

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 495

Defense of the Gospel In Spurgeon's Day and Now

I count it a peculiar privilege to speak under the auspices of a Society which is set for the defense of the Gospel. Mr. Spurgeon in his day observed and frequently remarked upon the tendency on the part of many of the Lord's people to desire to take a neutral position in respect to matters then at issue. He said in effect that on the

This Message was Preached by
T.T. Shields in 1935 at a Bible League
Meeting in England

one side there was to be found Mr. White, and on the other side Dr. Black who believed the opposite; and between the two a Mr. Whitey-Black who believed both and neither. I think you

will agree that that strange color, "whitey-black," has become very popular in religious circles in our day.

Now Spurgeon in his day found it necessary to make clear distinctions

between things that differed, and to state positively his convictions. Notwithstanding, many of the celebrations in honour of the Centenary of his birth have entirely ignored that which I venture to believe was chiefly characteristic of the man, namely, that which

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Americans And Heaven

According to an ABC News Poll conducted October 5-9, 89% percent of Americans believe in heaven and 75% believe they will go there ("Nine in 10 Americans Believe in Heaven," ABC News, Dec. 20).

The survey found that 79% of the respondents think of themselves as

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Christ's Church

By Rosco Brong, Dean
Lexington Baptist College, Lexington, KY

"And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18).

Christ's church was built upon Himself. *"That Rock was Christ"* (1 Cor. 10:4). "In the Lord Jehovah is the Rock of ages" (Isa. 26:4), margin). *"Other*

foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11). "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief

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Pennies From Heaven

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the

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Quiz The Pastor -- #44

The Word "Rapture" Not Found in the New Testament

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: I cannot find the word "rapture" in the New Testament. Why then do preachers use it?

Answer: You are correct in stating that the word "rapture" is not found in the New Testament. In fact, it is not found in the whole Bible. We sometimes use non-scriptural words in order to simplify certain Bible truths or doctrines. For example, I may refer to the Trinity in my teaching or preaching. The word Trinity itself is not found in the Bible, but the three members of the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, are found in the Bible, and when we refer to these three personalities in our instruction, it simplifies things to only use the one word Trinity.

Here we can see a non-scriptural word is used to refer to a scriptural truth. The same is true using the

one word Millennium to refer to the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth at His second advent. The word Millennium is not found in the Bible, but of course, the truth to which it refers is found in the Bible.

This brings us to the word Rapture. This word is a Latin word (*rapto*) which means "a catching away" or "a taking away by force." The word "*rapto*" (rapture) is used in the Latin Vulgate Bible in First Thessalonians 4:17. Therefore, we use this word Rapture to explain the "coming of Christ from heaven to meet His people in the air who have been caught up from earth, and to take them back to heaven with Him." The single word Rapture teaches this precious truth. Therefore, when I hear the word "Rapture," or when I use it myself, I am stating

what First Thessalonians 4:13-18 reveals to us. "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them (believers) which are fallen asleep (died), that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope (lost). For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep (die) in Jesus will God bring with him (their spirits). For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep (dead). For the Lord himself (Jn. 14:1-3) shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the arch-angel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be *caught up* (Rapture) together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Do you now see that most Bible students and believers view all of the above verses when we only use the word Rapture? It simplifies things, and in no way produces a man-made doctrine.

We need to distinguish between the Rapture, and the Second Coming of Christ.

(1) In the Rapture, the time is secret and signless, and will involve only true

believers, both those who are resurrected and others living at that time being "changed," and both will be caught-up together to meet the Lord in the atmosphere heaven (1 Cor. 15:23, 51-52). Christ will not come to earth at this time.

(2) At the Second Coming which occurs after the Rapture, Christ will actually come to earth again (Mt. 25:31; Zech. 14:4), and defeat and destroy His enemies (Rev. 19:11-21), and begin His 1,000 year reign on earth sitting on the throne of David (Rev. 20:1-6; Lk. 1:32-33; Isa. 9:6-8). At the Rapture, He comes for His saints, at the Second Coming He will come with His saints. □

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corner stone" (Eph. 2:19-20).

Built Upon Christ

The word Peter means a stone. *It means a little stone, not a big rock.* The Catholic church, which did not exist until hundreds of years after Peter's death, falsely claims to be built upon Peter, *and by that very claim denies it is Christ's church*, because the Bible teaches that Christ's church is built upon Himself.

Peter never suggested that God's people or God's churches were built upon

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THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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God's Masterpiece The Human Body — #30**How Your Body Defends You****By Authur I. Brown**

I shall devote this article to a consideration of the manner in which our bodies are attacked, and the way they defend themselves. First, let me say that any infectious disease is caused by the invasion of a parasite. This is a comparatively recent discovery, and during past ages many theories have been proposed to account for sicknesses of various kinds. Old Hippocrates, called the "Father of Medicine," who died 357 B.C., at the age of eighty-three, reached the conclusion that disease was due to an improper mixture of the four hypothetical body fluids, or humors, namely: blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile.

Another theory of disease was widely held for a time and espoused warmly by Noah Webster, that illustrious student of the English language, who died in 1843, aged eighty-five. This theory held that disease was the result of violent terrestrial disturbances, ranging from windstorms to earthquakes. Then there was the theory of Hahnemann who taught that disease results from the "derangement of a spiritual vital principle" — rather an indefinite ex-

pression. This ancient authority also died in 1843, the same year as Noah Webster. Hahnemann was the author of what is called homeopathy and used a great many natural substances, highly obscure and unusual in nature, which were prepared for use by repeated dilution and shaking. Strange as it seems to us now, 100 years ago this form of practice was very popular and for a long time after. In fact, even today some practitioners will be found loyal to homeopathy.

It was Louis Pasteur, sometime after the middle of the nineteenth century, who formulated the bacterial or germ theory of infectious diseases. Today, we know the cause of most diseases, such as typhoid fever, cholera, diphtheria, tuberculosis; and each year the list of germ diseases grows longer, as our knowledge increases. It must be remembered, of course, that there are many important diseases which do not involve attacks by living organisms and are, therefore, not communicable to others. Of necessity, such diseases are located in one individual only. They may be caused by diets which are deficient in some of the

essential nutritive materials. Vitamins may be lacking, or sufficient iodine may not be present, and the production of the thyroid hormone, thyroxin, is restricted. We have already dealt with this condition. Numerous non-infectious diseases may originate because of some functional abnormality, such as: athlete's heart or kidney failure.

Whether a disease is caused by a germ or is produced by some other abnormal condition, it is always definitely associated with and localized in some group or groups of cells. We have seen how all the functions of the body, in health or disease, are the result of cellular action, and if these cellular activities are abnormal, then we have disease. Thus, any disease involves the condition of the affected cells and their attempt to repair damage and to regenerate new tissues, in order that normal activities may be resumed.

The subject of Immunity is a fascinating one and shows that the body has some amazing defenses when organisms attempt the invasion of the tissues. The foundation of the body defense is believed to center around the presence of specific chemical substances, the antibodies, some of which always seem to be available, whereas others are not formed until the invader actually enters the tissues. These antibodies wage a chemical warfare on the

parasite, and either limit the activities of the invaders or entirely destroy them.

Very little is known of the chemical nature of antibodies, or how or where they are manufactured in the tissue cells. There seem to be four types of antibodies. They are: anti-toxins, opsonins, agglutinins and lysins.

Antitoxins react against and neutralize the poisonous substances, or toxins, formed by the bacteria which have gained entrance. The damage wrought in certain diseases is due to certain specific toxins produced by these germs. This is notably true in diphtheria and tetanus. The antitoxins also neutralize injurious foreign proteins which are introduced into the body, as when venom is injected by a snake bite.

Opsonins seem to change the taste of the invading bacteria, so that the white blood cells, the phagocytes, enjoy eating them when they have been made palatable by contact with the opsonins. The name "opsonins" is derived from a Greek verb meaning "to prepare food."

Agglutinins cause bacteria to stick together in clumps and to be easily destroyed. Lysins are responsible for the most powerful and complex reactions of all the antibodies. When the lysins attack the bacteria, the

(See **BODY** on page 23)

The Secular History of the Church That Jesus Built

The Baptist Examiner, June 20, 1953

According to the Divine History of the church, (1) Jesus founded it during His personal ministry on earth; (2) it has had an unbroken continuity from then until now (and will continue until Jesus comes); (3) and the Baptist church can lay valid historical claim to that origin and history. It is the church of Jesus Christ (Mt. 16:18; 28:18-20; Eph. 3:21; 5:25-27).

Is Baptist A Scriptural Church Name?

We call Jesus' church a Baptist church. We admit such a name for a church does not occur in the Word of God. But neither does the expression substitution occur in the Bible, yet we know the substitutionary death of Christ in our place is an outstanding doctrine in this Book. The word Trinity is not found in the Bible, yet every true Christian believes in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead.

Yet in calling His church a Baptist church we are using a name, or denomination, found in the Word of God. The name Baptist was applied to the forerunner of the Son of God (Mt. 3:1). The word

itself means: "One who Baptizes" (Young's Concordance). John the Baptist was one who baptized. That is why he was denominated, or called, Baptist.

John received his baptism from heaven (Mt. 21:25-27). All of the twelve disciples were baptized with John's baptism (Acts 1:21-22). The church was later commissioned to go to all nations, make disciples, and baptize them in the name of the Trinity (Mt. 28:16-20).

They were also, then, ones who baptized, and therefore were baptizers, or Baptists, whether the name was applied to them officially or not. Since the New Testament church baptized believers, it was a church that baptized, and it was a Baptist church, even though it was not specifically called Baptist. Is it wrong, then, if we come right out in these days of denominational confusion and identify ourselves as Baptists?

I. Affirmative Arguments:

The First Church

1. The church at Jerusalem was established by Jesus during the early part

of His personal ministry on earth, A.D. 31, "And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: (an assembly of disciples) and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; ... And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judea and Jerusalem and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases" (Lk. 6:13, 17).

(1) Jesus called this company of disciples "My Church" a year later A.D. 31 (Usher's Notes on Chronology). "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18).

