

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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What It Means To “Earnestly Contend For the Faith”

In Jude 3 we are exhorted to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Has this age changed until one no longer need assume the unpopular task of contending for the faith? Have Baptist finally reached the open range where they only need to give attention to the positive, and to integrate themselves into a program of co-operation that is destined to “bring in the Kingdom?” Jude reminds us of the necessity for thus contending: “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, unholy men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

There is abroad a spirit of latitude and comity that all but argues for compromise and peace at any price. There seems to be a broadness among us that is born out of a

*By Chas. H. Stevens
Winston-Salem, North Carolina*

misconception of the fact that good and evil, truth and error, vice and virtue are irreconcilable. Our modern system of education has taught men to avoid dogmatism. Tolerance is the spirit, peace is the desired and the chief virtue. To

follow the trend of the day, we would not be greatly surprised to hear that someone has started a movement to reconcile God and the Devil or, the next best thing, do away with the Devil entirely. That might be simpler.

A Tremendous Religious Farce

By C. Michael Warr

Soon the annual 40 days of Lent will be inaugurated in several Protestant denominations, the Roman Catholic churches, and some Baptist churches. Thousands of people will receive the cross of ashes on their foreheads by some clergyman, which strikes me as being a throwback to the age of superstition and witchcraft. The whole idea of Lent appears to me

to be a tremendous religious farce.

Certainly, each congregation is granted the right to participate in the Lenten season if it so desires. And there are many Baptist churches that enter into the various activities. This puzzles me. We Baptists have said that the Bible is our only rule of faith and

(See **LENT** on page 24)

All of this superficial “tommy rot” grows out of a mental twilight produced by a godless culture that leaves nothing sharp and in focus but all spiritual truth blurred and indistinct. Like two streams flowing together, one hot, the other cold, we have so mixed human philosophy with divine revelation as to produce a nauseating tepidness that arouses and disturbs no one.

One cannot read the New Testament without being impressed by an uncompromising spirit with evil and a positive hostility against the enemies of the truth. There must not be a twilight zone between the forces of destruction and the forces of light and life. The issues at stake involve time and eternity, heaven and hell, God and the Devil. The Bible deals in the strongest positives and the severest negatives. There is no pulling of punches in the

(See **FAITH** on page 22)

Quiz The Pastor**What About Cults At Your Door?****By John Lenegar**

Question: How should a believer treat a Mormon, or a Jehovah's Witness, or other cult religionist who comes to your door?

Answer: "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him" (2 Cor. 11:4).

"Cult religions" are exactly what they are, and must be recognized as such. We must not give the slightest indication that we view them any other way. There can be no spiritual fellowship or communication with someone who denies that Jesus is the Christ, God the Son, and the only Savior of men. You cannot fellowship with someone on the basis of

'religion' alone. Jesus told the Samaritan woman in John chapter four that God is Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. If there is no Spirit there is no truth. It is Spirit and truth. There is no truth whatsoever with a false cult.

When one of these false prophets come to my door I usually give them about three minutes to give their well rehearsed speech, and then I ask them what they think of Jesus. Their answer is always basically the same; "Well, we believe that he is God's Son—and God has many sons."

"But do you believe that He is God the Son?" is my response. "Well, he is a god among many gods." If they will stay around long enough I will show them from the Word

of God who Jesus really is. Then if they are still there, I will, as kindly as possible, warn them of the coming judgment and the burning flames of hell which they do not believe exists.

I compassionately explain to them that, if they cannot recognize the Jesus of the Bible as being the Almighty, Sovereign Lord and Savior, that they will spend eternity in that awful place, knowing in my heart that they haven't heard a word I have said.

I refuse to discuss any other doctrine with them if we cannot agree on who Jesus is. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him" (1 Jn. 5:1). "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (Jn. 1:12).

I suggest that if you have any conversation with these false prophets—these cult religionists let it be about who Jesus is. That is the only message that will save the sinner. "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). □

A False Prophet?

I just read in USA Today that Pat Robertson has made some predictions for 2007. Among other things, he has predicted that the United States will suffer a horrific terrorist attack sometime after September. We know it is true because Pat says that God Himself gave him the inside information. (This from the same man who told us that God told him to run for President, but didn't tell him he would actually get any votes!). Pat also tells us that he has "a relatively good track record" with his predictions, but misses sometimes.

I have never met Pat Robertson, but the man is a false prophet. Deuteronomy 18:22 tells us that a prophet of God will not have "a relatively good track record". A prophet of God was *always* correct because God is always correct. If Pat was receiving his information from God, as he claims, he would never miss.

Real Christians need to reject Pat Robertson and read their Bible, and Pat should do the honest things and denounce himself as a fraud. Hopefully the first will happen, but don't hold your breath waiting for the second. It is about as likely to happen as some of Pat's failed predictions.

— Mike Meredith

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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God's Masterpiece — The Human Body #45

Your Skull and Other Bones

By Arthur I. Brown

If you have been reading these articles, you will know that we are now studying some of the features of the bony skeleton of the body. In the immediately preceding article I directed your attention to certain evidences of purposeful planning on the part of the Divine Architect.

It is not difficult to understand the reason why bone is important. All animals composed of a multitude of cells need a considerable variety of connective and supporting tissues, widely distributed throughout every region of the body for the support and protection of the various organs. These tissues are commonly divided into the exoskeletal and the endoskeletal types, the first referring, of course, to the outside tissues and the second to those on the inside of the body. Their highest development is seen in animals with a backbone.

The outer or exoskeletal tissues form a more or less complete covering for the underlying soft tissues. In some vertebrates, as in the turtle, this outer protection covers practically the entire body.

In the majority, however, these structures represented by hair, feathers, nails, claws or scales, form only a partial covering, and in the frog, are entirely lacking.

The internal structures composing the skeleton comprise many types, adapted to varying needs, reaching their highest development in bone.

In a former article, I described to you the five basic types of endoskeleton tissue: they are *white fibrous tissue*, *elastic tissue*, *fatty tissue*, *cartilage*, and *bone*, each of which has been dealt with. The exoskeleton is seen to best advantage among the invertebrate animals. We think of the calcareous covering of the island-building corals, the shell of the clam and the oyster, or the rigid suit of armor, composed of chitinous material completely enclosing the soft body tissues of crab, lobster, insect, and their many relatives in this great group of arthropods.

All the materials used in these outer coverings are non-living and usually formed from the underlying living cells. Some of the vertebrate animals, such as fish, possess in addition an

exoskeleton; in fish showing as scales, or even a complete shell, as in the turtle; birds have feathers; many mammals have a hairy coat.

The possession of a bony system on the inside of the body is a unique feature of backboneed individuals. Backboneless animals, like the insect, must attach their developed muscles to the inner surfaces of the non-living exoskeleton, and detach them periodically when the shell is shed during molting.

The permanent endoskeleton of the vertebrate serves as an inner supporting material, permitting the soft tissues to develop on the outside. When required, bone may develop outside the soft tissues and serve for protection, as shown in the brain and skull. These endoskeletal tissues, while relatively inactive, are living tissues. In fact the bone marrow is constantly producing millions of blood cells.

I have told you something about the composition of bone, and the collagenous material which with the salts of calcium and phosphorus is responsible for its striking peculiarities. Your attention

has been drawn, also, to the two basic divisions of all vertebrate skeletons: the axial skeleton, consisting of the skull and vertebral column; and the appendicular skeleton, made up of the two sets of limbs and their respective girdles which connect the limbs to the axial skeleton.

Some features of the spinal column were brought to you in a preceding article. The skull, which rests on the top end of the column, is a very complex assemblage of bones designed to provide adequate protection to the brain — the most delicate and important organ of the body. The skull consists of a brain-case or cranium, enclosing the brain proper, and also provides places of refuge for the important sense organs of the body: eyes, nose, and ears. Then, there is the facial portion built around the mouth, and provided with a masticating apparatus comprised of an intricate assemblage of bones and muscles.

In the human skull, there are twenty-two bones, eight of them forming the cranium, and fourteen the facial portion,

(See **BODY** on page 5)

A Famous “Unwritten Letter”

Rev. Saul Paul
Independent Missionary
Corinth, Greece

Dear Mr. Paul:

We recently received an application from you for service under our Board.

It is our policy to be as frank and open-minded as possible with all our applicants. We have made an exhaustive survey of your case. To be plain, we are surprised that you have been able to “pass” as a bono-fide missionary.

We are told that you are afflicted with a severe eye trouble. This is certain to be an insuperable handicap to an effective ministry. Our Board requires 20/20 vision.

At Antioch, we learn, you opposed Dr. Simon Peter, an esteemed denominational secretary and actually rebuked him publicly. You stirred up so much trouble at Antioch that a special Board meeting had to be convened in Jerusalem. We cannot condone such actions.

Do you think it seemly for a missionary to do part-time secular work? We hear that you are making tents on the side. In a letter to the church at Philippi you admitted that they were the only church supporting you. We wonder why.

Is it true that you have a jail record? Certain brethren report that you did two years time at Caesarea and were imprisoned at Rome.

You made so much trouble for the business men at Ephesus that they refer to you as “the man who turned the world upside down.” Sensationalism has no place in missions. We also deplore the lurid “over-the-wall-in-a-basket” episode at Damascus.

We are appalled at your obvious lack of conciliatory behavior. Diplomatic men are not stoned and dragged out of the city gate or assaulted by furious mobs. Have you ever suspected that gentler words might gain you more friends? I enclose a copy of Dalius Carnagus’ book “How to Win Jews and Influence Greeks.

In one of your letters you refer to yourself as “Paul the aged.” Our new mission policies do not

envisage a surplus of super-annuated recipients.

We understand that you are given to fantasies and dreams. At Troas you saw “a man of Macedonia” and at another time “were caught up into the third heaven” and even claimed “the Lord stood by” you. We reckon that more realistic and practical minds are needed in the task of world evangelism.

