-design movement is an effort to introduce creationism into the schools under a different name," said Eric Rothschild, a Philadelphia attorney representing the families.

The history of evolution litigation dates back to the famous 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial, in which Tennessee biology teacher John T. Scopes was fined \$100 for violating a state law that forbade teaching evolution. The Tennessee Supreme Court reversed his conviction on the narrow ground that only a jury trial could impose a fine exceeding \$50, and the law was repealed in 1967.

In 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned an Arkansas state law banning the teaching of evolution. And in 1987, it ruled that

states may not require public schools to balance evolution lessons by teaching creationism.

The clash over intelligent-design is evident far beyond this rural district of about 3,500 students 20 miles south of Harrisburg. President Bush has weighed in, saying schools should present both concepts when teaching about the origins of life.

In August, the Kansas Board of Education gave preliminary approval to science standards that allow intelligent design-style alternatives to be discussed alongside evolution.

Richard Thompson, president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Law Center, which lobbies for the religious freedom of Christians and is defending the school district, said Dover's policy takes a modest approach.

It requires teachers to read a statement that says intelligent design differs from Darwin's view and refers students to an intelligent-design textbook, "Of Pandas and People," for more information.

"All the Dover school board did was allow students to get a glimpse

of a controversy that is really boiling over in the scientific community," Thompson said. The Discovery Institute, a Seattle-based think tank that represents many scholars who support intelligent design, opposes mandating it in public schools. Nevertheless, it considers the Dover lawsuit an attempt to squelch voluntary debates over evolution. "It's Scopes in reverse. They're going to get a gag order to be placed on teachers across the country," said institute senior fellow John West.

Eugenie Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education, which supports the teaching of evolution in public schools, said the controversy has little to do with science because mainstream scientists have rejected intelligent-design theory.

Intelligent design supporters "seem to have shifted virtually entirely to political and rhetorical efforts to sway the general public," Scott said. "The bitter truth is that there is no argument going on in the scientific community about whether evolution took place." □ □

**The grass may look greener
on the other side,
But it still has to be mowed.
Hebrews 13:5**

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the face of the inspired records, and it is equally clear that it was the will of our Lord that this happy state of things should continue. A caution was given against those who caused divisions contrary to the doctrines of Christ. Our Savior prayed for the unity of His disciples.

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

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

shall attempt to show. Taking the text as a guide I shall notice —

I. The injury inflicted upon the cause of Christ by the multiplicity of denominations. II. The pleas for divisions, insufficient, unreasonable and unscriptural. III. The impossibility of a settled peace under existing circumstances.

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

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

The Romish hierarchy is the slow growth of centuries, mainly the work of *men's* hands. Other sects around us have a kindred history, as might be shown did time and occasion allow.

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

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

But let us pass to notice that these divisions obstruct the course of truth. I accord to ministers of other denominations — many of

them — the sincerest desire to forward the cause of our common Savior. This is done with the utmost pleasure, and it detracts nothing from what I am about to say. These good men are hindered by the errors of their own systems. There have been Christ-loving, soul-loving preachers in the Romish church, who sought earnestly to bring the truth savingly near the hearts of the people. But their congregations were wrapped about with the grave-clothes of ritualism. They fought bravely, but the sword of truth was encased in a lifeless formalism, and could not cut its way to the heart. All error is a hindrance, as all truth is a help. It is painful to see good men struggling with their own errors.

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

And more: whatever tends to hinder the free preaching of all truth in due

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

Again, downright opposition to the truth is another evil growing out of the

multiplicity of denominations. Truth is exclusive. It will form no alliance with error; nor will it agree to a truce with heresy. From this inherent disposition of truth it follows that often it must be crushed to make room for that which is not the truth. It is no part of my plan to discuss baptism in this article, but I will allude to the baptismal controversy for an illustration of the truth of the statement just made.

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

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

I have said that the

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

Let us reflect for a few

moments upon the difficulties thrown in the way of the ungodly by the multiplicity of denominations, each with its peculiar teachings. Many a time I have gone to an ungodly man to urge him to seek Christ, and have been met with something like this. "I hear so many different things, that I don't know which is right. Sometimes I think they are all wrong, and that my chance is about as good as any." The world is confused, and no wonder it is.

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

Now, just for a little time think how the path of obedience is blocked up before the feet of young converts by denominational

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

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

I must call your

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

In the next place, I must briefly call your attention to the untold waste caused by the multiplicity of denominations. Take almost any

village of a thousand inhabitants, and you will see from five to six churches. These have generally, with much inconvenience, built houses of worship, and are maintaining a sickly existence. As many ministers, as churches, address handfuls of people, for which they receive a mere pittance. The strength of these bodies, in many cases, is wasted in strife among themselves, instead of being directed unitedly upon *the ungodly* in the community.

