

# The Baptist

# CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 502

## God's Way Versus Man's Way

By Norman H. Wells

### Which Way Are We To Follow — Conventions, Associations and Fellowships, Or God's Way, The Local Church?

The eighth chapter of First Samuel tells a very familiar story. From the time of their beginning until the time of the event recorded in this chapter, the Israelites had lived under a theocratic type government. The dictionary tells us that a theocracy is a government recognizing the immediate sovereignty of God. *This was God's will*

*for Israel.* They were continually to look to Him as their King.

In this chapter a strange thing happens. Israel demands a king! Many reasons were ad-

vanced for this action. First, Samuel's two sons, Joel and Ahiah had proved a great disappointment to their father and to the nation. Samuel had made his two sons judges in Israel and

they had corrupted the office. The people protested against this and because of the failure of Samuel's sons they wanted to reject God's form of government.

Secondly, the nations bordering on Israel now gave signs of renewed uprisings to threaten Israel. The people were fearful of

(See **WELLS** on page 22)

### The Preacher's Wife

You may talk of the work of the greatest man, you may rave about statesmen and teachers; you may tell about their achievements — and then let me tell you of the wives of the preachers. No martyr was more steadfast and true; no soldier was ever more brave; she's a genius at home — she's a diplomat too. And the best mother God ever gave.

(See **WIFE** on page 12)

### Was Your Grandmother An Ape?

By Roy Mason

Evolution is taught as a *fact* in most schools of this day. Students are taught evolution in the grades, then in high school, and on through college and university. The teaching of biology, botany and geology is *based on* evolution. Many of our denominational colleges teach evolution. The teaching of evolution is significant religiously because it is incompatible with the

teachings of the Bible. It has had wide-spread practical effects on the moral life of the human race, for as some one has said, "Monkey men make monkey morals." Young people leave college believing that they are but highly developed brutes, and they go out into the world to live and act like brutes.

Evolution has been de-  
(See **MASON** on page 2)

### The Cost of Worship

The Bible tells of many times when people traveled far for the sake of Jesus. The Magi traveled for months to see Him when He was born. People went out to the desert from Jerusalem, Judæa, and the Jordan region to hear John the Baptist preach about His coming. During Jesus' ministry, large crowds followed Him wherever He went.

(See **COST** on page 12)

## Quiz The Pastor

# What Does The Bible Say About Life On Other Planets

By the late Nick Michalinos

**Question:** Do you believe there is intelligent life on other planets?

**Answer:** Since no scientific evidence has been presented thus far to prove there is intelligent life forms on any other planet other than earth, then I must say “no.” I don’t believe intelligent life as we know it exists on other planets.

It seems that the scientific mind of man is prone to speculate with regard to finding intelligent beings on other planets. Even today, our space program is aimed in this direction. The Gamma Ray Observatory was launched from the space craft Atlantis in April, 1991, in hope among other things, of finding out “What created us?” This is a flat, public denial of the Genesis record of creation. It is not “What created us” that should draw our interest, but “Who

created us!” (Gen. 1:1, 26).

The unbelieving mind pushes God completely out of the picture because man does not naturally “like to retain God in his knowledge” (Rom. 1:28). He does not want a God he will eventually have to give account to at some sort of future judgment, so he does away with Him, and by so doing, he also does away with the idea of a Creator God. This, then, leads him to the conclusion that things that exist now actually came about on their own, via the “big-bang” theory, or such like.

Now, taking this a step further, he reasons that if earth and its inhabitants came about as per evolutionary thinking by accident, then if it could happen this way in our galaxy, then the same set of developments could have taken place in other places

in the universe. So, he takes billions of tax dollars, and goes about searching for extraterrestrial life on some other planet. They are constantly sending out signals from earth hoping to contact someone or something out there in the vast universe that might respond in some way. Their search will prove to be in vain.

The scriptures tell us that only earth was uniquely created to be the dwelling place for man. “The heavens, even the heavens are the Lord’s: but the earth hath he given to the children of men” (Psa. 115:16). “God hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation” (Acts 17:20).

Of all the billions and billions of heavenly bodies, God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, visited tiny planet earth as a new-born babe, and as a man, and suffered and died on the cross for man’s sins. There is no other planet like earth with all its complex environmental factors suited to sustain divinely-created human life.

An astronaut on one of our space crafts remarked about the beautiful colors of earth he observed as he looked down from space on this unique globe. There’s none like it. One day it will be renovated by Divine power, and the redeemed of the Lord will dwell on it forever with their Creator.

MASON . . .

(Continued from page 1)

defined as “Continuous progressive change, according to certain laws, by *means of resident forces.*” No God is necessary — change is by *resident forces.*

### Theistic Evolution

Modernistic preachers have tried to reconcile the Bible and religion with evolution by saying that evolution is just the way that “God works.” The truth is, the Bible and Christianity cannot be reconciled to evolution. Genesis teaches beyond question that man was made as a *special creation* — not by age long process (Gen. 1:26-27). It teaches that various species were made “after their kind” (Gen. 1:24-25). Had man come into existence through evolutionary process he would have had a mate. But the first man had no mate, and one was *made outright* for him (Gen. 2:21-22). Evolution and special creation can’t be reconciled. If evolution is so — the Bible is not so. If the Bible is so, then evolution is a big lie!

### Why Did Men Start The Evolution Theory?

Back behind it was deep-seated antagonism toward God and His Word. The unregenerate heart

(See MASON on page 14)

## THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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God's Masterpiece, Man's Body -- Message #40

# Hives and Asthma

By Arthur I. Brown

Another subject closely associated with the defensive mechanisms of the body is that of allergy or hypersensitiveness. It has been estimated that at least 10 percent of the people in the United States suffer seriously in one way or another from this mysterious malady. An old writer in a letter to his physician about his hay fever, said: "Light, dust, contradiction, an absurd remark — anything, sets me sneezing; and if I begin sneezing at twelve, I don't leave off until two o'clock, and am heard distinctly in Taunton, when the wind sets that way — a distance of six miles. Turn your mind to this little curse."

Every doctor has dealt with this kind of trouble and often has found himself helpless to relieve the symptoms for any length of time. You are familiar with it. It may be you have eaten lobster, clam, oyster, shrimp, or any kind of fish, and you find yourself suffering from a violent skin reaction. It may be meat, eggs, or even bread, which bring on these painful swellings, affecting eyes, lips, hands, or feet. Some people are allergic to strawberries; in fact, almost

anything under certain conditions seems able to bring on an attack in susceptible people.

Of course, the sufferers from food allergy are only one group. Another has no distress from food, but is painfully susceptible to pollens, dusts, smokes, odors and other substances floating in the air. Hay fever victims trace their trouble to pollens, the chief offender in North America being ragweed. There is very little ragweed in Europe, but there, timothy and other grasses cause the same symptoms. And there are many cases of hay fever that have no relation whatever to pollen.

Contact seems to be the most usual source of skin reactions, and this includes not only contact with pollens, leaves, oils, and other substances, but also with many lifeless things — such as iodine, novacaine, etc. Cold applied to the skin is another source of distress. There are persons who cannot touch ice without a marked swelling very promptly appearing. Many cases are on record where bathers collapsed after a few minutes exposure to cold water. They may have been

supposed to have cramps but really were allergic to cold. Some drugs will bring on an attack, also certain bacteria and molds, or an injection of serum containing antibodies. The range of agencies to which a person may be physiologically sensitive is a large one, but there is one common characteristic of the patients: they are hypersensitive to something which has no effect on others.

It must be confessed that our knowledge of allergy is very limited, but it seems to be hypersensitivity to a protein, acting as a sudden irritant because of some unknown condition of the blood. It might be tiny particles issuing from a cat's fur, or chicken feathers in a pillow on which the individual lies, occasionally something so insignificant that it would be thought impossible to set up any internal reaction.

We know that something happens to the cellular tissues when attacked by these small particles, be it a pollen grain, a dust mote, or a particle of lobster. Let us ask ourselves what happens, and it is easier to ask the question than to answer it. But it may be

said that at least four kinds of tissues are affected. First certain netlike structures of cells which line the interior of the small lymphatic vessels, and blood capillaries, and other serious cavities. These tiny vessels, you recall, are only one four-thousandth of an inch in thickness. The cells which line these infinitely small tubes are thought to produce the antibodies which are so important in immunizing the body.

The second change that is brought about is a kind of disintegration of the wall of the capillaries so that the cells which make up their walls cease to hold together as a compact tubular vessel, and become a sieve through which blood serum — now loaded with antibodies — escapes into tissues and the spaces between the cells. This brings about the familiar appearance associated with hives, the raised and reddened whelps which are so itchy because the sensitive nerve ends are irritated. When we remember the thousands of miles of these capillary tubes and that the small vessels of the human muscles alone have

(See **BODY** on page 5)

# Evolution — The Incredible Hoax

## Christ or Gorilla Which? — Part 1

By Gordon Lindsay

Before we enter into this subject, ask yourself the question as to what it means for your child to be taught evolution in the school. This is a matter of grave importance, and one you dare not lightly cast aside. For those who are taught, and are led to believe the teachings of evolution, the consequences can be catastrophic. The case is stated clearly and certainly by the late Dr. W.A. Criswell, well-known pastor of the 12,000 member First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. In his book, **Did Man Just Happen?** he says:

“I do say that the theory of evolution, if it is accepted, has tremendous, immeasurable repercussions for the Christian faith and those repercussions are tragic in the extreme. If something evolved out of nothing, and if out of that something that evolved out of nothing there evolved a little piece of life, an amoeba, and if out of that amoeba there evolved a larva, and out of that larva there evolved a fish, and out of the fish there evolved an amphibian, and out of the amphibian there evolved a reptile, and out of that reptile there evolved a bird,

### What Does It Mean To You for Your Child to be Taught Evolution in the Schools?

and out of the bird there evolved a mammal, and out of that mammal there evolved a man, *if from the beginning of emptiness and void and nothingness until the man that is you emerges, if it is done by evolution, then there is no place for God, none at all, and you live in a material and mechanical world.*

“Not only do I say that it has a repercussion in religion that is tragic, because it takes God out of life and out of the world, but I also say that it repudiates the redemptive work of Christ. If the truth of evolution is established, if the fact of it can be demonstrated, just give us more time and we will evolve into celestial and immortal archangels.

