

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

VOL. XLVIII, No. 7

July 2007

WHOLE NO. 512



Our Flag



During the night of September 13, 1814, the British fleet bombarded Fort McHenry in the harbor at Baltimore, Maryland. Francis Scott Key, a 34-year old lawyer-poet, watched the attack from the deck of a British prisoner-exchange ship. He had gone to seek the release of a friend but they were refused permission to go

ashore until after the attack had been made. As the battle ceased on the following morning, Key turned his telescope to the fort and saw that the American flag was still waving. The sight so inspired him that he pulled a letter from his pocket and began to write the poem which eventually was adopted as the national

anthem of the United States — “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Key was returned to Baltimore and later that day took a room at a Baltimore tavern where he completed the poem.

Years later, Key told a hometown audience in Frederick, Maryland: “I saw the flag of my country waving over a city — the strength and pride of my

native State — a city devoted to plunder and desolation by its assailants. I witnessed the preparation for its assaults. I saw the array of its enemies as they advanced to the attack. I heard the sound of battle: the noise of the conflict fell upon my listening ear, and told me that ‘the brave and the free’ had met the invaders.” □



“Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death”

Patrick Henry, March 23, 1775

Patrick Henry is famous for his “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” speech, which he delivered on March 23, 1775. He was known as a “radical,” a curious contrast “... to the stern honor of Washington,

the refined logic of Jefferson, and the well-tempered industry of Franklin.” Although everyone knew he was bright, he was considered “an idler” in his youth, and, no doubt, many thought that he “would never amount to much.” But before he was twenty he took and passed the bar exam, after studying for only six weeks, and began work as a lawyer.

In 1765, he was elected

to the House of Burgesses in Virginia. “Few members of the Burgesses, as aristocratic a group of legislators as existed in the colonies, would argue openly for defiance of Great Britain. Henry argued with remarkable eloquence and fervor ... which by most accounts amounted to treason against the mother country.

In 1774 he represented Virginia in the First Con-

tinental Congress where he continued in the role of firebrand. At the outbreak of the revolution, he returned to his native state and lead militia ...”

“In 1776, Henry was elected Governor of Virginia. He was re-elected for three terms and then succeeded by Thomas Jefferson. He was again elected to the office in

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Quiz The Pastor

What Does The Old Testament Say About the Birth of Christ?

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: “What does the Old Testament have to say about the birth of Christ?”

Answer: Since we have come to that time of the year when most professing Christians around the world observe the birth of Christ, it is good for us to know as much as we can about His birth. After Adam sinned, and God had placed a curse on both man and planet earth (Gen. 2:17; 3:17-19), it was then that God gave the first promise concerning the coming of Christ.

It is written: “The seed of the woman” shall bruise the head of Satan (Gen. 3:15). Thus, the Christ, who will defeat Satan in the end, would be, not of man’s seed (biologically, all humans are normally of the seed of the male) but of the woman’s seed, thus “made of woman” (Gal.

4:4).

Here we have the first mention of the virgin birth of the Christ. We are further enlightened on this prophecy by reading another prophecy found in Isaiah: “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14).

Note that it is “*the* virgin shall conceive” (Heb.), speaking of a specific virgin, no doubt speaking of the “woman” in Genesis 3:15.

Please notice that this conception and birth was to be a “sign” from “the Lord himself.” God Himself would be the source, not man. If the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ was to be an ordinary birth that occurs in similar cases millions of times daily, then what is the significance in

Contend for the Faith Now

By T. T. Eaton

Never was there a time when there was greater need to *epi-agonize* for the faith than now. Skepticism has become more aggressive than ever. For a time infidelity walked the earth in haughtily exclusiveness. Christianity was well enough for the unlearned, for women and children; let them get whatever comfort they could from religion; it would be a pity to disturb their pleasing delusion. Infidelity was for philosophers and other lofty beings who dwelt on the intellectual heights.

But now infidelity has professed religion and joined the church. Now it occupies pulpits and theological professor’s chairs,

and the attack is from within. They seek to evaporate the faith into moonlit mist. They teach an inspiration that does not inspire, an atonement that does not atone, and a salvation that does not save.

Their special point of attack is the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ. They emphasize His incarnation and seek to substitute the gospel of the manger for the gospel of the cross. They do not like a “forensic” view of the atonement, as if sin were not forensic, and as if infinite justice could be flanked and the penalty of God’s law set aside. They

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calling it a “sign”?

A “sign” denotes something out of the ordinary, something unique, in this case, a biological miracle where a young virgin was made to conceive a Divine seed implanted in her womb through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit (Lk. 1:35). The miracle is in the conception and not the birth itself.

It is further stated in Isaiah 7:14 that He is to be called “Immanuel,” which means “God with us” (see also Mt. 1:23). Therefore “God was manifest in the flesh” in the person of the Christ (1 Tim. 3:16). He is referred to as “The Mighty

God” (Isa. 9:6), “whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting” (Mic. 5:2). Truly, “God ... was made flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn. 1:1-2, 14).

It is interesting to note that not only is the manner of His birth prophesied in the Old Testament as we have shown, but also the place of His birth is also prophesied in Micah 5:2 where we are told His birthplace upon earth will be “Bethlehem Ephrathah” (see also Mt. 2:4-6; Lk. 2:4-7).

He was born in the right way at the right time, and in the right place. May all glory be given unto God.

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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

God's Masterpiece: The Human Body — #50

The Brain

By Arthur I. Brown

The cerebro-spinal or “central” nerve system comprises the brain and spinal cord with their nerves. I have discussed with you the cord and its nerves. And now we come to the brain which is so important and vital that the Architect placed it in a strong box of varying thickness. In some people this bony skull seems to be *very* thick indeed!

The brain is ovoid in shape and is composed of gray cells situated on the surface or cortex, and white fibers on the inner portion. The brain is continuous through a large opening in its base, known as the foramen magnum, with the spinal cord. The surface of a well-developed brain is marked by many fissures, separating curved ridges called convolutions, the number and depth of which correspond with the degree of development, the brain of a new born child being comparatively smooth.

The white portion is composed of white fibers, which run in many different directions. Some connect the different main divisions of the brain, others run from one part of the cortex

to another, while others in great number connect the brain and the spinal cord. Together they make up the mass of the brain itself.

The brain has four principal parts: the Cerebrum, the Cerebellum, the Medulla Oblongata, and Pons Varolii. The Cerebrum is the largest part and occupies nearly the whole cranial vault. It is divided into two hemispheres, right and left, by a fissure which runs from before backwards, called the Longitudinal Fissure. Each hemisphere is marked off by specially deep fissures into lobes, of which there are four principal ones. These are: the Frontal, Parietal (at the side), Occipital (at the back), and Temporal. Desiring to avoid unnecessary technical details, I shall omit many of these, which while interesting to students of anatomy — are not really necessary for our present purpose which is simply to give you a general idea of a few of these parts.

The hemispheres are not solid, but each encloses a cavity called the lateral ventricle. The great ganglia of the brain, known as Basal Ganglia, are in the

floor or bottom of the lateral ventricles.

The Cerebellum, or little brain, consists of white matter covered with gray. It also has two hemispheres but not definitely separated as are those of the cerebrum. The convolutions are but slightly curved and are called ridges. The furrows between are quite deep and so arranged that they resemble the branches of a tree and are called *Arbor Vitae*. The Cerebellum is situated at the lower and back part of the cerebrum.

The Medulla Oblongata is actually the upper enlarged part of the spinal cord, although it is situated within the cranium, just in front of the foramen magnum, as the large opening in the base of the skull is called. The medulla oblongata is white externally and gray internally.

The Pons Varolii, or bridge of Varolius, is placed in front of the medulla below the cerebrum and cerebellum, and is so named because fibers run through it from all three other parts of the brain, as if it were a bridge between them. Like the other portions, it is white outside and gray

within.

The Brain, like the cord, has three membranes or coverings, which are continuous with those on the cord, and hence have the same names. Again, I give you the names: Pia Mater fits closely to the brain, following all convolutions and uneven surfaces. This covering is as necessary to the life of the brain as is the periosteum to the life of bone, and for the same reason it carries the blood vessels which nourish it.

The Arachnoid lies close to the Pia but stretches *across* the furrows, leaving sub-arachnoid spaces between itself and the pia containing cerebro-spinal fluid as in the spinal cord. The largest spaces are at the base of the brain where the greatest irregularities of surface are found.

