

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

VOL. XLIV, No. 5

May 2006

WHOLE NO. 498

Church Sovereignty

By L. H. Brown

Church sovereignty is by no means a new subject. It has been hashed and rehashed over and over again by outstanding scholars among Baptists as well as by scholars of other faiths. This subject is one among the many that can endure the hashing and rehashing of all theologians and still live. A few men dearly love this eternal

fundamental truth, while many men dearly hate it and do all within their power to destroy it.

Strange as it may seem, some leaders preach and teach Church Sovereignty loud and long and at the same time deny the churches their rights and privileges to exercise and enjoy their sovereignty.

To be sovereign means

to occupy the highest; to be most powerful; to be superior in position; to be independent of. This definition is according to the dictionary. Now arises the question. What does the Bible teach on the subject of Church Sovereignty? According to the dictionary, to be sovereign is to occupy the highest. In the Bible we find Jesus speaking to the

church and saying, "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Mt. 16:19). By no authority can it be said that any other organization, group or com- (See **BROWN** on page 21)

The Ten Most Wanted Men

1. The man who puts God's business above anything else.
2. The man who brings his children to church rather than sending them.
3. The man who is willing to be a right example to every boy he meets.
4. The man who thinks more of his Sunday School class than he does of his Sunday sleep.
5. The man who mea-

(See **10** on page 22)

Why The Name "Baptist"

By S. E. Anderson

The name "Baptist is a Scriptural name. It is found first of all in Matthew 3:1 which, like all Bible verses, is given by inspiration of God. John the Baptist is referred to immediately after "the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mt. 1:1).

In Luke his story begins with verse five and in John with verse six. Thus the Baptist stands at the very

threshold of the New Testament. The more honored name "Christian" is found only three times, and two of these are apparently used with scorn. Strange as it may seem, the name Baptist is always used with evident respect. John the Baptist won a great many converts to Christ. These were soundly

(See **NAME** on page 23)

What Prayer Does

It will sweeten home life and enrich home relationship as nothing else can do.

It will dissolve misunderstandings and relieve friction that may enter the home.

It will hold our boys and girls to the Christian ideal and determine their lasting welfare.

It will send us forth to our work for the day, in

(See **PRAYER** on page 22)

Quiz The Pastor -- #47

Is Bodily Healing In The Atonement?

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: Do you believe that bodily healing was provided for us in the death of Christ on the cross?

Answer: I do not believe the Bible teaches that healing of the body was included in the redemptive work of Christ on the cross. However, through the gospel which reveals the truth that "Christ died for our sins ... was buried ... and was raised again the third day" (1 Cor. 15:3-4), we are assured that every true believer is promised in the future complete freedom from all diseases and bodily affliction in the ultimate sense, just as he will in a future day be free from physical death, but none of these things are promised to us in this life, only in the "life to come" (Mk. 10:30).

In this life as children

and heirs of God, we have only "the earnest (down payment) of our inheritance" (Eph. 1:14), while "in the life to come" we will receive the fullness of our inheritance as the children of God (1 Pet. 1:4; Rom. 8:17, 21). It will be at that time we are promised there will be no more "tears ... death ... sorrow ... pain; for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

In this life, without exception, whether great or small, God's people still experience sicknesses of all kinds. The young preacher Timothy had to take a little wine as medication for his "stomach's sake and thine often infirmities" (1 Tim. 5:23). A dear "brother and companion in labor, and fellow soldier" with the Apostle Paul, "was sick nigh (near) death," and this

almost fatal sickness was brought about "because for the work of Christ" (Phil. 2:27, 30). Paul had to leave another brother named Trophimus in a place called Miletum because he was too ill to travel with him (2 Tim. 4:20). Paul himself fell victim to a devastating body ailment he had to live with (2 Cor. 12:7). There are others, of course, as each of us can testify as we make contact with our fellowman and witness sicknesses and diseases on every hand. Even those misguided preachers who claim First Peter 2:24 as a sure promise for bodily healing, find themselves on sick beds and under the surgeon's scalpel to their embarrassment. Naming them will not benefit anyone, so we will refrain.

With these truths in mind, we want to look at First Peter 2:24 where we read, "by whose stripes ye were healed." The Greek word here for "stripes" means a "wound" or "bruise." The wounding or bruising mentioned here is "not referring to Christ's scourging, but is figurative of the bruise or stroke of divine justice administered vicariously on Him on the cross" (W.E. Vine). There is no mention of bodily illness or bodily healing in the context of First Peter 2:24.

These same words are found in the Old Testament in Isaiah 53:5 where descriptive language is once again used to picture our

Savior hanging on the cross suffering the "bruising" at the hand of the Father (Isa. 53:10). It is written that "Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor. 15:3), but nowhere do we read Christ died for our sicknesses.

Does God heal today? Surely He does, but promised healing of the body is not found in the redemptive merits of Calvary compared with salvation from the penalty of sin as found at the cross. It is error to teach that it is. The "healing" (1 Pet. 3:24; Isa. 53:5) provided by Christ's death on the cross for the penitent believer is of a spiritual nature within man and is not pertaining to the body. The "healing" is actually life-giving because the lost are said to be "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1; Jn. 5:24; 6:53; 2 Cor. 5:14) and cut-off from the life of God (Eph. 2:18).

The Holy Spirit uses Isaiah to describe Judah and Jerusalem in their woeful back-slidden condition before the Lord as "the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it, but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores" (Isa. 1:5-6). There is nothing pertaining to the physical body here, for it was God's way of figuratively describing the condition of a sin-laden, sin-sick kingdom. If this drastic

(See **NICK** on page 24)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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



God's Masterpiece — Man's Body — #36

The Precious Serum of Old Dobbin

By Arthur I. Brown

I have been discussing with you certain diseases and the methods to protect and cure the human body. You will desire to know the method of securing animal serum which contains the antibodies, or antitoxins, which are curative and produce passive immunity, or speedy cure, in the bodies of infected individuals. As diphtheria antitoxin is typical of other serums, I will describe its preparation.

As the first step in the process, it is necessary to secure the toxin produced by the diphtheria bacilli. The way this is done is to grow a pure laboratory culture of the bacilli in the proper solution. The growth of the bacteria is accompanied by the liberation of the diphtheria toxin into the nutrient solution, just as occurs in the tissues of the body. The increasing strength of the toxin can be determined from time to time by injecting a measured amount into a guinea pig of standard weight, and noting the time it takes to kill the animal. This unit of toxicity, known as the Minimum Lethal Dose (M.L.D.) is the least amount that will kill a standard guinea pig in a certain time. When the

strength of the toxin has reached the desired standard, the diphtheria organisms are killed, and then filtered off from the nutrient solution in which they have grown, and that now contains the diphtheria toxin.

The next step involves the transfer, over a period of some days, of measured amounts of the toxin to the horse. Only a comparatively small dose of this extremely powerful poison can be tolerated at first, but as the tissues react and the antibodies continue to be formed, the amount of diphtheria toxin injected can be safely and gradually increased. When the antitoxin in the horse's blood reaches its maximum strength, the horse is bled. Several quarts of blood containing the diphtheria antitoxin can be taken from the animal without injury. Then the blood corpuscles are removed, leaving the plasma, which clots, and leaves the serum. The blood corpuscles thus removed are usually restored to the horse's circulatory system. The experimental animals are not injured, so that the horses may be used for years in the production of

antitoxin. There is no need to feel that the horse suffers from the treatment accorded him.

The New York Times published an interesting account of one of these public benefactors. It said: "Old Doc Dobbins, a large black work-horse, whose life was considered a notable contribution to public health is dead. He died suddenly today in his stable at a biological laboratory where he was employed to supply antitoxin material for the treatment of children against diphtheria. 'Old Dobbin,' a native of the Western Plains, was twenty-one years old. During his lifetime his blood has supplied antitoxin for the treatment of more than 41,000 children. Two years ago, he was the guest of honor at a birthday party attended by school children of the city. At that time Old Dobbin was escorted to a table decorated with apples and a huge cake decked with candles. Greeted with 'Happy Birthday' and congratulations, Dobbin munched a big red apple while high praise was being heaped on him.

"A twelve-year-old bay, known as Mickey, has been

chosen as the successor of Old Doc at the farm where 150 horses are kept for making antitoxin, the successor to 'Old Doc' is gentle in spite of his weight of nearly 1,400 pounds, and has been on the laboratory farm for five years."

These are interesting stories about animals which are contributing to the health of humans, and apparently enjoying their life-work. They are in the same category with human blood-donors who have been so necessary in days of war.

I have mentioned some of the mechanical defenses of the body, and perhaps a few additional facts ought to be given. These devices — protective in their action and working automatically — are, in every way, strong evidence of a Supreme Intelligence.

If a foreign body enters the nostril it produces a tickling sensation which is followed by a sneeze. A sensory nerve ending situated in the mucous membrane of the nose has been irritated and stimulated; the message of annoyance has been carried to the base of the brain,

(See **BODY** on page 13)



The Gospel of Judas is all over the news. It has been hugely promoted by the National Geographic Society, which funded its reconstruction and translation, and has been trumpeted by practically every major news publication in the world. USA Today's front-page headline is typical: "Long-lost gospel of Judas casts 'traitor' in new light."

Until recently this gnostic gospel was thought to have been lost and was known only through Irenaeus' late second century condemnation thereof in his *Refutation of All Heresies*, but a copy from the third or fourth century that was found in Egypt a few decades ago was purchased and restored. The translation of the fragmentary writing was published on April 6.

The Gospel of Judas presents Judas in a positive light as the only disciple who truly understood Jesus and who betrayed Him only because he was asked to

do so.

According to Irenaeus, it was produced by the Egyptian Cainite Gnostics who claimed that Cain, Esau, the Sodomites, Korah, Judas, and other villains of biblical history were actually enlightened heroes who valiantly kept the gnosis or knowledge of the truth alive.

According to this cult, a god named Hystera created the world and another deity called "Sophia" allegedly assisted the afore mentioned people (*Refutation of All Heresies*, book I, chapter 31, <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf01.ix.ii.xxxii.html>).

