

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 501

What Is Baptist Faith & Order?

By Chester E. Tulga

Faith and order are inseparables in the Bible. A sound faith must have the expression of a sound order for its implementation. The whole Bible rings with exhortations to sound faith, warnings against compromise and apostasy and exhortations to sound doctrine. Unsound doctrine, heresy and apostasy are clearly condemned and the

Christian warned against risking contamination with them.

The whole Bible emphasizes proper order. The universe in which we live is the greatest example of order. The creation is an example of order and order is seen in the Genesis account of creation. Creation is an example of order, while evolution is a

philosophy of chance.

The Old Testament is very definite on order in worship. God intends to be approached and worshiped in His way, not man's way. There is an order of approach to God in the Old Testament. There are certain sacrifices which are carefully specified and their presentation meticulously outlined. The Book of

Numbers is remarkable for the order of the host which is carefully set forth.

The Old Testament abounds in instances where God refused to accept those who violated divine order. Cain's sacrifice was rejected. Nadab died for he offered strange fire before the Lord (Num. 26:61).

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Controversy Necessary

by J. C. Ryle

Controversy and religious strife no doubt, are odious things: but there are times when they are a positive necessity. Unity and peace are very delightful, but they are bought too dear if they are bought of the expense of truth.

There is a vast amount

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Baptist Independency, A Divine Right

By R. Nelson Colyar

Baptist independency has been a fly in the ecclesiastical ointment for more than nineteen hundred years. It had its beginnings in antiquity, when "a man was sent from God, whose name was John."

This John was a Baptist. The Lord called him a Baptist. And by all the earmarks, he was a rock-ribbed orthodox

Baptist. He took orders from Heaven only. He preached the gospel of the Kingdom, even Christ, without license, permit, authority, or delegation from the Jerusalem Sanhedrin. He held no degree from either of the seminaries in Jerusalem: the school of Hillel, representing the

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The Books God Writes

By Keith Brooks

Did you know that God is still writing books? Psalm 19 shows that God makes Himself known to men through three books of His own writing. (1) Vs. 1-6; (2) Vs. 7-11; (3) Vs. 12-14. (Book of Nature — the written Word — (2) Book of Divine Revelation — (3) The Book of Human

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Quiz The Pastor

Is There Really Such A Thing As Reincarnation?

By Nick Michalinos

Question: Is there such a thing as reincarnation?

Answer: Absolutely not. There is no such thing as reincarnation, that is, coming back after death to live in a different body. Reincarnation is a popular teaching among some today, even among those of reputation.

The Bible states: "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that, the judgement" (Heb. 9:27). God has ordained man's appointment with death and judgment occurs only "once," though the Word of God states that some have died and have been resurrected, but not in a different body, but in the same body, and they faced death again in that body.

Even our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrected body was said to be His same body though it consisted of

a different composition, for He stated, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see" (Lk. 24:39).

When the Bible speaks of a rebirth or new-birth, it is not speaking of reincarnation. It means a spiritual rebirth, of becoming a member of a family of God by being born-again (Jn. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:23). When we receive Christ as Savior, we become children of God (Jn. 1:12-13; Gal. 3:26). This new birth occurs in this life, and it is spiritual in nature, not affecting the body in any way.

However, there will be a future resurrection of all the dead, and Christians will be raised up in perfect bodies fashioned like unto the glorious body of our Savior (Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Jn. 3:2). Christians who are alive at Christ's coming will be changed in a moment

from mortality to immortality (1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

But the spirit of each Christian who dies will return to its own body, and the bodies will be raised to a perfect, incorruptible, deathless state. The very fact of resurrection shows that man's spirit will once again indwell his same body. Why resurrect the same body if man is to occupy a totally different body?

Those who believe in reincarnation ignore the truth of resurrection, and by so doing, hope to escape God's judgment. But this is vain thinking, for "The Lord knoweth how ... to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished" (1 Pet. 2:9). There will be no escape (Rev. 20:11-15).

Judgment is certain. The lie of reincarnation offers no hope to the deceived. "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that, the judgement" (Heb. 9:27). □

COLYAR . . .

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"theological theorists self-seeking Jurists"; or the school of Shammai, representing the "Nationalists." Yet he was so theologically tough the deputation from the Sanhedrin, sent down to Jordan to investigate him, couldn't shake him. He foiled the sentimentalists (the sawdust trail hitters) and the traditionalists with his

"direct" preaching. He knew his Master and obeyed Him; he knew his mission, and did it.

The answer to all this is, *He was an independent Baptist*. You may call this bigotry, if you wish, but you will butt your head against the Rock if you do — it is the rock-ribbed truth. His independency was inherent in the fact that, under God, Christ was his *only* Master. He had a divine right to be independent of all men in matters pertaining to his heavenly call and mission, because he was solely dependent upon his one master. He had no right to surrender that independence, while yet claiming to be the servant of Christ. His independent action, which was in no sense dependent upon the organized, apostate "Jews' religion," must be attributed directly to his unswerving *allegiance to his one and only master*, Christ. There you have the pattern and mold for true Baptist independency.

When Jesus came to His personal ministry, He called out His church from the disciples which John had made and baptized. That church was independent from the established order of that day, both in origin, faith, and function. It had one Lord only, one faith, one baptism, and one mission. That church, being assembled in the upper room, received the one Spirit.

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THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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God's Masterpiece —Man's Body — Message #39

How Your Body Regulates Its Fires

By Arthur I. Bown

I have been describing to you how the body heat is maintained under changing environments of heat and cold. Just a brief review of this interesting phenomenon before we resume our consideration of the constancy of the water content of the body.

If the temperature tends to rise, immediately the heat-regulating mechanism begins to function. The small blood vessels in the surface enlarge, thus admitting an increased amount of blood which reddens the skin, and as the blood heat is lost, the temperature falls. If this is not sufficient, the sweat glands pour out pints of hot perspiration with the loss of more heat. The rate of respiration is hastened and this permits much heat to be eliminated in the expired air.

If the body temperature is in danger of falling, several other adjustments occur. The surface blood vessels are constricted, and the warm blood driven inside to prevent heat loss, perspiration is reduced to a minimum, and certain chemical operations begin to act. When the blood was examined in individuals suffering from severe cold, it was found to contain

much more blood sugar than normal. It is known, of course, that ingested sugar is stored in the liver in the form of glycogen, and this sugar is released when the adrenin content of the blood is increased. This secretion from the inner portion of the suprarenal glands acts powerfully and quickly as an emergency device to provide this food which is so easily burned up in the body. So naturally attention is drawn to the adrenal glands.

It is now accepted that adrenin acts like opening the dampers of a furnace, causing rapid combustion with the generation of heat. In my thinking, that is quite an astonishing and obviously designed contrivance. It has been found that if the adrenin, for some reason or other, is deficient, there is immediate shivering which is nothing more than a peculiar muscular activity, the effort of the body to bring about a sort of passive exercise in order to generate heat, as well as a warming to the individual. When the adrenin is present in adequate amounts, it seems that there is much less tendency to shivering or a definite chill. In addition we found that the

thyroid gland cooperates with the adrenals and adds an amount of thyroxin to the blood stream, thus increasing the body metabolism and the formation of needed heat. And, of course, you will not forget the delicate thermostat seated at the base of the brain in the region known as the diencephalon, sending out urgent commands which are instantly obeyed. But how seldom do we give these delicately acting adjustments much thought as to their source. We say it is the way Nature works. But, remember, there is no meaning to the word, Nature, unless by it you mean God. Then why not use the word "GOD," and give Him the credit for these truly amazing expedients upon which our comfort and even our lives depend?

Resuming our study of water in the body, you will recall and I drew your attention to the great amount of water necessary in all our tissues, and how the digestive fluids are used over and over again without any useless waste. Any considerable loss of the water content of the body results in death.

We are continuously

and necessarily losing water from our bodies. In breathing, we take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide. These gases can pass rapidly through the walls of the little air sacs of the lungs, only if the walls are kept moist. All parts of the respiratory tract are kept lined with a coating of fluid. On a dry day about a pint of water is thus lost from the lungs.

Water is lost also in perspiration — insensible, it may be — but for a man at rest the amount thus lost from the skin is nearly a pint. When the weather is hot, or the clothing too warm, or extra heat has been produced by muscular work, perspiration may amount to several pints. A third way in which water leaves the body constantly is through the kidneys.

In order to replace this fluid and keep the blood in a constant condition, water must be secured from the storage places in the body. These water reserves are chiefly the muscles and the skin, and after hemorrhage or profuse sweating, water is rapidly moved from the storage spaces, just when there is a critical need. Of

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BODY . . .

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course it is passing out from storage continuously to meet the changing requirements in the face of continuous losses from lungs, sweat glands and kidneys. Just how this water is secured from these reservoirs is not definitely known, but this remarkable balance is preserved through a ceaseless cooperation between the different tissues — always governed by that mysterious G.H.Q. which never sleeps and always knows what to do.

The composition of the blood is maintained uniformly in a curious manner when water is needed. We all know the sensation of thirst. Have you thought what an admirable urge it is to drink water and how it works? Many organs suffer when there is an inadequate supply of water, among these being the salivary glands, secreting saliva which is 98 percent water. When the water supply of these glands runs low, the saliva decreases, the mouth and throat become uncomfortably dry, and the sensation of thirst is experienced. Water is the only fluid which will adequately remove this lack, and when it is taken, normal service to the salivary glands is resumed, the mouth is moist again, and G.H.Q. relaxes, as all operations proceed according to instructions.