#### NO NEED FOR SALVATION

“According to the redemptive work of Christ, man was created perfect but he fell in sin and Christ was promised to restore the man to his original per-

fection. That redemptive work of Christ is experienced in the heart of His Christian people today. But if evolution is correct, then all of that is nothing. The Bible itself is not a revelation of God, nor is Christ the Son of God, but the Bible itself is a product of the evolutionary upreach of man seeking to find something higher and better. Just give us time and we will finally evolve into all of those wonderful and holy characteristics toward which our human hearts do faithfully long.”

So much for the obvious implications of evolution. Let us see what the facts concerning this theory actually are.

#### THERE IS NO SPONTANEOUS GENERATION

*“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of*

*the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light” (Gen. 1:1-3).*

Essentially the theory of evolution begins with the supposed generation of life in its most primitive form. It is commonly affirmed by evolutionists that throughout the physical universe whenever conditions develop conducive to life, life will eventually appear. But no explanation has ever been given as what would cause life to appear out of nothing.

Why then do we have the theory of evolution? The answer is not difficult to find. The first chapter of Genesis declares that it was God who created life. But if this Divine revelation of creation is rejected, there is but one alternative explanation that life must have appeared of itself. It is just that simple.

During the French Revolution, atheism gained ascendancy in France, and with it denial of the Biblical account of creation. Rationalists taught that spontaneous generation accounted for the appearance of life on the earth. Louis Pasteur, the great French

(See **HOAX** on page 18)

**BODY . . .**

(Continued from page 3)

a surface area of more than one and a half acres, we can easily see how very marked may be the physiological changes, if an appreciable part of this vast surface suddenly becomes porous, and releases its channeled blood.

The third effect is on smooth muscle, such as is found in the lungs and intestinal canal, setting up a vigorous contraction which refuses to relax easily.

The fourth tissue which reacts is the liver. The presence of the allergen of protein irritant stimulates liver cells to react with it, thereby releasing a potent substance into the blood stream. It may be this substance which causes the capillary walls to become porous and the smooth muscle to contract.

Now it happens that there is an organic chemical, histamine, which produces effects almost identical with those caused by an allergen. After many experiments it is thought by some investigators that a histamine-like compound is present, known as H-substance, possibly in one of the kinds of white blood cells. You see this is an immensely complicated situation which has caused many volumes to be written. I am giving just the barest outline.

The release of this H-substance and its diffusion

through the circulation stimulates one or several tissues, and it may be that the damaged cells are acting in self-defense in sending out the H-substance, calling for a protective response from the “shock-organs” or tissues which are stimulated. The resulting effects are the symptoms common to this allergy.

In one person the shock-organ may be the epidermis or perhaps certain cells immediately beneath the skin surface where the capillaries are found. Then, the tiny sieve-like openings in these vessels permit a local flooding of the region with lymph or blood, or both, an effort to dilute the poisonous substances in the tissues, and thus to protect the precious cells.

In another individual, the shock organ may be the intestinal tract, and still a third victim feels the force of the histamine shock in the small bronchioles, whose muscles almost close the breathing tubes in this violent asthmatic reaction. Then there are others whose shock tissue is in the nasal chambers, where the opening of lymph channels manifests itself in excessive secretion from the nose.

The stimulus is the same in each individual but the response varies from one person to the next because of some constitutional difference between the two individuals of which we know practically nothing.

Heredity seems to affect the mechanism of allergy and 60 to 70 percent of allergic patients record allergic ancestors.

It may be that the frightened cells, aware of the presence of an enemy — protein or otherwise — launch a mass of antibodies into the blood stream to counteract the danger. It is not necessary to say much about the treatment or the manner of attempting a diagnosis. If the substance can be discovered, then the physician tries to desensitize the patient by giving very small but gradually increasing doses of irritating allergen at proper intervals in order to build up slowly the proper resistance. Some patients are readily relieved, some only partially, while others find no result. I will not weary you by telling you of the many theories propounded in regard to this condition but nearly every one knows what the remedy is for quick relief — even if temporary — in asthma. Many times I have seen a patient in the throes of a violent asthmatic attack, suffering acutely because of the inability to breathe. Especially is expiration impeded, and the sufferer in a sitting position is a pitiable object, but almost immediately after the hypodermic needle is used to inject the dose of adrenaline or ephedrine, the spasm relaxes, the tubes to the lungs are opened wide, the patient takes a few deep breaths, and is normal once

more. That is one time the doctor is blessed. I will not mention the other times!

As we have seen, adrenin is a substance normal in the body, produced by the adrenal gland, and, as a hormone in the blood, does things that certain nerves can also do. When these nerves go on strike or for any reason fail to act, adrenin will do the job, if it is present. It directly antagonizes histamine, one part of it rendering ineffective ten parts of histamine.

What a blessed prospect lies ahead of the Christian in being given a glorified body like the body of the risen Lord. “We shall be like him.” Then, all physical weaknesses, handicaps, and sufferings will be forever past. We shall have a body which has substance — flesh and bones — but governed by spirit. Now it is hard for us to grasp all that is meant by this great change. It will be instantaneous and it will be perfect.

Let me bring to you a great word about it found in 1 Corinthians 15:51-57: “Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incor-

(See **BODY** on page 24)



## Does the Bible Forbid Blood Transfusions?

By L. K. Tarr  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

It is surprising to hear that anyone would refuse to have a transfusion after it has been recommended by a competent doctor but it is nothing short of incredible to learn that there are those who refuse blood transfusions for themselves, their children, and other loved ones on the grounds that the Bible forbids such an act of mercy!

From all across the continent, however, there come reports of parents refusing blood transfusions to their children even though such a refusal means certain death. The reason given for this stand is that the Holy Scripture condemns the practice. The wide publicity which has been given to these incidents raises the question in the mind of thinking people, "Does the Bible really forbid blood transfusion?"

In just one short word, the answer to this question is — NO! The source of this opposition to blood transfusions is not the Bible but Brooklyn, the headquarters of the cult that designates itself as "The Jehovah's Witness."

There are four brief considerations which will assist anyone in coming to

a conclusion as to whether the Bible forbids transfusions.

### 1. The Bible Nowhere Mentions Blood Transfusions.

It is surely not surprising to learn that the Bible, which was written hundreds of years ago, nowhere mentions the subject of blood transfusions for this is a relatively recent medical discovery. Yet some of the Jehovah's Witnesses' statements are so dogmatic that one could gain the impression that the Bible describes transfusions and specifically forbids them. Do not be deceived by their specious statements for the Bible nowhere mentions the subject.

### 2. The Bible verses which the Jehovah's Witnesses quote as condemning blood transfusions have no remote connection with the subject!

The Scriptures which these zealous, but misguided people usually quote are: Genesis 9:4; Leviticus. 3:17; 7:27; 17:10-11, 14, and Acts 15:19-20. Anyone who

will take just a few moments to read these verses in their proper setting will discover the following interesting facts:

(1) They speak of the eating (not transfusion) of blood.

(2) They speak of the blood of animals (not humans), killed for blood or sacrificial offerings.

(3) Only the most vivid imagination could associate these verses with the matter of blood transfusions.

If these verses can be made to refer to blood transfusions (and they can't) then the Bible can be made to say anything. An honest, unbiased reading of these and other cited proof texts which the Jehovah's Witnesses put forward will demonstrate conclusively that they have no connection whatever with the subject under discussion.

### 3. The specific example and words of the Lord Jesus Christ would condemn this attitude toward blood transfusions.

The Jehovah's Witnesses' official publication states that "blood trans-

fusion is not Christlike." Is this bold statement true? Definitely not!

For instance, the Savior once encountered a man with a crippled hand. It was on the Sabbath day and the Pharisees stood by to see what would transpire. The Lord Jesus beckoned for the sufferer to step forward and turned to his very precise critics with this searching question, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days or to do evil? to save life or to kill?" (Mk. 3:4). Notice that the Pharisees could point to specific reference in the Old Testament which forbade work on the sabbath day and by their own cold reasoning could label a deed of mercy as work. The Savior recognized that even the law of the Old Testament was the expression of the character of a holy, but loving, God, consequently, He turned and healed the man, thus demonstrating that it is right to save human life.

The modern critics of a merciful medical practice, who have no Bible grounds whatever for their objections against life-giving blood transfusions, would do

(See **BLOOD** on page 14)

# Baptist Independency, What We Mean By It

By A. J. Kirkland

Baptists have always been identified by certain characteristics of independence. Even back in the dark ages, and in the rise of the Roman Papacy, they suffered for their independence. It was because they refused to recognize the rights of Rome to interfere with their worship and faith that they were branded as heretics and accounted worthy to die. And because they refused to recognize the rights of Roman Catholicism to baptize and to execute the great commission for them that they got the name Ana-Baptists. And because of their refusal to recognize any authority of state over them they were hated and stigmatized from one end of the world to the other. Today, no other people are given credit for complete separation of church and state in America as Baptists.

Some of the characteristics still obtain among most Baptists so far as we know. Indeed, most Baptist Conventions and Associations still safeguard their interest against government interference. This has been manifested recently in the condemnation of the government N.Y.A. program and with reference to social security, although we regret to say that some

schools sustained by Baptists have accepted money from the government in the N.Y.A. program.

But we wonder today if when we talk about Baptist independence we have not come to think only in terms of separation of church and state. Some Baptists are becoming entangled with the so-called Council of the Churches of Christ of America and kindred organizations, and this within itself is significant. We wonder if we have not unconsciously come to think of independence in a mere denominational right for Baptists as a whole without regard to the local pulpit and the church unit. We believe that these things are true.

