

# The Baptist

# CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 494

## *The Seven Sayings On The Cross*

*By James Crumpton*

See Him at Calvary! See Him crucified! See Him in the torture and agony of His sufferings! During those seven hours on the cross — 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. — He gave the last seven utterances. Seven hours and seven sayings; it was God's number — the number of perfection. Two is the

number of testimony. There were two sevens (seven hours and seven sayings); perfect testimony it was to God's perfect work at Calvary through His Son. He said:

(1) "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," (2) "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in

paradise." (3) "Woman, behold thy son!...Behold thy mother!" (4) "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (5) "I thirst." (6) "It is finished." (7) "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Let us note some things, briefly, about these sayings:

(1) "*Father forgive*

*them; For they know not what they do.*" We could paraphrase this saying: "Father hold the winds of wrath, postpone the judgment until they know what has happened here." Jesus was asking that judgment be withheld until the poor dupes of sin knew

(See **CROSS** on page 2)

### **If I Were The Devil**

**By Paul Harvey**

I would gain control of the most powerful nation in the world;

I would delude their minds into thinking they had come from man's effort, instead of God's blessings;

I would promote an attitude of loving things and using people, instead of the other way around;

I would dupe entire

(See **PAUL** on page 23)

### **The Case For Independent Baptist Churches**

**By M. L. Moser, Editor**

[This is the first of a series of 14 articles that begins this month on "**The Case For Independent Baptist Churches.**" This was published in book form in 1978, and we will be publishing one chapter each month. This is the Introductory chapter.]

\* \* \*

Who are independent

Baptists? What is an independent Baptist church? When did they begin? What is the difference between an independent Baptist church and other Baptist churches? These are all valid questions and deserve an answer, and that is the purpose of these articles.

All churches of the

(See **CASE** on page 24)

### **God In Our Government**

**By William J. Smith**

Before the birth of our nation, the American people debated the volatile issue of religious freedom. After the adoption of the United States Constitution, these debates continued, and on September 25, 1789, the First Congress proposed to the states ten amendments that were ratified and became known as the Bill

(See **SMITH** on page 21)

## Quiz The Pastor -- #43

# How Can A Person Be Sure They Have Received The Holy Spirit?

By the late Nick Michalinos

**Question:** I am a believer in Christ as my Savior. When did I receive the Holy Spirit?

**Answer:** Like all believers, you received the person of the Holy Spirit the moment you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior.

In Ephesians 1:13-14, we have the divine order of events that leads to our salvation, and the precise moment we receive the Holy Spirit. Notice: "In whom (Christ) ye also trusted, (1) *after* that ye *heard* the Word of truth, the gospel (good news) of your salvation: (2) in whom (Christ) also *after* that ye *believed*: (3) ye were *sealed* with that *Holy Spirit* of promise, which (receiving the Holy Spirit) is the earnest (down payment) of our inheritance (heavenly) until

the redemption of the purchased possession (body) unto the praise of his glory." Notice, "Heard ... believed ... sealed with that Holy Spirit."

We are commanded not to "grieve ... the Spirit of God." Who has "sealed" us "unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30). This sealing (mark of ownership) takes place, after that we have "believed."

We read in Galatians 4:6, "And because ye are sons (of God), God hath sent forth the (Holy) Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father." The status of Sonship is identified with receiving the Holy Spirit, and we become "sons" or "children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26). We have "received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father. The Spirit itself (Himself)

bearth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs" (Rom. 8:15-17).

It must be noted that "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is *none of his*" (Rom. 8:9), he is "sensual (unregenerate) having not the Spirit" (Jude 19), and thus in need of being "born of the Spirit" (Jn. 3:5-6), of experiencing "the renewing of the Spirit" (Tit. 3:5).

Make no mistake, "the Lord knoweth them that are his" (2 Tim. 2:19), for He has purchased "them" with the redemptive merits of Calvary (1 Cor. 6:19), and has "sealed (marked) us, and given the earnest (down payment) of the Spirit in our hearts" (2 Cor. 1:22).

Since every child of God has the Spirit of God, we are commanded, "If we live in the Spirit (saved) let us also walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25) for in this way only are the "fruit of the Spirit" produced in our lives (Gal. 5:22-23), as He "fills us" (Eph. 5:18), for His "fruit" is in all "goodness, and righteousness and truth" (Eph. 5:9).

Love, as the motive of our actions, is said to be "shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5), at the moment of our regeneration, for this love is the "fruit of the Spirit." So, every believer in this dispensation has the Holy Spirit dwelling within at the moment of belief. ▮

**CROSS . . .**

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what the sinners had done to the Creator and what the Creator had done for sinners. Every sinner saved since that day is an answer to this prayer. Surely, had He not prayed this prayer God would have stricken dead and to Hell every living creature that day!

(2) "*Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.*" The text is saying: "Amen to you I say — with me in paradise." Both thieves mocked Him, believed that He was the Son of God, and had all power.

One prayed that He would come down and get him down from the cross and save them from dying. He had no reference to being saved from sin. The other thief changed his mind (repented) and, to paraphrase his request, said, "Lord, stay on the cross, buy a kingdom, and let me be one of the subjects in your kingdom." Jesus' answer, "Amen to you I say — with me in paradise," was really saying, "So let it be as you have prayed. I take your side, answer your prayer. You will be with me today." It was salvation spontaneously and instantaneously. And in taking that thief's side, He took the side of all of us poor Hell-deserving sinners.

(3) "*Woman, behold thy son! ... Behold thy*

(See **CROSS** on page 12)

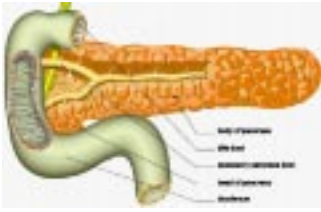
### THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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## God's Masterpiece -- The Human Body -- #32

### The Pancreas, Insulin and Diabetes

By Arthur I. Brown



Before leaving the subject of endocrine glands there are a few additional points I would like to give you — some by way of summarizing the main features. These glands may be classified in various ways, but perhaps the best for our purpose is to group them in accordance with the functions of the hormones that are produced. On this basis, we recognize three main divisions: (1) hormones concerned with the regulation of digestive functions, (2) hormones concerned with the regulation of metabolism, (3) hormones concerned with the general control of body function.

Under (1) we have seen that the lining of the small intestine, especially the upper part close to the stomach, discharges certain hormones into the blood, as soon as the acid contents of the stomach pass through the pylorus, which is the opening from the stomach into the duodenum. The principal hormone here is known as secretin, but associated with it is another called cholecystinin. A third hormone, gastrin, is said to be secreted by the mucous lining of the lower end of the stomach.

About thirty-five years

ago it was discovered that this mucosal tissue from either stomach or duodenum would yield, when ground up, an active substance which, if injected into the blood stream, exerted a marked effect on the secretory activity of the digestive enzymes which we have been studying. Some authorities believe that the stimulating substances that cause the flow of gastric juices are contained in certain of the ingested food, rather than being a secretion from the stomach lining. These foods are known as secretagogues. Thus, meat extracts, meat juices, soups, etc. are particularly effective in this respect; while milk and water cause less secretion. Certain common foods, such as bread and white of eggs, likewise, have no effect of this kind.

This strange hormone, secretin, responds to the message from somewhere. The trigger which sets off the message seems to be the acid contents of the stomach coming into contact with the mucosal lining of the duodenum. Some information is sent on the double-quick to G.H.Q., asking for supplies of pancreatic juice to be emptied into the intestinal canal where the food is just

entering. This food contains carbohydrates, proteins, and fats, and the situation is urgent. So, here is the complete cycle of events: the stimulation of the mucosa cells by the acid chyme; the liberation of the hormone, secretin, into the blood stream; the stimulation of the pancreatic cells by G.H.Q. through the secretin received from the blood; and, finally, the flow of pancreatic juice into the intestine. At the same time as the flow of gastric juice there is the flow of the bile from the liver. Until recently, it was believed that secretin was responsible for inciting the flow of bile. It is now believed, however, that the bile is due to the other mucosal hormone, cholecystinin, released by the duodenal mucosa. This second hormone causes a sudden contraction of the muscle tissue in the wall of the gall bladder, and the expulsion of its bile content into the duct which leads into the first part of the small bowel at the exact place where the pancreatic juice is being emptied. What a marvelous coordination this is! Could it be chance?

At this point a few additional facts about the pancreas are in order before we leave this sub-

ject. I have told you in a previous talk of the three enzymes poured out by the pancreas: trypsin, amylase, and lipase — powerful digestants of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. In addition to these, of course, there are intestinal enzymes, such as: erepsin, maltase, sucrose, and lactase, all fitting into the general plan in a most exact and efficient way.

The pancreas, which has occupied our attention because of its importance in digestion, has another function as an endocrine gland. This remarkable organ has in its tissues certain small collections of cells, known as the islands of Langerhans. These islands are responsible for the formation and secretion into the blood stream of the hormone, insulin, which is essential to the regulation of carbohydrate metabolism in the body. That is, if starches and sugars are to be burned up to provide energy, insulin must be present, and seems to be a sort of “spark plug” which brings about the chemical union or oxidation of glucose and oxygen and the release of the potential chemical energy. Also, it appears that insulin is

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necessary before the carbohydrate, glycogen, can be accumulated in the liver.

An insulin deficiency in the body is due to a functional failure of the cells in the islands of Langerhans, and is first marked clinically by the appearance of sugar in the urine, the condition known as glycosuria, or diabetes. Diabetes results from a partial cessation of the oxidative processes throughout the body tissues, particularly in the muscles, so that the amount of sugar in the blood is greatly increased. Associated with this is the almost complete depletion of the glycogen in the liver.

The continuous demand for fuel to maintain the life processes, and the unavailability of glucose in the absence of insulin, soon cause the destruction of other nutritive substances in the cells. The fat reserves are utilized with the formation of poisonous substances, and acidosis develops. This acidosis, if not checked, leads to coma and death. This is because the supplies of oxygen to the tissues are not sufficient for the complete oxidation of fats when comparatively large amounts of the latter are oxidized, and the poisonous substances, called ketones, are the result of incomplete combustion.