You have caused much trouble everywhere you have gone. You opposed the honorable women at Berea and the leaders of your own nationality in Jerusalem. If a man cannot get along with his own people, how can he serve foreigners?

We learn that you are a snake-handler. At Malta you picked up a poisonous serpent which is said to have bitten you but you did not suffer harm. Tsk, tsk!

You admit that while you were serving time at Rome that “all forsook you.” Good men are not left friendless. Three fine brothers by the names of Diotrophes, Demas and Alexander the coppersmith, have notarized affidavits to the effect that it is impossible for them to cooperate with either you or your program.

We know that you had a bitter quarrel with a fellow missionary named Barnabas. Harsh words do not further God’s work.

You have written many letters to churches where you have formerly been pastor. In one of these letters you accused a church member of living with his father’s wife, and you caused the whole church to feel badly and the poor fellow was expelled.

You spend too much time talking about “the second coming of Christ.” Your letters to the people at Thessalonica were almost entirely devoted to this theme. Put first things first from now on.

Your ministry has been far too flighty to be successful. First Asia Minor, then Macedonia, then Greece, then Italy and now you are talking about a wild goose chase into Spain. Concentration is more important than dissipation of one’s powers. You cannot win the whole world by yourself. You are just one little Paul.

In a recent sermon you said, “God forbid that

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 3)

these latter occurring in pairs with two exceptions, all well covered with the muscles of jaw and face. The two exceptions are the bone which separates the right and left nostrils — called the vomer, and the

lower jaw or mandible.

The teeth come under our notice here again, and I refresh your memory concerning them by reminding you that they are composed of a thin outer covering, the enamel, hardest substances in the body, and dentine which forms by far the greater

amount of material in a tooth. In the center of the dentine area, is a pulp cavity with vessels and nerves therein. Two sets of teeth are formed, the first set, the milk teeth, being replaced in the early years of childhood by the permanent teeth. These latter begin to develop in the jaws before the milk teeth are lost and erupt shortly afterward. The normal number of the first set is twenty with thirty-two in the permanent set.

The architecture of the neck and chest is interesting. Each of the twenty-four ribs is a slender bone curved gracefully so as to form the circular chest wall. All of the ribs are attached behind to a projection on the corresponding thoracic vertebra. In front seven pairs of ribs are attached by means of a short strip of cartilage to a bone in the middle line — dagger-shaped and called the sternum — forming the keystone of the thoracic arch surrounding the chest cavity. The eighth, ninth, and tenth pairs of ribs have a strip of gristle or cartilage at the front end, connecting them, not with the breast bone, but with the cartilage of another rib. The ends of the eleventh and twelfth pairs of ribs have no attachment anteriorly but end freely in the muscle tissue of the body wall.

The arm bones consist of the large upper bone, the humerus, in contact above with the shoulder girdle and

at its lower end with two bones, the radius and the ulna, the one on the outer side of the forearm, the other on the inner side, continuing down to the wrist. In the wrist there are eight small and curious bones, forming the carpus, and then the hand proper with nineteen bones. There are five hand bones, the metacarpals, long and slender, and articulating with the wrist bones. Finally, the five digits have a total of fourteen bones or phalanges, three for each of the fingers but only two for the thumb, which has one less joint.

The shoulder girdle has only two bones, one of which is the flat shoulder blade — called the scapula — firmly anchored in the shoulder muscles, but not actually fused with the upper skeleton. The shoulder blade is joined at the shoulder by the collar bone — the clavicle — a slender, rod-shaped bone which extends in front to the head of the dagger-shaped sternum. The shoulder joint is formed by the upper end or head of the humerus fitting into a special cavity — known as the glenoid fossa — in the shoulder blade.

The bony structure of the leg resembles that of the arm. There is the large thigh bone, the femur, which corresponds with the humerus of the arm and articulates with the two leg

(See **BODY** on page 23)

I should glory in anything save the cross of Christ.” It seems to us that you also ought to glory in our heritage, our denominational program, the unified budget and the World Federation of Churches.

Your sermons are much too long for the time. At one place you talked until after midnight and a young man was so sleepy that he fell out of the window and broke his neck. Nobody is saved after the first twenty minutes. “Stand up, speak up and then shut up,” is our advice.

Dr. Luke reports that you are a thin little man, bald, frequently sick and always so agitated over your churches that you sleep very poorly. He reports that you pad around the house praying half of the night. A healthy mind in a robust body is our ideal for all applicants. A good night’s sleep will give you rest and zip so that you wake up full of zing. We find it best to send only married men into foreign service. We deplore your policy of persistent celibacy. Simon Magus has set up a matrimonial bureau at Samaria where the names of some very fine widows are available.

You wrote recently to Timothy that “you had fought a good fight.” Fighting is hardly a recommendation for a missionary. No fight is a good fight. Jesus came not to bring a sword but peace. You boast that “I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus.” What on earth do you mean?

It hurts me to tell you this, Brother Paul, but in all of my twenty-five years experience I have never met a man so opposite to the requirements of our Foreign Mission Board. If we accept you we would break every rule of modern missionary practice.

Most sincerely yours
J. Flavius Fluffyhead, Sec.
Foreign Mission Board

Independent Baptist Foreign Missions

By Roy F. Dearmore, M.D.

[This article is taken from the book **The Case For Independent Baptist Churches**. Dr. Dearmore (a medical doctor as well as an ordained independent Baptist missionary) has been a missionary for over 40 years in both the upper regions of the Amazon River in Brazil and in what was called the Belgian Congo in Africa.]

* * *

This is a somewhat awkward subject for a missionary, perhaps, but our convictions and actions regarding scriptural mission work should go beyond personalities. Any comments made are intended to be constructive and not just critical for criticism's sake. Missionaries and churches need each other. A church cannot do scriptural mission work without God-called men who are willing to go. God-called men cannot go without scriptural churches who are willing to send and support.

I. Why Should We Do Mission Work?

I think the answer should be apparent even without going to the Bible. Millions of souls have not heard the gospel in Africa, Asia, South America,

Mexico and the islands of the sea. It has been asked "Why should we hear the gospel twice when others have not heard once?"

The most imperative reason for doing mission work is that it is clearly commanded not once, but many times in God's Word.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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" (Mt. 28:18-20).

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15).

"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Lk. 24:47).

"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 1:8).

These scriptures are

such a clear-cut command that they require no explanation.

In many instances where the command is given to carry the gospel into all the world, we are reminded that God has all power (in heaven and in earth) and that this power is available for carrying out the task given. There is no such thing as "can't" if God has commanded us to do something. However, there is very frequently "won't."

I would to God that churches and missionaries alike would realize the urgency in carrying out this command now. Occasionally you will find someone who tries to read Acts 1:8 as saying "first" at home and after you have won everybody at home then around the world. It says "both" at home and around the world at the same time.

God's Word teaches by command and example. We know we should do mission work by Bible examples such as Christ, Paul, Barnabas and many others. Even in the Old Testament we find Jonah and other men who were sent to warn men of the wrath of God on sin. This was certainly missionary work.

For some people a command is not effective without a threat. In Ezekiel

33:7-9 we find: "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."

The prophet of God is told that he is a watchman to the house of Israel. The church is the watchman to the world today to warn of the wrath of God and the way of escape. I think the parallel certainly holds that the blood of those whom we fail to warn will be required at our hands.

Another reason for doing mission work is that reward is promised. The promise in Matthew 28:20 "and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" is dependent on carrying out the command which preceded it. If a church does not carry out the great commission, I do not see

(See **DEAR** on page 7)

DEARMORE . . .

(Continued from page 6)

how they can claim the Lord's promise to be with them in strength and power to the end of the world.

Perhaps one of the most compelling reasons for doing mission work is because of the love and mercy of God, because of what He has done for us.

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead" (2 Cor. 5:14).

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

II. Biblical Method of Mission Work

"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence

they sailed to Cyprus" (Acts 13:1-4).

God's method of mission work is clearly set forth in these four verses. There are those who will say "Yes, but that was written 2,000 years ago and will not work today." I say to you with the same logic, that John 3:16 was written 2,000 years ago. Is it still valid? Of course, it is. God deals in eternal verities. Unless God Himself

supersedes it we have no right to set it aside. In the case of the tabernacle worship and animal sacrifices God Himself clearly changed this. Such is not the case with New Testament missions.

Note in verse one, it all started with a local church, the church at Antioch. I submit to you that without a local church you cannot have scriptural mission work.

Also, it involved God-called men. Without God-called men you will not have scriptural or successful (measured by God's standards) mission work.

Not only were they God-called men, they were church-separated. The churches have been lax today in separating men and examining them morally and doctrinally as to their

(See **DEAR** on page 20)

Have You Checked Out "Great Bible Tracts"

A new section as been entered in the web site of the Central Baptist Church under **The Baptist Challenge**. In this section we will be listing articles and tracts on all subjects. Presently the following articles and tracts are available:

- "Baptist Handbook for Church Members"** by M.L. Moser, Jr.
- "Creation Versus Evolution"** by Kenneth Mathis
- "Eternal Security of the Believer"** by M. L. Moser, Sr.
- "Eternal Security of the Believer"** by M. L. Moser, Sr. **Spanish Version**
- "Faithfulness of Deacons"** by John W. Gillmore
- "God's Way of Salvation"** by Alexander Marshall
- "Gospel of Your Salvation"** by Norman H. Wells
- "Old Testament Outlines and Summaries"** by Kenneth Mathis
- "Saint Patrick Was a Baptist"** by John S. Wimbish
- "Sinners In the Hand of An Angry God"** by Jonathan Edwards
- "The Gift"** by Father Chiniquy
- The Law of Entropy"** by Phillip Marquart, M.D.
- The Multiplicity of Denominations, An Evil** by James B. Gambrell, D.D.
- "Three Days and Three Nights"** by L. F. Gill
- "What Is An Indp. Fund. Baptist Church"** by M. L. Moser, Jr.
- "Why I Believe in the Virgin Birth"** by Howard A. Kelly, M.D., F.A.C.I.

