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How To Witness To Jehovah's Witnesses

When a Jehovah's Witness comes to your door, he comes with a purpose. His purpose? Let the Watchtower Society answer that for us through their official Journal *The Watchtower*: "Your life depends on finding out who today are truly God's servants that speak his Word and becoming one of them" (*The Watchtower*,

February 1, 1967, p. 72).

His is a disciple-making goal! He has been told that to live forever he must now go door-to-door and look for others with whom he may start Bible studies."¹ In the course of the studies, subtle pressure will be exerted upon the student, requiring him to accept the Watchtower teachings as coming from God "through

his visible organization." To accept this point of view is to give himself over to be directed by the "Society" or headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses. Be forewarned: he comes prepared and equipped to do battle using all the reasons and logic he can possibly muster to support their doctrine.

How then can we get to witness to him about our

Savior and tell him that one does not have to go door-to-door to "gain eternal life?" We present the following systematic discussion which has been tried and proven successful.

But let's first get our objectives fixed in mind. Our goal is not to win arguments! To win argu-

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A Tip

And behold a certain man went down, with a friend, from his office to a place where people are wont to eat. And there the two of them did dine sumptuously.

And verily when the lunch had ended, the waitress brought unto the man a bill, and in the sight of his friend the man placed beneath the edge of his plate certain coins.

"What means this sum of money beneath your

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Service For Christ

By C. M. Lewallen

"*Whatsoever he saith unto you do it ...*" (Jn. 2:5).

These are the words of Jesus' mother which were spoken to the servants at the wedding feast in Cana. Their service was performed for Christ. Today the Lord is calling for servants to do His bidding for service. We study this subject with the help of four other Bible texts and see the method, the motive, the means, and the manner

of service for Christ.

1. The Method of Service: "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only" (Jas. 1:22). James is here admonishing believers to render true service for Christ. He is not calling on them to plan, imagine, see, or expect to do good and great things for the Lord; he is asking that they really perform the service. How often the preacher tells the

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The Complaint

A certain minister kept on his desk a special notebook labeled, "Complaints of Members Against Other Members." When someone called to tell him about the faults of another, the minister would say, "Here's my complaint book. I'll write down what you say, and you can sign it. Then, when I have to take the matter up officially, I shall know what testimony to expect from you."

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Quiz The Pastor -- #6

Can God's People "Bind" Satan?

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: I have been attending a church where the preacher repeatedly states that God's people can "bind Satan," and he quotes a verse that says, "Whatsoever ye bind on earth will be bound in heaven." Please help me on this.

Answer: □ Probably the verse you are partially quoting can be found in Matthew 16:19 and Matthew 18:18, and has nothing to do with binding Satan. For example, in Matthew 18:18, we find this verse had to do with the withdrawal of church fellowship from a member not willing to get right with a fellow-member who he had offended.

According to Matthew 18:15-17, certain steps are to be taken by the offended party in confrontation with the offender. If the offender will not heed to the divine

plan of reconciliation with his brother, then the church is to take action, and turn that person out of the fellowship of that church.

Notice the words in Verse 18, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye (church) shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye (church) shall loose (permit) on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Since Christ is the "Head of the church" (Eph. 5:23), He here promises to honor in heaven whatsoever scriptural decisions the local church makes here on earth. He goes along with the actions of His churches when they act according to His divine instruction, and keep His house in His name.

Nothing here even hints of binding Satan. The offender is bound by the church because of his sin, but is loosed or freed by

the church upon his repentance, and both acts on earth are sanctioned in heaven. No matter how small the church, Christ goes along with His church (Mt. 18:20).

Our Lord Jesus Christ was tempted by Satan (Mt. 4:1-11), but He didn't "bind" Satan. He resisted him even as we are commanded to do (Eph. 6:11; Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8). Christ was in a closer and better relationship with the Father than any of us could hope to be, and yet when Satan was driven off by Christ, he was driven off "from him for a season (a little time)" (Lk. 4:13). There's no doubt that after this, Satan continued his assault upon our Lord (Jn. 14:30).

However, Christ did not "bind" him, nor did Peter (Lk. 22:31), nor did Paul (2 Cor. 12:7; 1 Thess. 2:18). One day Satan will be "bound" with a chain in a bottomless pit for 1,000 years, but this binding will be done by an angel just prior to the millennium reign of Christ (Rev. 20:2).

I've seen and heard preachers on both radio and television tell their audiences that they're binding this and that, and loosing some other things. They claim to bind Satan and loose folks from certain diseases and bad habits. All without scriptural authority.

Satan had bound a woman with a sickness for 18 years, and Christ loosed her from it (Lk. 13:11-12,

16), but He didn't bind Satan in so doing.

I cannot find a direct command in the Bible where we are commanded to bind Satan. Perhaps your preacher means we can prohibit or "resist" Satan from "devouring" us (1 Pet. 5:8). But this is done by being "steadfast in the faith" (1 Pet. 5:9), and putting on "the whole armour of God" (Eph. 6:10-18). □

WITNESS . . .

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ments requires much study and knowledge of the Bible and even Biblical languages. Certainly most people are not so prepared. But we all desire to witness, and witness we can. We will remember that it is "God that giveth the increase."

Our appeal is not necessarily in the intellect but to the heart. We are looking for the ones who are suffering in a bondage of false religion and who are open to the call of the Master's voice. Therefore, let your love and joy visibly overflow to them as you speak to them of Jesus.

Now that we have defined the objectives of our prospect, you will want to lead this fast-talking person to the subject we have in mind. So, you will want to qualify him, that is, find out if he is amenable to investigate his beliefs and "hear" more about the Savior. The best way to

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THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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[This is the last message in this series of messages on the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation.]

This morning our subject will be "The Rapture." This evening, the Lord willing, our message will deal with the first eleven verses of this chapter as we look at the Vision of the Throne, the vision that John had of the throne in heaven.

We only want to read the first verse of chapter 4. *"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter"* (Rev. 4:1).

We find here a door mentioned in this first verse, and this is one of three doors we find mentioned in the Book of Revelation. You will notice in chapter three and verse 8 we have an open door mentioned. *"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name"* (Rev. 3:8).

When we were studying the Church of Philadelphia we remarked about the fact that this open door represented and signified the door of opportunity for great

Preached July 8, 1979 -- Message #32

The Rapture

By M. L. Moser, Editor

missionary activity, and that the church of Philadelphia represented the period of the most active missionary work in the history of the New Testament church. We also learned that only the Lord can open, and only the Lord can shut this door.

Next, we found a second door in this third chapter, this one in verse 20. *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me"* (Rev. 3:20).

This is a picture showing the Lord Jesus Christ on the outside of His church knocking and asking entrance into His church. We showed you that this church of Laodicea is representative of the churches of the last days immediately preceding the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the majority of churches of the last days are going to be like this church of Laodicea, rich and increased with goods, having need of nothing as far as material things are concerned, but spiritually poverty-stricken, naked, blind with nothing at

all. A name but nothing more, and the Lord, having been pushed to the outside as the world was admitted to the inside. This church of the last days is much like a true church of the Lord that has reached that state where the Lord has simply been relegated to the outside, and now He is on the outside knocking and seeking admittance into His own church.

The third door that is here in this first verse of the fourth chapter. This is the open door of heaven and represents the Rapture. The Rapture, or this open door, is seen by the word "come up hither." The Rapture is something that more people are aware of today than ever before. They are beginning to think about it more, and more books are being written about the Second Coming of the Lord.

May I warn you that you be careful of what book you read about this, because some may be good, but some may be bad. Some may have a little truth in them, but also have much error within them to go along with the little truth. Therefore, it behooves you to be very careful of what

books you read and particularly as we think about these books that are so prevalent today relative to the Second Coming of the Lord.

Now to the Rapture. If you go look in Webster's Dictionary for the definition, Webster defines the word "to transport with joy; the act of seizing and carrying away; carrying away to sublime happiness." This is usually what we think of when we think about the Rapture. We talk about an experience as being a rapturous experience. By that we mean that experience simply just filled our hearts with joy. The Rapture then is a time of great rejoicing. It is a time when believers, those who are saved, are to be caught up from this earth to be carried into heaven itself, and this is why it is referred to as "the Rapture." It is all of these things that Webster says. There is the act of seizing and carrying away; that is Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth, He is going to seize or capture and carry away all of those that are saved, all of those that belong to Him.

It also involves "to transport with joy," because for the believer, that moment in time when Jesus comes to this earth and catches away those who are saved, it will be a time of great joy for the child of God, for it means that he

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“Like All The Nations”

Returning Missions to the Biblical Pattern

By Tim Reynolds

In the last days of the judge Samuel, Israel was slipping from his godly leadership. In his old age he turned over much responsibility to his sons Joel and Abiah, but the sons were not the quality of their father. According to I Samuel 8:3, “And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.”

With the excuse of getting things back on the right track, the elders led Israel away from God’s perfect government, demanding a king. God warned them that this king would take authority over them, and they would have to surrender to him. Nevertheless, they said in verses 19 and 20, “Nay; but we will have a king over us; that we may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.”

How does this relate to missions? God has a plan, found in Acts 13:1-4. The church is to send out missionaries called forth by the Holy Spirit. This plan is our Samuel: It is the Word directly from God for us to follow. But many Baptists have taken a king, “Like all the nations.” Many Baptists have left the biblical pattern

for missions in order to be “Like all the nations,” in authority, agents, and aim.

AUTHORITY

The only authority Jesus established for His work on the earth is His church. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, “I will build my church.” He gave all authority on earth to his church. In Matthew 16:19 he said, “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Keys are symbolic of authority. Binding and loosing relates to the authority Jesus gave to His church.

The highest authority on earth is the local church. In Matthew 18:17, Jesus said, “And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church, but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.” Expanding on this thought, Paul wrote in I Corinthians 6:3-4, “Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgment of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.”

The highest court on earth is the local church.

How did the church get this authority? It was delegated by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20. “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore . . .” Jesus is the original authority, and only the original authority has the power to delegate that authority. The church cannot delegate her authority to do mission work, because Jesus gave that responsibility to His church.