The Dura is firm, white, and tough, as its name indicates. It covers the other membranes loosely and lines the entire skull, taking the place of periosteum. In its substance it has a number of meningeal arteries branching in its substance for its

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BODY . . .

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own nourishment and that of the skull bones. The Dura sends layers between the large divisions of the brain — important layers for supporting the weight of portions of the brain in different positions of the head. One of these layers between the hemispheres is called the Falx Cerebri; the one stretched over the cerebellum, the Tentorium Cerebelli.

The Dura also presents several large veins called sinuses which collect the blood from the brain. One of these sinuses, the lateral, lies partly in a deep groove on the mastoid bone behind the ear. This adds to the gravity of operations in the mastoid region.

At this point let me go back and describe briefly and in a little more detail some of the uses of this mysteriously complex and vital organ. First, then, the cerebrum or forebrain. This greatly overshadows all other parts of the brain because of its varied functions and is clearly the super organ of the human nervous system. It ought to be said here that besides the two cerebral hemispheres there are three lesser structures which are also important. These are known respectively as the olfactory lobes, the thalami, and the corpora striata, but it is not necessary that you should remember the names, unless you so

desire.

As the name implies, the olfactory lobes are concerned with the sense of smell. In some of the lower vertebrates they are very highly developed and constitute the largest part of the forebrain. In man, they are comparatively small, lying underneath and near the front border of each hemisphere. Just below this is the sensitive area in the nose, this area separated from the brain cavity by a perforated bony plate. Through these perforations pass great numbers of sensory nerve fibers from the olfactory lobes, giving the cells in the nasal cavity their power of smell.

The optic thalami consist of two bunches of nerve cells embedded in the tissue of each cerebral hemisphere close to the middle line and near the mid-brain region. Apparently they have to do with the sense of pain and warmth. The corpora striata are situated near the thalami and are concerned with muscle action.

In the outer cortex of the brain, in certain very definite areas, are located certain functions. Thus in a certain portion of the front lobe is located the control of voluntary muscles in various regions of the body. Just in front of a large fissure, known as the Fissure of Rolando, is found the control of the leg, body, and arm muscles. Immediately behind this fissure lies control of tactile sense.

A bit further back we find areas connected with facial control and speech, the latter on the left side of the brain. The hearing center is located in the temporal lobe at the side on each hemisphere, while the sight center is found at the back in the occipital lobes.

It is apparent that certain cerebral functions are definitely located in different portions of brain substances, so that the entire brain is not concerned in interpreting incoming impulses from different regions of the body. But it happens that often there needs to be consultation between the separate portions of the brain, so these areas have an interconnection brought about by special tracts of nerve fibers, so that impulses from one cerebral region are transferred to other regions as required. This becomes easily understandable when one thinks of the telephone central of a large city containing a number of separate functional units, the exchanges, each of which is connected to all other exchanges in the central office, so that messages may be transmitted back and forth throughout the entire switchboard.

I have already drawn your attention to the collections of fluid, little lakes of cerebro-spinal liquid, and we have seen that the central canal of the cord, together with the ventricles of the brain, form

a continuous central cavity throughout the length of the central nervous system. This fluid forms a fine protection from mechanical shocks and acts also as a medium from which nutrient materials are obtained for the nerve fibers.

This fluid is a product of the blood through the thin walled vessels present in the various spaces or ventricles, four of which are recognized.

While I am trying to avoid tiresome details, I do want you to get some adequate idea of the tremendous and complicated mechanism which we are studying. Not only is this necessary from the standpoint of knowing about the body functions, but even more important than that, you must see that here, as in possibly no other portion of the body, there must be a Supreme Designer. Not only is the mechanical design beyond the ability of any mere human artificer, but the infinite wisdom displayed at every turn does not in any degree belong to man. Man is made "in the image of God." God has given us some of His attributes, not in infinite measure, but we have enough to be able to fellowship with Him, and to share with Him the joys of eternity.

It looks almost as if God, away back before man was created, found Himself lonely for com-

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panionship with individuals of a somewhat different character from angels. From these human beings — billions of them — since that first day when Adam came on the scene, God has been selecting those who would choose Him as their Lord. One day there will be a great family reunion when all the children get together and our Father gathers us around Him in a great homecoming celebration.

Will you be among that blessed number? You may make certain of an invitation. Yes, it is possible to qualify right now. The only requisite for admission to this “inner circle” is to be marked with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, as one who has taken Him as Savior and Lord.

What is your decision? I made mine many years ago, and am rejoicing in the confidence of coming *glory* when Christ comes to take us up to Himself. I am waiting to hear the “shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God.” I am tuned in today. Are You? May I tell you something — HE’S VERY WONDERFUL!

* * * * *

The preceding survey of some of the structure and operations of the human body has been undertaken in order to bring to our

attention the wisdom, love, and power of our glorious God. And, if you have read this far, you have discovered that the constant aim has been to center the argument in the Lord Jesus Christ.

And there is great need to exalt Him. That He is the “forgotten Man” of the world cannot be denied. Our leaders pay Him little or no attention; the man on the street carelessly and blasphemously profanes His Holy Name, recklessly indifferent to the judgment which God has pronounced against this hideous sin.

Here are some startling pronouncements by God Himself. “My holy name will I make known in the midst of my people Israel; neither will I suffer my holy name to be profaned any more: and the nations shall know that I am Jehovah, the Holy One in Israel. Behold, it cometh, and it shall be done, saith the Lord Jehovah; this is the day whereof I have spoken ... And I will set my glory among the nations; and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them” (Ezk. 39:7-8, 31).

So, to catch even a fleeting glimpse of God in the marvelous building of our body, is to bring a sense of awe as we stand in the presence of Deity. The Creator who is able to bring together countless millions of microscopic cells, causing them to fall into

line as they carry out their predestined tasks with infinite accuracy and skill, is One whose love and friendship and saving power we ought to desire. And this Redeemer offers Himself to us freely, just for the asking.

Occasionally from our leaders we may hear a hazy, apologetic reference — offered in a “pardon me for mentioning it” tone — to “The Supreme Being,” “the Creator,” or “God”; but what a thrill it would give us if someone — President, Prime Minister, King, or Dictator would say a word on behalf of our precious Lord! The world, plunging helpless and headlong over the precipice into the yawning abyss, looking everywhere for help, except to the one Person who has power to save, is threatened with

irretrievable disaster.

But, notwithstanding the fact that He is not wanted by the great mass of humanity, Jesus Christ is coming again to earth. And, the next time, He will not arrive on this war-scarred, sin-stained, tear-drenched globe, as a helpless babe in a Bethlehem manger, but as “King of kings and Lord of lords.” Then, He will “rule the nations with a rod of iron and break them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” How necessary and how wise to make a Friend of Him now before it is too late as it will be when the all-devouring judgment of God breaks on a Christ-rejecting world.

If you have seen unmistakable evidences of Him in your body, I suggest

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Hindu Prayer Will Open Senate Session in July

For what is believed to be the first time in its history, the U.S. Senate will on July 12 be opened with a Hindu prayer, the Senate Chaplain’s Office confirmed Monday. For more than 200 years, the Senate has opened each workday with a prayer usually delivered by the Senate Chaplain, currently Barry Black, a Seventh Day Adventist. It is common, however, for senators to recommend religious leaders from their home states to serve as guest chaplains. Rajan Zed, a Hindu chaplain from Nevada, will become the first Hindu to deliver the morning prayer. In a statement announcing his scheduled appearance, Zed called the occasion “an illustrious day for all Americans and a memorable day for us.”

Zed has previously offered prayers to open sessions of the Nevada State Assembly and Nevada State Senate in March and May of this year respectively. According to reports, he was the first Hindu to deliver opening prayers in any state legislature in the U.S.



Your Wake Up Call

(From the Missouri Baptist)

A “wake-up call” can be something that helps us get out of bed on time or it may be information that could save our life. Recently, I read in one report that in America today there are, on the average, eight churches closing their doors every day. Many of these churches were content with their situation just months before they went out of existence. They were satis-

fied with the status quo and did not seem to know that they were dying.

What does the health of your church look like? How would one know if a church is in trouble? The following are some “diagnostic” questions that, if answered in the affirmative, may indicate a church that is in trouble.

* Is there an abundance of unused space,

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that you ought to get better acquainted with Him. Yield yourself to this wonderful Savior who Himself bore our sin-penalty, dying in our room and stead, being “made sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

This willing acceptance of Christ means the bending of your own will to His, and then there opens before you a new and wondrous experience marked by daily and hourly fellowship with Him “who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a

servant, being made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, yea, the death of the cross. Wherefore also God highly exalted him.” (Phil. 2:6-11).