The necessity then in

diabetes is to supply insulin to the blood. Today, by a special technique devised after years of research, large quantities of pure insulin are secured from the pancreatic tissues of animals slaughtered for food. The purified and crystalized insulin, thus obtained, contains 25,000 units per gram for the treatment of diabetes. In moderately severe cases of insulin deficiency, from 20 to 40 units of insulin per day are required. Unfortunately, insulin cannot be taken by way of the digestive tract, because of the destructive action of trypsin, and other enzymes, but must be injected underneath the skin and gradually absorbed into the blood stream. The insulin treatment for diabetes was first used in January 1922, and is now the only remedy for millions suffering from insulin deficiency. It is not a cure in the usual sense, because it must be taken continuously throughout life. In other words, insulin takes the place of the pancreas, which has ceased to manufacture this important secretion.

I am sure we see clearly that these hormones, poured out so constantly and accurately in definitely measured doses, constitute another unanswerable argument for a Supreme Intelligence, governing and controlling all the processes with a wisdom which staggers our imagination. I hope that you, with me, are

prepared to acknowledge our complete dependence on this wonderful Heavenly Father "in whom we live and move and have our being."

The God who planned this body so wondrously, knows it intimately, is acquainted with every infinitesimal cell. But He knows more than the physical structure of the organs and tissues. I want to read a portion of Psalm 139. Will you hear me?

"O Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising. Thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path, and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O lord, Thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid Thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me: it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth, even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yes, the darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night

shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee. For Thou didst form my inward parts: Thou didst cover me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks unto Thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: wonderful are Thy works and that my soul knoweth right well."

I have read you this great section which so glorifies the work of God in creating this marvelous body. David had a very meager knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and biology. He knew nothing about vitamins, enzymes, and hormones, but he knew enough to give God thanks for his body. Have you done as much as that? Or do you think it childish and credulous to pray? Of course, the natural man, the unsaved man or woman, has no access to the presence of God, as I have so often told you. There is only one prayer for you, "God be merciful to me a sinner." When you have prayed that and have received the salvation which God provides, when you are born again into the family of God, then you are in a position where you may know God as Father, and enjoy the family fellowship, the most precious on earth.

You will note another discovery of David. Not only had he arrived at the conclusion that his body must have come from God, but he had found that he

(See **BODY** on page 5)



## The Doctrine of the Church In These Times

By Chester E. Tulga

The true church is marked by the faithful exercise of scriptural discipline (Mt. 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-5, 13; 14:33, 40; Rev. 2:14-15, 20). The doctrine of the external sanctity of the church is a lost doctrine, and a futile effort is being made to give to the church a standing in the world which its degree of holiness does not deserve. There is an attempt being made to give a holiness to the church which does not involve the holiness of the people in the church. Scriptural disciplines are necessary to purity of doctrine in the church, a godly testimony to the world, and a proper observance of the ordinances. To have no rule of doctrine and no rule of life as conditions of membership or participation in the Lord's Supper, is to corrupt the meaning of both and destroy their spiritual usefulness.

Every organization which proposes to work smoothly, and yet efficiently, must have certain rules and regulations to be followed; certain laws for the individual members to obey. There is no society to which these remarks apply more appropriately and with more emphasis than the local church of

Christian believers who profess before the world to have found a Savior from sin and superior way of life. When these laws fall into disuse, the message of the church is corrupted and the lives of its members cease to inspire confidence.

These disciplines can be applied wisely or unwisely. E. T. Hiscox (**The New Directory for Baptist Churches**, pp. 101-102) says, "To some the word *discipline* has an unpleasant sound. It seems punitive. It savors of transgression, conflict and punishment. But church discipline is not to be taken in this narrow sense alone; nor does it develop these unlovely features, except, where, by the culpable neglect of pastors and others it has fallen into decay, good order and the well-being of the body have been long disregarded, and the church has become a lawless and disorderly company. Then a very hasty, and possibly an intemperate effort to make matters right, without sufficient prudence and precaution, may develop difficulties."

Whatever the difficulties, in many cases these disciplines of the Word of God must be used to restore the church to health and the

Lord's Table to holiness. Hiscox says, "Many a church has found serious trouble in re-establishing a healthful order and discipline, after long continued neglect and disorder. But many a church has also found that a thorough course of Christian labor, and the re-establishment of a healthful scriptural discipline, has brought back to the body order and harmony, reinvigorated its wasted energies, has produced a better tone of practical piety, and become the precursor of a revival of religion." A true church uses scriptural disciplines lovingly and wisely (**The Doctrine of the Church in These Times**, C.E. Tulga, pp. 35-36). □

### BODY . . .

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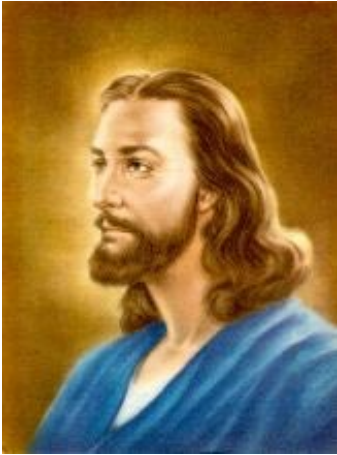
could not hide himself away from the sight of God. Perhaps he had sometimes tried to escape the eye of his Father. It was useless. Jonah tried to get away from God when ordered to go to Nineveh and preach. He said nothing, but instead of going to Nineveh, he slipped away quietly, catching a boat for Tarshish. Tired out with his efforts, he took a cabin deep in the hold and went sound asleep, secure in the

thought that God had lost him. But the storm came and God spoke, so that Jonah's delusion was shattered. You remember the story, and know how he was thrown into the sea to be swallowed by the sea monster, only to be rescued and restored by God, who taught him a never-to-be-forgotten lesson. Then he became a preacher whose message was convincing because he spoke in the power of God.

Have you heard the voice of God, and have you turned away to hide? It is useless, my friend. You have to meet Him. Yes, one day "every eye shall see him, and those that pierced him." Today the world is rejecting Christ. He is almost eliminated from His own universe. What have *you* done with Him? Have you any room for Him in your heart? "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and sup with him, and he with me." Blessed invitation! "He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Condemnation, eternal judgment, on the one hand; salvation, everlasting life, on the other. Which will you take? You must make a decision, but always remember — HE'S WONDERFUL!

[Next month: "How Your Body Defends You."]



## Do You Worship God Invisible or Visible? Or What Do You Think of Him?

By O. G. Hankins, Sr.

“To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?”  
— Isaiah 40:18.

“To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.” —  
Isaiah 42:25.

“I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither  
my praise to graven images” — Isaiah 42:8.

Do you give God’s glory to some picture, the art of man’s device? Exodus 20:4 says, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.” An image of God displaces that Lord of Heaven, teaches a lie, exchanges the truth of God for a lie (Rom. 1:25). “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24). God knew the weakness of man, that we would follow the “I” and cause us to worship the creature in the stead of God. That is the reason He has condemned it all through His Word, and there is not one Scripture that will justify the use of pictures of Christ. To the contrary:

“Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves: for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: lest ye corrupt

yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any beast that is on the earth” (Dt. 4:15-17).

“Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the Lord he is God; there is none else beside him” (Dt. 4:35).

God spoke and said “Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and *destroy all their pictures*, and destroy all their molten *images*, and quite pluck down all their high places” (Num. 33:52). Destroying all their pictures meant any picture or image that was used for religious worship. Sunday School books that use pictures of Christ should not be allowed in Bible classes. Don’t lie to children; they will find it out. If some Sunday School board sends you lessons with pictures in it, protest to the board. Show it to your pastor, and if he justifies it, pray for God to enlighten him.

“He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehustan” (2 Ki. 18:4).

“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold or silver or stone graven by art and man’s device” (Acts 17:29). We see here that a man’s device could not draw our Lord if we are His offspring. We should not even think of such a thing as to try to bring God down on a level with sinful man. Look at Romans 1:22-23, “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.” The picture that you use, does it look like a man? If so, you are the one

God is talking about. Turn from the sinful thing. “Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen” (Rom. 1:25).

“For we walk by faith; not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7); “For we are saved by hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. For what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?” (Rom. 8:24); “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1); “God is a Spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24). You can’t see a spirit, so that should be proof enough that the Lord is not something that a man can make and worship as he wants.

When you use anything except God’s Word, you deny its power, for God’s Word is the living seed. Anything which you see is corruptible seed, for faith

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**IMAGE . . .**

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comes by "hearing." "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). "For the preaching of the cross is unto them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Cor. 1:18, 21).

"And fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed ... For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: So that

not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed whom all Asia and the world worshippeth" (Acts 19:17-20, 24-27).

"The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the Lord thy God. Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing" (Dt. 7:25-26).

"Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made" (Isa. 2:8).

"In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats" (Isa. 2:20).

"Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit" (Jer. 2:11). "Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord" (Jer. 2:11-12). "Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; and then the Lord's

wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you" (Dt. 11:16-17).

"For they served idols, whereof the Lord had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing" (2 Ki. 17:12).

"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies" (Rev. 18:2-3).

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? Or what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the

unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor. 6:14-18).

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18).

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18). The Bible is complete and God doesn't need the help of man to add his imaginations, which are false. Radio and television preachers who sell the picture of Christ are lying, for Christ never had His picture made. He wants His people to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Don't help keep on the air a preacher that tries to sell you a picture of Christ, for he is a liar, according to the Bible (Rom. 1:25), "who changed the truth into a lie"; and such a preacher will worship Antichrist when he comes. You can mark that preacher as a false preacher.