The Gospel of Judas begins with the words, "The secret account of the revelation that Jesus spoke in conversation with Judas Iscariot." Jesus allegedly tells Judas that the world was created in a manner different than the account in Genesis and that "an evil god named Nebro rules the lower world of humans." Judas is the "thirteenth spirit" who was appointed to release Jesus from the physical body in which he was trapped. The Jesus of the Gospel of Judas laughs a lot, even laughing at the way the disciples pray and praise God. In this strange

writing it is Judas rather than Jesus who is glorified by entering a "luminous cloud."

The Gnostic Jesus described in the Gospel of Judas is not Almighty God or the Creator of the world, does not die for man's sin, and does not rise bodily from the dead. It is no gospel at all.

Egypt was a hotbed of heresy and fanaticism in the early centuries after Christ. Many other strange "gospels" originated there, including the Gospel of Thomas that purports to give details of Christ's childhood (such as giving life to a dried fish and causing the death of one of his playmates).

Egypt also gave us the Sinaiticus and Vaticanus codexes and the handful of similar New Testament manuscripts that contain an Alexandrian type of text preferred by modern textual critics and the

translators of the modern Bible versions. (See our book *Faith vs. the Modern Bible Versions* for documentation of the heretical nature of these manuscripts.)

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4).

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Pet.2:1-2). □

The Gospel of Judas More Heretical Trash From Egypt

By David Cloud

**It's good to be a Christian
and know it, but it's better to
be a Christian and show it!**

John 13:35



We have all wondered from time to time why many young people are so disrespectful and rebellious in our day. Many do not respect their parents, their teachers, their bosses, and even themselves. What has happened that makes some of our youth so disrespectful and rebellious? Let me count the ways.

1. The Sexual Sixties — This was a decade of outward rebellion by many youth. The music from Europe invaded our shores with the long-haired hippies called “The Beatles.” Their songs and their philosophy of life invaded the gathering places of our youth. They accepted the liberal philosophy of doing whatever felt good. They swallowed the corresponding liberal thoughts of many college and university professors of that decade. More changes took place in this decade than any for the past 140 years. The culture took a fast-paced dive downward, and much disrespect was learned during this time when young people were expressing

themselves in rebellious ways. The government was called “the Establishment,” policemen were called “Pigs,” and the expressions “If it feels good, do it,” and “free love” came to be popular. Colleges became centers of debate rather than teaching institutions.

2. Clothing — In the 1950’s people wore clothes that fit them and had mostly solid and plain colors for men and pretty colors for women. In the 1960’s, the women began to wear more and more clothing that was in the past mainly fitted for men. Also, men began to wear clothing that had subtle and pastel coloring, such as pink, purple, yellow, and clothing with flowers, lines and squares. Someone once said, “You are what you wear”; and I think this may not be too far from the truth. Later, the casual look came into popularity. Today, to be dressed with shirt and tie is considered almost taboo or “stuffy.” The “come-as-you-are” attitude now prevails, and people have lost much respect for authority in our day, especially for visiting the house of God.

3. Government Involvement — (A) The government became more involved in our lives during the sixties. The book “Equality of Education

Opportunity” led to forced integration and busing in the 1970’s. (B) The Supreme Court decided in “Engel vs Vitale, 370 U.S. 421”, in 1962 that prayer in public schools was unconstitutional.

4. Religion — Mystic religions became very popular in the 1960’s, including Transcendental Meditation, Moonies, Buddhism, etc. “Respect for authority declined among the youth, and crime rates soared to nine times the rate of the 1950’s.”

5. Drugs — Marijuana and LSD were encouraged by such respected personalities as Timothy Leary. The music performers endorsed the use of drugs in their songs.

6. Music — From the beginning of the 1960’s to the end of that decade, music changed on a large scale. The decade began with the “comeback” of Elvis Presley, Bobby Darin, Neil Sedaka, and Frankie Avalon. It ended with Acid Rock, Psychedelic Rock, with such groups as Jefferson Airplane, Grateful Dead, some Folk Music, and Woodstock, which encouraged the use of drugs such as LSD.

7. Entertainment — From Broadway to TV and movies, disrespect was increased as the decade of

the 1960’s progressed and then into the following decades. TV programming went from The Flintstone and Mr. Magoo to Bewitched, My Favorite Martian, and Laugh-In, which we as a family would not watch because of its “suggestive” content. Billy Graham was rebuked for appearing on the Laugh-In program. This program is considered mild in comparison to the shows on TV today, especially comedy. Just as the frog in the proverbial slowly boiling water, we are headed for true disaster if we do not become sensitive again to the slightest hint of disrespect for God and our old-fashioned beliefs in good social structure through respect and honor to our fellow-man.

8. Advertising — I have noticed that even advertising encourages disrespect and rebellion. Have you notice the expressions: “The customer is always right, You deserve that new car, What happens here stays here, Where there are no rules, Let yourself go, Go to the extreme, No limits, No fear, Go all the way, Odds are you’ll have fun”? These are all geared toward

(See **WOLFE** on page 23)

Encouragement To Rebellion

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe



Desecrate the Koran — Riots; Desecrate the Bible — Yawn

By Matt Friedeman



Observers of the printed page, the White House and anyone interested in responsibility in the media were rightly outraged that *Newsweek* recently botched a report about Koran desecration by the U.S. military and started rioting in Afghanistan that ended lives and injured many.

It has long been known, but apparently not often reported by the mainstream media, that in places like Saudi Arabia, Bibles are not flushed at airport customs but are shredded. And if you are carrying enough of them, you may well receive 70 lashes if not execution.

Little is heard publicly about such contempt.

The reason? It is likely what *Newsweek* and its media elite friends choose to report, and not report. The largely irreligious corps of reporters and their disrespect of Christianity obviously comes into play.

But Danny Nalliah, a Sri Lankan-born pastor now based in Australia, presents a slightly different perspective: “The Muslims respect the Koran far more than Christians respect the Bible.” So then, when a Koran is reportedly

destroyed, it is really big news. When a Bible is shredded — yawn. No outrage, no tears, no human rights organizations rising to champion a cause. Just — yawn.

A denominational executive just informed one of my friends that if a young missionary with a relatively weak view of Scripture is sent into a Muslim country, he will be broken in that country. Muslims aren’t playing games with their holy book in most parts of the world. Christians who mean to take them on at an ideological and spiritual level must think at least as highly of the Bible as the Muslims do of the Koran.

How will we know when this happens?

— **When Christians accept a theological position that their Bible is fully authoritative and without error.** A weak position here leads to weak positions on other consequential teachings. For instance, George Barna reports that in 2005, 46% of born-again Christians deny Satan’s existence. A majority (52%) of all born-again Christians in 2001 rejected the existence of the Holy Spirit.

— **When Christians spend significant time in daily Bible study.** Combined with significant hours of prayer per week, this makes spirit-filled Christians most likely to have a powerful impact on their world and in their wooing of the Muslim to their faith.

— **When Christians recognize that knowing means more than intellectual assent.** It means acting on that truth. To know Scripture means to do Scripture. There is power in truth released in the daily lives of believers.

No one is stimulated to riot or even care much when a Bible is desecrated and shredded, or when

people with Bibles are persecuted. But flush a Koran, and protests break out and people are killed or injured.

It would be understandable for the Evangelical to attribute the difference to the fact that the Bible has a civilizing effect and the Koran — believed in or destroyed — agitates the soul.

Is that the case? or is it that Christians have long ago ceased to be a people of the Book and, frankly, it is not sacred enough in our daily lives to make it much of a consideration when it is shredded? The people of the Koran — seems they mean business. — (Baptist Trumpet) □ □

How God Changed A Bit of Mud

A learned “higher critic” spoke scornfully about God’s taking “a piece of mud in hand, breathing on it, and changing it into a man.”

There sat one in his audience who knew the saving grace of God. He had the opportunity of replying to the critic of God’s Word, and said:

“I will not discuss the

creation of man with you, but I will tell you this: God stooped down to our town and picked up the dirtiest bit of mud in it. He breathed upon it by His Spirit; it was newly created; changed from a wicked wretch into a man who hated his former sins and loved the God who had saved him. I was that bit of mud.” □ □

What Is Baptist Faith and Order?

By Chester E. Tulga

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

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

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

The Old Testament abounds in instances where God refused to accept those

who violated divine order. Cain's sacrifice was rejected. Nadab died for he offered strange fire before the Lord (Num. 26:61). Those who presumed to carry the ark of God in a new cart fell under God's judgment (1 Chr. 13:9). The prophets thundered against wrong ways to pray, wrong ways to worship, wrong ways to offer sacrifices and especially that violation of faith and order which combines faith and idolatry.

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

There is an order of the ministry. "And God hath set some in the church, first, apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (1 Cor. 12:28). Note "set", "first", "secondarily", "thirdly", "after that", "then." Here is an example of God's regard for order.

There is order in the Great Commission — disciple, baptize, teach. Here is the New Testament order. It is not to be

abbreviated or changed in order, for to do so alters the faith.

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

There is order in polity. The local church is the only organization recognized in the New Testament. It must not be subordinated to human societies not of divine appointment. All organizations are to be a part of it, subservient to it and not separated from it. The multitude of free-lance organizations today who have no responsibility to the churches and whose only interest is to live off the churches, have no basis in the Word of God. The local church ordains the ministry.

It may consult sister churches, but it is not bound by their decisions. The local church is the sole judge of the qualifications for membership in its body, the sole judge of the validity of every baptism presented for its approval and the sole judge of the ordination of any candidate for its pulpit who may be presented. This is New Testament order.

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

What Is Faith?

Faith is the eye by which we lay hold of Jesus. A trembling hand is still a hand. And he is a believer whose heart within him trembles when he touches the hem of the Savior's garment, that he may be healed.

Faith is the tongue by which we taste how good the Lord is. A feverish

tongue is nevertheless a tongue. We may believe when we are without the smallest portion of comfort, for our faith is founded, not upon feelings, but upon the promise of God.

Faith is the foot by which we go to Jesus. A lame foot is still a foot. He who comes slowly, nevertheless comes. □



Missionaries Face Prison In Algeria.

— Algeria, where the official religion is Islam, is criminalizing attempts to convert Muslims to other faiths. A law adopted March 20 would punish anyone who “incites, forces or uses seductive means to convert a Muslim to another religion” with a prison term or two to five years of fines of up to \$12,100. The law is a response to growing efforts by evangelical Christians to bring their faith to this North African nation. Christian missionaries have been known to be active in Algeria’s Berber region east of the capital. There are some 5,000 declared Christians in Algeria, a French colony until 1962. — AP

Abuse Cost Churches More Than \$400 Million Last Year.