One word more, please. What is your relationship to Jesus? Is He now your Savior are you going to have Him as your Judge at the Great White Throne, when, unless you have become His child, you will compel Him to send you to a hopeless eternity of conscious torment?

And, as I have so often affirmed, HE’S A WONDERFUL SAVIOR!

[This is the final chapter in the book “God’s Masterpiece Man’s Body.]

classrooms and pews in the building?

* Is there a steady, declining number of professions of faith, baptisms, attendance and giving?

* Are worship services proper and orderly but kind of “blah”?

* Is there little excitement for outreach and few stories told of people being saved?

* Are there few new and young families, but lots of gray hair?

* Does the “work of the church” only take place inside the church building?

* Is there a chronic shortage of leaders and volunteers?

* Do members serve out of a sense of duty, rather than out of joy and vision?

* Is there a high percentage of inactive members?

* Is your community

not truly represented in your church?

Are you aware of these kinds of problems in your church? Church health guru Thom Rainer states in his book, **Break Out Churches**, that awareness is the first key to becoming a healthy church. Rainer states, “One of the key reasons many churches are in a slow but deadly path of erosion is the failure of the people to accept that the church is in trouble and that immediate changes are needed.”

Can God turn around a church that is in a downward spiral? I believe He can, but it will take that church family waking up to the fact that they are in trouble and a willingness to make the necessary changes to create an environment for spiritual life and growth. Is it time for your church’s wake-up call? □

Your temper is like a fire. It gets very destructive when it gets out of control.

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. -- Proverbs 25:28

Islam Or Death?



A draft bill in Pakistan's National Assembly would impose the death penalty on Muslim men — and a life sentence on Muslim women — if they renounce Islam.

The bill has received its first reading and now sits before a standing committee of the National Assembly. It has been tabled by Muttahida Majlis-

e-Ammal, an alliance of six fundamentalist Islamic political parties.

The proposed apostasy legislation would also allow the forfeiture of property and a loss of legal custody of children for those who renounce Islam.

A section of the draft bill says the offender's own confession in court or incriminating testimony by

two or more adults would be sufficient grounds for conviction.

During the same Assembly session, lawmakers rejected a proposal to amend existing blasphemy laws that impose life imprisonment for insulting the Koran and death for insulting the Prophet Mohammed. —Religious News Service

The Conversion of Mrs. Doe

By Evangelist G. G. Lanter

The scene was in a town in "old Kentucky." The meeting had been running for a week and not a move had been made. A man who claimed to be an infidel (whom we'll call Mr. Doe) invited me to go home with him for Sunday dinner. I gladly accepted his invitation.

Mr. and Mrs. Doe were two of the most influential people in the county. She had a magnetic personality and was a very gracious and kind woman. After we had finished eating dinner he said, "Preacher, I've got some business that I've just got to attend to — you excuse me and make yourself at home and I'll be back after awhile."

I sat down and began to talk with his wife about

her soul's salvation. The conversation went something like this:

"Mrs. Doe, are you a Christian?"

She replied, "No Mr. Lanter, I am sorry to say that I am not."

"Well, I'm sorry to hear you give that kind of a reply for that means that you are lost, without God and without hope. Would you object to reading some Scripture for me?" Without hesitation she replied, "I'd be glad to read them for you."

It was then I turned to Romans 3:23 and handed her the Book and said, "Read that, please."

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Then I began to question her about what she had read — "All of us have

done what?" Said she, "We have sinned."

"That is sad but true. That means that we are sinners and lost, without God and without hope. Mrs. Doe, how many of us have sinned?"

She said, "Well, it says all."

"That is true. God said what He meant, and meant what He said. It means you and it means me. Against whom have we sinned?"

Her answer was, "God."

"Think of that! We have mistreated God who is Holy and perfect in all His ways."

By this time the Holy Spirit had carried the Word to her heart. She began to be under conviction for sin. I did not stop but pressed the issue.

"Has it ever occurred to you that sin must be punished?"

She dropped her head and said, "Well, I haven't thought much about it."

"Then, read what God says about it here in Romans 6:23."

"The wages of sin is death."

"Mrs. Doe, a person can serve a lifetime but pay day is coming some day. The coin with which sin pays a person for serving it, is *death*. Now read what God tells us in Revelation 20:15."

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

"A person can enjoy the pleasures of sin for a

(See **DOE** on page 21)



Chinese Villagers Riot Over Population Control. — Villagers in the Guangxi region of southwestern China rioted and clashed with police over that nation's draconian population control laws ("Chinese Villagers Riot," OneNewsNow.com, May 24, 2007). The communist Chinese empire forbids parents to have more than one child (sometimes two), and many babies are forcefully aborted by the government. This protest will doubtless be put down violently. China also controls the flow of news to the people, so probably few will know that their courageous fellow countrymen are protesting. Communism is no friend of human liberty and no friend of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. — FBIS

When Is a Christian a Christian? — In a much anticipated test of religious freedom in multi-ethnic Malaysia, the country's top civil court rejected by a vote of 2 to 1 a woman's appeal to have her government identity card changed to show that she

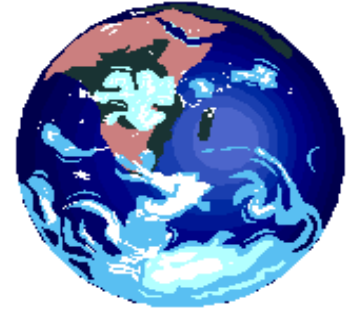
World News Roundup

converted from Islam to Christianity. "She cannot simply at her own whims enter or leave her religion," said Judge Ahmad Fairuz. "She must follow the rules." Judge Richard Malanjum, the only non-Muslim on the panel, dissented. He asserted that the ruling was "unreasonable" for telling the woman, Lina Joyh, to go instead to the Islamic *sharia* courts, where she could face criminal prosecution for apostasy. The *sharia* courts handle personal and family cases involving Malay Muslims, about 60 percent of the nation's population, while civil courts serve minority populations of Chinese, Indians, and others. The Constitution is unclear which has authority when their jurisdiction is in dispute. — U.S. News & World Report.

America's Christianity A Mile Wide and An Inch Deep. — A new Barna poll has again documented that America's Christianity is a mile wide and an inch deep. More than 80% of those responding to the latest religious survey identified themselves as Christians, but only 27% believe that salvation is by grace without works; only 25% pray, attend church, and read the Bible; only 22%

volunteer free time to help in church work; only 37% are convinced that Jesus did not sin; and only 24% are certain that Satan is a real spiritual being. David Kinnaman, who directed the study, said: "... one reason why beliefs fluctuate is that most Americans hold few convictions about their faith. For instance, even among those who disagree with orthodox views, many do so while hedging their bets. Most Americans have one foot in the biblical camp, and one foot outside it. They say they are committed, but to what? They are spiritually active, but to what end? The spiritual profile of American Christianity is not unlike a lukewarm church that the Bible warns about" ("Barna's Annual Tracking Study," Barna.org, May 21, 2007). While we don't have a lot of confidence in Barna, there can be no doubt that this observation is correct. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 13:34). — FBIS

Head of the NCC Speaks At Pro-homosexual Rally. — Bob Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches in America, spoke on May 6 at SundayOUT day at Christ Church in Philadelphia



("NCC's Bob Edgar Speaks at Pro-Homosexuality Rally," Institute on Religion and Democracy, May 9, 2007). The Interfaith Service was held on the final day of the Equality Forum's weeklong festival of "gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered" persons. David Sheaffer, who attended the service, said: "A strong sense of irony overwhelmed me as I sat next to George Washington's box, listening to quiet organ music, and read the memorials on the walls of the saints that served this congregation over its 300 plus years of history. I was sitting alongside individuals proudly wearing rainbow t-shirts, 'Adam + Steve' t-shirts, 'God Made Me Gay' stickers, and one woman wearing a t-shirt that asked, 'What kind of Man are you?' " Edgar told the crowd about his homosexual great-uncle and claimed that from ten to twelve percent of people will be homosexual, a figure that is highly overstated. "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common

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La Voz Del Desierto



Por Qué Los Bautistas Rechazan Los Libros Apócrifos? Parte II

[Por Hno. Félix M. González Bulgalá, Redactor]

Los libros apócrifos (libros no inspirados que fueron añadidos a la [per] versión católica), no pueden considerarse “buenos y útiles para la instrucción”, como quieren hacer creer los apologistas católicos a los indoctos e ingenuos para así “enganchan” la mayor parte de sus enseñanzas idólatras; inclusive, las lucrativas “mordidas” a sus feligreses. Además de que no poseen el poder de producir una transformación espiritual en los hombres (Isaías 55:10-11; Hebreos 4:12), los libros apócrifos (Deuterocanónicos), son indignos de confianza por su falta de armonía con las enseñanzas de la Biblia y porque son adiciones al Antiguo Testamento, sobre las cuales incurren la ira y el juicio de Dios (Deuteronomio 12:32; Proverbios 30:5-6; Apocalipsis 22:18).