How have many turned from God’s direct leadership to become “Like all the nations?” For fifteen centuries after Jesus instituted His church, mission work was under the sole proprietorship of the local church. Modern missionary practices have subordinated that primacy with fellowships, boards, and clearing houses.

The first mission board in history was originated in British parliament on July 27, 1649, with an act titled “A corporation for the promoting a propagating of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in New England.” The government appointed a president, treasurer, and fourteen assistants. King Charles III increased this board to 45 members in 1662.

The second mission board was also proposed by British parliament and granted royal charter by William III on June 27, 1701. It was called “The Society for the Propagation

of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.” It consisted of incorporated members who gained that privilege by virtue of donations. It was governed by a standing committee consisting of twenty-four incorporated members; a representative from each diocese of the Church of England; the Archbishop of Canterbury, who served as president; the Archbishops of York, England, and Wales, who served as vice-presidents; the Lord Almoner and Deans of Westminster and St. Paul’s; the Archdeacon of London, four professors of Divinity of Oxford and Cambridge, two calling birds, three French hens, and a partridge in a pear tree!

In 1721 a mission board was formed in Denmark. In 1732, one was created by the Moravians. On October 2, 1792, British Baptists in Kettering perpetuated the Episcopalian standard and brought Protestant practices in to Baptist ranks by forming the Baptist Missionary Society. This society was composed of pastors of churches making annual contributions, ministers who collected annually, Christians who contributed 10 Pounds annually, and subscribing members who contributed 10 Shillings annually. A ruling committee of 48 conducted all its affairs. They began work by sending William

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MISSIONS . . .

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Carey to India in 1793. Though a laudable undertaking, they failed to follow the biblical pattern.

This pattern has been modified and modernized, but remains: Denominational boards send missionaries; independent boards send missionaries; fellowships of churches and pastors send missionaries; clearing houses do the work that churches are supposed to do. All these practices ignore the biblical pattern: The Church at Antioch sent missionaries!

The whole existence and organization of fellowships, clearing houses, and boards is Episcopal in nature. The presidents and secretaries are archbishops and bishops: an episcopacy. The entire existence of such organizations is outside of Scriptural authority. If the authority to baptize resides in the local church, the authority for missions is in the local church.

AGENTS

We have the biblical pattern for missionaries in Acts 13: (1) They were men. (2) They were spiritual men. (3) They were proven men. (4) They were mature men. They were a team of men.

Many have, "Like all the nations," developed a different pattern. The missionary family, con-

sisting of a young man, his young wife, and various multiples of young children, some here, some on the way, are sent to foreign and domestic fields. Many lack experience, maturity, and established marriages and family relationships that will stand the rigors of a life without the support and fellowship of family, friends, and peers.

This perversion of the biblical pattern must be reputed and its practice ceased. We must stop sending young families to the mission field alone. The biblical pattern models missionary teams. John Mark turned back because of immaturity. Certainly, he was part of a missionary team, but let us not set up young preachers for failure. A Bible college diploma is not certification for the mission field. Missionaries must first serve internship in their home church – Paul and Barnabas did! We must stop ordaining and sending out novices. The Scripture forbids it. Older men need to open their hearts to the possibility of God's calling to the mission field.

AIM

The book of Acts once more offers a pattern. Where did Paul and Barnabas go? To population centers, including Barnabas' home on Cyprus, the city of Salamis; to Paphos, the chief city on the island of Cyprus; to Perga, the chief city of Pamphylia; to

Pisidian Antioch, a principle city large enough to have a synagogue; to Lystra, Derbe, and Iconium, all major cities of Galatia; to Ephesus, Colosse, Philippi, Corinth, Cenchrea, Berea, and Athens: all great cities of the ancient world.

We need not ignore small towns, but John Dillinger was asked why he robbed banks. His reply: "That's where they keep the money." We must go to the expensive, heathen, metropolitan centers of the world. That is where the people are.

We must re-evaluate how we look at the world. Many parts of the world have never heard the gospel, but other places need re-evangelizing. The Bible Belt needs another belt with the Bible. Countries that once sent missionaries are now in need of evangelizing.

We must throw away the stratified missionary hierarchy we have created. Boards, presidents, and secretaries must be abandoned. Dominant glamour fields that attract attention and money must not take pre-imminence over less-colorful fields. The decidedly un-Biblical designations of "Home missions" and "Foreign missions" must be disposed of. "Home missions" is you reaching your neighborhood — the field is the world.

We must stop treating missionary sponsorship as a status symbol or a formality, and start fulfilling the real

responsibility of sending out missionaries and keeping them on the field.

We must not be "Like all the nations." The world's ways will not get God's work done. He always blesses His methods. Let's just follow the Book. □

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discover this is to ask him some questions. This method is scriptural as the Bible tells us that there will "arise false Christs and false prophets" and we are told to "try (test) the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (Mt. 24:24); 1 Jn. 4:1). Be sure to ask the following questions in the exact manner and order that we present them for the best results.

ARE YOU A CHILD OF GOD?

As soon as your "friend" identifies himself as one who has come to your door to talk to you about the Bible, say to him or to her, "Excuse me. I would like to ask you a personal question. "Are you a child of God?" If he replies yes, ask him, "How did you become one?" Now wait for his testimony about what Christ has done for him. Listen carefully. Should he reply no, ask him, "Then whose child are

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you?"

The scriptural basis for our first question is this: "I send thee to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them who are sanctified by faith that is in me" (Acts 26:17-18). You will see that the verses show that there are only two places or positions for a person to be in: either one is in the "darkness" or he is in the "light." Either he has been sanctified by faith in Christ and received forgiveness of his sins or he has not. He is either under the power of Satan or he is under God. Paul tells Christians that before they were "saved" they were "sons of disobedience" and by "nature the children of wrath" (Eph. 2:1-4).

ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?

Now, if he says that he is a "child of God" and that he believes in Jesus as the Savior, ask the second question: "Are you born again?" (Scripture basis, John 3:3-6; 1 John 5:1). If he should say no, ask him, "Why not?" He will then proceed to tell you that only 144,000 are born again and going to heaven, and since he intends to live forever on the earth he doesn't

have to be "born again."

As an answer to this, ask, "Can you show me one verse in the Bible that says only 144,000 will be born again?" Do not accept a string of Scripture references. *There is no such verse.* Here they have been deceived and have not believed what the Bible has to say about Christ and salvation! Now ask, "Do you believe the Bible or only what your organization tells you?"

DO YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

The third question to ask is, "*Do you have eternal life?*" (Basis, 1 John 5:1, 11-13 and their own teaching.) The book, **Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God**, says on page 400:

"Jehovah God will justify, declare righteous, on the basis of their own merit all perfected humans who have withstood that final, decisive test of mankind. He will *adopt and acknowledge them as his sons through Jesus Christ*" (Emphasis ours).

They teach that this occurs at the end of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. So, at present, the two million JW's are not God's sons and daughters and they haven't yet received eternal life because they have not been through the final test which is yet in the future.

(See **WITNESS** on page 24)**SERVICE . . .**

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congregation what they should do to better serve Jesus, points out to them the way of good service, makes them hear his words, but never sees any good fruit because his auditors are hearers and not doers. There is a lot of difference between a performer and a pretender. So many professors are dead instead of dynamic. What if Jesus had been only a hearer, and not a doer of God's will. There would be no hope for lost humanity, and all would have been lost.

2. The Motive of Service: "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). There is no room for selfish purposes in this text. Service for the glory of God will do for the good of mankind. What a joy to work when God's great and good name is being exalted. This motive should be interwoven through all Christian service. It should dominate the activity of all believers. It should be the rule by which all conduct is measured. It should be the last word in any decision. When this is our motive for service, we will be giving true, faithful, and unselfish service to our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

3. The Means of Service: "Whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col. 3:17). In Acts 3:16, we are told that Peter

and John healed the lame man at the beautiful gate of the Temple in Jerusalem by using the name of Jesus and having faith in its power. The greatest name in all the world is JESUS. It is the Christian's power for accomplishing things for the church and God's cause. By means of His name and through faith in His name, we can worship acceptably, walk respectfully, work diligently, go faithfully, be blessed greatly, choose rightly, conquer easily. Faith has subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, made strength out of weakness, waxed valiant in fight and turned to flight the armies of aliens (Heb. 11:33-34).

4. The Manner of Service: "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily" (Col. 3:23). This is the manner in which all service for the Lord should be done. It is the only acceptable way. God demands zealous, enthusiastic service; He is not pleased with lazy and indifferent work. His service demands all our energy — energy tempered with good judgment. Enter into His service with your whole heart, and He will bless you in the same way.

All Christian service should be performed heartily in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and to the glory of Almighty God.

A Pagan Mourns The Loss of New Orleans

By David Cloud

Someone recently sent me an article from a web site called *The Witch's Voice* that bemoaned the loss of New Orleans because of its irreplaceable "pagan spirituality." The article is entitled "The Pagan Loss of New Orleans" and following is an excerpt:

"The loss of New Orleans is incalculable to the Pagan community. ... New Orleans is unlike any other city in the United States. Prayers, saints, candles are a prerequisite in ambiance. Occult practitioners, Voodoo priestesses, tarot readers, shoppes full of stones, candles, cards, dolls, incenses, are all numerous and part of the normality of it all. ...

"The sultry seductiveness of the city blends in perfect accord with legendary tales of vampires and ghosts. ... The Goddess is alive and powerful in New Orleans, her presence and beauty undeniable through the streets, and shoppes. ...

"Perhaps one day New Orleans will rise again — however, the ancient fecundity of her Paganess can never be replaced. For that also I weep."

[Concluding note:] I attended the Mardi Gras twice before I was saved, and I can testify that the



Mardi-Gras In New Orleans

chief god of New Orleans is "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4). I wonder why "the Goddess" couldn't protect her own property? It is, of course, because "the god of this world" has no power when confronted with the true and living God.

When President Bush worshipped in the ultra liberal National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 16, and vowed to spend kazillions of taxpayer dollars (that the nation doesn't have) to rebuild New Orleans at any cost, he said, "There is no way to imagine America without New Orleans, and this great city will rise again."

Once upon a time the type of pagan wickedness that New Orleans stands for was isolated to a few

places in America, but that is no longer true. The United States is one big New Orleans to one degree or another, and she is waiting for the Antichrist like the rest of the world. The pagan weeps over the loss of New Orleans to the storm, but I weep over the loss of America to the pagans.