God is jealous, especially in false worship. He hates idolatry. I would hate to have God against me for trying to make my-

(See **IMAGE** on page 20)



**NEA Hostile to Homeschoolers.** — The largest teachers union, the NEA (National Education Association), held its annual convention this summer in Los Angeles displaying its usual favoritism toward gays and feminists, hostility to parents, and support of liberal causes. NEA delegates passed a resolution demanding that children be permitted to be home-schooled only if their parents are licensed as teachers by a state education licensure agency. NEA endorsed all feminist goals, including abortion. — CC

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**Crime Rose After Gun Ban In DC.** — Crime got significantly worse in Washington, D.C. in 1976 after a handgun ban there. While handguns are banned for citizens in Washington, D.C., congressmen are allowed to have a gun for self-protection on the Capitol grounds. — CC

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**Globalism Governance.** — A United Nations that seeks to impose its presumed

## World News Roundup

authority on the American people, without their consent, begs for confrontation. A UN that serves the purpose for which it was designed, would not respect U.S. authority, since the UN was designed to be the framework for a future world government. David Rockefeller recently said: "We are on the verge of a global transformation. All we need is the right major crisis and the nations will accept the New World Order." — CC

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**Gay Dallas Mega-church to Join UCC.** — One of the nations' largest homosexual churches has voted to become a member of the liberal United Church of Christ. Rev. Jo Hudson is the church's pastor. The 4,300-member Cathedral of Hope, was formerly the flagship congregation of the Metropolitan Community Churches until it left in 2002. — CC

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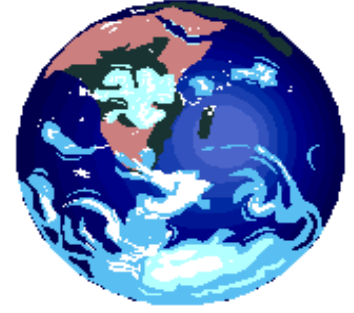
**Actress Jane Fonda.** — Actress Jane Fonda, whose conversion to Christianity was reported in 2000, distanced herself from "fundamentalists" in a recent interview. Fonda told *New York Post* columnist Liz Smith that she is a "feminist Christian" who regards the Bible as a

metaphor, "written by people a long time after Christ died, and interpreted by specific groups." She said she reads extra-biblical gospels and is still searching for a church. — Virtue Online.

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### T-Shirt Flap Pits Jihadists Against Sunday School Teachers.

— Three Indonesian women sen-tenced to prison for the "Christianization" of Muslim children have lost their appeal, and observers of the courtroom drama blame Muslim extremists who threatened to kill the judges if they didn't hand down a guilty verdict. The case is seen as a disturbing sign of the spread of radical Islam in Indonesia, a popular tourist destination known for having a large, moderate Muslim population and for being an important ally of the United States in the war on terror. The controversy began on May 13 when medical doctor Rebekkah Zakaria and two of her friends were arrested and charged with "Christianization" of several Muslim children who attended their "Happy Week" Sunday school class. The Muslim children were required to get permission from their parents to attend the class, and those without permission were sent home, according to the women's



attorney, Pasma Radjaguguk. The charges were brought by a government-funded council of Muslim clerics. According to the U.S. State Department, the women were charged after community members complained that free pencil boxes and T-shirts were given to the children. When the trial began on June 30, truckloads of jihadists thronged the district court of Indramayu demanding that Zakaria and her two co-defendants be killed. They reportedly brought coffins to the courthouse to underscore the threat. "Hang them! Hang them! Hang Rebekkah!" the crowd shouted. "If Rebekkah asks forgiveness and enters Islam, will you forgive her?" a protest leader asked while shouting through a megaphone. "No! No! Punish her! Kill Rebekkah! Hang her!" the crowd responded. The threats and the ensuing chaos were caught on a chilling video obtained by a Christian aid organization.

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### Judge Bans "Jesus" From Legislative

(See WNR on page 11)

# La Voz Del Desierto

## ¿Por Qué Debemos Congregarnos?

Por M. A. Curet

**En primer lugar** debemos congregarnos, porque es un mandato directo de Dios (Salmo 50:5; Hebreos 10:22-25. *“No dejando de congregarnos, como algunos tienen por costumbre, sino exhortándonos; y tanto más, cuando veis que aquel día se acerca”* (Heb. 10:25). Por ésto podemos inferir que Dios no dijo que cuando faltemos una vez a la Iglesia eso es pecado; sino que de hacerse al hábito de no congregarnos, eso se convertiría en pecado. De no congregarnos se hace hábito muy fácil, por eso tenemos que tener mucho cuidado.

**En segundo lugar** debemos congregarnos, porque Dios quiere que los creyentes se congreguen para su bienestar espiritual:

1) *Heb. 10:22* “*acercuémonos*” a Dios, el cristiano es espiritual por su relación con Dios.

2) *Heb. 10:23*: “*Mantengamos firme,*” el cristiano es cristiano por su fe en Cristo. En estos dos puntos principales, el cristiano se edifica por su interacción con la Iglesia.

3) *Heb. 10:24*: “*considerémonos unos a otros para estimularnos el amor y a las buenas obras,*” ¿dónde? en la Iglesia.

4) *Heb. 10:25*: “*sino exhortándonos,*” la relación entre cristianos en la Iglesia es lo que hace firme su fe en Dios, y lo hace más espiritual al sentirse más cerca de Dios.

Los recién convertidos a Cristo, reciben ayuda de los maduros en la fe. Los maduros crecen y son edificados por ayudar a los inmaduros. Nuestra obligación primaria es ayudar a los hermanos en la fe (Gál. 6:10). Algunos se preguntarán, ¿por qué no puedo adorar a Dios en mi casa, a solas? Dios ha puesto la clave de adorarle y alabarle en la relación entre los hermanos, y esto se logra especialmente cuando se reúnen como Iglesia, para hacer los pro-

pósitos de Dios oficialmente (Mateo 18:20).

Hay cristianos que no ven la necesidad de reunirse en la Iglesia. Ellos piensan que cumplen con todo por solamente juntarse con otros cristianos en cualquier lugar (se van al parque o a comer con otros cristianos), y piensan que esto ya es suficiente. Aunque en la pasaje anterior dice que Dios está en medio de un grupo de creyentes, también *el asunto de la reunión es para congregarse en el nombre de Dios para hacer los propósitos de Dios de manera formal* (reunión en el Templo para Servicios de Adoración).

**En tercer lugar** debemos congregarnos, como parte de nuestra obediencia a Dios. La obediencia a Dios en otras áreas depende en obedecerle al congregarse. Para cumplir con muchos man-

damientos de Dios tenemos que estar en la Iglesia. En Efesios 4:11-12, dice que el Señor puso en la Iglesia personas que tienen dones de parte de Dios (don de predicar, enseñar, pastores y maestros, etc.), para beneficio del cristiano. No podemos beneficiarnos de estas personas con dones espirituales, si no estamos regularmente donde ellos ejercen sus ministerios, que es en la Iglesia local. Los creyentes estamos en una guerra espiritual, y es en la Iglesia local donde nos equipamos para ganar la victoria. Cuando nos ausentamos a la Iglesia, perdemos las bendiciones que Dios proveyó para nuestro beneficio, ese día.

¿Quién saca el mayor provecho cuando no somos capacitados y animados para la guerra contra el pecado y contra Satanás? ¿No es Satanás mismo? Veamos: Hebreos 3:13. En Gálatas 6:2 dice: “*Sobrelleved los unos las cargas de los otros, y cumplid así la ley de Cristo.*” Ahora, ¿cómo podemos cumplir con estos mandamientos de Dios sin congregarnos con

### El Editor Estará en Arroyo, Puerto Rico

Si Dios quiere, estaré con la Iglesia Bautista El Redentor en Arroyo, Puerto Rico el día 11 de Enero para el 15 aniversario de la Iglesia y para los servicios en domingo 15 de Enero.

(Vea CURET en la pág. 10)

## El Modo Fácil Y El Modo Difícil

Por Hno. Galo Rodríguez, Redactor

Puedes estar seguro de que dondequiera que Dios te guíe, Él es capaz de guardarte. Él jamás permite que nos venga algo que no podamos soportar (1ra. Cor. 10:13). Lo que sea que ordene. Él paga la cuenta. No tenemos que vivir en una lucha constante se aprendemos a apoyamos en Él continuamente, para tener la fuerza que necesitamos.

Si sabes que Dios te ha pedido que hagas algo, no retrocedas sólo porque se hace duro (Éxo. 13:17). Cuando las cosas se hagan difíciles, pasa más tiempo con Él, apóyate más en Él y recibe más gracia de Él (Heb. 4:16). La gracia es el poder de Dios que viene a ti, sin que te cueste nada, para hacer por medio de ti lo que tú no puedes hacer por ti mismo. Cuídate de pensamientos como: “*No puedo hacer esto, es demasiado duro.*”

Algunas veces Dios nos conduce por el camino difícil en lugar del fácil, porque está obrando en nosotros. ¿Cómo podemos aprender alguna vez a apoyarnos en Él, si todo lo que viene a nuestras vidas es tan fácil que podemos

lidiar con ello nosotros mismos? Dios guió a los hijos de Israel por el camino largo y difícil porque eran todavía cobardes, y Él tuvo que obrar en ellos a fin de prepararlos para la batalla que tendrían que enfrentar en la tierra prometida.

La mayoría de la gente piensa que entrar en la tierra prometida significa el fin de las batallas, pero no es así. Si lees los relatos de lo que sucedió después que los israelitas cruzaron el río Jordán y fueron a tomar posesión de la tierra que les habían prometido, verás que libraron una batalla tras otra. Pero ganaron todas las batallas que libraron con la fuerza de Dios y bajo su dirección. Dios los guió por la ruta más larga y difícil aunque había una más corta y fácil, porque Él sabía que ellos no estaban listos para las batallas que tendrían que enfrentar para poseer la tierra. A Dios le preocupaba que cuando vieran el enemigo podrían huir a Egipto, así que los llevó por el camino difícil para enseñarles quien era Él, y que ellos no podían depender de si mismos.

Cuando una persona

está atravesando un momento difícil, su mente quiere darse por vencida. Satanás sabe que si puede vencernos en nuestra mente, puede derrotarnos en lo que hacemos. Por eso es tan importante no desalentarnos, cansarnos y desmayar (Gál. 6:9-10).

### Poniendo A Dios Primero

El Dr. Lyman Abbot estaba viajando por un distrito que había sido devastado por un gran incendio. Este territorio estaba poblado, de modo principal, por puritanos sinceros.

Había muchas casas improvisadas, construidas de troncos de árboles, y también cobertizos en los que vivía de momento la gente para resguardarse del frío de alguna forma. Pero el Dr. Abbot se quedó sorprendido al ver un magnífico edificio construido de ladrillos, que destacaba por contraste con todos los demás en los alrededores. Como respuesta a su pregunta se le informó que aquel edificio de ladrillos era el templo de la iglesia.

“¿Cómo” inquirió, “¿Entonces el templo no quedó afectado por el fuego?”

“Oh, si,” le contestaron, “quedó completamente destruido. Este es el templo nuevo. Lo hemos reconstruido antes que nuestras casas.” □ □

CURET . . .  
(Vino de la pág. 9)

otros cristianos en Su Iglesia? ¿Cómo podemos sobrellevar las cargas de nuestros hermanos si no sabemos nada de ellos, porque no nos congregamos?