Ejemplos de doctrinas falsas enseñadas en los libros apócrifos, que son del todo contradictorias a las

enseñanzas del Antiguo y Nuevo Testamento, son las siguientes: Un caso sangriento de suicidio (Hara-Kiri) es contado como cosa elogiada en 2 Macabeos 14:41-43. Esto es condenado en las Escrituras desde Génesis 4:10 hasta Apocalipsis 22:20. En Tobías 5:9-12 habla de un ángel mentiroso, quien se descubre en 12:15. Compárese ésto con lo que dice Apocalipsis 21:8, 27; 22:15 sobre los mentirosos. El mismo libro enseña que el incienso sobre ascuas de fuego echa fuera al diablo para siempre (Tobías 6:5-10). Jesús declaró que los demonios habían de ser echados fuera en Su nombre, pero no en el nombre de un corazón de pescado sobre brasas (Marcos 16:17; Hechos 3:1-8, 16). Tobías 5:15-19 también enseña que los ángeles tienen familias. Esto contradice la Biblia ya que el mismo Jesús negó la existencia del matrimonio de ángeles (Mateo 12:24-

25; Lucas 1:19). Los ángeles no se casan, ni tienen hijos, ni familias.

Que la salvación se puede conseguir por far limosnas, dice Tobías 12:9 “*Pues la limosna libra de la muerte y limpia de todo pecado.*” Esto es una contradicción de lo que afirma Efesios 2:8-9; Salmo 49:6-7; 1ra Pedro 1:18-19. No importa qué cantidad de dinero demos, nadie podrá ser redimido, porque la Palabra de Dios dice claramente que la salvación no es por obras sino por gracia, como un don inmerecido y gratuito de Dios. Dios no se deja comprar con dinero; esto es algo que Él aborrece (Hechos 8:20). Además, “*sin derramamiento de sangre no se hace remisión de pecado*” (Hebreos 9:22). Por lo tanto enseñar que la limosna quita el pecado es una blasfemia contra la preciosa sangre de Cristo, sin la cual no hay perdón de pecados (1ra Juan 1:7; Apocalipsis

1:5; Colosenses 1:14).

Basándose en Judit 8:5-6, el catolicismo romano enseña que el servicio más santo y honorable que una mujer puede rendir a Cristo es ser una monja para entrar en lo secreto de un convento y permanecer allí como una trabajadora-esclava demacrada, todo el resto de su vida para la iglesia. Cuán diferente es ésto a la enseñanza de nuestro Señor de que uno debe ir “por los caminos y por los vallados” testificando para Él (Lucas 14:23; Hechos 1:8). La Biblia enseña que el matrimonio es honroso en todos, y no hace excepción de las monjas y los sacerdotes (1ra Timoteo 4:1-3; Hebreos 13:4; 1ra Corintios 11:13-15).

2 Macabeos 12:43-46 promueve la oración por los muertos: “... *Es pues, un pensamiento santo y saludable el rogar por los difuntos, a fin de que*

(Vea APOC en la pág. 10)

Noticias Alrededor Del Mundo

Jueza Alemana Provooca Protesta al Citar El Corán. — Una jueza alemana ha provocado una tormenta de protestas citando el Corán, al negar el pedido de un divorcio rápido a una musulmana alemana, alegando que su marido la golpeó. En una decisión que subraya la tensión entre las costumbres musulmanas y las leyes europeas, la jueza, Christa Datz-Invierno, observó que la pareja provenía de un horno cultural marroquí, en el cual es común para los maridos golpear a sus esposas. El Corán, escribió la jueza en su decisión, sanciona tal abuso.

Judíos Mesiánicos Perseguidos En Israel. — La persecución continúa contra los judíos mesiánicos en Israel de parte de los judíos ultra ortodoxos, fariseos modernos que todavía se enfuerecen de que cualquier judío crea en Jesús como el Mesías. Lo que sigue es sacado de la Prensa Bautista, “Judío mesiánico atacado y arrestado en Israel”, marzo

14. “La detención de un evangelista judío mesiánico en Israel refleja la discordia que enfrentan a menudo judíos mesiánicos, a pesar de las garantías de Israel de libertad religiosa”, le dijo el líder de una congregación mesiánica a Prensa Bautista. Arrestaron al evangelista mesiánico Eddie Beckford fuera de su negocio, la tienda de Ajedrez y de la Biblia en Arad, después que una multitud de ultra ortodoxos judíos de Haredim, rodearon su camión en el estacionamiento y lo golpearon, el pasado 25 de febrero. La detención de Beckford se produjo luego de una llamada a la policía, cuando explotó la confrontación con la multitud ultra ortodoxa. El Haredim se quejó que Beckford los atacó, según un correo electrónico de la esposa de Beckford. La policía nos culpó por los disturbios causados por los Heredim, escribió Laura Beckford en el sitio electrónico israelprayer.com. Nos dicen: “si usted no estuviera aquí, no hubiésemos tenido que ocuparnos de este

problema.” Así que, arrestaron a Eddie y le colocaron grilletes en las piernas y se lo llevaron a la cárcel. No hicieron caso del testimonio del beduino quien indicó que Eddie no hizo nada y el Haredim lo atacó. “Eddie pasó la noche en una celda sucia con otros cinco hombres, y a media noche lo transfirieron a otra celda asquerosa,” agregó Laura. “Tuve el privilegio en ser golpeada por el principal rabino de Arad. ¿Por qué? Solamente porque creo en Yeshua (Jesucristo) como el Salvador de la gente judía y del mundo,” escribió. □

APOCRIFO . . .
(Vino de la pág. 9)

sean libres de las penas de sus pecados.” Antes que nada, en la Biblia no hay un solo ejemplo de alguien que ora por los muertos. La Biblia enseña que no hay lugar para el arrepentimiento ni para la salvación después de la muerte, y no enseña que las oraciones de otros les puedan ayudar después de muertos (Hebreos 9:27; Lucas 16:25; Eclesiastés 11:3; Apocalipsis 14:13). Es demasiado tarde para orar después de la muerte; todo lo que sigue es juicio. Por consiguiente, el versículo

que citan contradice la Biblia.

De hecho, el mismo libro de Macabeos en sí mismo declara que no había profetas en este tiempo y por lo tanto la inspiración de Dios había cesado: “*Hubo una opresión tal en Israel cual no se había conocido desde que no había profeta*” (1 Macabeos 9:27). Y de nuevo: “*Y que los judios y los sacerdotes a una habían resuelto que Simón fuese su caudillo y Sumo Sacerdote hasta la aparición de un profeta acreditado*” (1 Macabeos 14:41). Por consiguiente, puesto que Dios no estaba inspirando a ninguno entre su pueblo, se hace evidente, entonces, de que uno no puede dar apoyo a ninguna doctrina verdadera citando de esta fuente. ¡Con razón contradice la Biblia! De hecho fue en el Concilio de Trento (1546), que se incluyó 2 Macabeos, que enseña a orar por los muertos para refutar a Martin Lutero; pero no incluyeron 2 de Esdras porque habla en contra de esa práctica.

Por motivo de que las enseñanzas doctrinales del Antiguo y del Nuevo Testamento, los Bautistas no pueden aceptarlos como libros inspirados, los deseamos (Gálatas 1:6-9). □

Iglesia Bautista El Redentor
Carretera 755, Km. 0.1, Barrio Pitahaya
H C-1 Box 3418
Arroyo, Puerto Rico 00714
(787) 839-3669 y (787) 839-5792
Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

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salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 3-4). — FBIS

* * *

Saudis Arrest Christian For Entering Mecca.