Check Them Out



Jesse Jackson's Newest Staff Member.

— Jesse Jackson has added former Chicago Democrat Congressman Mel Reynolds to Rainbow/PUSH Coalition's payroll. Reynolds was among the 176 criminals excused in President Clinton's last-minute forgiveness spree. Reynolds received a commutation of his six-and-a-half-year federal sentence for 15 convictions of wire fraud, bank fraud, and lies to the Federal Election Commission. He is more notorious, however, for concurrently serving five years for sleeping with an underage campaign volunteer. This is a first in American politics: An ex-congressman who had sex with a subordinate ... won clemency from a president who had sex with a subordinate ... then was hired by a clergyman who had sex with a subordinate! His new job? Ready for this? — Youth Counselor! Isn't this a great country or what?

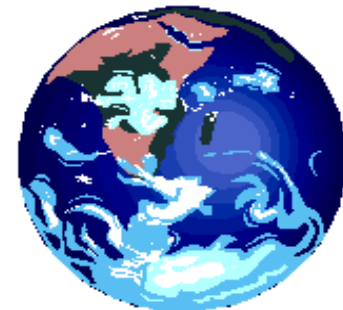
Q: What Does Death Have To Do With History. — **A:** If a person

World News Roundup

believes the earth has a history of hundreds of millions of years, then they *have* to accept that a history of millions of years of death, disease, violence, and suffering led up to man's existence. The reason for this is that those who believe in millions of years think that the fossil record (in which they see those supposed millions of years) was laid down over this huge amount of time — and the fossil record is a record of death, disease, violence, and suffering. But the Bible makes it clear that death is an intrusion — an *enemy*. There was no death of animals or man before Adam sinned, as at the end of the sixth day of creation, God pronounced everything “very good.” What this means is that if a Christian accepts the history of millions of years of death before man, they're telling the world that the Bible's history is wrong! In other words, the Bible's history of death is incompatible with the history of death given by those who accept “millions of years.” The Bible is Truth—which means one can't logically believe in millions of years. — AIG

Q: Since some monkeys make a lot of noise

and can even use simple sign language, is it possible they might even learn to speak? **A:** It's true that some monkeys and apes, lured along by rewards, have been able to learn what might be called a simple sign language. But it's been discovered that monkeys lack the key principle common to all human languages — something called “phrase structure grammar.” An example of phrase structure grammar would be a sentence that uses the words “if” and “then.” These two words enable us to communicate opinions and complex social ideas, as there are many concepts that an unstructured string of words could never communicate. Unsurprisingly, the discovery that monkeys lack this key ability has dashed some scientists' hopes that monkeys could be trained to master a complex language. No matter how hard evolutionists try to make apes and monkeys our relatives, they always end up finding themselves at a loss for words (excuse the pun). Only humans have the ability to communicate using complex grammar patterns, because God made man in His image with the ability to communicate with Him — and with each other — starting



from the very beginning. — AIG

Senate Bans Pastor After He Condemns Same-Sex Marriage.

— On the same day a New Jersey Senate committee advanced a bill allowing same sex civil unions Pastor Vincent Fields spoke “out against same-sex marriage when he offered the invocation at the opening of the Senate session on Monday.” But Pastor Fields said he had not planned to do this but “the Holy Spirit took over, and I had to pray what he said.” In his prayer Pastor Fields said “We curse the spirit that would come to bring about same-sex marriage” and “We ask you to just look over this place today, cause them to be shaken in their very heart in uprightness, Lord, to do that is right before you.” Of course in this day of political correctness this “has gotten the pastor banned from giving future Senate invocations.” The pastor was also criticized for “citing Jesus twice in his prayer” as “The invo-

(See **WNR** on page 11)

La Voz Del Desierto

Noticias Alrededor Del Mundo

Seducen A Niños a Convertirse en Mártires.

— La televisión Palestina está difundiendo nuevamente los videos de música diseñados para lavarles el cerebro a los niños, en busca de que se conviertan en mártires por Alá. Utilizaron estos videos primero en la televisión entre los años 2000 y 2004, transmitiéndolos miles de veces. Un video de un niño “mártir” bien conocido, de nombre Dura, fue difundido al mundo entero de modo que otros niños palestinos

deseen seguirlo (al cielo de los niños mártires).

Muestran a los niños su “recompensa” después de la muerte. Dura juega con un cometa, juega en una playa, y se monta en una máquina de diversiones. Les muestran que todo ésto será suyo, si siguen a Dura y mueren en conflicto con Israel. Ésta es una de las más grandes explotaciones de los niños vistos recientemente en la televisión. En algunos casos las Fuerzas de Defensas Israelitas han tenido

problemas en dispararle a los pistoleros ya que usan a los niños como escudos humanos. — Jerusalem Post.

* * *

Euriditos Alemanes Revelan Biblia de “Corrección Política”

— Un grupo de 52 “especialistas bíblicos” han lanzado una nueva versión de la Biblia, en la cual la lengua inclusiva y la “corrección política” han sustituido algunas en-

señanzas “divisivas” del cristianismo, para presentar “una lengua más justa” para los grupos feministas y homosexuales. Según la agencia de noticias AFP, la nueva versión de las Escrituras fue presentada en una feria de libros en Alemania. Titulada, *La Biblia en un Lenguaje Más Justo*, la traducción no tiene a Jesús refiriéndose a Dios como “Padre”, sino como “nuestra Madre y Padre que están en el

(Vea **MUNDO** en la pág. 10)

¿Qué Es El Purgatorio?

El purgatorio es un lugar ficticio, “*para purificar el alma*”, inventado por el papa Gregorio el Grande en el año 593. Había tal renuncia en aceptar la idea (*puesto que era contraria a la Escritura*), que el purgatorio no se hizo un dogma católico oficial por casi 850 años, en el Concilio de Florencia en el 1439. La Iglesia Católica Romana enseña que el purgatorio es un lugar de tormento temporal, antes de ir al cielo. Es importante saber que la palabra *purgatorio* no

aparece en las Sagradas Escrituras.

El catolicismo romano afirma que un “*pecador arrepentido*”, que ha sido justificado por gracia, todavía debe sufrir en el purgatorio antes de ir al cielo. Tal creencia niega lo que el sufrimiento de Jesucristo hizo en la cruz por nuestros pecados. Además, solamente por la confesión de nuestros pecados en arrepentimiento, es que la sangre de Cristo nos limpia. No por algún sufrimiento o padecimiento después de la

muerte (Ira Juan 1:7-9; Ira Corintios 6:11).

Hasta el momento la Iglesia Católica no ha podido precisar el tiempo que deben pasar las personas en el purgatorio. Es de necios confiar en una iglesia que inventa un purgatorio y ni siquiera puede decir el tiempo que una persona debe pasar allí por cada pecado, ni cuánto tiempo, cada “*ritual o acto de penitencia*,” reduce el sufrimiento en ese sitio.

Los Católicos usan el pasaje de Lucas 16:19-31 para justificar la existencia

del purgatorio, sin embargo, en esta cita bíblica se habla sobre el paraíso donde se encontraba Lázaro y el infierno donde estaba el rico, en ningún momento se menciona un lugar intermedio conocido como purgatorio.

Según los católicos, el hombre puede arrepentirse de sus pecados cuantas veces quiera, pero de todos modos irá al purgatorio, y ¿dónde queda el sacrificio de Cristo en la cruz?, el hombre una vez que se

(Vea **PURG** en la pág. 10)

MUNDO . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

cielo". Asimismo, Jesús no es designado como el "Hijo" sino como el "niño" de Dios. El título "Señor" se sustituye por "el Dios" o "el Eterno". Sin embargo, se refieren al diablo, con pronombres masculinos. "Una de las grandes ideas de la Biblia es la justicia. Hemos hecho una traducción que le hace justicia a las mujeres, judíos, y los desatendidos", dijo el Pastor Hanne Koehler, que condujo el equipo de traductores.

El pasado mes de diciembre, Martín Dreyer, pastor y fundador de la secta "Fanáticos de Jesús," publicaron el libro *Volksbibel* (La Biblia de la gente), en una supuesta tentativa de hacer el mensaje del cristianismo más "accesible". Jesús "regresa" en vez de resucitar, y multiplica las "hamburguesas" en vez de los pescados y de los panes. En la parábola del hijo pródigo, el hijo joven malgasta su herencia en los clubes nocturnos y termina limpiando los baños de McDonald."

* * *

Musulmanes Buscan Al "Hombre Perfecto de Paz." — Muchos musulmanes está buscando el "Imam Madhi" o "Salvador de las Épocas", quien será un hombre perfecto de paz y llevará a la gente hacia

una nueva sociedad. En su discurso del mes pasado ante las Naciones Unidas, el presidente Iraní Mahmoud Ahmadinejad concluyó con estas palabras: "Enfáticamente declaro que el mundo de hoy, más que nunca antes, desea a gente justa que tenga amor por toda la humanidad; y sobretodo, desean al ser humano perfecto, salvador verdadero que se ha prometido a toda la gente y quién establecerá la justicia, la paz, y la fraternidad en el planeta. Oh, Dios todopoderoso ... confiere sobre la humanidad esa sed por la justicia, el ser humano perfecto prometido a todos por Ti, y permítenos ser sus seguidores y entre los que se esfuercen por su regreso y su causa" (Líderes Iraníes Revelan Visión Apocalíptica ante las Naciones Unidas "World-Net-Daily, 21 de sept. del 2006").