(2) God called it the church at Jerusalem A.D. 34. "And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem" (Acts 8:1).

From Jerusalem To Antioch

2. Members from the Jerusalem church went to Antioch in Syria and

established a church of Jesus Christ there, A.D. 41. "Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phenice and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch, Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they

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assembled themselves with the church and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11:19-26). “Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas ... and Saul” (Acts 13:1).

From Antioch To Rome

3. Christians from Jerusalem and probably Antioch went to Rome and organized a church about A.D. 60.

(1) Paul addressed all the saints in Rome, A.D. 60 “Paul ... to all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints” (Rom. 1:1, 7).

(2) In the meantime the church at Antioch had sent out Saul and Barnabas to do mission work.

“As they (Antioch church) ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus” (Acts 13:2-4).

(3) While on a missionary journey, Paul was carried as a prisoner to Rome (A.D. 63), where he preached the gospel “two

years in his own hired house.”

“And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appiiforum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage. And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him ... And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him” (Acts 28:15-16, 30-31).

(4) The facts that the church at Rome received Paul gladly and that he associated himself with its members show beyond question that it was a scriptural church in A.D. 63.

(5) “The “strangers from Rome,” who heard Peter preach on Pentecost, were probably the first ones to form a church of Jesus Christ in Rome “... and strangers from Rome, Jews and proselytes” (Acts 2:10).

From Rome To Wales

4. Christians from Rome (and the Apostle Paul himself) went to Wales and preached the gospel and established churches of Christ in Wales, A.D. 63.

(1) While Paul was a prisoner in Rome, many Welsh soldiers joined the Roman army, and many of the Welsh families visited Rome. Among them were Prudens and Claudia, his wife, who was also of Caesar’s household. Prudens and Claudia heard the gospel from Paul and were saved. Then they returned to Wales and preached the gospel to their own countrymen, A.D. 63 (Davis’ **History of Welsh Baptists**, pp. 6-10).

“Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren” (2 Tim. 4:21).

(2) Without doubt Paul later visited Wales and preached the gospel and established churches wherever he went. Davis in his **History of Welsh Baptists**, pg. 179 says, “The supposition that Paul preached the gospel in Britain is not altogether without foundation. About six years ago, (18-29 A.D.) a polished stone of about eight feet in length, was found embossed eight feet deep in the earth near Llandilo Vawr, in Carmarthenshire, with this inscription upon it in the Welsh language: ‘Near this place has the Apostle Paul been preaching the gospel — A.D. 64!’”

(3) Quoting David, M. Munger, in his **Baptist Churches from Jerusalem to North America**, pg. 14 says, “‘As this Baptist denomina-

tion has always existed in this country from the year 63’ it was by this time an old thing.”

“The Vale of Oichon.’ says Davis, is situated between mountains almost inaccessible. It is a fact that cannot be controverted, that there were Baptists here at the Commencement of the Reformation; and no man upon earth can tell when the church was founded, and who began to baptize in this little Piedmont. Whence came these Baptists? It is universally believed that it is the oldest church but how old none can tell. We know that, at the Reformation, in the reign of Charles the First, they had a minister named Howell Vaughan.

“The Oichon church ‘were plain, strict, apostolical Baptists’.” (Davis’ **History**, pg. 10).

“This brings us down to the year 1663, and on to 1835 at which date Davis wrote,”

So the Welsh Baptist churches, which had their origin directly from Paul and the Roman church before it was corrupted, had been in Wales since A.D. 63 up to A.D. 1835. Munger further says, “Mr. Davis and many other reputable historians, show the continued existence of Baptist churches in Wales from A.D. 63 up to A.D. 1770.” From this date on to the present year, 1926, is a period of 156 years,

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during which there is no question of doubt as to their existence there” (pg. 15).

“Baptists here (Wales) lay claim to great antiquity, affirming that they date back to the first century, and holding a tradition that the apostle Paul visited their mountains and preached among them two whole years, founding churches which continued unto this day (A.D. 1874)” (**Religions of the World**, pg., 414).

Now we have followed the true church from Jerusalem in A.D. 31 to Antioch in A.D. 41, thence to Rome, in about A.D. 60, thence to Wales in A.D. 64 and one until 1874, there they are still the same in faith and practice and order. Now they are known as Baptist churches. But we must come on home.

From Wales to U.S.A.

5. Now come with me as I follow the true church of Christ across the stormy Atlantic Ocean from Wales to the United States of America in A.D. 1701. The “Campbell Movement” is yet unborn by more than a century. The old Ship of Zion still has her sails flung to the zephyrs of heaven. On she sails! Sail on Sweet Ship!

(1) “Most Baptist churches in America originated with the Baptists in England and Wales”

(Benedict’s **History of Foreign and American Baptists**, pg. 288).

Welsh Tract Church

“In the year 1701, Thomas Griffiths and fifteen of the members of the church went to America in the same vessel. They formed themselves into a church at Milford, in the County of Pembroke, South Wales, and Griffiths became their pastor in June, 1701. They embarked on board the ship James and Mary, and on the eighth day of September following they landed at Philadelphia. They were received courteously and advised by the brethren to settle about Penepeck, which they did, and remained there for about a year and a half. While there they received twenty-one more into the church, but finding it inconvenient to abide there they purchased land in the County of Newcastle and gave it the name of Welsh Tract, where they built a meeting house. Thomas Griffiths labored among them as their pastor till he died on July 25, 1725 aged 80 years.

“Thomas Griffiths was born in 1645, in the parish of Llanfernach, county of Pembroke.”

“He was baptized and became a member of the church at Rhydwllyn in 1677” (Davis **History of the Baptists**, pgs. 72-73).

Here is a true church of Christ a complete

church, like the church that Jesus built, transplanted from Wales to Pennsylvania.

It goes without saying that there have been Baptist churches here in America, as well as elsewhere, constantly since September, 1701, as well as before that for 63 years, when John R. Clark organized the first Baptist church in America at Newport, Rhode Island in 1638.

Summary: I have therefore, demonstrated a clear historical line of the true churches of Jesus Christ from Palestine to the true churches of Christ in the U.S.A. today — from Jerusalem to Antioch in Syria, from Antioch in Syria to Rome, from Rome to Wales, and from Wales to the United States of America.

Therefore, both Scripture and secular history teach that the Baptist church was founded by Jesus Christ during His personal ministry on earth.

Corroborative Testimony Of Some of the World’s Most Learned Historians

1. Dr. J. W. Porter in “**Random Remarks**,” concerning Dr. John Clark, who established and was pastor of the first Baptist church in America in 1638, said,

“Dr. John Clark received his baptism from Rev. Stillwell’s church in London, and this church received theirs from

Holland, and the Holland Baptists from the Waldenses, and the Waldenses from the Novations, and the Novations from the Donatists received their baptism from the apostolic church, and the apostolic church from John the Baptist, and John the Baptist from heaven” (**The Church That Jesus Built**, pg. 110).

2. Catholic testimony, Cardinal Hosius, President of the Council of Trent, A.D. 1554 said,

“If the truth of religion were to be judged by the readiness and boldness of which a man of any sect shows in suffering, then the opinion and persuasion of no sect can be truer and surer than that of the Anabaptists, since there have been none for these twelve hundred years past that have been more generally punished, or that have more cheerfully and steadfastly undergone, and even offered themselves to the most cruel punishment than these people” [Quoted from Christian’s History] (**The Church That Jesus Built**, pg. 106). That dates Baptist history back 1200 years to 354 A.D.

3. Alexander Campbell testified that Baptists and their views have had a continued chain of advocates down through the centuries.

Baptist Way Book, pg. 65, “From the apostolic age to the present time the

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sentiments of Baptists and their practice of baptism have had a continual chain of advocates, and public monuments of their existence in every century can be produced" (Campbell-McCalla Debate, pg. 378, 1924 ed.).

4. Zwingli, Swiss Reformer, co-worker of Luther and Calvin in the Protestant Reformation in 1525, said, "The institution of the Anabaptists is no novelty, but for thirteen hundred years has caused great trouble to the church" (**The Church That Jesus Built**, pg. 107). This admits the historicity of Baptists back to 225 A.D.

5. Mosheim, Lutheran historian: "Before the rise of Luther and Calvin, there lay secreted in almost all the countries of Europe persons who adhered tenaciously to the principles of the modern Dutch Baptists" (**Inst. of Eccl. History**). He also said, "The origin of the Anabaptists is hidden in the depths of antiquity" (**The Church That Jesus Built**, pg. 107).

6. Ypeij and Dermount, appointed by the King of Holland to write a history of the Dutch Reformed church in 1819, said "The Mennonites are descended from the tolerably pure evangelical Waldenses who were driven by persecution into various countries; and who during

the latter part of the twelfth century fled into Flanders; and into the provinces of Holland and Zealand, where they lived simple and exemplary lives, in the villages as farmers (in towns by trades) free from the charge of any gross immoralities, and professing the most pure and simple principles, which they exemplified in a holy conversation. They were, therefore, in existence long before the Reformed Church of the Netherlands.

"We have now seen that the Baptists, who were formerly called Anabaptists, and in later times Mennonites, were the original Waldenses, and who have long in history received the honor of that origin. *On this account the Baptists may be considered as the only Christian community which has stood since the days of the apostles, and as a Christian society which has preserved pure the doctrines of the gospel through all ages.* The perfectly correct external and internal economy of the Baptist denomination tends to confirm the truth, disputed by the Romish Church, that the Reformation brought about in the sixteenth century was in the highest degree necessary, and at the same time goes to refute the erroneous notion of the Catholics that their denomination is the most ancient" (**History of the Dutch Reformed Church**, by A. Ypeij and

J.J. Dermount, Vol. 1, pg. 148).

(A) The declension of our church name. (1) Baptists; (2) Anabaptists; (3) Minnonites; (4) Waldenses. Back of this the true churches of Christ wore no distinguishing names, simply because they were all the same in every essential point of their makeup, and, therefore, needed no distinctive names.

(B) Baptist churches are the most ancient, going back beyond even the Roman Catholic Church.