— The following is excerpted from the Jerusalem Post, May 24, 2007: "Saudi officials have arrested a man in Mecca for being a Christian, saying that the city, which Muslims consider to be holy, is off-limits to non-Muslims. Nirosh Kamanda, a Sri Lankan Christian, was detained by the Saudi Expatriates Monitoring Committee last week after he started to sell goods outside Mecca's Great Mosque. After running his fingerprints through a new security system, Saudi police discovered that he was a Christian who had arrived in the country six months earlier to take a job as a truck driver in the city of Dammam. Kamanda had subsequently left his place of work and moved to Mecca. 'The Grand Mosque and the holy city

are forbidden to non-Muslims,' Col. Suhail Matrafi, head of the department of Expatriates Affairs in Mecca, told the Saudi daily Arab News. 'The new fingerprints system is very helpful and will help us a lot to discover the identity of a lot of criminals,' he said."

* * *

Meteorologist Calls Global Warming A Myth and a Witch Hunt.

— Meteorologist Augie Auer of New Zealand called Global Warming a myth and warned that the environmentalist "greenies" are on a witch hunt in their efforts to come against farmers and others who are allegedly contributing to warming. Speaking at the annual meeting of Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers in Ashburton, Auer said that man's contribution to greenhouse gases is so small that we couldn't change the climate if we tried ("Global Warming Debunked," The Timaru Herald, May 19, 2007). He explained that water vapour is responsible for 95% of the greenhouse effect, an effect which is vital to keep the world warm, and he said the Global Warming fervor is "going to be a joke in five years." — FBIS

* * *

Mitt Romney Speaks Out Against Freedom of Speech.

— Mitt Romney,

the Governor of Utah who is running as a Republican presidential candidate, told the Associated Press that public officials should not be allowed to express moral judgments against homosexuality. He said: "I think people are entitled to *believe* what they want to believe, but what they *say* in their official and secular roles should be an expression of tolerance and respect for people regardless of our differences" "Romney Supports Tolerance for Gays, But Not Public Servants Who Speak against Romney, who has appointed many homosexuals to office during his administration, condemned General Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for saying recently that homosexual behaviour is immoral and has no place in the military. I wonder when Romney last read the United States Bill of Rights? Where does the Bill of Rights say that a citizen loses the right to freedom of religion and freedom of speech when he assumes public office? The freedom to *believe* apart from the freedom to *say* is no freedom at all. — FBIS

* * *

Integrity Music's Worldly Children's Music.

— Integrity Music's incredibly worldly "God Rocks" series is aimed at children. The DVDs feature the God Rocks band and

animated spoofs of Elvis Presley, the Beach Boys, The Beatles, and Motown. The songs are "a funky retelling" of Bible stories with words from the New International Version. Song titles include "Rock Steady" and "Church Granny Rock." Integrity Music even has the audacity to call this worldly foolishness "uncompromising." — FBIS

* * *

A Lady's Riding Habit in 1881.

— The following is from excerpted from "Our Department, or the Manners, Conduct and Dress of the Most Refined Society" by John H. Young (Detroit: F.B. Dickerson & Co, 1881). "A lady's riding habit should fit perfectly without being tight. The skirt must be full, and long enough to cover the feet, but not of extreme length. The boots must be stout and the gloves gauntleted. Broadcloth is regarded as the more dressy cloth, though waterproof is the more serviceable. Something lighter may be worn for summer, and in the lighter costumes a row of shot must be stitched at the bottom of the breadths of the left side to prevent the skirts from being blown by the wind. The riding dress is made to fit the waist closely, and button nearly to the throat. ... Coat sleeves should come to the

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wrist with linen cuffs beneath them. . . . It is well to have the waist attached to a skirt of the usual length, and the long skirt fastened over it, so that if any accident occurs obliging the lady to dismount, she may easily remove the long overskirt and still be properly dressed." Concluding Note from Bro. Cloud: "This is not a Christian book, but notice the amazing emphasis on modesty and proper decorum. The lady was to be covered from foot to neck, and her dress was not to be too tight. Lead shot was used to keep the dress from blowing up. She was to be dressed in a modest, feminine manner even while riding a horse. That was a different society than the one we live in today, because it was more strongly influenced by the Bible; and it was not only more modest but more wholesome as well. Though society at large has turned its back on biblical modesty, God's people do not have to follow society's folly." — FBIS

* * *

Law That Booted Churches from Commercial Zones Gets the Boot. — The City Council of Washburn, Wisconsin, has voted to repeal its zoning ordinance to eliminate discriminatory

restrictions on churches. The ordinance previously prohibited any church from locating on commercial property, even though the code permitted other nonreligious public assemblies within the same commercial districts. The week before a crucial city meeting, church officials contacted Liberty Counsel for assistance. After reviewing the ordinance, Liberty Counsel concluded that the city code violated the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA), as well as the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution. As a result, the Council has formally passed the recommended amendment and removed the illegal zoning restriction. — FBIS

* * *

Ford Dealership to Close. — After next week, you won't hear one of the catchiest tunes in advertising anymore. That's because one of the first car dealerships in Indianapolis to open shop will close its doors. The fortunes of Ford are impacting workers in Indianapolis. A south side landmark located on East Street for some 40 years and in business since 1919, Sharp Ford will close its doors for good next week. "It's never good to lose retail sales in any given area. You want all the people coming to this area that you can get here

whether it's car business or any other type of business," said Ronnie Compton, Plaza Motors. Sources tell Eye-witness News Ford is buying out the dealership, possibly as part of a nationwide move to make the company more competitive.

* * *

Large SBC Church Calls Woman. — A female pastor who broke the "stained-glass ceiling" in Texas Baptist life is expected to move to a historic church near Atlanta, making it by far the largest Southern Baptist church led by a woman. A pastor search committee of the 2,700-member First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga., presented Julie Pennington-Russell's name May 27 as its recommendation. Since 1998 Pennington-Russell has been pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Waco, Texas. Pennington-Russell, 47, is scheduled to preach June 17 in anticipation of election the same day. The 141-year-old church in the Atlanta suburb of Decatur is affiliated with the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship but also maintains ties with the Southern Baptist Convention. — ABN

* * *

Yes to Faith, No to "Bong Hits." — The Supreme Court handed

down two long-awaited rulings involving religion and free speech on Monday. The justices ruled against an atheist group that challenged President Bush's faith-based initiative; and they said public schools may censor students like the one in Alaska, who held up a banner proclaiming the nonsensical phrase, "Bong hits 4 Jesus."

* * *

More On Ford Motor Company. — Here's something else to think about besides Ford's Homosexual Contributions: Ford has spent the last thirty years moving all its factories out of the US, claiming they can't make money paying American wages. Toyota has spent the last thirty years building more than a dozen plants inside the U.S. The last quarter's results: Toyota made 4 billion in profit while Ford racked up 9 billion in losses. Ford folks are still scratching their heads.

Remember the banana — When it left the bunch, it got skinned.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

--Hebrews 10:25

Who Says Jesus Christ Is God?

The Bible says there is only one God, but He is manifest in three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was God the Son.

In 2001 I met a Jehovah's Witness who is a leader in one of their churches in Nepal. He told me that they have 600 "baptized members" and many churches in this remote land. They publish and distribute large quantities of literature, and he told me that he and others go out every day to preach and distribute tracts. While he admitted that Jesus is the Son of God, he refused to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is truly God.

To the contrary, the Bible says Jesus Christ is God. "Who says?" someone might ask. Following are some of those in the Bible who said that Jesus Christ is God.

David Called Him God. "Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?" (Mt. 22:42-45).

Isaiah Called Him God. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a

sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14).

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).

Jeremiah Called Him God. "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer. 23:5-6).

Matthew Called Him God. "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Mt. 1:23).

Christ Called Himself God. "But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God" (Jn. 5:17-

18).

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by" (Jn. 8:58-59). "I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God" (John 10:30-33). "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8).

Christ Accepted Worship As God. "And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean" (Mt. 8:2).

"While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live" (Mt. 9:18).

"Then they that were in the ship came and

worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God" (Mt. 14:33).

"Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me" (Mt. 15:25). "Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him" (Mt. 20:20). "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him" (Mt. 28:9). "And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him" (Jn. 9:38).

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth" (Phil. 2:10).

Unlike the elect angels and the apostles who refused to accept worship (Acts 14:11-15; Rev. 19:10), not once did Jesus refuse it. The Bible teaches that it is idolatry and wickedness to worship any one or any thing other than the one True and Living God (Ex. 20:3-5; 34:14; Is. 42:8; Matt. 4:10). Therefore, the fact that Jesus Christ accepted worship is indisputable evidence that he is Almighty God.

The Angels Called Him God. "For unto you

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is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:11).

The Blind Man Called Him God. "Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him" (Jn. 9:35-38).