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

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

The last point that I will mention under this head is *the promotion of infidelity by the multiplicity of denominations*. Our Savior

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

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

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

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

"There is variety in all

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

Now, this reasoning applies to every doctrine of the Bible. If God had meant that there should be different churches, with different creeds, He would have made different reve-

lations to suit. As He has revealed but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one system of doctrine throughout, it is clear that He meant there should be unity in all these matters.

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

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

"All the denominations are branches of the church, and right, each in its own way." Is this true is the first important inquiry. We have all heard much of the branches of the church. Where is the

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

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

Upon the last part of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

in love we will speak the truth fully, plainly, constantly, till, under God, it prevails over the world.

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

admonish us to stand fast in the old ways, and to give to the simple truth of Jesus, which makes men free indeed, a consistent, earnest, and life-long advocacy.

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

The Ten Most Wanted Men

The man who puts God's business above anything else.

2. The man who brings his children to church rather than sending them.

3. The man who is willing to be a right example to every boy he meets.

4. The man who thinks more of his Sunday School class than he does of his Sunday sleep.

5. The man who measures his giving by what he has left rather than by the amount he gives.

6. The man who goes to church for his own sake rather than for the sake of the preacher.

7. The man with a passion to help rather than be helped.

8. The man with a willing mind rather than a brilliant one.

9. The man who can see his own faults before he sees the faults of others.

10. The man who is more concerned about winning souls for Christ than he is about winning worldly honor. □

KAZEE . . .

(Continued from page 7)

But the man who has been really saved, through genuine repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, stands on the solid rock of God's Word. That Word declares that we are justified by faith, not by feeling, and that "though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand" (Psa. 37:24). He knows that sin is not charged against him any more (Rom. 4:8), and that when he sins he has an Advocate with the Father, even Jesus Christ the righteous (1 Jn. 2:1-2). He finds relief in hearing John says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9). Thus he concludes

Being Alone With God

Secret prayer is without doubt the secret of Christian endurance and spiritual enlargement.

No other form or kind of prayer can take its place. Public prayer, family prayer, or prayer in a general sense as one goes about the duties of daily life, will not take the place of closet prayer, or being alone with God. □

**Pain is neither a
blessing nor a curse.
It is opportunity.**

with Paul in Romans 6:14: "For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under law, but under grace."

With a salvation that depends on Jesus rather than on our feeling, we can "go on unto perfection (maturity)" with the blessings of God upon us, singing,

"On Christ the solid
Rock I stand,

All other ground is
sinking sand."

If you are in doubt about your salvation, dear friend, study this tract and seek saving faith through the Word and the Spirit, not through feeling. And when you have found that you are free because the truth has made you free, then you will have that feeling which the true salvation alone can bring. □□

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 5)

rately complex, so exact to the minutest detail, always functioning in the same way, bringing about chemical changes of the most complicated nature, that the human mind is baffled, and yet, to our God it is commonplace. He organized this defense for us because of His love and thoughtfulness.

Yes, God Himself is our Defense. I agree with David in Psalm 59:9, 16-17: "Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defense ... But I will sing of thy power, yea,

I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning; for thou has been my defense, and refuge in the day of my trouble. Unto thee, O my Strength, will I sing for God is my defense, and the God of my mercy."

And again in Psalm 62. Will you listen to these great words? "Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation, he only is my Rock and my salvation; I shall not be greatly moved ... My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my Rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us."

Have you proved this experimentally? I have, many times, and so has every Christian. "Jesus never fails." Today when "men's hearts or failing them for fear and for looking after those things that are coming on the world," as Christ warned us, there is this sure place — a Safety Station for every man, woman and child in the world. The great tragedy is that so few are availing themselves of this refuge in Jesus Christ. We are trusting in leagues, councils, pacts, and treaties with nations, instead of lining up with God. God is speaking to the nations.

Hear Him in Isaiah 34: "Come near, ye nations, to hear; and harken, ye people ... for the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies ... Seek ye out of the Book of the Lord, and read ... for my mouth, it hath commanded."

That is God speaking. Will you listen? What will you do with Jesus Christ? Let Him into your life — NOW. HE'S VERY WONDERFUL! [Next month: "Some Mistakes of Scientists."] □ □

TIME . . .

(Continued from page 1)

To the Christian, wise use of time includes worship. "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God. All this gathered up in that emotion which most cleanses us from selfishness because it is the most selfless of all emotions — adoration" — William Temple.

Worship is all of these things and more; it is a giving to God. It is a giving to God the honor and homage due His name; and then it is a giving to God of oneself with nothing held back. It is an offering of one's life, love, one's all, for no less than this does God desire or deserve. □