(C) Baptists are the only churches which have stood all the time since the days of the apostles.

7. **Crossing the Centuries**, a book by W.C. King, having as associate editors such great men of America as Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and others, says,

"Of the Baptists, it may be said that they are not reformers. These people comprising bodies of Christian believers known under various names in different countries, are entirely distinct and independent of the Roman and Greek churches, *having had an unbroken continuity of existence from Apostolic days down through the centuries.* Throughout this long period they were bitterly persecuted for heresy, driven from country to country defranchised, deprived from their property, imprisoned, tortured and slain by the

thousands, yet they swerved not from their New Testament Faith, Doctrine and Adherence" (**Crossing the Centuries**, pg. 174).

(1) Baptists are not Protestants, not originating from Rome with the Reformation.

(2) Baptists are entirely distinct from and independent of Romanism.

(3) Baptist churches have existed from apostolic days down through the centuries.

(4) Baptists never swerved from their New Testament faith, doctrine, and adherence during this long period of time.

(5) They existed during all this time by the thousands.

I have proved by the best historical scholars of the world, that the Baptist church is the Church that Jesus built.

Therefore the Baptist church is the church of Jesus Christ and was established during His personal ministry on earth.

POLL . . .

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Christians. Of those who believe in heaven, a whopping 78% think it is a place where people exist "only spiritually." 60% of those surveyed believe that heaven is open to Christians and non-Christians alike, and 90% of Roman Catholics surveyed believed that.



Harassment Marks End of Difficult Year for Chinese Christians — A year marked by stepped-up religious repression in China draws to a close amid new reports of mistreatment of believers during and after Christmas celebrations, prompting campaigners to urge increased pressure from outside in 2006. Christmas services were disrupted in the remote northwestern Xinjiang territory and in the southeastern Fujian province, while in Beijing, Christians were also harassed, Bob Fu of the China Aid Association said late Wednesday. In Xinjiang, a predominantly Muslim region, several hundred police and religious affairs officials raided a Christmas morning celebration attended by 210 Christians, confiscated 80 Bibles, a minibus and another vehicle, a piano, driver's licenses — and even food prepared for the event. Twelve “underground” church leaders were taken away, and at least one was assaulted, Fu said, attributing the information to two eyewitnesses who had briefed him. Seven of them were released at midnight, but the remaining

World News Roundup

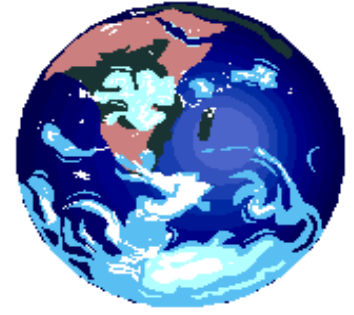
five were still under arrest as of Wednesday. — CNS

Critics Question Study Linking Abortion, Mental Health Problems

— New research linking abortions in young women to mental health problems is causing a stir, as family planning advocates try to play down the results — despite researchers' assertions that the study is the most comprehensive ever of its kind. Professor David Fergusson, a psychologist and epidemiologist who headed the study, said Wednesday he was not surprised at the fuss. “It's a very sensitive and emotive subject. People have cherished beliefs that they do not like being challenged.” Although he describes his own views on abortion as “pro-choice,” Fergusson said the research evidence was clear: “There's a distinct possibility - more than a distinct possibility — that abortion may have mental health consequences.” He expected both sides of the debate to try to use the research results in “an attempt to use science to back up ethical positions.” While in the case of pro-lifers Fergusson said that meant possibly exaggerating the results, in fact most response so far has come from the opposing

camp, calling the findings into question. Fergusson and colleagues at the Christ Church School of Medicine and Health Sciences in New Zealand have tracked 1,265 women in a longitudinal study since their birth in mid-1977. The women are now 28 and the study is continuing. Recently the team turned its attention to the issue of abortion and possible effects. Of the 1,265 participants, more than 500 had fallen pregnant at least once by the age of 25. Of that group, 90 had had an abortion. Of those who had an abortion, 42 percent suffered from major mental health problems at a subsequent stage, with symptoms including depression, suicidal tendencies and alcohol and drug abuse. Fergusson said that rate was 35 percent higher than in the case of those who continued with their pregnancies, and almost double the rate of those who had not been pregnant. The results were printed this week in the London-based *Journal of Child Psychiatry and Psychology*.

Supreme Court Upholds Physician Assisted Suicide — The Supreme Court voted 6-3 to uphold Oregon's physician-assisted suicide law on Tuesday. In 2001, then-



Attorney General John Ashcroft said assisted suicide is not a “legitimate medical purpose.” Ashcroft warned that doctors who prescribed lethal doses of drugs would lose their licenses to prescribe federally controlled drugs under the Controlled Substances Act. But six of the Supreme Court justices — Anthony Kennedy, Sandra Day O'Connor, John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Stephen Breyer — agreed that federal authority to regulate doctors does not trump Oregon's 1997 law. Chief Justice John Roberts dissented, as did Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.” If the term ‘legitimate medical purpose’ has any meaning, it surely excludes the prescription of drugs to produce death,” Scalia wrote. Tuesday's Supreme Court ruling upholds an earlier decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which said the federal government cannot punish or prosecute doctors for prescribing overdoses under Oregon's voter-passed Death with Dignity Act.

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La Voz Del Desierto

La Iglesia De Cristo Como Casa de Oración

Por Marcus A. Curet

Hay algunas verdades importantes básicas, que nosotros como miembros de la Iglesia Bautista, debemos conocer:

1. La salvación es la primera bendición que recibe el pecador que se arrepiente y por fe acepta al Señor Jesucristo.

2. Después de la salvación, la bendición más grande que puede recibir el cristiano, es ser miembro de la Iglesia que Jesús edificó.

3. No es lo mismo, aunque algunas personas no lo quieran aceptar, pertenecer a la Iglesia que Jesús fundó, que a una iglesia fundada por el hombre.

4. No es lo mismo pertenecer a una iglesia que predica toda la verdad de Dios, sin quitarle ni añadirle, que pertenecer a una iglesia que predique parte de la verdad de Dios.

5. No es lo mismo pertenecer a una Iglesia que tenga por cabeza a Jesucristo, que pertenecer a una iglesia que tenga por cabeza a un hombre.

6. Jesús es cabeza solamente de Su iglesia, la que Él edificó, con los discípulos que le preparó



Hno. M. L. Moser y Hno. Marcos A. Curet

Juan el Bautista, una Iglesia Bautista; y la dirige por medio del Espíritu Santo a través del pastor. Él no es cabeza de las iglesias fundadas por los hombres (Católicas, Protestantes, Pentecostales, Evangélicas, etc.).

8. Refiriéndose a Su Iglesia, y no a las fundadas por los hombres, fue que Jesús dijo que *“las puertas del infierno no prevalecerán contra ella.”*

Nosotros debemos conocer bien la Iglesia del Señor (debemos estudiar su

historia), para que podamos amarla tal como Él la amó. Ese amor nos debe mover a trabajar y a entregarnos a ella. La Biblia dice que nosotros debemos ser imitadores de Cristo. No podemos ser imitadores de Cristo no haciendo nada por la Iglesia, sino esforzándonos para su progreso. Cristo amó tanto la Iglesia, que se entregó a sí mismo por ella (Efesios 1:25-27). La santidad y la gloria de la Iglesia son inseparables.

La función más importante que tiene la Iglesia que Jesús edificó, es traer gloria al nombre de Dios. También tiene otras funciones como evangelizar y establecer misiones. La única que tiene el poder, dado por el Señor, para enviar misioneros, es la Iglesia dirigida por el Espíritu Santo. No las Juntas Misioneras, ni las Asociaciones Misioneras (grupos creados por los hombres con el propósito de enviar misioneros). El método es el siguiente: El Espíritu Santo separa a los que Él quiere, y la Iglesia después de haber orado, los

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CURET . . .

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autoriza y los bendice (Hechos 13:1-5). Toda la obra misionera debe ser hecha por la Iglesia local en oración, dirigida por el Espíritu Santo. No debe ser encomendada a ninguna organización hecha por los hombres.

La Iglesia del Señor es y ha sido siempre *Casa de Oración*. Veamos: Marcos 11:15-17. La Iglesia Primitiva lo entendió así (Hechos 12:5). Es una lástima la situación actual de muchas iglesias hoy día, la integridad está siendo aniquilada, la iglesia está perdiendo su credibilidad, y es urgente desenmascarar su situación, antes de que el Juicio de Dios llegue. Veamos: 1ra Pedro 4:17a. Es fácil llamar a la cobardía tolerancia y dejar que la iglesia se llene de pecado, dejar que el testimonio del baluarte de la verdad, que es la iglesia, sea manchado, dejar que el camino de la verdad sea blasfemado de boca en boca, y dejar que la Casa de Oración, se convierta en una Cueva de



La Iglesia El Redentor, Arroyo, Puerto

Ladrones, por agradar a los hombres.

¿Qué es una Casa de Oración? 1. Es un lugar donde se alaba a Dios. 2. Es un lugar donde se consagran los cristianos a su Señor. 3. Es un lugar donde se recibe instrucción divina. 4. Es un lugar donde se convierten las almas perdidas. 5. Es un lugar donde mora la luz del mundo que alumbr a los perdidos.

6. Es un lugar donde se alimenta y se prepara al pueblo de Dios para cumplir

con la gran comisión.

¿Qué es una Cueva de Ladrones? 1. Es un lugar donde se refugian los malhechores después de haber cometido sus delitos. 2. Es un lugar donde se regocijan los perversos de sus obras malvadas. 3. Es un lugar donde planean sus maldades. 4. Sitio de vicio, sede del crimen, de injusticia y de maldad. 5. Es un lugar donde se reúnen con intenciones perversas, malvadas y diabólicas, para salir de ahí y dar paso a sus planes. 6. Es un lugar donde el diablo es alabado. Veamos: Jeremías 7:3-4, 8-11.