— Pedophilia has proven to be an expensive sin for the Catholic Church. The sex abuse scandal, which surfaced in 2002, cost Catholic dioceses and religious institutes nearly \$467 million last year in

World News Roundup

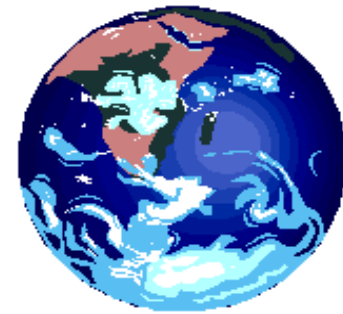
settlements to victims, legal expenses, therapy, and training, the Boston Globe reported on Friday. An independent audit released yesterday by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops also showed that 783 new and credible allegations of sexual abuse by clergy were reported last year, down from 1,092 allegations reported in 2004 but bringing the total number of accusations to more than 12,000 nationwide since 1950. — CNS

Why Do Monkeys Look Similar To Us?

— A: Since we’ve grown up with evolutionary ideas, we’ve been indoctrinated from our earliest years to think that monkeys and humans are alike. Yet, if we hadn’t been exposed to evolutionary ideas, we would probably never say that. “Now, if instituting comparisons in both directions, we place the lowest and most ape-like men (the Austral Negroes, Bushmen, and Andamans, etc.), on the one hand, together with the most highly developed animals, for instance, with apes, dogs, and the elephants, and on the other hand, with the most highly developed men — Aristotle, Newton, Spinoza, Kant, Lamarck, or Goethe — we can then no

longer consider the assertion, that the mental life of the higher mammals has gradually developed up to that of man, as in any way exaggerated.” — Ernst Haeckel, *The History of Creation*, pp. 364, 365. If you carefully observe such creatures, you’ll realize that there are some *major* differences between monkeys and humans. Here are some examples: a monkey’s foot looks more like a hand; a monkey can’t speak—they don’t even have the right brain structures for speech; and a monkey could never use a tool to make a tool as humans can. The next time you or your children see monkeys at a zoo or look at pictures of them in a book, start pointing out how they are different from humans. We need to start deprogramming ourselves and our children from the evolutionary brainwashing we’ve received. Are monkeys related to humans? No. They’re a distinct kind of animal, not made in the image of God, like man. — AIG

Theodore Roosevelt’s ideas on Immigrants and being an American in 1907. — “In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American



and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person’s becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American ... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn’t an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag ... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language ... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people.”

Recent Statistics Indicate that San Francisco is the Gayest City in the World.

— and it has nothing to do with the happiness of its residents. In an interview with *Reuters*, the head of HIV/AIDS statistics at the city’s Department of Public

(See WNR on page 11)

La Voz Del Desierto

Tres Evidencias Que Diferencian A Las Iglesias Bautistas

Por M. A. Curet

“Y sometió todas las cosas debajo de sus pies, y diólo por cabeza sobre todas las cosas a la iglesia, La cual es su cuerpo, la plenitud de Aquel que hinche todas las cosas en todos” (Efesios 1:22-23).

“En el cual, compaginado todo el edificio, va creciendo para ser un templo santo en el Señor:

En el cual vosotros también sois juntamente edificados, para morada de Dios en Espíritu” (Efesios 2:21-22).

“Del cual, todo el cuerpo compuesto y bien ligado entre sí por todas las junturas de su alimento, que recibe según la operación, cada miembro conforme a su medida toma aumento de

cuerpo edificándose en amor” (Efesios 4:16).

La palabra iglesia fue usada por Jesucristo veintitres veces y siempre significa una iglesia local. En los tres textos arriba mencionados, la iglesia de la cual se hablaba era la iglesia de Efeso. Estos textos claramente manifiestan tres marcas de una iglesia en los días del

Nuevo Testamento que diferencian a las iglesias Bautistas de todas las otras iglesias de hoy, y prueban conclusivamente que las iglesias Bautistas son las únicas iglesias de Cristo en esta tierra.

1. Una Iglesia Bautista es el Único Cuerpo del Cual Cristo Es La

(Vea CURET en la pág. 10)

Piensa En Estas 5 Cosas

1. Necesitas Un Salvador Porque Eres Pecador. En adición a tu propia experiencia en el pecado, aquí están los siguientes pasajes sobre el asunto:

“Porque no hay hombre que no peque” (1 Reyes 8:46).

“Por cuanto todos pecaron, y están destituídos de la gloria de Dios” (Romanos 3:23).

“De consiguiente, así como el pecado entró en el mundo por un hombre, y por el pecado la muerte, y la muerte así pasó a todos

los hombres, pues que todos pecaron” (Romanos 5:12).

2. Necesitas Un Salvador Porque Tu No Puedes Salvar A Ti Mismo. Es natural pensar que una persona podría salvarse por sus buenas obras, pero sólo Cristo puede salvar.

“Palabra fiel y digna de ser recibida de todos: que Cristo Jesús vino al mundo para salvar a los pecadores” (1 Timoteo 1:15).

“Porque el Hijo del hombre vino a buscar y a

salvar lo que se había perdido” (Lucas 19:10).

“Y llamarás su nombre JESUS: porque él salvará a su pueblo de sus pecados.” (Mateo 1:12).

3. Necesitas Un Salvador Porque Sin El Pereceras. Hay solamente dos clases de personas y dos destinos. Una acepta al Salvador y la otra lo rechaza. Una se salva y la otra se pierde. Una va al cielo y la otra al infierno. Las Escrituras dicen:

“El que cree en el Hijo, tiene vida eterna; mas el que es incrédulo al Hijo, no

verá la vida, sino que la ira de Dios está sobre él” (Juan 3:36).

“Si no os arrepintiereis, todos pereceréis igualmente” (Lucas 13:3).

“Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que ha dado a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que en él cree, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna” (Juan 3:16).

4. Tu Puedes Tener Un Salvador Si Lo Aceptas. El Salvador llevó

(Vea PIENSA en la pág. 10)

CURET . . .

(Viene de la pág. 9)

Cabeza. Cristo es la cabeza de una iglesia Bautista en el sentido de que Él es el fundador de la primera iglesia Bautista (Mateo 16:18; Colosenses 1:18). Él es la cabeza de cada iglesia Bautista en el sentido de que Él es su único Señor y Maestro, hay una unidad de vida entre Él y ellos, y Su voluntad los domina a ellos, así como tu cabeza domina tu cuerpo. Esto no sucede con ninguna otra iglesia en el mundo, excepto con una iglesia Bautista. Cuando Alejandro Campbell fue a Inglaterra llevaba una carta de Henry Clay presentándolo como la cabeza y fundador de la iglesia que él había organizado, la cual se llamó iglesia Cristiana. Juan Wesley fue la cabeza y fundador de la iglesia Metodista. Calvino fue la cabeza y fundador de la iglesia Presbiteriana. José Smith fue la cabeza y fundador de la iglesia Mormona. Enrique VIII fue la cabeza y fundador de la iglesia Episcopal. Constantino fue la cabeza y fundador de la iglesia Católica. La señora Eddy

Baker fue la cabeza y fundadora de la iglesia Ciencia Cristiana. Elena de White fue la cabeza y fundadora de la iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día.

La única iglesia de la que Jesús fue cabeza y fundador fue de la iglesia Bautista. Y la única iglesia, por lo tanto, que es un cuerpo de Cristo, es una iglesia Bautista. Esta marca diferencia a una iglesia Bautista de todas las otras iglesias.

2. Una Iglesia Bautista es Una Casa de Dios en el Espíritu. Todas las otras iglesias, no sólo tienen una cabeza humana, sino que son cuerpos sin el Espíritu, y por lo tanto, son cuerpos muertos. Aunque sus miembros salvos tengan el Espíritu de Dios morando en ellos personalmente, su iglesia no es un cuerpo de Cristo y no tiene el Espíritu Santo morando en ella. La iglesia que Jesús edificó fue construida para morada de Dios en el Espíritu (Efesios 2:21-22).

El Espíritu Santo vive en ellos como en Su casa en esa comunidad. Él está allí para llenarlos con poder. Él es el representante de

Su cabeza que es Jesús, y hace real la presencia y el poder de Jesús entre ellos. Él es el Vicario de Cristo en Su cuerpo y controla todos los movimientos.

3. Una Iglesia Bautista Es Un Organismo Viviente. He aquí las tres evidencias que marcan a una iglesia Bautista. *Tiene una cabeza viva.* El Señor Jesús es la cabeza de toda iglesia Bautista y Su conexión con cada cuerpo de Él es vital. Él trabaja en ellos poderosamente. *El corazón de cada iglesia Bautista es el Espíritu Santo.* Él mora en cada uno de ellos. Su casa en cada comunidad local es la iglesia Bautista en esa comunidad. Entonces cada iglesia Bautista es un cuerpo de Cristo. Las cabezas y fundadores de todas las otras iglesias está muertos o muriendo. Todas las otras iglesias no son cuerpos de Cristo y el Espíritu Santo no mora en ellas.

Una iglesia Bautista tiene una cabeza viviente — el Señor Jesucristo; un *corazón viviente*, el Espíritu de Dios morando en ellos (Romanos 5:5), y un *cuerpo vivo y activo*. La iglesia Bautista tiene vida en si misma. Tiene una vida como la vida de la vida que le viene de adentro, y no de afuera. Esta es la diferencia entre frutos y trabajos. Trabajos vienen de un esfuerzo de afuera; frutos vienen de un poder de adentro. Cuando las iglesias Bautistas tienen que

recurrir a cenas y bazares, banquetes y exhibiciones de pinturas, y toda otra clase de entretenimientos mundanos para poder funcionar como iglesia, nos parece que tienen nombre de que viven, pero están muertas.

□□□□□

PIENSA . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

a cabo la obra que salva cuando él murió por nuestros pecados, fue sepultado y resucitó. Ahora es una asunto enteramente nuestro el beneficiarnos de su obra.

“Mas a todos los que le recibieron, dióles potestad de ser hechos hijos de Dios, a los que creen en su nombre” (Juan 1:12).

“Cree en el Señor Jesucristo, y serás salvo” (Hechos 16:31).