There are several other materials in the blood, each of which must be kept at a constant level. These include: sodium chloride (common table salt), blood proteins, blood sugar, blood fat and oxygen. I will not attempt a description of these strange adjustments as it would lead us into somewhat technical discussions. We have seen enough, I am sure, to realize the amazing intricacy and exactitude of all these mechanisms. It is simply impossible to believe that a body could invent for itself these various agencies which have been discussed — each of them necessary to life. Even a cursory investigation compels us to bow in adoration before the Creator of all these things.

We are still thinking of the defensive mechanism of our body, and at this point I have time to show you how our bodies meet a local attack, as seen in the phenomena of a pimple or a boil. Due to what may be a very slight injury to the skin, some pus-producing bacteria living close to the root of a hair in the skin have slipped in beneath the surface and have begun to multiply rapidly.

The injured tissues telegraph the information that burglars or enemies have entered. G.H.Q. orders reinforcements and to facilitate their prompt arrival, the walls of the superficial blood vessels dilate, thus admitting more

blood and more policemen — the white blood cells. Plasma from the blood, loaded with antibodies, escapes into the tissues surrounding the offending germs. There is redness and swelling, and a desperate fight is on between the soldiers of the blood and the micro-organisms.

An abscess may form. This is a collection of a fluid known as pus, which is made up largely of dead bacteria and dead leukocytes, our defensive army having been victorious. The strangest feature perhaps about all this is that the first thing accomplished by the clever phagocytes and the tissue cells is that they build a dense wall of cells around the whole infected area, thus preventing the dangerous organisms from reaching the blood stream. This thickened area is very noticeable and there is no explanation except the one I have mentioned so many times — a Designing God, the Master of all the sciences.

Great men in all the ages have wondered at the wisdom of God. Among these intellectual giants was Job, and in the 8th chapter of his book he gives utterance to some truths which we may well recall. He is answering Zophar, the Naamathite, who had just rashly exclaimed, “Oh, that God would speak, and open His lips against thee.”

Job rises to his defense in a manner which commands our admiration.

Listen to his words: “No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you! But I have understanding as well as you. I am not inferior to you, yea, who knoweth not such things as these? I am as one mocked of his neighbor, who calleth upon God, and he answereth him: the just upright man is laughed to scorn.”

Notice Job’s confidence in God. Job knew his God. He recognized his weakness and he was being attacked by a group of complacent, self-satisfied men who were anything but humble. Job continues: “He that is ready to slip with his feet is as a lamp despised in the thought of him that is at ease. The tabernacles of robbers prosper and they that provoke God are secure, into whose hand God bringeth abundantly. But ask now the beasts and they shall teach thee and the birds of the heavens and they shall tell thee: or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee, and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee, *who knoweth not in all these things that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this*, in whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind? Doth not the ear try words, even as the palate tasteth its food? ... With God is wisdom and might; he hath counsel and understanding. Behold, he

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How To Witness To Jehovah's Witnesses

When a Jehovah's Witness comes to your door, he comes with a purpose. His purpose? Let the Watchtower Society answer that for us through their official Journal *The Watchtower*: "Your life depends on finding out who today are truly God's servants that speak his Word and becoming one of them" (*The Watchtower*, February 1, 1967, p. 72).

His is a disciple-making goal! He has been told that to live forever he must now go door-to-door and look for others with whom he may start Bible studies.¹ In the course of the studies, subtle pressure will be exerted upon the student, requiring him to accept the Watchtower teachings as coming from God "through his visible organization." To accept this point of view is to give himself over to be directed by the "Society" or headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses. Be forewarned: he comes prepared and equipped to do battle using all the reasons and logic he can possibly muster to support their doctrine.

How then can we get to witness to him about our

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

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

But let's first get our objectives fixed in mind. Our goal is not to win arguments! To win arguments requires much study and knowledge of the Bible and even Biblical languages. Certainly most people are not so prepared. But we all desire to witness, and witness we can. We will remember that it is "God that giveth the increase."

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

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

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

Are You A Child Of God?

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

The scriptural basis for our first question is this: "I send thee to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them

who are sanctified by faith that is in me" (Acts 26:17-18). You will see that the verses show that there are only two places or positions for a person to be in: either one is in the "darkness" or he is in the "light." Either he has been sanctified by faith in Christ and received forgiveness of his sins or he has not. He is either under the power of Satan or he is under God. Paul tells Christians that before they were "saved" they were "sons of disobedience" and by "nature the children of wrath" (Eph. 2:1-4).

Are You Born Again?

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

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Norman H. Wells

The late Dr. Noel Smith was the able editor of the **Baptist Bible Tribune**. This paper is published weekly by the Baptist Bible Fellowship with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri.

Dr. Noel Smith has written a book called, **"Jews, Gentiles, and the Church."** This book comes closer to putting the finger on the basic problem of this age than any I have read. I highly recommend it to all our readers.

In this book Dr. Smith has some things to say about independent Baptists.

On page 99 Dr. Smith says, *"I believe in associations, in conventions, in fellowships."*

On pages 106-107 Dr. Smith says: *"The fact that I believe in the New Testament independence of New Testament churches does not mean that I am an ecclesiastical anarchist. In this lunatic world today everybody has got to go from one*

fool extreme to the other — exactly what the Devil wants. With apologies to Horace Greely, it is good to know that a lot of independents are self-made men: 'it relieves God Almighty of a lot of responsibility.' There is no such thing in this world as unqualified independence."

On page 106 Dr. Smith says, *"The New Testament churches not only had fellowship, they had method. They had 'machinery' if you please. In spite of all the hollering and whooping and stomping by the lathered 'independents,' nobody has ever done anything in this world without method, without machinery."*

This is rather a severe indictment of independent Baptists. According to Dr. Smith an independent Baptist is an *"ecclesiastical anarchist."* Dr. Smith hopes that God is not held responsible for independent Baptists. He pictures independent Baptists as *"hollering and whooping and stomping."* He pictures independent Baptists as *"lathered independents."*

I Am an independent Baptist. I pastor an independent Baptist Church. In

this capacity I would like to look at Dr. Smith's book.

The first chapter is called, "The Three Classes: As They are." Attention is drawn to the fact that there are three distinct classes of people on the earth: Jews, Gentiles, and the church. The failure to recognize the Bible's classification, distinctions, and implications of these three is given as the basic cause of the religious, social, economic and political chaos that exists today. It is pointed out that the world does not recognize these three classes but instead insists on "Everything becoming one!" (pg. 12).

In this first chapter Dr. Smith looks at the Jews as they are today. He sees the Jews so hopelessly divided that it has become impossible for them to even agree as to a definition of a Jew. They are at war with the whole world, and at war with themselves.

Dr. Smith looks at the Gentiles. He traces the history of the Gentiles from Cain, Nimrod, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, the Dark Ages, etc. to this present generation. From the time that Nimrod, *"gathered the Gentiles to Babel and tried to create a universal state,"* (pg. 17) the Gentiles have lived in

the open rebellion and defiance of God that is described in Romans 1:21-22.

In chapter two Dr. Smith points out that the Jews, as a nation, were chosen of God by love and grace to be a miracle nation, a separated nation, a peculiar nation, a nation with a land, a nation with a language, and a nation to endure forever.

The nation of the Jews was chosen to teach the Gentile nations of the true God; to write down, preserve and transmit the revelation of God; to save the world from moral putrefaction: to give the world a prophet and King-Priest.

Dr. Smith points out that the Jews turned from the Scriptures and their mission but that God in His sovereignty will accomplish His purpose in the Jews.

Dr. Smith begins with the origin of the Gentile nations and shows that their desire has always been to make all nations into one nation. This has always been contrary to the plan of God and has brought chaos.

What happened to the Jew and Gentiles? What went wrong? I believe that

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WELLS . . .

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Dr. Smith comes to an accurate diagnosis. They left God out! They departed from God's plan and method! Judgment and chaos has resulted. *Instead of following God's prescribed course and plan they tried to build something bigger and better and grander!*

The entire third chapter (a third of the entire book) is devoted to the church.

Dr. Smith has done an outstanding job. Not only if we are to have revival but if we are going to have survival we are going to have to recognize the truths that are presented in this chapter.

Better and with greater clarity than any other writer Dr. Smith establishes that the original word that is translated "*church*" in our English Bible means "*assembly*."

Dr. Smith establishes that the church of the New Testament was a local, material, visible, corporate entity. *This was the only kind of church established.* There is not one single indication in the entire New Testament of any other meaning for church.

Now, I would like to look at some quotations from Dr. Smith's book that strike a particular response from my own heart and to which I could not possibly more heartily endorse.

"The teaching of the

New Testament is eternally at war with your ecumenical church and all your centralized ecclesiastical systems" (pg. 100).

The New Testament churches were completely independent of all external human authority (pg. 101).

The autonomy and independence of the New Testament church is a corollary of its nature (pg. 101).

Genuine New Testament churches always have been autonomous and independent of external ecclesiastical authority. Genuine New Testament churches today are autonomous and independent of external ecclesiastical authority. Genuine New Testament churches always will be autonomous and independent of external ecclesiastical authority (pg. 103).

A wife packing up her glad rags and leaving her husband for another man is not one whit guiltier of adultery than the local church which turns from the authority of Christ to the authority of ecclesiasticism (pg. 104).

There is not a line in the New Testament that gives the local church the authority to delegate its responsibility to anybody. — Amen, Amen, and Amen. [Italics and Amens are mine. — Wells] pg. 104).

What happened to the Jews, Gentiles, and the church? Listen again to Dr.

Smith, "The ancient Jews tired of God as their King and demanded that He abdicate the throne and turn it over to Saul." The Jews rejected God and tried to build something bigger and better and grander.

The Gentiles left the nations that God established and have been trying to build "one world" ever since.

The Christian world has left the idea of the independent, local church and are trying to build a "one-world church."

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HOW . . .

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again?" Do not accept a string of Scripture references. *There is no such verse.* Here they have been deceived and have not believed what the Bible has to say about Christ and salvation! Now ask, "Do you believe the Bible or only what your organization tells you?"