No nos dejemos engañar. En Efesios 5:5-6 dice: *“Porque sabéis esto, que ningún fornicario, o inmundo, o avaro, que es idólatra, tiene herencia en el reino de Cristo y de Dios. Nadie os engañe con palabras vanas,*

porque por estas cosas viene la ira de Dios sobre los hijos de desobediencia.”

En 1ra Corintios 6:9-10 dice: *“¿No sabéis que los injustos no heredarán el reino de Dios? No erréis; ni los fornicarios, ni los idólatras, ni los adúlteros, ni los afeminados, ni los que se echan con varones, ni los ladrones, ni los avaros, ni los borrachos, ni los maldicientes, ni los estafadores, heredarán el reino de Dios.”*

La Iglesia es Santa. Veamos: Efesios 5:25-27; Hebreos 12:14; y 1ra Pedro 1:15-16. Es tiempo de decidir en nuestra vida, no conformándonos con vivir una forma de vida religiosa según los hombres, sino una forma de vida santa que agrade a Dios y que haga de la Iglesia una casa de oración. □ □

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

PENNIES . . .

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husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the water-way, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even

take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She causally mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before. What was the point of this?

"Look at it," he said. "Read what it says."

She read the words "United States of America."

"No, not that, read further."

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"In God we trust?"

"Yes!: "And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him. Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray. I stop to see if my trust *is* in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is

patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I can not change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And God is patient. □ □

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Supreme Court Upholds Parental Notification Law — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a lower court was wrong to strike down New Hampshire's parental notification law. In a unanimous decision written by retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the justices let the abortion restriction stand. The case, *Ayotte vs. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England*, challenged a New Hampshire law requiring girls under 18 to get a parent's consent before having an abortion. As **Cybercast News Service** reported earlier, two key questions in the case are whether a child can objectively make life-and-death medical decisions under the stress of an unintended pregnancy; and whether she

can provide sufficient details of her medical history to protect her health.

* * *

University Committee Approves Bible Study Ban — A committee formed to examine bans on employee-led Bible studies at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) last week recommended that the university system president allow the bans to continue. In a Jan. 11 report, the committee of administrators and students recommended that University of Wisconsin System President Kevin Reilly allow the university's campuses to ban student employees from leading Bible studies in their university funded dormitories. Reilly formed the group in December after Lance Steiger, a Christian resident assistant (RA) at the Eau Claire campus, filed a federal lawsuit against the school charging that its ban on dormitory-based Bible study violated his free expression of religion. RAs "can participate in, organize, or lead meetings as long as they don't use their position to inappropriately influence, pressure, or coerce student residents to attend," the university report states. It does not explain what inappropriate influence means.

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has been called the “Down-Grade Controversy.” It is a mistake to suppose that that contro-versy was an incident in his great career. It was rather the culmination and climax of the testimony of his whole life. Spurgeon was always a controversialist, as every “convictionist” — if I may coin the word—must in the nature of things be. If you have a conviction in respect to the truth, then you cannot possibly allow that which is in its very nature and essence entirely opposed to it,—you cannot allow that that also is true. Truth is always intolerant, utterly intolerant of error. The multiplication table is the most intolerant thing in the world.

And surely there must be some law, some standard to which our religious views may be brought, some scale in which our opinions may be weighed, that we may know whether they are true or false.

My dear Friends, the attitude, the defensive and the offensive attitude which C.H. Spurgeon assumed on the great principle for the advocacy and conservation of which this Bible League, *as I understand it, exists, that offensive attitude is just as necessary today as it was in Spurgeon’s day.*

Indeed I think it is far more necessary. I greatly

fear there has been no improvement in religious conditions since the late Eighties and the early Nineties. Evangelical principles are at a greater discount today than they were in Spurgeon’s day. If it be true that the departure from the truth in that day was worthy to be called “Down-gradism,” I think we might well call it today “Tobogganism.” Did you ever see a toboggan when it shoots down at the rate of sixty miles an hour?

If the anti-Evangelical movement travelled in a coach-and-four in Spurgeon’s day, it hops about from place to place in our day by aeroplane. If the enemies of the truth used rifles then, they use machine guns now. I have re-read Spurgeon’s articles on the Down-Grade controversy, and I have marvelled at their moderation and their mildness. It did not seem to me that there was anything in them that was at all offensive, and why they should have stirred up such bitterness would be difficult to understand were we not thoroughly aware of the seriousness of the issues that were involved. Things have greatly changed since Spurgeon’s day. In that day he saw individual Modernists as isolated units. Now they have become a trained and disciplined army, and the Modernists whom he observed privately practising their goose-stepping about their own barracks,

are now thundering at the gates of Paris and air-raiding London. Indeed there is a true analogy between the tactics of the Germanic powers in the Great War and that of the Modernists, or Modernism. The departments of propaganda, of espionage, their prison camps with their tortures, their aeroplanes, their submarines, every kind of deception that Hell itself can devise, is now employed by the armies of Modernism wherewith to oppose the Gospel.

We may indeed frankly recognise that [Modernism] is not a dilution of Christianity but an absolute denial of it. It is not a modification of the Gospel, but the deliberate murder of it. It involves the crucifixion of the Son of God afresh and the putting of Him to open shame. I greatly fear that there are comparatively few Evangelicals who have awakened to the seriousness of the present situation. They seem to think that it is still possible to be on good terms with the enemy, to live in association with the enemies of Christ. Let us frankly admit, dear friends — I say no new thing — everybody who has thought at all about it must recognise that the Bible of the Modernist is not God’s Bible at all; it is another one. The God of the Modernist is not the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He would not make a decent school-

master, so small, so insignificant, so remote is He. . . . There is no greater enemy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ anywhere in the world than a man like Harry Emerson Fosdick, and you have them in your country, plenty of them. Do not charge me with uncharity. I recognize them, I identify them as the enemies of Jesus Christ. I say the Christ of the Modernist is not the Christ of the Bible at all; the salvation of the Modernist is not the salvation that comes to us by the grace of God; the Heaven of the Modernist is not the city which hath foundations, “whose builder and maker is God.” And as for the Hell of the Modernist, it is a special one that they have created in order that they may deal with Fundamentalists, and to which they would consign us all.

I tell you, my dear friends, this Down-Grade controversy is far more than a controversy. It is war, cruel, bloody war to the death. It is nothing less than that. Unless you recognise that and are prepared to face the consequences of it, I beg of you, have nothing to do with it. I say there is a thousand-fold more reason for not only defending the faith but for contending for it, and taking the offensive against Modernism everywhere, than there was in the days of C.H. Spurgeon.

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Since his day Modernism has dug itself in. In his day it skirmished about in the open on the surface. Now you find it in entrenched positions. It has dug itself in, I say, to editorial and professional chairs; into administrative positions; in augmentation and sustentation departments; it has dug itself in everywhere, and today we face an army that is firmly entrenched everywhere. I talk to men of different denominations, from India, China, Japan, and the United States and Canada, from the Antipodes and from Great Britain, and I have learned what the Bible teaches, that Beelzebub is never divided against himself.

Has it ever struck you as being singular that in His day there were two religious sects that, so far as their own personal views were concerned, were as the poles asunder? The Pharisees and the Sadducees had nothing in common. The Pharisees were the orthodox Supernaturalists of their day, and the Sadducees were the Rationalists, the Naturalists of their day. But when the Incarnate Word came into contact with them, a dead orthodoxy having to choose between a vital spirituality and a cold rationalism, preferred the cold rationalism to the vital spirituality, joined hands in

a campaign against the Incarnate Word and brought Him at last to the Cross.

You have the same thing today. Great multitudes of people profess an intellectual adherence to the great evangelical principle that the Bible is the Word of God—they have it in their heads and none of it in their hearts—and between that and a vital, aggressive godliness that has not only the form but the power, they always choose the Modernist, and in any great religious assembly you will see the Pharisees and the Sadducees joining hands and voting for the crucifixion of the Holy Book.

It is the same thing. Why are we so slow to recognize it? The battle is on and we must fight it with all vigor in our day as Spurgeon did in his day.

Why We Should Enlist In This Warfare

So then, dear friends, I want you to consider some reasons why we now should enlist in the same warfare in which the great Spurgeon drew his sword.

My First Reason is this: I know no other way of Being loyal to Christ. After all, Modernism is something vastly more than an academic dissection and appraisal of the value of a particular Book. . . . Just as surely as the Bible is inspired from above, Modernism and all

its works is inspired from below. There is no doubt about it. If once that be admitted, then our duty is clear. We are to resist the devil, and not invite him to lunch and make him a member of our club, much less confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity!

But what is it all aimed at? At the person of Christ! It does not make any difference where you begin, from Genesis to Revelation, the Modernist at last lays his protest at the feet of Christ. Christ's knowledge is discounted; His veracity is impugned; His infallibility is denied; and His Deity utterly repudiated. You cannot be a Modernist and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is useless to speak of these men as amiable gentlemen, as fine Christian characters. The man who denies the Deity of Christ and repudiates His authority, I do not care if he is Dean of St. Paul's, he is not a Christian and never was.

Surely there is a sine qua non of Christian faith, there must be an irreducible minimum somewhere, and all this is directed against the person of Christ. How then can I as one who has been bought with His precious blood be loyal to Him to whom I owe everything for time and Eternity, how can I be loyal to Him and be silent in circumstances like these? Can a wife be loyal to her husband if she allows

without protest his honor to be dragged in the mire? It is not only the written Word, it is still the Word Incarnate, for in every trial of this written Word the Living Word is put on trial; when the Word Incarnate is on trial before the modern Sanhedrin, and even the secular arm is invoked to give effect to the wicked will of a faithless religion, the man who for fear of consequences will withhold his testimony, is guilty of Peter's sin — denying his Lord. . . . I cannot be loyal without protesting, to the last drop of my blood if I must, against those who are the enemies of the truth of Christ.

Let me say further, we must needs take up this defensive attitude for the health of our own souls. I met a lady of great discernment, a cultured woman in Los Angeles, some years ago, and she said, "Mr. Shields, I find that for my own soul's sake I have to fight every day of my life for the truth that saved me." Of course we must. There is no other attitude. . . . There can be no neutral position for the moral man where moral issues are concerned. It is a simple impossibility. Talk to your physician. . . . Unless there be that physical resistance that is always at war with everything that would injure the body, you will not live very long.

