

# The Baptist

# CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

VOL. XLIV, No. 4

April 2006

WHOLE NO. 497

## *Missions, The Spirit of Christianity*

*By J. B. Hartwell*

*“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” — 1 Jn. 3:8*

From the time that the angels who fell left their first estate, from the time that the first faint thought of self-exaltation cast its blighting shadows across the unsullied heart of the Son of the Morning, there

has been going on in the universe a struggle between good and evil, between truth and falsehood, between holiness and sin, between God and Satan.

That there is a personal devil, and that he has set himself to mar, and has miserably marred, the fairest works of God; that, in his hellish antagonism against all holiness, and everything that exalts and

honors God, he has, by wily and malignant deception, succeeded in alienating our race from holiness and from God, are truths so plainly taught in the Bible and manifested in the world around us, that only the willfully blind can fail to perceive them.

Deceiving our first mother, and through her overcoming our federal head, Satan corrupted the

very fountain of human life, and from that time he has found the human heart, in every country and every age, an easy prey to his artifices. Artfully concealing his purpose and his agency from his victims, with an angelic wisdom and foresight, he has led man on from sin to sin, from one degree of depravity to an-

(See **MISSIONS** on page 5)

## **The Independence of the Local Church**

**By Chester E. Tulga**

1. The New Testament presents only one type of local church: an independent, local assembly under the direction of the Spirit of God and under the authority of Christ, the Head of the Church. Its relationships are purely voluntary, but a deep sense of kinship with other New Testament assemblies is felt and manifested. There is no earthly authority over a

New Testament church.

2. The doctrine of the independence of the local church is rooted in the competency of the individual Christian to ascertain the will of God for himself, the necessity for freedom to accept responsibility, and the accountability which individuals and groups have to God for their policies and actions.

3. The New Testament

church has the right to own its property free from all outside entanglements, denominational or otherwise; to select its own pastoral leadership; to ordain those called into its ministry; to select its own objects of benevolence; to choose for itself its own religious fellowships; to safeguard its faith; to reject error and to discipline the unruly. It must be free in

order that it may give its primary loyalty to Jesus Christ and the Word of God, instead of ecclesiastical authority and the programs of men.

4. Individual local churches should voluntarily associate themselves together in Christian fellowship and in Christian tasks whenever such co-

(See **TULGA** on page 24)

## Quiz The Pastor -- #46

### “Preaching To The Dead”

By the late Nick Michalinos

**Question:** I am puzzled by a verse found in First Peter 4:6 where it is written that the gospel was preached also to them that are dead.

**Answer:** I think we need to look at this verse in a careful way in order to clear up a misconception in our minds. It reads: “For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to man in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit” (1 Pet. 4:6). The main thought here in this verse is found by noticing the words, “them that *are* dead.” It doesn’t say “them that *were* dead.” The gospel was not preached to those who are physically dead. This is not the meaning here. The meaning is that those who are now physically dead at the time when Peter wrote these words of First Peter 4:6,

were physically alive on earth when the gospel was actually preached to them. The words “them that are dead,” has reference to possibly saved believers who had since died. They had once heard and had received the good news of salvation by faith in Christ as Savior before their deaths. A preacher might say: “In my ministry, I preached to many folks that are dead.” Of course we would have no difficulty in believing that the preaching was carried out while the “many folks” were alive physically, but were now physically dead when the statement was made. This is the truth behind the scripture under discussion. There is no second chance beyond this life to be saved. “It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). Don’t expect any imaginary mercy beyond the grave.

There is an interesting portion of scripture found in the previous chapter, in First Peter 3:18-20, that deals with practically the same thought: “For Christ ... being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit; by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison, which sometimes were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.” The meaning here is similar to the verse we’ve already discussed in First Peter 4:6.

Some have the idea that Christ, between His death on the cross and His resurrection three days later, went and preached to lost spirits who were imprisoned in the spirit underworld. However, this is not what these verses teach as I will show you. The word “prison” here is used with regard to the spiritual realm (see Rev. 20:3, 7, Satan’s “prison”), the unseen spirit world, the Hadean world (Lk. 16:23-31) where lost spirits reside and are reserved unto “the day of judgment to be punished” (2 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 20:13-14). Let’s notice what we have here.

(1) Now when was this preaching done? Our text states: “in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing (being built by Noah).” This occurred just before the flood “in the

days of Noah.” Christ did not go down to Hades and preach the gospel to “spirits in prison.” This preaching was done “in the days of Noah.”

(2) Now who did the preaching in that day? By continuing the flow of thought from First Peter 3:18 into verse 19 we see that “Christ ... by the (Holy) Spirit ... went and preached.” We are told in Genesis 6:3, “And the Lord said, *My Spirit* shall not always strive (contend, plead) with man.” From this we can see that Christ through the Holy Spirit was striving with those folks just before the flood. But, by what means did the Holy Spirit use to “strive” with them? He used the “preaching” of the great man Noah, for Noah was “a preacher of righteousness” (2 Pet. 2:5). Noah was a holy man (one set-apart) and “holy men of God (like Noah who had no Bible) spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:21; 1 Pet. 1:11).

His preaching was also illustrated by the “ark” itself as it served to picture the way of escape from the impending judgment that was to soon befall mankind, and by preparing the ark “he condemned the world” (Heb. 11:7). So we have Christ sending the Spirit and the Spirit spoke through a human instrument. Noah, and Noah preached to the people.

(See **DEAD** on page 24)

#### THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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

God's Masterpiece: The Human Body #34

## Malaria and the Anopheles Mosquito

By Arthur I. Brown

I shall now bring to you some interesting facts regarding a few bacterial diseases with which most of us are more or less familiar. The first of these is diphtheria, the cause of which is a rod-shaped germ, known as bacillus diphtheria. These organisms lodge in the mucous membranes of the nose and throat, where they manufacture a toxin which is absorbed into the blood causing the illness.

The disease may be transmitted in various ways: by contact with contaminated articles, by inhaling germ-laden air, by drinking infected milk, by contact with persons suffering from the disease or by bacilli in the mouth, nose, and throat, without being themselves infected.

The old methods of treating diphtheria controlled the prevalence of the disease in a measure, but by far the best method of prevention is the immunization by the injection of toxin-antitoxin, or diphtheria toxoid. Toxin-antitoxin is obtained from the blood of a healthy horse which had been inoculated with diphtheria toxin. The antitoxin is contained in the horse serum which is separated from the clotted part of the blood. This

antitoxin is then combined with diphtheria toxin of a certain measured strength. Then this toxin-antitoxin is inoculated at weekly intervals, four or five times, and provides immunity to diphtheria for several years at least.

Diphtheria toxoid is a specially prepared diphtheria toxin which has been weakened by the addition of certain chemical solutions — such as salt water, and in certain cases has proved more satisfactory than toxin-antitoxin, having the advantage of requiring but one injection to produce immunity.

An individual suffering from the disease is, of course, treated with the antitoxin serum obtained from the horse as just described. This puts into the patient's blood the already prepared antibodies, often with spectacular results.

You have heard of the Schick Test that enables the physician to tell whether or not the child is susceptible to diphtheria, by injecting a small amount of diphtheria toxin under the skin. If a small red spot appears within a day or two at the seat of injection, the child is susceptible and ought to be immunized.

The names of certain scientific workers in this

field ought to be remembered. Pierre Emil Roux (1853-1933), a pupil of Pasteur, and Emil Von Behring (1845-1917), a German physician, are jointly credited with developing an antitoxin for the prevention and treatment of diphtheria. Dr. Bela Schick, an Austrian-born physician now living in this country, was one of the first to use a toxin-antitoxin mixture to provide immunity. He also developed the test for immunity which bears his name. Dr. William H. Park, an American physician, perfected the toxin-antitoxin treatment for immunization; and was one of the earliest to advocate large-scale immunization of school children. As the result of these discoveries, the occurrence of diphtheria, and the death rate from it,

have declined to a remarkably low degree.

Pneumonia is caused by the pneumococcus germ, of which there are thirty-three known specific types. The germs enter through the nose or mouth and develop in the lungs or bronchial tubes, transmitted in germ laden air by contact with patients or carriers, etc. There is, unfortunately, as yet, no effective method of immunization against this disease, nor does recovery from it provide against the possibility of a future attack. The best method of prevention seems to be in preserving good general health, and not neglecting respiratory ailments: the common cold or a mild attack of influenza. Neglect of these precautions has

(See **BODY** on page 22)

### Heaven

“That unchangeable home is for you and me,  
Where Jesus of Nazareth stands;  
The King of all kingdoms forever is He,  
And He holdeth our crowns in His hands.

“Oh, how sweet it will be in that beautiful land,  
So free from all sorrow and pain;  
With songs on our lips and with harps in our hands,  
To meet one another again.”

# God's Instrument In Winning Souls

By R. J. Anderson

*“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; to them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some, and this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a*

*castaway”* (1 Cor. 9:19-27).

We invite your attention to the words of the apostle where he has told us that he is all things to all men in order that he might save some. Certainly he must recognize this fact, that there are various things the Holy Spirit might use in order to bring men to the knowledge of the saving grace of God.

I want to state first of all this great fact: In salvation two instruments are absolutely essential. Do away with either of these, and you would have no salvation. These two instruments are the Word and the Holy Spirit. However, I deem it a fatal error to say that God never uses any other instrument save the Word and the Holy Spirit in dealing souls.

We cannot over-emphasize the importance of the Word. Without the Word we would not even know the plan of salvation. We cannot just pray for a heathen over in Africa, and say, “Lord, save that man.” The Lord knows who he is and where he is, but in order for that man to be saved, somehow he must hear the plan of salvation, and that plan of salvation is found in the Word of God. We would not know

of salvation apart from the Word of God. It is true someone might tell me the story, but they must, of necessity, learn the plan of salvation through the Word of God. I would not know of the Virgin Birth; I would not know of the necessity of the New Birth, except for the Word of God. These things are made clear through the Word of God, and so in the final analysis we are forced to admit that the Word of God, which is the Sword of the Spirit, is an absolute essential in the salvation of every soul, for through it we receive the plan of salvation and are told of the Savior who died to save.

It is also essential that we have the ministry of the Holy Spirit in order to be saved. The Scripture tells us that when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment. It is necessary to have the Holy Spirit in order to have conviction for sin. I do not believe we will have real conviction for sin apart from the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and His chief instrument is the Word of God and the byproducts of the Word of God.