Do You Have Eternal Life?

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

"Jehovah God will justify, declare righteous, on the basis of their own merit all perfected humans who have withstood that final,

decisive test of mankind. He will *adopt and acknowledge them as his sons* through Jesus Christ" (Emphasis ours).

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

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

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



“That’s Entertainment”(?) — After the fact, we packed up more information about the resistance to the election of Springdale pastor Ronnie Floyd as president of the powerful Southern Baptist Convention. Many opponents cited his church’s paltry contribution to the convention’s cooperative program (only about \$30,000 out of \$12 million in revenue). But conservatives also resented some of the modern techniques Floyd has used to build First Baptist of Springdale and a sister church in Rogers into great congregations. “A number of Baptist bloggers who opposed Floyd linked to articles by the Associated Baptist Press about the church’s children’s ministry and a ‘fire-truck baptistry.’ One article, quoting Christianity Today, said: ‘The unique baptistry, created by Disney designer Bruce Barry, is part of a \$270,000 high-tech project for the church’s children’s worship area that includes video games, a light show, music videos and a bubble machine, according to Christianity Today. When a child is baptized in the fire-truck-shaped baptistry,

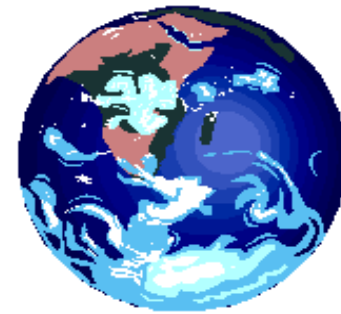
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sirens blare and confetti is fired out of cannons.’ “ ‘Putting a talking head in front of kids for an hour doesn’t work,’ the children’s minister told the magazine. ‘This is a visual generation. We need to use technology to the max.’ “Floyd told Arkansas Baptist News that creative evangelism was needed to package the gospel ‘in ways the culture can understand and receive.’ “ — Arkansas Times

NY High Court Rules Against Same-Sex Marriage. — The New York Court of Appeals, the highest court in the state, ruled Thursday that the state “constitution does not compel the recognition of marriages between members of the same sex.” In its 4-2 decision, the court said that “whether such marriages should be recognized is a question to be addressed by the legislature.” “We do not predict what people will think generations from now, but we believe the present generation should have a chance to decide the issue through its elected representatives,” Judge Robert Smith wrote. — CNS

Supreme Court Intervenes In 17-Year-Old

Cross Battle. — The U.S. Supreme Court Monday blocked the removal of the Mount Soledad cross in San Diego, Calif., while legal appeals progress through lower federal courts. The decision came less than a week after the Thomas More Law Center requested a stay and with less than a month remaining before officials would either have to remove the cross or face daily fines. Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), praised the court’s decision to intervene in the 17-year-old case. “This is a major victory for the City of San Diego and the hundreds of thousands of people across America who support this long-standing war memorial,” Sekulow said in a statement. “This action by the high court sends a powerful message to the lower courts — that a removal order was premature — that there are critical legal issues that need to be litigated before any action can be taken to remove this cross,” Sekulow added. Justice Anthony Kennedy issued the temporary stay halting the removal of the Mount Soledad cross while legal appeals continue in San Diego. As **Cybercast News Service** previously reported, in May 2006 Federal District Court Judge George Thompson had issued an order to



remove the cross by August 1 or face a \$5,000-a-day fine. — CNS

Georgia’s Top Court Reinstates Gay Marriage Ban. — The state Supreme Court reinstated Georgia’s constitutional ban on gay marriage Thursday, just hours after New York’s highest court upheld that state’s gay marriage ban. The Georgia Supreme Court, reversing a lower court judge’s ruling, decided unanimously that the ban did not violate the state’s single-subject rule for ballot measures. Superior Court Judge Constance Russell of Fulton County had ruled that it did. Seventy-six percent of Georgia voters approved the ban when it was on the ballot in 2004. — CNS

Q: Were Dinosaurs On the Ark? A: Hollywood movies, magazines and science textbooks state that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. So, when confronted with this question about dinosaurs and the

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La Voz Del Desierto

El Código Da Vinci ¿Hecho o Ficción — Parte 1

Por Félix M. González Bulgalá, Redactor

“*El Código Da Vinci*” de un tal Dan Brown es la más reciente herejía disfrazada de “novela.” En su mundo ficticio, Brown darienda suelta a su obra en la cual el personaje de la novela alega que Jesús fue el “primer feminista de la historia,” y que su intención fue que “su esposa María Magdalena,” dirigiera la Iglesia después de su muerte, pero que Pedro se opuso. Así que según el autor, Pedro, contando con la cooperación de su banda de machistas (los demás

apóstoles), le empacaron las maletitas a María Magdalena y la enviaron a ... ¡Francia con la “hija de Jesús” y así llegó a Europa El Santo Grial! La hipótesis es que la historia del Santo Grial en realidad señala al linaje de sangre de Jesús y María Magdalena.

La novela trata de convencer al lector por medio de una serie de códigos secretos de que la Iglesia Católica ha creado una “gran mentira” (la Deidad de Jesucristo) y a entender la conspiración en que trata de probar que

Jesús no era Dios. Como si fuera poco también cuestiona el origen y el contenido de la Biblia. Pero los intentos por desacreditar la historia cristiana y demostrar que es un fraude, sin base en los hechos o la razón, no son nuevos.

De hecho, los maníaticos reclamos de Brown en *El Código Da Vinci* no son originales pues Michael Baigent, Henry Lincoln, y Richard Leigh escribieron un libro titulado “*Holy Blood, Holy Grial*” [Sangre Sagrada, Santo Grial] publicado en 1982, en

el que hacían los mismos reclamos de que Brown les robó las ideas a estos señores, y ahora se ha hecho millonario vendiendo una teoría ajena, embellecida en forma de una novela. El periódico El Nuevo Día de Puerto Rico informó que “... *si Baigent y Leigh tienen éxito en obtener un interdicto judicial impidiendo el uso de su material, podrían bloquear el estreno, el 19 de mayo, del filme basado en la novela. La película*

(Vea VINCI en la pág. 10)

La Victoria Sobre Satanás

Comenzaré por decir que Satanás ha intentado oprimir las vidas de muchos cristianos (1ra Pedro 5:8). Pero la Biblia dice que nosotros los creyentes somos más que vencedores en Cristo Jesús en quien obtenemos por sus méritos una victoria gloriosa (Romanos 8:7-39). Aún así no podemos ignorar las asechanzas del diablo. Tenemos que orar y

reprender sus maquinaciones. Él siempre tratará de hacerte pecar o que hagas cosas que no agraden al Señor. Pero tenemos que ser valientes y resistirlo para que huya de nosotros (1 Jn. 5:4-5).

Cuando estamos pasando por situaciones y problemas, ahí es donde él ataca haciendo que dudemos del Señor. Tratará de sembrar toda duda y

confusión porque se aprovecha de nuestras aflicciones para hacernos sentir culpables y que no busquemos de Dios. Utilizará toda clase de artimaña pues él es el engañador de la humanidad (Apocalipsis 12:9-10).

Recuerden que el diablo no descansa, siempre que tenga la oportunidad de hacernos caer, lo hará. Pero gloria a Dios

que la victoria está en Cristo Jesús, Señor nuestro. Por lo tanto hermanos, oremos los unos por los otros a toda hora y en todo tiempo, y contendamos por la fe que ha sido una vez dada a los santos, y luchemos ardentemente por esa fe (Judas 3; Efesios 6:13-18). Que el Señor nos bendiga a todos. Amén. — Por Hno. Galo Rodríguez, Redactor □

VINCI . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

tiene como protagonistas a los actores Tom Hanks y Ian McKellan. Sin embargo, el estudio Sony Pictures dijo que proyecta estrenar el filme en la fecha estipulada" (El Nuevo Día: 1 de marzo de 2006).

No hay ninguna evidencia en las Escrituras (las cuales son las fuentes más confiables que tenemos para conocer la vida de Cristo), de que Él y María Magdalena hayan estado casados y mucho menos de que hayan tenido una hija. Por ejemplo, nosotros sabemos que Pedro estuvo casado porque la Biblia habla de su suegra. Mas sin embargo, el Nuevo Testamento habla con más detalles sobre la vida de Jesús pero no dice nada de que estuvo casado. En la Biblia cuando Jesucristo estaba en su ministerio, no hubo mención de una esposa. Cuando fue juzgado y crucificado no se menciona ninguna esposa. Después de su muerte y resurrección tampoco se menciona una esposa. Lo único que encontramos es que la Biblia menciona la madre de Jesús, sus her-

manos y sus hermanas más de una vez. Pero nunca se menciona una esposa como tampoco hay alguna indicación de que haya quedado viudo.

El texto más importante para este tema tal vez sea Ira Corintios 9:4-6. Pablo dijo que los apóstoles, los hermanos del Señor y Cefas (Pedro) tenían derecho a una esposa. Habría sido muy fácil para Pablo añadir que Jesús también estuvo casado si ese fuera el caso. Ese punto hubiera sellado su argumento, pero él no hizo ese señalamiento. Este pasaje de Ira Corintios 9 muestra que la iglesia no sentía vergüenza alguna de revelar que sus líderes eran hombres casados o sugerir que tenían el derecho a serlo. De hecho, si Jesús hubiera estado casado, no hubiera habido mejor lugar para que Pablo lo mencionara que este pasaje. Le hubiera dado el toque final a su argumento para afirmar que él también tenía derecho a una esposa. Pero Pablo no lo mencionó porque Jesús nunca estuvo casado.