Thomas Called Him God. "And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God" (Jn. 20:28).

Peter Called Him God. "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all)" (Acts 10:34-36).

John Called Him God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 Jn. 3:16).

"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life" (1 Jn. 5:18).

Paul Called Him God. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God" (Phil. 2:5-6). "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." (Col. 1:15-17).

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Timothy 3:16). "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus

Christ" (Titus 2:13).

God The Father Called Him God. "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows" (Heb. 1:8-9).

Hebrews 1:8-9 is quoted from Psalm 45, and in Psalm 45 it is obvious that God the Father, Jehovah God, is speaking about the Son. God the Father calls the Son God, and God the Son calls the Father God. This is the mystery of the Trinity. Though we do not fully understand it, we believe it because it is the teaching of the Scriptures.

Professionalism A Danger

Professionalism in any field of service is dangerous.

The sick man, and the wife who watches at his bed, will want to feel that the physician has personal interest and deep concern and is not there just for the money involved. The unfortunate man before the court of justice likes to believe that his lawyer's heart is in his case.

But in no field of service is the sin of professionalism more deadly than in the ministry. Yet many have been caught in its choking meshes and robbed both of their joy and effectiveness. Those who have been caught thereby should confess their sin and pray for healing.

Professionalism is, of all ministerial sins, the most easily detected. The handshake, the oral greeting, the cut-and-dried mannerism, the "routine funeral service," the mere recitation of words in the pulpit, the following of set form and

custom — all these are quickly spotted and branded by the public as the way of the man whose heart is not in his work or with his people.

I have always looked up to the man, no matter what his level of service or what his cultural background or the lack of it, whose heart is kindled by holy fires, who can rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. This tired old world needs helpers who understand, who get under the burden, who speak the language of the common people. And such ministers — and we have many of them, thank God — are in demand even after old age has come with the white hair and furrowed cheeks.

It can be said to ministers, even as to all others, "keep thy *heart* with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

Those who deserve love the least need it the most.



A Critique of the Theory of Evolution

By Charles George Bauer

The Final Challenge To The Evolutionist!

If evolution is true, then why do we need to go back nearly 2,000 years to find the one perfect Man? The one perfect Man is the God-Man, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I challenge the evolutionist to produce a better man than the Lord Jesus Christ, if you can! Listen to what He says: "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven" (Jn. 3:13). He is the great proof against this godless doctrine. Someone may ask: "What difference does it make if I believe in evolution? Does it do me any harm?" Yes, it does harm. It is atheistic in tendency. Let us ask a few pertinent questions.

1. Did man fall downward or upward?
2. Can man save himself by climbing up, or must God save him by coming down?
3. Is evolution the way to the glory of Heaven, or is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the way to glory? What is the chief end of man? "To glorify God, and enjoy Him forever"

(Westminster Catechism).

It is said: "Man's sinful tendencies and acts are the remains of brute instincts inherited from his beastly ancestors. Give him sufficient time, and by education and civilization and the Law of Progress, he will improve morally and spiritually, and finally reach the goal of his glory, a perfect man." You may ask, "What about the prehistoric man, the cave man?" The Word of God gives the infallible answer. It is found in the following Scriptures: Psalm 14; Psalm 53; Romans 1:19-32; 5:12-14. "For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). What harm does it do?

The Rev. A. P. Gouthy inquired the results of the teaching evolution in five colleges. At the end of the first year, 40% of the students became agnostics; at the end of the second year, 60% became infidels; at the end of the third year, 80% became atheists.

What is the Verdict From the Supreme Court of Heaven?

Evolution is not true,

but false, because it eliminates God, the Creator of the universe. What is the truth? It is not evolution, but devolution in man's progress morally and spiritually, until God intervenes in our behalf; for a revolution of our life and nature is necessary for salvation and the way to Glory. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour" (Tit. 3:5-6).

Evolution Is Irrational, Untenable, And Impossible

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to Glory. He said: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye

know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life*: no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (Jn. 14:1-6).

It is not goodness that saves mankind, although goodness is the result of faith in Christ. It is "bloodness" that saves. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers: but with the precious blood of Christ, of a Lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast for we are his workmanship [masterpiece, Greek], created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10)

If evolution were true, there would be no Gospel.

(See **EVOL** on page 16)

EVOLUTION . . .

(Continued from page 15)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew First, and also the Greek [Gentile]. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:16-17).

**Evolution Is An
Unproven and
Unprovable
Hypothesis**

A final word to young people. “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Eccl. 12:1).

The word Creator is in the plural, implying unity in majesty, plurality in creativity [Creative action]. The three Persons of the Godhead created the universe and all life, including man, the climax of Creation. God, the Father, created all things by and through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and by His Holy Spirit He garnished [beautiful] the heavens. Read Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-5; Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 11:1-3.

Christians are the New creation of the Lord Jesus Christ. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a

new creation: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

**The Latest Discovery
Of Modern Science**

Did this vast universe just happen, as the evolutionists believe, or did God create it? Herbert Spencer’s definition is now exploded. Biological evolution is also out-moded by the law of biogenesis. The only logical conclusion is Divine creation (Heb. 1:1-4).

“The universe was born in a matter of minutes, in a single tremendous act of creation. With this startling announcement, a group of famous scientists has dramatically told the world that their discoveries provide a striking scientific background to the great story in Genesis.

“It provides a documented story of the universe right back to the utterly incredible moments of all — Time, Zero — the moment when there was no universe.” — Dr. F.J. Meldau, Christian Victory.

This epochal memento was made by Dr. Ralph A. Alpher and Dr. Robert C. Harman, of the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University, and Professor George Garnow of George Washington University.

To piece together the gigantic jig-saw puzzle of the creation story they drew on the work of hundreds of

physicists, astronomers, geologists, and chemists. The few missing pieces in their revelations have been filled in by astronomers like Bart J. Bolt and Frank L. Whipple, both of Harvard Observatory. There were three acts in this Drama of Science. “In the beginning God and His Son.” “Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the end of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son’s name, if thou canst tell? Every word of God is pure; he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar” (Prov. 30:4-6).

“By the word of the Lord [Jehovah] were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth ... For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast” (Isa. 3:6-9).

“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by name by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth” (Isa. 40:26). The atomic and electronic theory of the universe is also hidden in the Word of God in the original languages, Hebrew and Greek.

I quote Dr. Arthur S. Way’s translation of

creation: which is not a paraphrase, but an amplified translation: “It is through faith that we discern that the epochs of our earth’s development were molded by the fiat of God; that it was not his design that the world which we now look upon should not be the outcome of a mere process of evolution from nothing, but matter palpable to our senses” (Heb. 11:3).

This amplified translation of all the meaning of the original Greek words gives its full meaning refuting evolution. This verse reveals the truth that God created the universe by His living Word, spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ, so that things which are seen were made of invisible things — Atoms, infinitesimal solar systems, consisting of protons, neutrons, and electrons (2 Pet. 3:10-14).”

“O the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor? Or who hath given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen” (Rom. 11:33-36).

Appendix

(See **EVOL** on page 17)

EVOLUTION . . .

(Continued from page 16)

**Concerning the
Creation of Man**

A chemist discovered that there are things containing 16 elements in 17 combinations: a handful of earth, whole wheat, and the human body. If 16 elements are required to nourish the human body, we have also discovered in the Word of God that there are 16 spiritual elements required to nourish the human soul when saved: and these are also in 17 combinations (See Genesis 2:7; Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 119:11).

**Concerning the Creation
Of the Universe
And Matter**

“God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by [in] his son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds, who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they” (Heb. 1:1-4).

The wonderful implica-

tions of this passage of Scripture could only be understood since the discovery of atomic energy. Dr. Albert Einstein formulated the equation of energy matter in 1905. Matter is composed of molecules, atoms, electrons, protons, neutrons, and numerous other submicroscopic particles, and is now known to be nothing really substantial at all, but composed fundamentally of tremendous energy. E equals MC^2 . Energy equals matter multiplied by the speed of light per second, squared.

Energy is now known to be a fluid form of matter. Atoms have a tendency to disintegrate. What power holds them together?

“The Lord Jesus Christ is the ultimate Source” The Lord Jesus Christ is the ultimate source of infinite power (or energy) which revealing itself through its outworking (the Word) is the energy by which all the physical universe is upheld.” — Dr. Kenneth S. Wuest.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Power which holds the universe together. “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist (are held together).” See Colossians 1:15-18, the secret of the creation of the universe.