Not only is it necessary to have the Holy Spirit to lead and to convict of sin, or wield the Sword of the

Spirit, but it is absolutely essential that we have the work of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration of a soul, for He alone has the power to produce the New Birth, and bring about the regeneration of the soul. Indeed it is true we must be born of the Spirit in order to be a child of God, and so we cannot over-emphasize the ministry of the Spirit in the salvation of a soul.

While we have said that these two instruments are absolutely essential, the Word and the Spirit, we insist that God may, and does, use many methods and instruments to bring sinners to a position where these two instruments will be heeded. Indirectly all of the work is done through these two instruments. I mean by that, that indirectly the work that takes place, all of it, goes back to the Word and the Spirit.

Let us stop and think a little along that particular line. If you should be of the opinion that it is the Word and only the Word, nothing but the spoken Word, or written Word, then we would like to ask you a few questions.

First, have you ever found an individual who so teaches that is consistent in

(See **RJA** on page 11)

**MISSIONS . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

other, till the race now wraps itself in iniquity as a garment; aye, luxuriates like a carrion worm, in its native corruption and filth. Availing himself of his superior wisdom and ability, and of man's weakness; perverting even the noblest and most heavenly sentiments of the human heart, he has, to the utmost of his power, subordinated to his own antagonism against God and truth, everything, good and bad, in man, who has allowed himself to be led willingly captive. Like a roaring lion, he has gone forth to destroy. Like a cheat, he has deceived the nations. He has attacked the mind, the heart, the body. He has corrupted the languages, the tastes, the customs, the faith of all the nations. Perverting man's tendency to religion, which is innate, he has led him into idolatry. Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, when he had led the ten tribes to revolt against the house of David, the rightful sovereigns of Israel, lest their love of religion, taking them to Jerusalem and to the sanctuary of Jehovah, that glorious temple that Solomon had built, should restore the people to their rightful Lord, set up golden calves in Bethel and in Dan, and proclaimed these the gods of Israel; and by satisfying thus, with a pretense and a lie, the religious tendency of the

people, he kept them away from the true god, and from their lawful sovereign. And no name has come down to posterity stained with a blacker infamy than attaches to Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin.

*Just this*, on a far grander scale, Satan has done. Having led the world into sin and alienated man from God, lest his inborn tendency to worship should lead him back to God, he has perverted this heavenly gift, and made it the grand means of separation between God and the human soul, by instituting *idolatry*.

Walk with me in China, and I will show you gods by the wayside, gods at the bridges, gods of the fields and gods of the cities, gods of the courts, and gods of the kitchen, gods of the sea, and gods of the streams, gods of wealth, and gods of disease. Listen to the languages of the nations, and you find superstition and devil-worship ingrained into them, and unconsciously breathed by the youngest child who has learned to speak. The forms of conception, the habits of life, the foundations of society, are built upon superstition and religious error.

Go with me to ancient Greece and Rome, to Africa, and the islands of the sea, and I will show you as religious worship, orgies involving the violation of every moral sense, every sense of decency and

virtue. Custom, *custom* makes right; and Satan's shrewdness is nowhere more exercised than in the institution among all people of *customs*, involving immorality and degrading crime. Who but Satan could have instituted the custom of Ancestral worship, appealing to some of the tenderest and noblest sentiments of the human heart, by which the Chinese have been enslaved for thousands of years? Who but Satan could have instituted foot-binding, which in China, for scores of centuries, has crippled, and almost annihilated for all good, nearly one-sixth of the human race?

Satan understood too well the power and influence of woman as a strategic force, to allow her to escape his observation and special care. Hence the customs involving female degradation that prevail everywhere, except the pure gospel of Jesus Christ has shed its light and influence. The natural delicate tenderness, the strong tendency to purity and goodness, the tenacity to truth and virtue, that characterize uncorrupted women; the tender mother-love, the almost unbounded mother-influence, are all checked or perverted by the arch-fiend, by female degradation and ignorance. The moral sense of the ancient Greeks and Romans must have revolted at the horrid lewd rites involved in their religious worship.

Yet Satan had made custom sanction them, and thereby the horror was modified, and the devil continued to be worshiped.

But when, revolting at the absurdities of heathenism, the human mind demanded something better. Satan was equal to the occasion, and *Mohammedanism* arose, which, for eleven hundred years, has blighted with its curse many of the fairest lands of Asia, Africa and Europe.

And Satan ventures on holier ground. He enters the arena of truth, and, by its perversion, establishes man in his opposition to God. *Judaism*, at first the earthly embodiment of the truth of God, has been perverted to opposition to God's own truth; and now, the descendants of "the friend of God," to which pertained the promises and the sanctuary, and by whom, as pertained to the flesh, the Christ came, are the inveterate and irreconcilable enemies of the truth, to which their own existence as a scattered, peeled, despised, yet separate and distinct people, bears the strongest testimony. Christ came to His own, and His own received Him not, but cried, "Away with him, his blood be upon us and upon our children." And till today they know not His saving grace; but, calling themselves the people of God, and believing that they are

(See **MISSIONS** on page 6)

## MISSIONS . . .

(Continued from page 5)

-serving God, they are marshaled in Satan's army, and direct all their mighty energies against God's plan for destroying the works of the devil.

Would God Satan had stopped here! God-defiant, he has entered the very holy of holies, and in the Church of Jesus Christ, has raised up *Antichrist*, which, veiled in the garb of the very Bride of Christ, but in heart charged with the venoms of the pit, has gone forth his chosen emissary to deceive the nations. O Rome, Rome, Rome! What hast thou done? From every land where thou hast held thy sway comes the wail of superstition, ignorance and blood — energy stifled, mind enslaved, heart poisoned, truth crushed, vice rampant, God defied, Satan enthroned.

But the mind of man will not, cannot remain always bound by the absurd superstitions and slavish subserviency of Rome, and, breaking loose from its shackles, it rushes, led still by the arch-deceiver, into the mazes of *infidelity*. Like the pendulum, from the one extreme of credulity, giving up soul and body to the *dictum* of the priest, the mind swings to the other extreme of infidelity. And here the enemy avails himself of every agency. Education, incipient science, the art of printing, the telegraph, literature, [today

he could add radio, movies and television], are all perverted to his service and to opposition to truth, to holiness and to God.

On the other hand, however, the Bible teaches, with equal plainness, that Jesus Christ was sent into the world to overcome all this evil. *For this purpose was the Son of God manifested*, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

In this struggle between good and evil, between God and Satan, the Bible represents all created intelligences as interested; and especially in the work of reconciliation that Christ is effecting, are their intensest feelings and sympathies elicited. Paul speaks of himself and his fellow-apostles as appointed unto death, and as a theater, a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men; representing the world, the angels and men as gazing with intensest concern, as if upon one of the gladiatorial shows, in which persons appointed to death were set to struggle in mortal combat with wild beasts.

The angels are interested. They desire to look into this mystery. From the time of their creation they had been wont to bow in adoration before the Son of God. Now they behold a mystery involving His humiliation, His ignominy, His suffering, His death. It staggers them, and they desire to look into the

mystery. They are all ministering spirits sent forth to minister to them, who shall be the heirs of salvation. And they seem anxious to take part in the conflict. Right gladly they visited the saints under the Old Testament dispensation and under the New. Right gladly they ministered to the Savior in the hour of His extremity in Gethsemane.

So, too, the saints are concerned. When it was permitted to Moses and Elijah to visit the Savior at the time of His transfiguration on the mount, the only theme that could claim their conversation in that precious hour was the sacrifice that He should accomplish at Jerusalem.

And God also Himself is intent upon the struggle, and upon the manifestation of His glory which is to result therefrom. Paul says, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men know what is the fellowship of the mystery which, from the beginning of the world, hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ to the intent that now, unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known *by the church* the manifold wisdom of God, according to his eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:8-

11) — *i.e.* unto Paul was granted the privilege of preaching among the heathen, and of letting all men know the fellowship of the mystery which had been hid in God from the beginning, but was now revealed through His holy Apostles, *viz.*, the mystery of God's purpose in creation; that He had created all things by Jesus Christ, to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God; that He had made the world expressly that, through His redeemed here, He might manifest to all the intelligences of the universe such glories in His character and workings, as, in all eternity, there had been no opportunity of exhibiting before.

With God this has become, if I may so speak, the grand theme, the *supreme thought*. The great themes of the Bible, its stupendous truths, are Man's Apostasy and God's Redemption. The Old Testament history was evidently written with an eye expressly to these doctrines. They constitute the burden of the prophets, they give all their music, all their sweetness to the Psalms, and the New Testament is but a final and authoritative reiteration of the same doctrines.

The central figure of Christianity is Christ.

(See MISSIONS on page 7)

## MISSIONS . . .

(Continued from page 6)

Around Him cluster all its glories; in Him center all its joys, all its affections, all its hopes. He is the great sun of the Christian system, around which revolve its doctrines, its principles, its ordinances, its theories, its promises, its threats. He is the great source whence emanate all the Christian inspiration, all its light, its warmth, its vivifying power.

And Christianity is the central system of God's universe. As the suns of God's numerous systems are supposed to revolve about a common center, towards which they gravitate, so about Christ and Christianity revolve, and towards Christ and Christianity gravitate God's purposes, His providences, His works, His glories and His affections. Here is His peculiar joy, here His highest glory. Man has sinned, but Christ has redeemed him. Satan has corrupted man, but Christ purifies him, and makes him meet for companionship with angels and with God. Man has degraded himself to hell, but Christ exalts him to heaven.

The essence of Christianity in the individual soul is likeness to Christ, union with Christ. The key-note of the Christian life and character is fellowship and sympathy with Christ. *The Christian's fellowship with Christ in this life and*

*the life to come was the object of the death of Christ.* "Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him" (1 Thess. 5:10).

Our Lord Jesus does long for the companionship and fellowship of His people. He did when He was on the earth. From among the multitude of His disciples He chose a dozen men *that they might be with Him*. One object of our Savior in selecting the Twelve doubtless was that, by their being constantly associated with Him, witnessing His miracles, listening to His instructions, and imbibing His spirit, they might be the better prepared, after His removal from the earth, to build up and establish His kingdom in the world. But one object, also, was that they might be with Him. And accordingly we find that, during His public ministry, only on those occasions when, though He was God, He felt it necessary to withdraw from all human companionship, and spend a season in communion with His Father in heaven, did He separate Himself from His chosen disciples.