Ahmadinejad reclamó que fue bañado con una luz verde desde el cielo durante el discurso. Según la Biblia, el anticristo vendrá a la escena con un programa impresionante de paz y una promesa de fraternidad entre todos los hombres. Será un hombre impresionante y brillante, quien parecerá haber solucionado la crisis en el Medio Oriente, pero después de tres años y medio romperá su convenio y gobernará al mundo con puño de hierro por un período corto; antes de que el verdadero Príncipe de Paz, el Señor

Jesucristo, regrese a establecer su reino justo en la tierra. "Porque ya está obrando el misterio de iniquidad: solamente espera hasta que sea quitado de en medio el que ahora impide; Y entonces será manifestado aquel inicuo, al cual el Señor matará con el espíritu de su boca, y destruirá con el resplandor de su venida; A aquel inicuo, cuyo advenimiento es según operación de Satanás, con grande potencia, y señales, y milagros mentirosos. Y con todo engaño de iniquidad en los que perecen; por cuanto no recibieron el amor de la verdad para ser salvos. Por tanto, pues, les envía Dios operación de error, para que crean a la mentira; Para que sean condenados todos los que no creyeron a la verdad, antes consintieron a la iniquidad" (2da Tesalonicenses 2:7-12).

* * *

Corporaciones Apoyan La Agenda Homosexual. — Según el informe del 2006 de la Campaña Por Los Derechos Humanos, una organización de la defensa homosexual, 138 corporaciones importantes en Estados Unidos lograron su grado superior de 100 por ciento y 436 incluyen la orientación sexual en sus políticas no discriminatorias.

El mes pasado a Walmart se le otorgó una posición en la Junta de

Directores de la Cámara de Comercio Nacional de Homosexuales y Lesbianas, por su apoyo a la "unión homosexual". El Señor Jesucristo dijo que en los tiempos finales "sería como en los días de Lot" (Lucas 17:28-30). □ □

PUGATORIA . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

arrepiente de sus pecados, esto es suficiente para que la hermosa sangre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo lo limbie; e irá directamente al cielo cuando muera. Además, si no hay derramamiento de sangre, no se puede hacer remisión de pecado (Hebreos 9:22), en ningún momento se dice que el purgatorio sea un lugar de derramamiento de sangre, sino de "fuego purificador."

Lo único que puede purificarnos de nuestros pecados es la sangre de Cristo, y Él ya lo logró en la cruz del Calvario. Sólo por la fe en Jesucristo, por la gracia de Dios obtenemos la salvación. Luego que el hombre muere no puede cambiar lo que escogió en vida porque, "... en el lugar que el árbol cayere, allí quedará" (Eclesiastés 11:3).

Para concluir la oportunidad de salvación del hombre es en vida, porque luego que éste muera, lo que le queda es el juicio (Hebreos 9:27).

— [Por Hna. Brenda Luz Díaz Gracia Redactora.]

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

cations are usually non-specific to any religion. "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled" (1 Pet. 3:14).

* * *

UN Establishes New Anti-Israel Office.

— "The United Nations, which has distinguished itself more by its anti-Israel activity than any of its peace-keeping or other humanitarian works, Friday voted to open a new facility at which Israel's enemies can lodge complaints against the Jewish state." This means that "Any Arab who believes Israel's security barrier has infringed on his/her rights will now be able to register for compensation at a new office that will be set up in Vienna." Editor's Comment: Genesis 12:3 "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

* * *

"The Blasphemy Challenge" Rewards

Participants For Demonstrating Non-belief On YOUTUBE. — "The Rational Response Squad has launched a \$25,000 campaign to entice young people to publicly renounce any belief in the sky God of

Christianity. Called 'The Blasphemy Challenge,' this campaign encourages participants to commit what Christian doctrine calls the only unforgivable sin — blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. (The 'Holy Spirit' is an invisible ghost who Christians believe dwells on Earth as God's representative.)" According to the web site "More than 160 participants have already blasphemed the Holy Spirit and earned free DVDs during the pre-launch phase of the Blasphemy Challenge."

* * *

Kwanzaa Celebrated Throughout The City.

— "Kwanzaa, the African-American celebration of family, community and culture, will have a more significant presence in Des Moines this year. The city plans to hold a series of daily events throughout the metro to mark the seven principles that define the holiday." Those 7 principles are: — "*Umoja* (unity): To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race. — *Kujichagulia* (self-determination): To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves. — *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together. —

Ujamaa (cooperative economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together. — *Nia* (purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness. — *Kuumba* (creativity): To do as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and better than we inherited it. — *Imani* (faith): To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle." Churches and other groups in the community have joined together to "extend Kwanzaa's reach." The 7 principles correspond with the "the seven-fold path of blackness is think black, talk black, act black, create black, buy black, vote black and live black."

* * *

Rethinking Kwanzaa.

— This reversed racism was introduced into the American black culture in 1966 by Ron Karenga (born Ron Everett). Karenga had Marxist leanings and in 1969 at UCLA led a group of students known as the United Slaves. Female members of the United Slaves said they were tortured at the command of Karenga himself. In 1971 Karenga was sent to prison

for felonious assault and false imprisonment. Yet, upon his release from prison Karenga was appointed to the Black Studies Department at California State University in Long Beach, CA. It might be said "only in America" but nonsense such as this is taking place around the world.

* * *

Homophobia Spies in The Classroom.

— "Schools that fail to show enthusiasm in rooting out prejudice against homosexuals should be reported to the police by pupils and parents, a Home Office report recommended yesterday." This report "called for parents and children to identify schools that ignore 'homophobic' language in the playground and teachers who produce 'homophobic' lessons." It also calls for "head teachers to bring lessons about 'homophobia' on to school timetables and to involve their pupils in gay 'awareness weeks'." The report even calls for a "hate crime co-ordinator". "And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out" (1 Ki. 14:24).

* * *

Invasion USA-Satellites Will Help Mexicans

(See WNR on page 13)

The Price of Freedom

By D. N. Jackson

The ALAMO, located in the heart of San Antonio and in the heart of every Texan, stands as a sacred shrine of liberty and the price of freedom.

Established in 1716 by the Franciscan Order as a Catholic mission at this point, the settlement finally became known as “The Alamo” from a Mexican town bearing this name after a company of soldiers from Mexico had been stationed here in 1803.

In their struggles for independence, Texans under General Bureson (in 1835) drove out General Cos and his Mexican troops and took possession of The Alamo.

But not for long did the Texans hold The Alamo as their fort, for the following year Mexico’s dictator, Santa Anna, sent his powerful army to take possession of the fort. What followed has become a symbol of Texas independence and human freedom.

One hundred eighty-three fearless men gave their lives amidst the flames of hell as the Mexican army stormed the fort and killed the defenders to the last man. Among them were the immortal names of men like Travis, Bonham, David Crockett and Bowie.



Calling to his fellow-Texans for help, Col. Travis pledged himself and his men to die alone if help did not come soon. Said he: “... I shall never surrender or retreat.” When he saw no help in sight and the enemy closing in on him, Col. Travis called his men together, giving them a choice of fighting to death or making an effort to escape for their lives. Drawing a line in the soft earth with his sword, he said: “Those who will stay step over to me.”

As all his men, with one single exception, surged across the line, a weak voice called out from the sick Bowie, who was in a little room near — “Some of you come and lift me across.” As four men carried Bowie’s cot across the line a great cheer went up.

When the sunlight of the new sun (March 6,

1836), spread its mellow rays over THE ALAMO, there lay sprawled in their own blood the bodies of brave men who chose to pay the price of death for

independence and liberty.

Today THE ALAMO stands as a symbol of liberty.

But a symbol of greater liberty stands on a hill far away — The Old Rugged Cross. There One died that all mankind might be freed from the bondage of a foe far more powerful than Santa Anna. To the excellency of that event Paul testifies:

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal. 6:14).

Seeing Him Who Is Invisible

By John Sidebotham

With my eyes upon the Savior
I can walk the sea of life
With its waves and billows ‘round me,
With its tempests, storms and strife.

Should I look upon another,
Look at self or turn my gaze
On life’s problems and temptations,
I would sink beneath the waves.

Savior, let me walk beside Thee,
Let me feel my hand in Thine;
Let me know the joy of walking
In Thy strength and not in mine.

The King James Version



William Lyon Phelps was an American author, critic and scholar. Phelps gained a B.A. and Ph.D. from Yale University and an M.A. from Harvard University, where he went on to teach for just one year before returning to Yale to hold a position in the English department for 41 years. He was the Lamson Professor of English literature at Yale. One of his books was **“Human Nature in the Bible.”** The following are some excerpts from this book, about the King James Bible:

1. “Priests, atheists, sceptics, devotees, agnostics, and evangelists are generally agreed that the Authorised Version of the English Bible is the best example of English literature that the world has ever seen. It combines the noblest elevations of thought, aspiration, imagination, passion and religion with simplicity of diction.”

2. “Everyone who has a thorough knowledge of the Bible may truly be called educated; and no other learning or culture, no matter how extensive or elegant, can, among Europeans and Americans, form a proper substitute.”

“I thoroughly believe in a university education for both men and women; but *I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without the Bible.*”

3. “We Anglo-Saxons have a better Bible than the French or the Germans or the Italians or the Spanish; our English translation is *even better than the original Hebrew and Greek.* There is only one way to explain this; I have no theory to account for the so-called ‘inspiration of the Bible’ but I am confident that the *Authorised Version was Inspired.*”

4. “We ought invariably in the church and on public occasions to use the Authorised Version; *all others are inferior.* And, except for special purposes, it should be used *Exclusively* in private reading. Why make constant companions of the second best, when the best is available?”

While I cannot agree with every thing the professor has written in that book, I say a whole heartedly agree with all that he said in the above excerpts. □

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 11)

Sneak in Handheld Navigation Aids For Illegals Crossing Border.