It is true that among many Baptist groups or bodies the idea or doctrine of independence still prevails, but in fact it is not true. It exists in preachment but is not manifested in practice.

During a recent meeting of the General Baptist Convention of Texas in Houston, there appeared an editorial in the Houston Chronicle which would do credit to any Baptist people on Baptist independency. The editorial declared that here was a meeting of people who had majored on

the independency of the local congregation. That in fact every body representing in this great Convention was an independent self-governing community, a kingdom within itself, and was in no way organically connected with anything outside of its local organization. The Chronicle stated the true Baptist position and theoretically told the truth. But how different are the actual workings of the Convention system from these preachments. However, it is not our purpose to deal at length with these things.

## Associations Unscriptural

If we are to understand the real meaning of Baptist independency as a principle taught and commanded by Christ, there is one thing that we must positively fix in our minds and hearts from the beginning. In fact, the learning or fixing of this one truth in our minds, and the doing of it with definite immovable convictions, will just about settle everything else. That truth is this: *The Holy Scriptures positively know nothing whatsoever of any kind of a general body such as associations, conventions, or any kind of organized movement of Christianity other*

*than a local congregation known as a church.* It is mighty hard for modern day Baptists with all their traditional and denominational pride to accept and recognize this fact, but it is the truth nevertheless. Every organization, assembly, convention, association and other movements [including organized Fellowships — Ed.] regardless of their nature outside or in addition to the local church body is of recent origin and is the product of human wisdom.

Now, if we accept the above stated truth, and, if we are honest with ourselves and our Bibles, we must accept it, it follows without gainsaying that every teaching and principle found in the word relative to the sovereignty and independence of the people of God must pertain to a local church body and cannot in any sense be rightfully applied to a Baptist denomination. To apply them to an association or convention is but to wrest the Scripture from its true meaning and change the word of God into a lie. If these statements seem hard and harsh let the reader appeal the issue to the Word of God and be judged thereby. Baptist tra-

(See **KIRK** on page 11)



**Wal-Mart, Gay Chamber Forge New Partnership.** — Bentonville-based Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., has joined the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce as a part of what the company says is its commitment to advancing diversity with employee, supplier and customer bases. The chamber announced the partnership in a news release Monday. Bob McAdams, Wal-Mart's vice president of corporate affairs, said Wednesday that the company is in partnership with organizations around the world working on behalf of many groups. "We work with women's groups, minority groups, hundreds of these groups reflecting all aspects of our customer base," McAdams said. Sam's Club executive Dee Breazeale will serve on the chamber's corporate advisory council. Wal-Mart will assist the chamber in developing, expanding and promoting corporate diversity business development and procurement opportunities through sponsorship of programs and two conferences. — Arkansas/Democrat Gazette, pg. D1

## World News Roundup

### Q: How Could Neandertal Man Be *Too Advanced For Evolution?*

— A: In southern France, they found evidence of human habitation hundreds of feet deep within a cave. What makes this find so important is that it was dated as the earliest sign of humans in Europe. Only the Neandertals were thought to have inhabited Europe at that time. What they found in the cave was astonishing for such "primitive" people. They found a "complex quadrilateral artificial structure consisting of specially arranged pieces of stalactite and stalagmite." They also found a piece of burned bear bone. But here's the problem: the items were so deep in the cave, that the people would've had to have some kind of artificial light, such as a fire, torch or lamp. Also, the structure they found was so complex, it would have required the builders to be able to communicate with each other. Such language skill and technological know-how doesn't fit with evolutionary ideas about Neandertals. However, it does fit with the creationist understanding — they were descended from Noah after the Flood.

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### Christians Protest

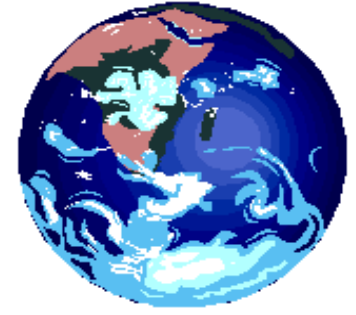
### Tightening of Anti-conversion Law in Indian State.

— New Delhi Christian groups have decried changes to laws said to enshrine "freedom of religion" by legislators in India's central state of Madhya Pradesh, ruled by the BJP, a party opponents describe as having a Hindu nationalist agenda. Under an amendment to the Freedom of Religion Act passed without discussion in the state legislature, the government now requires persons changing their religion to report to authorities about it one month before doing so. The existing law requires people changing their religion to report this to the government within one month of making the move. — ENI

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### Warnings Issued About TBN.

— Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) Ministry Watch advised "donors to withhold support" to this ministry. They also called for a reorganization of Trinity's leadership. Ministry Watch is concerned that TBN does not release consolidated audited financial statements, their savings rate is unusually high, they have cash and short term investments of more than a third of a billion dollars; the



TBN board of directors consists of only three members, all of whom are family members. Ministry Watch claims that "in 1998, a former TBN employee, Enoch Lonnie Ford, was paid \$425,000 for agreeing not to publicize Mr. Ford's allegations that he and TBN founder Paul Crouch had a homosexual tryst two years earlier." — Ministry's Watch.

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### Joyce Meyer's Ministry Exposed.

— Reporter Carolyn Tuft of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch noted that Joyce Meyer's annual salary in 2002 and 2003 was \$900,000; it has since been reduced to \$250,000. Her husband and vice-president of the ministry's board of trustees received \$450,000 during 2002 and 2003. Joyce Meyer and her husband have free use of a corporate jet, luxury cars, and a home worth \$2 million. Joyce Meyer also received a portion of the \$3 million per year royalties from sales of her books and tapes. Tuft wrote that

(See WNR on page 14)

# La Voz Del Desierto

## El Código Da Vinci ¿Hecho o Ficción — Parte 2

En *El Código Da Vinci* se dice que María Magdalena aparece como una dirigente de la iglesia en la famosa pintura de Leonardo Da Vinci a la mano derecha de Cristo en “*La última cena*”. Según Brown, Leonardo estaba al tanto del secreto genealógico y puso una pista en su pintura. Es de este detalle que la novela recibe su título, **El Código Da Vinci**. Este es un error desde el punto de vista de

la historia del arte. María Magdalena no es la figura a la derecha de Cristo en “*La última cena*”. Desde el tiempo de Da Vinci, este discípulo se entendía que era Juan. La figura se rotuló incluso como “Johannes” en una copia del fresco de Leonardo de principios del siglo dieciséis. Leonardo pudo haber añadido a Magdalena a su cuadro e “*La última cena*”, pero no habría quitado a uno de los discípulos.

Leonardo feminizó a Juan lo cual era muy común en otros artistas italianos del Renacimiento en esa época, como Perusino, Botticelli, Verrochio, Miguel Angel, Bronzino, Cellini y Giambologna.

Ahora bien, ¿de dónde saca el Sr. Brown que María Magdalena fue la esposa de Jesucristo? Él se basa mayormente en el “*Evangelio de María Magdalena*” y en el “*Evangelio de Felipe*”.

No en los Evangelios canónicos de la Biblia. Estos evangelios son libros apócrifos (no inspirados) que fueron rechazados por los primeros cristianos porque fueron escritos por una secta llamada los gnósticos por el año 250 D.C. Un pasaje famoso involucra un texto en el que Jesús besa a María (*Evangelio de Felipe* 63:32; 64:10). Pero no dice (Vea **VINCI** en la pág. 10)

## El Mensaje de Dios Sobre El Cielo Para Usted

Por Hno. Galo Rodriguez, Redactor

Dios tiene un mensaje para usted, y el mensaje tiene que ver con su futuro y con su último destino. Uno de los más grandes actos de amor de Dios por nosotros es la creación del cielo para nosotros como hogar eterno.

Dios no se limita a amarnos lo suficiente para crearnos y concedernos varios décadas de vida en esta tierra. Él nos ama por toda la eternidad y piensa estar con nosotros para siempre, Jesús lo dijo a sus

discipulos (Juan 14:1-3).

¿No es hermoso saber que Jesús está preparando una morada celestial? Un hermano comentó: “No sé que clase de lugar está preparándose Cristo para mí, pero ha estado preparándolo durante casi dos mil años, y sólo le llevó siete días hacer el mundo. Por eso cualquier clase de lugar que sea, sé que va hacer mucho más maravilloso de lo que puedo imaginar” (Efesios 3:20; Colosenses 1:3-5). ¿Cuál es la es-

peranza del cielo?

Primero, es la esperanza de estar con Dios por todo la eternidad. Es la esperanza de vida eterna en la presencia directa de nuestro Creador.

Segundo, es la esperanza de que nuestra vida llegue a su plena realización. Todo lo que usted ha hecho y dicho en su vida, será manifestado y juzgado por Dios. Para el creyente en Cristo este juicio no es para temer, mas bien es algo para

esperar con gozo. El cielo es el lugar donde será recompensado por su fidelidad. Esta esperanza del cielo tiene un efecto purificador en su vida. Cuando el cielo y las recompensas de Dios se conservan nitidos ante usted, usted tiene un deseo y un compromiso mayor para decidir hacer lo que Dios dice en Su Palabra.

La esperanza del cielo le impulsa a creer, entre- (Vea **CIELO** en la pág. 10)

**VINCI . . .**

(Vino de la pág. 9)

dónde. No dice que fue un beso en los labios. Pudo haber sido en la mejilla, en la frente o en la mano. Además el significado griego para esta palabra “beso” es muy parecido al que habla las Escrituras cuando habla de un “ósculo santo” lo cual se refiere a un beso de compañerismo fraternal entre creyentes, donde no hay nada sexual (Romanos 16:16). Entonces el beso pudo ser en la mejilla y no en la boca. También dice que era su “acompañante” pero eso no significa que era su esposa.