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My dear friends, there must be an analogy to that in our spiritual nature. The new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness, that new life that comes from God, should ever be opposed to everything that is alien to God, so that we should deliberately cultivate an inherent antagonism to everything that is alien to Jesus Christ. "Beware," said the Apostle, "lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Beware of everything that is not after Christ. If you take that principle it will make you a warrior from this minute, fighting against that which would take the crown of Deity from His wounded brow.

And then there is another thing. There is a distinct advantage to any man who takes a definite position. My first pastorship was in a little village at a little village church of about 100 members. I made a solemn vow to the Lord on a very simple matter, that I would never under any circumstances anywhere be pastor of a church for 24 hours that dishonored the Lord by holding bazaars and tea-meetings and all that sort of thing for the purpose of raising money. I promised the Lord that I

would face that thing wherever I found it, and if I could not overcome it I would get out, but I would never for a minute be a party to it. I had not been long in my pastorate before some good sisters wanted to have what they called "some doings"—what kind of doings they were I forget now. But I quietly said, "I am under a solemn vow to the Lord, and the moment you initiate that movement, that moment you become pastorless." "Oh, but Pastor!" I said, "There is no discussion about it. I am no Pope, I am no priest; you can have it if you like, but I am master of my own course under God, and if you have that, you cannot have me." "Well, then," they said, "we will not have that." I said, "Thank you."

The Oxford Group Movement [an ecumenical movement which attempted to bring together Protestants and Catholics, Modernists and Evangelicals] came to Toronto. Some of their leaders to my certain knowledge had letters of introduction to me. I think I can say without immodesty that the place where I preach is not the least conspicuous of the places in Toronto. There are a few places that are less widely known and perhaps somewhat smaller.

They came, a team of them, two or three times. Not one of them ever called on me, not one of them ever asked for entrance to

my pulpit, not one of them ever presented a letter of introduction. Why? Can you tell me? Why did not they come? Because they said, "It is no use."...

My point is simply this. We save ourselves from many temptations if we put the flag to the top of the mast and announce to the whole world exactly where we stand. You have made your decision in advance of the overture and the overture never comes, and you go sweetly on your way in respect of many of these things. The minister who thinks he is going to avoid difficulty by being diplomatic is likely to find himself greatly entangled after a while.

I tried diplomacy for a long time. I used to be the champion conciliator of the Baptist denomination in Canada, and if ever they had a Church row they sent for me. If ever there were differences to be composed I was asked to preside at a Council. I have done it often and there is a place for legitimate compromise. But in respect to this matter I tried it too, on Boards and Committees, behind closed doors where our discussions could never possibly reach the public ear. I did exactly what the statesmen of Great Britain did in the summer of 1914, exhausted every possibility of diplomacy, and when they reached the end of it they declared war. There was nothing else to do. So I screwed up my fountain

pen and resigned from the diplomatic corps and joined the army. There was nothing else to do under the circumstances, and so far I can see there is no prospect of my being demobilized until the Lord comes, or any of the rest of you for that matter. It is a real warfare.

Then, my dear Friends, we need to take this defensive attitude for the sake of the uninstructed among us, lest the unwary should be beguiled.

... It is for the sake of the blind that we would rob them of their blind guides lest both should fall into the ditch. That is our reason.

Therefore, for the sake of the multitudes to whom the first principles of the Gospel are strange, for the sake of a generation that is arising that knows nothing about the Bible except to reject it and scoff at it, we need to be on the defensive and to begin over again teaching the very alphabet of Evangelical Faith.

We need to be on the defensive because we ought to identify the enemy.

Perhaps you do not believe in that. Do you? Perhaps he had a reason for it that I have never quite been able to discern, but very humbly I would venture to say that if Spurgeon made one mistake in that Down-Grade controversy, it would appear to me that his mistake was in his not

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actually naming the men. If you do not name anybody, they say," Oh well, he deals in generalities." If you name them, they say, "He indulges in personalities." So as they say on the other side of the water, they "get you going or coming or both." After all, I do not see why the Modernist should be ashamed of his Modernism. If I were a Modernist I would not object to anybody charging me with it. That is what I am doing all the time, anyhow. Is there any value in it? Yes, sir. We had a certain English brother come to our country [Canada] and I named him. I told him at once what would happen to him, and after two or three years he returned to England. Why? Because I had named him and there were not twenty pulpits in Canada that were open to him. The Modernists said, "We had better get somebody that is not identified,"—not that they repented, but they did not want him, and he had to go.

I think it is eminently fair that when Nathan has told his trouble, he should just look straight into David's eyes and say, "Thou art the man"!

It is a cruel warfare. You must be prepared for all the exigencies of war. Do not allow yourselves to be persuaded that you can oppose people on this issue

and be good friends with them. You say—of course you can be a gentleman, you do not need to break friendships on an issue like this. An issue like what? An issue which will make all the difference between light and darkness, between Heaven and Hell, between God and the Devil. You cannot touch an issue like that and be friends with the men who deny the Faith. Mark my words, try as much as you like, if you do not wear a uniform nobody will know which side you belong to. Get into the King's uniform and you will soon find whether your friendships will be disturbed or not. They are bound to be. There is no trick known to the worst enemy in war — I say it advisedly — to which Modernism and Modernists will not descend.

I was a member of the Board of Governors of a certain University for a number of years. On one occasion I had to make a speech before that Board in protest against certain courses. The Registrar got a Chartered Stenographer and every word that I uttered was recorded. The next time I went to that meeting I found a storm was on. I deliberately went a little late in order to avoid the necessity of social intercourse because relations were sadly strained, and when the Minute of the last meeting relating to the matter that had produced the uproar was read, I

recognized at once my own phraseology and recognized that there was not one word in that which purported to be a verbatim account of what I had said that was not mine. But by the deletion of every modifying clause, every qualifying adjective, and by the elimination of all my negatives, by using my words, they had made me say exactly the opposite of what I had said. I knew I was in the company of a lot of crooks, and from that moment I said, "Gentlemen, I will discuss these matters with you when I have two stenographers that will take an exact account and when every word shall be checked one against another; otherwise, you can talk until tomorrow morning and I have nothing to say. I will make my answer in the presence of witnesses." They knew I could talk to a couple of thousand people any time I liked, and so they said, "We will have no stenographic report at all."

Then in a Convention man after man got up to make a speech. A man that repudiates the authority of Scripture, mocks at the precious blood, an Englishman, got up and said, "I stand with C.H. Spurgeon on the Atonement. "The Chancellor of that University got up and read from Dr. Orr. I had two Parliamentary stenographers taking down every word, Hansard men. I happen to remember it because it cost me 600 dollars for that one

session, which lasted from ten in the morning until half-past two the next morning. And when I had that report and I put it down beside that from which they claimed to be quoting, I saw at once that the speeches in that Convention had all been, so to speak, by one man. Spurgeon's sermons and Dr. Orr's, every quotation had been treated in the same way, and by taking part of a sentence here and part of a sentence there, and piecing them together, they had made Dr. Orr and Spurgeon and everybody else say the very opposite to what they had said. They had put a lie into the lips of truth, and my dear friends, you will get it here. I have had it.

The devil is back of Modernism and the devil never showed you any kindness yet and he will not in this warfare.

I must close with this one word. **There are great compensations.** After all, in the war the Bible becomes a new book. I never knew the Bible until I went to battle on its behalf. I did not know what the Acts of the Apostles meant until I walked in their footsteps; then I was able to understand the book. I venture the affirmation that no man can ever understand the Acts of the Apostles merely in the study. He has got to be out on the battlefield, then it will speak to him its full

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Canada's Supreme Court Rules That "Sex Clubs" Are Legal — In another strange decision, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled on December 21 that group sex in publicly accessible places is legal. "As long as consent is given, the area is somewhat private, and no payment is directly involved, partner exchanging or 'swinging' and group participation in sexual acts is not considered illegal." Since the legal age of consent in Canada is, amazingly, 14 years old, this means that mere teenagers can participate in "group sex" in clubs as long as alcohol is not sold on the premises. This is the same strange court that ruled that homosexuals should be allowed to have something like the same marital rights as heterosexuals.

* * *

Federal Appeals Court Issues A Rebuke To The ACLU For the Bogus "Separation of Church and State" Principle. — In its ruling on December 20 in a case involving the display of the Ten Commandments in a county courthouse the Sixth

Circuit Court of Appeals issued a rebuke of the ACLU's constant use of the bogus "separation of church and state" principle. Writing the decision, Judge Richard Suhrheinrich wrote: "A reasonable observer would not view this display as an attempt by Mercer County to establish religion. Instead, he would view it for what it is: an acknowledgment of history." He called "the separation of church and state," which the ACLU referred to repeatedly, an "extra-constitutional construct [that] has grown tiresome. The First Amendment does not demand a wall of separation between church and state. ... Our nation's history is replete with governmental acknowledgment and[,] in some cases, accommodation of religion. ... Thus, state recognition of religion that falls short of endorsement is constitutionally permissible. If the reasonable observer perceived all government references to the Deity as endorsements, then many of our nation's cherished traditions would be unconstitutional, including the Declaration of Independence and the national motto ['In God We

Trust']" ("Appeals Court Upholds Commandments Display, Issues Rebuke to ACLU," Baptist Press, Dec. 21, 2005). The judge further said that the ACLU "does not embody the reasonable person." Amen and amen to that! The Appeals Court ruled that the display of the Ten Commandments is constitutional when it is included with other documents and has a secular and historical purpose.