— “Illegal aliens crossing the U.S.-Mexico border will reportedly be given handheld satellite devices by Mexican authorities to help them survive their illicit journey.” Editor’s Comment: “The illegal immigration problem is allowing hundreds of

thousands of criminal aliens to invade our nation and kill, maim, rob and abuse our citizens,” warns one of the vice presidents of the 14,000-member National Association of Chiefs of Police. Research revealed that in one 9-month period the federal government arrested over 100,000 criminal aliens. These arrests do not include arrests made by state and local law enforcement.” □

The Test of Your Philosophy

After an infidel had concluded a lecture in a village in England, he challenged those present to a discussion. Who should accept the challenge but an old, bent woman in antiquated attire who went up to the lecturer and said:

“Sir, I have a question to put to you.”

“Well, my good woman, what is it?”

“Ten years ago,” she said, “I was left a widow with eight children utterly unprovided for, and nothing to call my own but this Bible. By its direction, and looking to God for strength, I have been enabled to feed myself and family. I am now tottering to the grave but I am perfectly happy, because I look forward to a life of immortality with Jesus. That is what my religion has done for me. What has your way of thinking done for you?”

“Well, my good lady,” rejoined the lecturer, “I do

not want to disturb your comfort; but —”

“Oh, that is not the question,” she said, “keep to the point sir. What has your way of thinking done for you?”

The infidel endeavored to shirk the matter again; the meeting gave vent to uproarious applause, and the champion had to go away discomfited by an old woman. □ □

Less Thunder

A celebrated preacher, remarkable in his early ministry for a boisterous mode of preaching, suddenly changed to a dispassionate mode of delivery. When asked why the change, he replied,

“When I was young, I thought it was the thunder that killed people; but when older and wiser, I knew it was the lightning. So I determined to thunder less and lighten more.” □



**The Editor baptizing in Guanajuato, México.
M. L. Moser Sr. is standing in the background.**

Man has always been tempted to substitute forms and ceremonies for the purely spiritual factors in his religion. From earliest times down to the present he has wanted something tangible before which he can bow and worship. Idols of wood and stone have held their places in his temples and homes. Various rites have been practiced in the effort to placate deity and destroy the power of the evil one. To worship God in spirit and in truth has indeed been found to be a difficult undertaking.

Instituted by John the Baptist as a simple act of preparation for the coming of the Messiah and as a token of a repentant heart, baptism has passed through an eventful history, until today there are four distinct

forms by which the ordinance is administered, a much larger number of ideas which it is supposed to set forth, and four distinct purposes for which it is administered — a controversial subject indeed!

The four forms are sprinkling, pouring, triune immersion and one immersion. The various ideas about it are: (1) It sets forth the sprinkling of the blood of the sacrifice for sins; (2) it represents the pouring out of the Holy Spirit; (3) it assists in the purification from sins; (4) it absolutely saves from sin and without it there is no salvation; (5) it is a symbol of the burial and resurrection of Christ.

The distinct purposes for which it is administered by various groups are: (1) To cleanse from sin; (2) to complete the work of

The One Baptism

By John D. Freeman

regeneration; (3) to wash away sin and thus bring salvation; (4) to set forth one's faith in the acts of the Savior by which we are saved and which guarantee our justification.

We are commanded to be able to give a reason for the faith that is within us, so, taking the statement of Paul in the fourth chapter of Ephesians as our authority, let us see the truth as it is revealed in the word of God and supported by the best minds of the Christian era.

What Is Baptism?

Since Ephesians 4:5 can have reference only to water baptism, we turn to consider the form by which baptism can be administered. If there can be but one baptism, it behooves all Christians to know that they practice it. Dr. Salmond of the United Free Church College of Aberdeen, Scotland, says of baptism, "The rite, one and the same for all, by which believers in Christ are admitted to fellowship in His church." That it is the rite by which believers are admitted to

fellowship in a church is admitted by all Christians save a very few, but that it is "one and the same for all" is denied by all who refuse to observe the New Testament requirements as to its form. What is that form?

1. The Word Baptizo.

Our word "baptize" is an Anglicized form of the Greek word "*baptizo*," so if we want to know what it means we must learn from the Greek. We give herewith definitions from various Greek scholars, *not one a Baptist*.

a. Liddell and Scott's Greek Lexicon: Baptizo, to dip in or under water."

b. Sophocles (Greek Catholic): "Baptizo, to dip, to immerse, to sink."

c. Thayer: "Baptizo, to dip repeatedly, to submerge, to cleanse by dipping."

d. Preuschen (Lutheran): *Ins wasser tauchen*," to dip into water.

Fifty of the leading Greek lexicons of the world are unanimous in their rendering of the meaning of the word.

In the beautiful Greek

(See **FIRST** on page 15)

FIRST . . .

(Continued from page 14)

story of Iphigenia, written before the Christian era, we have a baptismal scene when the image of the goddess, having been defiled by the hands of a foreigner, was taken to the sea to be purified by immersion. Far back in history we see this clear picture of the origin of the idea that baptism can cleanse from sin — and a pagan, not a Christian concept. Artemus, who had come to the rescue of his sister, planned for her to wade out deep into the water for the ceremony and before her captors could interfere, he seized her and bore her away to his ship. *Baptizo* for a Greek *never meant anything but immerse*, and the Greek Catholics have never practiced any other form but immersion.

2. What the Commentators Say. We give a few quotations from the leading commentators of other religious bodies. Certainly no one can accuse them of being biased in favor of the Baptist position.

a. John Wesley. “We are buried with — alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion.” (Notes on Rom. 6:4).

b. A. S. Peake (Methodist of England), in speaking of Colossians 2:12 says, “The rite of baptism, in which the person baptized was first buried beneath the water and then



The Editor Baptizing in Tabasco, Mexico

raised from it, typified to Paul the burial and resurrection of the believer with Christ.”

c. Calvin, Presbyterian: “They immersed the whole body in water.” He further says, “The word baptize signifies to immerse, and the rite of immersion was observed by the ancient church” (Institutes 4:15).

d. Martin Luther, founder of Lutheranism: “The term baptism is Greek; in Latin it may be translated immersion, since we immerse anything into water, that the whole may be covered with water” (Works, Vol. 1, p. 74).

e. Lightfoot, an Episcopalian, gives us the view of all who believe in baptismal remission of sins. He says, “Baptism is the grave of the old man and the birth of the new. As he sinks beneath the baptismal waters, the believer buries there all his corrupt affections and past sins. He rises regenerate, quickened to new hopes and a new life.”

The president of the great Presbyterian seminary said in the writer’s presence, “I am persuaded that immersion is not only a New Testament baptism but *the* New Testament

baptism.” One of the greatest church historians in the world, also a Presbyterian, is reported to have sought for years to restore immersion as the one baptism of his church. A professor of Greek in a Methodist university frankly admitted that *baptizo* never meant anything but immerse when applied to baptism.

3. What the Historians Say. Quotations from the great historians cannot here be given, for space will not allow. However, if one wishes to see the record, he may go to a good library and read for himself what they say. The following tell us in unambiguous words that the form of baptism used throughout apostolic days and almost universally during the first millennium of Christian history was immersion — Kraus and Muratori, Roman Catholics; Stanley and Geike, Episcopalians; Kurtz and Mosheim, Lutherans; Schaff, Presbyterian; Fischer, Congregationalist; Wesley, Clarke, Benson, Methodists.

Why Not Accept Other Immersions?

The question naturally arises: If immersion is scriptural baptism, why do Baptists not accept the immersion of other Christian bodies as baptism? The answer is simple. True Baptists cannot accept the immersion of other bodies as scriptural baptism, for the simple reason that the act of immersion does not conform to the requirements set forth in the New Testament. What are the marks of true baptism.

1. There must be a believer before there can be a baptism. Anything other than the immersion of a believer cannot rightly be accepted by a Baptist church as baptism. We must keep clearly in mind that the content, as well as the form determines a thing. If immersion is held to have anything whatever to do with salvation, if it is believed to contain some magic power by which spiritual grace is conveyed to the believer, then it is separate and distinct from the immersion practiced by Baptists through the ages. Sacramentalism has been one of the curses of Christianity, and Baptists become sacramentarians the moment they accept as baptism the immersion of a body of Christians who believe that baptism is necessary for salvation. If then a Baptist church accepts this sacrament as baptism, it immediately violates the word of Paul

(See **FIRST** on page 19)

Testing The Faith

Navy Dismisses Chaplain Who Prayed “in Jesus Name”



Lt. Gordon James Klingenschmitt

A U.S. Navy chaplain who prayed “in Jesus’ name” as his conscience dictated is being ejected from the military service “in retaliation” for his victorious battle to change Navy policy that required religious rites be “non-sectarian.”

“This fight cost me everything. My career is over, my family is now homeless, we’ve lost a million dollar pension, but Congress agreed with me and rescinded the Navy policy, so chaplains are free again to pray in Jesus’ name,” Chaplain Gordon Klingenschmitt told WND. “My sacrifice purchased their freedom. My conscience is clear, the fight was worth it, and I’d do it all again.”

Klingenschmitt, as WND has reported, has fought an extended battle with the Navy over its restrictions on religious expression by its chaplains.

He appeared and delivered a public prayer “in Jesus’ name” at a White House rally last winter and was court-martialed for that. The Navy convicted him of failing to follow a lawful order because his superior didn’t want him praying “in Jesus’ name.”

He’s also launched a legal battle that he said he hopes eventually will result in his reinstatement, alleging the Navy assembled a “civic religion” by ordering its chaplains to pray in a certain way. “There’s a Unitarian system of religion that’s aimed at Christians,” John Whitehead, founder of the The Rutherford Institute, told WND. “It boils down to that. We’re seeing it all across the country, with council prayers, kids wanting to mention Jesus. What’s going on here is it’s generally a move in our government and military to set up a civic religion.”