“Que si confesares con tu boca al Señor Jesús, y creyeren en tu corazón que Dios le levantó de los muertos, serás salvo” (Romanos 10:9).

¿Estás dispuesto a recibirle gustosamente?

5. Ahora, Si Ya Has Aceptado Al Salvador, Amalo, Adoralo, y Sirvele. Tú no podras salvarte por tus obras; porque la salvación es: “No por obras, para que nadie se gloríe” (Efesios 2:8-9). Pero ahora si ya eres salvo pon solicitud “governarse en buenas obras” (Tito 3:8). Puedes manifestar tu fe en Cristo por tus buenas obras. Sé un cristiano piadoso, consistente y fecundo. □

Iglesia Bautista El Redentor

Carretera 755, Km. 0.1, Barrio Pitahaya

H C-1 Box 3418

Arroyo, Puerto Rico 00714

(787) 839-3669 y (787) 839-5792

Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

(WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

Health says even though the overall population of San Francisco has dropped in the last five years, there has been “an absolute gain in gay men.” William McFarland estimates that, based on his recent survey — the city’s first in five years on homosexual men and HIV — nearly one in five of city’s males age 15 and above (more than 63,000) are homosexual. “From all the data I have seen ... it’s the gayest city in the world,” he observes. The report also notes that one out of every four homosexual males in San Francisco (25.8 percent) is infected with the HIV virus, resulting in an estimated 16,401 HIV-positive men. A five-city study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2005 places San Francisco second only in that category to Baltimore, with an estimated 40 percent. In 2001, nearly 30 percent of San Francisco’s male homosexual population were infected with the HIV virus. McFarland attributes the overall increase in that segment of the population and the drop in HIV-positive males to an influx of more HIV-negative men to the area.

* * *

Q: Why did the question of Cain’s wife come up at the famous Scopes

trial? — **A:** ACLU lawyer Clarence Darrow cleverly arranged for William Jennings Bryan, seen to be representing Christianity, to be on the witness stand. Darrow asked Bryan a number of questions to put Bryan’s belief in the Bible to the test. One of the questions Darrow asked was, “Who was Cain’s wife?” Since the Bible teaches that God created only one man and one woman to start with and Genesis only specifically lists three names for Adam and Eve’s children (all sons), non-Christians have repeatedly asked where Cain got his wife in attempts to stump Christians and mock the Bible. Sadly, Bryan, a Christian, let Bible-believers down. He didn’t have an answer. What a difference it would have made if he had explained that Genesis 5:4 teaches that Adam and Eve had sons and daughters — and that the law against close relatives marrying didn’t come until the time of Moses (Leviticus 18–20). Learn the lesson of the Scopes trial: be able to give answers when people question your faith!

* * *

Commandment Monument In Ohio OK Judge Decides. — A Ten Commandments monument that has stood on the courthouse lawn for almost 50 years does not promote religion

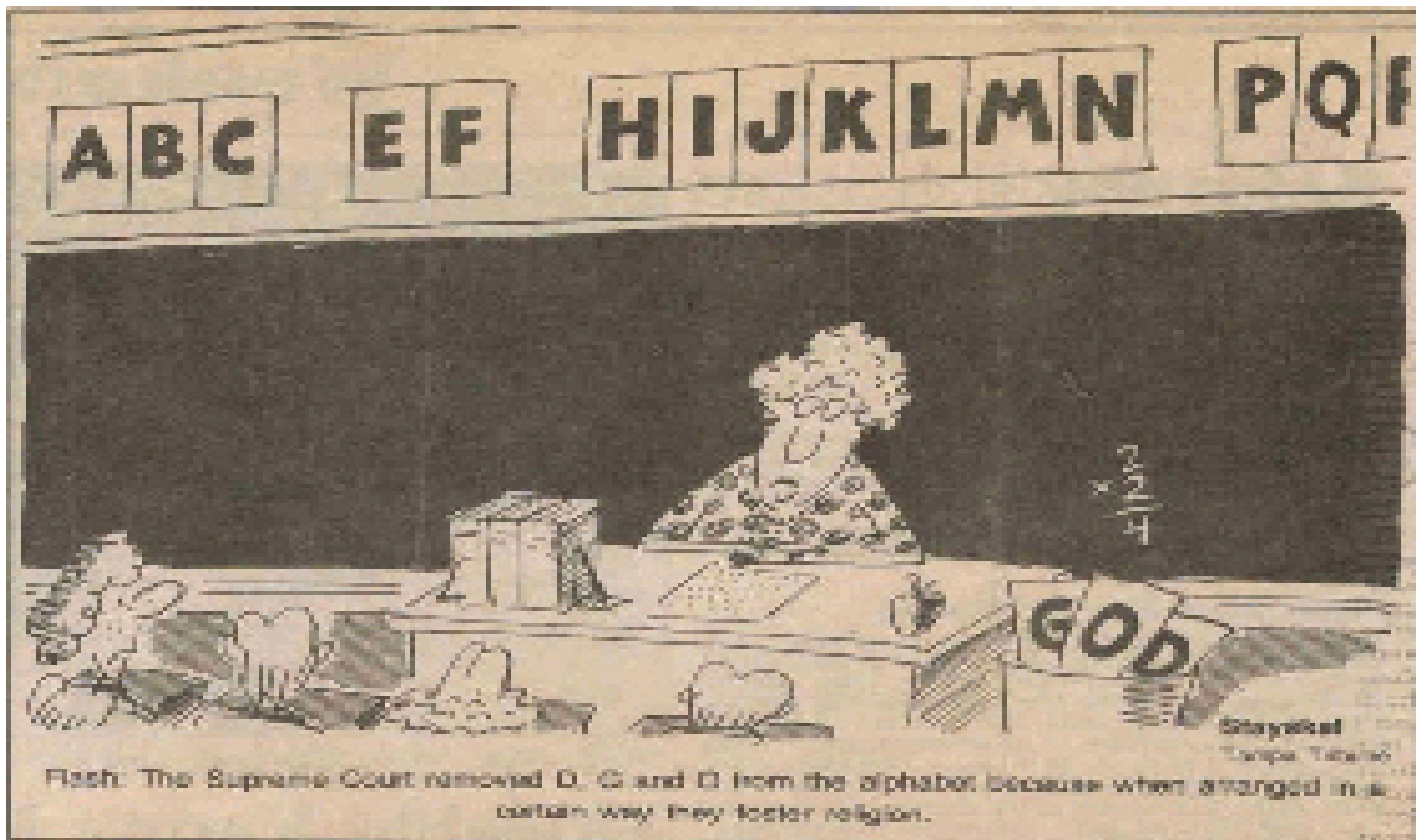
and can remain in place, a federal judge ruled. U.S. District Judge James Carr said that the monument can stay because the motives for placing it outside the Lucas County Courthouse were secular and not an endorsement of a specific belief. The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio sued Lucas County in 2002 to have the display removed, saying it was unconstitutional and promoted religion. Carr’s decision followed a ruling last year by the U.S. Supreme Court that addressed displays of the Ten Commandments. The Supreme Court in June allowed a 6-foot granite monument to remain at the Texas Capitol. Justices said Ten Commandments exhibits, would be upheld if their main purpose was to honor the nations’ legal, rather than religious, traditions, and if they didn’t promote one religion over another.

* * *

High School Teachers Promote Homosexuality. — Public high

school teachers in Santa Cruz County (Scotts Valley, CA) have begun hanging pro-homosexual posters in their classrooms. Lesbian teachers also have begun openly discussing their homosexuality in the classroom and providing referrals to third party gay, lesbian, and bisexual organizations to students questioning their own sexuality or who “feel queer,” as one poster states. Numerous parents have complained to school officials because the students are clearly a captive audience. Parents also assert that the instructors stand in a position of authority, but are teaching values that are inconsistent with what is taught in the home. Teachers engaging in this are claiming to be promoting tolerance, but will not allow posters celebrating traditional families. Further, a student who is not interested in joining a diversity club is subjected to forms of harassment by aggressive gay and lesbian students. — Pacific Justice Institute. □

**Although the Tongue
Weighs Very Little
Few People Are
Able To Hold It
James 3:5**



Styles in clothing get more and more relaxed. Many churches are feeling the strain of deciding if anything should be said about appropriate dress for church. Parents are sending their daughters in pants and shorts — some even in hot pants — to God's house.

Where is the limit going to be? When should church leadership speak out? Is it better to demand respect for God's house or hope that respect will come with Christian teaching?

Old Testament people were taught that certain things were or were not allowed in the temple. Perhaps we need to follow this example.

Christians today seem to place little emphasis on

their appearance being different from the world even when inside the church building.

New Testament admonished women to keep their bodies covered yet some Christian women frequently appear in public with legs and buttocks shining for all the world to see.

Low-cut dresses and blouses may look fine when a Christian woman stands straight with shoulders erect but what about when she slumps, bends over or has someone standing over her when she is seated. Little

is left to the imagination.

Many styles popular in fashion circles today are not decent. Christian women and girls should not wear them under any circumstances.

What about dress where decency is not involved? Should there be limitations in God's house?

God is the Supreme Being. He deserves our very best in life including our best dress in the buildings where we worship. Anything short of our best does not bring proper honor to Him. To come to church looking as

What Is Proper Dress?

By Velma Merritt

if we're going on a picnic shows no reverence for Him.

We call Him Lord of our lives. Isn't He also the Lord of our dress? — Arkansas Baptist News-magazine. □

**God Always
Gives
His Best
To Those
Who
Leave the
Choice With
Him**

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 3)

where the center gets the message and send out motor impulses to the muscles of respiration.

First, a deep breath is taken through the mouth, and then this mass of inspired air is violently driven forth through the nose and mouth. As the blast rushes out through the nasal passages, it is likely to carry with it the irritating object, especially as it has been quickly wrapped up in sticky mucus so as to be handled more easily. In this way the lower respiratory passages, which are much more important from the standpoint of serious disease, are protected from the dangerous irritant.

Let us suppose, however, that the object has slipped past the guards in the nose, or has been breathed in through the mouth, or may have "gone the wrong way" in being swallowed. It finds in the larynx an almost impassable barrier. Immediately, the movement of inspiration which might carry the offensive agent into the lungs is sharply and completely stopped, due to an impulse carried to the brain by the superior laryngeal nerve. The impulse inhibits the respiratory center and reverses the muscular action. At once there is a vigorous expiration — a cough — which sweeps the foreign body up and out of

the larynx.