When He was about to go away from the earth, His heart seems to have yearned over those disciples. "I go," He says, "but I will not leave you comfortless. I go to prepare a place *for you*, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take

you to myself, that where I am there ye may be also." Again, He says to them, "Because I live ye shall live also," as though there was a necessity in the fact of the Savior's living that His disciples should live also; as though life would not be life for Christ unless His disciples, too, should live.

And, then, in that last prayer to His Father, recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John, He says, "Father, I will that they whom thou hast given me be with me where I am," as though heaven would not be heaven to Christ unless His disciples were there to share its glories with Him. Strange! Incomprehensible! It almost seems as if the Lord Jesus were stooping to that which is unworthy of Him as God, that He should long for the companionship and fellowship of such poor, miserable creatures as ourselves. And yet we are taught as plainly as language can express it, that the Lord Jesus longed for this, and so longed for it as to be willing to die to attain it.

The fellowship with Christ here spoken of, is to be *begun in this life*. The Christian is not to wait till he passes beyond the river to the other shore, to live with Jesus. It is "whether we wake or sleep," *i.e.*, whether we live or die, whether here or in the spirit land, that we are to live with Christ.

There is such a thing

as the Christian's living along with Jesus here in this life. Our Savior, before He left the world, promised His disciples that He and His Father would come and take up their abode in the hearts of His people. Aye, there is more, even a *conscious* presence of the Lord Jesus. He promised that He would manifest Himself to His own as He would not manifest Himself to the world. He lets the Christian know of His presence and His love.

I remember to have read somewhere of a man who was to spend the night in the same room with Bengel, the author of the *Gnomon*. Bengel was a holy man, and the Christian felt it would be a privilege to witness his devotions. He watched him, saying to himself: "Now, I shall see Bengel pray." But when the hour grew late, the old man, weary, closed his books and laid aside his papers, and, lifting his eyes to heaven said: "O blessed Savior, the same old relation between thee and me continues," and quietly laid himself down to sleep. It was not necessary for the old man, worn as he was with his day's labors, to go through with even the form of prayer. There was a fixed, established relation between him and his Savior. Bengel loved Jesus, and Jesus knew it; Jesus loved Bengel, and Bengel knew it; and it was only

(See **MISSIONS** on page 12)



### “Focus on the Family” Supports Gays.

— Some fellow conservatives are criticizing Focus on the Family founder James Dobson for supporting proposed Colorado legislation to give same-sex couples limited legal protections. The proposal would smooth the way for any two people who cannot marry to register for rights to hospital visits, making medical decisions for each other and property transfers. These rights are already available, but people need lawyers to prepare paperwork. The bill, filed by a Republican opponent of gay rights, competes with a Democratic domestic partnership measure that covers gay couples and, critics say would treat gay couples essentially the same as married couples under the law. Dobson told his daily radio audience, “I’m used to getting beaten from the radicals, from the left. ... I really find [it] very difficult to be attacked in such an unfair way from conservatives who claim to follow the cause of Christ.” One critic, Paul Cameron of the Colorado Springs-based Family Research Institute,

## World News Roundup

said Dobson has “come off the tracks” in backing the bill. — AP

\*\*\*

**‘Shari’a Law Has No Place Here.** — An Australian politician’s comments about Muslims wanting to live under Islamic law (shari’a) has focused attention on the push by Muslim minorities in some Western countries to establish enclaves where Islamic norms and laws hold sway. In a controversial speech Thursday, Australia’s federal Treasurer Peter Costello said Muslim immigrants not willing to embrace Australian values should leave, and that anyone wanting to live under shari’a might feel more comfortable living in countries where it is applied, such as Saudi Arabia or Iran, “not in Australia.”

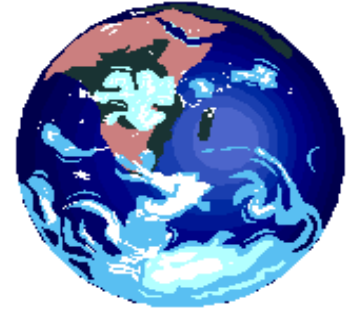
\*\*\*

**Q: Neptune’s Origin Can’t Be Explained by Evolution, But Is It “Proof” of Creation?** — A. Neptune is an amazing planet that can’t be explained by long ages of time, but this, by itself, doesn’t “prove” creation. Astronomers were amazed to discover that Neptune is very active, even though it’s so far from the sun. Winds reach 1,300 mph,

and the planet actually generates heat! This easily fits the creation model, because a young planet could still be cooling off. But it doesn’t fit with a belief in millions or billions of years, because it should have cooled off by now. Evolutionists keep looking for some bizarre scenario to explain Neptune. But even if they finally come up with a “good story,” it still doesn’t make the story true. And that’s the problem. While we can look at the present and make guesses about the past, we can’t prove the past. Instead, we need a reliable eyewitness. And we do have such an eyewitness — God Himself! What better “proof” could be than the character and testimony of the Lord Himself? But sadly, many astronomers prefer to keep inventing fables, rather than putting their faith in God’s Word. — AIG

\*\*\*

**Governor Signs Law Banning Most Abortions in South Dakota.** — Gov. Mike Rounds signed a bill Monday that will outlaw all medical and surgical abortions in South Dakota, an action denounced by the organization that operates the only abortion clinic in the state as “proof positive” that the governor “cares more about politics than



about the health and safety of women.” The South Dakota Women’s Health and Human Life Protection Act, which passed the state House by a vote of 50-18 and the state Senate by a vote of 23-12, is scheduled to take effect in July and would make it a crime for doctors to perform an abortion. The law also makes no exception for cases of rape or incest. — (CNS)

\*\*\*

**Ford Motor Company Boycott.** — In a meeting with the American Family Association on Nov. 28, Ford Motor Company had agreed to stop funding (homosexual) groups. However, a recent American Family Association report said, ... When confronted by a group of homosexual leaders about the decision, Ford reneged on the agreement with AFA and announced they would continue their funding. For the past three months, AFA has been trying to get Ford to honor their agreement, but Ford has refused. “The homosexual groups are

(See WNR on page 11)

# La Voz Del Desierto

## ¿Porqué Debemos Ser Bautizados?

Por M. A. Curet

Hoy en día hay gran controversia entre muchos cristianos sobre el tema del bautismo. Las enseñanzas que encontramos en la Biblia acerca de este tema, son muy simples y claras. Todos deberíamos ser capaces de entenderlas de la misma manera.

### ¿Quién Debe Ser Bautizado?

Solamente aquellos que

han sido enseñados y que creen (Mt. 28:19-20). Solamente las personas a las cuales se les ha predicado el evangelio de Cristo, y que están dispuestas a llegar a ser discípulos de Cristo, pueden ser bautizadas.

Hay iglesias que bautizan a los infantes, a los niños y hasta inconversos. Ellos dicen que un bebé es un pecador cuando nace y que por lo tanto

debe ser bautizado para el perdón de pecados; ya que si un bebé muere sin ser bautizado, irá a un lugar de tormento. Jesús dijo: "De cierto os digo, que si no os volviereis, y fuerceis como niños, no entraréis en el reino de los cielos" (Mateo 18:3). Los adultos deben llegar a ser como niños, en la malicia, para poder entrar al reino de los cielos. Por los versículos arriba expresados, podemos en-

tender que si un bebé o un niño inocente muere no será condenado. Los bebés y los niños inocentes no son pecadores.

La salvación es por fe, creer en el evangelio, y un niño no conoce lo que es la fe, por lo tanto no pueden ser bautizados. "Y yendo por el camino, llegaron a cierta agua; y dijo el eunuco: He aquí agua; ¿qué

(Vea CURET en la pág. 10)

## La Biblia Y La Cremación

Revista "Hojas de Oro"

¿Por qué el creyente al morir debe ser enterrado en vez de ser quemado?

La cremación viene de origen pagano. El Hindú y otros paganos lo hacen creyendo que no hay resurrección de los muertos. El pagano quema el cadáver creyendo que será reencarnado. Algunos creen que quemando el cuerpo el espíritu es librado. Algunos queman el cuerpo creyendo así, que no puede andar de duende o apa-

recerse a alguien. Por eso: ¡No es cristiano quemar el cadáver!

I. El pueblo de Dios siempre enterraba sus muertos. Abraham, Génesis 25:8-10; Sara, 23:1-4; Raquel, 35:19-20; Isaac, 35:27-29; Jacob, 49:29-33; 50:1-13; José, 50:24-26; Éxodo 13:19; Josué, Josué 24:29-30; Eleazar, Josué 24:33;



Samuel, 1 Samuel 25:1; David, 1 Reyes 2:10; Juan el Sumergidor, Mateo 14:10-12; Ananías y Safira, Hechos 5:5-10; Esteban, Hechos 8:2, etc. Hay que seguir los ejemplos bíblicos, Romanos 15:4; 1 Corintios 10:11.

II. El Cuerpo enterrado espera la resurrección.

A. Los cristianos creen que habrá resurrección del

cuerpo, Romanos 8:22-23; 1 Corintios 15:20-23, 51-57; 2 Corintios 5:1.

1. Es seguro que el cuerpo se deshace en la tumba. Es seguro que hay cuerpos que se queman en fuegos, etc., pero, Dios sabe donde están sus cenizas.

2. Aun Dios practicó el enterramiento, Deuteronomio 34:5-6.

III. Quemar el cuerpo

(Vea CRE en la pág. 10)

**CURET . . .**

(Vino de la pág. 9)

impide que yo sea bautizado? Y Felipe dijo: Si crees de todo corazón, bien puedes. Y respondiendo, dijo: Creo que Jesucristo es el Hijo de Dios” (Hechos 8:36-37). Después que Felipe le predicó al eunuco acerca de Cristo, pasaron por cierta agua a la orilla del camino. El eunuco le preguntó a Felipe qué le impedía ser bautizado, Felipe le contestó inmediatamente, que no había nada que le impidiera ser bautizado si creía que Jesucristo era el hijo de Dios.

Una persona debe creer que Jesucristo es el hijo de Dios antes de que pueda ser bautizada escrituralmente. Un bebé no puede ser bautizado porque no es capaz de creer en Cristo. Un bebé no puede leer palabras, no puede escribir las o entenderlas cuando están siendo enseñadas. Por lo tanto, sería imposible para un bebé conocer o entender el evangelio de Cristo.