I conclude with the following comments by a friend: "Here's a verse that we came across this week which caused us to think

about all this: 'Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience' (Col. 3:5-6).

"I'm very sick of Bush talking about what a 'great city' New Orleans is. The word 'repentance' has not once been mentioned. Not one person on the national level has dared to talk about the cesspool of sexual immorality, drunkenness, thefts, murders, homosexuality and heathenism that make up that foul place. This complete lack of repentance reminds me of Rev. 9:21, 'Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.' When these things take place in Revelation, they will undoubtedly deny that God is behind it, just as they are trying to do here. 'It's just an act of nature,' they'll say." □

**A marriage may be made in heaven,
but the maintenance must be
done on earth
Ephesians 5:33**



BJU Has A New Leader. — For the first time since its founding in 1927, Bob Jones University's president is not named Bob Jones — it is *Stephen Jones*, the son of Bob Jones III. Gary Weir replaced Stephen Jones as v-p for administration. For the first time, the school has sought, and received accreditation. Pennsylvania is a prime recruiting area and sends more students to BJU than any state except South Carolina and Michigan. The ban on interracial dating is gone, and increasingly, students are the product of home-schooling (e.g., this year, 25% of the incoming class were home schooled). A strict code of conduct is still imposed. — CC

California Senate Overturns People's Vote on Marriage, Critics Say. — A conservative group is reacting with "horror" to Thursday's passage of a same-sex marriage bill by the California Senate. AB 849, which replaces "a man and a woman" in California marriage laws with "two persons," passed 21-15 on

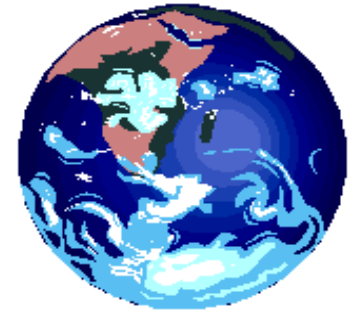
World News Roundup

Thursday, with all the "yes" votes coming from Democrats. The bill now goes back to the California Assembly for a final vote. That Assembly vote is uncertain, said the Campaign for Children and Families, which is urging Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to speak up now. "We call on Arnold Schwarzenegger to end his silence and announce that he will veto AB 849 because it unconstitutionally repeals the people's vote on marriage," said Randy Thomasson, president of Campaign for Children and Families, which has led opposition to the bill. "Every Californian who believes marriage is for a man and a woman must rise up today and demand that their State Assembly member oppose AB 849," Thomasson said. "How can God bless California when our lawmakers do this?" he asked. "The Democrat-controlled Senate has completely overturned the people's vote on marriage. They're violating the state constitution, which specifically prohibits the Legislature from repealing voter-approved initiatives." AB 849 essentially repeals Proposition 22, which passed in 2000 with 61 percent of the vote. Proposition 22 read, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

Thomasson noted that the California State Constitution, Article 2, Section 10(c) prohibits the Legislature from amending or repealing voter-approved initiatives.

S.F. Officials Want Iowa To Honor Gays' Military Service. — After city officials rejected a plan to bring the battleship Iowa to San Francisco earlier this year, supporters of the idea have come up with a new plan that they hope will convince leaders to welcome the historic battleship here. Supporters say a proposal to turn part of the vessel into a museum honoring the contribution of gays, lesbians, ethnic minorities and women to the military should help sway the Board of Supervisors decisions.

Yahoo Under Fire Over Jailing of Chinese Journalist — Internet giant Yahoo, accused this week of providing information that helped land a Chinese journalist in prison for 10 years, says it had no choice." Just like any other global company, Yahoo must ensure that its local country sites must operate within the laws, regulations and customs of the country in which they are based,"



Yahoo said in a prepared statement, read by spokeswoman Mary Osako over the phone from Sunnyvale, California, late Wednesday. She was responding to allegations arising this week about the company's alleged role in the imprisonment last spring of Chinese journalist Shi Tao, who used his private Yahoo email account to send information to a pro-democracy Chinese publication in the U.S. According to a translation of the official trial record, Chinese investigators tracked him down with the help of "account holder information furnished by Yahoo Holdings (Hong Kong)," which confirmed the IP address of Shi's computer and the phone number he used to connect to the Internet. The case was brought to public attention by the media freedom lobby group, Reporters Without Borders, which had strong words for Yahoo." We already knew that Yahoo collaborates enthusiastically with the Chinese regime in questions of censorship, and now we know it is a Chinese police informant as

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La Voz Del Desierto

El Libro Más Peligroso Del Mundo

Por Felix M. González Bulgalá, Redactor

Los cristianos que entablen discusiones con los “testigos” de Jehová deben estar conscientes de que la “Traducción del Nuevo Mundo de las Santas Escrituras” que ellos usan y que felizmente no tiene el nombre de Biblia, está arreglada con el único propósito de apoyar las doctrinas de los Atalaya. El apóstol Pedro advirtió contra todo aquel que intente pervertir y corromper la Palabra escrita de Dios diciendo “... las cuales los indoctos e in-

constantes tuercen, como también las otras escrituras, para su propia perdición” (2 Pedro 3:16). De igual forma el apóstol Pablo nos dice que “... no somos como muchos, que medran falsificando la palabra de Dios, sino que con sinceridad, como parte de Dios, y delante de Dios, hablamos en Cristo” (2 Corintios 2:17).

En Juan 1:1 dice que el Verbo, o sea, Jesucristo, “*era Dios,*” pero en la “biblia” atalaya traducen incorrectamente este versí-

culo “*era un dios*” lo que prueba que la traducción de los “testigos” ataca la deidad de Jesucristo, reduciéndolo a la categoría de un pequeño dios de segunda clase, inferior al Padre.

En Mateo 2:11; 14:33; 28:9; Lucas 24:52; Juan 9:37-38 y Hebreos 1:6 la Traducción del Nuevo Mundo deja fuera la adoración de Jesucristo al cambiarla por “*rendir homenaje.*” ¿Por qué ¿Será para que sus miembros no se den cuenta de

que cuando Jesucristo aceptaba la adoración era porque El es Dios? No hay otra razón.

En Miqueas 5:2 añaden la palabra “*origen*” para decir que Cristo tuvo un origen como los ángeles y el hombre. De esta forma tratan de acomodar en su propia “biblia,” la falsa doctrina de que nuestro Señor Jesucristo es una criatura en vez del Creador eterno.

En Génesis 1:2 se niega (Vea **LIBRO** en la pág. 10)

María La Madre De Jesús

De lo poco que nos relatan las Sagradas Escrituras de aquella a quien Dios escogió para ser madre de nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo, ofrecemos a continuación unos extractos que puedan brindarnos alguna lección valiosa para nuestras propias vidas:

1. María fué muy favorecida de Dios y ben-decida entre las mujeres, tal como se lo dijo el ángel: “Salve, muy favorecida, el Señor es contigo bendita tú entre las mujeres” (Lucas 1:28).

2. Sin embargo, ella reconocía la necesidad de un

Salvador, pues dijo, “Mi espíritu se alegró en Dios mi Salvador” (Lucas 1:47).

3. También sentía la necesidad de un sacrificio por el pecado, pues fué al Templo para dar la ofrenda, conforme a lo que está dicho en la ley del Señor; un par de tórtolas, o dos palominos” (Lucas 2:24), los cuales eran “uno para holocausto, y otro para ex-piación” o sea un sacrificio por el pecado (Levítico 12:8).

4. Nos dejó el ejemplo de la obediencia a la voluntad de Dios. “He aquí la sierva del Señor: hágase a mí con forme a tu palabra” (Lucas 1:38).

5. Nos dejó el ejemplo de la fidelidad a la persona de Cristo. Cuando casi todos los discípulos Le habían abandonado, ella estuvo allí

presente al pie de la cruz (Juan 19:25).

6. Nos dejó el ejemplo de la oración en la cual estuvo reunida con los demás discípulos y cre-yentes. “Todos estos perse-veraban unánimes en oración y ruego, con las mujeres, y con María la madre de Jesús y con sus hermanos” (Hechos 1:14). No se dirigían los demás a ella, sino que todos oraban juntamente a Dios.

7. Nos dejó un mandamiento solemne. “Haced todo lo que El os dijere” (Juan 2:5). Este mandato nos impone la obligación, primeramente de buscar en la Sagrada Escritura lo que El nos haya dicho, y luego, de hacerlo. Entre otras palabras de El, citamos las siguientes:

“Escuadriñad las Escrituras, porque a vosotros os parece que en ellas teneís la vida eterna, y ellas son las que dan testimonio de mí” (Juan 5:39).

“Yo soy el camino, la verdad, y la vida: nadie viene al Padre sino por mí” (Juan 14:6).

“El que oye mi palabra, y cree al que me ha enviado, tiene vida eterna, y no vendrá a condenación, mas pasó de muerte a vida” (Juan 5:24).

“Porque no envió Dios a su Hijo al mundo para que condene al mundo, mas para que el mundo sea salvo por él (Juan 3:17).

“El tiempo es cumplido, y el reino de Dios está cerca; arrepentíos y creed al evangelio” (Marcos 1:15). □□

LIBRO . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

la deidad y personalidad el “*Espíritu de Dios*” al cambiarlo por “*fuerza activa*.” Puesto que no creen que el Espíritu Santo sea una persona, ni Dios, sino sólo una fuerza activa impersonal, también eliminan la palabra “*Consolador*” y la cambian por “*ayudante*” en Juan 14:26. En este mismo versículo en vez de escribir “*Espíritu Santo*” con mayúsculas encontramos la referencia al “*espíritu santo*” con letras minúsculas, mientras que al diablo lo nombran con letra mayúscula.

Por cuanto tampoco aceptan la doctrina bíblica de la Trinidad. En 1 Juan 5:7 se encuentra otra gran diferencia donde los “testigos” toman parte del versículo 8 y lo ubican en el versículo anterior para aparentar que no han eliminado 1 Juan 5:7 donde omiten las tres personas de la Trinidad.