El Culto de Oración de media semana, los miércoles, nos provee la oportunidad para que podamos compartir *los unos las cargas de los otros*. Pero ¿cómo puede ésto hacerse realidad en nuestras vidas si no nos congregamos? ¿Cómo, cuándo, y en dónde debe hacerse ésto, si no es en la Iglesia local? Para que ésto se pueda cumplir, hay que estar en la Iglesia.

En resumen, es importante reconocer que tenemos que congregarnos para poder darle la gloria a Dios siempre en Su Iglesia (Efesios 3:21). □ □

### Islam Enemigo #1 De América

El Pastor Marc Monte compara el Corán con la Biblia en su tesis de 69 páginas, y concluye que la “religion del Islam según presentada en el Corán es una religión de odio. El Corán es en si mismo la pieza literaria más significativa que se haya conocido en el mundo. Las enseñanzas de Mahoma son responsables por más muertes que las causadas por Hitler, Stalin, y Musolini combinados.”

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

**Prayers.** — A federal judge ruled Nov. 30 that “Ministers who open Indiana legislative sessions with prayer must refrain from praying ‘in the name of Jesus’ and from using Christ’s name ... In his 60-page decision U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton cited Supreme Court precedent in ordering Speaker of the House Brian Bosma to keep future ministers from using Christ’s name or title or any other denominational appeal.’ The prayers, Hamilton wrote, must be ‘non-sectarian.’ ... A lawsuit was brought against Bosma by the Indiana Civil Liberties Union — the Indiana affiliate of the ACLU — on behalf of four Indiana citizens. — BP

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**AFA Changes Banks Over Gay Activism.** — “Corporate America is falling victim to homosexual activism and Christian consumers need to take a stand ...” said James Dobson, chairman of Focus on the Family (FOF). He was joined by FOF President and CEO Jim Daly to explain why the ministry will no longer do business with its long-time bank, Wells Fargo. More and more top companies are contributing money to gay causes or are adopting corporate policies which

subvert traditional family values — such as providing same-sex couples with marital benefits.

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**SBC Foreign Mission Board Approves Alien Immersion for Its Missionaries.** — The International Mission Board (IMB) “declares that candidates must have been baptized in SBC-affiliated churches or have received believer’s baptism by immersion in another denomination or non-denominational church. If the candidate received baptism in another tradition, it must be viewed as symbolic rather than sacramental or regenerative. Also, the church or denomination in which the baptism took place must adhere to the doctrine of the “security of the believer,” or the belief that one cannot lose one’s salvation.” — ABP

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**Federal Court Rejects Intelligent Design Curriculum.** — A Pennsylvania school system may not include intelligent design in its science curriculum, a federal court judge ruled on Tuesday. The ruling said intelligent design is not a scientific concept. The ruling is a victory for the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania and Ameri-

cans United for Separation of Church and State, which argued that intelligent design is religion in disguise. They sued the Dover Area School Board on behalf of parents who objected to having intelligent design taught as an alternative to the theory of evolution. Intelligent design says an intelligent cause rather than natural selection explains the origins of life.

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**California State University 2, Christianity 0** — For the second time in two weeks, Christianity is on the losing end of a decision made by officials from the California State University system. Some students from Cal State at San Bernardino have been told that forming a Christian group is “not permissible” at the university because it restricts membership based on religious beliefs and sexual orientation. Last week, an administrator from Cal State at Sacramento banned decorations pertaining to Christmas and the 4th of July, among other holidays, from her office because, she said, they represented “religious discrimination” and “ethnic insensitivity.” In the San Bernardino case, the Christian Student Association (CSA) proposed a constitution in order to be recognized by Cal State officials. In it, the CSA agreed to accept the school’s demands about not

discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender and physical disability, but rejected non-discrimination requirements regarding religious beliefs and sexual orientation. The student group insisted that members “must be Christians who have professed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.” It added that membership could be revoked “for misconduct or violation of the statement of faith,” including “historical Christian heresy [and] engaging in sexual activity outside the bounds of marriage.” All students were invited to attend group meetings and events without being members, according to the constitution, but only members could vote on group policy. But in an Oct. 3 memo to the CSA’s Ryan Sorba, Cal State San Bernadino student affairs director Christine Hansen wrote that the student group “could not discriminate against potential members because of their status as a non-Christian or as a homosexual.” Hansen told Cybercast News Service that the university does recognize several religious clubs, including the Jewish group Hillel and “a couple other sort of non-denominational Christian groups besides the one that Mr. Sorba is trying to start.” But she said Sorba’s proposal violated university and state policies. □

**CROSS . . .**

(Continued from page 2)

*mother!*" Mary was not the mother of God. The eternal God has no mother. She was the mother of the human body of Jesus. Here He severs that relationship forever and turns her over to the beloved disciple, John, who was to see to her care. It must have been a heart breaking word to Mary. Tradition says that she fainted. But she found it was far more wonderful to be the daughter of the Christ than the mother of Jesus. Amen and amen!!!! Jesus was saying to John that He wanted him to be the substitute for the Substitute. You see, our Lord was dying as John's Substitute for sin; He was fulfilling all of the types in the various sacrifices of the Levitical system. So, as He gave Himself as the Substitute for John's sin, He was assigning John to be His substitute here in this life. And He purposes the same for all of us who have been purchased by His Precious Blood. As the poet has said;

"Christ has no hands but  
our hands

To do His work today,

He has no feet but our  
feet

To lead men in His way,

He has no tongue but our  
tongues

To tell men how He died,

He has no help but our  
help

To bring them to His  
side."

(4) "*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*" This word came at the close of the three hours of darkness (from 12:00 noon till 3:00 P.M.). Oh, it was during this time that the seed of the serpent bruised the heel of the Seed of the woman, and the Seed of the woman bruised the head of the seed of the serpent. Literally, Jesus said: "My God, my God, why hast thou totally abandoned me while I am down under and in the midst of hostile circumstances." His physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual sufferings were beyond the comprehension of our finite, human minds. He suffered all Hell for all sins, for all sinners, the Hell that we would have had to suffer for all eternity in the lake of fire and brimstone. The darkness of those three hours surely speaks of the outer darkness in the charred walls of the damned.

(5) "*I thirst.*" The One Who had said that those who are thirsty are invited to come unto Him and drink was now thirsty. He thirsted that sinners might have their thirst quenched at the Fountain of the Waters of Life. They tell us that those who died on the cross became so thirsty that their tongues would swell and protrude from their mouths.

(6) "*It is finished.*"

Here our Lord Jesus used the word, "*tetelestai*"; it is a word of accomplishment, satisfaction, and victory! It could be translated: "It stands Finished." In exclamation, it might be said: "Done!", being sure that the idea of perfection is included.

The full meaning of the word is: "It was finished and as a result is forever done." *Tetelestai* was the word the farmer used when there was born into his herd an animal so shapely, beautiful, and healthy that it seemed to be without defects and fault. *Tetelestai* was the word the sculptor or the painter used when the last finishing touches had been put on the sculptured material or the painting, and it seemed that nothing called for improvement or correction. *Tetelestai* was the word that the priest used when the devout worshipper brought a lamb without blemish, a male of the first year (according to God's instructions in Exodus 12:5), to be offered as a sacrifice. *Tetelestai* is the word that takes on its greatest significance when our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, offered Himself as the Lamb of God on the altar of Golgotha and used it to describe His Sacrifice for sins which was complete, stainless, perfect, once for all, eternal, finished, and done forever. Amen and amen!!!!

(7) "*Father, into thy hands I commend my*

*spirit.*" The Word says that as He uttered these words He bowed His head and gave up the ghost. Doctors and nurses tell us that when people are dying, they try to raise their heads for one more breath. He bowed His head. You see the sufferings did not take His life, ferocious though they were; He laid it down of Himself! Hallelujah! What a Savior!

What do we conclude about all this? There is no salvation in the churches, baptism, the Lord's Supper, human merits, human efforts, human gifts, or plans of men. Salvation is in Jesus Christ and in Him alone. We are not saved by any words or sacrifices that we make for God, but by the word and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary. Salvation is in Him and Him alone. We come to Him in repentance and faith (both of which He gives us) and are saved by grace through faith, plus nothing and minus nothing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us join the hymn writers in saying:

When I survey the  
wondrous cross

On which the prince of  
glory died,

My richest gain I count but  
loss,

And pour contempt on all  
my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I  
should boast,

(See **CROSS** on page 13)

**CROSS . . .**

(Continued from page 12)

Save in the death of Christ,  
my God;  
All the vain things that  
charm me most -  
I sacrifice them to His  
blood.

See, from His head, His  
hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow  
mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and  
sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich  
a crown?  
Were the whole realm of  
nature mine,  
That were a present far too  
small:  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life,  
my all.

There is a fountain filled  
with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's  
veins,  
And sinners plunged  
beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains:

Dear dying Lamb, Thy  
precious blood  
Shall never lose its pow'r,  
Till all the ransomed church  
of God  
Be saved to sin no more."

Some years ago a  
Japanese student, who was  
a Buddhist, enrolled in  
Columbia University. He  
decided that while he was  
in the United States he  
would go to church and see

what comparisons and  
contrasts exist between  
Buddhism and Christianity.  
So, He began attending the  
Riverside Baptist Church in  
New York City. At that  
time, Dr. Harry Emerson  
Fosdick was the pastor. Dr.  
Fosdick was a liberal  
theologian. He could  
preach; yes, he could  
weave a web around an  
angel of light. I repeat, he  
could preach, but he was a  
liberal theologian! I read a  
letter that he wrote in which  
he said that any preacher  
who believed in the literal,  
bodily resurrection of Jesus  
and in the personal return  
of Jesus to the earth to rule  
and reign was a back-  
woods' ignoramus. If that  
is the case, I plead guilty  
to being a backwoods'  
ignoramus.

The Japanese Buddhist  
went to hear Dr. Fosdick  
every Sunday for nine  
months, as he sought to  
compare and contrast  
Buddhism and Christianity.

He planned to return to  
Columbia University for  
summer school, but he had  
a change of plans and went  
to the University of Toronto  
instead. In those days, Dr.  
T.T. Shields was pastor in  
Toronto, Canada. While  
there he went to hear Dr.  
Shields with the same  
purpose with which he had  
gone to hear Dr. Fosdick  
in New York. Dr. Shields  
was a conservative Bible  
believer. He preached the  
Bible in the power of the  
Holy Spirit. The Buddhist  
went to hear Dr. Shields  
Sunday morning, Sunday

night, and, then again, on  
Wednesday night. He saw  
a great difference in the  
preaching than that which  
he had heard in New York.