Estos textos aún si fueran verdaderos, nunca afirman que Jesús estuvo casado. En el libro *El Código Da Vinci*, Constantino y el Concilio de Nicea en 325 D.C., se nombran como los culpables de la compilación de la Biblia y el voto a favor de la divinidad de Jesús, cuando “*hasta ese momento de la historia, Jesús fue visto por sus seguidores como un profeta normal*” (p. 290). Pero la realidad es que mucho antes de que Constantino naciera que los evangelios gnósticos existieran, los cuatro evangelios del Nuevo Testamento ya se consideraban antiguos y

como la autoridad final de la Iglesia. Sugerir que la creencia en la divinidad de Jesús vino tan tarde, como lo hace la novela de Brown (p. 290), sólo contribuye al avance de la ficción mediocre y la mala historiografía. Los escritos de Pablo datan entre los años 50 y 60 D.C., casi trescientos años antes de Nicea. Nadie sabía quien era Constantino cuando Pablo escribió en Romanos 9:5: “De quienes son los patriarcas, y de los cuales, según la carne, vino Cristo, el cual es Dios sobre todas las cosas, bendito por los siglos. Amén.”

Pero no sólo Pablo, el Evangelio de Juan, que probablemente fue escrito en los años noventa del primer siglo también afirma la divinidad de Cristo (Juan 1:1-3, 14). Cristo fue crucificado por declarar Él era Dios mismo (Juan 8:57-59 con Éxodo 3:13-14), y millones de sus seguidores fueron torturados y asesinados por defender la certidumbre de tal Deidad; ¿y el Sr. Brown ahora pretende cambiar la historia y convencernos de que la “verdad” no se supo hasta que imprimió su libro y reveló la “verdad”? Esto es común entre las sectas y las falsas religiones. Todos dicen que Dios o el destino

ha estado esperando a que Russell, Mahoma, Elena de White, Smith y ahora el Sr. Brown, llegaran para decirnos la “verdad”.

En conclusión, el libro **El Código Da Vinci** nos presenta un cuadro muy diferente de Jesús, María Magdalena y la historia veridica del Cristianismo (2da Corintios 11:1-4). ¿Qué podemos aprender de todo esto? Que aquellos que estuvieron más cerca de Jesús nos han contado la historia de Jesús. Creer en Jesucristo, confiar en la obra que Él ha hecho y hará por ti, ese es el verdadero código de Jesús. **El Código Da Vinci** pronto dejará de ser pan caliente en las librerías, mientras que el libro inmortal y siempre nuevo, es **Libro de los Libros, la Santa Biblia**, seguirá vendiéndose más que todos los libros de los enemigos de la cruz juntos hasta “... la manifestación gloriosa de nuestro gran Dios y Salvador Jesucristo” (Tito 2:13). — Por Félix M. González Bulgalá, Redactor

**CIELO . . .**

(Vino de la pág. 9)

garse a la obra divina de transformación en su vida y convertirse en la persona que Dios ha pensado que sea.

Cuando usted mira alrededor puede desanimarse fácilmente y sentir que ha fracasado según las normas del mundo.

Cuando mira a Jesús y

hacia su vida eterna tiene un sentimiento de ánimo y de que está triunfando de acuerdo con las normas de Dios.

Tercero, la esperanza del cielo es una vida totalmente separada del mal. En el cielo no hay sombra, ni oscuridad, ni presencia negativa. En la visión del cielo que tuvo Juan, veamos lo que escuchó (Apocalipsis 21:3-4).

Cualquier cosa que imagine como de la más alta calidad, del carácter más noble y de la belleza más resplandeciente, es lo que experimentará en el cielo, porque estaremos en la presencia de Dios y de quienes están llenos del Espíritu de Dios, sin ninguna influencia de pecado ni de las debilidades de la carne.

Dios tiene mucho que decirle cada día sobre su gran amor, sobre la forma en que quiere que usted viva y sienta su presencia sobre su destino final. Lo que debemos preguntarnos es, ¿estoy escuchando Su voz?” (Apocalipsis 22:5).

“Porque por gracia sois salvos por la fe; y esto no de vosotros, pues es don de Dios:

No por obras, para que nadie se glorie.

Porque somos hechura suya, criados en Cristo Jesús para buenas obras, las cuales Dios preparó para que auduviésemos en ellas.

—Efesios 2:8-10

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

**KIRK . . .**

(Continued from page 7)

dition is one thing; the word of God is another.

Now, with reference to Baptist independency, we lay down three scriptural principles taught and commanded by our Lord, the which, if obeyed, would establish the independency of every church and there could never be any question as to what real Baptist

independence is. They are to-wit:

1. *Jesus declared Himself to be the Lord, or Master of the church and emphatically excluded all others* (Mt. 23:1-12). Let the reader turn and prayerfully study the whole passage. We quote verse 8, which is the key verse, "And be ye not called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ and all ye are brethren."

2. *Jesus denounced any method or plan of government or operation which might be imposed upon His church that would in any sense interfere with His Lordship or their independence under Him* (Mt. 20:25-26). "And Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. *But it shall not be so among you.*"

3. *Jesus gave the Great Commission to the church body and sent the Holy Spirit to comfort, teach and guide it in the carrying out of the same.* "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen" (Mt. 28:19-20).

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet

many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you" (Jn. 16:7-15).

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again he kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:4-8).

We ask our readers to carefully and prayerfully

(See **KIRK** on page 12)

## A Prosperous Journey

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

There's a good and prosperous journey  
Waiting there for those who dare  
To trust and follow Jesus  
In the work that follows there.

There is also tribulation  
And a Satan to defeat,  
But the job can be completed  
If we stay at Jesus' feet.

Jesus gave a Great Commission  
To his churches here on earth,  
And we must be glad to do it  
So that souls may have new birth.

It is worth every penny;  
It is worth our labor, too.  
So I challenge every member:  
Do what God would have you do.

Be very faithful in assembly;  
Give your tithes and offerings well.  
Show your faith by all your works,  
And save a sinner friend from Hell.

**KIRK . . .**

(Continued from page 11)

study these scripture references. We are convinced that if these truths take hold upon our hearts we shall behold the glory of our Lord and His church as never before.

In the language of another, "Now of the things I have written, this is the sum." Christ is the Lord of His church. As head, He and He alone must command it or make its program. No man, set of men, denomination, association, convention or board dare presume to interfere with the divinely appointed program of the church under her Lord. And again, in whatsoever means or method the church may adopt in the carrying out of our Lord's commands, it must do so without surrendering its independence under Christ and in no sense can it come under the commands or orders of any human rulership. "*It shall not be so among you.*" And finally, the church must look to the Holy Spirit and to Him only as the one to lead it in its mission and ministry in the world. To violate any one of these principles is to denounce the Lordship of Christ and to set up a human Lord with a program instigated by human wisdom with the Holy Spirit's leadership rejected for that of human wisdom.

But some may ask, cannot churches scripturally

and rightly work together in the carrying out of our Lord's program? Yes, to be sure they can. What glorious fellowship the churches of the New Testament had in the labor of the gospel. But they did not violate these principles in doing so. When the church at Jerusalem heard of the great revival at Samaria, they sent Peter and John up there (Acts 8:14). The independence of no church was sacrificed. When the news came to Jerusalem about the Antioch revival, the church sent Barnabas there (Acts 11:22). Again it was the same. The Holy Spirit led the church at Antioch to send out Barnabas and Paul (Acts 13:1-4). Other churches later had fellowship in their ministry. But in no case was the Lordship of Christ, the sovereignty of the churches, nor the leadership of the Holy Spirit interfered with.

Is it not wonderful that in this simple way the gospel sound went out unto "all the earth." For fifteen hundred years all that the churches had was the command of the Lord and the leadership of the Spirit and yet they "turned the world upside-down." What more do we need now? Denominationalism has brought institutionalism and the glories of denominational pride. It has also brought the denominational program with its system of promotion for its pastors and preachers and coope-

ration with the denominational program is the basis of fellowship in Baptist life. The "needs" of the various boards have priorities over the commands of Jesus Christ and the leadership of the Superintendent of missions or field workers displaces the leadership of the Holy Spirit. □ □

**WIFE . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

She has met disappointments with courage so high. She has battled grim poverty, too, with a smile on her face and a light in her eye, and a hope each morning that is new.

She is often alone, but she'll never complain. And she cheerfully stays by the stuff; knowing well that her loss is her dear Master's gain. And His smile of approval's enough.

She never gets off the credit that's due, for most of it goes to the preacher. Few know of the faith and the courage so true, of this gentle and wonderful creature.

There is coming a day when the whole world shall

hear, From the lips of the Crucified One, Her story is full — told in words sweet and clear; Hear Him say to her softly, "Well done."

And I think that when all their labors are o'er, and we know all their unselfish lives,

We'll honor more highly than ever before, the preachers' most wonderful wives! □ □

**COST . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

How different the story is today. Some have a hard time getting out of bed once a week to go to church. People in Jesus' day would have a hard time understanding why people with so many modern conveniences, easy travel and transportation, and more leisure time than they ever knew, don't have time to go and hear God's Word. Are we taking too much for granted?

"And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judæa, and from beyond Jordan" (Mt. 4:25). □ □

**One thing you can learn  
by watching the clock is  
that it passes time by  
keeping its hands busy**

**Proverbs 18:9**

## Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

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**The Aussie Bible.** — The Bible Society of New South Wales in Australia recently released “More Aussie Bible” by Kel Richards, a journalist and broadcaster and author of children’s detective novels. This builds upon “The Aussie Bible,” which focused on the life of Christ. “More Aussie Bible” deals with Genesis, Proverbs, and other portions of Scripture. Using Australian vernacular, Richard takes amazing liberties with the Word of God. It begins like this, “God was tinkering around in his workshop when out of the blue, God knocked up the whole bang lot.” The account of the devil’s temptation of Eve goes like this: “There was this sheila who came across a snake-in-the-grass with all the cunning of a con man. The snake asked her why she didn’t just grab lunch off the tree in her garden. God, she said, had told her she’d be dead meat if her fruit salad came from that tree, but the snake told her she wouldn’t die. So she took a good squiz and then a bite and passed the fruit on to her bloke. Right then and there, they’d realised what they’d done and felt starkers.” The account of

the angel appearing to Mary is as follows: “‘G’day Mary. You are a pretty special sheila. God has his eye on you’. Mary went weak at the knees, and wondered what was going on. Then she said, ‘My soul is as happy as Larry!’” The Bible Society claims that all of this is fine since “The Aussie Bible” is a “re-telling” of the Bible rather than a translation, but a retelling of the Bible still must be faithful to the Bible. God has nowhere given man the liberty to change His Word in this manner. God rewards those who tremble at His Word (Isaiah 66:5), but this present strange generation takes it very, very lightly. “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book” (Rev. 22:18).