En Mateo 24:27 Cristo no habla de su segunda “*venida*,” sino de su “*presencia*” (la cual creen los “testigos” que vino invisiblemente en el año 1914). Esto fue necesario ya que Cristo no apareció

visiblemente en varias de las fechas que ellos han establecido.

Según la Sociedad Atalaya en vez de ser Jesucristo crucificado en una “cruz” su “biblia” dice algo diferente, dice que “*lo fijaron en un madero de tormento*” para apoyar la enseñanza de que Cristo no murió en una cruz sino en un madero levantado sin palo transversal (Juan 19:17-19). El apóstol Pablo nos advirtió repetidas veces de los falsos maestros y los falsos profetas. En su carta a los de Filipos, él llama a estos falsos hermanos “*enemigos de la cruz de Cristo*” (Filipenses 3:18).

En Gálatas 4:7 nos dice que somos “*herederos de Dios por medio de Cristo*,” por lo tanto la única forma de ser salvos y herederos de Dios es por medio de Cristo. Sin embargo la Traducción del Nuevo Mundo omite la parte donde dice “*por medio de Cristo*” omitiendo así la parte más importante de este versículo.

Los “testigos” han ido muy lejos al insertar el nombre “*Jehová*” en el Nuevo Testamento sustituyendo las palabras “*Señor*” y “*Dios*” por el nombre “*Jehová*” 237

veces. Cuando no aparece ni una sola vez en ninguno de los manuscritos del Nuevo Testamento griego. Mientras que en los siguientes versículos de la Traducción del Nuevo Mundo, “*Cristo*” desaparece y la palabra “*Jehová*” es puesto en su lugar (Colosenses 3:13; 2 Timoteo 2:19).

Parece ser que en Marcos 1:1 la Sociedad Atalaya intenta separar a Jesucristo del evangelio ya que su nombre no aparece en este versículo como tampoco aparece en muchas partes de su traducción adulterada de la Biblia (Hechos 2:30; Mateo 8:29; 23:8; Juan 4:42; 1 Corintios 16:22; Gálatas 1:7; Efesios 3:14; Colosenses 1:2; 2 Tesalonicenses 1:8; 1 Pedro 1:11). Sacar a Cristo de estas escrituras es cambiar el verdadero evangelio de Cristo por otro evangelio.

La traducción del Nuevo Mundo no sólo omite palabras y frases, sino también versículos (Mateo 17:21; 18:11; Marcos 9:44; Lucas 17:36; 24:40; Hechos 8:37 y muchos más). ¿Ven la diferencia?

Cuando se trata de conseguir los nombres de los miembros que forman parte del comité que hizo la Traducción del Nuevo Mundo, no se obtiene respuesta ya que la Torre del Vigía se niega a darle a sus seguidores los nombres y credenciales del comité de traducción de su “biblia.” ¿Por qué es tan

importante que sean anónimos? Es posible que tengan algo que ocultar.

Lo cierto es que ningún traductor reconocido y con credenciales, que tiene conocimientos del hebreo, arameo y el griego bíblico apoya la Traducción del Nuevo Mundo, por la sencilla razón de que añade, quita y cambia la Palabra de Dios para su propia conveniencia (Apocalipsis 22:18-19).

De hecho, antes del 1950 ellos usaban un ejemplar de la versión Reina Valera (porque tiene el nombre Jehová en todo el Antiguo Testamento); pero afrontaban el problema vergonzoso de tratar de negar la Trinidad y deidad de Cristo con la Biblia que cargaban en sus manos. Por lo tanto decidieron solucionar este problema en el año 1950 donde la Sociedad Atalaya dejó de usar nuestra Biblia (Versión Antigua Reina Valera) para anunciar y seguir “*otro evangelio diferente*” titulándola “La Traducción del Nuevo Mundo de las Santas Escrituras” (Gálatas 1:6-9).

Si el cristiano sigue prácticamente ignorando las actividades de los falsos testigos de Jehová, estará poniendo en peligro a un sinnúmero de almas; por tanto, desperdiciamos a sus perversiones de la Escritura y estemos firmes en la defensa de “... la fe que ha sido una vez dada a los santos” (Judas 3). □□□□□□

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well," the organization said in a statement." Information supplied by Yahoo led to the conviction of a good journalist who has paid dearly for trying to get the news out," it said. "It is one thing to turn a blind eye to the Chinese government's abuses and it is quite another thing to collaborate." It said he was therefore sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, followed by two years "deprivation of political rights."

* * *

American Baptists Divide Over Homosexuality?

— The general secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA urged members at their recent biennial meeting to not let divisions over homosexuality endanger their meeting. The ABC is a major member of the Baptist World Alliance, and though it has long been considered by many to be liberal, it is also known in some quarters as being both evangelical and ecumenical. It now faces a crossroads as it struggles with the issue of homosexuality. — CC

* * *

Antiochian Orthodox Church Splits From NCC. — The nearly 400,000-member Antiochian Orthodox Church of

America is parting ways with the National Council of Churches due to that body's liberalism. Among reasons cited for the split are the NCC's ongoing support for homosexual causes and its general secretary's withdrawal of his signature from a joint Christian Marriage Declaration with Catholics and Evangelicals several years ago. A denomination spokesman recently noted that the interchurch groups had "lost its goal of unity on a doctrinal basis..." The NCC was founded in 1950 and currently includes 35 U.S. Protestant, Anglican, and other groups. It has been widely associated with the ecumenical movement. — CC

* * *

Bill Gothard's Total Health Plan. — Bill Gothard's organization claims that over two and a half million people have attended his seminars. He is said to have had a tendency to mingle psychology and his own thinking in a level of authority alongside the Scriptures. He promotes an unscriptural ecumenism, and downplays the scriptural position of the church. He now promotes charismatic-style Power of Blessing and Total Health programs ("God wants you to be totally healthy," "live a long healthy life"). This is largely from a 5-page *O Timothy* report. — CC □

Taxes

A tax assessor came one day to a poor minister of the Gospel to determine the amount of taxes the minister would have to pay.

"What property do you possess?" asked the assessor. "I am wealthy," replied the minister. "List your possessions please," the assessor instructed.

First, I have everlasting life (Jn. 3:16).

Second, I have a mansion in heaven (Jn. 14:2).

Third, I have a peace that passeth understanding (Phil. 4:7).

Fourth, I have a joy unspeakable (1 Pet. 1:8).

Fifth, I have divine love that never faileth (1 Cor. 13:8).

Sixth, I have a faithful, pious wife (Prov. 31:10).

Seventh, I have healthy, happy, obedient children (Ex. 20:12).

Eighth, I have true, loyal friends (Prov. 18:23).

Ninth, I have songs in the night (Psa. 42:8).

Tenth, I have a crown of life (Jas. 1:12).

Eleventh, I have a Savior, Jesus Christ, who supplies all my need (Phil. 4:19)."

The tax assessor closed his book and said, "Truly you are a very rich man, but your property is not subject to taxation." □

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.

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. □

Delayed Obedience Is the Brother of
Disobedience

545 People Hold All The Cards

By F. Dale Conner

Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.

Have you ever wondered why, since both the Democrats and Republicans are against deficits, we have deficits? Ever wondered why, if all politicians are against high taxes, we have high taxes?

100 Senators, 435 Congressmen, 1 President, and 9 Supreme Court Justices, 545 human beings out of 300+ million, are directly legally, morally, and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country. They establish the budget and they write and interpret the laws we live under.

The Federal Reserve Board is excluded here, even though they control the monetary flow, because they were established by Congress and can thus be controlled or eliminated by Congress.

Excluded also are all the special interest groups and lobbyists because they have no legal authority. All the politician has to do is listen (or not) and make decisions based on the needs of the country as a whole.

These 545 people spend much of their energy convincing us that what they did is not their fault. They



United States Congress

cooperate in this common con regardless of party.

You can't think of a single domestic problem, from the terrible tax code to an out of control welfare program to wasted defense dollars that is not traceable directly to these 545 people. When you fully accept the plain truth that these people exercise complete power over the Federal Government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want it to be.

If the tax code is unfair it is because they want it to be. If we have a large national debt it is because they want a large national debt. If we have soldiers in harms way around the globe it is because they want them there. Name any problem from Medicare, Social Security, crime, illegal drugs, etc. that

affects us as a nation and the root cause is the inability of these 545 people to do their jobs in the best interest of the American people.

Do not let these people shift the blame for problems to bureaucrats, whom they hired and can terminate; to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators they put into power and who they can also terminate. Above all do not let them con you into the belief that there exist disembodied forces that prevent them from doing what they took an oath to

do.

These 545 people alone are responsible. They alone have the power. They should be held accountable by the general public who are their bosses – provided we have the gumption to manage and control our own employees. It seems inconceivable that we cannot replace 545 employees who stand convicted, by present facts, of incompetence and irresponsibility.

Think hard next time you go to vote. Please don't just pull the party lever because that is what you have always done. Many of these individuals running for office have picked the party label they think gives them the best chance of being elected. You have to dig behind their label. Look at voting records on the issues that matter to you. Do they have ideas of their own or simply follow the party leadership and vote as they are told.

We, the People, have the real power. All we have to do is exercise it. □

**Patience Is The Ability To Keep Your
Motor Idling When You Feel Like
Stripping Your Gears
Proverbs 16:32**

REVELATION . . .

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will be leaving behind all of his suffering, all of his misery, all of his heartaches, all of his drudgery, all of the things that make life miserable here upon this earth. All of these things will be left behind, and so it will be the transporting of those to heaven with great joy.

Then it says "carrying away to sublime happiness." No one can even contemplate what great joys and happiness that there will be for the believer after he leaves this earth. The Bible talks about things in heaven, but these things do not even touch the surface. These things do not even describe all that heaven really is, because it is so great that our human mind cannot comprehend, and human language cannot even express it at all. So it is to be a place of sublime happiness. No wonder then that for the child of God, the Rapture is a time of great joy for the believer.

Now in connection with this word Rapture, there is a phrase that is used called "the rapture of the church." This is not a scriptural phrase, and yet I hear it used so many times even by Baptists who do not believe in the universal/invisible church, yet they will use the phrase "rapture of the church."

Now the phrase "rapture of the church" nowhere appears in the

Bible. It is not a biblical phrase at all. In fact, it is an unscriptural phrase because it implies a false doctrine. The problem is a confusion between the definition of what the New Testament church is and what the family of God is. These are not identical; these are not synonymous.