At the close of the  
service on Wednesday  
night, he asked an usher  
what he would have to do  
to get an appointment with  
Dr. Shields. The usher told  
him that he would not have  
to do anything, and then  
simply escorted him to Dr.  
Shield's study.

The Japanese student  
told this great preacher  
what had happened in New  
York and there in Toronto  
as he had attended church.  
He said, "There is little  
difference, in principle, in  
the preaching of Dr.  
Fosdick and the teaching of  
my Buddhist priest in Japan.  
Dr. Fosdick, in preaching  
Christianity, says that if you  
do-do-do certain things and  
don't-don't-don't do certain  
other things, all will be well  
when you die. My priest in  
Japan also tells us to do-  
do-do certain things and  
don't-don't-don't do certain  
other things and all will be  
well when we die. It is true  
that the things they tell me  
to do and not to do are  
different, but, in principle,  
they are both saying, "do,  
do, do, and don't, don't,  
don't."

Then, as he continued,  
he said, "But, Dr. Shields,  
you preach that Christianity  
is something Jesus Christ  
has already done on the  
cross to make possible the  
forgiveness of all our sins."  
Dr. Shields assured the  
young man that he had

heard correctly. He em-  
phasized again how that  
we are all Hell-deserving  
sinners, how Jesus died,  
was buried, and arose again,  
and in so doing, He did all  
the work and made the only  
sacrifice which could ever  
forgive and save us from  
our sins. There, the  
Buddhist student knelt,  
wept, repented, and  
received our Lord Jesus  
Christ by faith as personal  
Savior. Hallelujah! What a  
Savior!

During his ministry,  
Dwight L. Moody, the great  
evangelist, left Chicago by  
train for a city-wide  
campaign on the west  
coast. The engineer on that  
train was a Mormon. When  
he heard that the famous  
Mr. Moody would be one  
of his passengers, he asked  
the conductor to request  
Mr. Moody to ride in the  
cab with him, saying that  
he would like to talk to this  
famous preacher.

When the conductor  
relayed the engineer's  
request to Mr. Moody, he  
gladly consented. All the  
way to Salt Lake City that  
engineer tried to make a  
Mormon out of Mr. Moody.  
However, he did not have  
any success.

As they neared Salt  
Lake City, the engineer  
said, "In Salt Lake City  
another engineer will take  
over and carry the train on  
to the west coast; so, I will  
have to leave you soon. But  
I do believe that you would  
make a wonderful Mormon

(See **CROSS** on page 14)

**CROSS . . .**

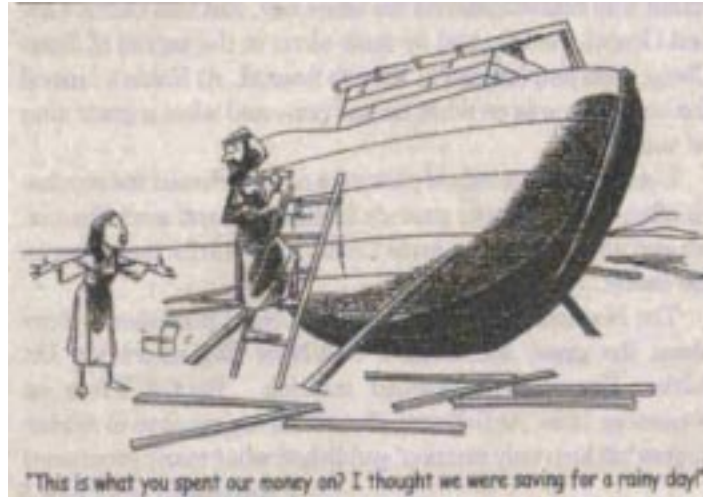
(Continued from page 13)

preacher and I would like very much to see you become one." Mr. Moody replied by saying, "Sir, I could never become a Mormon preacher. However, there is not much difference in your religion and mine, just two letters." The puzzled engineer said, "I do not understand. What do you mean?"

Mr. Moody then said, "Well, you spell your religion D-O, Do. You teach that if you do-do-do and perchance do enough, when you die, you may go to Heaven. My religion is spelled D-O-N-E, Done. It is not something we do; it was all done at Calvary through the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has done all that was necessary for my sins to be forgiven through His death, burial, and resurrection. So, I am going to Heaven on the merits of the finished work of Jesus Christ." Amen and amen!!!!

Jesus is the Savior; yes. He is the only Savior. Salvation is not an experience. Salvation is a Person. Sure, we have an experience with Him when we are saved, but the experience is not our salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ in Person is our salvation. He is God, and He is the only Saviour.

Jesus is "the sweetest Name on mortal tongue;



The sweetest carol ever sung,  
Jesus, Blessed Jesus."

And, finally, let me emphasize that

**JESUS IS LORD**

Yes, Jesus purposes to be Lord in the lives of those whom He saves. Many trust Him for salvation but refuse to yield to His Lordship. One of the secrets as to why there are so many unhappy Christians is that they have received Christ as Savior but not as Lord of their lives. Paul could say, "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ...." This word "servants" is our word bondslaves. They had not simply been saved, but had yielded and permitted Jesus to become Lord of their lives.

There is a heresy abroad today which teaches that Jesus saves sinners and implies that if they want to make Him Lord it will be fine, or if they prefer to go

on in their carnal ways that will be fine, too. The Bible knows nothing of such teaching. Jesus purposes to make real disciples out of all whom He saves and to be Lord of their lives.

Would it not be wonderful if all saved folk wanted to grow up, and go on making Jesus Lord of their lives with the same enthusiasm that boys and girls want to grow up? A little boy and girl have their sixth birthday, and even before the birthday cake is cut, should you ask them about their ages, the reply would be: "I am six going on seven." And those words, going on seven, would come out with emphasis. Oh, for Christians who will go on for Him making Him Lord of their lives. How about you?

Let me shoot a quiver full of interrogatory arrows into your heart. Has Jesus the supreme place in your desires? Do you esteem all things but loss in comparison with the excellency of Jesus Christ, your Lord?

Is He to you as a city of refuge to the manslayer? Is He to you as a spring of water in a dry place? Is He to you as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land? Is He to you, having had experience with Him, a refuge and fortress, a very present help in time of trouble? Is everything in Jesus desirable in your eyes? Do you desire to obey His commandments? Do you desire to have His spirit? Are His holiness and government, His cross and sufferings desirable to you? Are you longing at all times for Him? Have your eyes been opened to see His "want and worth?" Is His righteousness the righteousness you desire? Do you want to do His will — no matter what it may be? Are you willing for Him to dictate wholly your plans, actions, and speech?

Is He really your Lord? Is He Lord of your body? Is He Lord of your mind? Is He Lord of your influence? Is He Lord of your abilities? Is He Lord of your talents? Is He Lord of your job? Is He Lord of your pocketbook? Is He Lord of all your activities? Is He Lord of your home? Is He Lord of your recreation? Is He Lord of your dating? Is He Lord of your love, courtship, and marriage? Is He Lord of your dress? Is He Lord of your grooming? Oh, beloved, is He Lord in every area of your life? He

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purposes to be Lord in the lives of all those whom He saves!

I would that He were Lord in our lives to the extent that we could all say with the poet:

Had I a thousand lives to live

I'd live them all for Thee,  
Who once for me Thy life didst give,

O Lamb of Calvary!  
Bought with Thy Holy Precious Blood,  
I am no longer mine.  
Then take my life, Blest Son of God  
As Thine and only Thine.

Had I a thousand tasks to do,

I'd do them all for thee,  
If strength these labors to pursue  
Were given unto me.

It matters not if these my hands  
Hold scepter, spade, or pen  
Lord Jesus to Thy blest command  
I owe a glad 'Amen.'

Had I a thousand griefs to bear,

I'd bear them all for Thee,  
Rememb'ring well Thy anguished prayer  
In dark Gethsemane.

Thy grace makes sweet the Mara cup  
Each burden, pain, and loss  
Grows light when I in faith look up

To Thy victorious Cross.

Had I a thousand songs to sing,

I'd sing them all for Thee -  
Redeemer, Saviour,  
Shepherd, King -

To laud Thy majesty.  
Though psalms of earth cannot compare  
With anthems angels raise,  
Still would my tongue Thy praise declare  
In love divinest ways.

Had I a thousand gifts to bring,

I'd bring them all to Thee  
Each one a love filled offering

For all Thy love to me,  
While from the altar of my heart

Prayers' incense would ascend,  
And fragrance to each gift impart,  
For Thee my dearest Friend.

Had I a thousand deaths to die,

I'd die them all for Thee,  
If, dying, I could glorify  
The love that bled for me.  
Thy hand my feeble bark will take

O'er Jordan's rolling tide.  
When in Thy likeness I awake

I shall be satisfied.

Had I a thousand crowns to cast,

Blest Saviour at Thy feet,  
When I have reached my home at last,

My bliss would be complete!

Until I reach that shore divine,

O My Belov'd a smile of Thine

Is heav'n enough for me.

Oh, for this kind of consecration to our Lord Jesus! May we come with the humility of John the Baptist who could say that he was not worthy to loose or to unloose His shoes and that He must increase while he must decrease.

Let us yield, surrender, and dedicate our all to do His bidding, letting Him be Lord in every area of our lives.

And, sinner friend, would you behold Him! He is the Water, the Milk, the Bread, the Meat, the Honey, the Feast that your poor, dying, hungry, thirsty soul needs. The banquet is spread. Come, sinner, come!!!! Taste and see that the Lord is good!

In Him is the fullness of righteousness. In Him is the fullness of holiness. In Him is the fullness of faithfulness. In Him is the fullness of Deity. In Him is the fullness of wrath. In Him is the fullness of justice.

In Him is the fullness of power to put you in the lake of fire where you deserve to spend eternity. But praise God, there is also in Him the fullness of the love, the grace, the mercy, the pardon, the justification, the peace, the everlasting life which are all freely offered to you because of Calvary, because of the price He paid, because of His death, burial, and resurrection. Yes, in Him is the forgiveness of all of your sins. He invites you to come. He offers you life abundantly and eternally. He does not want you to perish, to go to Hell.