\* \* \*

**Islamic Group Wants Franklin Graham Kept Out of Canada.** — An Islamic advocacy group wants the Canadian government to bar Franklin Graham from entering the

country for a scheduled visit to Winnipeg in October (“Muslim Group Wants Christian Leader Barred,” CNSNews, July 17). The Council on American-Islamic Relations of Canada (CAIR-CAN) claims Graham is guilty of hate speech toward Muslims because in 2001 he said Islam is “a very evil and a very wicked religion.” The organization claims that it would be a double standard not to bar Graham after barring Muslim Sheikh Riyad ul-Haq in June. In fact, the two cases are as different as night from day. Though we do not support Franklin Graham because of his unscriptural ecumenical philosophy and practice, it is clear that he has never called for nor countenanced any form of hatred toward or injury of those that do not believe like he does. Ul-Haq, on the other hand, glorifies jihadist martyrdom and incites hatred toward Jews, Hindus, and even moderate Muslims. David Oulette, director of the Canadian Coalition for Democracies (CCD), said: “The problem is that this sheik has a history of radical discourses that incite hatred toward non-Muslims, speaking of plots by non-Muslims against Islam and the Muslim world in general [and] glorifying martyrdom in the way of Allah, which could be interpreted as an incitation to violence.”

\* \* \*

**House Church Leader In China Sentenced To Seven Years In Prison.** —The following is excerpted from Assist News Service, July 12: “A prominent Chinese house movement leader, Pastor Zhang Rongliang, has been sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in prison. According to China Aid Association, the July 4 verdict was issued by Zhongmu County People’s Court, though CAA reported that neither Zhang’s wife nor other members of his immediate family received a formal notification. Zhang was arrested Dec. 1, 2004. ... The popular Christian pastor was charged with ‘attaining a passport through cheating’ and with ‘illegal border crossing’ for his international traveling including to the U.S., Australia, Egypt and Singapore for world mission conferences. Zhang has already spent 12 years in prison for his faith since his secret baptism in 1969 during five separate detentions. CAA reported that he has experienced extreme torture, including electric shocks, during his prison terms. Bob Fu, who is the president of China Aid and personally knows Zhang and his family, said in a news release: ‘We are deeply disappointed for this extraordinary harsh verdict given the fact that the Chinese authorities often deny passports and other

(See **FBIS** on page 15)

**MASON . . .**

(Continued from page 2)

hates God and wants nothing to do with him. Unregenerate men will do anything to try to rule God out. Thinking men must find some sort of explanation for the existence of things. The philosophic explanations of the past are absurdities, and men did not want to accept the Bible explanation, so what sort of an explanation could they devise? Evolution is the answer, "Evolution is man's best guess without God."

**Evolution Is Guesswork  
— Not Fact, Nor  
Science**

Science is that which is *known*. It is substantiated fact. Evolution is in the nature of hypothesis. It has not been proven. Modern scholars are *bullied* in being evolutionists. To go against the theory is to go against the popular and accepted thing, and many dare not be so unorthodox as to do this. Nevertheless some of the greatest scientists have denounced evolution. Typical of these (and a number can be named) is Sir W. J. Dawson, the English scientist, who said "It (evolution) is utterly destitute of proof."

**Evolutionists Have Lied  
In Seeking To Prove**

Go into our great museums (like Field Museum, Chicago) and you

will see a series of figures molded and carved to show man's ascent from the brute. School children by the thousands are impressed that evolution is true by viewing this "chain." But the whole "chain" is a chain of lies. The whole thing has been concocted out of imagination! One of the "links" in the evolutionary chain is the famous "Piltdown Man," reconstructed from some bones found in a gravel pit at Sussex, England. This link was recently denounced by scientists themselves as a fake and a fraud. We quote the following from the United Press, November 21, 1953, "Three sleuthing British scientists declared today that the skull of the fabulous 'Piltdown Man' accepted for 40 years ... as a relic of man's earliest history is a phony." The article goes on to show how some of the bones were colored by chemicals to give the appearance of age. This is but a sample of what men have resorted to in order to try to prove their hypothesis.

**The Mule Stands In The  
Way**

The evolutionary theory requires the belief that one species evolves into another higher up. This is contrary to observation and experience. Creatures of one species *do not* cross the boundary line into another. When attempt is made to

cross species the result is *a hybrid*. The common *mule* is a sample. A common old stubborn Missouri mule stands between the evolutionist and the proof of his theory. Long live the mule! □ □

**BLOOD . . .**

(Continued from page 6)

well to answer in the spirit of Christ the pressing question, "Is it lawful ... to save life or to kill?" If they really desire the "Christ-like" answer, they will discover from His own life that it is right to save life.

**4. The unfounded claim that the Bible condemns blood transfusions is a slur against God's Word and a slander on the character of the Lord God.**

If those who are so opposed to blood transfusions would honestly acknowledge that this man-made dogma comes from headquarters in Brooklyn, U.S.A., no would object too much. When, however, the Bible is declared to be the source of this inhumane teaching, those who love and honor God's Word cannot be silent. We cannot

sit idly by while the leaders of this cult boldly announce in newspaper interviews that their objections to blood transfusions are based upon the Bible for the public is then left with a false conception of God's Word and the character of God.

We would emphatically restate that the opposition to blood transfusions has no scriptural support. Furthermore our heavenly Father's character and attitude finds its true expression, not in the cold Pharisees, but in the Savior who, by word and deed, affirmed that human life is a sacred trust from God and who had such compassion upon the sick and afflicted.

Those who today believe the Bible thank God for blood transfusions and for every other advance of medical science which contributes to the healing of the body and preservation of sacred human life. □

**WNR . . .**

(Continued from page 8)

'Holman contends that the ministry is a business — the business of selling Joyce Meyer.' Holman said: 'She's using the ministry for her own private gain. That's the position we're taking.' — Ministry Watch.

**He who buries his talent is  
making a grave mistake  
1 Timothy 4:14**

**FBIS . . .**

(Continued from page 13)

travel documents to well-known religious leaders like Pastor Zhang.’ He added, ‘This is yet another case showing the Chinese government’s new tactic of religious persecution in the name of criminal charges.’”

\* \* \*

**More Persecution of Christians In Saudi Arabia.** — In Saudi Arabia it is against the law to hold non-Islamic religious gatherings or to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Supposedly it is lawful for expatriates to worship in their own homes, but in practice even this is not allowed. In June 2006 four African Christians were imprisoned in Jeddah. In November 2005 a Saudi Arabian court sentenced a teacher to 40 months in prison and 750 lashes in a public flogging for discussing the Bible and praising Jews. On June 20, 2005 BosNewsLife reported that 100 or more foreign Christians had recently been arrested in Saudi Arabia. In April 2005 a Christian service was broken up and forty Filipino men, women, and children arrested in the Saudi Arabia capital. In June 2004 Brian Savio O’Connor, an Indian national, was arrested and tortured for “spreading Christianity.” His legs were chained and he was hung

upside down for seven hours, and the soles of his feet were whipped with electrical wires. In early 2003 two African preachers were arrested in Saudi Arabia and deported after being held in prison for many weeks. Witnesses testifying before the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in 2003 warned that “Saudi Arabia exports an intolerant, violence-producing form of Islam to other countries” (Baptist Press, Nov. 21, 2003). This is being done with the knowledge and approval of the royal family and by means of the nation’s oil wealth. “The royal family that rules Saudi Arabia is wedded to an extremist strain of Islam known as Wahhabism that controls the leaders of the country’s 71,000 mosques, as well as the educational system, the panel was told. Despite a recent denial by the Saudi government, this form of Islam is being exported to schools in other countries with Saudi funds, the witnesses said.”

\* \* \*

**Spurgeon’s Warning About Churchly Entertainment.** — The following is from Charles Spurgeon’s battle against “the downgrade” of doctrine in his day. It is excerpted from “Restoration of Truth and Revival,” *Sword and the Trowel*, December 1887: “The Lord our God, is holy, and he cannot compromise

his own glorious name by working with persons whose grovelling tastes lead them to go to Egypt — we had almost said to Sodom — for their recreations. Is this walking with God? Is this the manner in which Enochs are produced? It is a heart-sorrow to have to mention such things, but the work of the Lord must be done faithfully, and this evil must be laid bare. There can be no doubt that all sorts of entertainments, as nearly as possible approximating to stage-play, have been carried on in connection with places of worship, and are, at this present time, in high favour. Can these things promote holiness, or help in communion with God?” [One would almost think that Spurgeon had visited Saddleback or Willow-creek.]

\* \* \*

**Billy Graham Confirms His Opinion That Unbelievers May Be Saved Without Faith In Christ.** — In an interview published in *Newsweek* magazine, August 14, Billy Graham confirmed his misguided opinion that men might be saved without faith in Jesus Christ. When asked whether he believes heaven will be “closed to Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus or secular people,” Graham replied: “Those are decisions only the Lord will make. It would be foolish for me to speculate on who

will be there and who won’t ... I don’t want to speculate about all that. I believe the love of God is absolute. He said he gave his Son for the whole world, and I think he loves everybody regardless of what label they have” (“Pilgrim’s Progress,” *Newsweek*, Aug. 14, 2006). No one would disagree that God will make the decision about man’s eternal destiny, but the fact is that He has already made that decision and has revealed it in the Scriptures. It is not speculation to believe the Bible. God does indeed love all sinners and Christ died to make it possible for them to be saved, but the other side of the coin is that only those who repent and trust Christ will be saved. Nothing is more plainly stated in Scripture. “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36). “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:12). “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth

(See **FBIS** on page 16)

**FBIS . . .**

(Continued from page 15)

not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16). “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8). “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him” (Hebrews 2:3). “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they

escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven” (Hebrews 12:25). The second chapter of Ephesians describes the condition of every individual apart from regenerating faith in Jesus Christ. They are “dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1); they walk “according to the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2); they are “by nature the children of wrath” (Eph. 2:3); they have “no hope” and are “without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12). Without faith in Jesus Christ, there is no hope. That is the teaching

of God’s Word, and it is every evangelist’s responsibility to warn the people to be saved before it is eternally too late.