“I think the Supreme Court’s going to have to look at the idea of can the government in any of its forms tell people how to pray, set up a basic religion and say you can only do it this way,” he said.

Klingenschmitt told WND he’d been delivered a formal letter of reprimand for his appearance at a White House function in

We Are Homeless, Jobless, and We Are In God’s Hands

March 2006 at which he wore his uniform and prayed “in Jesus’ name.” For that he was convicted at a special court-martial of violating a lawful order from his commanding officer not to do that.

His appearance was with former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice and WND columnist Judge Roy Moore, who was removed from his office when he refused to follow a federal court order he considered unlawful: to remove a Ten Commandments monument from public property.

Klingenschmitt’s \$3,000 fine was suspended and because of the issues, Congress got involved and ordered the Navy to rescind that particular policy, and allow chaplains to pray as their “conscience dictates.” In a Congressional report on the situation, members of a conference committee noted, “The House bill contained a provision ... to prescribe that military chaplains shall have the prerogative to pray according to the dictates of their conscience, except as must be limited by military

necessity, with any such limitation being imposed in the least restrictive manner feasible.” That position was adopted with orders that the “Secretary of the Navy rescind Secretary of the Navy Instruction 1730.7C dated February 21, 2006, titled ‘Religious Ministry within the Department of the Navy’” and replace it with a policy allowing such freedoms.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld also then promised Congress that no chaplain would be punished under the now-cancelled policy, *but the Navy’s plans to get rid of Klingenschmitt moved forward anyway.*

A federal judge in Klingenschmitt’s lawsuit also concluded that his termination from the service and the damage that would result would not be “irreparable,” so he would not step in at this point, and Klingenschmitt was delivered a Navy letter this week ordering him to move out of his home in conjunction with his removal from the service.

“Access onto all military installations within Navy Region Mid-Atlantic for Lieutenant Gordon J.

(See NAVY on page 17)

NAVY . . .

(Continued from page 16)

Klingenschmitt, CHC, USNR, will terminate on January 31, 2007," said the letter from S.W. Wong, who is with the Judge Advocate General's Corp. While he's battling for reinstatement, Klingenschmitt said, he'll be accepting speaking invitations and can be contacted through his website, and working with supporters Alan Keyes and Rick Scarborough who have assembled an online petition that calls on new Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to honor Rumsfeld's promise that no chaplain would be punished under the old policy.

"U.S. Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt is being unjustly punished for praying in Jesus' name, for quoting Scripture passages in a military chapel, for voicing evangelical messages about Christ while in uniform," the petition says.

"Chaplain Klingenschmitt courageously stood for what is right, and his stand was completely vindicated by Congress. I am calling on you to immediately exonerate him and allow him to continue his outstanding service as a Navy chaplain. Mr. Secretary, you must act! And fast! Otherwise Chaplain Klingenschmitt will be kicked out of the service by Jan. 31, ending an

award-winning 15.5-year career. He will lose his pension, health care benefits and be evicted from military housing – and our sailors will lose this faithful vicar of Christ."

"I think the Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, should keep the promise of his predecessor," the chaplain told WND. "*We are homeless, jobless and we are in God's hands.*"

"My separation is in direct retaliation for my victory on Capitol Hill. This is how the Navy treats whistleblowers," he added. In the lawsuit filed by the Rutherford Institute, the authors noted that courts in the District of Columbia already have concluded: "What we have here is the government's attempt to override the Constitution and the laws of the land by a directive that clearly interferes with military chaplains' free exercise and free speech rights, as well as those of their congregants."

The case developed when "one Navy Captain decided that he did not like the content of the Chaplain's religious speech during an optionally attended sermon in the chapel," the lawsuit said. Then a Navy investigation showed Klingenschmitt had prayed "in Jesus' name" and had even prayed in public in uniform. For that, the court-martial was held, "ignoring Naval Uniform

Regulations that permit chaplains to wear the uniform during public worship."

The lawsuit notes that the Navy is using the chaplain's resignation from one "ecclesiastical endorsement" and acceptance of another from a different church group as its reason for terminating him. However, the lawsuit notes that the Navy's own regulations state that a chaplain "shall" be recertified on request.

In apparent conflict, a

letter from J.C. Harvey Jr., a vice-admiral, ordering Klingenschmitt's removal from the Navy, opined that "presentation of a new ecclesiastical endorsement from a qualified Religious Organization does not automatically mandate recertification."

The district court judge also found, in ruling against the chaplain, that in the military "public worship" is different from "worshipping in public," so that the Navy's punishment could move forward. □

Churches Threatened By Congress

Sitting in front of our new Congress, under House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, there is a proposal to designate churches, pastors, religious denominations, public interest organizations, and other non-profit groups as "lobbyists." Currently, lobbyists must register with the government. This new bill expands the definition of "lobbyist" to include any church or organization that strives to influence public opinion!

This legislation will drastically affect the operation of churches that speak out on major moral and political issues and Christian organizations using TV, radio, or the Internet to mobilize citizens around an issue. The increased government regulation of churches is not only unwarranted but also unwise.

What happens, under such a law, if pastors speak out and work against partial-birth abortion? Same-sex marriage? What happens if churches speak out in support of conservative judicial nominees, or military chaplains' right to pray? *Under such a law, they are classified as "lobbyists" — in essence, free speech is forbidden.* Plus, many churches, especially larger churches with TV and radio ministries, would be subject to registration as a lobbying organization — and — failure to register under this new law could result in criminal prosecution — fines of up to \$100,000, six years in prison — even ten years in some cases. □

Some people are so open-minded their brains fall out.

Born of Water And Spirit

By the late David M. Gardner, Editor
The Baptist Standard

“Jesus answered, verily, verily, I say unto thee. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”
— John 3:5.

This passage has been grounds for considerable controversy through the ages. We would be overly optimistic if we hoped to settle the controversy in one editorial, but we are complying with the request to give our opinion.

Some Bible students assume that the phrase “born of water”, has reference to the natural birth. We do not think so. Nicodemus had raised the question as to how a grown man could be born again. Jesus replied by saying, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” It seems that verse six will settle that. Jesus said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

We are confident that the phrase, “born of water”, does not refer to water baptism, as the Catholics and some Protestants contend. The Roman Catholic hierarchy, through a misinterpretation of this scripture, originated the dangerous dogma of

baptismal regeneration, which has proved the colossal crime against Christianity. This false interpretation has flooded the world with evils and foisted upon the people soul-destroying dogmas.

Infant baptism was the first innovation resulting from this misinterpretation. The Romanists falsely assume that baptism is necessary to regeneration; therefore, all who would be saved, including infants, must be baptized.

The next evil was the official declaration by the Roman Catholic hierarchy that baptism is a sacrament or has power to save. Then to make it more convenient to save babies by the act of baptism, the pope instigated the change from immersion to sprinkling at the Council of Ravenna.

The fact that Jesus rebuked Nicodemus for not knowing the significance of “born of water and of the Spirit” is proof that it had no connection with water baptism. Baptism is a New Testament ordinance, not even mentioned in the Old Testament. Nicodemus, a teacher of the Old Testament, was not supposed to know New Testament church ordinances, therefore, would not deserve such rebuke. The burning point of the rebuke lies in

the fact that what is meant by “born of water and of the Spirit” is clearly set forth in the Old Testament, and Nicodemus, as a teacher in Israel should have known it.

Jesus is saying, “Except a man be cleansed from past sins and is given a new nature, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” “Born of water and of the Spirit” is an unfolding or a development of such phrases as “born of God,” “born from above,” and “born again.” It breaks up and brings out the two central, paramount and vital phases of regeneration. The first element in regeneration is that of cleansing, and the second is that of renewing. Both phases are clearly and elaborately set forth in Ezekiel 36:25-27.

Verse 25 deals with the cleansing phase of regeneration. “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.” Then verses 26 and 27 set forth regeneration in its entirety — cleansed from past guilt, and renewed by the Holy Spirit: “A new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh (26). And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them” (27). Those who follow the Romanists in substituting

sprinkling for baptism, use this passage to justify their conduct, despite the fact that it has no reference to baptism.

The “clean water” mentioned was the water of purification and Nicodemus should have known it. The formula for compounding the water of purification was communicated directly from God to Moses. The directions down to the minutest details are given in the nineteenth chapter of Numbers.

The children of Israel provided a red heifer without spot or blemish, and the priest took her without the camp and had her slain and sprinkled her blood before the tabernacle and congregation. Then the heifer was burned and the priest took cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet thread and cast it into the midst of the burning heifer. When the fire was out the ashes and running water (red) were mixed in a vessel (Num. 19:17) and hyssop was dipped into the liquid and sprinkled upon the objects or persons for ceremonial cleansing or purification.

If Nicodemus did not understand this as a type of ceremonial cleansing it seems clear that David did. “Purge me (or cleanse me) with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (Psa. 51:7).

The author of Hebrews

(See **BORN** on page 19)

Crackdown On Freedom of Speech In Communist Vietnam

There is a continuing crackdown on freedom of speech and religion in communist Vietnam.

Bui Thi Kim Thank, a leading human rights and pro-democracy lawyer, has been incarcerated since last year in a psychiatric hospital and injected with drugs that have rendered her unable to speak. She is a lawyer for the Democratic Party of Vietnam, an unrecognized group calling for democracy, human rights, and religious freedom.

A Mennonite church meeting was broken up on January 9 and part of the building demolished. Communism is alive and well and it has never been a friend to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. □

FIRST . . .

(Continued from page 15)

and has two baptisms, one a symbolic ordinance and the other a sacramental ordinance.

2. Baptism was committed to the disciples in their organized capacity, that is the churches. The individual who receives the ordinance has nothing to do with its form or meaning. He merely accepts what the church practices. It does not matter that he denies faith in baptismal regeneration; if

the church holds that the ordinance does complete the act of regeneration, the believer who is baptized in that church receives a sacramental immersion which is not scriptural baptism.