At the same time there is also a reflex act of swallowing, so that anything forced out of the windpipe and larynx will be quickly carried down to the gullet and into the stomach. If these very sensitive nerves are not in working order for any reason, there is almost certain development of pneumonia. Then the cough reflex or special guard is off duty and the offending invader gets in without difficulty.

Another group of protective reflexes operate in connection with the taking of food. If any irritating substance like an acid, for instance, is taken into the mouth, or something likely to interfere with free movements of one part or another, there is a prompt out-pouring of saliva, which dilutes the offensive material or makes it easier to wash away. When too large a mass is taken and thrust to the back of the mouth, a spasm of the larynx occurs, and the mass is quickly ejected by a gagging operation, familiar to all of us. If an irritating or harmful substance gets as far as the stomach, it may be quickly expelled. So in order to make the stomach empty itself promptly, a common method is to give mustard in water.

If the substance is not immediately distressing, a remarkable series of events occurs. First, as slight nausea develops, there is a very free secretion of

saliva, which is repeatedly swallowed. At the same time in the stomach, the troublesome stuff stimulates a secretion of watery mucus from the glands in the stomach wall. In this way the gastric contents are diluted, and rendered less irritating, and easier to discharge. As these processes go on, and nausea increases, respiration becomes more rapid and the stomach quite relaxed.

Suddenly the diaphragm and the abdominal muscles contract together, greatly increasing the pressure on the abdominal contents. Simultaneously, also, the narrow opening between the vocal cords closes, so that, as the diaphragm descends, it does not draw air into the lungs, but lessens greatly the pressure in the chest.

The gullet, running through this region of low pressure, dilates; the closing muscle at the top end of the esophagus opens; and the gastric contents are forcibly thrown up and out. It is clear that there we have a quite remarkable series of reflex operations wholly separated from the will of the individual.

The eyeball possesses special provision against invasion and injury by foreign bodies. Besides being set in a secure bony socket, which we shall study later, it has quick-acting covers or lids in front, which shut down whenever danger approaches. If a foreign particle

lands on the cornea, a flow of tears and winking are instantly aroused. The pain demands immediate attention for the removal of the intruder; the watery solution tends to wash it away, helped by the mechanical force of winking. The tears not only act to remove the irritant but to dilute it. I shall probably continue this discussion in the next article, selecting a few of many instances to show this evidence of forethought in the structure of the body.

In this life it is not possible to avoid danger. "In the midst of life we are in death," is a true enough saying. Everywhere we are surrounded by enemies to body and spirit. This was not the case with Adam and Eve when they were created. Then, we read, "God saw everything that he had made and it was very good." But sin came and the scene was changed by the judgment of God on the disobedient pair. They were henceforth compelled to work for their existence by the sweat of the brow. A curse was pronounced on vegetation and apparently the present vicious animal nature appeared, disease-producing germs probably came on the scene, and the original body became subject to death, although provided with the marvelous defenses which we have been studying. Ever since, man has had to

(See **BODY** on page 14)

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 13)

run the gauntlet of vicious and dangerous attack by many enemies visible and invisible.

Worse than the physical conflict is the spiritual, and to this we ought to pay attention. Men will fight for their bodies, but suffer destruction of their souls. Let us remind ourselves again of the words of Jesus Christ in Matthew 16:24: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake, will find it. For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul. For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of the Father with his angels and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

In Mark 8:38, an additional word is given us. "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and my words, in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

I am well aware that few people pay much attention to these warnings. Many people who ought to know better are really ashamed of Jesus Christ.

His precious and glorious name is seldom mentioned, and I am thinking now of professing Christians. By the world, of course, His name is insulted and blasphemed in a horrible exhibition of blasphemy and moral depravity. The profanity, which is characteristic of this sinful day, is sure to bring the wrath of God. Over in Hosea, the 4th chapter, God speaks about this when He says: "Hear the word of the Lord. ... for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. There is nothing but *swearing* and breaking faith, and killing, and stealing and committing adultery; they break out and blood toucheth blood." "Because thou has rejected knowledge, I also will reject thee."

How foolish to ignore all God's definite warnings! We pay more or less attention to the laws of the land, fearing the penalty of transgression, but seem to think we can get away from the punishment pronounced by God. There will be a great awakening. Only one way of escape, remember, through Jesus Christ and He's Wonderful!

[Next Month: "Your Wonderful Body Furnace.]

Where is Hell?

**At the end of an
ungodly life!**

The Touch of the Master's Hand

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But he held it up with a smile.

"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried
"Who'll start bidding for me?"

A dollar, a dollar — now who'll make it two—
Two dollars and who'll make it three?

"Three dollars once, three dollars twice,
Going for three" ... but no!

From the room far back a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening up all the strings,
He played a melody, pure and sweet,
As sweet as an angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said: "What am I bid for the old violin?"

And he held it up with the bow,
"A thousand dollars — who'll make it two?
Two thousand — and who'll make it three?
Three thousand once, three thousand twice
And going—and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not quite understand—
What changed its worth?" The man replied:
"The touch of the master's hand,"

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and torn with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd.
Much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine,
A game and he travels on,
He's going once, and going twice—
He's going once, and going twice—
He's going—and almost gone!

But the MASTER comes, and the foolish crowd,
Never can quite understand,
The worth of a soul, and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.



Sea of Galilee

There are two seas in Palestine. One is fresh, and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it, and stretch out their thirsty roots to dip of its healing water. Along its shore the children play.

The River Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. So it laughs in the sunshine. And men build

their houses near it, and birds their nests, and every kind of life is happier because it is there.

The River Jordan flows on south into another sea. Here is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no children's laughter. Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs above its waters and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink. What

makes this mighty difference in these neighbor seas? Not the River Jordan. It empties the same good water into both. Not the soil in which they lie; not the country round about.

This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan. For every drop that flows into it an-other drop flows out. The giving and receiving go



Dead Sea

in equal measure. The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps. The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. This other sea gives nothing. It is named the Dead Sea.

There are two seas in Palestine. There are two kinds of people in the world. Which kind are we? □

Beatitudes For The Home

Blessed are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate and loving after the wedding bells have ceased ringing.

Blessed are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends.

Blessed are they who have a sense of humor, for this attribute will be a handy shock absorber.

Blessed are the married couples who abstain from alcoholic beverages.

Blessed are they who love their mates more than any other person in the world, and who joyfully fulfill their marriage vow of a lifetime of fidelity and

mutual helpfulness to one another.

Blessed are they who remember to thank God for their food before they partake of it, and who set aside some time each day for reading the Bible and prayer.

Blessed are they who attain parenthood; for children are a heritage of the Lord.

Blessed are those mates who never speak loudly to one another and who make their home a place "where seldom is heard a discouraging word."

Blessed are the husband and wife who faithfully attend the worship service of the church

together for the advancement of Christ's kingdom.

Blessed is the couple who has complete understanding about financial matters and who has worked out perfect partnership with all the money under the control of

both.

Blessed are the husband and wife who humbly dedicate their lives and their home to Christ and practice the teachings of Christ in the home by being unselfish, loyal and loving. □ □

Jericho "Flourishing City" During Time of Christ

Jericho was a flourishing city considerably larger than today's town when Christ visited it, according to an archaeologist at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Reporting on the completion of excavations there, Bhud Netzer said the expedition found a sophisticated network of

aqueducts.

They were apparently started by the Hasmonean kings (also known as the Maccabeans, the family into which Herod married), who also built a magnificent palace. It included the oldest Jewish ritual baths ever found, preceding those at Masada by 150-200 years. □□

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

P. O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48106

fbns@wayoflife.org

Oral Roberts Hospitalized. — Pentecostal evangelist Oral Roberts was hospitalized on March 23 after he broke his hip from a fall in his home. Roberts is one of the pioneers of the “faith healing” movement. In the 1950s he conducted healing crusades in a tent that seated 12,500 while hundreds of thousands more watched on television. Oral Roberts University, established in 1965, has a student body of 5,000. Multiplied millions of copies of his books have been sold, and he has influenced an entire generation of Pentecostal evangelists. The strange thing about the recent hospitalization is that Roberts teaches that sickness is not God’s will. In his *Abundant Life* magazine in 1976 he said: “*I know it is God’s highest wish for you to be in health. Sickness is not a part of God’s plan and not devised by God’s will*” (Roberts, “Why I know that God wants to heal you,” *Abundant Life*, Sept. 1976). During the heyday of his healing crusades, Roberts claimed to be able to discern the “demons of illness” through his right hand, claiming that the

power of God flowed like a current of electricity and even felt like “liquid fire” at times. Yet Roberts’ healing ministry has been examined by faithful men of God and has been proven bogus. Pastor Carroll Stegall, pastor of Pryor Street Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, attended a number of Roberts’ healing crusades and did follow-up with those who had claimed healings. He concluded: “I have never seen a vestige of change. ... Far from blessing, their arrival in a city is rather a curse, a misery, a racket, a destruction of faith in simple people” (Stegall, *Modern Tongues and Healing Movement*). In 1950, during a healing crusade in Amarillo, Texas, about fifty people were hospitalized after the tent ripped apart. In 1951 a businessman died during a crusade in Atlanta. In 1955 Jonas Rider died during a crusade in Calgary, and in 1956 Mary Vondersher died only 12 hours after appearing on Roberts’ television program and testifying that she was healed. In 1959 a man died during an Oral Roberts crusade in Oakland, California, and two others died during a crusade in

Fayetteville, North Carolina. In 1984, Oral’s 10th grandchild died two days after birth in spite of the flurry of prayers of faith that were sent up by a slew of Word-Faith believers and that were based on the “healing in the atonement” theology (Harrell, *Oral Roberts: An American Life*, pp. 343-347). In October 1992 and again in February 1999 Oral was hospitalized with heart attacks. The one in 1992 occurred only hours after Pastor Paul Crouch “healed” Oral of chest pains on a TBN Broadcast (*Christianity in Crisis*, pp. 237-238). Please understand that we are not gloating over these tragedies. These are very sad events and there is no joy in relating them. The reason we report these things is that Oral Roberts and other Pentecostals and Charismatics claim that physical healing is guaranteed in the atonement and the apostolic sign gifts are operative today. These claims must be taken seriously. If physical healing in this life is guaranteed by faith, if special healing gifts belong to Christians today, if the apostolic sign gifts are operative, and if God wills that Christians be healthy and prosperous, it will be evident. These facts from the Pentecostal movement demonstrate that their claims are not true. They have the same problems, the same sicknesses, the same afflictions, the same financial difficulties, as Christians who do not

believe in such doctrine.