The best of saints compared to Jesus are but as dewdrops scattered on the Head of the Bridegroom, lost in the glory of His hair! In the language of the Song of Solomon: "His mouth is most sweet; yea he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved and this is my friend.... Come, sinner, come! Taste and see! He will be your Friend, your Beloved!

Repent as a sinner, and receive Him by simple faith! He will save you! Oh, let Him save you now! Jesus is God! Jesus is the only Savior! Jesus is Lord!

□

I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress. — Ronald Reagan

## Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

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### Swedish Pastor Acquitted For Speaking Against Homosexuality.

— On November 28, Pastor Ake Green, who was convicted two years ago under Sweden's hate crimes legislation, was acquitted by the nation's highest court. In a sermon preached before his congregation in the summer of 2003, the Pentecostal pastor denounced homosexuality as "abnormal," "something sick," and "a deep cancerous tumor in the body of society." He was subsequently arrested and charged with inciting hatred toward homosexuals. He was convicted in June 2004 (with a 30-day suspended prison sentence), but the conviction was overturned by an appeals court in February and that acquittal has now been upheld by the Supreme Court. In its ruling, the Court said Green's sermon was "protected by freedom of speech and religion" ("Swedish Anti-Gay Pastor Acquitted," BBC News, Nov. 29). One source stated that "the judge said from the bench that the only reason he was allowed to go free was because Sweden is now part of the European Common Market

and they set the laws for ECM counties."

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**New Pope Makes Pilgrimage To Mary Shrine and Urges Trust In Her "Maternal Protection."** — On October 29, Pope Benedict XVI made a pilgrimage to the Mary shrine at Mentorella, Italy, imitating a similar pilgrimage made by John Paul II on Oct. 29, 1978 (Catholic World News, Oct. 31). The shrine is blasphemously called Mother of Grace. The Scriptures teach that grace came by Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:16-17). Never does the Scripture teach that grace comes through Mary. On October 23, Pope Benedict urged "the faithful" to "resort in all circumstances to the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary, in order to progress ever more along the road of evangelical perfection" (Catholic News Agency, Oct. 24). The Major Mary church in Rome features a painting depicting Mary seated in the throne of God at the right hand of Jesus and being crowned Queen of the Universe. Outside of that church is a large

crucifix with Jesus on one side of the cross and Mary on the other.

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### Islamic Deception.

— The following is from The Berean Call, November 21: "Muslims can be masters of deception. Within Islamic culture is the accepted idea that lying is permissible provided it is performed against one's enemies. The following comments by an Australian journalist provide further detail. The article is titled "Taqiyya and Kitman: The role of Deception in Islamic Terrorism" — "Tradecraft. Persona. Deception. Disinformation. Cover: Western operational terms and techniques. But, Islamic terrorists have their own terms: taqiyya (pronounced tark-e-ya): precautionary dissimulation or deception and keeping one's convictions secret and a synonymous term, kitman: mental reservation and dissimulation or concealment of malevolent intentions. ... Taqiyya and kitman or 'holy hypocrisy' has been diffused throughout Arabic culture for over fourteen hundred years since it was developed by Shiites as a means of defence and concealment of beliefs against Sunni unbelievers. As the Prophet said: 'he who keeps secrets shall soon attain his objectives.' Taqiyya is common to both Shiite and Sunni Muslim discourse and has significant implications for understanding Islamic

fundamentalism and terrorist operations. The theory and practice of counter terrorism would be counter productive, indeed pointless, and even harmful, without reference to taqiyya and kitman and the crucial role of deception ranging from Islamic jurisprudence to Al Qaeda training manuals, which carry detailed instructions on the use of deception by terrorists in Western target countries. Sheik Taj el-Din al Hilaly, the controversial Grand Mufti of Australia, [was] enjoying lunch with his trusted assistant Keysar Trad. The journalist writing of the meeting with the Sheik noted: 'Several times, when direct responses to questions about passages in the Koran begged a simple yes or no, both men preferred to avoid the issues by talking about the difficulties of translating passages from Arabic to English.' The claim that difficulties in translating from Arabic to English make communication with non-Arab speakers difficult or impossible, is another form of outwitting. The tactical use of a translator offers considerable advantage"

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**Canadian United Church Approves Same-sex Marriages.** — The following is from Canadian Christianity, Nov. 22: "A

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United Church in Saskatchewan has agreed to perform same-sex marriages after a secret ballot. Members of the Lakeview United Church congregation in Regina voted 81-32 in favour of performing wedding ceremonies for couples regardless of sexual orientation, said Rev. Everett Hollis. Members of the roughly 500 families in the congregation were given the opportunity to share their opinions on same-sex marriage during information sessions held before the vote.”

\* \* \*

**Pope Says Non-believers Can Be Saved Even Without Faith In Jesus Christ.** — In his general audience on November 30, Pope Benedict XVI said that whoever “seeks peace and the good of the community with a pure conscience and keeps alive the desire for the transcendent,” will be saved even if he lacks biblical faith (“Nonbelievers Too Can Be Saved, Says Pope,” *Zenit*, Nov. 30). The Pope quoted Augustine, one of the “fathers” of the Catholic Church, who claimed that even pagan Babylonians would be saved if “they have a spark of desire for the unknown, for the greatest, for the transcendent, for a genuine redemption.” This, of

course, is pure heretical nonsense. The Lord Jesus Christ taught that men are condemned already because they are born estranged from God because of sin and that the only way to heaven is to be born again through faith in Him (John 3). The apostles taught the same thing. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

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**Death Penalty Milestone In America.** —

There have been 1,000 executions of convicted murderers in America since the Supreme Court allowed the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976. The 1,000th case was Kenneth Lee Boyd who received a lethal injection in North Carolina on December 2 for murdering his estranged wife and her father in March 1988. Death penalty opponents argue that the judicial system is not fail proof, yet death row inmates are allowed decades of reviews and appeals, all at taxpayer expense, while the loved ones of their victims suffer terribly. It is Almighty God who has commanded that murderers forfeit their lives, and this has been His law since the days of Noah. “Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image

of God made he man” (Gen. 9:6). Like anything else in this sin-cursed world, capital punishment has been misused and abused in unjust nations, but it remains the law of God. Even in this New Testament dispensation, the secular government is charged with bearing the sword against evil. “But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil” (Rom. 13:4).

\* \* \*

**Terrible Persecution Continues In North Korea.** —

The following is excerpted from “North Korea Crushing Churches,” *National Post*, Canada, Nov. 18: “A U.S. government report says North Korea is raising religious persecution to the same heights as ancient Rome. While the Romans threw Christians to the lions for sport, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom says North Korea’s leaders settle for snap trials followed by firing squads or simply crushing the heads of underground church leaders under a steamroller. . . . The reports says there are only three formal churches in North Korea’s capital, Pyongyang, but they are primarily for show and are visited only by foreigners and the elderly. Everywhere else,

the North Korean government is engaged in the forceful suppression of religious and intellectual life. Relying on eyewitness accounts from 40 recent refugees who fled to South Korea via China, the commission says North Korea has created a reign of terror to crush any religious belief that might challenge the god-like authority of leader Kim Jong Il. The mere possession of a Bible can bring a death sentence, while attending a secret under-ground church service can result in gruesome public executions. One eyewitness told commission investigators he witnessed five Christian church leaders being executed by being run over by a steamroller in front of a crowd of spectators. The underground church leaders were told, ‘If you abandon religion and serve only Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, you will not be killed,’ said the witness, a soldier in a local construction battalion. ‘None of the five said a word. Some of the fellow parishioners [who were] assembled to watch the execution cried, screamed out or fainted when the skulls made a popping sound as they were crushed beneath the steamroller.’”

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**Paganism In Lewis’s**

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**Chronicles of Narnia.** —

The following is excerpted from “The Paganism of Narnia,” November 24, CanadianChristianity.com: “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe comes to movie theatres December 9, and when it does, many Christians will be watching it eagerly to see if director Andrew Adamson has respected the story’s Christian elements. Some of us, however, will be watching just as closely to see if the film has preserved those bits in C.S. Lewis’s book that are a little more, shall we say, pagan. Presumably, the centaurs and fauns will look more or less like the mythological creatures depicted in ancient Greco-Roman art. But will, say, Mr Tumnus regale Lucy with stories of how the Roman god Bacchus filled the streams with wine when he feasted with the forest people? ... Narnia is liberated with help from Bacchus and his drinking buddy Silenus, figures from Greco-Roman myth who were associated with drunken, mystical celebrations in the forest called ‘bacchanals’. Bacchus and Aslan even dance together, along with Lucy, Susan, the nymphs and the maenads. And as they pass through Narnia, they destroy a boys’ school and a girls’ school where the children

are taught a politically approved form of ‘history.’ Lewis even seems to flirt with something like astrology. In more than one book, Narnian centaurs look for signs in the stars. In Dawn Treader, Eustace meets a man who is a ‘retired’ star, and says, ‘In our world, a star is a huge ball of flaming gas.’ The star replies, ‘Even in your world, my son, that is not what a star is but only what it is made of.’ Scenes like these might have been shocking to the early Christians, who saw themselves in direct competition with paganism, and sometimes condemned the gods as demons in disguise. ... To be sure, Lewis ‘baptized’ these pagan elements, by situating them in a context where Aslan, the Christ-like creator of Narnia, is firmly in control. When the dance with the maenads comes to an end, Susan says, ‘I wouldn’t have felt very safe with Bacchus and all his wild girls if we’d met them without Aslan.’ Lucy replies, ‘I should think not.’”

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**Beware of the Saddleback Philosophy.** —

The church growth philosophy is sweeping through most denominations and is even effecting fundamentalists; and in part it teaches congregations to reach the world with worldly music and methodologies. The

following is from the web site operated by Saddleback Community Church, a Southern Baptist congregation pastored by church growth guru Rick Warren of Purpose Driven Church fame: “[Teens] don’t need to wait until they are adults to make their life count! We use cutting edge videos, fun games and music that rocks to shatter the stereotype that church has to be boring. We offer an exciting church experience geared specifically for either your junior high or high school teens.” While churches need to reach teens with the gospel, and far too few are doing anything effective toward this end, this worldly methodology is certainly not the answer. God has commanded us not to love the world neither the evil things in the world and has warned that those who love the world are spiritual adulterers. How foolish, then, for churches to use the world’s sensual music for “evangelism”! A wise saying observes, “What you win them with, you win them to.”