* * *

Head of National Association of Evangelicals Doesn't Try To Convert Roman Catholics. — Ted Haggard, Senior Pastor of New Life Church in Colorado Springs and president of the 30-million-member National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), said in October: "New Life doesn't try to 'convert' Catholics" and "the church would never discourage its members from becoming Catholic or attending Catholic Mass" (Berean Call, Jan. 2006). Haggard made this strange remark in reaction to a statement made by a Catholic priest in Colorado Springs who said Catholics should not attend Protestant services. Peter Howard, executive assistant to Catholic Bishop Michael Sheridan, wrote an article in the diocesan paper entitled, "Why Not Attend New Life?" Apparently some one-third of those who

attend New Life Church are Roman Catholics and many of them also attend Mass. Priest Howard properly observed that participation in a Protestant service is "contrary to our faith which professes fundamentally different beliefs in critical ecclesiological and theological areas." For making such an obviously true statement in an ecumenical climate, Howard was criticized widely, even by his immediate superior, and eventually resigned his position ("Bishop apologizes for remarks," Summit Daily News, Frisco, Colorado, Oct. 21, 2005). Those who cannot see the one-world Harlot Church taking shape before our very eyes must be wearing some sort of blinders!

* * *

Churches Closed In Cuba — According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide, at least three Protestant church buildings have been forcibly shut in Cuba "after harsh legislation on house churches was announced in 2005." The buildings were either confiscated or demolished. The new legislation, announced in April, requires all house churches to register with the authorities, but the registration process is so complicated as to be prac-

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tically impossible. "CSW is disturbed that the three church closures seem to suggest that a new wave of repression of religious freedom could be on the horizon. It is possible that additional churches have also met with a similar fate but because of security concerns regarding communication in Cuba, this has been impossible to verify."

* * *

Charles Spurgeon On Roman Catholicism. —

The following quote from Charles Spurgeon (1832-92) is from his "Evening by Evening" meditations: "Since he was cursed who rebuilt Jericho (Joshua 6:26), much more the man who labours to restore Popery among us. In our fathers' days the gigantic walls of Popery fell by the power of their faith, the perseverance of their efforts, and the blast of their gospel trumpets; and now there are some who would rebuild that accursed system upon its old foundations. O Lord, be please to thwart their unrighteous endeavours, and pull down every stone which they build. It should be a serious business with us to be thoroughly purged of every error which may have a tendency to foster the spirit of Popery, and when we have made a clean sweep at home we

should seek in every way to oppose its all too rapid spread abroad in the church and in the world. This last can be done in secret by fervent prayer, and in public by decided testimony. *We must warn with judicious boldness those who are inclined towards the errors of Rome. We must instruct the young in gospel truth, and tell them of the black doings of popery in the olden times.* We must aid in spreading the light more thoroughly through the land, for priests, like owls, hate daylight. Are we doing all we can for Jesus and the gospel? If not, our negligence plays into the hands of priestcraft. What are we doing to spread the Bible, which is the Pope's bane and poison? Are we casting abroad good, sound gospel writings? Luther once said, 'The devil hates goose quills,' and doubtless, he has good reason, for ready writers, by the Holy Spirit's blessing, have done his kingdom much damage. Reader, what can you do? What will you do?"

* * *

Rick Warren Says Christian Fundamentalism Will Be One Of The Great Enemies of the 21st Century. — Rick Warren of Purpose Driven Life fame says that Christian fundamentalism will be "one of the big enemies of the 21st century." He lumped Christian

fundamentalism in with "Muslim fundamentalism" and "secular fundamentalism" ("The Purpose-Driven Pastor," The Philadelphia Inquirer, Jan. 8, 2006). Thus the Christian fundamentalist who merely seeks to take God's Word seriously and to live it and to preach it faithfully before his Heavenly Master is as dangerous to this world as a Muslim terrorist or a radical atheist. Warren said that Christian fundamentalism is motivated by fear. One of the many great problems with this statement is that the Bible often speaks of fear in a positive manner. Paul was afraid that the devil would deceive the believers through false gospels, false christs, and false spirits (2 Cor. 11:1-4). We should therefore follow the apostle's example and fear spiritual deception, both for ourselves and for others. The Bible says pastors who sin should be rebuked before all "that others also may fear" (1 Tim. 5:20). Would that Saddleback Church would take that verse seriously and rebuke their heresy-preaching pastor publicly! Noah is commended because he feared at God's warning (Heb. 11:7). We are to pass this earthly sojourn with fear (1 Pet. 1:17). We are to save some by fear (Jude 23). May God's men today fear God enough to obey His Word and to preach the whole counsel of God, to "reprove, rebuke, exhort,"

to warn the people of false teachers like Rick Warren. Where, by the way, are the "staunch conservative" or "nearly fundamentalist" Southern Baptist leaders who are exposing their fellow Southern Baptist Rick Warren's errors? They ridicule men like me for warning about errors within the Southern Baptist Convention, but they don't lift a voice on their own. Well, I think I will just keep on warning!

* * *

Vatican Scholars Taking A New, More Sympathetic Look At Judas. —

Some high placed Roman Catholic scholars are taking a new, more sympathetic look at Judas. Monsignor Walter Brandmuller, head of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Science, is leading a campaign "aimed at persuading believers to look kindly at a man reviled for 2,000 years" ("Judas the Misunderstood," The Times of London, Jan. 12, 2006). Brandmuller is supported by Vittorio Messori, a prominent Catholic writer close to both Pope Benedict XVI and the late John Paul II. Messori says there is "a Christian tradition" that "held that Judas was forgiven by Jesus and ordered to purify himself with 'spiritual exercises' in the desert." That is the same type of rock solid

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Pro-Life Group Launches Campaign to Halt Tax Funding of Planned Parenthood

A pro-life organization is marking the 33rd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision to begin a nationwide effort to stop taxpayer money from being used to fund the country's most frequent provider of abortions." Millions of Americans are sick and tired of their tax dollars being used to underwrite Planned Parenthood — the largest abortion chain and most aggressive promoter of sexual immorality in our nation," said David Bereit, executive director of American Life League (ALL). "On this anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that forced abortion upon all 50 states, ALL is launching an aggressive nationwide campaign to stop every dollar of Planned Parenthood taxpayer funding at the local, state and national levels," Bereit added. ALL launched the first public phase of its campaign on Monday by educating, recruiting and mobilizing concerned citizens from amongst the hundreds of thousands of people who have gathered in Washington, D.C., to mark the anniversary of the Roe decision. Additionally, a new Website has been established. "Since the Roe v. Wade decision, Planned

Parenthood has aborted more than three million innocent American children and scarred countless women for a lifetime," said Bereit." Six states have already blocked Planned Parenthood taxpayer funding — Colorado, Missouri, Ohio, North Dakota, Mississippi and Texas — and American Life League is working to build on this momentum and achieve similar results in the remaining 44 states," he noted. According to its latest annual report, Planned Parenthood took in more than \$265 million in federal, state and local tax funding in the last fiscal year, amounting to approximately one-third of the organization's income. "Planned Parenthood will not survive without our taxpayer dollars," said Bereit. "That's why people of faith and conscience are uniting in historic numbers to hit the abortion giant where it hurts the most — in the pocketbook." Bereit added: "We will not stop until Planned Parenthood ceases to receive taxpayer funding and shuts its doors forever."

* * *

Q: How is the tree frog evidence for creation? A: Tree frogs have a number of characteristics that evolution has a hard time explaining. Let's take a good look at their marvelous design features. For instance, frog eggs don't

have a hard shell to protect them and keep them moist. So laying eggs like these in trees would quickly lead to dried-up eggs and, well, no more tree frogs! But God provided for this by giving them a special way of protecting the eggs. The female frog covers the eggs with a layer of bubbly foam and the male beats it into a lather with his hind legs ... kind of like beating egg whites. After the foam has been beaten, the outer layer dries and keeps the eggs inside nice and moist. The eggs can then hatch into tadpoles. Evolution can't explain how the female developed the ability to produce the foamy layer of protection or how the male knew that he had to beat it into a lather. Evolution doesn't have answers for these sorts of problems or any others. God — not blind chance — designed and created life.

* * *

Christian Group Kicked Off UK Campus over 'PC' Demands.

— A Christian faith group at a major university in England has been thrown off campus for refusing to open up its membership to all faiths and beliefs. The 76-year-old Evangelical Christian Union announced it would take legal action against Birmingham University's student council for revoking recognition of the group last month following months of heated nego-

tiations. At the heart of the matter, both sides agree, is the fact that the group refuses to amend its constitution to allow non-Christians or atheists to become voting members. Although the group, which has 100-plus members, says all students are welcome to attend meetings, it insists that it is well within its rights to restrict membership to people who profess faith in Jesus Christ. The union also objected to demands to remove the words "men" and "women" from its charter in order not to offend transsexuals.

* * *

Appeals Court Upholds Nativity Ban in NYC Schools

— A federal appeals court in New York ruled it's okay for New York City Public Schools to ban the display of Christian nativity scenes during the Christmas season, even though displays of the Jewish menorah and Islamic star and crescent are permitted during Hanukkah and Ramadan. A conservative group that sued the school system over its policy said Christians should be outraged by the ruling. The Thomas More Law Center challenged the ban on nativity scenes in December 2002, on behalf of Andrea Skoros and her two children, who complained that New York City's policy was violating

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their right to free exercise of religion. The city defended its policy by arguing that the menorah and the star and crescent were permissible symbols because they were “secular,” whereas the nativity scene had to be excluded because it was “purely religious.” In February 2004, a federal judge in New York agreed that Christian Nativity scenes do not belong in public school classrooms and he dismissed the lawsuit. Skoros appealed, and on Thursday, a higher court ruled against her as well. Richard Thompson, president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Law Center, called the decision another outrageous example of federal courts discriminating against Christians. “This should be a wake-up call for Christians across this nation,” he said. — CNS

* * *

Q: Why is Humanism Taking Over Society? A: Humanism has become the “religion” of many countries because the chief barrier to it has been broken down: belief in God’s Word. Paul warns us in 2 Corinthians 11:3–4 to not be deceived, as Eve was by Satan. When we go to Genesis and read about the way Satan tempted Eve, we find that he got her to question God’s Word (Gen. 3:1–7).