**¿Cómo Deben Ser  
Bautizados Los  
Creyentes?**

El bautismo es una

sepultura. “Porque somos sepultados juntamente con él a muerte por el bautismo; para que como Cristo resucitó de los muertos por la gloria del Padre, así también nosotros andemos en novedad de vida” (Romanos 6:4). Cuando un creyente es bautizado en el agua, él imita la muerte, sepultura y resurrección de Cristo. Simbólicamente, el hombre viejo pecador, es sepultado en el agua, como el cuerpo carnal de Cristo fue sepultado en la tumba de José de Arimatea, y sale del agua como una nueva criatura.

Dios los promete a los creyentes que la sangre de Cristo los lavará y los limpiará de todo pecado (1ra Juan 1:7, 9). Cómo es que esto sucede, no lo sabemos, pero debemos de creerlo porque así lo dice la palabra de Dios.

Rociar o poner agua en la cabeza no es una sepultura. El rociar o poner un chorrito de agua en la cabeza de una persona no imita la sepultura de Cristo. Es imposible sepultar a alguien en un vaso de agua, y nadie puede salir hecho una nueva criatura de una cantidad de agua tan pequeña. La palabra bautismo quiere decir: sumergir, inmersión, zambullirse.

Una persona debe ser sumergido en el agua para poder ser bautizado escrituralmente. Si una parte del cuerpo no se cubre por el agua, la persona no está bautizada verdaderamente, porque el bautismo es una sepultura. Todo el cuerpo debe ser sepultado en agua para que el bautismo sea conforme a la Biblia. “Y mandó parar el carro: y descendieron ambos al agua, Felipe y el eunuco; y bautizóle. Y como subieron del agua, el Espíritu del Señor arrebató a Felipe; y no le vió más el eunuco, y se fué por su camino gozoso” (Hechos 8:38-39).

Después de Felipe haber predicado el evangelio al eunuco, él inmediatamente mandó a parar el carro, y ambos, el eunuco y Felipe, descendieron al agua. El eunuco no discutió, ni pidió ser bautizado por rociamiento o por un chorrito de agua en la cabeza, porque él entendió, por el mensaje de Felipe, que el bautismo era por inmersión. Deberían bastar unos pocos pasajes

de la Biblia o un sermón corto, para convencer a muchos “creyentes” de hoy en día, que solamente el bautismo por inmersión es el que encontramos en la Biblia.

Debemos ser bautizados porque el bautismo es una ordenanza dada por el Señor a Su Iglesia (Mateo 28:19). Si queremos ser obedientes a sus mandamientos, debemos hacerlo como dice la Escritura (Juan 8:31-32). **□□**

**CREMACION . . .**

(Vino de la pág. 9)

es maldición, una señal de ira divina. Números 16:35; Apocalipsis 20:15

**IV.** El cuerpo del creyente es de Dios y no debemos dañarlo en ninguna forma, Romanos 14:8; 1 Corintios 6:19-20.

**V.** Dios dice que quemar los huesos de un difunto es pecado, Amos 2:1.

**VI.** El cuerpo de Jesucristo fue enterrado y los creyentes deben seguir Su ejemplo. Juan 19:38-42

**Iglesia Bautista El Redentor**  
Carretera 755, Km. 0.1, Barrio Pitahaya  
H C-1 Box 3418  
Arroyo, Puerto Rico 00714  
(787) 839-3669 y (787) 839-5792  
Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

Por tanto, id, y doctrinad a todos los Gentiles, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo: Enseñándoles que guarden todas las cosas que os he mandado: y he aquí, yo estoy con vosotros todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo. Amén.

Mateo 28:19-20

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

very dedicated to their cause. They are urging their supporters to buy a Ford product to prove to Ford and America that Americans support homosexual marriage. . . . *The Detroit Free Press* said, 'Ford Motor Company ... donates hundreds of thousands of dollars to homosexual groups, sponsors gay pride parades and holds mandatory diversity training for employees ...' Therefore AFA and 18 other groups have called for a boycott. In addition to not buying Ford products, they have encouraged consumers to visit the AFA website ([www.afa.net](http://www.afa.net)) to find more information, sign a petition and send an Email to Ford Chairman Bill Ford.

\* \* \*

### Rhode Island Bans Abstinence-Only Sex Education from Schools.

— Rhode Island has banned an abstinence-only-until-marriage program from public schools, saying the program violates students' rights, embraces sexist stereotypes, and isolates homosexual teens. Education Commissioner Peter McWalters issued a directive last week in a letter to schools ordering them not to use the program or the associated materials. He said classes taught by Heritage of Rhode Island were never approved by

state officials and his office would create a panel to review the HIV/AIDS curricula of all schools in the state." We've known for some time that abstinence-only is bad science, bad policy, and a blatant violation of medical ethics and basic human rights," said James Wagoner, president of Advocates for Youth, in a statement. The group is dedicated to creating programs and advocating for policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. "And as more people find out what is being taught and what is being censored in these ineffective programs, more and more of these 'stay pure or we don't care about you' programs will be banned from public schools," Wagoner said. "Enough is enough. For too long these abstinence-only programs have operated without a hint of oversight," added Wagoner. "At least at the state level, this trend is changing, and public health officials couldn't be more pleased." Wagoner called on Congress to issue an immediate moratorium on federal funding for abstinence-only programs. "It is a national scandal that we have already spent over \$1.1 billion of taxpayers' dollars on programs that don't work and that censor vital public health information for young people." It is time to restore sanity

and common sense to our public health policy," concluded Wagoner. □

RJA . . .

(Continued from page 4)

his teaching, and practices? Is he actually by his daily life and by what he says on other subjects and at other times, proving himself to be consistent or inconsistent in regard to this matter? If it be true, it is just the Word and the Holy Spirit never does a thing until the Word first has done its work, if that be the case, what must be the nature of the prayers of those who so believe? If it is just the Word and only the Word, then the only thing they could possibly pray consistently would be this, "Lord, help me to give the Word," or "Lord, direct me to give the right portion of the Word." He couldn't pray, "Lord, give me power," for that is something besides the Word. He couldn't pray, "Lord, give me spiritual guidance; Lord, let the Holy Spirit take this Word and apply it to hearts," for he is getting something in there besides the Word.

If that be true, if it is just the Word and only the Word, then different men preaching exactly the same message must produce exactly the same results. If it is just the Word and only the Word, for instance, I am told that when Jonathan Edwards preached that great sermon for the first

time and described sinners in the hands of an angry God that the audience was so stirred that they just actually grasped the seats before them and a mighty power swept over the audience. Then, if that be true all I need to do is to get that message, learn it word for word, or even read it. I don't even need to learn it. I can just stand before you and read the message that Jonathan Edwards gave, and I should get the same results.

If it is the Word and only the Word, it wouldn't make any difference if it is given compassionately or cold-heartedly. It wouldn't make any difference in the nature of the deliverance. The life of the speaker would not make any difference. He could be drunk or sober; he could be the most despised man in the country, or the finest, for his life has no bearing upon the situation at all. If it is just the Word, then the vilest criminal should get identically the same results when he presented it as the greatest Christian could possibly get by presenting it.

Might we illustrate it in this way. The doctor who gives medicine, if he gives identically the same medicine and the same amount, it doesn't make any difference whether he is black or white, whether you like him or dislike him, the medicine has the same ef-

(See RJA on page 18)

## MISSIONS . . .

(Continued from page 7)

necessary for him to say to his Redeemer: "Blessed Savior, the same old relation between thee and me continues," and in perfect confidence he could lay himself down to rest.

The afflicted Christian sometimes attains this same spirit of confidence, union and harmony with the divine will. Oft repeated and long continued suffering has brought him into a state of acquiescence in the divine will and purposes, and he feels, "Whatever God wills, I will; whether for joy or for sorrow, for comfort or for pain, for life or for death." And it is the Christian's privilege always to live in this state of harmony with God and companionship with God. And if his privilege, then his duty.

But how can two walk together except they be agreed? Two men, all whose tastes, affections, purposes, aims, hopes are diverse, cannot walk together in love. Every subject that arises for discussion involves a dispute. There is a jar, a discord. They do not think alike, feel alike, act alike; and before they can walk and live together in peace, they must come to have some common character, some common principles, some common interest, aims, purposes, affections. Now, if our Lord Jesus Christ died for us that we

should live with Him, it follows, necessarily, that He died for us that we might be united with Him in sympathy, in character, and in desire.

If space permitted, it would be pleasant and profitable here to study the character of Jesus Christ, and to dwell upon some of those features in His character in regard to which we must be like Him if we would live with Him. Mark His humility. Though God, and knowing Himself to be God, He yet moved as humble man among humble men. When reviled, He reviled not again; when rebuked, He threatened not, but meekly, gently, lovingly bore all. Go to Jesus Christ and learn how to live humbly before God, humbly among men.

Note, too, His diligence. Whatever His surroundings, in the crowded city, or in the solitude of the desert, always ready to work. Having left the multitude on one occasion, expressly to seek a little rest for Himself and His disciples, the multitude hearing of His whereabouts and following Him, He was not too weary to come forth and preach to them. And when, journeying through Samaria, He sat wearied at noon upon the curbing of the well near the city of Sychar, while His disciples went into the city to buy food, there came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus was not too weary to talk to her of the water of life, nor to preach

two whole days to the Samaritans concerning the kingdom of God.

Go, reader, to Jesus Christ and learn how to labor. Contemplate His tenderness and sympathy, — always touched with the woes of the distressed. Go to Jesus Christ and learn how to succor the needy and the suffering. And there is a fellowship of suffering, too, which it is the church's privilege to share.

Note, also, the spirit of confidence in His Father which characterized the Christ, saying in His last moments on the cross, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit." Go to Jesus Christ and learn how to die. But space does not allow a consideration of these points. Let it be clearly fixed in the mind, however, as a point in our argument, that the Lord Jesus Christ died for us, to the end that we should be united with Him in character, in sympathy, and in desire.

The fellowship with Christ which is thus begun here is to *continue in the life to come*. Whether we wake or sleep, we are to live with Him.

To the Christian there are not two lives. There is only one life here and the hereafter. There are those who teach that the soul sleeps with the body from death till the resurrection; but the Bible knows nothing of any such doctrine. Had Paul believed that for him

to die would be to lie down and sleep, would he ever have been in a strait betwixt two, not knowing what to desire — to depart and be with Christ, which, he said, would be far better, or to continue in the flesh for the benefit of the church?