\* \* \*

**Alarming Church Drop Out Statistics Among Youth.**

— Frank Page, the newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, says he is disturbed by the high number of young people who drop out of church (“SBC Leader Alarmed,” Faith News Network, August 8, 2006). In 2002, the SBC’s Council on Family Life reported that roughly 88% of evangelical children are leaving church shortly after they graduate from high school. That is a frightful statistic! A major problem is that so many young people who grow up in churches are Christianized rather than born again, and in many cases there is no separation from the world, so that they are influenced by the world more than they are influenced by the Word of God. This is what happened to me. I grew up in Southern Baptist churches, made a profession of faith at age 10 or 11, was baptized and became a church member; but there

was no repentance toward God, no radical change of mind that results in a change of life, and therefore no salvation. Biblical salvation is not merely believing; the devils believe and even tremble; a so-called “faith” in Christ that does not result in holiness is not saving faith (Jas. 2:17-20). Biblical salvation is “repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21). Most “evangelical” and even fundamentalist churches are not careful enough about whether or not children and young people are truly regenerated, and they are too busy pampering and entertaining them to disciple them in a biblical fashion. Another major problem is the strange practice of sending children from Christian homes to the public schools to be brain-washed in humanism and immersed in sin. The education in sin that I received in public school far exceeded that which I received for righteousness in the church. By God’s mercy I was converted at age 23, but only after I had drunk deeply of the dregs of sin, which left deep and permanent scars, spiritual, physical, and emotional.

**Ford Dealers Decry Gay Ads**

A letter representing 78 Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana Ford dealers was sent to Ford’s Detroit headquarters earlier this summer, urging the company to “cease” advertising in homosexual publications because a pro-family boycott is hurting their business.

Sent to Ford Motor Company CEO William Clay Ford, the letter was posted on the American Family Association’s Web site Aug. 9. AFA and other pro-family groups announced a boy-cott of Ford in March to protest the company’s advertising in homosexual magazines such as *The Advocate and Out* as well as Ford’s support of homosexual activist causes.

“We believe Ford can and should market to all Americans with transportation needs, but that it should do so without tacitly approving a controversial lifestyle or stance,” the letter stated.

**If you don’t want the fruits of sin,  
Stay out of the devil’s orchard!**

**1 Thessalonians 5:22**



# The New Testament Puts Its Sanctions On the Tithe

By W. Lee Rector

*“Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13-14).*

Now, students of the Word know that the Aaronic priesthood ministered about holy things and lived of the tithe of the temple, and know that the priesthood partook of flesh offered upon the altar. In short, the priesthood lived of tithes and offerings.

Now, the Holy Spirit, by Paul, tells us here that the New Testament ministry are preachers of the gospel. But what does “even so” mean? It can mean but one thing, viz., even as the priesthood lived of tithes and offerings, even so should the preachers of the gospel so live.

The Master confirms the tithe (Matthew 23:23) while rebuking men who practiced it, saying, “Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites for ye

pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done and not to leave the others undone.” Here the Master tells these hypocrites that they should have tithed, but puts them on the spot for leaving judgment, mercy, and faith unmet.

The Holy Spirit, by Paul, tells us in Hebrews that the tithe is paid in the priesthood. Illustrating this, he shows us that Abraham paid tithes in the Melchizedekian priesthood, that Israel paid tithes in the Aaronic priesthood, and that we should pay tithes in the priesthood of Christ (Heb. 7:4-21).

Now here Abram paid tithes through Melchisedec unto the eternal priesthood of Christ, and Israel paid tithes through Aaron to the eternal priesthood of Christ, and we pay tithes through the church of the living God to the eternal priesthood of Christ.

The Holy Spirit gives us a tremendous argument for tithes and offerings in Corinthians.

He says: “For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care of oxen?” (1 Cor. 9:9).

Accordingly, he who uses the oxen in treading out his corn must not prevent the oxen from eating, by muzzling him. He must live off his job.

Again, it is written, “For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that

ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope” (1 Cor. 9:10).

Here the Lord asserts that the individual had the right to live off of his job.

Thus we understand why the priests ministering about holy things had a right to live off of the holy things, and even so we understand why that preachers of the gospel have a right to live off of the gospel today. □

## The Strength By Which You Stand

By Walter E. Isenhour

**It takes a lot of grit and grace  
To look your fellows in the face  
By doing what the devil's in.  
When they are tempting you to sin  
And tell them you are not for sale,  
Nor out to follow in their trail,  
In spite of what they do or say,  
Or what they offer you as pay.  
Deep in your heart and soul and mind  
Where all your nature is refined  
By true salvation, rich and sweet,  
You found at God's good mercy seat;  
Deep in your morals and your will  
Where there is nothing mean or ill —  
This is the strength by which you stand  
While marching through this pilgrim land.**

**HOAX . . .**

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scientist (whose name has been lent to the word “pasteurization”), determined to prove the truth or falsity of the theory. He took sealed tubes filled with a fermentable fluid that had been thoroughly sterilized by boiling. The glass tubes or bulbs were then carried to various elevations and opened to the surrounding air. Those opened at low altitude where there was germ-laden dust soon began to show fermentation. Others were taken to great heights in balloons. *When due precautions were taken so that no dust from the balloon would reach the opened container, no fermentation appeared whatsoever.*

Afterwards, Pasteur delivered his celebrated lecture before a body of famous scientists. He declared: “There is not one circumstance known at the present day, which justifies the assertion that microscopic organisms, come into the world without germs or without parents like themselves. Those who maintain the contrary, have been the dupes of illusions, and ill-conducted experiments, tainted with errors, which they know not how to perceive or to avoid.”

Since the theory of “spontaneous generation” was discredited, evolutionists were hard put to secure an alternative. They finally hit on the term,

“accidental creation”! Creation not by Divine design but by an accident! A bolt of lightning or some other violent chemical action brought the first germs of life into existence—perhaps a million or a hundred million years ago. Anyone can see that there is no essential difference between “spontaneous generation” and “accidental creation”, except that the latter was supposed to have taken place some millions of years ago—when no one was around to witness the event. (Since the terms “spontaneous generation” and “accidental creation” must be essentially the same thing, we shall use the terms interchangeably.)

The facts are that *man with all the intelligence with which he is endowed, has never been able to create the simplest form of life.* How much less did blind chance through a “fortuitous concourse of atoms” create life? A living organism or cell is composed of an exceedingly complex substance, called protoplasm—containing four elements, namely oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen. It is not enough to bring together the elements in the precise chemical composition to create a living cell; it must have life and ability to propagate its kind. Dead protoplasm has the right chemical composition, but will not propagate its kind.

It is only evading the issue by saying that

“accidental creation”, although not taking place now, occurred millions or hundreds of millions of years ago. This reasoning is fatally deficient of the first requirement for the establishment of a scientific fact. *All chemical or atomic reactions which can be made to take place once, can be repeated as often as is necessary.* Chlorine and sodium when brought together produce common table salt as often as the experiment is repeated. But no one has ever been able to create life out of the dead elements any more than inventors of yesteryear were able to produce perpetual motion. Energy cannot be created; matter cannot be created; neither can life be created by man or by nature. This is a prerogative of God only. The physical conditions conducive to life are surely as favorable now as in any time in remote history. Yet not a single case of “accidental creation” has ever been observed, either in nature or under any laboratory condition. Spontaneous generation or “Accidental creation”, a necessary part of the theory of evolution has never happened, except in fiction books.

**FACT:** God has declared Himself the creator of life. Man with all his accumulated knowledge cannot duplicate God’s work by creating the simplest form of life. Nor

has one case of spontaneous generation as required by the theory of evolution, ever been observed.

**NO NEW SPECIES  
HAVE APPEARED IN  
RECORDED HISTORY**

*“And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and God saw that it was good (Gen. 1:24-25).*

God’s Word declares that He made man, the beasts and all living creatures *after their kind.* In other words he did not make one kind, and, through evolutionary processes, make other kinds. God made men as men, horses as horses, cows as cows, birds as birds, and fishes as fishes. Each species was created separately; they did not evolve one from the other. Now evolution fundamentally denies this account in Genesis. After assuming that life on earth came into spontaneous existence through a “fortuitous concourse of atoms”, the evolutionist further assumes that the species emerge one from another, or, from common

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ancestors.

Dr. William A. Williams, in his book written in 1925, "Evolution Disproved" notes that there are some 3,000,000 species in the world at the present time. He also adds the evolutionists claim that these species evolved over a period of 60,000,000 years. (Evolutionists now claim that this period is a half a billion years in length). According to mathematical reasoning then, at least 2,000 new species should have risen in the 6,000 years of recorded history. Or with the new figure, there should be 240 new species. But how many new ones have actually appeared? The facts are there is not one proven case of a new species that has come into existence! Darwin himself stated: "In spite of all efforts of trained observers, not one change of species into another, is on record."

The evolutionists themselves admit there is no such evidence. Professor Vernon Kellogg of Stanford University in "Darwinism of Today", page 18, says, "Speaking by and large, we only tell the general truth when we declare that no indubitable cases of species forming, or transforming, that, is of descent, have been observed ..."

Dr. Williams wrote to several prominent authorities on evolution, asking

how many new species have appeared during the last 6,000 years. They were all evasive, and none were able to put their finger on a single case!