* * *

San Francisco Condemns Christian Youth Rally. — An evangelical Christian youth rally attended by more than 25,000 brought an official condemnation from the city fathers (please forgive my “sexist” language) in San Francisco. The two-day meeting, organized by Teen Mania, was a “Battle Cry for a Generation” and a “reverse rebellion tour.” Organizer Ron Luce urged the young people to follow “God’s instruction book” in order to avoid the corrupting influence of pop culture, which is excellent advice except that Teen Mania does not practice the “separation” parts of that Instruction Book. We do appreciate, though, the courage and boldness of these Christians to stand up against the forces of evil. On the other hand, San Francisco Assemblyman Mark Leno said, “... they’re loud, they’re obnoxious, they’re disgusting, and they should get out of San Francisco” (“Christian Youth Rally,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 24). It appears, then, that the homosexuals and their most radical supporters would drive Christians completely out of their neighborhoods and towns if they had their way. That doesn’t sound

(See **FBIS** on page 17)

FBIS . . .

(Continued from page 16)

very “tolerant.” Of course, we know how the story ends, and the moral perverts don’t inherit the earth. See Revelation 19-22 in the Holy Bible.

* * *

Homosexual Installed In Lutheran Church In San Francisco.

— A homosexual was installed as the pastor of St. Francis Lutheran Church in San Francisco on March 26. The “Reverend” Robert Goldstein left his wife of 19 years in 1987, claiming that through psychological counseling he finally was able to face the truth of his homosexuality. He said his “coming out” resulted in the loss of everything “except my faith in a God who honors integrity and self-honesty” (“Church to Install Gay Pastor,” Bay Area Reporter, March 23).

* * *

New Evolutionary Theory of Formation of Earth.

— A team of geologists has come up with a new theory that the earth’s continents were formed by ancient microbes that converted solar energy into chemical changes thus “cranking up the Earth’s energy cycle and altering its geochemistry” (“And Life Created Continents,” New Scientist, Mar. 24, 2006). The geologists, who

are associated with the Geological Museum at the University of Copenhagen, don’t explain where these amazing continent-creating microbes came from.

* * *

New Pope Says John Paul II Died Trusting In Mary.

— Speaking on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI said: “John Paul II died as he always lived, animated by the indomitable courage of faith, abandoning himself to *God and entrusting himself to Holy Mary*” (Nicole Winfield, “Pope Recalls Legacy,” Associated Press, April 1). This is no surprise, of course, because there has never been a more Marian-centered Pope. He had “Totus Tuus” (All Yours) embroidered on his papal garments, proclaiming his “abandonment to Mary” (Crossing the Threshold of Hope, p. 215), and after he was shot during an assassination attempt in May 1981 he attributed his recovery to Mary. A large M (for Mary) was even engraved on his coffin. Those Evangelicals and Charismatics who have told us that John Paul II was a true evangelist and a genuine Christian should explain all of this.

* * *

Gel-capping The Bible.

— Zondervan’s The

Bible Experience, an audio recording of the New Testament scheduled for release in September, features the voices and music of Hollywood actors and pop singers such as Denzel Washington, Star Jones, hip-hopper Heavy D, and Queen Latifah. Co-producer Lou Brown says: “We’re taking God’s Word and we’re gel-capping it: surrounding it with elements that make it more palatable for mass consumption in today’s marketplace” — “Experience the Bible,” USA Today, March 28.

* * *

Catholic Cardinal Applauded By Baptist Pastors In Detroit.

— Cardinal Adam Maida was applauded twice when he spoke to the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit on March 28. The roughly 100 pastors in attendance applauded when Maida told them that though some Catholic parishes are closing, 63 will remain open (“Unity Is Pledged to Baptist Leaders,” Detroit Free Press, March 29). They also applauded Maida’s promise to fight to keep the state from shutting down its affirmative action program that uses race to determine jobs quotas. The meeting was held at Bethany Baptist Church.

* * *

The Spider’s Amazing Thread.

— A team

of scientists studying the spider’s thread have found that it is stronger than Kevlar, the strongest synthetic polymer, and has better torsional qualities than the space-age nickel-titanium shape-memory alloy Nitinol. They found that the spider’s thread is not only incredibly strong but also damps and resists torsional force after it is twisted, so that it quickly returns to the same position and the little spider does not spin around out of control. The team, led by Olivier Emile of the Laser Physics Laboratory at the University of Rennes in western France, concluded: “The spider has evolved a shape-memory material that needs no external stimulus for total recovery” (“Why All the Torque Leaves Spiderman Unfazed,” Agence France Presse, March 29). What an amazing thing! A lowly spider blindly evolving something that man with his intelligence and thousands of years of experience cannot duplicate. What did the spider do for all of those “millions of years” while he was attempting to evolve the right thread? And how did the spider develop the capability to pass this amazing genetic knowledge along to his offspring? The Bible makes a lot more sense. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork” (Psalm

(See FBIS on page 18)

FBIS . . .

(Continued from page 17)

19:1).

* * *

New Anti-Conversion Law In Algeria

— Algeria has passed a new anti-conversion law that would punish anyone who persuades a Muslim to leave his religion with up to five years in prison and a \$12,000 fine. The law, passed on March 21, forbids anyone to “shake the faith of a Muslim” (“Anti-conversion Law,” WorldNetDaily, March 30). The legislation provides for imprisonment and expulsion of foreigners who commit the same offense. House churches are also banned. The law says, “Collective exercise of religious worship takes place exclusively in structures intended for this purpose, open to the public and identifiable from the exterior.”

* * *

Poll Finds Less Than Half Americans Believe In the Resurrection.

— Only 36 percent of those polled in a new U.S. survey answered yes to the question: “Do you believe that, after you die, your physical body will be resurrected some day?” Even among those who claimed to be “born again” only 59% said they believe in the resurrection. The

Scripps Howard/Ohio University poll also found that only 60% of Americans polled believe that Jesus was born of a virgin. While I have little confidence that a survey of a thousand people can ascertain the beliefs of millions, there can be no doubt that the majority of Americans, including the churchgoers, are far more influenced by the wicked and foolish pop culture than the Bible.

* * *

Evolution: From the Slime to the Sublime.

— Evolutionary scientists think they have discovered a missing link between sea and land creatures. Called the Tiktaalik roseae, the part crocodile, part seal-like fish “was able to take the first baby steps on to land roughly 380 million years ago” (“Missing Link Found,” Toronto Star, April 6). The fossilized skeletons of the creature were found above the Arctic Circle.

* * *

Abuse Cost Catholic Church In America \$467M In 2005.

— Priestly sexual abuse cost the Roman Catholic Church in America at least \$467 million in 2005. That is the finding of an audit released by the Conference of Catholic Bishops. There were 783 “new and credible allegations of sexual abuse by clergy” last year, down from 1,092 in 2004. The

total number of accusations of sex abuse since 1950 is 12,000 (“Abuse Cost Churches,” Boston Globe, March 31), and the cost has exceeded \$1.2 billion. Three U.S. dioceses have filed for bankruptcy. The John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, which has done an extensive analysis of the problem, found that most targets of abusive priests are boys.

* * *

Scientist Suggests That Jesus Walked On Ice.

— Doron Nof, professor of Oceanography at Florida State University, theorizes that a rare localized freezing phenomenon that could have produced ice in the Sea of Galilee might explain Jesus’ walk on water. “A frozen patch of ice floating on the surface of the lake would be difficult to distinguish from the surrounding unfrozen water, making it appear as if Jesus were walking on water, according to the theory” (“University Research: Jesus Walked on Ice,” WorldNetDaily, April 4). Nof’s study, entitled “Is There a Paleolimnological Explanation for ‘Walking on Water’ in the Sea of Galilee?” was published in the April 2006 Journal of Paleolimnology. Though admitting that such freezing processes occurred only “a handful of times” at most during the last 12,000 years, Nof thinks he might have

a better idea of what happened two millennia ago than the very eyewitnesses of the event. Nof told Reuters: “If you ask me if I believe someone walked on water, no, I don’t. Maybe somebody walked on the ice, I don’t know. I believe that something natural was there that explains it.”

* * *

Scientists Cheer Professor Who Calls For Extermination of 90% of Human Race.

— When Eric Pianka, a lizard expert from the University of Texas, called for the extermination of 90 percent of the human race, he was given a standing ovation by an audience of some 400 scientists and students (“Scientists Cheer Holocaust Wish,” WorldNetDaily, April 2). Pianka said, “We’re no better than bacteria,” and claimed that since humans are “overpopulating the earth” and crowding out “the rest of the species,” we should reduce the population to 10% of its current size. He suggested that the best way to accomplish this is through Ebola virus. For some reason, Pianka did not volunteer to lead the way in this scheme.

* * *

Freedom of Religion Does Not Exist In Af-

(See **FBIS** on page 19)

FBIS . . .

(Continued from page 18)

Afghanistan — A recent article in the German publication *Der Spiegel* reports that “freedom of religion, as promised by the Afghan constitution, does not exist” (“Afghanistan Christians Face Escalating Threat,” *WEA Religious Liberty News*, April 7). The firsthand report, written by Matthias Gebauer in Kabul, concludes: “Even though Afghanistan has dismissed its case against Abdul Rahman, this is a cold comfort for [the national Christians who] fear that anger among Islamists over Rahman’s release could spur them to take matters into their hands and act even more brutally toward converts. . . . the worst thing would be if the resolution of the case leaves the impression that everything is now OK for converts living in Afghanistan.”