Ah, no! That man loved Christ too much. He would rather have lived and labored, sacrificed and suffered if need be, for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom on the earth, than to have laid down to sleep. Paul knew that for him to die was to go into the more immediate, visible presence of the Lord Jesus than was possible even for him while he lived in the flesh. He longed to go. For him, to live was Christ; to die, gain.

I was at the death-bed of a holy man once (a Presbyterian missionary in China), and as he drew near to his earthly end he lifted up his eyes and said to us: "I see things that you cannot see. I know things that you cannot know. Death? Is this death? *There is no death*. It is just one living right straight on — just the expanding of temporal life into eternal life." And there is the true idea of the Christian's death: "Just living right straight on." There is no stop at death, no cessation of existence, of consciousness, or of identity.

It is a heathenish idea

(See MISSIONS on page 13)

**MISSIONS . . .**

(Continued from page 12)

that at death we change into something or somebody else. We carry with us our consciousness, our identity, our memory, our character, our fellowship, and our love, just so far as these are pure and holy and in accord with the divine will. When I go across the ocean to China I do not cease to be myself. I am there, as if it were, in a new world, surrounded by people whose appearance, dress, language, tastes, habits, characters, are all different from what I have been accustomed to in America. But I am myself. My character, my aims, my hopes, my purposes, my fellowships, my loves, are unchanged. I do not change because I have crossed the water. And just so when I cross the little river of death. I shall be *myself*. I shall carry my character with me into the other world.

If a tree fall toward the north or toward the south, in the place where a tree falleth, there it shall be. He that is holy shall be holy still, and he that is filthy shall be filthy still. The man who loves the world, who loves self, who loves sin here, will love self and sin over there, and the man who loves purity, holiness, God and Heaven here, will love purity, holiness, God and Heaven over there. Death will work no such change in any one, as that from being a love of sin, of Satan

and of the world, he will turn and begin to love holiness and God.

I shall carry, also, with me my fellowships and loves, so far as these are pure and holy. I know and love my friends in Jesus Christ here — I shall know and love them on the other shore. Why not? I shall be myself, and they will be themselves. We shall know what we are, and what we were, and why we are what we are. Punish a child without letting him know the ground of the punishment, and it ceases to be punishment — it is cruelty. So, take away from the rewards of the other world a knowledge of the grounds thereof, and they cease to be rewards.

We shall carry out memories unimpaired into the future life. when the rich man lifted up his eyes in torments and saw Lazarus afar off in Abraham's bosom, and begged that he might be sent to cool his tongue with a little water, Abraham, said to him: "Son, remember." Shall the damned in hell remember and the saints in heaven forget? Never! We shall remember our struggles, our labors, our sacrifices, our temptations, our sins. We shall remember and love each other there.

It will not be wrong to love some more than others. Christ did so when on earth. The Twelve were dearer to Him than the multitude, the Three nearer

than the rest of the Twelve, and one is specially designated as the disciple whom Jesus loved. Those of us who have lived long on earth have come to feel that we have as many and as tender ties in the other world as in this, and one of the sweetest anticipations of the future life is the hope of reunion with our loved and lost.

And we shall carry with us our fellowship with Christ. For this He died, that whether we wake or sleep, live or die, we should live with Him. In heaven every desire, every emotion that finds expression in the Savior's breast, will find an echo in the breasts of His saints; every cord that vibrates in the Savior's bosom will find a cord vibrating in unison in the bosoms of His own. Otherwise heaven will be no heaven.

What of joy or comfort is there to the sin-loving man of the world in the company of the devout men of the earth while they talk of joy in the Holy Ghost? To him there is no joy. He would prefer to be among those of his own character and passions. So a soul in heaven not in sympathy with Christ would find heaven a hell. His presence would mar the harmony of heaven, and ruin it, which God can never allow.

Dr. McCosh somewhere uses an illustration like this: Here is a clock. It is a beautiful piece of machinery. Every wheel,

and every cog in every wheel moves in perfect harmony with every other, and with the grand design of the maker. There is beauty, there is symmetry, there is accuracy. But mark! Every time the hand reaches a certain point on the dial, there is a jar. The clockmaker searches to find the cause. One cog on one wheel is out of position, out of harmony with the purpose of the maker. He may ply his nippers and twist it, or he may ply his file and rasp it. He will bring it into position and harmony if it will be brought. Otherwise he will destroy it. He cannot allow his whole machine to be ruined for the sake of one miserable cog.

So with God. The universe is God's grand machine, which He has built for a grand and glorious purpose. We are cogs in that machine. If we are in harmony with the rest of the machine, and with the purposes of the great Maker, all is well; if not, He will destroy us. God cannot help it. He cannot allow His universe to be ruined for the sake of a miserable sinner. God must destroy the sinner just because he is out of harmony and sympathy with Himself.

The heavenly bodies move, each in its appointed orbit. There is beauty, there is symmetry, there is accord, there is silence.

(See **MISSIONS** on page 14)

## Now You Know “The Rest of the Story”

By Paul Harvey

“Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness And to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, “Woe to those who call evil good,” but that is exactly what we have done.

“We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor’s possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

“Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and! Set us free. Amen!”

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, “The Rest of the Story,” and received a larger response to this program than any

other he has ever aired. With the Lord’s help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called “One nation under God.”

### MISSIONS . . .

(Continued from page 13)

The attractions and counter-attractions balance each other, and all move in harmony with each other and with the purpose of the Maker. But let one of those orbs leave its orbit, however little, and the longer it strays, the further it strays. The equipoise is destroyed. The orb must be brought back, or, darting hither and yon through the heavens without law, God must destroy it. So with us. While we are in sympathy and harmony and cooperation with the divine will and purpose, all is well; but, out of sympathy with God, all must perish.

Now, if it be true that sympathy with Christ here is necessary to our sympathy and life with Him hereafter, it behooves us to ask: Is there any one thing upon which Christ has set His heart supremely? If so, in that we must sympathize. We look into the Bible and there learn that the one grand, absorbing, and, if I may so speak, consuming

thought with the Christ is the saving of the souls of men all over this world. It was this that brought Him from heaven, that carried Him through all the scenes of His humiliation and suffering on earth, that took Him to the cross and the grave. For this He lived, for this He labored, for this He sacrificed, for this He died, for this He arose again, and for this He now lives and pleads — aye, reigns in heaven.

All things were made by and for the Christ. For Him the heavens were created, and all the angelic host; for Him the orbs of light and beauty that roll in grandeur above us, the planets with all their inhabitants, if they have them. But upon none of these has the Son of God set His affections supremely. The angels sinned, but no provision was made for their redemption, and today they await in chains the day of the revelation of God’s wrath.

But on this little planet of ours God seems to have centered His love in a peculiar manner. Here is to be the scene of His triumph over evil. The redeemed of the earth are called the “glory of Christ.” In them He finds His glory above every other glory. Through them God is to manifest such glories in His own character as in all eternity there has been no similar opportunity of exhibiting. For this purpose He made the worlds. He created all

things by Jesus Christ, to the end that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known, *by the church*, the manifold wisdom of God. to the accomplishment of His purposes in Jesus Christ God has subordinated every other purpose, every power, and every agency in the universe. Because Jesus Christ has suffered, God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him **THE NAME** that is above every other name, that at the name of **JEHOVAH JESUS** every knee should bow, of things in heaven (angels), of things on earth (men), and of things under the earth (devils and damned spirits). Everything in heaven, earth and hell shall conspire to accomplish the work of Christ, which is the saving of men, and thereby the destroying of the works of the devil. If there be power in God Almighty to make Jesus Christ triumph, He will triumph.

And sympathy with Christ in this work of saving the souls of men everywhere is just the missionary spirit. It is inconceivable that a man should love Jesus and not love that which Jesus loves, not labor for that which Jesus labors, sacrifices for that which Jesus sacrificed, and die, if need be, for that which Jesus died. Sympathy with Christ is the essence of Christianity, and is identical with the Spirit of missions. □

## Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

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

### Pope Celebrates Feast of the Chair of St. Peter.

— On the occasion of the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Pope Benedict XVI “gave thanks to God for the mission entrusted to the Apostle Peter and his Successors.” Speaking at a general audience in the Paul VI Hall, the Pope observed that the seat of Peter is “the symbol of his authority” (Vatican Information Service, Feb. 22). According to Catholic dogma, the Pope has complete authority over all churches of the world. The Vatican II Council declared: “For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, namely, and as pastor of the entire Church, has full, supreme and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered” (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, chap. 3, 22). Rome also teaches that the Pope distributes salvation through the sacraments. Vatican II declared: “For ‘God’s only-begotten Son ... has won a treasure for the militant Church ... he has entrusted it to blessed Peter, the key-bearer of heaven, and to his successors who are Christ’s vicars on earth, so

that they may distribute it to the faithful for their salvation” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, “Apostolic Constitution on the Revision of Indulgences,” Chap. 4, 7). Where are all of the popular evangelical leaders who are lifting their voices against the Pope’s wretched heresies? Let’s hear it plainly from Chuck Swindoll, Chuck Colson, Franklin Graham, Robert Schuller, Philip Yancy, John Maxwell, Max Lucado, Jim Cymbala, Jerry Bridges, Rick Warren, James Dobson, Bruce Wilkinson, and Bill Hybels. I don’t want to hear them “beat around the bush” on this. The Bible says that any man that corrupts the gospel is “accursed” (Gal. 1:7-9). The popes are leading multitudes to eternal hell with their false sacramental gospel. Where are the mainstream evangelical voices that are willing to warn the Pope’s followers about their fearful destination and urge them to repent before it is too late? It appears that they don’t have enough Christian love for those who are deceived to speak plainly about error, that they are more concerned about maintaining their position of popularity.

Only the Lord knows men’s heart and motives, but that is certainly the way it appears.

\* \* \*

**Muslim Leader Calls For Worldwide Islamic Rule.** — Speaking to a large crowd of Muslims on

Feb. 24 on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Sheikh Ismail Nawahda called for worldwide Islamic rule. Nawahda called for the restoration of the Muslim Khalifate or “Genuine Islamic Rule” that would “unite all the Muslims in the

(See FBIS on page 16)

## Light Shining Out of Darkness

By William Cowper

God moves in a mysterious way,  
His wonders to perform:  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines  
Of never-failing skill,  
He treasures His bright designs  
And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning Providence  
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,  
And scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter,  
And He will make it plain.