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**Worship At Saddleback Any Worldly Way You Want It.** — Saddleback Church in southern California, where Rick Warren is senior pastor, features nine different “worship venues.” There is a worship style to suit every worldly taste. The Over-

drive venue is “for those who like guitar-driven rock band worship in a concert-like setting that you can FEEL.” The Ohana venue comes “complete with hula and island-style music,” and on the first Saturday of every month you can take hula lessons during the potluck following the service. The Country venue features line dancing. I didn’t make this up, folks. It is right from Saddleback’s web site. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17).

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**Rick Warren Likens Biblical Fundamentalists To Muslim Extremists And Atheistic Secularists.** — In his interview on Larry King Live on December 2, 2006, Rick Warren of Purpose Driven Life fame likened biblical fundamentalists to Muslim extremists and atheistic secularists. He said: “There are all kinds of fundamentalists, Larry, and they’re all based on fear. There are Christian fundamentalists.

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There are Muslim fundamentalists. I've met some Jewish fundamentalists. You know that there are secular fundamentalists. They're all based on fear. Secular fundamentalists are afraid of God." This statement is a vicious libel against Christian fundamentalists. George Dollar, in his history of fundamentalism, defined it in this way: "Historic fundamentalism is the literal interpretation of all the affirmations and attitudes of the Bible and the militant exposure of all non-biblical affirmations and attitudes" (Dollar, **A History of Fundamentalism in America**, 1973). Looking back over the fundamentalist movement since the 1930s, John Ashbrook defined it as follows: "Fundamentalism is the militant belief and proclamation of the basic doctrines of Christianity leading to a Scriptural separation from those who reject them" (John Ashbrook, **Axioms of Separation**, nd., p. 10). That is the type of fundamentalism that tens of thousands of churches throughout the world seek to emulate. Rick Warren has set himself up against this scriptural position and has likened it to Islamic terrorism and secular atheism. If fear is a central aspect of biblical fundamentalism it is the fear of God that leads to strict

obedience to His Word, and that is scriptural and right. That was exactly how Paul instructed the believers at Corinth to live: "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1). Paul instructed the church at Philippi to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). Hebrews 12:28 says we are to "serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." If Rick Warren does not have this fear, he is not a true Christian, and if he does, let him apologize publicly for saying that fear is a wrong thing and for likening those who practice it to dangerous extremists. I won't hold my breath, though. Friends in Christ, beware of Rick Warren. This popular Southern Baptist preacher is an extremely dangerous man.

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**Only One-third of "Clergy" In Scotland Believe In Hell.**

— According to a recent survey, only 37% of "clergy" in various denominations in Scotland believe in the existence of Hell. The survey, conducted by Eric Stoddart of St. Andrews University, examined the views of 750 randomly selected pastors and priests. In some parts of the country, the number

of "clergy" who believe in hell was less than 10%. Stoddart further observed that even among those who still believe in Hell, "the doctrine is downplayed" because "it isn't viewed as very politically correct even by a new generation of more theologically conservative ministers."

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**Homosexual "Marriages" Become Legal In the United Kingdom.**

— Homosexual couples in the United Kingdom can become legally "married" later this month. Hundreds of same-sex couples are flocking to registry offices across the country, including the rock star Elton John and his "long-term partner" David Furnish. The new civil partnerships law allows homosexuals to "marry" and grants them largely the same rights as heterosexual couples. Up to 22,000 couples are expected to register in the next five years. The London Times has begun including notices of homosexual wedding ceremonies and the Church of Scotland and Church of England allow ministers to conduct them.

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**Pope Makes Pilgrimage To Mary Shrine And Honors Mary As Sinless.** — On December 8, in celebration of the feast of the Immaculate

Conception, Pope Benedict XVI made a pilgrimage to the Mary shrine in Rome's Piazza di Spagna and venerated the statue there. The Pope said: "I deliver to the celestial mother of the Redeemer the anxieties and hopes of humanity." He prayed to Mary to bless men with her presence "in every moment of our existence." Obviously he believes that Mary is divine, for he is attributing characteristics to her and asking her to do things that only Almighty God can do. This Mary statue was erected by Pope Pius IX in 1854, the year that he declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, blasphemously claiming that Mary was conceived without sin. Earlier in the day on Dec. 8, during the papal mass, Pope Benedict recalled that during the Vatican II Council in the 1960s all of the bishops rose up spontaneously and applauded when they heard the words "Mariam Sanctissimam declaramus Matrem Ecclesiae," meaning "we declare Mary Most Holy as Mother of the Church."

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**Roman Catholics Persecute Pentecostals In Mexico.**

— The Roman Catholic majority in the village of San Nicolas outside the city of Ixmiquilpan, Mexico, are

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persecuting the Pentecostal minority. They used a backhoe to cut off Nicolasa Vargas' water when she and her husband did not attend the annual fiesta honoring St. Nicolas, the village's patron saint. When the Pentecostal congregation purchased land for a new church, the Catholic leaders blocked the road to the property with a bulldozer. Genaro Gutierrez, a high school teacher and one of the village leaders, said, "We told the evangelicals that they won't be holding any more meetings here" ("One Faith Fits All — or Else," Los Angeles Times, Dec. 15). This is only one example of the Roman Catholic persecution of Protestants and Baptists in Mexico. The Los Angeles Times observes, "From central Mexican villages like San Nicolas to the southern region of Chiapas, the steady growth of evangelical congregations has produced an angry backlash, with some Catholic lay leaders using their control of local communal assemblies to enforce religious tradi-

tions." The non-Catholics complain that communal leaders in rural Mexican towns and villages act like "dictatorial caudills" (strongmen). Those who do not attend the ceremonies venerating the Mary idols or who refuse to go on pilgrimages to Mary shrines are fined and harassed. Sheep do not harass and injure other sheep; it is wolves that engage in such tactics. **■**

**IMAGE . . .**

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self another God. In hell the drunkard will not receive as much punishment as those who make or sell pictures of a religious kind.

From the study of God's Word, I believe that the worst sin a man can commit is having a picture of what they call Christ, for it is dishonoring Him to try to bring Him to a level with sinful men. God is a Spirit, and you cannot see a spirit. He is glorified and not corrupt like sinful man would like Him to be. Man tries to justify himself in making pictures of his vain imagination. *The greatest honor that God did to*

*man was to make him in the image of Himself, and therefore the greatest dishonor that man can do to God is to make God in the image of his sinful self.*

In Numbers 33:52 they destroyed all their pictures, and in Acts 19:19 they burned them and mightily grew the Word of God. If you want to love a living God who can save to the uttermost, turn from pictures and trust a glorified God who is in the Spirit and who is above us and don't try to compare Him with man. He is above you; you can't compare Him, for He is so much better than your vain imaginations. Acts 16:31 says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," not when you see a picture. That is antichrist. "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold and silver and brass and stone and of wood, which neither can see nor hear nor walk" (Rev. 9:20). Here God classes the worshiping of pictures with the worship of devils, and God's wrath is on such.

"Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations" (1 Chr. 16:24). You see how wrong it is to use anything except God's Word. When a person is saved, he doesn't need anything else, for God's

Word is enough and he will love God's Word which is food to his soul. Nothing else will satisfy.

"Who hath formed a god or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing? Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they shall be ashamed together" (Isa. 44:10-11). Verse 10 says, "Profitable for nothing." God said, "Redeeming the time" (Eph. 5:16). The men that make them are sinful men, because if they were of God they would be ashamed of it. You discredit the power of God's Word when you use a picture; the Gospel is the power of God. God's Word has power in it. "If we receive the witness of men the witness of God is greater." Anyone who says they were saved by looking at a picture is a liar, for God's Word says, "By the foolishness of preaching." They have to be saved from that picture just as the drunkard must be saved from his drink, a sinner from his sins. No matter who you are, if you are not saved from your sin through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, you are deceived and the God you think you worship is the Antichrist, not the living God. "Make your calling election sure" for the time is short and many try to get into heaven but are deceived by Satan. **■**

**Watch out for temptation — the more you see of it, the better it looks!**

**"Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. — Mark 14:38**

SMITH . . .

(Continued from page 1)

of Rights. The First Amendment was written to allay the fears of some of the people concerning certain liberties, including freedom of religion. This Amendment reads as follows:

*“Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”*

Even though I do not attempt in this work to present a legal history of the First Amendment or even the religion clauses contained in the Amendment, I think it is important to note that application of the Amendment was limited to the federal government for about 150 years. The Supreme Court held in property rights case in 1833 and in a religious rights case in 1845 that the Bill of Rights did not apply to actions by the states or their political subdivisions.

Therefore, during this period, religious liberty was a matter for the states. A few of them had adopted official religions. However, after heated political battles in the states that had established official religions,

these states, one after another, withdrew official sanction of all official religions.

Religious freedom remained in the states' legal domain until the Supreme Court brought the First Amendment under the umbrella of the constitutional protection guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment. This occurred in 1940 when the Supreme Court held in a Jehovah's Witnesses case that the fundamental concept of liberty in the Fourteenth Amendment embraces the liberties guaranteed by the First Amendment. Since that time religious freedom issues have been federal legal problems, and there has been little unanimity of opinion in the federal courts on the interpretation of the religion clauses in the First Amendment.

Some of these volatile issues have been, and still are, when and where one may pray to God; what may or may not be taught in public schools; government financial aid to parochial schools; religious displays on government property; whether governmental legislative bodies may employ chaplains, pray and be led in prayer; whether gifts for religious purposes should be deducted from income taxes; whether property used for religious purposes should be taxed; whether courts should be opened with a plea for God's protection, whether ministers and ministerial

students should be exempt from military service; should God's name be used in oaths of office; should chapels be in government buildings; should displays of religious art be permitted in government buildings, et cetera.

Can anyone doubt that this list will continue to grow in the years to come?

The Supreme Court's decision in 1940 has caused an expanded dialogue which has increased litigation on the subject of freedom of religion. The right to participate in this dialogue and litigation is a precious right.

Even after many of these religious issues have been declared legal or illegal, the dialogue, often bitter, rages on, questioning or approving the courts' decisions. This situation is aggravated by the infighting between the Justices of the Supreme Court who criticize one another's opinions and in many instances in words of sarcasm and ridicule.

For examples, I refer to three of the most controversial cases.

In a 1962 New York case, the Supreme Court held prayer in public schools violates the First Amendment. Two Justices did not participate in the decision. Five Justices joined in the Court's opinion, one Justice filed a concurring opinion and one Justice filed a dissenting opinion. Here we find a divided Court with multiple

opinions.