* * *

Better Heresy of Doctrine Than Heresy of Heart? — The web site of the Gentle Spirit Christian Church of Atlanta features a sermon entitled “Better Heresy of Doctrine than Heresy of Heart.” The speaker, a lesbian pastor named Candace Chellew-Hodge, says: “Each of us, because we are sitting in a church as openly GLBT [Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender] people, alongside our straight

allies, knows that we are doctrinal heretics. But we also know that being doctrinal heretics is better than hiding, denying our true selves, and living a lie that doctrine would have us to live.” The woman speaks the truth when she says they are “doctrinal heretics.” Romans chapter one identifies male-male and female-female sexual relationships as “uncleanness” (v. 24), “dishonour” (v. 24), “vile affections” (v. 26), “against nature” (v. 26), “unseemly” (v. 27), and “a reprobate mind” (v. 28). As for following one’s heart, the Bible says, “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool” (Prov. 28:26), because, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). Gentle Spirit Christian Church meets in the Epworth United Methodist Church building.

* * *

An Evangelical Catholic Church. — The Holy Family Catholic Church in the northwest suburbs of Chicago has reinvented itself into a more “evangelical” image and as a result is competing successfully with the Willow Creek Community Church located in the same neighborhood. Advertising itself as “an evangelical church in the Roman Catholic tradition,” Holy Family is Catholic in doctrine but has adopted

many “evangelical” trappings, such as a fairly simple building with no stained glass or statues of saints, contemporary praise music, no kneeling during the liturgy, an emphasis on “evangelism,” and home Bible studies. The *Chicago Tribune* observes that the church is “carving the model for the future American Catholic Church” (“This Catholic Church Is Born Again,” *Chicago Tribune*, April 15).

* * *

Saskatchewan Appeals Court Reverses Ruling Against Bible Verses. — On April 13 the Saskatchewan Court of Appeals overturned a ruling that had classified references to Bible verses on homosexuality as a hate crime (“Court Reverses Ruling,” *WorldNetDaily*, April 14). The ruling overturns a 2001 decision by the provincial Human Rights Board of Inquiry, which found Hugh Owens of Regina guilty of inciting hatred after he published an ad in the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* in 1997 that cited Romans 1, Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13; and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. The ad also featured a stick drawing of two males holding hands overlaid with a red circle with a diagonal bar, the universal symbol for no. The Human Rights commission ruled that Owens and the newspaper must pay damages of \$1,500 to

each of three homosexuals who filed the complaint. The Court of Queen’s Bench upheld the ruling in 2002, but it has now been overturned by the province’s highest court.

* * *

Tennessee Temple’s Downward Slide. — Tennessee Temple University’s College Days (when prospective students visit the campus) this year features two Christian rock “artists,” Toddiefunk and the Electric Church and Warren Barfield. Toddiefunk is the bass player for Toby Mac, formerly with DC Talk. Electric Church’s new album *Ready or Not* features “Holy Ghost Thang,” “Dance Floor,” “Naked,” and “Crazy.” The *Chattanooga Times Free Press* for Oct. 29, 2005, featured a picture of Tennessee Temple University students worshipping to contemporary rock music during a Wednesday evening service. When I was a student at Temple in the mid-1970s they preached against Christian rock, Billy Graham-style New Evangelicalism, and worldly dress, but the school has been slipping away from its spiritual mooring for a long time. Danny Lovett, who recently took over the presidency at Temple, came from Jerry Falwell’s Liberty Baptist University, which it is New Evangelical to the

(See **FBIS** on page 20)

FBIS . . .

(Continued from page 19)

core. Billy Graham, the Prince of New Evangelicalism, has spoken at Liberty and has been praised by Falwell for his "faithful ministry." Liberty students are not warned about the heresy of Graham's ecumenical evangelism or his unscriptural emphasize-the-positive, judge-not philosophy. Liberty has hosted conferences for the radically ecumenical Promise Keepers as well as for Rick Warren. Biblical separation is rapidly fading from the agenda of a large body of fundamental Baptists who are moving in the popular contemporary direction.

* * *

Barna Poll: 45% Americans Born Again.

— According to a new Barna Poll 45% of American adults are "born again" ("Survey," Christian Post, March 27). The survey is further evidence that small polling samples can produce terribly wrong results (Barna surveyed 1,003 adults). To say that 45% of American adults even in the heart of the Bible Belt are born again is nothing less than ridiculous, not to speak of the Northeast and the Northwest and other parts of the country where born again Christians are exceedingly rare.

Since We Will Be In Heaven Together We Should Get Along On Earth.

— Many have written to say, "You spend your time warning about this Christian and that Christian; don't you realize that we will all be together in heaven? Why can't we then get along on earth?" The simple answer is that we will be perfect in heaven, but that certainly is not true on earth. In heaven there will be no false teaching or sin or worldliness or compromise. There will be nothing to reprove. Meanwhile, we aren't in heaven. That is the sweet by and by, and we yearn to be there, but in the mean time we live in the nasty now and now. And in the nasty now and now God has commanded us to earnestly contend for the faith and to reprove the works of darkness. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:11).

* * *

An Ocean Of Unbelief.

— In 1971 the Bible League of England described the previous 100 years in the following words: "[Charles] Spurgeon's days saw apostasy as a trickle; by the time of the Bible League's foundation [1892] it had become a stream; shortly it expanded to a river, and today it has become a

veritable ocean of unbelief. For the most of men the ancient landmarks have disappeared from sight. Life upon earth has become a voyage on an uncharted ocean in a cockle-shell boat 'tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.' Never before in human history has the 'sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive' (Eph. 4:14) been so greatly in evidence. 'Evil men and seducers wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived' (2 Tim. 3:13)" (S.M. Houghton, "The Bible League: Its Origin and Its Aims," 1971). □

How to Get to Heaven

A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday School class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven. She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?"

"NO!" the children answered.

Then she asked, "If I cleaned the church buildings every week, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat, would that get me into heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

By then she was smiling, feeling good about her teaching skill. "Well

then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?" she asked them again.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

She was just bursting with pride as she asked, "Well, then how can I get into heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead!" □ □

What Is Faith?

Faith is the eye by which we lay hold of Jesus. A trembling hand is still a hand. And he is a believer whose heart within him trembles when he touches the hem of the Savior's garment, that he may be healed.

Faith is the tongue by which we taste how good the Lord is. A feverish tongue is nevertheless a tongue. We may believe when we are without the smallest portion of comfort, for our faith is founded, not upon feelings, but upon the promise of God.

Faith is the foot by which we go to Jesus. A lame foot is still a foot. He who comes slowly, nevertheless comes. □ □

**If you don't stand
for something
you'll fall for
anything
Isa. 7:9**

BROWN . . .

(Continued from page 1)

pany has ever been so exalted, intrusted or commissioned as have the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus, while on earth, constituted only His church. He placed the ordinances in His church, and He commissioned His church to keep the ordinances and to preach the gospel to every nation unto the end of the age. In Matthew 26:26-28 it tells of the institution of the Lord's Supper, and it was instituted in the church. In Matthew 28:19-20 we find recorded the world wide and age long commission to preach and make disciples of all nations, to baptize and teach the observance of all things as taught by the Lord Jesus Christ, and this sort of behavior guarantees the blessings of Christ upon the church even unto the end of the world. This commission was given solely to the church, and to the writer this is church sovereignty. Nowhere can it be found where the Lord has exalted any other present day organization to this high, noble and honorable position. Only His churches have this high and exalted position, therefore they are sovereign. The fact that no other organization holds this high position; the fact that no other order can occupy this Christ elevated station, explains why the churches

of the Lord Jesus Christ are sovereign. Only God could exalt an organization to this superior position. For many centuries men have been trying to exalt their organized agencies to the high and honorable position of the churches of Jesus Christ. According to the Scriptures they will continue their efforts, and according to the Scriptures they will never succeed.

New Testament churches do not only hold a unique position, but they possess a nontransferable obligation also. Nowhere can it be found where the Lord ever said anything about churches having the right to transfer authority or legislate laws or regulations. Christ commissioned His church to execute His will, and not to legislate new laws. The church that executes the will of Christ has no time for law making and for formulating. No New Testament church can transfer her rights and privileges to any other organization on earth. Transferred rights and duties cease to be authoritative. Church rights and duties were placed in the church by divine authority and for them to remain authoritative they must remain in the church. The keys of the kingdom of heaven cannot be transferred; they cannot be loaned, given, leased, sold or stolen. There is only one with authority over the churches of Jesus Christ and He is at the right hand

of the Father in heaven (Eph. 1:22). There is but one in all the world that has the right to direct the energies of the churches of Jesus Christ. He is the Holy Spirit and He directs according to the will of Christ, and Christ's will is recorded in the New Testament (Acts 1:8; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Churches are absolutely independent of all organizations. There is no possible way by which a New Testament church can affiliate with or become a part of any other organization regardless of the kind or nature. One church can't even affiliate or become a part of another church. A church can receive into her body members from other churches, but one church cannot receive another church into her body. Therefore, since one church cannot become a member of a sister church, to the writer, it is most absurd to speak of a Baptist church being a member of an Association, Organized Fellowship or Convention. God has made or provided no plan by which such a union can possibly be had. Every scriptural church is complete within itself and it is most certain that they can have no union with man-made organizations and agencies.

Regardless of the fact that man-made agencies may be made up of men that hold membership with Baptist churches, such

agencies do not have any right to dictate what Baptist churches shall do. Nor do they have authority to do the work Jesus Christ commissioned His churches to do. Man-made agencies have equally as much right to ordain preachers, call pastors for churches, conduct business meetings for churches, ordain their deacons and elect all Sunday School officers and teachers, as they have to send out missionaries, recommend missionaries or handle church mission money. Such organizations have just as much authority to handle the pastor's salary as they have to handle the salary of the missionary.

There are ways by which churches can cooperate when the Holy Spirit is leading. Churches can recommend missionaries to other churches as being worthy of their support. One church has authority to recommend to another church, and churches only, have authority to recommend to churches. Churches claim the right to give letters of recommendation to sister churches recommending transferring members to their fellowship. This is a common practice among Baptists and this is church cooperation. Sister churches release their pastors to each other for revivals, ordinations, etc. and this is cooperation. I have known of churches

(See **BROWN** on page 22)

When Is A Revival Needed?