**Concerning the
Geological Ages.**

The rebellion and fall of Lucifer, caused the ruin of the pristine Creation. □ □

Those Thee’s and Thou’s

By Henry Morris

“And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth; and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do” Exodus 4:15.

These words of God, spoken to Moses concerning the mission he and his brother Aaron were to undertake at Pharaoh’s palace are one of numerous examples in Scripture where the King James translation uses several different forms of the second-person pronoun. In this one verse, we see the words “thou,” “thy,” “you,” and “ye,” all fulfilling this function. Most modern translations would translate this sentence. “You shall speak to him . . . and I will be with your mouth . . . and will teach you what you shall do.” Why would the King James translators use four different forms of the pronoun when only “you” and “your” are used in modern versions?

The fact is that the Elizabethan-age English was able to make much finer distinctions than modern English. That is,

“thou,” “thee,” “thy,” and “thine,” were used for the second person singular, whereas “ye,” “you,” “your,” and “yours” were the corresponding words for the plural. Different words also were used for subject, object and possessive modifiers, as is still true for first and third-person pronouns.

In our text, God was telling Moses that He (Moses) was to speak to Aaron, and that He (God) would teach both of them, not just Moses, what they were to do. This distinction is clear in the King James English, but not in modern English. This is one of the numerous examples where such fine points in the King James language are lost in modern translations.

In the Lord’s Prayer, for example, “Yours is the kingdom” could suggest that many will possess the kingdom, where “thine is the kingdom” clearly recognizes one God alone. Clear words are important for clear meanings, and Jesus said, “My words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35). □ □

**Whoever gossips to you will be
a gossip of you**

A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

—Proverbs 11:13

Iraq Put On Watch List

For the first time since the fall of Saddam Hussein, ongoing sectarian violence has earned Iraq a place among the world's worst violators of religious freedoms, a federal watchdog panel reports.

Iraq was included with seven other countries, including Afghanistan, on a Watch List published in the 2007 report of the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom. The list names countries that "require close monitoring" because their governments commit or tolerate religious persecution.

The watch list is the commission's second, lesser tier of religious rights abusers. The worst are recommended for designation as "Countries of Particular Concern" to the State Department, status carrying the possibility of sanctions or other punitive action by the U.S. government. Eleven countries received that recommendation in the report.

The State Department's current list of Countries of Particular Concern includes Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Uzbekistan.

The countries recommended by the panel as Countries of Particular Concern this year include Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran,

North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

The panel's Watch List includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq and Nigeria. — RNS

Alcoholism Comes Out Of A Bottle

"That alcoholism is not caused by alcohol, is a sententious, but untrue, paradox, widely disseminated by pro-liquor propaganda," declares a statement made public by the American Business Men's Research Foundation, in a carefully analyzed appraisal of the assertion.

"Take all potable alcohol out of the world, and there would be no alcoholics," is the conclusion pointed out by the Foundation statement on this popular 'Wet' claim. The Foundation analysis called attention in the striking contrast between alcoholism and polio, or any other serious disease of the day.

"While great financial interests are concerned in selling the virus that causes alcoholism, there is no interest of like character concerned in selling even a mild polio virus for profit.

"As a result of a selfish attempt to protect a great commercial interest, aided and abetted by the selfish desire by some individuals to enable them to continue

to drink in 'moderation', the public is being bombarded with propaganda that 'it is not alcohol but the individual who is responsible for being an alcoholic.'

"But, despite all attempts to evade it, the fact cannot be obscured that alcoholism, before all else, does come out of a bottle."

The Bible Makes Baptists

Adoniram Judson was not a Baptist when he went to Burma as a missionary. Studying his Bible on the way, he became a Baptist in belief, and in order to support the work God has thus put in their hands, the Baptists of the United States organized their first missionary society to support Mr. and Mrs. Judson.

He was missionary to Burma from 1813 to 1850. He wrote a Burmese dictionary and translated the Bible into the Burmese language.

In the thirty-seven years of his work there were sixty-three churches organized and over seven thousand converts baptized.

During the first seven years no one had been converted, but Judson said: "The prospects are bright as the promises of God."

The story of beautiful Ann Hasseltine Judson and her bravery that dared anything to help all the prisoners, as well as her husband, in that time of

great suffering and peril at Ava should be known by every young Baptist. She died in Burma in 1826. Her life motto was: "Our faith in God is strong."

Give, Give, Give

A clergyman wrote to a wealthy and influential business requesting a subscription to a worthy charity. He promptly received a curt refusal which closed as follows:

"As far as I can see, this Christian business is just one continuous give, give, give."

After a brief interval the clergyman answered, "I wish to thank you for the best definition of the Christian life that I yet have heard."

Think On These Things

1. When a church member rests, he rusts.
2. The Lord's job is to get His church into the world without getting the world into His church.
3. The biggest liar in the world is the Christian who gives excuses for not doing his duty.
4. Rip Van Winkle is the only man who ever became famous while sleeping.
5. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.
6. Do what you should, and you will have no time to do what you should not.

The Importance of the Church

By I. W. Rogers

There are only two institutions that have come into being by direct acts of God. They are: *the home*, which was instituted in the early days of the human race; and *the church*, which had its beginning during the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. There can be no doubt that both these institutions are dear to the heart of our Lord.

It is indeed gratifying to see the increased interest in the home, as expressed in the large number of books and magazines on the subject that are coming from the press, and a deeper concern on the part of pastors and churches and denominations, who have been aroused by the prevalence of divorce, and the frightful and concerted attacks upon the home by the movies, the liquor industry, television, and other forces of evil. Let us hope and pray that the present efforts to show the importance of this basic institution of Christian civilization is only the beginning of a strong emphasis on all that belongs to a genuinely Christian home, and on an all-out war against the evil forces that are pulling millions of homes apart. May God's blessings

be upon every one who has a part in arousing the interest of the people in the importance of the home, and upon every soldier of the cross, who enlists in the fight against the enemies of the home.

But we are not going to succeed on our efforts to build genuinely Christian homes by neglecting the other God-ordained institution, *the church*. No nation can have the right sort of homes without having the right sort of churches, and no nation can have the right kind of churches without having the right kind of homes. These twin institutions of God are dependent upon each other. The question, "Which is the more important, the church or the home" is not a debatable question. Both are indispensable, and neither can get along without the other.

The importance of the church is attested by the emphasis that Jesus and the apostles and the New Testament Scriptures, as a whole, place upon this God-ordained, and God-built institution. Jesus not only instituted His church, but He built it. On the night before He was crucified, in His intercessory prayer, He said, "I have finished the

work which thou gavest me to do" (Jn. 17:4). This was spoken probably less than an hour and perhaps less than thirty minutes, after He had instituted the Lord's Supper, the final act in building His church. While the four Gospels do not use the word "church"

but a few times, Jesus was diligently working throughout His ministry, using the material that had been prepared by John the Baptist, and fashioning it into the institution which he called, "My Church" (Mt. (See **ROGERS** on page 20)

Some Day

By Henry W. Frost

Some day my lesson will have been all learned,
And I shall close my book, the last leaf turned,
Then I shall stand before the upper throne,
And know for ever as I have been known!

Some day my last, glad song will have been sung,
The words will die away on falt'ring tongue,
But through the ages I shall praise forth-tell,
For I shall join the choir invisible!

Some day my last night's prayer will have been said
And I shall lie within my narrow bed,
And in the morn, I shall for e'er arise,
My prayers all answered, in the mansioned skies!

Some day my pilgrim journey will be o'er
And I shall reach that farther, brighter shore;
My staff laid down, my burden put aside,
I'll rest for evermore, all satisfied!

Some day my race will have been fully run
And all my strivings be for ever done;
One last sharp passage through death's vale of tears,
And I shall reach the joys of endless years!

Some day my hard fought battle will be past
And blessed peace will be my lot at last;
The battle won, the victor's crown I'll wear
And in the victor's spoils, forever share!

ROGERS . . .

(Continued from page 19)

16:18). Jesus, Himself, is the Chief Corner Stone upon which His institution was built; His apostles were the foundation sills, the charter members (Eph. 2:12; 1 Cor. 12:28). He loved His church so much that He died for it (Eph 5:25), and He promised to be with His institution all the days even to the end of the world (Mt. 28:20). This promise He has literally fulfilled down to the present day. One of the most beautiful word pictures in all the Bible, and one that stirs the saint of God with emotion, is the picture of Jesus walking among the seven golden candlesticks — His seven churches in Asia (Rev. 1:12-13, 20).