**FBIS . . .**

(Continued from page 15)

world against the infidels” (“Muslim Preacher on Temple Mount,” Israel National News, Feb. 26). The Khalifate would feature a world leader assisted by a ten-man council, with their decisions binding on all Muslims. Nawahda praised the violent worldwide protests against the Mohammed cartoons and “implied that those who insulted Mohammed are liable for death.” The man is dreaming, of course, because Muslims are so disunited that they are targeting one another with suicide bombers. Further, we have read the last chapter of *The Book*, and it says nothing about worldwide Islamic rule. Instead, the antichrist out of the old Roman Empire will rule over the world for about three and a half years. About that time stubborn Israel will finally turn to her Messiah Jesus Christ and will receive Him joyfully at His glorious return to establish His earthly kingdom with its headquarters in Jerusalem. The antichrist and all of those that take his mark will be cast into the lake of fire and the nations will be judged on the basis of how they treated Israel. See the amazing book of Revelation and the Old Testament prophets and Christ’s prophecies in the four Gospels for details on these upcoming events.

**Israel’s Chief Rabbi Asks Dalai Lama To Help Set Up Religious United Nation.** — The chief rabbi of Israel, Yonah Metzger, and other rabbis and Muslims met with the Dalai Lama in February and asked his assistance in setting up a United Nations of Religion in Jerusalem. Metzger said, “Instead of planning for nuclear war and buying tanks and fighter jets, it will invest in peace” (“Chief Rabbi Asks Dalai Lama,” Israel National News, Feb. 19). It was reported that the Dalai Lama was “very excited about the idea” and offered his help. Attending the meeting was Israeli Rabbi Shlomo Amar, Rabbi David Rosen of the American Jewish Committee, Rabbi Menachem Froman of Tekoa, and “various Islamic sheikhs.” “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).

\* \* \*

**Episcopal Diocese Of California Nominates**

**Homosexuals For Office of Bishop.** — The Episcopal diocese of California has included a homosexual man and a lesbian woman among the five nominees for the office of “bishop.” The state election will be held in May and the winner must be confirmed by the Episcopal General Convention in June. In 2003 the International Anglican Communion led by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams issued a study called the “Windsor Report,” calling for a moratorium “on the appointment of gay bishops.” There is no stopping the apostasy and filthiness within the Anglican Communion, though. How foolish it is to call for a moratorium on the appointment of homosexual bishops when practicing homosexuals are allowed to join Anglican congregations and to hold offices within the congregation, including that of pastor. The Anglican Communion is filled to overflowing with theological liberalism and immorality.

\* \* \*

**Unrepentant New Orleans Parties On Toward Hell.** — The residents of hurricane ravaged New Orleans are generally unrepentant in the face of the divine wake up call they received six months ago, when 80% of the city was flooded by hurricane waters. “The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not

at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet” (Naham 1:3). They are laughing in the face of Almighty God and mocking eternal hell by renewing their vile Mardi Gras even while much of their city remains devastated and tens of thousands of its citizens are still displaced. Fox News quoted city resident Stephanie Hall as saying, “New Orleans has always done what it wants to do and it’s gonna come back whether the country wants it to or not” (“New Orleans Doing What It Does Best,” Foxnews.com, Feb. 27). I attended the Mardi Gras twice in my 20s before I was converted in 1973, and a God-fearing person has only one possible business there, and that would be to preach Jesus Christ and to call the revelers to repentance. One of the parade crews is called “Bacchus,” after the ancient god of debauchery. Others are named after the pagan goddess Isis and the god Hermes. Paganism is very much alive and well in America, and many of those who participate in such wickedness claim to be Christians, but “he that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:4).

(See FBIS on page 17)

**FBIS . . .**

(Continued from page 16)

**Azusa Street Pentecostal Centennial/ Rick Warren Speaking.** —

Tens of thousands are planning to gather in Los Angeles April 25-29 for the 100th anniversary of the Azusa Street Mission that birthed the Pentecostal movement. The Assemblies of God, the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, the Church of God in Christ, and most other Pentecostal denominations trace their heritage to the outbreak of “tongues-speaking” in April 1906 in a church pastored by William Seymour and meeting in an abandoned building at 312 Azusa Street. People from 74 nations have registered to attend and more than 150 Pentecostal leaders will be speaking, including Jack Hayford, T.D. Jakes, Kenneth Copeland, Benny Hinn, David Yonggi Cho, and Jerry Savelle. Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church, is also scheduled to speak (“Azusa Street: 100 Years Later,” WorldNetDaily, Mar. 18). Even though Warren’s own denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, does not accept Charismatics as missionaries, he is putting his stamp of approval on the doctrinal error and confusion that has flowed to all parts of the world from Azusa Street. I wonder how many of the conservative leaders of the SBC

will rebuke Warren for this great error? Consider who Warren will be joining hands with in this “Centennial Celebration.” Kenneth Copeland teaches that Jesus was born again in hell, that believers are little gods, and that we can create things with our words. Jack Hayford teaches that a believer can learn to speak in tongues by beginning with “baby tongues” and claims that God spoke directly to him and told him not to judge the Roman Catholic Church. Jerry Savelle claims that people create the world they live in by the words of their mouths. T.D. Jakes denies the Trinity. David Yonggi Cho claims that when Jesus personally called him to preach he appeared to be dressed as a fireman and teaches that effective prayer requires visualizing the thing desired exactly in your mind before God and then “incubating” that image in your heart by faith until you receive it. Benny Hinn has taught that Adam could fly like a bird and swim underwater like a fish and claims that his “anointing” comes from visits to the graves of Kathryn Kuhlman and Aimee Semple McPherson. In December 1989 Hinn prophesied falsely that homosexuality in American would be destroyed by fire in 1993 or 1994 at the latest. My friends, beware. The Pentecostal-Charismatic movement is bogus.

Their tongues-speakers can’t speak in tongues; their prophets can’t prophesy; their healers can’t heal; their “word of knowledge” is soothsaying, at best, and their current “miracles” are a sad joke (falling on the floor, hysterical laughter, and getting drunk in the spirit).

\* \* \*

**Should We Analyze Spiritual Experiences With the Bible?** —

In November 1993, John Arnott, pastor of the Airport Church in Toronto, flew to Argentina with his wife to have Claudio Friedzon lay hands on them. They were searching for a new experience of “anointing.” This occurred during an Argentinean pastors’ conference organized by Luis Palau’s brother-in-law, Ed Silvano. This event is described as follows by Guy Chevreau, who works with Arnott in Toronto: “John was standing with his hands up, posturing his openness to the Lord, and Claudio looked at him and said, ‘Do you want it?’ He said, ‘Yes. I really want it.’ Then Claudio said, ‘Then take it!’ and he slapped John on both of his hands. John fell again. *But this time he dialed down a lot of the analysis and said, ‘I don’t care, I’m just going to take what God has to give.’* Something clicked in his heart at that moment’ (emphasis added) (Chevreau, Catch the Fire,

p. 24). This is a very significant testimony. Arnott had been unable to receive the “anointing” *because he was analyzing it by the Bible*. When he finally broke down in desperation and stopped analyzing it, he began receiving the strange unscriptural experiences. In a message entitled “Hard to Receive” (Shippensburg, PA: Holy Smoke Productions, 1997) Arnott gives advice for those who find it hard to receive the charismatic manifestations. He says that one of the chief reasons why many cannot “receive” the Holy Spirit’s (alleged) ministrations (such as “Spirit slaying” or drunkenness or rolling on the floor or maniacal laughter) is the “fear of deception.” Arnott claims that this fear is used by the devil to keep people from receiving all that the Holy Spirit has for them. In light of the New Testament’s continual warnings, this is absolute nonsense and very dangerous nonsense, at that. The Bible commands us to “prove all things” (1 Thess. 5:21). The Bereans are called noble in the Word of God because “they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11). Proverbs 14:15 says it is the foolish person that believes every word, whereas the prudent

(See **FBIS** on page 20)

RJA . . .

(Continued from page 11)

fect regardless of who gives it. The administrator doesn't have anything to do as far as the results are concerned. If you are going to insist that it is the Word and only the Word, if you and I preach the same message identically word for word, then the result should be identical.

Let us go a little farther with this line of reasoning. If it is the Word and only the Word, why do we ever pause to explain a verse of scripture? All explanation is folly, just give the Word! If it is the Word and only the Word, why do we have a song service? You say, "Well, we enjoy it." Maybe so, and there may be those who would argue, "Well, that's just to please God." "That's for the benefit of the saved." But do you know a man who will tell you that song services have no place or value in evangelization of the unsaved? There may be such, but as yet I have not found them.

Why, I can go back to the days before I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, and remember that before the song service was over I was just under such conviction that I could hardly sit still. I might grant that those songs are based upon the Word, but they are not literally the Word of God. They may have a portion of Scripture in them, but God has used something

besides just the Word. If you argue that it is the Word and just the Word, then there is no value in preaching that a church should "Have a fine spirit of fellowship."

If it is the Word and only the Word, then there is no such thing as wholesome influence of a Christian life. It doesn't make any difference how you live if you insist that it is just the Word and the Word alone. If a good life will not attract and be beneficial then a harmful life cannot hurt. It will not have a particle of influence upon unsaved ones not concerned, they can't have any value. There's no need of inviting them over the telephone or personally; it is the Word and the Word alone.

We want to see what the Word itself has to say in regard to the matter, and I believe this matter can be fully settled by the Word of God. We find that Christ refers to His own work even after He had preached the Word. Let us see where we find these words:

*"But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do bear witness of me that the Father hath sent me"* (Jn. 5:36)

"The works that I do bear witness of me." If it is just the Word and the Word only, then the miracles of Christ did not

bear witness. Then there would be no value to them as far as the unsaved were concerned at all. Raising Lazarus from the dead did not bear any witness that would convince the unsaved at all; healing the sick and the blind and all the multitude of good works that our Lord did were of no avail as far as the unsaved were concerned. It could only be the message that he preached. It had to be just what He said. Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus by night and say, "For no man can do these miracles that thou doest except God be with him?" Now, there is an unsaved man, and yet he admits he has been impressed by the works that Christ had done. But let us go a step farther.

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).

I think all of us admit that these same men who were so defeated before Pentecost when Christ was crucified became men of mighty power on the day of Pentecost because they were filled with the Holy Spirit. You say, "They preached the Word." I believe the Holy Spirit gave mighty power to those people, and they preached a message that stirred the hearts because it was endowed and used by the

Holy Spirit.