There is a difference between the New Testament church and the family of God. The family of God is composed of every saved person all over this world, of both past generations, present generations and even includes those of future generations. This is the family of God. It includes everyone who has received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, regardless of what their church affiliation may be. You do not have to be a Baptist in order to be saved. Sometimes we Baptists are falsely accused of this because of our belief concerning the doctrine of the church, but Baptists do not teach, and Baptists do not believe that only Baptists are saved, and that only Baptists will go to heaven.

We believe that the family of God is composed of all saved people. That may include Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, or it might include this denomination or that denomination. In other words, church affiliation has nothing to do with whether you are saved or not, as to whether you are in the

family of God or not. That which determines whether you are a member of the family of God is whether you have by faith received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.

Now, it is more difficult to be saved in some denominations than in other denominations. There are some denominations that have so little truth within them, particularly concerning the subject of salvation, that if one were to be saved while they were a member of that denomination, you would wonder how in the world they ever arrived at the truth.

For example, a church that teaches baptismal regeneration, a church that teaches that you must be baptized in order to be saved, their members are depending, either in whole or in part, upon their baptism for salvation, and if you are depending on any thing other than the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation, then you are not saved. Salvation is where you put your faith and your trust solely in the Lord Jesus Christ and His work that He accomplished upon the cross of Calvary, and if you are depending in part or in whole on anything else, then you do not have all of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That means you're not saved. And so, how people within a denomination that teaches that you must be baptized in order to be saved, how somebody

could be saved within that denomination would be very hard to understand if they believe what that denomination teaches, because they would be depending, at least to a degree or in part, upon baptism for their salvation.

The same thing is true concerning works. For those who believe that you must do certain things in order to be saved, and then after you have been saved, you must continue to do certain things, or else you lose your salvation, it is very difficult for me to understand how those people can really be saved and become Christians in that particular denomination because they are depending, not wholly upon the grace of God for salvation, but they depend upon their works for salvation. Salvation is not by works. It is wholly by the grace of God as a free gift. Paul says this "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

So I would not say that a person that is a member of one of these other denominations *could not* be saved, but I will say that it would be *very difficult* for them to be saved because they are being taught a false plan of salvation. As Paul says in Galatians one, it is called "another gospel," which he says is not another

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gospel. So that if any are saved in one of these other denominations, it would be *in spite* of what is being taught there, rather than *because* of what is being taught there.

Anybody, regardless of their denomination, whether they are a member of a church or not, anybody that has recognized and seen themselves as a lost hell-bound sinner, and have seen that they are hopeless and helpless in saving themselves, that there's nothing they can do, or anybody else can do, and then they see that God provided salvation for them by what Jesus Christ did upon the cross of Calvary, when they turn in confession of their sins and repent and receive Jesus Christ by faith and trust Him as their Lord and their Savior, then they are saved that very moment regardless of what church they may be a member of.

Now, if a person has not done that, then they are not in the family of God, and they are not saved. It doesn't matter even if they are a member of a Baptist church. If a Baptist has not trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, then that Baptist is on his road to hell, because salvation is not to be confused with being a member of the Lord's church. Salvation is by trusting Jesus Christ and receiving Him as personal

Lord and Savior. Now when you do that, you are born into the family of God, and every saved person, Old Testament, New Testament, our time, future time, every person who has by faith received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, are born into the family of God, and at that moment become children of God, and they are saved. Now the rapture is coming for all of those who are saved, not just the New Testament church.

Now the New Testament church is not composed of all saved people. Those of the Old Testament certainly were not members of the church because the New Testament church is a New Testament institution. Jesus Christ Himself began the church. He says in Matthew 16:18 "Upon this rock I will build my church." There was no church before the days of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now part of the family of God existed before the days of Jesus Christ, but not the church.

You see, the church is God's house of witness in our dispensation. In the Old Testament, the Lord had two other houses of witness. First He had the tabernacle which was built during the time of Moses, and was used by the Israelites for many years. That subsequently was followed by the temple, which then became God's house of witness, and the

tabernacle passed from the scene and no longer was God's accepted place of worship.

The temple now has passed from the scene, and the Lord has built His New Testament church and the New Testament church is God's house of witness today. Not the building, for we know that is not the church. The New Testament church is composed of the people who make up the membership of that church.

Now, there are requirements to become a member of the family of God. The first requirement is that you must be born into the family. How are you born into the family? John tells us "*He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name*" (Jn. 1:11-12). This shows us how we get into the family of God. We are born into God's family, for we are born of God as He tells in the next verse.

But how do you get into a New Testament church? Nowhere do you find in the Scripture a phrase such as being "born into the church." You are not. You get into a New Testament church by being baptized. You have to be saved to begin with. That's first. Then you must be scripturally baptized.

Now, there are many

saved people who have never been scripturally baptized. They are members of the family of God, but they are not members of the church of God. They are saved and therefore they have been born into the family of God, but they have never studied their New Testament to the extent that they are willing to see what the Lord teaches concerning baptism and membership in a New Testament church, and so there are many people who are saved, and yet who have never become members of a New Testament church. Therefore it would be an error, it would be wrong, to use the phrase "rapture of the church," because when you say "rapture of the church" then you are eliminating all of those who have never been scripturally baptized, and say they're going to have to be left behind. That would mean only Baptists would go to heaven, and the Bible teaches that *all* saved people will be raptured, not just Baptists. Protestants do not really believe in "the rapture of the church" for if they did, it would be limited to Baptists. In spite of the fact you'll find Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and others using the phrase "rapture of the church," but they don't know what they are saying. Of course, they don't believe in the doctrine of

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REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 14)

the church like Baptists believe, or like the Bible teaches, because they believe in a universal/invisible church and make that synonymous or identical with the family of God which the Bible does not do.

So when we look at the subject of the Rapture, we're not talking about the rapture of the church, we're talking about the rapture of the family of God in which every saved person upon this earth, regardless of where in this world they are, whether they be here in Little Rock; whether they be in Argentina, Brazil, China, Europe, Africa, Australia, Russia or wherever they may be, every saved person is going to be raptured or caught up from this earth, and that is what we read about right here in chapter four and verse one. *"After this I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter"* (Rev. 4:1). So then there are many saved who have never been scripturally baptized, therefore not members of the Lord's church, but all saved people, whether they are members of the Lord's church or not, all saved

people, both baptized and unbaptized are to be raptured at the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when does the rapture take place? I have mentioned this off and on as we have been discussing these first three chapters of the Book, but there are three viewpoints concerning the time of the Rapture as to when the Rapture will take place. One phrase that you need to be familiar with (you will be if you continue to come for our messages), and that is the subject of the Tribulation Period. The Rapture has three different viewpoints in relation to this Tribulation Period. We will get into the study of the Tribulation Period when beginning in chapter six. The three viewpoints can be expressed by three prefixes — Pre, Mid, and Post, that is, Pre-tribulation, Mid-tribulation, and Post-Tribulation.

The question now arises, must believers, those who are saved, must they go through the Tribulation Period. What evidences do we have in the Bible for a Pre-tribulation rapture, that is, an "any moment" rapture, the teaching that Jesus Christ could come at any moment even now? Those who believe in the Pre-tribulation viewpoint believe that Jesus Christ can come back at any moment, in the very next second, and when He does, the rapture will take place, and all saved people will be taken

off the earth and therefore it would be before the Tribulation Period. That is called the Pre-tribulation rapture.

Then there is a viewpoint termed "Mid-tribulation." The Mid-tribulationists believe that the Lord will allow the saved people to go halfway through the Tribulation Period.

Now the Tribulation Period is divided into two halves. The first three and one-half years and the second three and one-half years, a total time being seven years. The first three and one-half years is to be a period of tribulation, but it is not to be as severe as the last three and one-half years. That's the worst half. Those who believe in the Mid-tribulation rapture, teach that saved people are going to have to endure and go through the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation Period, and the middle of the Tribulation Period, is when Jesus comes back again and catches up all the saved from the earth, the Rapture of the saints. That is Mid-tribulation.

The third viewpoint is called Post-tribulation, and by post, it means after the Tribulation Period. They teach that the believers, the saved people must go all the way through the Tribulation Period, and that all believers are going to have to endure and suffer all the plagues of the Tribulation Period which God Himself

is going to pour out upon this earth. So they teach that Jesus cannot come back until the end of the Tribulation Period, and that the believers are going to have to suffer and endure, and many die, during the Tribulation Period, for the Lord pours out all of these judgments upon the earth during the Tribulation Period.

Now, which one is right? Well, I'll tell you to begin with that in my judgment the Bible teaches what is referred to as a Pre-tribulation rapture, that Jesus Christ could come at any moment, even today.

One thing you must conclude if you believe in what is referred to as a Mid-tribulation period, is the fact that you could not stand in a pulpit as I am today and tell unsaved people, or anybody, that Jesus could even come back today. Why He's at least three and one-half years off. If it were to be a Mid-tribulation rapture, then I would not be in a position to tell saved people that you need to be busy because the Lord might come today, and you certainly would not want to be in a place where you ought not to be, for the Lord might come and you would be in the wrong place.

I certainly could not tell an unbeliever, you need to be saved today because the Lord might come back this very day and if the Lord

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Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

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Religious Intolerance On The Rise In Russia. — The following is from a report by the WEA Religious Liberty Commission, August 19: “Monitoring conducted by the Slavic Law Centre has determined that in Russia the first four months of 2005 yielded more cases of religious discrimination and violation of the believers’ rights than 2003 and 2004 combined. ... Reported cases include attempts to seize church buildings or destroy them through arson or explosions. Protestant Christians have suffered physical attacks, verbal insults and beatings from the police and from groups of fanatics. Also it has been reported that a number of churches, some with over 1,000 members, are having huge problems getting permission to construct church buildings. ... Evidence of how serious Russian Orthodox Church resistance is can be seen in a most striking and absurd document that was recently published ... The document, which was signed by Archbishop German, was meant for ‘inner circulation’ ... It obliges all priests to provide

a report on the activities of ‘totalitarian sects’ in their locality every three months. Amongst the items the priest must report are: name of organisation (‘sect’); confessional affiliation; approximate membership; leaders; places of worship; approximate age percentage and growth of membership; missionary methods used by the church (e.g., house visiting, street evangelism, camps, concerts, festivals, free meals, free literature); degree of activity or aggression; if the ROC is openly confronted; and planned events. The most shocking element of this is the order for the priests to report on key people in society who show favour to ‘sectarians’.”