Además, Jesús hizo muchas cosas que demostraron que además de ser verdadero Dios también era

Chávez Ordena A Misioneros Estadounidenses Salir Fuera de La Selva Venezolana

Misioneros estadounidenses acusados de espionaje por el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez, fueron obligados a salir de sus puestos remotos en verdadero hombre. Él comió, sintió sed, durmió, se cansó, vivió y murió. Su vida diaria era como la de cualquier ser humano. Jesucristo era 100% humano, así que, si Él hubiera estado casado y engendrado hijos, no habría sido un reflejo de su completa humanidad. Si Jesús hubiera estado casado, no habría ninguna necesidad de cubrir el hecho. Si Jesús hubiese estado casado, todavía podría haber sido y haber hecho todo lo que fue e hizo.

Ahora, la Biblia si habla de que Jesucristo tiene una "Esposa" y que tiene "hijos" e "hijas" pero no como lo describe el Código Da Vinci. La Esposa del Cordero es la Iglesia que Jesucristo edificó y la cual Él quiere presentar al Padre como una iglesia gloriosa, sin mancha, ni arruga, ni ninguna cosa semejante (Efesios 3:21-27). Debemos saber que cada cristiano forma parte del linaje espiritual de Jesucristo, y es participante de la naturaleza divina como hijos e hijas de Dios (Isaías 33:10-12; 2da Pedro 1:3-4). □

Venezuela y de entre las tribus de la jungla por orden del gobierno. La última pareja salió recientemente, luego de años de trabajo evangélico. La Misión Nuevas Tribus sacó a estos dos de la selva tropical para reunirlos con otros misioneros en la parte este de la ciudad de Puerto Ordaz. Allí dedicarán qué hacer; salir del país o continuar con una batalla legal que intenta revocar la orden del gobierno en sacarlos de las áreas indígenas para el próximo domingo. La mayoría de los misioneros son americanos.

Desde enero, cerca de unos 40 misioneros han sido expulsados dirigiéndose a la base del grupo en Puerto Ordaz ante la fecha límite del domingo, dijo Marco Brito, portavoz de los misioneros. "Todos están devastados, algunos de ellos deprimidos" dijo Brito, observando que una mujer canadiense ha estado trabajando por más de 40 años remota Yanomami en la selva tropical amazónica.

Si el hombre muere, ¿volverá a vivir? Todos los días de mi edad esperaré, Hasta que venga mi mutación. Aficionado a la obra de tus manos, Llamarás y yo te responderé.

— Job 14:14-15

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WNR . . .

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Ark, many Christians get that “deer in the headlights” look. It’s hard for them to imagine dinosaurs on Noah’s Ark. But if Christians are familiar with the book of Genesis, it’s no puzzle at all. God said that He made all of the land animals on Day 6 of creation, and He did *not* say that it didn’t include the dinosaurs! God’s Word says He made the first man, Adam, the same day as the land animals. If one adds the ages of successive generations of people mentioned in the genealogies of the Bible, Adam lived only about 6,000 years ago. So, dinosaurs couldn’t have lived millions of years ago. Also, Genesis 6:19–20 says that two of every sort of land animal (seven of the “clean” animals) were brought by God to the Ark. Therefore, dinosaurs (land animals) were represented on the Ark. When you trust the Bible, there is no confusion. Dinosaurs *were* on Noah’s Ark! — AIG

* * *

Court Allows Pro-life Plates. — The United States Supreme Court permitted pro-life license plates in Louisiana and Tennessee by refusing June 26 to accept challenges to those states’ approval of such auto tags. By declining to review lower court decisions, the high court

allowed to stand rulings in the Fifth and Sixth Circuit Courts of Appeals upholding the legality of license plates bearing the message “Choose Life” in Louisiana and Tennessee, respectively. The Supreme Court’s refusal to hear the cases means there are conflicting opinions in the circuit court system regarding pro-life tags. While the Fifth and Sixth circuits have ruled in favor of pro-life plates, the Fourth Circuit ruled against them. In 2005, the Supreme Court declined to review a Fourth Circuit opinion that said South Carolina’s “Choose Life” tags violate the First Amendment by not permitting an abortion rights message in the same forum. — BP

* * *

House Panel Kills “Pledge” Bill. — A House panel has unexpectedly killed a bill designed to remove the jurisdiction of the federal courts over cases involving the Pledge of Allegiance. The House Judiciary Committee deadlocked 15-15 on the so-called “Pledge Protection Act” June 28, stopping the bill from moving forward. Religious Right groups have claimed the bill is necessary to keep the words “under God” from being removed from the pledge. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals originally ordered the words removed from the pledge in

2002 and said their recitation in public schools violates the First Amendment which guarantees religious freedom. After a public backlash, the appeals court later backtracked on the removal of the words, but maintained their ruling that public-school teachers should not lead students in reciting the oath. The Court overturned that decision. — ABP

* * *

Dutch Court OKs ‘Pedophile’ Political Party. — A Dutch court refused Monday to ban a political party whose main goal is to lower the age of sexual consent from 16 to 12. The judge said it was the voters’ right to judge the appeal of political parties. — AP

* * *

Protesters Battle Over Mississippi Abortion Clinic. — Hundreds of abortion-rights advocates and abortion opponents rallied in Jackson, Miss., on Sunday for the second day of a planned weeklong battle over attempts to shut down the state’s last abortion clinic. Police tightened security around the clinic, Jackson Women’s Health Organization, and stationed officers throughout the city for the duration of the rallies that began Saturday. Operation Save America (OSA), a national group that opposes

abortion, targeted the Jackson clinic this year. The group said that a statewide “victory” in Mississippi would send a message to activists everywhere that the battle to end abortion can be won. The organization believes the movement to stop abortion will be successful sooner if it focuses on shutting down individual clinics through protests rather than working to change legislation. “This is a grass-roots battle that will be won with the gospel of Jesus Christ,” says the Rev. Flip Benham, director of OSA, formerly known as Operation Rescue. Benham is also founder of the Garland Free Methodist Church in Texas. “Pretty soon abortion is going to become as ugly a word as slavery.”

* * *

Grills, Other Fads Banned From Arlington, Texas Schools. — The Arlington school district has expanded its dress codes to include bans on mouth jewelry known as “grills” and the earlobe-stretching practice known as gauging. “The district is having to respond to fads because they’ve become distracters or a safety hazard for those around them,” said Malcolm Turner, the district’s executive director of student services. The nearby Irving, Grand Prairie and DeSoto districts also

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ban grills, and some also address gauging — the process of placing increasingly large items in the ears to stretch the lobes. But students said the body modification is simply self-expression. “Really, a grill is just like an earring. It’s fashion,” said Sam Houston junior Devonte Wright, 16. Others said it was unfair to ban such jewelry after students had purchased the expensive items, such as a \$200, six-tooth white-gold diamond-cut grill. The price ranges from \$180 to \$3,000 at J’s Grill in Arlington. “If they bought it, they should be able to wear it,” said Sam Houston senior LaVeda Antwine, 17. But school officials said they hoped to teach students that life would require them to follow specific regulations in specific settings. “We want to instill in them a sense of modesty and a sense of community,” said school board trustee Gloria Pena. “We’re preparing them for the work force, and in the work force there are rules.”

* * *

House Rejects Marriage Amendment. — In a vote of 236 to 187, the U.S. House Tuesday rejected a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, because it did not have enough support from Democrats to get a

two-thirds vote. Conservatives expressed disappointment with the vote. “For thousands of years the definition of marriage has been the union between one man and one woman. Marriage is the very foundation of our society where families are formed and communities are established,” said House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) in a statement. “Today we are seeking to protect this vital institution as it is under attack by activist judges across the nation. Forty-five states have passed laws or constitutional amendments defining marriage between a man and a woman, yet non-elected, liberally motivated judges have overturned the voice of the American people time after time,” said Hastert. “It’s unfortunate that more than a majority of democrats today have sided with these liberal judges and voted against this measure,” Hastert said. Hastert vowed that “this issue is not over and that we will continue to send a message to the American people that preserving and protecting marriage is a priority and we will continue to fight for the American family on this front and others.”

* * *

Q: Why Are the Migration Habits of Salmon So Amazing? A: The migration of salmon is a

fascinating phenomenon. Pacific salmon have a built-in guidance system. Research indicates that salmon are able to use the earth’s magnetic field and the position of the sun, moon and stars. They also have the ability to detect the chemical composition of the stream from which they actually began their life. All this to enable salmon to return to their native stream to spawn! How can evolutionary scientists be so blind? The salmon’s astounding ability to navigate great distances with perfect accuracy is impossible to explain as a result of purposeless and unguided evolution. While we may be impressed by man’s achievements, such as building guided missiles, how much more should we worship the Creator God who made the salmon? — AIG

* * *

Anti-Discrimination Law Used Against Lutheran School. — The California Supreme Court ruled June 30 that two girls who were expelled from a Lutheran high school last fall can sue the school under the state’s anti-discrimination law on the grounds that they were kicked out because of homosexual behavior. California’s Unruh Act prohibits businesses from discriminating on the basis of a person’s actual or perceived sexual orientation,

but the California Lutheran High School Association is trying to make the point that as a private religious academy, the school should be able to decide who is enrolled. Because they are not a business they should be exempt from the rule, school officials say. But the court unanimously denied an appeal by the school and cleared the path for the students’ lawsuit to proceed to trial, the Associated Press reported. The 16-year-old girls were expelled last September when their behavior was deemed “contrary to Christian decency,” and a lawsuit was filed in December claiming the girls’ civil rights were violated. The lawsuit seeks readmission for the students, damages and the admittance of homosexual students to the Christian school AP said.