Let us note here another characteristic that the Holy Spirit used in convincing these people. We have the story of the first persecution. Just preceding this we have Peter's address before the Sanhedrin, and then we read:

*"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus"* (Acts 4:13).

Now it was the men they took knowledge of. It says, "...when they saw the boldness ..." Do you suppose they would have had exactly the same effect if Peter would have said in an apologetic manner, "Now, men I feel that I ought to tell you these things." You know it would not. No! He stood, and like a mighty hero of Christ, and the very attitude of the men did have effect. It says it did. Because he with boldness declared these truths they took knowledge of them that they had been with Christ. So the method of presentation had some effect. Not only the Word, but the very method in which it was presented.

In the Scripture lesson that we read to you from the 9th chapter of First Corinthians we find Paul very emphatically stating

(See RJA on page 19)

RJA . . .

(Continued from page 18)

that he uses more than the Word. What does he say? Why, he said unto the Jews he became as a Jew that he might gain the Jew. He tried to adopt even a manner of life that would help him to get the Word to them. Certainly it was the Word he presented to them that did the work of convicting of sin in the final analysis, but he had to do something before he could get the Word to them.

I saw a missionary who had worked in China for many years, an elderly man then. He said when he went to China he decided that he would have to be a Chinaman, in the sense that he adopted their customs, not their religions or moral standards. He even went so far as to grow a queue in order the he might approach the Chinese people. You might argue in this fashion concerning this matter, "Why don't you just get out, start a mission act, hold yourself aloof from the Chinese, be haughty and selfish if you care to. Don't try to get down on the level with the Chinese and be like them; that's all foolish; just give them the Word" "... all things to all men in order that I might win some ..." Paul said. Many times you will make your contacts in a very unusual way. Many a time the opening will come to present the Word, but isn't the opening evidence God

is working? Certainly it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

But we go on a little further. We find in John 13:34 Christ is speaking of the effect of right living on others. Here we read:

*"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"* (Jn. 13:34-35).

The very attitude of Christians toward one another is used of the Holy Spirit to convince the world there is something genuine in Christianity. In these verses He taught them the mighty power of right attitudes toward each other. Why, a church can ruin its influence by the wrong attitude of the members toward one another, and it can deepen and widen its influence by the proper attitude. Certainly he told them here, He would be able to use the right attitude to the benefit of their fellowman.

Turn to the 17th chapter and the 21st verse, the last phrase:

*"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me"* (Jn. 17:21).

If we have that spirit of unity and harmony He says by that very spirit the world will believe that "thou has sent me."

Then let us see again in Matthew 5:16 the benefits derived from true Christian living. I mean the benefits that others derive from you living the life as it should be lived. Here we have the urge: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

That is more than just simply a proclamation of the truth by word of mouth. "Let your light so shine; let your daily life so tell," that they might see your good works. He did not say that they might hear the things you have to say, but he is talking about the good works of a daily life that reflects the beauty of Christ. And He said, "by your good works you will cause men to glorify me."

We might notice the promise He makes the Christian wife in the first epistle of Peter:

*"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear"* (1 Pet. 3:1-2).

He is talking to the wives that do not have Christian husbands, and those who have been converted after marriage. He said that they might be won without the Word. There are people who would

refuse to listen to the Word, but He said they will have to listen if you live it out. They will have to see it if you demonstrate it by your daily life, and so we find that the Scripture plainly teaches that God does use other things besides the Word, which in reality are a product of the Word, the Word working through the lives of others, but He does use other things besides the Word to bring unsaved individuals to see their need of a Savior.

Nehemiah had them read the Word; that was a great thing, but he also had them explain the Word. If the Word was all that was needed, why stop and explain it, why comment upon it? Why does the Scripture tell us that God has selected some to be teachers if the Word is all? He just needed to select some to be preachers and read the Word. Why did Paul refer to Christian people as "epistles known and read of all men?" People see your life, and by the way you live they are going to believe the truth, or they are going to be misled.

We might mention many other verses if time permitted, but I believe we have called your attention to enough to show you that the Holy Spirit used Christian lives and Christian influences. We might reach out and show you how sometimes He uses sor-

(See RJA on page 21)

**FBIS . . .**

(Continued from page 17)

person is very careful. Eight times in the New Testament the Christian is solemnly warned to “be sober.” This means to be in control of one’s self, to be spiritually alert, to be on guard against deception. Why? Because there are great spiritual dangers. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). This verse alone would keep me away from any movement that requires me to relax my spiritual guard, because doing so is the exact opposite of what the Word of God requires. It is no wonder that the Pentecostal-Charismatic movement has been infiltrated from its inception by strange spirits.

\* \* \*

**Christian Faces Death Penalty In Afghanistan** — A Christian man who converted from Islam is facing execution in Afghanistan. Abdul Rahman was arrested two weeks ago after his relatives reported his conversion to the police. On March 19 Supreme Court judge Ansarullah Mawlavizada told the media that Rahman could face the death penalty if he refuses to return to Islam as “Sharia law” requires. The new Afghan constitution,

which was formed after the Taliban regime was overthrown following the US-led invasion in 2001, states, “No law can be contrary to the sacred religion of Islam” (Middle East News, March 20, 2006). Thus the nation is effectively under the same Sharia law that the Taliban implemented, though it is not being applied as consistently. What more evidence do we need to overthrow George W. Bush’s philosophy that Islam is basically a tolerant religion and that only the “extremists” are the problem. After spending billions of dollars getting rid of the “extremists” in Afghanistan we are left with a “tolerant” regime that threatens Christians with death.

\* \* \*

**New Organization Claims 1,400 Churches In America That Welcome Homosexuals.** —

The Institute for Welcoming Resources claims that it represents 1,400 Protestant churches in America that “unconditionally welcome gays and lesbians.” The organization has merged with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the nation’s oldest homosexual rights organization. Having succeeded in convincing society at large that homosexuality is neither a crime nor a mental illness the homosexual rights organizations are now

targeting churches (“The Gay Rights Movement Has Found God, San Francisco Chronicle, March 14). Their ultimate goal is to force every church to agree with them that homosexuality is not a sin. They are aiming their guns both at liberal churches and conservative ones. The Institute for Welcoming Resources wants to increase its membership to 10,000 churches within five years. Meanwhile, Soulforce is on a “Freedom Ride” to visit 20 conservative private colleges and universities (mostly Christian) that disallow homosexuals. Under the guise of “tolerance” these activists are intent on forcing their views on others, falsely equating the homosexual rights movement with the civil rights movement that was fought by blacks.

\* \* \*

**The Hypocrisy of Those Who Label Us “Legalistic”** —

I don’t know how many times I have been called a “legalist” and a Pharisee because I believe (among other things) in setting standards of decency and modesty for church workers. I have no intention of adding to the Bible or of going beyond the Bible, but I am convinced that the Bible’s principles on modesty, its strong prohibition against worldliness, its restriction against nakedness, and Christ’s

warnings against “mental adultery” (Mat. 5:28) require certain plain standards of dress, but for this sincere attempt to obey God’s Word I am labeled a “legalist.” I have a question for you that are throwing the term “legalist” around so casually today. Would you allow a Sunday School teacher or a member of your “praise team” to wear a bikini to church? If not, why not? If you can set dress standards without being a legalist, why can’t I? You claim that we can only forbid that which the Bible specifically and clearly forbids, but where does the Bible say that women cannot wear bikinis to church? The fact is that you, too, have standards, only you have adopted the standards of the world (even Wal-Mart and Chevrolet and Coca-cola have some sort of dress standard for its workers), while we are trying to base our standards strictly upon the Bible. I am truly fed up with the slanderous and hypocritical accusation that I am a legalist.

\* \* \*

**Gothard’s Confusion About Blessing And Health.** —

Bill Gothard has written a book entitled *The power of spoken blessings*, which teaches “the power of the spoken word, either as a blessing or a curse.” Like the

(See **FBIS** on page 21)

**FBIS . . .**

(Continued from page 20)

Charismatics, Gothard takes a few proof texts out of context as a pretext and twists them into a doctrine that is not taught in God's Word. If there were such a thing as the Power of Blessing as it is taught by Gothard, this would be clearly described in Scripture, but it is not. To bless one's enemies instead of cursing them is Scriptural. To go around "speaking blessing" on every difficulty in life is folly. Why didn't Paul merely use the Power of Blessing to heal the church at Corinth and why didn't the Lord Jesus use it to correct the many errors that had entered into the seven churches of Asia Minor? Gothard has also built a *total healing Program*. It is your fairly typical quack-charismatic approach to healing: God wants you to be totally healthy; you should live a long healthy life; non-standard nutrition ("maintaining electrolyte balance and proper blood dispersion") and a non-standard program are the key to total health; roots of bitterness must be removed and curses counteracted; traditional health care has led you astray, etc. There are only three teachings about diet in the New Testament. First, Peter was taught that the O.T. dietary restrictions are no longer in effect for the N.T. believer

(Acts 10:9-16). This passage single-handedly refutes the popular claims that the Mosaic dietary restrictions were for health purposes and that eating meat is unhealthy. Second, we are taught that in the N.T. dispensation diet is entirely a matter of personal liberty (Rom. 14:1-6). Third, we have a warning about those who forbid eating meat (1 Tim. 4:1-6). To go beyond the Bible's clear teaching in this matter and to create dietary programs that purport to have a Scriptural basis and universal properties is heresy.

\* \* \*

**Hillary Clinton: GOP Immigration Bill Would 'Criminalize Jesus'** — 2008 presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is blasting a GOP-backed immigration bill, claiming bizarrely that the legislation would "literally criminalize ... probably even Jesus himself." Clinton invoked the biblical theme on Wednesday while restating her opposition to a bill sponsored by Rep. James Sensenbrenner that would make illegally entering the U.S. a felony. "It is certainly not in keeping with my understanding of the Scriptures," she declared, before adding: "This bill would literally criminalize the Good Samaritan and probably even Jesus himself." **□□**

**RJA . . .**

(Continued from page 19)

rows and heartaches in order to make people come to the place where they are willing to listen to the Word. Sometimes it is necessary to chasten before an individual will even be willing to listen. Let me give you an illustration:

Paul was a prisoner on a ship, and he warned them they had better not put to sea, for dangers were ahead. Nobody paid much attention to him, did they? Nobody listened to Paul then, and one day a storm broke upon them, and it stormed for days and days, and nights and nights until they were in despair of their lives, and now we find them ready to listen to Paul. He now reminds them that he had told them not to leave shore, but they did. Where is the captain while Paul is talking? Why didn't he say, "Shut up, we don't want to hear from you!" Paul is now in command of

the situation. Will you tell me why they are listening to him now? They are listening to him because in the face of disaster they have been brought face to face with the fact here is God's man, but apart from the storm he would not have had that audience. He would not have been able to give them the truth. They did not listen before the storm, but they did when the storm was raging. He was in full command. Sometimes it takes a mighty blow to make people see there is something in Christianity and that God's people amount to something.