Some Christians deny that the apostolic churches sought to direct and control the administration of the ordinances. What does the Scripture teach about it? Paul declares that the Lord's Supper was transferred by him directly from the Lord to the church at Corinth (1 Cor. 11:23), and he made it clear that the church should safeguard the ordinance and keep it pure. Furthermore, the instructions sent by the apostles to various churches leave no doubt in any unbiased mind that churches and not individual Christians were intended to be guardians of the doctrines and ordinances. This is made very clear in First Corinthians 11:2 wherein Paul declares to a church that he delivered the ordinances to them, with the command that they be kept.

Efforts to disprove church control of the ordinances are readily overcome by appeal to the Word. Philip did baptize the Ethiopian, but he was a regularly consecrated evangelist of the church at Jerusalem, and by inference from other parts of the New Testament record, *we are safe in saying that he was authorized by that church to make disciples*

on mission fields and baptize them. Paul and Barnabas were regularly ordained by the church at Antioch to go and make disciples, and if we believe that the church at Antioch was following the Great Commission in sending them out, we must believe that it authorized them to baptize the disciples thus made. Jesus gave the command to baptize to the group of believers who had been gathered out and organized about Himself for the spreading of the gospel. Baptism has always since been held to be a church ordinance.

We have ample proof from the New Testament that the apostolic churches exercised control over their members and over the doctrines and practices of their day. It is very certain that New Testament churches of every period of Christian history have seen to it that the doctrines are kept pure. We are to "contend earnestly for the faith" and see that the ordinances are preserved free from any corruptions. Whenever any body of Christians change the form, the meaning, or the purpose of the immersion instituted by John the Baptist, approved by Jesus, and practiced by apostolic churches, they destroy scriptural baptism and set up a man-made ordinance in its place. Baptist churches cannot accept such without becoming partners in the rebellious act of

those who dare to change what God hath established. Hence it is that true Baptist churches will not accept the immersion of other denominations as scriptural baptism. □

BORN . . .

(Continued from page 18)

makes it plain that the water of purification was a type of the blood of Christ. "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God" (Heb. 9:13-14). Hence the water of purification typifies the blood of Christ, applied by the Holy Spirit in regeneration. "Born of water and Spirit" refers to regeneration in its two-fold aspect. The believing soul is cleansed and renewed by the application of the blood of Christ by the Holy Spirit.

The New Testament brings out the full orb'd beauty of the two elements of regeneration more clearly than the Old. Paul puts it plainer than any other inspired writer. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Tit. 3:5). □

DEARMORE . . .

(Continued from page 7)

qualification for the work to which they are to be ordained.

Notice the church at Antioch fasted and prayed before ordaining Saul and Barnabas with the laying on of hands. Too many churches today hastily ordain novices. I watched a Baptist Church ordain a young man recently and not one question was asked as to his beliefs on the church, baptism, or the Lord's Supper.

I might insert parenthetically here that since women cannot be ordained to the ministry of the gospel, women alone obviously cannot carry out scriptural mission work. Women can be wonderful missionary helpers in teaching women and children, nursing, clerical work, etc. To send a woman alone to a field where there is no ordained Baptist preacher is unscriptural and therefore, unbaptistic.

Not only were Saul and Barnabas separated and ordained by the church, but they were sent by the church (Vs. 3).

After they were sent by the church they were led by the Holy Spirit. Their home church having examined them, had confidence in them and trusted them to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is obvious that a church several thousand

miles away cannot supervise the day by day carrying on of the work and this is not the Biblical pattern. The church can however, and should carefully separate and examine those it sends out and maintain a general surveillance of the work as to its doctrinal soundness.

The Bible also gives us a pattern of cooperation of churches in support of missions without organization.

"Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift; but I desire fruit that may abound to your account" (Phil. 4:15-17).

We see in these verses that even though Paul was sent out by the church at Antioch, that the church at Philippi cooperated in his support.

In Acts 14 we see that Saul and Barnabas reported back to their home church. "And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles" (Acts 14:26-27).

To reiterate we see

that the following eight things are important in the New Testament pattern of missions: (1) Started with a local church. (2) God-called men. (3) Church-separated men. (4) Church-ordained men. (5) Church-sent men. (6) Holy Spirit-led men. (7) Churches cooperated in their support without organization. (8) They reported back to their home church.

We have considered the New Testament method of mission work, now let us consider the message. The message is not just the gospel. The commission to the church is three-fold: (1) Evangelize; (2) Baptize; and (3) Teach. If evangelism is pushed to the exclusion of the other two we are just carrying out one-third of the commission. In other words, churches must be founded on the mission field and grounded in the Word of God.

III. What's Wrong With Boards?

In the first place it's "tainted" doctrine. It just "taint" in the Bible (Incidentally, calling a board a "committee" or "clearing house" doesn't change a thing.) Boards are not even hinted at in the Bible and no examples are given. It seems I hear someone saying, "Oh, but Sunday School is not in the Bible." The commission to teach is in the Bible and the Sunday School is a teaching ministry of the church. Christ and the apostles

were always gathering groups of people together and teaching them.

Boards take away the autonomy of the local church and make it subservient to a man-made organization.

"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23).

Christ is the Head of the church and the church is the organization authorized by Christ to carry out His work here on earth. The church is not one of many organizations left here on earth to do God's work, but *is the only organization* mentioned in the New Testament as having authority to carry out the Lord's work.

Boards take away the glory of the church. "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end" (Eph. 3:21). Boards usurp the work of the Holy Spirit in the call, financing and leading of a missionary.

"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" (Jn. 16:13).

The churches should be led by the Holy Spirit in its foreign mission work and giving as in all its en-

(See **DEAR** on page 21)

DEARMORE . . .

(Continued from page 20)

deavors.

Boards misappropriate and waste money. Many boards were founded by sincere men, but you can be sincerely wrong and they were when they went outside the local church to do God's work. It has been my observation that the older boards become, the more money they waste and misappropriate.

Boards are much more subject to doctrinal error than a local church. They are more prone to compromise doctrinally for financial expediency.

What are some of the advantages of boards? None, really, that I know of. Financial security is touted as a great advantage to boards. I believe my God is more dependable than a mission board. I find all the financial security I need in Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

One supposed advantage of a mission board is ease of getting visas to enter a foreign country. Most boards promulgate the falsehood that you can't get a visa to enter a foreign country without a board, but this is not true. If God has called you to a country He will make it possible for you to enter that country without resorting to unscriptural means.

IV. What's Wrong With**the Independent Baptist Way Of Missions?**

Nothing, except our practice of it. Doctrinal soundness is not a chair to sit on, it's a foundation on which to build, it's a base from which to work. Orthodoxy is not a substitute for action. Faith without works is dead. "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (Jas. 2:20).

Knowing the truth and failing to practice it increases our sin. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (Jas. 4:17).

V. Faults in Our Practice of The Bible Way Both Real And Imagined

We have already touched on one fault, the failure of churches to separate and examine missionaries before ordaining them and sending them out. Churches sometimes send out uncalled, unqualified men.

Another problem is failure to trust the recommendation of sister churches concerning missionaries. We trust them in baptism and accept members from them. Why don't we trust them more concerning missionaries? Certainly the recommendation of a missionary's home church where he has lived and worked is worth more than that of a board which has talked with him a few

minutes or hours or days.

Not all of the failures in the practice of the Bible plan of missions fall upon the churches. Many of them can be traced to the missionary. Outstanding among these is the failure to adequately prepare himself for the work. Certainly a truly called missionary will have a burden on his heart for the field and an eagerness to get there, but this should not preclude adequate preparation. God's work is the most important work in the world and deserves adequate preparation.

Of course, many people fail to answer God's call to become missionaries. God does not fail to call enough people to do His work.

A charge that is frequently leveled at scriptural mission work is lack of "financial control." This is not true. It is simply that the financial control is in the hands of the churches and the Holy Spirit and not in some board.

Sometimes a church that sends out a missionary fails to keep herself and sister churches properly informed about the mission work. This may be due to lack of interest on the part of the home church or failure of the missionary to keep his home church informed about the work.

One of the most obvious faults in our practice of the Bible plan of missions is failure to adequately support mission work. Pastors bear a large

portion of this responsibility. *A church will never be any more missionary than its pastor.* A pastor who never preaches about missions is neglecting a large portion of the New Testament. The same can be said for a Sunday School that never teaches about the need for mission work.

How can we encourage missionary zeal in our church? Preach on it! Teach on it! Have mission conferences! Have missionaries speak at our church! Read missionary letters and reports to the church and put them on the bulletin board along with pictures.

Pray for missionaries! Support missionaries regularly and faithfully. Don't make mission giving the first thing to go when financial adversity hits the church. Just as an individual can't afford not to tithe, so a church cannot afford not to contribute regularly to the carrying out of the great commission.

Take special offerings for missions and make missions personal. Give people an opportunity to give specifically to missions. It has been proven time and again that this will not decrease your regular offerings, but will usually increase them.

Have a world-wide vision, not just the backyard.

Don't think in terms of saturation in mission giving,

(See **DEAR** on page 24)

FAITH . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Old Testament where sin, idolatry, and corruptness are concerned.

There was a fearful judgment visited upon Egypt in the slaying of the firstborn the night of the Passover. Drastic measures were employed by Joshua against the Canaanites when the cup of their iniquity was full. Elijah manifested an uncompromising passion and hatred against evil when he slew the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the groves on Mt. Carmel. Christ was uncompromising when He cleansed the temple and drove out the money changers. He was uncompromising when He rebuked the Pharisees, calling them vipers, whited sepulchers full of dead men's bones and warned them to flee the wrath to come. The Apostle Paul was uncompromising when he warned against those who preached a counterfeit gospel, admonishing, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." The language of the Book of Revelation, which is the Sinai of the New Testament, flashes with lightning and roars with the thunder of cataclysmic judgment against a world that has turned godless. *God give*

us more of the spirit daring of the prophets of old!