In a 1963 Pennsylvania case, the Supreme Court held that reading from the Bible, without comment, and the reciting of the Lord's Prayer by students in unison violates the First Amendment. While joining in the decision, four Justices filed separate opinions and one Justice dissented. Here again we find a divided Court with multiple opinions. And now we have the Supreme Court's decision on June 4, 1985 striking down an Alabama moment of silent meditation statute, because it contained the word prayer. Once more we find a divided Court with multiple opinions. Justice Stevens wrote the opinion of the Court and was joined by Brennan, Marshall, Blackmun, and Powell. However, Justice Powell wrote a concurring opinion. Justice O'Connor filed an opinion concurring only in the judgment. Here is an interesting quote from her opinion:

*“No law prevents a student who is so inclined from praying silently in public school.”*

Justice Rehnquist's dissenting opinion included a detailed history of the religion clauses of the First Amendment.

Justice White filed a brief dissenting opinion in which he stated: “I appreciate Justice Rehnquist's explication of the

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history of the religion clauses in the First Amendment.”

Chief Justice Burger filed a dissenting opinion and I am constrained to quote his first two paragraphs:

“Some who trouble to read the opinions in this case will find it ironic — perhaps even bizarre — that on the very day we heard arguments in this case, the Court’s session opened with an invocation for Divine protection. Across the park a few hundred yards away, the House of Representatives and the Senate regularly open each session with a prayer. These legislative prayers are not just one minute in duration, but are extended, thoughtful invocations and prayers for Divine guidance. They are given, as they have been since 1789, by clergy appointed as official Chaplains and paid from the Treasury of the United States. Congress has also provided chapels in the Capitol, at public expense, where members and others may pause for prayer, meditation — or a moment of silence.

“Inevitably some one is bound to say that the Court’s holding today reflects a belief that the historic practice of the Congress and this Court

*is justified because members of the Judiciary and Congress are more in need of Divine guidance than are schoolchildren. Still others will say that all this controversy is ‘much ado about nothing,’ since no power on earth — including this Court and Congress — can stop any teacher from opening the school day with a moment of silence for pupils to meditate, to plan their day — or to pray if they voluntarily elect to do so.”*

Nine Justices participated in this case and six opinions were filed. This lack of consensus by the Court shrouds the religion clauses in the First Amendment with mystery as to meaning.

There is one thing I am certain of, no one can deny the fact that this on-going dialogue and litigation has led to the unquestioned right of the individual to choose a religion or no religion without interference by the Government at any level.

Even though the words “separation of church and state” do not appear in the First Amendment, these words constitute the phrase most often used in arguments and litigation (pro and con) concerning the relationship between government and religion. It is quite significant that while all these arguments and all this litigation have been going on, the citizens of our country have never

elected a person to lead the United States who has failed to publicly state his belief in and reliance on God. This should tell us all something about the vast majority of our people, something that we should think about, reflect upon, and cherish.

Yes, every President of the United States of America has publicly proclaimed his belief that Almighty God is our Creator and is the Ruler of the World.

As proof of this statement, I have selected from our Presidents’ public speeches and proclamations certain excerpts that are clear and unequivocal expressions of their faith in and reliance on God. Most of these excerpts have been selected from inaugural addresses, because of the solemnity of such ceremonies and the further fact that such speeches are among the most widely publicized of all presidential statements.

As I have stated, these articles are not a legal treatise on the First Amendment — they are a col-

lection of bits and parts of the history of our nation. In my opinion, the historical facts recorded in these articles prove that God is, indeed, in our Government.

These speeches and proclamations by our Presidents should be proof enough for anyone that God has always been and is in our Government. But, for the benefit of the unconvinced, I have cited certain official actions by our Government, facts from our history, as proof that God is in our Government and has been from the birth of our nation, in peace and in war.

Evidence, illustrated and demonstrated, since the birth of our nation, proving God’s presence and power in our Government is so abundant it cannot be assembled in one place or in this series of articles. For this reason, I have limited these articles to some of the most impressive and irrefutable bits and parts of this mass of evidence.

Read these articles and judge for yourself whether God is in our Government.

You can send your marriage to  
an early grave  
with a series of little digs.

“Death and life are in the power of  
the tongue: and they that love it  
shall eat the fruit thereof.” —  
Proverbs 18:21

# Early Revelation Among Men Before The Scriptures

By David Cloud

It is interesting to note that man knew a great many spiritual truths in the earliest days after the Fall and before the Bible began to be formed in the days of Moses. Acts 3:21 and Lk. 11:50 tell us there have always been prophets of the Lord to warn and instruct men. By considering several other Bible verses we can learn quite a lot about just what God's people knew in olden times.

**(1) Salvation.** They had revelation of substitutionary salvation. Abel's offering proves this. Abel was a prophet (Lk. 11:50-51) and offered by faith (Heb. 11:4). This means he offered according to God's Word, because "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

**(2) Savior.** They had revelation of the Redeemer who would come to the earth in the last days (Lk. 1:68-70). Job probably lived in the days before Abraham, and he knew about the coming Savior (Job 19:25).

**(3) Righteous Living.** Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Pet. 2:5).

**(4) Resurrection.** They had revelation of resurrection (Job 19:26-27).

**(5) Second Coming.** They had revelation of God

coming to judge wicked men. Enoch prophesied of this great truth (Jude 14-15), and he was Noah's great grandfather (Gen. 5:21-32).

**(6) The City of God.** They had knowledge of the prophetic city of God and His heavenly kingdom (Heb. 11:10, 16).

**(7) Restored Earth.** They had revelation of a restored earth (Acts 3:21).

We have seen that God has always spoken to men in great detail about salvation and future things. The world is in darkness today only because most men have consistently ignored the prophets of God. Cain ignored Abel. The people of Enoch's day ignored him. Noah's message was ignored. Most of Noah's grandchildren rejected the truth which had been taught by their fathers. Israel rejected its prophets. Most people today are rejecting the Gospel of Jesus Christ which has been preached to the ends of the earth for 2,000 years. For example, most parts of Asia today are in gross heathenism, but the reason lies in the historical rejection of the Gospel by Asian peoples. The first foreign missionary

(See CLOUD on page 24)

PAUL . . .  
(Continued from page 1)

states into relying on gambling for their state revenue;

I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership;

I would make it legal to take the life of unborn babies;

I would make it socially acceptable to take one's own life, and invent machines to make it convenient;

I would cheapen human life as much as possible, so that the life of animals are valued more than human beings;

I would take God out of the schools, where even the mention of His name was grounds for a law suit;

I would come up with drugs that sedate the mind and target the young, and I would get sports heroes to advertise them;

I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the mind of every family member for my agenda;

I would attack the family, the backbone of any nation. I would make divorce acceptable and easy, even fashionable. If the family crumbles, so does the nation;

I would compel people to express their most depraved fantasies on canvas and movie screens, and I would call it art;

I would convince the world that people are born homosexuals, and that their lifestyles should be accepted and marveled;

I would convince the people that right and wrong are determined by a few who call themselves authorities and refer to their agenda as politically correct;

I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out of date, and the Bible is for the naive;

I would dull the minds of Christians, and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional;

I guess I would leave things pretty much the way they are.     □□

Be careful that your marriage doesn't become a duel instead of a duet

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Romans 14:19

**CLOUD . . .**

(Continued from page 23)

work took place in western Asia by the Apostle Paul. The message of truth was largely rejected, and today most of western Asia continues to be in bondage to false religion. A strong tradition says the Apostle Thomas carried the Gospel to India and other parts of South Asia in the first century. His message was largely rejected by Asian people, and today the offspring of those Christ-rejecters continue to live in darkness and lies. It is not because God has not tried to give light! God has made every attempt to fill the world with light and is endeavoring to do so today through the Great Commission, but men love darkness rather than the light (Jer. 7:25-26; 25:4; Jn. 3:19).

**CASE . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

New Testament were Baptist churches and each was an independent Baptist church. Also, true New Testament churches have continued from New Testament times down to the present, and remained independent Baptist churches until comparatively recent times when organizations began to be formed called Associations, Conventions and Fellowships. Along with these super-church organizations were formed Mission Boards and Committees with Mission Directors and Secretaries, Clearing Houses and other such mission agencies, all of which are extra-Scriptural and not to be found in the Bible. [For a full in-depth study of this subject, read my book "**The Bible, The**

**Baptists, and The Board System.]**

In spite of the historical and Biblical evidence that New Testament churches were all independent Baptist churches and remained such for centuries, the advocates of the various organizations either claim or insinuate that independent Baptists are of recent origin. One organization, the World Baptist Fellowship, not only claims that they are composed of independent Baptist churches, but that their founder, Dr. J. Frank Norris, actually began *all* independent Baptist churches. Dr. Earl K. Oldham, editor of the **Arlington Baptist College Media** writes in the November 18, 1977 issue:

"I was privileged to sit at the feet of Dr. Norris as a student. I heard him preach some of the greatest messages that mortal man could preach anointed by the Holy Spirit. Fundamentalists must admit *that had it not been for Dr. Norris, humanly speaking, there would not be such a thing as independent Baptists.* He was the only one who seemed to have nerve enough to stand up against the powers that be. *He stood, and as a result others came out and independent Baptists became a reality. All of us who are independent Baptists, regardless of what fellowship we are in, owe our very existence to Dr. Norris, humanly speak-*

ing. We are what we are, and we have what we have because he dared to stand, and having done all to stand, he stood therefore."

If Dr. Oldham were to mean that Dr. Norris was the founder of the World Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist Bible Fellowship [since BBF is a split out of the WBF] there would be no argument, for it is true that Dr. Norris is the founder of the World Baptist Fellowship, but the statement "had it not been for Dr. Norris, there would not be such a thing as independent Baptists," is completely false. There have been independent Baptists and independent Baptist churches long before Dr. Norris came on the scene, and to make such a statement is completely dishonest.

In the reading of these articles, our readers will see that independent Baptists are Baptists who have remained faithful, true and loyal to the New Testament pattern of church truth by remaining independent of all earthly entanglements, alliances, and organizations, and that Baptist churches that have either joined or affiliated with the various organizations, are the ones who have departed from the principles for New Testament churches laid down in the New Testament.

[Next month: "Christ's Church" by Rosco Brong, Dean Lexington Baptist College, Lexington, Ky.]

What is a home without a Bible? 'Tis a home where daily bread for the body is provided, but the soul is never fed!