That’s exactly what’s happening in our society today. So many people question the authority of the Word of God, particularly the book of Genesis. Satan knows that if he can get people to doubt the reliability of the book of Genesis, ultimately the whole Christian structure will collapse. Today, not only is the culture as a whole rejecting God’s Word, but, sadly, even many Christians have given up believing Genesis. As a result, the Christian framework is collapsing all around us, and humanism is taking over. How do we repair the Christian structure? We need to stop doubting the Word of God and start rebuilding the foundation that states God’s Word — beginning in Genesis — is true.

* * *

Chavez Orders U.S. Missionaries Out Of Venezuelan Jungle — U.S. missionaries accused by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez of espionage have been forced from their remote outposts among jungle tribes by a government order, the final pair leaving Thursday after years of evangelical work. The New Tribes Mission flew those two out of the rain forest to regroup with other missionaries in the eastern city of Puerto Ordaz. There they will decide what to do next:

leave the country or continue with a legal battle seeking to overturn the government’s order to expel them from indigenous areas by Sunday. Most of the group’s missionaries are Americans. Since late January, nearly 40 have pulled out and headed to the group’s base in Puerto Ordaz ahead of the Sunday deadline, said Marco Brito, a spokesman for the missionaries. “They’re all shattered, some of them depressed,” Brito said, noting one Canadian woman has been working for more than 40 years with the remote Yanomami tribe in the Amazon rain forest.

* * *

Q: Is there any evidence that fossils have formed quickly? A: Evolutionists have taught that the stratified fossil record of dinosaurs and other creatures formed slowly over millions of years. And most people have this idea that it takes millions of years to turn bones into fossils as well. But creation scientists believe that most of the fossils — including most of the dinosaur fossils — formed at the time of Noah’s Flood, only about 4,500 years ago. This means that fossils must have formed rather quickly. So, is there any evidence that fits with this? A museum in New Zealand showcases a petrified ham, which formed after a

volcano covered a village in ash in 1886 (see Tarawera’s night of terror). And a museum in Tasmania features a petrified hat. It was left in a mine, and after fifty years it had changed from being a soft, felt hat into a hard hat! (See ‘Fossil’ hat.) No, it doesn’t take millions of years to make fossils. Can we know, then, when the fossil record was formed? The answer’s in Genesis: most of the fossils were formed during the Flood of Noah’s day, just a few thousand years ago.

* * *

Judge Orders Gay Marriages Legalized. — A Maryland judge Jan. 20 struck down that state’s 33-year-old marriage law and ruled that gay marriage must be legalized. The ruling is expected to be appealed. Judge M. Brooke Murdock said a 1973 law defining marriage as being between one man and one woman violates the Maryland constitution’s Equal Rights Amendment. “Having concluded that preventing same-sex marriage has no rational relationship to any other legitimate state interest, this court concludes that tradition and social values alone cannot support adequately a discriminatory classification,” Murdock wrote. Maryland is one of nine states involved in gay marriage lawsuits. □

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“Christian tradition” that says Peter sat on a throne and Mary is the Queen of Heaven! Priest Allen Morris, Christian Life and Worship secretary for the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, likes this new idea, saying, “If Christ died for all—is it possible that Judas too was redeemed through the Master he betrayed?” The Bible answer, of course, is that it is not possible. At the Last Supper, Jesus said: “The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born” (Mat. 26:24). Judas did not go out into a desert to do spiritual exercises; he sorrowed but he did not repent, and he went out into the night and hung himself. The Bible says that Judas fell by transgression and went to “his own place” (Acts 1:25). Though the Bible does say that Jesus died to make it possible for all men to be saved (1 John 2:2), all men are not saved. Calvinism pretends that this is because God has only sovereignly chosen some to be saved, but in fact it is because God has sovereignly determined to give men a choice to believe the gospel or not. Those who perish, perish not because they are not of the sovereignly elected, for God “will have all men

to be saved” (1 Tim. 3:4), but “because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (2 Thess. 2:10-12). Judas was a hypocrite and a secret thief (Jn. 12:6).

* * *

Bill Gaither Warns Against Judging. — In an interview with Kim Jones, a tattooed female rocker who writes a column for the Roman Catholic publication Holy Spirit Interactive, Southern Gospel legend Bill Gaither said: “Finger pointing is never, I think, of God. Because I know that Scripture ‘judgment is mine, saith the Lord.’ When we get out of the judgment business and just get into the being business, the being what God wants us to be, it will take care of itself” (Holy Spirit Interactive, Dec. 6, 2004). This level of biblical ignorance is frightening, especially when we consider the vast influence that Bill Gaither wields among churches in this generation. Bill and his wife Gloria have written some lovely sacred music in the past but Bill has used his influence to promote ecumenism (I was in the audience with press credentials when the Gaithers performed for 15,000 Roman Catholics and Protestants at the radically ecumenical Indianapolis 1990) and to push the false philosophy that music is neutral and that any type of raunchy

music can be used to glorify a holy God. As for Gaither’s comments on judging, let me say this. First of all, the Bible nowhere says, “Judgment is mine, saith the Lord.” It says, “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Rom. 12:19). The believer is taught to give place unto wrath and to avoid avenging himself upon his enemies, because that is strictly God’s business. On the other hand, though the believer is forbidden to judge hypocritically (Mat. 7:1-5) and forbidden to judge in matters in which the Bible is silent in this New Testament dispensation (Rom. 14:1-5; Col. 2:16), such as in diet and holy days, he is most definitely taught to judge many things by testing it with the Word of God and condemning it if it is in error. The believer is to judge sin in the church (1 Cor. 5:12). He is to judge preaching and teaching (1 Cor. 14:29; Acts 17:11). As a matter of fact, “he that is spiritual judgeth all things” (1 Cor. 2:15). That is a very far-reaching statement. The spiritual man knows that he lives in a world of sin and spiritual darkness and error and he is warned repeatedly in the Bible about false teaching and apostasy and spiritual deception, so he carefully tests everything by the light

of God’s Word. The spiritual man does not judge by his own thinking and opinion, but by the holy Word of God, which he has in the Scriptures. Don’t tell me not to judge proper biblical judgment, Mr. Gaither! You will surely answer to God for such heresy. Friends, beware of contemporary Southern Gospel. It is worldly and is not committed to the whole counsel of God.

* * *

New Zealand Case Challenges Abortion Law. — Right to Life in New Zealand is challenging the nation’s abortion law, which allows abortion if two “certifying consultants” approve it on grounds such as the endangerment of a woman’s mental health. Right to Life argues that the law is abused and too many abortions are being performed. There were a total of 18,210 abortions in New Zealand in 2004. A judge has allowed some parts of the group’s claim to proceed through the court system. One woman who hopes to give her testimony in court is Maria Parsons, who had an abortion 13 years ago. She says that she still cries every day for “the unborn child that she agreed to kill” (“Grieving Raw 13 years after Abortion,” New Zealand Herald, Jan. 7, 2006). She says that she

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Peter. He preached that men should turn to Christ. He knew that Christ was not only the foundation but also the corner stone of His church:

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, *Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.* Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, *the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence,* even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed” (1 Pet. 2:2-8).

Built On Christ

Christ’s church was built upon Christ as the foundation Rock: and it is built on Christ as the chief

corner stone: “*Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord*” (Eph. 2:20-21).

No organization is Christ’s church, no matter what it calls itself, if it depends upon or owes its existence to the life, work, and teachings of any mere human being or any number of human beings. Christ’s church was built upon Christ Himself; not upon popes, or Luther, or King Henry VIII, or Calvin, or Wesley, or Campbell, or Smith or Russell, or any other men who thought they could do a better job of teaching and organizing than the Son of God.

Built by Christ

Christ’s church was built by Himself. “I will build my church.” False churches teach that the church was not organized until Pentecost, but there is no such teaching in the Bible. On the contrary, in Acts 1:15 we are told that before Pentecost “the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty.” This plainly means that the church had 120 members. *Christ built His church during His earthly ministry in the flesh, before His crucifixion.* In Matthew 18:17 we read, “if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee

as an heathen man and a publican.” It is ridiculous to suppose that Christ was talking about a church that didn’t exist. He was plainly teaching His disciples that if they could not settle the matter of trespasses against one another as individuals, they should take their trouble to the church. What church? The church of which they were members, of course. Christ promised to build His church, and here we find it in existence before He was crucified. Why call Him a liar by saying the church was not organized until Pentecost?

Christ’s church was built by Christ Himself, before His crucifixion. *No organization is Christ’s church, no matter what it calls itself, if its origin is more recent than the personal ministry of Christ on earth.* Christ’s church in the world today is the same in organization, in doctrine, and in practice as it was 1900 years ago.

His One and Only Church

Christ built only one kind of church: “I will build MY Church.” It is His church because He created the members (Col. 1:16). It is His church because He purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). It is His church because He is its Head and it is His body (Eph. 1:22-23). It is His church because He is its Bridegroom

and it is His bride (Eph. 5:22-32).

“*There is one body*” (Eph. 4:4). “God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints” (1 Cor. 14:35). Christ built only one kind of church; *He has only one body, and that is the “local” church,* the church that has a definite membership, a definite time and place of meeting, a definite organization with elected officers (bishops, elders, or pastors, and sometimes deacons), and a definite program of carrying on the Lord’s work — “the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15).

No “Invisible” Church

The devil has persuaded many people that the church is some kind of an “invisible” thing that all Christians belong to, and if he could make enough people believe this he would soon destroy Christ’s church. But Christians who get their doctrines from the Bible instead of from the devil will not be misled. *The Bible does not say one word about an “invisible” or “universal” church. There isn’t any such thing.*

In Matthew 16:18, in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, in Colossians 1:18, 24; 1 Tim. 3:5, 15;

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was vulnerable and not in a proper state to agree to the abortion. Canterbury (New Zealand) Health and Development recently released a study that found that 42 percent of those who had an abortion by age 25 subsequently experienced major depression.

* * *

Vatican Official Says Inquisition Was A Mistake But Legally Justified.