Faith In God Declining Precipitously In England. — According to a new religious survey, less than one-third (52.5%) of people in England believe in God and only 16.8 percent attend church even casually (Christianity Today, Aug. 16). The research was conducted by the University of Manchester. The percentage of

people who believe in God declined 5.3 percent in less than ten years.

Laughing Revival Church Sells Property. — Carpenter’s Home Church in Lakeland, Florida, has sold its property to Without Walls International Church, which will move its headquarters from Tampa. Carpenter’s Home was where the Laughing Revival broke out in May 1993 during a revival led by Rodney Howard-Browne, who calls himself “the Holy Ghost bartender” because of the strange phenomena that surround his ministry (e.g., people laughing uncontrollably, staggering like drunks, falling to the floor). People flocked to the “revival” from across the country. In 1994, though, the pastor’s son, Daniel Strader, was arrested on fraud charges and in 1995 was “convicted of swindling investors, including church members” (Charisma Online, Aug. 25, 2005). Most of the members subsequently left and attendance dropped to only a few hundred people, with the 10,000-seat auditorium largely vacant. Pastor Karl Strader, a Bob Jones University graduate, was led into the charismatic movement by Francis Hunter of “Happy Hunter” healing team fame. Speaking at Indianapolis ’90, Mrs. Hunter told the story of how this happened, and I was in

the audience with press credentials. The Carpenter’s Home Church got its name from the property on which it is located. It was a retirement center for carpenters. My father’s Dad helped paint the original buildings and my mother’s Dad, a retired carpenter, died there in 1965. The property was purchased by the First Assembly of God of Lakeland and the 5,000-member congregation moved into their new auditorium in 1985. Without Walls is an association of charismatic churches that claims about 15,000 members in 240 congregations.

Muslims Forcibly Close Churches In Indonesia. — The following is from the Bangkok Post, Aug. 26, 2005: “At least 23 Christian churches in Indonesia, the world’s largest Muslim country, have been closed over the past year by Islamic militants with backing from local authorities, a Christian leader said yesterday. ... The groups, including one calling itself the Movement Against Apostasy, have forcibly closed 23 churches in West Java province since September last year, Mr. [Weinata] Sairin said. He added that Christians had used houses and shops

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for religious services because government regulations made it difficult for Christians to build churches.”

* * *

Two More Christians Martyred In Bangladesh.

— Two more Christians have been murdered in Bangladesh by Islamic militants. Tapan Kumar Roy (27) and Liplal Marandi (21) were hacked to death on July 29 about 94 miles from the capital, Dhaka (BosNewsLife, Sept. 21). The two evangelists worked for Christian Life Bangladesh and often showed the “Jesus Film.” Open Doors said an Islamic school official and villagers had threatened to kill the two if they continued showing the film. This makes a total of five Christians who have been murdered by Muslims since 2003. On March 8, 2005, Dulal Sarkar, a pastor and evangelist, was decapitated by a group of Muslims who were angry about the conversion of villagers in his area. He was a member of the Bangladesh Free Baptist Church in Jalalpur. In September 2004, Abdul Gani, a medical doctor who had converted to Christianity in 1995, was stabbed to death by a group of angry Muslims. He was a member of a congregation affiliated with the Bang-

ladesh Baptist Fellowship. In April 2003, evangelist Hridoy Roy was tied to his bed and stabbed to death by a group of eight Muslims. He had just returned home from showing the Jesus film in a village. Islam was declared the official state religion in Bangladesh in 1998.

* * *

Indonesian Housewives Sentenced To Three Years In Prison For Teaching Sunday School.

— The following is from WorldNetDaily, September 2: “In an Indonesian court under threat of violence from Islamic radicals, three women were found guilty yesterday of violating the country’s Child Protection Act by ‘Christianizing’ Muslims. Rebecca Laonita, Ratna Mala Bangun, and Ety Pangesti — who conducted a ‘Happy Week’ program in their homes — were sentenced to three years in prison. Indonesia’s Child Protection Act of 2002 prohibits the enticement of minors to convert to another religion. The women began accepting Muslim children only after receiving permission from the children’s parents or guardians, the British group said. But the Muslim Clerics Council, claiming the women had no such permission, pressured the police to arrest them in mid-May. At the trial, radical Muslim activists staged

vociferous protests, conducting prayers both outside and within the courtroom and loudly demanded that the defendants be convicted. An observer who had attended most of the court sessions said yesterday was no different. ‘[The protestors] arrived in nine trucks and brought a coffin to bury the accused if they were not found guilty. Their violent threats continued in their speeches before the session began. When the panel of judges read the verdict the crowd erupted with Allahu akbar or Allah is greatest.’ ... All three were devastated at the prospect of being separated from their children, who range from 6 to 19 years of age, Compass said.”

* * *

Churches Leaving The American Baptist Convention.

— Roughly 300 churches in Southern California and the Southwest have announced their intention to depart from the American Baptist Churches (USA) by the end of the year, and another group of churches in West Virginia will probably follow suit. The reason cited for the split is the unwillingness of the American Baptist Churches to enforce the denomination’s official stance against homosexuality. A 1992 resolution declared that “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian

teaching,” but in typical liberal denominational fashion it is widely ignored and homosexuals have been ordained and placed into many leadership positions. For decades a homosexual activist group called the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists has operated within the denomination. We are glad to see churches taking any sort of stand for truth and morality in these apostate days, but we also must say that this new stand is incredibly weak. Churches that overlook a century of theological liberalism, feminism and the ordination of women, the inclusive language heresy, and rampant immorality, and only take a stand when homosexuals are ordained as pastors, are extremely weak, to say the least. As early as 1910 Baptist leader William B. Riley stated that the denomination had been “surrendered into the hands of the Higher Critics” (George Dollar, A History of Fundamentalism). The American Baptist Churches sent representatives to the Re-imagining conference in November 1993. Speakers included Chung Hyung Kyung, a Korean “theologian” who equates the Holy Spirit with ancient Asian deities and prays to trees and the dead. At the conference Delores Williams said: “I don’t think we need a theory of atonement at all. ... I don’t

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think we need folks hanging on crosses and blood dripping and weird stuff." During the conference, a group of roughly 100 "lesbian, bi-sexual, and transsexual women" gathered on the platform and were given a standing ovation by many in the crowd. In a workshop called 'Prophetic Voices of Lesbians in the Church,' Nadean Bishop, the first 'out' lesbian minister called to an American Baptist congregation, claimed that Mary and Martha in the Bible were lesbian 'fore-sisters.' She said they were not sisters, but lesbian lovers.

* * *

Earthdance For Peace. — The 9th annual Earthdance, a global festival for environmentalism and peace, was held on September 17. An estimated 200,000 "world citizens" participated in more than 50 countries. There was even an Earthdance party in Kathmandu, Nepal, this year for the first time. The highlight of Earthdance is a global linkup during which a four-minute "Prayer for Peace" is played simultaneously in all parts of the world. This is the type of thing I used to get caught up in before I was saved, and I thank the Lord that those who believe the Bible and know Jesus Christ are

walking in the light and do not, therefore, have to dance in the dark! "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. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thess. 5:3-6).

* * *

Catholics Don't Read Bible Regularly. — An article from the Catholic News Service for September 8 was entitled "Experts say Catholics still don't read Bible regularly." The panel of experts associated with the Catholic Bible Federation concluded that the Bible has not "become an integral part of many Catholics' lives." The president of the federation said: "Recent research conducted in Italy, Spain and France found that many Catholics consider the sacred Scriptures as something 'reserved for the clergy' rather than as an accessible resource for them to draw upon for truth and inspiration in their own lives." There is no surprise here. A diligent student of the New Testament would soon

discover that the church described therein is not the "church" headquartered in Rome. Furthermore, since the Catholic Church claims that its tradition is equal in authority to the Bible, it is easier for Catholics to glibly follow their priest's teaching than to study the Bible for themselves.

* * *

Darlene Zschech and Sting. — In one of her books Darlene Zschech of Hillsong Music, the popular Contemporary Praise Music leader, said: "I once watched Sting in concert (he was absolutely incredible!). So much gift for one human being! Thoughts raced through my head, 'My goodness, Sting, you are like king David, full of psalms, melodies and music, and you sing as if you don't even know that His hand is upon you. You are so close to the heart of God. You are a master poet, full of love, and your capabilities are not because of your own natural abilities, you have tapped into the source of your Creator'" (Zschech, *The Kiss of Heaven*, 2003). To say that a filthy rock singer is like the "sweet Psalmist of Israel" or that such a rock singer has tapped into the source of his creator is pure nonsense. The Bible says the devil is the god of this world and the unsaved walk not according to the God of the Bible but "according to the course of

this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). Instead of telling her readers that she went to a String concert and loved it and leaving them with the idea that it is fine for a born again child of God to attend filthy rock concerts, she should have repented and apologized for disobeying God's Word, which says, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:11). Beware of Contemporary Christian Music. It is a dangerous bridge to the world.

* * *

Pastor Facing Human Rights Commission In Canada. — Stephen Boisson, a pastor in Alberta, has been called before the Human Rights Commission because he has spoken out on the dangers of homosexuality. After denouncing homosexuality as immoral and dangerous in a letter to the editor published in the *Red Deer Advocate*, a complaint was filed by Darren Lund, an assistant professor at the University of Calvary. In the letter, Boisson rightly lamented that "children as young as five and six years of age are being subjected to psychologically and physiologically damaging pro-homosexual literature

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and guidance in the public school system; all under the fraudulent guise of equal rights" (LifeSiteNews, Sept. 6). Boissoin will probably appear before the Commission in October, and if found guilty he will be fined \$7,000 (\$5,000 of which will go to Darren Lund and \$2,000 to the "rabidly pro-gay rights group" EGALÉ Canada). Boissoin has said that he will not pay a fine nor will he apologize for what he wrote, even if he has to go to prison. Good for him, but shame on Alberta's so-called Human Rights Commission for persecuting this pastor just because some don't like what he preaches. I wonder what this Commission would do with Jesus Christ?