* * *

Gay-couple Blessings Get Bishop’s Nod. — The Episcopal bishop of Arkansas has given the green light to congregations that want to explore offering blessing ceremonies for gay couples and has notified clergymen in the diocese that some congregations are ready to do that. One of them is St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in west Little Rock, which is to have a blessing ceremony for a couple in September. — Arkansas Democrat/Gazette. □

WELLS . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Dr. Smith has the proper diagnosis! Dr. Smith has the proper remedy! The tragedy is that Dr. Smith will not apply the remedy! He tells us how to load the gun but he won't shoot. I WILL! I'll pull the trigger and fire his own ammunition.

When the teachings of Dr. Smith in the Book, "Jews, Gentiles, and the Church" are applied they constitute an indictment of the Baptist Bible Fellowship of which Dr. Smith is a part.

Let us look again at Dr. Smith's words as already quoted.

"The teaching of the New Testament is eternally at war with your ecumenical church and all your centralized systems." (pg. 100).

Let's pull the trigger!

The Baptist Bible Fellowship is a "centralized ecclesiastical system." It is an organization with which Baptist churches identify themselves and through which they do their work. The Fellowship has a constitution. It has officers. It owns property. Through the Fellowship the churches centralize the training of preachers, their missionary work, etc.

Dr. Smith says the teaching of the New Testament is at war with this kind of thing. We agree!

"The New Testament churches were completely independent of all external human authority." (pg. 101).

Let's pull the trigger! *The churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship are not free from external human authority.* The churches have a vote but are required to submit to the majority rule of the Fellowship or keep quiet ... or get out. To remain an identified part of the Fellowship regards accepting the Fellowship's decisions. This is human authority.

Genuine New Testament churches always have been autonomous ... today are autonomous ... always will be autonomous. (pg. 103).

Let's pull the trigger! *The churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship are not autonomous!* To be autonomous means to be completely self-governing. It means to have self-determination without outside control. When a centralized ecclesiastical system such as the Baptist Bible Fellowship uses its centralized schools, papers, youth camps, etc. to indoctrinate the members of the local churches with a greater loyalty to the central organization than to the church, then church is no longer autonomous. *There is not a line in the New Testament that gives the local church the authority to delegate its responsibility to anybody.*

(pg. 104).

Let's pull the trigger! *The churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship do delegate their responsibility to the central organization.* The Lord gave the church and the church only, the authority to send out missionaries. The churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship delegate this authority to their Mission Board.

An organization such as the Baptist Bible Fellowship is unscriptural.

The only organization established and commissioned in the New Testament is the local church. There is not one mention or hint of any other organization.

Search the Bible! A Baptist is supposed to believe and abide by a "thus saith the Lord." By what authority are organizations such as the Baptist Bible Fellowship organized? One thing is sure ... it is not Bible authority!

Man-made organizations such as the Baptist Bible Fellowship have always produced compromise. The proclamation of the great Baptist truths have to be softened and finally stilled in order to maintain unity in the central organization. *The Baptist Bible Fellowship is called Baptist ... But cannot even identify a Baptist!*

Does a Baptist church accept "alien immersion" as scriptural baptism? Does a Baptist church practice open or closed communion?

Are openly interdenominational churches that call themselves Baptist to be accepted as such simply because they support the Fellowship financially?

May I be permitted to give one more quote from Dr. Smith's book? He tries to justify the existence of the Baptist Bible Fellowship in the following quote:

I believe in associations, in conventions, in fellowships. We are told that in the New Testament we don't find any of them. No; and neither do we find the Sunday School or the Wednesday night prayer meeting (pg. 99).

Such things as Sunday Schools and the Wednesday night prayer meeting are in the individual church and controlled by the individual church and do not violate the principles and mission of the church. Organizations such as the Baptist Bible Fellowship are outside of the church and are a violation of the principle and mission of the church.

The book, "Jews, Gentiles, and the Church," by Noel Smith is an answer to prayer.

For years I have been trying to present the position of the independent Baptist. I have desired to be able to present this truth in such a way that Baptists would understand the tremendous importance of the return to the local

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Fundamental Baptist Information Service

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No Design, No Meaning. — On every hand we are told by evolutionists that life is without design. This message is regularly and dogmatically broadcast from newspaper and magazine articles, from television programs (and entire channels such as National Geographic), from museums, from the public schools and universities, you name it. Committed evolutionists do not allow for design; they rail against even the most benign “intelligence design” theory. At the same time, they want us to think that there is purpose to the world and to our actions, that it matters whether there is global warming or the loss of animal habitat. But if they are correct about the origin of life, they must be consistent about the meaning of life. You can’t have it both ways. If life has no Designer and therefore no design, it has no meaning whatsoever. A blind, random evolution results in a world without purpose. If evolution is true, it doesn’t matter if all animals go extinct. There is no purpose and no meaning. It doesn’t matter if the world warms up to 1000 degrees and fizzes

away. It doesn’t matter if man destroys himself with nuclear bombs. The whole thing is the product of chance, with no design and therefore no meaning. If evolutionists are right, it doesn’t matter how you live or how you die. But if the Bible is true, it matters a great deal, because if the Bible is true, you are an individual made in God’s image, made to know God and to serve Him, and though fallen because of sin, you are still the object of His love and of the work of redemption, and death offers the reality either of heaven or of hell, depending on your relationship with Jesus Christ. “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Gen. 1:27-28).

* * *

Episcopalians And

Presbyterians Vote To Allow The Ordination of Homosexuals. — The Episcopal Church in America and the Presbyterian Church USA voted at assemblies this summer to allow for the ordination of homosexuals. The Episcopalians, meeting in Columbus, Ohio, voted by a large majority to reject a proposal that would have banned the ordination of homosexual bishops. The Presbyterians, meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, approved a policy that allows regional denominational bodies to ordain homosexuals on a “case-by-case basis.” The new policy “creates a loophole that would allow gays and lesbians to serve as ministers” (“Episcopal, Presbyterian Leaders Rule on Gay Clergy,” Los Angeles Times, June 21). The apostate Episcopalians also “overwhelmingly refused” to consider a resolution that affirmed that Jesus Christ is the “only name by which any person may be saved.” They further rejected an amendment that called upon the denomination to make evangelism its first priority. Instead, first priority will be given to such things as “the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.” “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even

denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (2 Peter 2:1-2).

* * *

Jewish Rabbi Calls For Modesty Parade To Protest Homosexuality.

— Rabbi Amnon Yitzhak expects thousands to participate in a Modesty Parade in Jerusalem to protest the World Pride Parade that is scheduled to be held there on August 11. Yitzhak is the founder of the conservative Shofar group, which is dedicated to the return to religion among secular Jews. He says: “Two days before the date on which the vile souls are planning their World ‘March of Abomination,’ thousands of Jews whose souls have been saved and have chosen God’s path will hold a ‘Modesty March’ of incredible proportions. Its very occurrence will denunciate the abomination and defilement, will vomit out its participants from among us and will set fire to their infection” (“Modesty Parade Protests Gay Parade,” WorldNetDaily, June 16). Yitzhak is confused about salvation. There is no salvation through the keeping of the

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law, and there never has been. The Law of Moses was given to show man his sinful, lost condition and God's holiness. No man can be justified through the Law because no fallen man can keep the Law. The Law requires perfect obedience. Before God, Amnon Yitzhak is just as much a lost sinner as any homosexual he condemns. Yitzhak and his Shofar people do not even make a pretense of keeping a large portion of the Law. They have no Levitical priesthood, no high priest, no temple, and no sacrifices. Their souls have not been saved, because they have rejected the Messiah that God sent to pay the atonement for their sins and to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. "For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified" (Romans 2:11-13). "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is

the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:19-24).

* * *

Famed Scientist Says They Are Close To Answering Age-old Questions. — Famed physicist Stephen Hawking recently stated in a lecture: "We are getting closer to answering the age-old questions: Why are we here? Where did we come from?" ("Hawking Says John Paul Discouraged Inquiry," Associated Press, June 16). Hawking, author of "A Brief History of Time," was speaking at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Hawking is an evolutionist who rejects the testimony of the Bible and believes that man can fathom the deepest questions of life apart from divine revelation. I thank the Lord that He opened my blinded eyes 33 years ago so that I could see the wonder and beauty and truth of the Bible. All of the age-old questions are answered in its pages, and

nothing fits the findings of true science, though it does boldly contradict "science falsely so called." "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good" (Psalm 14:1). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16-18).

* * *

1,000 Muslim Women Killed By Relatives Each Year in Pakistan. — According to official government figures, one thousand Pakistani women are murdered each year in Islamic "honor killings" ("Pakistani Women Victims of Islamic Ordinances," CNSNews.com, March 21). Many more are murdered in other Islamic countries and even in Western nations. The killings occur when a woman is perceived to have dishonored her family "as

a result of a romantic liaison but also in cases where a woman has been raped, seeks a divorce, or resists an arranged marriage." Sometimes the women are burned to death. Perpetrators of these murders are frequently not prosecuted or punished.

* * *

What Is Wrong With The Southern Baptist Convention? — What is wrong with the Southern Baptist Convention, you might ask? Hasn't it cleaned up the theological liberalism from the national seminaries? To a large extent, yes, it has, and that is commendable (though plenty of theological liberalism remains at the state and local levels), but we cannot recommend the Southern Baptist Convention because it is thoroughly New Evangelical. The hallmark of New Evangelicalism from its inception in the 1940s is its repudiation of separatism. Harold Ockenga, the influential evangelical leader who claimed to have coined the term "neo-evangelical," defined the philosophy of this movement as follows: "Neo-evangelicalism was born in 1948 in connection with a convocation address which I gave in the Civic Auditorium in Pasadena. ... We had no intention of launching a movement, but

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FBIS . . .