— According to a high Vatican official, the torture and burning of “heretics” during the Roman Catholic Inquisition were “mistakes” but they were also legal and are understandable in light of the times. Dominican priest Joseph Augustine Di Noia, undersecretary of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith (formerly called the Office of the Inquisition), is interviewed in a documentary that examines the Inquisition in light of research gleaned from Vatican files opened to scrutiny in 1998 (“Inquisition Was a Mistake but Legally Justified,” The

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Heb. 12:23; Jas. 5:14, and possibly a few other passages, the word

“church” is used *abstractly*, as I have frequently used it above, not referring to any particular organization at any definite place, but *to the church as an institution*. When we make a concrete application of the word we must have in mind *a particular organization of baptized disciples* that meet somewhere and is engaged in the Lord’s work, *because this is the only kind of church that the Bible tells us anything about*.

Abstract and Concrete

To illustrate what is meant by the abstract and concrete uses of words, I might say, “the horse is a useful animal.” I have here used the word “horse” abstractly. I have no particular horse in mind. Now, if I were to use the word concretely, I might say, “Farmer Brown’s horse is a good puller,” or, “The horse on this side seems balky.” I am talking about particular horses. But *if I knew as little about horses as some religious teachers seem to know about churches, I might try to make you believe that there is only one horse in the world, a big invisible horse* — and a lot of work you would get out of it!

Again, I might say, abstractly, “the public school is a great democratic institution.” No sane person would suppose I meant that there is only one public

school in the world — a kind of invisible something without any form of organization, without any responsibility or authority, a school to which all students the world over belong, but without any official teachers or classrooms, a school that nobody needs to attend — boy, what a school!

People generally are not quite foolish enough to entertain such ideas about horses or schools, but when we come to religion many persons seem to forsake all reason and are *ready to believe the silliest nonsense if it will give them an excuse for laziness or sin*.

His Church Still Here

Finally, Christ’s church is still in the world. *It is not here again, it is here yet* — and will be here until Christ comes for His bride. *His promise is “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” All Protestant churches are built upon the assumption that Christ lied, that His promise failed, that His church perished, and that it was necessary for man to bring success out of God’s failure. Only Baptists and Catholics claim to trace their history to the time of Christ. But the Catholics, by their own testimony, are built not upon Christ but upon their popes, and they are further from the truth than any other so-called Christian church. Moreover, many*

so-called Baptist churches are not Christ’s; more and more of them, in these latter days, are forsaking unpopular truths. We need to know more than the name of a church to know whether it is Christ’s; only those churches are His which believe and teach His word.

Christ gave to His church “the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 16:19), with the promise that “whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Mt. 18:18). *Christ’s church is “the pillar and ground of the truth”* (1 Tim. 3:15). Others have selected portions of truth to mix with their errors, but the faithful ministers of Christ’s true churches “have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).

Church Membership

Unsaved sinners ought not to belong to any church. If you have been saved by God’s grace, then you ought to follow Paul’s example (Acts 9:26) and join yourself to that church nearest your present, temporary home which shows evidence that it is of Christ’s building, a church whose only Head is Christ whose only message is His word.

[Next month: “Why the Name Baptist.”] □□

BODY . . .

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latter just seem to explode, and another name for them is thus bacteriolysins.

Immunity to a particular disease-producing germ may be inherent, or natural to the individual, or it may be acquired by having the disease. What causes either kind of immunity is the presence of antibodies. These antibodies may remain permanently in the blood, and the individual may never be subject to the same disease again, or the immunity may last for only a brief period.

Domesticated animals are naturally immune to typhoid fever, which is a dangerous disease to which the human species is very susceptible. Typhoid fever is caused by the entrance of the typhoid bacillus, usually in infected food. Dogs, however, have a natural immunity against typhoid infection and can eat food infected with typhoid germs without anything happening. On the contrary, dogs are very susceptible to a virulent disease known as distemper, but humans are immune.

Then, some groups or races have natural immunity to certain diseases. The Negro race is much more resistant to yellow fever than are members of the white race. Eskimos are particularly susceptible to tuberculosis, while the South Sea Islanders are easily

subject to influenza, and certain other diseases, such as measles.

It is well known that one attack of certain diseases will make the individual immune to any future attack. This naturally acquired immunity is then permanent. Unfortunately, a number of infective diseases do not confer a permanent immunity. For instance, it is possible to have repeated attacks of respiratory diseases, such as colds and influenza, and even pneumonia.

Modern discoveries have made it possible to confer an artificial, acquired immunity without experiencing the disease. This may be either active or passive. The active type of artificial acquired immunity is brought about by introducing into the body actual parasitic organisms, usually dead or very much attenuated, so that a mild form of disease is caused with the resultant formation of antibodies by the individual. The body reacts sufficiently without acute symptoms, and builds up the necessary antibodies. The best known example of an active acquired immunity is that conferred by vaccination against smallpox, where individuals are subjected to infection with relatively harmless organisms, thereby inciting antibody formation, which will protect against an invasion of highly virulent organisms.

There has always been

much misunderstanding in regard to this procedure and among many people great antagonism to this method of cure. However the fact is that a comparatively short time vaccination has practically eliminated one of the most dangerous diseases ever known, and that for many centuries took an annual toll of millions of lives. In my next article I will tell you how smallpox vaccine is prepared, because this question is asked many times. When you understand the process, any fears that you may have had will be dispelled. Also, I shall tell you the difference between vaccines and serums, and will discuss many very interesting phases associated with these methods of treatment, that have done so much to eradicate some of the worst diseases, which have in times past wrought havoc among members of the human race.

I have frequently told you of one deadly disease which cannot be cured by man. It is the SIN disease. We are born with it. It is universal and is absolutely fatal. So important is it that God Himself wrote a Book on it, and gave it to humanity in order that the human race might avail itself of the cure described therein in great detail. The cure is so instantaneous and so miraculous that it has always seemed to men impossible. Another reason why it is not valued is the fact that it cannot be

purchased, but must be accepted as a gift from God. And now, after millenniums and the testimony of millions to its efficacy, and the actual presence in the world of countless cured victims who walk in newness of life, the majority of men and women in the world either laugh at it or ignore it. It is one of the strangest phenomena in a strange universe. We must try to discover the reason for this willful spiritual suicide, which is the fate of millions. Suicide is an act which depends on the carrying out of the will of the individual who decides on taking his own life. We have been at war with Japan, and we know how the people of this nation commit suicide wantonly and almost universally. We call them foolish or insane. The Allied Nations proclaimed immunity from the death penalty to all those who surrendered, but very few took advantage of the offer. They preferred to plunge a sword into their bodies, or blow themselves into a thousand pieces with an exploding hand grenade, and we call them crazy.

It seems to me that we, as nations, ought to do some quiet thinking about our own actions in the face of ultimate judgment and destruction, which will surely be visited upon men, according to the penalty provided by God because of our sin. For thousands

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message.

Then also you will have close personal fellowship with Christ. That is a great thing. The Hebrew children found an intimacy in converse with the Son of God in the furnace that they had never known before. Daniel was no stranger to the ministry of angels, but there was one angel with him he had no acquaintance with until he went into the den of lions. Do you know, the furnace and the den of lions are the Divine Teacher's training college, where He is training men to be officers in His army, where they have the advantage of the special personal instruction of the Son of God. And best of all, as we put the principles and precepts and promises of God's Holy Word to the test, seeking very clear methods to honor our Lord Jesus Christ and to serve the highest interests of souls for whom He died, we shall enjoy a fruitfulness in our ministry that can be had in other way.

I had some people, uninstructed for awhile, who thought I was unduly controversial, and some men who never had a convert, used to say, "Preach the Gospel." Well I did, and one night I remember we had an enormous audience, and it was a fighting speech—anything I have said today would be of the homeo-

phatic order in comparison — it was a bit of real militancy, I can assure you, but we were standing for the Book. When it was over I just said, "Now we have thus spoken because we have a Savior for Whom we would die if need be. How many of you will receive Jesus Christ as the sinner's Savior?" Without any further appeal that night I recall eighteen walked down to the platform, most of them men. They said, "If Jesus means all that to a believer, I want Him."

Oh, the comradeship of the saints! Some pastors are troubled because they have churches they cannot trust, people who betray them, people who break their hearts. We all know something about that. But get into the furnace, get out into the place where the battle is raging, where men face difficulties with you, and by and by you will have people that would die for you as they would die for their Lord. There is a comradeship known in warfare which we can know nowhere else and I have not said a new thing to you. The Bible was born in controversy; every apostolic preacher was a defender of the faith; all down through the history of the Church the martyr fires have been kindled because there were men who would rather die than surrender this truth. □

BODY . . .

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of years God has been announcing through prophets and scribes that there is a way of escape. Then He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, with the same glorious news of freedom and cure. His Book, containing complete instructions, is distributed by the million every year. Almost every home in America has a copy, and yet when God's messengers announce the gift of full and free pardon, and the cleansing of the soul, so that eternal immunity to the sin invader is provided, people turn away and take death instead of life. If that is not the most astonishing mistake ever made, I know nothing about it. A gift which does, however, involve surrender of the will and the life to Jesus Christ, is spurned. His glorious and precious name is taken in vain and blasphemed, although He died that we might not die. His blood, applied to your guilty soul, immediately purifies it and makes it whole. Listen to God as He pleads, calling upon your intelligence and reason: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18).

Yes, Christ Jesus can make you whole again.

What are you going to do about it? You simply *must* do something; there is no neutral position. Take Him. HE'S WONDERFUL!

[Next month: "Vaccines and Serums."] □

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Telegraph, Jan. 30, 2006). "The Secret Files of the Inquisition," a four-part documentary, begin airing on Monday, Jan. 30, on the UKTV History channel. Di Noia says: "It was a mistake to torture people. However, torture was regarded as a perfectly justified, legitimate way of producing evidence and it was therefore legally justified." He also argues that torture and burning were explicable in the context of the times. In fact, neither "legality" nor the context of the times is a justification for a so-called "church" to torment and murder those who do not agree with its doctrine. Those that persecute and kill are the devil's wolves and not the Lord's sheep. The current Pope, Benedict XVI, is the former head of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith. □

**Marriage Is A
Marathon
Not A
Sprint**