Too much preaching today is of the namby-pamby, dish-water weak, sermonette-length, sentiment-gush, pale-pink variety that effeminately presents the love of God and disregards His righteous judgment, convicts no one, but pours off the human mind and conscience like water off the proverbial duck's back. Why don't we have some preaching on hell until perishing souls can smell brimstone? God's servants must hate something, become completely incensed against the Devil, sin and all unrighteousness.

God hates as well as loves. Both are infinitely strong. God hates evil, that which destroys His creatures, breaks up homes, prostitutes every holy and sacred emotion, brings on death and opens wide the gates of hell. All character — character graduated from God to the Devil — is determined by what and how one hates and what and how one loves. God loves, oh yes, He loves, but who will say that He does not hate vehemently all sin and unrighteousness?

The apostles were in constant conflict with this present evil age. The New Testament is interspersed with strong and repeated warnings against false prophets, evil workers, seducing spirits, and a godless world system. How then can a true servant of

Christ be complacent, a hail-fellow-well-met, offending no one and having respectable opinion of the Devil himself? God give us another generation of preachers who believe in the unsullied dignity and the holy sovereignty of an almighty God; the terrible nature of sin, the reality of a personal devil, the existence of a burning hell, the depravity of the human race, the need of a blood atonement, the deity of our Lord, the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, the reality of the resurrection and life beyond the grave. God give us and live graciously; who have strong feelings concerning the issues of life and death, time and eternity, heaven and hell.

We feel like saying, "Wake up preachers." *If the Bible is true, then for God's sake and for man's sake let's quit pussy-footing and cry from every hilltop and shout from every pulpit the warnings that set on fire the souls of holy men of old!*

There is a spirit abroad that puts co-operation with man and man-made programs and conformity to human systems above one's loyalty to Christ, The Bible, and the truth of God. Surely you will fare better if you soft-pedal, keep your mouth shut, and offer no criticism. This, in the face of the fact that some of our institutions which constitute the fountainhead of our corporate life are denying the verities

of our Christian faith and distilling the solid truth of the gospel. Consequently there exists a residue of spiritual essence possessing enough moral aroma and taste to deceive but not enough of the solid substance to offend the milk-fed and godless bunch that sometimes call themselves Christians.

Surely God still has some prophets, some God-called men, who cannot be bought or enticed by the offer of an easy position, pleasant surroundings, a good salary and security for old age. We believe that there is alive a group of virile men and women who will not bow their knees to Baal and who at the same time sense the terrible issues of modernism that are creeping in. Oh beloved, many preachers no longer believe the verities of our Christian faith! *They are being turned out of schools denatured spiritually, efficient in technique and methods but knowing little or nothing of the saving gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* Shall we sit idly by? What will the answer be? *There are schools that teach the truth. These are our hope. Why not support them?* You must go to the headwaters if the stream is to be purified.

One question remains. Shall we contend for the faith once delivered unto

(See **FAITH** on page 23)

FAITH . . .

(Continued from page 22)

the saints, or have the times and the age so changed as to make such unnecessary? No truth or virtue is safe that is not defended by a holy passion. Shall we contend or be contented? It costs less to be contented and to shut one's eyes to evident dangers. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." □

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 5)

bones forming the knee joint. There is a strange additional bone, the kneecap or patella, placed in front of the joint and giving added protection to this very important articulation. In the ankle there are only seven bones, the one forming the heel being large and called the *os calcis* or *calcaneum*. The other tarsal bones are closely assembled and only slight movement is possible. They are so fastened with ligaments that the inner portion of a normal foot is elevated to form an arch — a wonderful evidence of planning.

Five metatarsal bones form the body of the foot and extend to the base of the toes. In the digits there are fourteen bones or phalanges, the same number as in the hand, the big toe lacking one joint and the corresponding phalangeal bone. The big toe is not

opposable to the other digits, as is the thumb with the four fingers of the hand.

The pelvic girdle consists of a single bone — the *os innominatum* — which is formed by the fusion of three embryonic bones. A deep cavity — the *acetabulum* — is present in this pelvic girdle, to receive the upper end of the thigh bone, thus forming the powerful ball-and-socket hip joint.

Now this is quite a little lecture on anatomy, not too difficult, I hope, for your easy understanding. I will continue this study in the next article but for the rest of our time now — just a few lessons.

The bony structure we have been thinking about enables us to stand erect — the unique characteristic of humans over animals. We like to see an individual who has poise and can stand straight and true under all circumstances. The act of standing is a complex muscular effort and requires to be learned, as we all know from early experience. Let me ask you, if you are standing for the Lord these tempestuous days, or for the things which are not worth while.

Do you recall the great apostle writing to his Philippian friends, saying, "I am set for defense of the gospel." I like that. There he has taken his stand, surrounded by vicious enemies who hated his Lord and hated him too. But he flings this cou-

rageous challenge and intimates that nothing can move him from his position. What a difference today among us Christians! So many are not steady on their feet. The Devil pushes them around. They are easily swayed, and persuaded to run with the world in their own great loss and to the dishonoring of their Lord.

In the Ephesian letter Paul, in the closing chapter, warns them several times to "stand," not giving ground, having taken the "whole armor of God." This armor is protective rather than for offense, and the fiery darts of the "evil one" fall helpless against our sure protection. The

same exhortation comes to us today, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men, be strong."

There is no doubt that this "stand" requires real courage and determination. The real Christian will be called a fanatic and killjoy, and many other names by those who know not the joy of the Lord and whose interests are wholly in this evil world.

It brings, however, a precious compensation, when we suffer for "the name of Christ." He is worth everything we can give to Him — and that is really very little. I am discovering every day that "HE'S WONDERFUL."

[Next month: "Joints."]

The End

By Amy Carmichael

Will not the End explain
The crossed endeavour, earnest purpose foiled,
The strange bewilderment of good work spoiled,
The clinging weariness, the inward strain,
Will not the End explain?

Meanwhile he comforteth
Them that are losing patience, 'tis His way,
But none can write the words they hear Him say,
For men to read; only they know He saith
Kind words, and comforteth

Not that He doth explain,
The mystery that baffleth; but a sense
Husheth the quiet heart, that far, far hence
Lieth a field set thick with golden grain,
Wetted in seedling days by many a rain;
The End, it will explain.

FELLOWSHIPS and CONFERENCES

LUBBOCK, TX

March 12-14, 2007,
Tabernacle Baptist Church,
1911 34th St., Lubbock, TX
79452, Bob Jackson, Pastor.

* * *

WICHITA, KS

April 16-18, 2007, Lincoln
Baptist Church, 7801 Lincoln
St., Wichita, KS 67207, V. L.
Lindbloom, Pastor.

* * *

SIoux FALLS, SD

Sept. 30 -- Oct. 4, 2007,
Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S.
Hawthorne, Sious Falls, SD
57104, Ron Tottingham,
Pastor.

LENT . . .

(Continued from page 1)

practice. Yet there is not a word in the New Testament to indicate the origin of Lent.

But someone objects by saying, "A period of 40 days spent in prayer, meditation, and sacrifice is certainly in the spirit of the New Testament." Is it? According to God's Word, every day should be spent in this way! The first-century churches did not spend 40 days a year in self-denial and consecration and the other 325 days making up for it.

The following story illustrates how ridiculous Lent can become. A priest

was making his way home through a pouring rain one night when a man shoved a gun in his ribs and, with a string of oaths, ordered the priest to put up his hands. As he complied, his clerical collar became visible. Embarrassed, the thug apologized at great length. The priest admonished him, "Let this be a lesson to you!" To show there were no hard feelings, however, he offered the man a cigar. The crook shook his head, "Oh, no, father," he said. "I never smoke during Lent!"

When meditation and sacrifice are relegated to the calendar, the whole thing becomes legalistic. We need to read again Paul's admonitions in Colossians 2:16 and Galatians 4:9-11. □

DEARMORE . . .

(Continued from page 21)

but always plan to expand it as the church grows.

Don't judge missionary work and results by United States standards. Don't judge one field by another. If you have questions or criticisms, write and make them known.

The last failure or fault in our practice of the Bible plan of missions that we would like to consider is that of supporting unscriptural mission work.

The word "missionary" is no magical guarantee of dedication or doctrinal soundness. A church is obligated in its use of the

Lord's money to see that it is used to support scriptural work. Many sound independent Baptist churches support unscriptural work. If we support unsound work, we become guilty also.

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is

partaker of his evil deeds" (2 Jn. 10-11).

God has a way for His work to be done.

"As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him" (Psa. 18:30).

Since we have God's perfect way recorded in His word, let's follow it more vigorously and diligently. □ □

Believe It or Not In The Bible

1. Every book in the New Testament was written by a foreign missionary.

2. Every letter in the New Testament that was written to an individual was written to a convert of a foreign missionary.

3. Every epistle in the New Testament that was written to a church was written to a foreign missionary church.

4. Every book in the New Testament that was written to a community of believers was written to a general group of foreign missionary churches.

5. The one book of prophecy in the New Testament was written to the seven foreign missionary churches of Asia.

6. The only authoritative history of early Christianity is a foreign missionary journal.

7. The disciples were called Christians first in a foreign missionary community.

8. The language of the

books of the New Testament is the missionary language.

9. The map of the early Christian world is the tracing of the journeys of the first missionaries.

10. Of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus every apostle but one became a missionary.

11. The only man among the twelve apostles who didn't become a missionary became a traitor.

12. The problems which arose in the early Church were largely questions of missionaries' procedure.

13. Only a foreign missionary could write an everlasting gospel.

14. According to the apostles, missionary service is the highest expression of Christian life. □

Some people sow wild oats on Saturday night, and then go to church on Sunday morning to pray for a crop failure.