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found that the emphasis attracted widespread support and exercised great influence. Neo-evangelicalism ... *is different from fundamentalism in its repudiation of separatism ...*" (Harold J. Ockenga, foreword to Harold Lindsell's *The Battle for the Bible*). Note that a central aspect of New Evangelicalism is its repudiation of separatism. Billy Graham is the most prominent spokesman for New Evangelicalism of the last generation, and he is held in the highest esteem by every prominent Southern Baptist, including the most conservative. Southern Baptist leaders show their New Evangelical colors by openly warning against fundamentalism and separatism. Consider this statement by Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, from his June 2004 message "The Fundamentals of Cooperating Conservatives." "There's a road wrongly taken by many on our left, the road of liberalism. But there is also a road wrongly taken by many others on our right side. It may not be as treacherous as the road of liberalism, but it is just as disabling to the Convention. What is this road? It is the road of separatism — an ecclesiastical methodology that devalues cooperation in favor of

hyper independence. In the past, we have avoided this road as fervently as the road on the left. If Southern Baptists steer too sharply toward the right, we will end up on the road of separatism. *Southern Baptists have never embraced the methodologies of separatism*" The Bible doesn't allow the middle-of-the-road position between theological liberalism and fundamentalism espoused by the Southern Baptist Convention. Separation from doctrinal error is a divine commandment. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Rom. 16:17). There are many articles on New Evangelicalism at the Way of Life web site (an entire section of the Apostasy Database is devoted to Evangelicalism.

* * *

TV Promotes Promiscuity In Children. — A study published earlier this year found that "movies, television, music and magazines are fueling promiscuity in children aged 12-15" ("TV Promotes Promiscuity," Lifesite, March 23). Scientists associated with the University of North Carolina studied the effort of the media on more than 1,000 children and young teens. The study reported "that the majority

of the 264 media sources examined found sexually-charged situations were almost always between unmarried couples and usually portrayed sex as risk-free." It called the media a "*Sexual Super Peer*" with an influence "at least equal to religion or the relationship between the child and parents." There should be no surprise in this study for Bible believers. I have never known of parents who regretted discarding the television or at least setting the strictest controls on it.

* * *

Jews Attack Christians In Jerusalem — The following is excerpted from Haaretz.com, June 28: "A group of 50 pro-Israel Christian tourists came under attack Wednesday from some 100 residents of the ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of Mea She'arim in Jerusalem. Three of the tourists and a police officer were wounded in the attack. They received treatment at the scene. The tourists arrived at Mea She'arim wearing orange T-shirts with the words 'Love your neighbor as yourself' printed across them. As they neared one of the squares, the local residents apparently identified them as Christians and began to hit them."

* * *

The Decline of Church Discipline In

Baptist Churches. — One of the root problems behind the lack of spiritual power and zeal in Baptist churches today is the neglect of discipline. This even affects nations. When President Bill Clinton committed adultery and lied to the country about it and tried to pervert the judicial system to cover himself, there was a call for his home church to exercise discipline, but the call was ignored. Bill Clinton was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. In that context, Dean Register, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, testified: "*It's very unusual for Southern Baptist churches to take disciplinary action against an individual*" (The Sun Herald, Biloxi, Mississippi, Sept. 13, 1998). In "Church Discipline: The Missing Mark," R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, observed: "*The Present generation of both ministers and church members is virtually without experience of Biblical discipline*" (from chapter 8 of *The Compromised Church*, edited by John H. Armstrong, Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1998). And this problem is not isolated to Southern Baptists. Even among non-affiliated fun-

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damental Baptist churches, the ones that are so frequently labeled legalistic and are thought of as being exceedingly strict, there is a rapid decline in the practice of church discipline. Never has the instruction of 1 Corinthians 5 been more relevant and important.

* * *

Baptists Weren't Dancing Then. — Baylor University, the world's largest Baptist school, was founded in 1845, in a day when Baptist churches took separation from the world much more seriously. Influential Baptist leader B.H. Carroll (1843-1914), commenting on 1 Corinthians 5 in his lectures on the English Bible, described a situation in Baptist history that opens a window into just how strict the churches were in that day. Carroll taught at Baylor for many years, founded the theological seminary there, and also founded Southwestern Theological Seminary: "When I was pastor of my first church, we had in our membership a very brilliant lawyer who before my day had joined the church at old Baylor University at Independence [before the school's move to Waco in 1885]. He afterwards went to a dance, and some of the brethren thought that it was improper, and he got

mad and stayed away and finally the church withdrew fellowship from him. This man was dying, and he sent for me and said, 'Brother Carroll, I want you to tell all young people that no spiritual good can come to them by participating in worldly amusements that are far from grace, and that alienate them from God. My life has been unfruitful, yet I am a true child of God, and now I am conscious that I am dying. I know Jesus said do one thing that I never did, that is, he commanded that all partake of the Lord's Supper. I never did, and before I pass away I would like to obey him one time if it can be done scripturally. Now can you tell me how it can be done scripturally?' I said, 'What importance do you attach to this? Do you think that this will save you?' He said, 'O no, I am not so foolish as that. I just want to obey him this one time.' I said, 'I can manage that for you, and do it scripturally.' And on Sunday as the church met in conference I said, 'Brethren, I suggest that we adjourn to the house of this dying lawyer.' The church can adjourn to meet at any place it may desire and as a church can there set forth the Lord's table; and so we went there by horseback and in buggies, and the minutes of the conference were read showing that we were there by adjournment, and we heard this man's confession of his sins and

he asked the church to take him back, Then they set the Lord's Supper, and his face was illumined when he was able to obey the Lord's command" (Carroll, Interpretation of the English Bible). We see that the Baptist churches in the late 1800s not only took separation from the world seriously but they even practiced church discipline. Things have changed dramatically in the last half century. In fact, in 1996 Baylor announced that it was dropping its on-campus ban on dancing. It was not an earth-shaking announcement, since the school's sororities and fraternities had been conducting dances off-campus for decades. Baylor University has changed for the simple reason that the churches with which it is affiliated have changed. I grew up in Southern Baptist churches and there was little or no separation from the world even when I was a kid in the 1950s and early 1960s. It was in a Southern Baptist youth group that I learned to love wicked rock & roll and immoral modern dancing when I entered junior high school in 1961. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and

the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:15-17).

* * *

The Beetle Who is a Chemist. — "Imagine a beetle that can move across the surface of water without any body movement. Some creatures have been given such ability and skill that it should be clear to even the most skeptical person that their Maker and Teacher is greater than any human being. One such creature is the large-eyed rove beetle. Like many other insects, this beetle can walk on water. The surface tension of the water is enough to support the beetle on top of the water, given the special structure of his legs and feet. Should you see the large-eyed rove beetle, you will notice that he moves across the water, stops, turns, and starts up again without moving any part of his body. How does this work? The large-eyed rove beetle has special glands that produce a chemical — something like detergent — that changes the surface tension of the water. When the surface tension of the water near his back feet is different from the surface tension of the water near his front feet, the beetle is pulled forward. Such a unique method of movement requires sophisticated

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Charles H. Spurgeon

“And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” — John 5:40)

The absurdity in the world is to want to have a wider gospel than that recorded in Scripture. I preach that every man that believes shall be saved — that every man who comes shall find mercy.

People ask me, “But suppose a man should come who was not chosen, would he be saved?” You go and suppose nonsense and I am not going to give you an answer. If a man is not chosen, he will never come. When he does come, it is a sure proof that he was chosen.

Says one, “Suppose any one should go to Christ who had not been called of the Spirit.”

Stop, my brother, that is a supposition thou hast no right to make, for such a thing cannot happen; you only say it to entangle me, and you will not do that just yet. I say every man who comes to Christ shall be saved. I can say that as a Calvinist, or as a hyper-

Calvinist, as plainly as you can say it. I have no narrower gospel than you have; only my gospel is from a solid foundation, whereas yours is built upon nothing but sand and rottenness. “Every man that cometh shall be saved, for no man cometh to me except the Father draw him.”

“But,” says one, “suppose all the world should come, would Christ receive them?” Certainly, if all came, but then they won’t come. I tell you all that come — aye, if they were as bad as devils, Christ would receive them; if they had all sin and filthiness running into their hearts as into a common sewer for the whole world. Christ would receive them.

Another says, “I want to know about the rest of the people. May I go out and tell them — Jesus Christ died for every one of you? May I say — there is righteousness for every one of you, there is life for every one of you?”

No, you may not. You may say there is life for every man that comes. But if you say there is life for one of those that do not believe you utter a dangerous lie. If you tell them that Jesus Christ was

punished for their sins, and yet they will be lost, you tell a willful falsehood. To think that God could punish Christ and then daring to have the impudence to punish them — I wonder that you say so!

A good man was once preaching that there were harps and crowns in Heaven for all his congregation; and then he wound up in a most solemn manner: “My

(See **SPUR** on page 19)

A Quiet Mind

By Amy Carmichael

What room is there for troubled fear?
I know my Lord, and He is near;
And He will light my candle, so
That I may see the way to go.

There need be no bewilderment
To one who goes where he is sent,
The trackless plain by night and day
Is set with signs, lest he should stray.

My path may cross a waste of sea,
But that need never frighten me;
Or rivers full to very brim,
But they are open ways to Him.

My path may lead through woods at night,
Where neither moon nor any light
Of guiding star or beacon shines,
He will not let me miss my signs.

Lord, grant to me a quiet mind,
That trusting Thee, for Thou art kind,
I may go on without a fear,
For Thou, my Lord, art always near.

SPURGEON . . .

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dear friends, there are many for whom these things are prepared who will not get there." In fact, he made such a pitiful tale, as indeed he might do; but I tell you whom he ought to have wept for — he ought to have wept for the angels of heaven and all the saints, because that would spoil Heaven thoroughly ... Think of the angels saying: "Ah! this is a beautiful Heaven but we don't like to see all those crowns up there with cobwebs on; we cannot endure that uninhabited street: we cannot behold you empty thrones." And then, poor souls, they might begin talking to one another, and say, "we are none of us safe here, for the promise was — 'I give unto my sheep eternal life,' and there is a lot of them in Hell that God gave eternal life to; there is a number that Christ shed His blood for burning in the pit, and if they may be sent there, so may we. If we cannot trust one promise, we cannot another."