In closing may we say this to you, get all the Word you can in your hearts and minds. Give all the Word of God you can to the people you deal with. Look to the Holy Spirit to give power to your message and to the Word as you present it, but let me say this to you, you must bear this in

(See **RJA** on page 24)

**If a care is too small to be  
turned into a prayer,  
It is too small to be made into a  
burden.**

**"Casting all your care upon him;  
For he careth for you**

**1 Peter 5:7**

**BODY . . .**

(Continued from page 3)

often resulted in pneumonia.

Serums to combat each of the pneumococcus germs have been developed but have not been very successful. The discovery of the sulfa drugs and penicillin, as everyone knows, has changed the pneumonia picture and immensely reduced the mortality from this dangerous disease.

We hear much today of malaria, the most common form of which is caused by plasmodium vivax, an animal or protozoan organism. The disease is transmitted by the female anopheles mosquito. The bite of the insect introduces the plasmodium, a slender elongated organism, into the blood stream, where it immediately enters a red blood corpuscle, and assumes a form like an amoeba. It feeds upon the protein of the corpuscle and rapidly increases in size, dividing several times to form, asexually, from fifteen to twenty-four daughter cells, or spores, as they are called. These spores now break out of the corpuscle and are liberated into the blood stream, each soon finding its way into a new red corpuscle, to repeat the process. This goes on until a large number of red blood cells have been attacked and destroyed. Then occurs the climax of this strange procedure. The

**Anopheles Mosquito**

spores seem to gang up on the patient, by breaking through the occupied corpuscles at the same time with the liberation of a large quantity of toxins, producing the characteristic chill followed by fever and sweating. Plasmodium vivax manages to produce such an attack approximately every forty-eight hours.

If at this stage, a female anopheles mosquito should bite a person infected with malaria, it might draw up blood corpuscles containing the elongated spores, or find them free in the blood plasma. Once inside the stomach of the mosquito, the spores develop into male and female cells, known as gametes. It is interesting to note that these gametes cannot develop in the human body. Fertilization of these male and female cells takes place in the stomach of the mosquito, after which the fertilized cells bore into the walls of the

stomach. Then they proceed to develop and give rise to numerous new plasmodia. These are released from swellings on the outer walls of the stomach of the insect, and find their way into the salivary glands.

When the mosquito bites a person it always does a strange thing. The saliva of this mosquito contains a substance which prevents the blood from clotting thus enabling the mosquito to enjoy a prolonged meal. So some saliva is always injected at the place where the bite is made, this saliva full of plasmodia, which now enter the red blood corpuscles, completing the cycle and continuing their deadly work.

It is clear that the most important measure in preventing malaria is to eradicate the anopheles mosquito by destroying its breeding places: stagnant water of swamps, lakes, ponds, etc., and screening homes where mosquitoes

are found, thus preventing them from biting new victims. The use of quinine, obtained from the bark of the cinchona tree, checks the development of the parasite in the blood. The newer remedy which is equally effective, judging from many reports, is atabrine, also known as quinacrine or mepacrine.

Charles Laveran (1845-1922) discovered the parasite which causes malaria. He was a French army physician. Dr. Arnold Ross, (1857-1932) an English army surgeon, discovered that malaria is transmitted by the anopheles mosquito. Because of the work of these men and others much has been accomplished in decreasing the prevalence of malaria, which is still, however, one of the world's worst plagues. It has been estimated that more than 3,000,000 deaths from malaria occur annually throughout the world. In 1930 there were more than a million cases in the United States — most of them in the South with more than 4,000 deaths.

It is not necessary that we should deal with many diseases in this detailed way. I have given you a few facts which serve to show some of the ways by which the human body may be invaded by disease-producing organisms, and we have seen how man is able to assist the natural

(See **BODY** on page 23)

## Squirrels In Church



There were four country churches in a small Texas town: The Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church and the Catholic Church. Each church was overrun with pesky squirrels.

One day, the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they determined that the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

In the Methodist Church the squirrels had taken up habitation in the baptistery Bowl. The deacons met and decided to put a cover on the baptistery bowl and drown the squirrels in it. The squirrels escaped somehow and there were twice as many there the next week.

The Catholic group got together and decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation. So, they humanely trapped the squirrels and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three

days later, the squirrels were back.

But — the Baptist Church came up with the best and most effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter! □

### BODY . . .

(Continued from page 22)

body defenses in their marvelous work of protecting and curing the stricken individual. These very complex operations necessitate the most astonishing coordination between the various cellular tissues, and their products baffle the scientists as he studies them. Above all, the work of the white blood corpuscles in devouring the germ invaders with the assistance of these antibodies which have weakened and diminished the army of bacteria is amazing. All these devices indicate a most elaborate system of design, planned by a Master Mind when man was created. That Mind is the mind of God, the Creator.

May I refer you again to the universal disease of which I have spoken many times, the virus of sin, which bring with it certain death, preceded by characteristic symptoms, when God is rejected as Controller of the life.

In the first chapter of Romans we are told that

there is really no excuse for atheism. What we see around us everywhere speaks of God. And yet God says in this chapter that, even though men instinctively knew of His existence, "they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools ... Wherefore God gave them up to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, unmerciful; who, knowing the ordinance of God, that they that practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also consent with them that practice them."

This description gives us a group of symptoms which any observant person has seen many times where sin abounds. It is not possible to mistake the diagnosis. In addition we read in 2 Timothy 3 that — as the present age draws to a close — "perilous (grievous) times shall come. For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money,

boastful, haughty. ... unholy ... no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, puffed up, *lovers of pleasure* rather than lovers of God, holding a form of *godliness* but denying the power thereof."

Is there any doubt as to the cause of the world's illness? Man has tried many times, and always unsuccessfully, to find a remedy which will bring in the longed-for "new era" — an era of peace and plenty, a time of universal peace and prosperity. All these efforts are laudable in themselves, and this is the kind of world God has planned for humanity. Also He has advertised a sure cure for the disease which has developed to such an alarming extent that civilization seems about ready to disappear. The remedy is simple and the Physician who recommends it has never lost a case. Every one who has tried it has become a new creature, and the entire world would be changed over night if God's plan were followed.

This plan requires a surrender of the will to the Lord Jesus Christ, and an acceptance of the sacrifice of Calvary where His blood was shed for us. And He says again and again, "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." *Will you believe Him? Will you trust Him for forgiveness and take Him now. HE'S SO WONDERFUL!* □

**TULGA . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

operation is desirable or necessary for the larger work of Christ. Such fellowship must be based upon a common faith and common spiritual objectives. The local church has the right to associate itself with other churches or to refrain, and it has the right to discontinue any associations for reasons deemed sufficient by itself.

5. Organized denominationalism, depriving individual churches of their freedom or coercing free churches to abandon their freedom, often prevents local churches from meeting their full responsibility before God for purity of faith and life and full loyalty to the program of the Word of God. Organized denominationalism invariably views the conscientious dissenter from its programs with disfavor and punishes by discrimination and sometimes ostracism in the case of the ministry. Organized denominationalism invariably produces a loyalty to human leadership which undermines the supreme loyalty to Christ which is the obligation of the church. Organized denominationalism, through the centuries, has a long record of refusing hospitality to the prophets raised up to call it back to God, often forcing them outside the camp in order to obey God. Organized denominational-

ism glorifies its own program as if it was inspired of God, glorifies its own leadership in disobedience to the Word of God, coerces churches into a blind unquestioning loyalty which paralyzes that spiritual discrimination enjoined by the Word of God. It thus becomes the foe of that independence of authority which is the birthright of every New Testament church.

6. God's answer to the evils of ecclesiasticism is the independent church of Christ, free to do the whole will of God, free to accept or reject human leaders, free to support or refuse to support human programs, free to fellowship or refuse to fellowship with other groups, free to support a prophetic ministry, free to resist apostasy. God's answer to the apostasy of our day and the unity-at-any-price religious unionism of our day, is the call to return to the New Testament faith, the New Testament church, New Testament methods, and New Testament fellowships. There will be no new Reformation unless there is a return to the New Testament church. □

**DEAD . . .**

(Continued from page 2)

(3) What was the response to the Spirit's striving through Noah's preaching and his building of the ark? It is said they were "disobedient" (1 Pet. 3:20),

which means they gave a negative response to the pleading of Noah. They were not obedient to the "strivings" of the Spirit through Noah. They resisted the Spirit (Acts 7:51) when they resisted Noah's preaching. Obviously no one truly believed his message as only eight people were saved by (through) water (1 Pet. 3:20), Noah and his wife, and his three sons and their wives.

(4) How long did Noah preach? Since the Spirit would "strive with man" for 120 years (Gen. 6:3) and He did it through Noah's preaching, we can assume that Noah preached about the coming of the judgment-flood for 120 years. Truly, "the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing" (1 Pet. 3:20).

(5) Those who physically perished in the flood who were "disobedient" and rejected Noah's message, like all the lost, were those "spirits in prison" at the time that Peter, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote these inspired

words. No one visited them there in their Hadean "prison" and preached to them. It was too late for them. Our opportunity for salvation is limited to our time on earth.

I hope this explanation has helped you to have a better understanding of this portion of scripture. □

**RJA . . .**

(Continued from page 21)

mind, God not only intends for you to *learn* the Word and *give* the Word, but God intends for you to *live* the Word.

Every phase of your life can be used as an instrument in the hands of God. Go out here and live before your fellowman, live beside the man in the shop, live beside your husband or your wife, your sons and your daughters, live out the Word, and you will find that as you live the Word you will be far more able to give the Word and the plan of salvation by remembering that God not only uses the Word, but He uses all the by-products of the Word in bringing men to see their need of a Savior.

**Thine, O Lord, is all the glory,  
Thine alone is the praise,  
Thine, O Lord, is all the glory  
Throughout endless days.**