**CHANGES ARE NOT  
PASSED ON BY  
HEREDITY**

One of the fundamental assumptions of evolution is that in the course of time, there appear important changes in a species, and these changes are then permanently passed on to descendants. The discovery of Mendel's Inheritance Law shows that this is not true. George Mendel while working in a monastery, experimented with the effects of self-fertilization of hybrids of peas. He crossed yellow-seeded and green-seeded peas. The resulting hybrids showed only yellow seeds — revealing that the yellow character was dominant, and the green recessive. However, the green was not obliterated, for when he planted the yellow hybrids, they produced pods that were green, in the ratio of one to three. Subsequent planting produced an unending series of results similar to those which were obtained in the first hybrid generation.

Interbreeding of animals produces the same results. The recessive characteristic will reappear in successive generations. White and black rabbits will produce grey rabbits. But later

generations produce the white and black again. If therefore, man is a descendant of the beast of the field, we would expect to see simian characteristics at least occasionally re-appearing. But although there are many primitive tribes, there never has appeared in any of these tribes ape-like beings—proof that man has never sprung from ape-like ancestors.

**FACT:** The law of the natural world is to retain, inviolable, the characteristics of the species. Changes may occur, but the tendency is to revert to the original — a fact diametrically opposed to the premises of evolution. Human races may degenerate, but they never revert to the ape — a circumstance that would be expected according to Mendel's Law, if the human race had simian ancestors.

**ACQUIRED  
CHARACTERISTICS  
ARE NOT  
PROPAGATED BY  
HEREDITY**

As we have observed, evolution claims that environment makes changes from time to time in the species, and these changes are passed on to descendants by heredity. But acquired characteristics are never inherited. You can cut off a dog's tail, but its puppies will all have tails. This can be repeated generation after generation

without any change. The puppies will all continue to be born with tails. If a change is wrought, it must be accomplished in the genes.

**IMPROVEMENT OF  
SPECIES POSSIBLE  
BUT NO TRANS-  
MUTATION OF  
SPECIES**

The 3,000,000 species in the world today are distinct, and reproduce only after their own kind. This is in accord with the Genesis record that God created man, beast, bird, or fish, each after his own kind. There are often many varieties within a specie. By interbreeding, new varieties in either vegetable or animal kingdoms may be developed. Horticulturists such as Luther Burbank, and others, have improved many varieties of fruits and vegetables, as well as producing new ones. Most of the fruits and garden products on the market, are the result of years of intelligent and skillful improvement of the product.

However, the resultant new varieties retain the original recessive characteristics, and according to Mendel's Law, the variety, if left to itself, will revert back to its original. And outside these related varieties, any attempt to cross the species results in a dead end.

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The same is true of the animal. You can go only so far. If one tries to cross the gulf between the various species, he runs into a wall. Cross the horse with the donkey, and a mule results. But that is as far as it goes. The mule is a sterile beast that has no power of reproduction. A new species, of course, requires ability to reproduce. In other words, an impassable gulf is reached. One cannot create a new species by crossing two species. The possibility of evolution through cross breeding of species is proved impossible.

Genesis 2:15 declares: *“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”*

Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden with the responsibility of its oversight. Why? Obviously under intelligent care, the trees would bear better than without care. This was to be Adam’s task. God created the species but He commissioned Adam to look after, and, care for what He had created.

**FACT:** Species may be improved by interbreeding. New varieties of plants can be produced by cross-fertilization. But even these tend to revert back to the original. No new species can be created by crossing species. These every-day facts are a wall

of evidence against the possibility of evolution.

### THE IMPASSABLE GULFS

There is not one, but many impassable gulfs in nature, each of which deny the possibility that evolution could be true. There is an impossible gulf—

1. Between dead matter and life.
2. Between plants and the lowest form of animal life.
3. Between invertebrates and vertebrates.
4. Between marine life and amphibians.
5. Between amphibians and reptiles.
6. Between reptiles and mammals.
7. Between beast and man.

In not one case has there ever been evidence produced that shows where any of these gulfs have been crossed. Among all the 3,000,000 species in the world, there is not a single case where any transmutation of the species has been found! Yet our youth attending the modern educational institutions are expected to give up their faith in the Bible account of creation, and to accept evolution as the true explanation of how man came on the earth!

Evolution is unable to account for the physical world as it is today. Much less is it able to account for the soul of man. But if

evolution were true then somewhere along the line of descent, be it ever so long a time, a pair of brute beast parents did not have a soul, but their offspring did have one! Truly evolution believes in miracles — not miracles of God, but miracles of blind chance!

One of the most fatal flaws in the theory of evolution is the fact that everywhere, we see the laws of reversion and degeneration in effect, rather than evolution. There is no evidence of an “upward urge” in nature, as the evolutionist would have us believe. The third chapter of Genesis relates that man had a moral fall, and as a result sin, sickness, disease and death followed. Romans 1 tells the story: “[Man] forgot God, their foolish heart was darkened, God gave them up to uncleanness. . . unto vile affections . . . to a reprobate mind . . .” (Verses 19-32). And in Romans 8, we are told that the results of Adam’s fall were passed on to the whole terrestrial creation. “We know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain until now” (Rom. 8:22).

Common observation fully substantiates the Scriptures. Instead of transmutation from lower to higher forms of life, the law of degeneration is universally active.

Suppose, by the way of illustration a rancher who owns a herd of fine-bred

cattle, the result of generations of careful breeding, turns them loose upon nature. Do they continue to improve? Any farm boys knows the answer. The herd will gradually degenerate into scrubs.

Henry Drummond in his book, “Natural Law in the Spiritual World” declares, “Suppose a bird fancier collects a flock of tame pigeons distinguished by all the ornamentation of their race. They are all kinds of every shade of color, and adorned with every variety of marking. He takes them to an uninhabited island and allows them to fly off wild into the woods. They founded a colony there and after a lapse of many years the owner returns to the spot. He will find a re-markable change has taken place in the interval. The birds — or the descendants rather — have all become changed into the same color — the black and the white, and the dun, the spotted and the ringed all metamorphosed into one — a dark slate blue. All the variety, all the old graces of form, all the beautiful colors, have disappeared. *These improvements were the result of care and nurture, of domestication, of civilization and now that these influences are removed, the birds themselves undo the past and lose what they had*

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*gained.”*

The same law of retrogression is found in the plant world. Let a gardener develop a fine rose, or a luscious apple. If left alone, what ultimately happens? The rose will revert back to the primitive dog-rose and the delicious apple will deteriorate into a sour scrub apple. Degeneration is always the rule; the plant or animal left to nature always changes to the worse, the exact opposite as claimed by the proponents of evolution.

**FACT:** *The teaching that there is a gradual transmutation of species to higher forms is false. Observation shows that the very opposite takes place. The alleged “upward urge” in nature does not exist.*

### **MATHEMATICAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF EVOLUTION**

An independent and devastating proof against evolution is seen in its mathematical absurdity. Despite wars, famines, plagues and other hazards that have decimated the nations, there has always been, except for brief intervals, steady increase of the population of the world. Recently because of increased longevity, the tempo of population gain has significantly accelerated. In this century, world

population has almost doubled. In the centuries past, despite fearful plagues such as the Black Death and other catastrophes that have visited the earth, it is estimated that world population has doubled approximately every 168 years. This mathematical circumstance compels belief in the comparative recent appearance of man. If the human race, for example, were a million years old — some estimates are much greater — the increase of population, even though reckoned at a much lower rate than the present one, would result in such astronomical figures of population that there would not be standing room on the earth.

If, for example, the human race were just 100,000 years old, and the race doubled once every 160 years, the number of people would be some 450 quintillion, (4,500,000,000,000,000,000) a number so great we can hardly conceive of it. In fact the most conservative estimates would bring the population of the world to many times the present number, if we counted back even the full 6,000 years to the days of Adam. Estimates come out correct only if we count back to the Flood, a little less than 4,500 years ago, at which time the Bible reveals that the human race was reduced to eight persons. For this reason alone, the theory of evolution that

reckons the human race as existing a million years or more, cannot be true.

**FACT:** *The normal increase of the world population limits the period of the present human race to less than 6,000 years—in fact to a period of about 4,500 years—the time that has elapsed since the Flood. The human race therefore is of comparative recent origin, a circumstance in harmony with both Biblical and historical records.*

What is evolution? It is the modern mythology. It is the pitiful alternative to belief in Divine creation. If we disallow that God created the world, we are left with the only alternative, that it created itself. The theory of evolution explains nothing. Instead of beginning with God and working down, as the Bible does, it begins with matter and works up. Evolution does not do away with a god. It makes a god out of the lifeless earth. It says matter created itself out of nothing. That matter gave birth to life. It just says dirt is God instead of God is God.

Evolution is unscientific. The evolutionist smiles at the old-time alchemist who thought to turn baser metals into gold. But he himself believes that gold once created itself. He regards with amusement the inventor of yesteryear who thought to invent perpetual motion — and

thus cheat the laws of conservation of energy. But he himself believes that energy created itself, and that life appeared by “spontaneous generation,” or “accidental creation.” Evolution can be described as a theory that violates the demonstrable laws of physics. Evolution is pantheism dressed up in modern garb. It is the deification of nature.

What is the logical assessment of this theory of evolution? It is a religion of materialism, without God. If evolution is true, man has evolved from the brute beast. Then Jesus of Nazareth, was only a man, 2,000 years closer to simian ancestors than we today. He, too, was nothing more than a descendant of the brute beast. Is not this blasphemy? Can evolution be said to be anything but a Satanic delusion marked by the brand of hell? Alas! This diabolical teaching is being regularly taught to your children in the schools and colleges.

### **MANY SCIENTISTS CONDEMN EVOLUTION**

Perhaps one of the most deceptive tricks used by evolutionists is the impression that they like to give, and one calculated to mislead young people—the assumption that all scientists of reputation accept the theory of evo-

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the situation as it stood and they clamored for a strong king with a strong army. God's way didn't look strong enough for them.