* * *

United Methodist Pastor Dismissed For Refusing Church Membership To A Homosexual. — Pastor Edward Johnson was placed on a yearlong involuntary leave of absence in July for refusing to allow a homosexual to become a member of his congregation. Johnson had been the pastor of the South Hill United Methodist Church in Virginia for six years (*United Methodist News Service*, July 26). The action against Johnson was taken by the "clergy" of the

denomination's Virginia regional conference, by a vote of 418-114. William Layman, who was district superintendent at the time, filed a complaint against Johnson. He told the United Methodist News Service: "Johnson had two opportunities to receive the person into membership himself or allow the associate pastor to do it. He would do neither." This exposes the depth of apostasy within the United States' largest Methodist denomination. The national debate within that body is over the ordination of homosexuals, but a more foundational problem is the common acceptance of unrepentant homosexuals into church membership. A church has no right to receive into its membership any person who does not exhibit repentance. Paul preached "that they should repent and turn to God, *and do works meet for repentance*" (Acts 26:20). This is true for a sinner who has committed "normal" sexual sins as well as those who have committed abnormal. The membership role of the church at Corinth included those who had committed all varieties of sin, including fornication, idolatry, adultery, effeminacy, and abusing themselves with mankind (the latter two refer to forms of homosexuality), *but those things were in the past*. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the

kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such *were* some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11). A United Methodist conference facility in North Carolina was scheduled to host a homosexual rally in late August, featuring a forum to explore "the development of transgender and gender queer spirituality" ("Pastor Denies Membership to Homosexual, Gets Canned," *WorldNetDaily*, July 30, 2005). The action by the United Methodist regional conference in dismissing Johnson also demonstrates the unscriptural nature of Methodist church polity, which undermines the biblical autonomy of the assembly.

* * *

Anne Graham-Lotz To Preach At Baptist World Alliance Meeting. — Billy Graham's daughter Anne Graham-Lotz is scheduled to preach in October at a conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). The "Living Water"

conference has the goal of promoting the BWA's new "evangelism strategy" ("Baptists Unveil New Strategy for Evangelism," Assist News Service, Aug. 3, 2005). The BWA is a liberal ecumenical alliance of 211 Baptist groups in more than 140 countries. As far back as the 1930s, the Baptist World Alliance was a hotbed of modernism. When Dr. J. Frank Norris led the Temple Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan, to withdraw from the BWA in 1935, he cited its "modernistic dominated leadership" as a reason (The F. Frank Norris I Have Known for 34 Years, p. 311). Prior to that, fundamentalist leader A.C. Dixon had tried to have a resolution passed in the Baptist World Alliance affirming "five fundamental verities of the faith," including the verbal inspiration of Scripture and the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. An apostate majority of the BWA representatives voted down this simple resolution. Since then, the apostasy of the BWA has only increased. In January 2002, Denton Lotz, general secretary of the BWA, joined hands with Pope John Paul II and the leaders of many liberal denominations and 11 pagan religions at the third Day of Prayer for Peace at Assisi, Italy. Anne Graham-Lotz is openly dis-

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Consider This

**By: Richard Heatherly
Landmark Baptist Church, Fayetteville,
Tennessee**

America's party boat was cruising merrily along, while its citizens reveled in their wild and reckless pursuit of pleasure and material possessions. When, though it was by no stretch of the imagination the first one, God Almighty sent a warning shot whizzing across its bow.

It was the bright sunny morning of September the eleventh 2001 as American citizens were starting their day in the money capital of the world, it happened. Unknown to any of them two giant jumbo jetliners commandeered by cowardly Muslim thugs were headed for a crashing rendezvous with the upper floors of the world trade centers twin towers.

As the planes went plowing into the towers causing the terrible deaths of thousands of people who were blown to bits, burned alive, or leaped helplessly to their deaths shocked and helpless Americans watched in horror.

Another terrorist controlled jet went crashing into the Pentagon building while another that had been foiled in its attempt to crash into the white house by heroic passengers plunged into a field in Pennsylvania killing many

more.

This terrible and catastrophic suffering caused by the loss of human life and crippling economic impact caused the party boat to slow down and for awhile it looked as if, our leaders attention had been turned in the right direction. A nation which the day before as always was extremely religious but had little time for a true relationship with God and his laws of morality all at once began to organize prayer days and to speak long and piously of God's love and the "moral fiber of a great and righteous nation."

But sadly, it was only another religious sham to get God to bless an ungodly pleasure mad people in their open rebellion at the very God whose blessings they now desperately needed. Because it was only a few months until the pleasure mad religionists and liberal politicians and news media began to criticize our president for going to war against those who had committed an act of war on us.

And they began to call for stupid things, such as, no profiling of Arab Muslims at security checkpoints and to bellyache that their

rights were being violated at airports and train stations by policemen trying to protect them from killers.

Since then we have been involved in two wars costing thousands of lives and billions of dollars while we stupidly ask our fine young soldiers to risk their lives while not firing at the enemy who are shooting at them from mosques for fear of offending their religious leaders.

There have been tidal floods, famines, earthquakes, national outbreaks of sexually transmitted disease of aids by our idiotic tolerance of the wicked sodomites. And presently we are watching daily while multiplied thousands wade through sewage and otherwise polluted flood waters and try to survive in human waste and among dead bodies in New Orleans. The "Big Easy" as it was affectionately known by those who love sin and wild partying, loved to brag and boast of its many bars, strip joints, blasphemous mardigras, and wild, "anything goes", twenty four hour a day partying, was planning to host thousands of sodomites in a giant rally promoting open acts of sin calling it Southern Decadence the weekend following Katrina's shocking visit. But, God said No and made His will sure with the giant storm.

Today money grubbing merchant's politicians and oil companies use this

tragedy to line their pockets by gouging on gas prices thereby hindering even the rescue of lives. And while roving gangs of thugs roam through the streets of New Orleans looting, raping, and killing and policemen and soldiers are told not to shoot anyone for fear of offending ethnic leaders.

Religious Pharisees and politicians are again pulling out their religious phylacteries and standing in the market places and praying while asking all to pray to God for mercy and blessings. However nothing is said about repentance. One wonders what God they are referring to. Surely it cannot be the one true God of the Bible who said, "The nation that forgets God shall be turned into hell." And also said all liars, whormongers, adulterers, idolaters, thieves, effeminate abusers of themselves (homosexuals), drunkards, and revilers unless they repent will go to hell. So today in the aftermath of the swiping hand of God's judgment on sin the gutless religionists who cannot face truth are again piously calling for prayer to the God whom they have defied and urging wicked sinful men to let their "goodness" show forth.

In Wisconsin two professional men convicted of raping and assaulting two little children are given less than two years in jail, one of them even being allowed

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KATRINA . . .

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to draw his one hundred and thirty five thousand dollar (\$135,000) salary from the University of Wisconsin while in prison. While a feminist racist judge in Texas sentences two fine young Christian men with no prior record of any kind to 26 and 14 years in prison for giving the rebellious son of a woman allegedly married to an illegal immigrant a switching. In Texas two illegal immigrants are caught, trespassing by a rancher. In the process the criminals are beaten and sue the rancher and an idiotic judge puts the rancher in jail and awards his ranch to the criminals. An armed bank robber gets shot by a guard and sues the bank getting a large cash settlement.

Sodomites are allowed to parade openly and promote their filthy lifestyle while laws are passed to

put preachers in jail for preaching against their sin. Courts outlaw the Bible and moral teaching from our schools and allow teachers to teach classes on how to use condoms and the acceptance of homosexuality as being honorable and moral.

Meanwhile back in everyday America, churches continue to increase their crowds and to build larger and nicer recreation halls and add more programs of entertainment, hiring more smooth-tongued “preachers” to tell them the lie that God loves everybody, (see Romans 9:13) and that he has a wonderful plan for them. If they only knew what God has in store for all God haters, they could not sleep at night.

Does anyone out there hear what I hear? It seems I hear the groans of a past generation of godly preachers. And I seem to hear the faint echo of godly voices of the past repeating the words of our Lord,

“Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.”

Listen to Revelation 3:16-17 “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will spue (vomit) thee out of my mouth because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked” (Rev. 3:19). “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit sayeth unto the churches (Rev. 3:22). □

TIP . . .

(Continued from page 1)

plate?” the friend inquired. “It is but a tip, a customary percentage of the sum of the bill,” the man answered.

The friend said within himself, “How strange it is. This man has been served for a few minutes by the waitress, and behold he gives to her fifteen percent of the bill.

“All his life he has received this world’s goods from his heavenly Father, yet he is offended that God should ask of him a tenth part — a tithe — of his increase.” □

FBIS . . .

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obeying the Bible by preaching to men as well as by affiliating with heretics. □

BOOK . . .

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The sight of the open notebook and the ready pen always had its effect. “Oh, no! I couldn’t sign anything like that!” the member would protest, and no entry would be made in the book.

The minister said that he kept the complaint book for over forty years, and had opened it a thousand times, but had never had occasion to write a single word in it. □□

Who’s Nuts Anyway?

When a boy gets up at 4:00 in the morning to deliver papers, people say he is a go-getter. If the church were to ask that same boy to get up a little early to do the same work for the Lord, they would say, “That is asking too much of the boy.”

If a woman spends eight hours away from her home working in an office or working in her garden she is called an energetic wife. If however, she is willing to do the same for the Lord, they say, “Religion has gone to her head.”

If one ties himself down to make payments of \$50.00 weekly for some item for personal enjoyment he pays willingly. But if that same person places that much in the collection plate each week, many people would say he is crazy.

This is indeed a strange world where first things come last and last things first. □

**Many A Good Man Has Failed
Because He Had His
Wishbone Where His Backbone
Should Have Been
Joshua 1:9**

REVELATION . . .

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comes, and He catches all His saints away, you will be left behind with no hope of salvation. I couldn't tell an unsaved person that. Why you'd have at least three and one-half years if the Lord's rapture is not going to take place until the middle of the Tribulation Period.