So Heaven would lose its foundation, and fall. Away with your non-sensical gospel! God gives us a safe and solid one, built on covenant doings and covenant relationships, on eternal purposes, and sure fulfillments.

By nature no man will come to Christ. The text says, "Ye will not come unto me, that ye might have

life." I assert, on Scripture authority, from my text, that ye will not come unto Christ, that ye might have life.

I tell you, I might preach to you forever, I might borrow the eloquence of Demosthenes, or of Cicero, but ye will not come unto Christ. I might beg of you on my knees, with tears in my eyes, and show you the horrors of Hell and joy of Heaven, the sufficiency of Christ, had your own lost condition, *but none of you would come unto Christ of yourselves unless the Spirit that rested on Christ should draw you.* It is true of all men in their natural condition that they will not come unto Christ.

But methinks I hear another of these babblers, asking a question: "But could they not come if they liked?" My friend, I will reply to see another time. That is not the question this morning. I am talking about whether they will, not whether they may. You will notice whenever you talk about free will, the poor Arminian, in two seconds, begins to talk about power, and he mixes up two subjects that should be kept apart. We will not take two subjects at once; we decline fighting two at the same time, if you please. Another day we will preach from this text: "No man can come except the Father draw him." But it is only the will we are talking of now; and it is certain that men will

not come unto Christ, that they might have life.

We might prove this from many texts of Scripture, but we will take one parable. You remember the parable where a certain king had a feast for his son, and bade a great number to come; the oxen and fatlings were killed, and he sent his messengers bidding many to the supper. Did they go to the feast? Ah, no; but they all, with one accord, began to make excuse. One said he had married a wife, and therefore he could not come, whereas he might have brought her with him. Another had bought a yoke of oxen, and went to prove

them; but the feast was in the night-time, and he could not prove his oxen in the dark. Another had bought a piece of land, and wanted to see it; but I should not think he went to see it with a lantern. So they all made excuses and would not come.

Well, the king was much determined to have the feast; so he said, "Go into the highways and hedges, and invite them — stop! not invite — compel them to come in;" for even the ragged fellows in the hedges would never had come unless they were compelled.

(From "Free-Will — A slave." □□)

Grace

By Phillip Doddridge

Grace! 'tis a charming sound,
Harmonious to the ear;
Heaven with the echo shall resound,
And all the earth shall hear

'Twas grace that wrote my name
In life's eternal book;
'Twas grace that gave me to the Lamb
Who all my sorrows took.

Grace, taught my wandering feet
To tread the heavenly road;
And new supplies each hour I meet;
While pressing on to God.

Oh let that grace inspire
My soul with strength divine
May all my prayers to Thee aspire,
And all my days be Thine.

The Problem of Choosing A Pastor

If he is young, he lacks experience; if his hair is gray, he is too old; if he has five or six children he has too many; if he has none, he is setting a bad example.

If his wife sings in the choir she is being forward, if she does not, she is not interested in her husband's work.

If he speaks from notes, he has canned sermons and is dry; if he is extemporaneous, he is not deep.

If he spends too much time in his study, he neglects his people; if he visits, he is a gadabout.

If he is attentive to the poor, he is playing to the grandstand; if to the wealthy, he is trying to be an aristocrat.

If he suggests improvements for the church, he is a dictator; if he makes no suggestions, he is a figurehead.

If he uses too many

illustrations, he neglects the Bible; if not enough, he is not clear.

If he condemns wrong, he is cranky; if he does not, he is a compromiser.

If he preaches an hour, he is windy; if less, he is lazy.

If he preaches the truth, he is offensive; if not, he is a hypocrite.

If he fails to please everybody, he is hurting the church; if he does please everybody he has no convictions.

If he preaches tithing, he is a moneygrabber; if he does not he is failing to develop his people.

If he receives a large salary, he is mercenary; if a small salary, it proves he is not worth much.

If he preaches all the time, the people get tired of hearing one man; if he invites guest preachers, he is shirking responsibility.

So what! They say the preacher has an easy time.

FBIS . . .

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knowledge of both hydrodynamics and chemistry. Since the beetle is obviously not that smart, it is no wonder that evolutionists often speak of evolution as though it were intelligent and able to create such wonders. However, it makes a lot more sense to talk about a wise, personal Creator than it does to speak of the wisdom of a mindless force like evolution." □

WELLS . . .

(Continued from page 13)

church ... God's way. Mine has been a feeble, faltering attempt. It has long been my prayer that one with the ability of Noel Smith would be presenting the position of the independent Baptist. God has answered that prayer. Dr. Smith accomplishes this in his book.

I will now begin to pray that Dr. Smith, the Baptist Bible Fellowship, and each church identified with such, will have the courage to follow their convictions.

BOOK . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Life.

(1) The book of Nature — God's PRIMER for all people. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork." (Vs. 1). THEME: the Glory, Handiwork, of the Creator.

Cf. Rom. 1:12 — "The invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that men are without excuse."

Language of the Book — Ps. 19:2 — "Day unto day it uttereth (gives out) speech (the silent voice of nature) and night unto night sheweth knowledge." Scope of the Book — Vs. 3 — "Their line is gone out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world."

(2) The Book of Divine Revelation. — God's ACADEMY. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (Vs. 7-10). THEME: The Glory,

(See BOOK on page 24)

**Many a man has failed because
he had his wishbone where
his backbone should have been**

*Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage;
Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God
is with thee whithersoever thou goest. — Joshua 1:9*

COLYAR . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Since that day, no one hundred percent New Testament Baptist church has been subject to the state, ecclesiastical orders, or denomination overlords. An independent Baptist church is a New Testament church. Being independent of all men in matters pertaining to its divine origin, faith, and mission, it is dependent solely upon its one Lord. Baptist independency in action must be attributed to its unswerving allegiance and devotion to its only authority and power, comfort and wisdom, guide and master, the Lord Jesus Christ. When any organization of men presumes “to elicit, combine, and (or) direct the resources and activities of such churches” it goes beyond that which is written, overriding divine authority, overstepping divine wisdom, overpassing divine guidance. It is an unholy intrusion into the office of the Holy Spirit. Churches which yield to its claims, no matter on what grounds, begin anew the trek toward the Roman Papacy.

Our contention for Baptist independency is not a new thing. The struggle began very early in the Christian Era. It continued on, and still continues. Nor is our contention for Baptist independency an obstructionist program of a disgruntled minority group

among Baptists. The champions of Baptist independency are made of more substantial stuff than is found in the warp and woof of chronic obstructionists and habitual kickers. They are the keepers of the liberties which others enjoy, and sometimes employ against them. True hearts, not great heads are the vanguards of Baptist independency.

Space forbids any attempt to trace the history of Baptist independency here. But I will quote from one of our Baptist historians of the Nineteenth Century, Dr. Thomas Armitage, one-time pastor of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, New York City. His title page reads: “*A History of the Baptists; Traced by Their Vital Principles and Practices from the Time of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the Year 1886.*” Dr. Armitage says:

“[But] often, a true heart takes men farther Christ-ward than even a true head; and so Bible truth is ever proving its divinity by doing this great saving work. But still, wherever a human standard is set up in place of the Scriptures, it is always more jealously preserved than the teachings of revelation. A fanatic who corrupts the word of God is more heartily fellowshiped by many modern churches, than he who opposes human decrees and inventions against the Scripture; while he who

insists upon obedience to their authority, excites the greatest possible odium, because, to do this wounds the pride of men. *Men pay a great price for saying, that the right to legislate for Christian Churches belongs to Christ alone* (Emphasis mine — RNC). Yet He has given His law in the Bible and every form of church life that is not in accordance with that law, directly sets it aside. So, then, in a very important sense, it partakes of disloyalty to say that Christ has not made sufficient provision for His churches in the Scriptures, in every thing that affects their well-being” (p. 116).

Baptist independency inheres in the divine right of each individual servant of God and every individual, local church to obey the Truth on the sole authority of the Holy Scriptures. Quoting Dr. Armitage again, he says:

“[Thus] tradition nullifies the law of Christ, by making it a dream, a sentiment and finally a mockery. The very reverse of this was the law in the Apostolic churches. In the hands of this human, mystical and sacramental principle (i.e., tradition versus the Law of Christ), sacraments become the expression of great truths in human language, and the doctrine a fostered that material phenomena become the instrument of communicating unseen things, to which the mind

of man is unequal, as if water could purge away the pollutions of sin, or bread and wine could give eternal life ... The inevitable consequence is, a Church armed with awfully mysterious sacraments and rights as channels of saving grace, and with a narrow religious teaching founded on the will of the Church, as she chooses to define it from time to time. After that, of course, the Rule of Faith is found in the Catholic teaching of the early centuries — in the decrees of councils — and sanctioned usages. At this point, the right of private judgment is cut off ... That right once yielded, the Church claims to judge infallibly for all men on all religious questions; and it must be obeyed without a word. Independency of mind being thus destroyed, paralysis of the intellect follows, the courage of the soul dies with its liberty, discussion becomes dangerous, and so, all must submit and be silent, as it is safe to yield to absolute authority where one dare not dissent. The final consequence is, that it becomes a crime to claim the personal right to obey the truth which rests on the sole authority of the Inspired Word” (p. 117).

In the above quotations you have an eloquent, old-fashioned plea for Baptist independency by an able contender for the “faith

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COLYAR . . .