Thirdly, they wanted to be like the nations around them. "That we also may be like all the nations" was their cry. They coveted the grandeur, pomp, regality and power of the surrounding nations.

These, then, were the excuses Israel gave for demanding a king. Bear them in mind. They claimed God's way had failed, that God's way wouldn't get the job done and it just wasn't fancy enough.

It seems obvious that Christians in general, and Baptists in particular, are still guilty of using the same old excuse for rejecting God's way. Seemingly no effort has been put forth even to invent new excuses.

Jesus Christ established the church and until He comes again God has chosen to accomplish His work on earth through the churches. His program for evangelization, maintenance of the ordinances, teaching, benevolence, etc. were all entrusted to the churches. The New Testament will be searched in vain for any organization other than a local church to accomplish God's program. This, then, is God's way — God's will!

Man has never been

satisfied with God's way! They have continually rejected the church and tried to build something better and, as has been said, they still use the same old tired excuses! See if they don't sound familiar. We will confine our remarks to Baptists.

Few Baptists have ever been satisfied with God's way through individual local churches. It just never seems to measure up to the world's standard of success. Individual local churches scattered all over the world with no organizational ties binding them together would seem, by man's standards, certain to fail. So rather than risk failure with God's way, most Baptists have tried to build something bigger and stronger than local churches. It is reasoned that individual Baptist churches would never get the job done — there must be some powerful, central government holding these churches together. God's plan can't work, it must be improved upon, is the conclusion the majority reaches!

Again, Baptists have reasoned, if we were all bound together in a real organization we would be so much stronger, so much better equipped to oppose the enemy. This excuse for rejecting God's way has been used over and over. It seems to make good sense according to man's reasoning. By organizing all the Baptist churches

together, it is argued, a great force is presented, elaborate publications can be sent forth, missionary boards formed, great schools built, etc. Why, after a while we'll even become a force in politics! All of this sounds fine and the purpose is good, except this is not God's way. Regardless of how good the purpose is, it is a grievous wrong to reject God and His plan. It is a calamity to reject God's plan of salvation and it is also a calamity to reject God's plan for service.

Again, the same bug that bit Israel has bitten Baptists. The majority of Baptists desires the pomp and grandeur of other religions. "That we also may be like all the denominations," is the cry heard today. Prosperity and popularity which the world will accept has become the goal of many. The world's standards are met in order that Baptists might be accepted with the same favor as other denominations.

It is not too difficult to see that the same reasons Israel used for rejecting God's way and demanding a king are the same reasons that Baptists now use for rejecting God's way through local churches and demanding conventions, associations, fellowships and other means of binding Baptists and other means of binding Baptist churches together under one central authority. The amazing

thing is that this is so obvious, and yet is so vigorously denied! It would be amusing, if it were not so tragic, to listen to one organized group of Baptists condemn another organized group for being organized!

Is all this important? Does it make any difference how the job is done? Notice the expression in verse 7 where God speaks, "they have rejected me." For Israel to demand a worldly king was to reject God! For local Baptist churches to bind themselves together in unscriptural organizations is to reject God! Christ is the head of each local church, but headquarters are changed in large organizations of churches.

Through Samuel God warned Israel concerning an earthly king. In verse 11 through 18 conditions under such a king are described. The king would ride with great pomp and dignity in a chariot. There would be chariots and horsemen which would ride in great style before the king. The king's organization would be highly organized, captains over thousands and captains over hundreds. The king's organization would be extremely costly with heavy taxes and conscription!

Can anyone fail to see how this picture not only fits what was going to happen to Israel under a king but also what happens to Bap-

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tists under organizational rule of denominations, conventions, associations, fellowships, etc.?

Saul, riding in all his pomp and glory, is a fitting picture of the convention, association or fellowship president! The Big Wheel!

“Captains over thousands and captains over fifties” — state presidents, field secretaries, board chairman, etc. — The picture is too clear not to fit!

Costly! Is there anything more costly or more demanding upon the churches than the support of the machine? Every year a greater percentage of the money given is needed to run the machine and less gets to the work!

It is well to note that for a while there was great success under Israel’s kings. Under David and Solomon the nation reached great heights. It is also well to note that nearly every Baptist organization of churches that has ever existed started out well! Great things are accomplished — for a while! Israel did fine as long as David was on the throne. It continued to do well under Solomon, but when these two passed on the trouble began. So it has ever been with Baptist machines. Strong men with strong personalities will bind Baptists together and flourish for a while, but with their passing, lesser men

can only fight over the remains!

After the temporary success in Israel, the decline and decay began. They made treaties and intermarried with the pagan nations around them. Idolatry again reared its ugly head. Compromise and cowardice were on every hand. Israel lost its purpose! They divided and died! Israel has never come back. Her glory will only be restored when she again accepts her rightful King!

Temporary success nearly always comes in the attempt to organize Baptists. Just like Israel of old, however, decay and decline begin almost immediately. When Baptists become successful in their organizations, success itself demands compromise: treaties, compromise and intermingling with all other religions. Compromise becomes a necessity. It produces a complicated method, a compromised message and a corrupted mission! They lose their purpose! They divide and die! They never come back!

Almost without exception every organized group of Baptists will recognize the truth of what has been said thus far. However, most of them will prefer to remain blind to the fact that what has happened to others is also happening to them!

When will we learn that huge, ecclesiastical

machines are man’s way and glorify man and that the simple organization of a local church is God’s way and glorifies God.

As editor of this paper and author of this article I would like to digress from my usual procedure and interject a personal word or two. For several years now, through this paper and my pulpit, I have been humbly trying to show the error and danger of Baptists organizing themselves into conventions, associations, fellowships, etc. The response in the majority has been favorable. There have been some, well, not so favorable! Not one single time has anyone from any organization even attempted to deny the truth we have published concerning this error. Those who have vigorously protested, however, almost without exception, made the same accusation. They seem to think that machine Baptists with their missionary boards are the only ones getting missionaries on the field and that true, independent Baptist churches are not getting the job done. I submit the following truths:

One of the biggest of these organizations requires over 300 churches to get one missionary on the field. Another organization, new and aggressive though it be, still takes over 100 of their churches to get one missionary on the field. Hundreds of unsung and unheralded, independent Baptist churches all over

this country are easily beating that kind of record and many others would equal it.

Again, over and over, I have heard it stated that it doesn’t matter how you do it as long as you get the job done.

God has a plan of salvation and it makes a difference whether we follow that plan.

God had a plan for the ark and Noah was expected to follow.

God’s plan for Moses the second time was to speak to the rock and water would be supplied. It made a difference when Moses disobeyed.

It made a difference when Israel did not follow God’s plan and possess all of Canaan.

It made a difference in Israel when Achan did not follow God’s plan.

The whole book of Leviticus is given to God’s plan of worship for Israel to follow. It made a difference how they came.

God gave the plan and method for handling the ark and men lost their lives by failing to follow God’s plan. It made a difference.

God gave minute instructions for building the temple and tabernacle. It made a difference.

Jesus Christ carried out in minute detail God’s plan of redemption. It made a difference.

Christ established the church to carry out God’s

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plan for this age and it makes a difference whether we follow this plan or substitute another.

Our humble prayer is that God will touch hearts with the kind of conviction that will cause Baptists to return to Bible methods. □

**HOAX . . .**

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lution as established fact. Glib statements are made such as that by Dr. John M. Coulter, who says, "There is no longer any question as to the fact of evolution." Such a statement is of course absolutely false. The fact is thousands of recognized scientists do not believe the discredited theories of evolution. We quote from a few of this list:

Dr. Etheridge, a famous fossilologist of the British Museum, one of the highest authorities in the world, said: "Nine-tenths of the talk of evolutionists is sheer nonsense, not founded on observation and wholly unsupported by facts. This museum is full of proofs of the utter falsity of their views. In all this great museum, there is not a particle of evidence of the transmutation of species."

Prof. Virchow, of Berlin, a naturalist of world wide fame, said: "The attempt to find the transition from the animal to man has ended in total failure. The

missing link has not been found and never will be. Evolution is all nonsense. It can not be proved by science that man descended from the ape or from any other animal."

Prof. Fleishman, of Erlangen, who once accepted Darwinism, but after further investigation repudiated it, said: "The Darwinian theory of descent has not a single fact to confirm it, in the realm of nature. It is not the result of scientific research, but is purely the product of the imagination."

Sr. William Dawson, an eminent geologist of Canada said: "The record of the rocks is decidedly against evolutionists, especially in the abrupt appearance of new forms under specific types, and without apparent predecessors ... Paleontology furnishes no evidence as the actual transformation of one species into another. No such case is certainly known. Nothing is known about the origin of man except what is told in Scripture."

Dr. Trass, a famous paleontologist, concludes: "The idea that mankind is descended from any simian species whatever, is certainly the most foolish ever put forth by a man writing on the history of man."

Prof. Haeckel, a most extreme evolutionist, confesses: "Most modern investigators of science have come to the conclusion that

the doctrine of evolution and particularly Darwinism is an error, and can not be maintained." [Next month: "The Piltdown Man Hoax.]

**BODY . . .**

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ruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. *But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* Therefore, my brethren beloved, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

And all this because

Christ died for us in order to "change our vile body that it might be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Phil. 3:21).

Is it any wonder that Paul exclaimed in Philipians 1:23: "For I am in a strait between two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ which is far better?"

May I ask you a question? If death should strike you suddenly, is it well with your soul? Have you made preparation for the next stage? You have not? Is it wise, think you, to neglect this most important issue? Today — now — is the only time of which you are sure. Listen to Him, "Come unto me. I will give you rest." And He can carry out every promise. Will you not make Him your Savior now? **HE'S TRULY WONDERFUL!** [Next month: "Muscle Engines."] □

**O day of rest and gladness  
O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness,  
Most beautiful, most bright:**

**On thee the high and lowly,  
Through ages joined in tune,  
Sing Holy, Holy, Holy,  
To the great God Triune.**

-- Christopher Wordsworth, 1862