1. When there is a lack of spiritual power.
2. When the church members have lost their "concern for souls."
3. When members can easily break church engagements and God's appointments.
4. When they prefer and rally to social gatherings rather than a prayer meeting.
5. When they are lovers of money or lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.
6. When bickering, strifes, criticisms and diversions are prevalent in the church.
7. When it is easier to criticize and condemn the faithful than to pray for and work with them.
8. When hypocrisy can flourish in the church without rebuke or sense of shame.
9. When Christians neglect the privileges of worship and only attend the services of their church when they feel like it.
10. When conversions are seldom and backslidings are evident.
11. When church people can cancel their obligations to the cause of Christ without reason (and fear of judgment).
12. When the members don't think they need a revival. □

PRAYER . . .

(Continued from page 1)

school, home, office, store and factory, endeavoring to do our best and determined in what we do to glorify God.

It will give strength to meet bravely any disappointments and adversities as they come.

It will make us conscious through the day of the attending presence of a divine Friend and Helper.

It will hallow our friendship with our guests in the home.

It will reinforce the influence and work of the church, the church school and agencies helping to establish the Christian ideal throughout the world.

It will encourage other homes to make a place for Christ and the church.

It will honor our Father above and express our gratitude for His mercy and blessing. □

10 . . .

(Continued from page 1)

sure his giving by what he has left rather than by the amount he gives.

6. The man who goes to church for his own sake rather than for the sake of the preacher.

7. The man with a passion to help rather than be helped.

8. The man with a willing mind rather than a brilliant one.

9. The man who can see

his own faults before he sees the faults of others.

10. The man who is more concerned about winning souls for Christ than he is about winning worldly honor. □ □

BROWN . . .

(Continued from page 21)

giving assistance to a sister church in building a much needed meeting house, and this is cooperation. I know of sister independent, direct, orthodox, missionary Baptist churches that are working together in missions, and this is cooperation; but, there are no outside home-made go-between organizations handling the business of these churches. These churches are handling their own business and this is Church Cooperation.

It is church sovereignty also.

Christ wills to direct His churches though the Holy Spirit. He is jealous of His churches and He does not want any organization to come between Him and His churches; therefore, He left no room for such agencies, not even standing room. Man-made agencies have just as much authority over the angels in heaven as they have over the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. To preach Church Sovereignty is fine, but according to my way of thinking, it is much better to practice it along with the preaching. God help true Baptist churches to remain true; to forever keep their Christ exalted sovereign position and execute their God-given sovereign rights as the Holy Spirit shall direct. □ □

The Bible Convinced Them

"The holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation" (2 Tim. 3:15).

Two Mongol Tartar chiefs were engaged by a missionary to assist him in preparing a translation of the gospels into the language of their country, and they had, as a matter of course, to study the subject intently. At length the work was completed, the last correction made, and the book was closed on the table. Still they sat serious and silent.

At last the missionary inquired what was the matter, and was equally surprised and delighted to hear them both declare themselves converts to Christianity.

"At home," they said, "we studied the sacred writings of the Chinese, and the more we read the more obscure they seemed; but the longer we have read the gospel, the more simple and intelligible it became, until at last it seemed as if Jesus were talking with us."

WOLFE . . .

(Continued from page 5)

rebellion against a righteous life style.

9. The World — Now it seems that many people have more respect for the world than they do for God and his institution, the church. They will readily dress appropriately to go to a prom, a wedding, or a dance; but they resist dressing “properly” to go to God’s house. This shows more respect for the world than for God himself.

10. How Do We Get Back? — We must develop a high respect for God’s word, the Bible. We must, as Christians, resist the temptation to be casual on occasions when that casual presentation may show disrespect where respect is demanded and where honor is due. For example, I noticed a young lady once who came to a

wedding in her bikini. If people make fun for our being respectful to others and to our God, then be that as it may. We used to make fun of the boys who had long hair, and they would cut their hair. We used to make fun of girls who had their hair too short or even their dresses too short. Somewhere along the line, we allowed them to begin making fun of us, and now we are the underdogs. Let’s get back on track and begin to live with honor and respect to our parents, our elders, our bosses, our teachers, our pastors, our church, and others who may not agree with us. Respect will always win out in the end. Romans 13:7 *Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.* ▮

NAME . . .

(Continued from page 1)

converted, baptized and trained, even before Christ began His own brief ministry on earth. Thus when Christ called for disciples He found them already prepared for Him (Mt. 4:18-22; 9:9). We do not read that John’s converts were called Baptists, for there were no denominations in those days, but they must have been Baptist, for they believed what John the Baptist preached; they accepted the Baptist’s baptism, and they in turn won converts and baptized them. Moreover, Jesus Himself was baptized by John the Baptist and endorsed him with lavish praise.

Again, the name Baptist is a Christ-centered name. John baptized in order “to make Christ manifest” (Jn. 1:31). Since Christ’s greatest work on earth was His death, burial and resurrection on our behalf, John’s baptism — immersion — pointed clearly to the Atonement. John pointed to Christ as the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. John always pointed to Christ, saying, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” When we do likewise we are Christ-centered.

John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord, and to make His paths straight (Mt. 3:3).

When we prepare the way for our children, and Sunday School pupils, and those who listen to our witness — all for our Lord — then we are doing what the Baptist did. And when our paths are straight by Christian standards, then they will lead our followers directly to Christ.

The name Baptist is also a descriptive name. Since baptism symbolizes our death to all sinful ways, our burial of all bad habits, and our rising to walk in newness of life, then baptism symbolizes our conversion as well as our entire Christian life. Perhaps that is why the word “baptized” is used in several places to describe the entire work of John the Baptist (Jn. 1:28, 31, 33; 10:40) and of Christ Himself (Jn., 3:22, 26; 4:1-2).

Logically, then, each Baptist is one who has “killed” all sinful ways, buried them in the baptistery, and ever since lives as one who is “risen with Christ” (Col. 3:1), who has “put off the old man” and has “put on the new man” (Col. 3:8-14). Thus it seems that Baptists have a deeper obligation to live a consistent Christian life than non-immersed Christians! But do we?

Further, the name Baptist is an ideal name. It is the name the Lord gave to the first preacher of the Christian Gospel, the one

(See **NAME** on page 24)

Grace

“All of grace” — from base to summit
Grace on ever course and stone,
Grace in planning, rearing, crowning,
Sovereign grace, and grace alone!

“All of grace” — for useless strivings
Perfect pardon’s sweet content!
Life and light for death and darkness!
“All of Grace” and “grace sufficient,”

“Grace abounding,” “Grace that reigns.”
Grace, the guarantee of glory!
Grace, grace! grace!
How sweet the strains!”

—Thomas Spurgeon

NAME . . .

(Continued from page 23)

who baptized the Son of God, the one in whom the Holy Spirit dwelt from his infancy, the one who was “great in the sight of the Lord” (Lk. 1:15), the one whom Christ praised so profusely, the one whom “all men” counted as a prophet indeed, and the one who had the honor of being the first martyr for Christ. Notice that everything John did and said brought honor to Christ. His name was not an object of praise or glory; rather, it was a signboard pointing to his Lord. Would that all modern Baptists were faithful signboards, not seekers for glory.

Again, the name Baptist could be what it was at first, non-sectarian. John, the first Baptist, was not a narrow denominationalist; he was all out for his Lord. If every Christian now could forget all divisive influence, all divisive teachers or leaders, and go back to the original source of the Christian Gospel in the New Testament, he would take his stand with the Lord Jesus and His apostles, all of them endorsed John the Baptist (Acts 1:22). This endorsement would magnify Christ as Lord and Savior, not any lesser cult or leader.

Then the name Baptist could be a unifying name. “One Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Eph. 4:5) is our

ideal. If we all had one faith we would have only one baptism. Conversely, if all Christians held to one baptism — the one Christ approved — that baptism would point to only one faith, the faith symbolized and portrayed by the original baptism. Then if all had that one faith, we would all have one Lord and only one. We would declare our independence of all popes, bishops, priests, traditions, superstitions, and extra-Biblical customs which now confuse multitudes of people.

How did Christians ever become so divided, especially on baptism? Within a century of Christ’s resurrection, some influential leaders got the idea that baptism was necessary for salvation. This heresy led to baptizing babies, and sick people, thus making sprinkling seem to be more convenient. After a few more centuries, the majority of Christendom held to sprinkling babies, making the Roman hierarchy the arbiter of disputes. However, God had preserved for Himself a remnant through the ages, those who never yielded to Rome or to infant baptism. They were called various names, and since 1644 the name Baptist has gained increasing respect.

Every Baptist has the great privilege of witnessing for his Lord by means of explaining the meaning of his baptism and of his name

Baptist. For when baptism is explained, the Gospel of Christ is explained. Baptists, then, should be both and courteous in explaining their name, and thereby glorifying their Lord. ■

NICK . . .

(Continued from page 2)

sick condition was remedied by their repentance, then the word “healing” would be appropriate to use, just as the word “healed” is used in First Peter 2:24 to show that a spiritually sick soul has been healed and made healthy because of the death (“stripes” — “bruising”) of Christ on the cross and faith in Him as Savior.

David cried out to the Lord, “heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee” (Psa. 41:4). Here is an earnest plea for a soul needing healing. We have no difficulty understanding this. Hosea the prophet writes concerning Ephraim and the house of Judah regarding their whoredoms and pride. “When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to King Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound” (Hos. 5:13). Here “sickness” and “wound” are descriptive of a heart attitude problem that needed to be cured and healed. The point we make here with these scripture references is that words found in the Bible

like “sickness” “wounds,” “bruises,” “healing,” “cures,” etc., do not always relate to the physical body but can be spiritual and more in nature.

Such is the case with regard to the verse under consideration (1 Pet. 2:24). You will not find physical healing in this verse nor in the context. The healing here has to do with the fact that on the basis of the substitutionary work of Christ, dead spirits are made alive (Eph. 2:1), the guilty are forgiven (Acts 13:38), hearts of stone become hearts of flesh (Ezk. 36:26), corrupt hearts are purified (Acts 15:9), and there is peace between God and the believer (Col. 1:20). What a precious healing brought about by the Great Physician.

One verse that is often misused to teach that the death of Christ provides bodily healing for saints is found in Matthew 8:17 where the context tells of Christ casting out demons and healing the sick, and then the words, “Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.” He “took” and “bare” the griefs and sickness of His people by healing all that came to Him during His personal ministry on earth, but did not do so on the cross. “He bare our sins in his own body on the tree” (1 Pet. 2:24). He “died for our sins” (1 Cor. 15:3), “the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity (not sickness) of us all” (Isa. 53:6). ■ ■