And then, if you were to believe in the Post-tribulation Period, then it would be seven years off. This would conflict also with the Lord's teaching when He says, no man knoweth the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man cometh, but you see, if the Tribulation Period were to come either Mid or Post, we would know when the Lord would come. If it were Mid-tribulation we'd know the Lord wasn't going to come for three and one-half years. If it was Post-tribulation, we'd know the Lord wasn't going to come for at least seven years. But we don't know when the Lord is going to come, and the Bible does not tell us when the Lord is going to come, but the Lord tells us that we are to live in an air of expectancy as though Jesus could come at any moment. He could come even today. I don't know that He's *not* going to come today.

Let me ask you a question, and I want you to be honest with it, how many of you expect the

Lord to come back today? Let me see your hands. Raise your hand. Let me put it this way, how many of you do not believe the Lord is going to come today? Let me see your hands, you do not believe the Lord is going to come today. Well, I got a couple of hands, and my hand is up. I don't believe He's going to come today. If I did, I wouldn't be planning to go to Youth Camp tomorrow, and if you believe the Lord was going to come today, you wouldn't be planning to go to work tomorrow. You don't believe He's going to come today, because you are planning your day, or this afternoon, and tonight, and tomorrow, and next week, and next month, and next year. You don't believe the Lord is going to come today. But that's exactly when the Lord is going to come, because the Lord says, in the hour that ye think not the Son of Man cometh. You see, the idea is that the Lord leaves you and me in a period whereas we do not know when the Lord is going to come. It could be today, so then it cannot be a Post-tribulation or a Mid-tribulation rapture, but it must be a Pre-tribulation rapture, and that's exactly what we find right here in the beginning of chapter four and verse one, because this rapture, this "come up hither," takes place before the beginning of the Tribulation Period.

But somebody says, but

we've undergone a lot of persecution, and how do we know that the persecution that people are undergoing today, particularly in China, and in Russia, and in the communist countries, and some of these other areas of the world, why is it that this is not an evidence that we're already in the Tribulation Period?

Well let us remember there is a difference between persecution and tribulation. God's people have always suffered persecution at the hands of their enemies. In fact, God tells us that every person who lives for God will suffer persecution, because persecution is inflicted by man, and that's what we have going on today. But tribulation comes from and is inflicted by God, and the Tribulation Period is when God's wrath is to be visited on mankind, and God does not pour out His wrath upon His people. We may have persecution, but that will not come from God, but it will come from our enemies. But saved people are not to go under the wrath of God.

Notice in Revelation 6:16. This Tribulation Period is the wrath of God. Notice what it says about the beginning of the Tribulation Period as described in verse 16 where the people who are to undergo the tribulation. It says they will cry unto to the mountains and the rocks, "*Fall on us, and hide us from the face of*

him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb."

Do you believe that God is going to allow the wrath of the Lamb to be poured out upon those that He loves, that He has bought with His own blood, and that He has saved? Do you think that they will undergo the wrath of the Lamb of God? What have they been saved from?

Turn with me to First Thessalonians chapter five. We read in verse nine, "*For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.*" God hath not appointed us unto wrath. Saved people will not have to undergo and endure the wrath of God.

Romans chapter eight, verse one, "*There is therefore now no condemnation.*" That word "condemnation" means judgment. "*There is therefore now no condemnation (or judgment) to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit*" (Rom. 8:1). So these who would teach that the saved are either going to have to go halfway through the Tribulation Period or even all the way through the Tribulation Period, are teaching that believers are going to have to suffer under the outpouring of the Lamb of God upon this earth, along with all of the unbelievers. Do you think

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REVELATION . . .

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God would violate His own word when He says that we have been saved from the wrath to come, and that we would have to undergo the wrath that God pours out upon this world of unbelievers? Are we going to have to undergo the same kind of judgment upon this earth that unbelievers are going to have to go through? Well, those who teach either Mid- or Post-tribulation teach this.

I remember an illustration that has been used. You know, the church is called the Bride of Christ. In Ephesians 5 we find in verses 25 and 26 that the Lord loved the church. He says, *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”* Now the New Testament church is the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. He loves that church; He died for that church; He gave Himself for that church. Now loving the church as He does, what kind of a groom, what kind of a husband, what kind of a fiancée who had the power and the ability to protect his bride, would allow his bride to be dragged through tribulation, where she was to be beaten, and mauled, and bruised, and persecuted, and undergo wrath like this if it was within His power to prevent it? What kind of a God would allow that to happen to His

Bride?

Now the Lord loves His children, and when the Tribulation Period pours out upon the earth, the Lord is not going to allow His Bride to be dragged through the Tribulation Period and even help bring the persecution upon her. That’s the wrath of the Lamb we found in Revelation chapter six.

Now the Lord loves the church. Do you think He’s going to allow the wrath of the Lamb to beat His church and maul His church and to pour out all the bowls and the other things that are going to take place that we read about in the Tribulation Period? What kind of a Bride would He have when He got through with all of that wrath? No! The Lord does not allow His Bride to go through the Tribulation Period. The saved people are not going to have to go through the Tribulation Period. *“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter”* (Rev. 4:1).

Now these first seven churches that we talked about in the first two chapters give us a complete history of the New Testament church from its organization by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself during His personal ministry and

carries us right up to the point of the Rapture. The Laodicean Period is that period immediately preceding the Rapture, and I don’t think there’s any doubt that we are living now at the close of that period of time, the Laodicean church age.

The next event is going to be the opening of the door to heaven, the voice of the trumpet saying *“Come up hither.”* This is going to take place at the unexpected hour, for in Matthew 24:44 He says, *“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”*

The Rapture. What takes place then at the time of the Rapture? For the believer, the fulfillment of God’s promises for them. Everything God has promised is now just a promise. We’re not in heaven yet. We don’t have our new body yet. We have not been removed from this body of sin. We do not have our inheritance as yet. But when the Rapture takes place, all of the things that God has promised for believers will take place right then.

The first thing will be the resurrection of the body of all the saved. That will take place out in the cemeteries. Secondly, those who are living at the time will have the transformation of their bodies so that they will become an incorruptible body just like those who have been resurrected from

the grave. Now together this is called “The first resurrection.” That’s what takes place for the believer.

But what happens for the unbeliever? Well, when the rapture takes place, for the unbeliever, it will be the end of that period of grace, the end of your opportunity for salvation for those who have heard the gospel. If you’re not saved when the rapture takes place, you can know that you are forever doomed with no hope, no prospect of being saved. You will go through the Tribulation Period, at least in part. You may be one of those that are killed during the Tribulation Period. You may be one of those that have to undergo all the wrath of God or the wrath of the Lamb upon the earth, and you still may survive and go through the Tribulation Period, but what a miserable existence it will be. But the vast majority will not make it through the Tribulation Period. They will die. When they die, their body is going to be buried, but their soul is going down into hell or Hades where that rich man is.

The bodies of the unsaved will not be raptured when Jesus comes back for the believers. Their bodies will stay in the grave, but after the Tribulation Period the Lord is going to have a period of one thousand years in which He is going to reign

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REVELATION . . .

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upon this earth that is called the millennial reign of the Lord. At the end of that one thousand year period, is when Jesus comes back for the rapture of the unsaved. That is, the resurrection of the bodies of all of those who are unsaved.

Notice in Revelation chapter twenty, verse five: *“But the rest of the dead,”* that is those that were not resurrected at the time of the rapture when Jesus came back, *“but the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”* And then notice in verse 11-15. This happens at the close of the Millennial reign, for the Lord comes back then to finally put Satan and all his cohorts in hell forever. It says:

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and

they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:11-15).

The unbelievers then living at the time of the Rapture are going to be left to go through the Tribulation Period. If they die, their soul will go to hell (hades), their body will be buried, or consumed by the vultures or however else men die during the Tribulation Period, but at the end of the Millennial Reign, all the unsaved will be resurrected. Their bodies will be brought up out of the grave, from the sea, wherever they were, their soul will be brought up out of Hell (hades), and united with their bodies. Their bodies will be made indestructible so that they cannot be destroyed by fire. They will then stand before the great white judgment throne of God, and then they will be cast into the lake of fire, for the Bible says, *“whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”* (Rev. 20:15). This is the second death. Forever! Never leave! That’s your eternity! You will be there forever and ever and ever and ever. Just as long as the saved people will be in heaven, you will be in hell. Just as long as the saved people enjoy all

of the joys and the glories and the happiness that God has for His saved people in heaven, so you will be suffering all the miseries in hell for just as long a period of time.

The words that are used are the words forever and ever or eternal. Those are the same words that are used concerning God. He is the eternal God. In other words, you will be in hell just as long as God exists. How long will God exist? Forever! How long will you endure hell? Forever!

Right now we’re at that period of time when you can be saved. The opportunity is here. You can be saved now, because the rapture has not yet taken place. But it could at any time. When it does, you can know that there will be no peace for you.

I don’t know what will be the reaction of some lost people when Jesus comes. It will be possible that when the Lord comes and catches all the saved people off of this earth, that lost people, knowing that their time has gone, may just completely lose their mind and go completely crazy, as they realize that they have lost out on any opportunity of being saved. Can you imagine what a shock that will be? What feelings and emotions will go over them as they realize that they had opportunity after opportunity to be saved, but now Jesus has come and it’s too late. They may completely lose their mind,

for it will be too late.

Why not today? Why not now? While there is opportunity, and while you can be saved, why not now trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior. □ □

WITNESS . . .

(Continued from page 6)

Our questions have led us to the key issues. How can one believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and not have eternal life (Jn. 6:47)? Review 1 John 5:1 with this JW. Does he believe in Jesus as the Christ? Then according to the verse he should have been born again. If he had been adopted by God as His child, he would have eternal life. So then, when he says that he “believes” in Jesus Christ, his idea or belief is defective and we can understand why God has not received him as His son.

We hope that this will furnish you an effective method to witness to Jehovah’s Witnesses. Let’s get them off their “track” and into areas of salvation through faith in Jesus. Be sure that after you have heard his answers to question number 3, you present your testimony about what your faith in Jesus as the Christ has done for you. When he leaves you, tell him you will not forget him in your prayers.

¹More accurately, studies in Watchtower materials designed to break down faith in Christian belief and replace it with Watchtower doctrines. □