(Continued from page 21)

once delivered unto the saints." Was this great pastor and scholar a crank? a kicker? a "non-cooperant" Baptist? a chronic obstructionist? Or is it not evident that he was a sober, loyal, sincere champion of our Baptist independency on the ground that it is a divine right? The answer is obvious the author is an independent Baptist, boldly contending for the truth.

One other word from his powerful pen: "This fact is perfectly clear, namely: That the New Testament contains all that entered into the faith and practice of the Apostolic Churches. Whether it contains little or much, it covers all that they had, and all that we have, which has any claim on the Churches of Christ ... Its authority stands out alone, and will allow no parallel or supplementary authority whatever, however venerable. The most revered antiquity stands on purely human ground, without any thing in common with the New Testament, when that antiquity is not in the Holy Book." Away goes human expedients, human inventions, denominational traditionalism and institutionalism, smashed to smithereens upon the Rock of divine Truth.

Baptist independency, like every other precious heritage, can be preserved only by the most vigilant

guard against the subtle, destructive forces of evil. The vanguards of liberty have always sounded the warning of approaching conflict before it breaks into the violence of polemical warfare and religious persecutions. Now we see Baptist independency once more a sufferer. Its wounds are painful. They would heal, and its life will be saved only if Baptists themselves are loyal to Christ. Its deepest wounds are received at the hands of its friends.

A startling development is now in progress. Baptists are yielding their independency over to centralized control of Baptist machines. That fact poses a mighty problem for them that would remain free and independent. Will true independents meekly submit? There are enough of them yet, when properly informed and unified in action, to wage a first rate war on the enemies of Baptist independence. Will they rally to the trumpet call for battle? Or will they passively yield up their divine right of independence? Appeasers in the army of God are traitors to the cause of Christ. If the Lord tarries yet a while, time will tell.

I said that a startling development is now in progress. With permission, I am quoting a few passages from Dr. William Wright Barnes' book on **"The Southern Baptist Convention, A Study in**

the Development of Ecclesiology" (1934). In his introduction he says:

"In the following pages the effort has been made to show that there has been an ecclesiological development in Southern Baptist life comparable to the development that took place in the first centuries of Christian history — a development that laid the foundation of the medieval Catholic Church, out of which came the Roman Catholic Church of modern times. It is a far cry from the council in Jerusalem (Acts 15) about A.D. 50, to the council in the Vatican, A.D. 1870, but during those eighteen centuries a development took place that completely changed the character and form of the outward manifestation of Christianity.

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

1845 would not recognize the convention of 1934, but, as will be seen, they themselves in the method adopted made a change in previous convention procedure and constitutional theory that constituted the first step in the current tendency. The record of the development in the early centuries helps to understand what is taking place in our midst and before our very eyes" (pg. 1).

These words were written twenty-nine years ago [now 78] years ago, and we note no improvement in the situation in favor of Baptist independency, except that the independents themselves may be a bit more awake to the true facts in the matter.

Was Dr. Barnes a habitual kicker? a chronic obstructionist? a fanatical "independent" crank — because he warns of this ominous trend in one of the major groups of Baptists? Not a bit of it. It is only fair to say that when he published the above named book, he had been professor of Church History in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas for many years, later was elected Professor Emeritus on his retirement, and was commissioned by the Southern Baptist Convention to write the most comprehensive history ever made of the Southern Baptist Convention. Will his colleagues

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COLYAR . . .

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heed the warning and turn their course to parallel New Testament faith and practice? We most earnestly pray they may.

He tells us this, however: "The conception of a Southern Baptist Church, composed of the local churches, calls for a representation of and from these constituent units that shall form the supreme authority" (p. 27). He declares: "The convention seems to consider itself authorized to speak upon any subject — doctrinal, missionary, political, social, scientific, etc. — with equal authority in the name of churches." Then he poses this question: "What manner of war or controversy or upheaval will bring to birth a constitutionally recognized Southern Baptist Church from which any group of Baptists may not secede?" (p. 31). On page 73, he says, "There is now almost a Southern Baptist Church composed of churches." And in his conclusion he observes: "It may be that the present emphasis upon mechanism and unification is the cause of lessened missionary zeal; it may be that it is the result. *But in either case, a Church is developing*" (pg. 78).

Baptist independency is like unto gold: it is not destroyed but refined by the fires of opposition and persecution. The Refiner's

fire is beginning to glow again. No Baptist group can "secede" from any Baptist machine now, no matter by what name it is known, without suffering painful opposition. As Baptist machinery matures this Baptist "Church which is developing" by its increasing tendency toward "supreme authority," the gold will come to be more and more in evidence among Baptists who are loyal to Christ: for they will not yield the divine right of Baptist independency to human authority. □

TULGA . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Those who presumed to carry the ark of God in a new cart fell under God's judgment (1 Chr. 13:9). The prophets thundered against wrong ways to pray, wrong ways to worship, wrong ways to offer sacrifices and especially that violation of faith and order which combines faith and idolatry.

Christ gave a church order. It is no accident that there were twelve apostles. There were two ordinances given. A great commission was given to the church. The great redemptive facts were accomplished as a basis of Christian doctrine.

There is an order of the ministry. "And God hath set some in the church, first, apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of

tongues" (1 Cor. 12:28). Note "set", "first", "secondarily", "thirdly", "after that", "then." Here is an example of God's regard for order.

There is order in the Great Commission — disciple, baptize, teach. Here is the New Testament order. It is not to be abbreviated or changed in order, for to do so alters the faith.

There is order in evangelism: repentance, faith, baptism, church. There is order in the ordinances: first baptism, then the Lord's Supper. They are not to be separated or reversed.

There is order in polity. The local church is the only organization recognized in the New Testament. It must not be subordinated to human societies not of divine appointment. All organizations are to be a part of it, subservient to it and not separated from it. The multitude of free-lance organizations today who

have no responsibility to the churches and whose only interest is to live off the churches, have no basis in the Word of God. The local church ordains the ministry. It may consult sister churches, but it is not bound by their decisions. The local church is the sole judge of the qualifications for membership in its body, the sole judge of the validity of every baptism presented for its approval and the sole judge of the ordination of any candidate for its pulpit who may be presented. This is New Testament order.

Much lip service is paid in these days to the independence of the local church, but there is a refusal to recognize the total sovereignty of a local church under God. Baptists believe in the independence of the local church, but many of them dislike a church that takes its independence seriously. There is Baptist faith and order and the two are inseparables. □

The Presence

By Ralph Spaulding Cushman

There is a peace that passeth understanding;
There is a joy the world can never know,
There is a light, you will not find it burning
On any land or sea where'er you go.

This joy of mine is not of earthly making,
Though you may find it in the sunset's blush;
Above the noise and din of human striving
There is a Presence and a holy hush!

BOOK . . .

(Continued from page 20)

Handiwork, Knowledge of the Heavenly Father.

Language of the Book — The Voice of the Holy Spirit. Scope of the Book. — “Whosoever” will believe (Jn. 1:12). “By them — believe God’s testimonies — is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

(3) The Book of Human Life — The Graduated Product. Every redeemed soul, an Epistle

of Christ which others read are we readable Christians? “Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins. ... Let them not have dominion over me. ... Let the words of my mouth, etc.” (Vs. 12-14). **THEME:** The Glory of God revealed in us. **SCOPE** — (Phil. 2:15-16). □ □

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 4)

breaketh down, and it cannot be built again, he shutteth up a man and there can be no opening ... With

him is strength and wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are his. He leadeth counsellors away stripped. And judges maketh he fools. He looseth the bonds of kings, and bindeth their loins with a girdle. He leadeth priests away stripped, and overthroweth the mighty ... He poureth contempt upon princes ... He uncovereth deep things out of darkness, and bringeth out to light the shadow of death. He increaseth the nations and destroyeth them. He enlargeth the nations, and he leadeth them captive. He taketh away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth, and causeth them to wander in a wilderness where there is no way. They grope in the dark without light; and he maketh them to stagger like a drunken man.”

This is a striking description of the power of God set over against the pride and weakness of men. God is no respecter of persons and His judgment falls on kings and princes as easily as on common people. God will not endure pride and the day is near when He will strike as He has long warned. In Isaiah 2:17, 22, we read: “The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day ... Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of.”

God asks why we pay men such deference and ignore Him who has power. He cries to us, “Behold the Lord, the Lord of hosts.” This warning falls upon deaf ears for the most part, but will you who listen to my voice not give heed? God asks us to honor His Son, and there is no way to get into God’s presence except in the one way, and the way is the Lord Jesus Christ. Try Him today. I cannot tell you how WONDERFUL He is! [Next month: “Hives and Asthma.”] □

RYLE . . .

(Continued from page 1)

of maundering, childish, weak talk nowadays in some quarters about unity and peace, which I cannot reconcile with the language of Paul. It is a pity, no doubt, that there should be so much controversy, but it is also a pity that human nature should be so bad as it is, and that the devil should be loose in the world. It was a pity that Arius taught error about Christ’s person; but it would have been a greater pity if Athanasius had not opposed him. It was a pity Tetzal went about preaching up the Pope’s indulgences. It would have been a far greater pity if Luther had not withstood him.

Controversy, in fact, is one of the conditions under which truth in every age has to be defended, and maintained, and it is nonsense to ignore it. □

Make Me The Fuel**By Amy Carmichael**

From prayer that asks that I may be
Sheltered from winds that beat on Thee,
From fearing when I should aspire,
From faltering when I should climb higher,
From silken self, O Captain, free
Thy soldier who would follow Thee.

From subtle love of softening things,
From easy choices, weakenings,
Nor thus are spirits fortified,
Not this way went the Crucified,
From all that dims Thy Calvary,
O Lamb of God, deliver me.

Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay,
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn like fire,
Let me not sink to be a clod:
Make me Thy Fuel, Flame of God.