The apostles of our Lord placed strong emphasis on the church. The book of Acts is a story of the growth of the institution which Jesus built, and its multiplication into many other like institutions. Paul wrote nine of his letters to one or more churches for each letter, and his other four letters deal largely with instructions as to how church officials ought to behave themselves “in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:13). John wrote his second and third epistles for instruction to churches and their leaders. He wrote the last book of the Bible as “The revelation

of Jesus Christ” to the seven churches of Asia. One of the greatest burdens of Paul was his daily “care of all the churches” (2 Cor. 11:28).

So, the New Testament as a whole is largely concerned with the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. Understand, we did not say the Bible, because you will not find instructions concerning or for the churches of our Lord in the Old Testament. The reference in Stephen’s sermon to the “church in the wilderness” (Acts 7:38), simply means *the congregation* in the wilderness, and has no reference whatsoever to the church that Jesus built.

Since the church of our Lord is so important, the question arises, “Are Baptists being taught what a church of Jesus Christ is, and are they being thoroughly grounded in the New Testament doctrine of the church.” In most of our churches and in most of our Southern Baptists institutions the answer is an unequivocal “No.” In all too many instances, the pastors of our churches and the teachers in our institutions of learning know almost nothing about the church that Jesus built. They never, in all their lives, have made a thorough study of what God has told us in the New Testament about the supremely important institution brought into existence by our Lord, and, sad to say, many of them do not care enough about it to

even learn! Is it, then, at all surprising that the average Baptist church member is extremely ignorant about the church that Jesus built? He does not know what a New Testament church is, and there is no one who will

instruct him! Is it any marvel that all the cults such as Mormonism, Seventh Day Adventism, Jehovah Witnesses, and Campbellism are making such inroads among Baptists? Is it not time we were doing something about it?

Lincoln’s Plea

A visitor to the White House during the days of the Civil War said: “I had been spending three weeks in the White House with Mr. Lincoln, as his guest.

One night — it was just after the Battle of Bull Run — I was restless and could not sleep. It was coming near to the dawn of the day, when I heard low tones proceeding from a private room where the President slept.

The door was partly open. Instinctively, I look in, and there I saw a sight which I shall never forget. It was the President kneeling before an open

Bible. The light was turned low in the room. His back was toward me. I shall never forget his tones so piteous and sorrowful.

“O Thou God, that heard Solomon in the night when he prayed and cried for wisdom, hear me! I cannot lead these people. I cannot guide the affairs of this nation without Thy help. I am poor and weak and sinful. O God, Thou didst hear Solomon when he cried for wisdom — hear me and save this nation.”

God heard and he answered him then and there. — Christian Beacon

I Can’t Stop Here

During the frontier days, the driver of a covered wagon stopped his horses on the street of a young town and called to a passing man: “Hey! Any saloons in this place?”

“Sure, we’ve got four!” boastfully replied the man.

“Giddap” the driver shouted, urging his horses on. Stop” called the man.

“I can’t stop here” replied the stranger. “I’ve

got four boys in this wagon.”

“Why, what’s your business” the man asked.

“My business is to raise these boys for God, and I can’t do that in a town with four saloons.” And soon the covered wagon was out of sight.

Surely we today should be as careful of the environments of our children. ■■■■ ■

DOE . . .

(Continued from page 7)

short time and then burn in hell forever and ever to pay for them. It is not worth it, is it?"

"No," said she, "it is not."

"If you should die today, where would you go?"

By that time she had turned deathly pale. With lips and chin quivering she said, "I'd go to hell."

"Mrs. Doe, God does not want you to go there. God has something better for you. I am now bringing to you the best news you have ever heard in all your life. If God has something better for you, you want it, don't you?"

"Yes I do" she replied.

"The Bible tells us plainly and distinctly that God is 'not willing (or wishing) that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.' Here is the good news I have for you. Read First Timothy 1:15."

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

"Who are the sinners?"

"We are," she said.

"Who is the Savior?"

"Christ Jesus," was her reply.

"What do we sinners need this Savior to do for us?"

"We need Him to save us."

"Yes, we need Him to save us *from* sin and Hell *to* life, peace, joy and heaven.

"I now want to ask you

a very important question — Do you know why Christ died?"

After hesitating a little, she said, "I guess He died to save us."

"Mrs. Doe, if there is anything in all the world you need to be certain and sure about it is *why Christ died*. Read here in First Corinthians 15:3-4."

"Christ died for our sins."

"There you have it from God Himself. You will either have to go to hell and die forever and ever to pay for your sins or have someone die in your stead as your substitute, for God said, 'The soul that sinneth it shall die.' He also said in Hebrews 9:22, 'without shedding of blood is no remission (or forgiveness) of sin.'"

I then told her the story, briefly, of how the eternal divine Son of God left the Glory Land and came down to this world to save sinners. I told her how He clothed Himself in flesh, of how He was born as no other man was ever born, born of a virgin — having a human mother without a human father — coming to this world which He Himself had spoken into existence out of nothing; how He took upon Himself the responsibility of keeping perfect the law of God which He had given; how He kept it — kept all of it, from the manger to the tomb — and that He was the only perfect one who ever walked this earth. "In

him was no sin."

Then I continued: "On a skull-shaped hill just outside the city walls of Jerusalem at a place called Calvary, or Golgotha, He died. And it was *for our sins*. His death was a sacrificial, substitutionary death. The innocent one dies for the guilty. He suffered the pangs of hell for our sins.

"But, Mrs. Doe, that will not do you one bit of good unless you believe that — accept that — depend upon that, and nothing but that, for salvation — that is, Christ dying for your own personal sins — all your sins from the time you were born until the time you die — all your past, present and future sins. That's exactly what the Bible says here in Titus 2:13: 'Our Saviour Jesus Christ who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity.' (That is, all your sins from the time you were born till you draw your last breath.) God never forgives a sinner of his sins until those sins are paid in full. The blood of Christ is what God provided for our sins. God is satisfied with what He provided for our sins. Now, read here from John 3:36."

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life."

"You will notice that God said 'He that believeth on the Son hath' — right then and there, without any delay, without the addition or mixture of anything else

— 'hath everlasting life,' and is certain of a home in heaven when he dies. Why? Because all of his sins have been paid for from the time he was born till the time he dies. God will not bring the believer before the judgment bar of God and send him to hell and punish him for the sins for which Jesus died. If He should, that would be collecting the debt twice. God is a just God and will not collect the debt but once. That is why we sing:

"Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;

Sin had left a crimson stain,

He washed it white as snow."

That is also the reason we sing:

"Just as I am, without one plea,

But that Thy blood was shed for me,

And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,

O Lamb of God, I come! I come!"

By that time the tears were streaming down her face, and I said:

"Mrs. Doe would you like to be saved, and know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are saved and going to heaven when you die?"

"Yes, I surely would."

"Then, read here from Acts 16:30-31 what God

(See DOE on page 22)

DOE . . .

(Continued from page 21)

tells you to do to be saved.”

She read, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”

“That’s it! God said it, and that settles it. If you will do just that — nothing more and nothing less — trusting the whole of your salvation to Him and depending wholly and solely upon Christ — plus nothing and minus nothing — Christ and Christ only — you have God’s promise that He will save you. You, a poor helpless, hopeless, hell-deserving hell-condemned and hell-bound sinner, just turn yourself and your sins over to Christ and depend upon Him to save you — sink or swim, live or die, heaven or hell — and when you do that, you will have done all God told you to do, all you can do and all you need to do to be saved.

“Then if you die and go to hell, it will be God’s responsibility. But you will never go to hell trusting Christ to save you:

“Will you, right here and now, commit yourself to Christ — turn yourself over to Christ and trust Him to save you personally?”

With tears filling her eyes, she said, “I will, with all my heart.”

Then and there Mrs. Doe was saved.

“Now, will you read what God says to you in First John 5:13?”

She read: “These things have I written unto you that

believe on the name of the Son of God: that you may know that ye have eternal life.”

“Now that you have trusted the Savior to save you and you have eternal life, let’s see what God wants you to do. Read Matthew 10:28.”

She read: “Confess me before men.”

“Now, read Acts 2:41.

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

“You see, since you have believed the gospel and are saved, God wants you to be baptized and join the church. Why be baptized, join the church and try to do the things He said do? Not in order to save you. Not in order to help save you. Not in order to keep you saved. But do these things because you love Him for dying for you and saving you. God tells us this in John 15:15.

“Mrs. Doe, when I give the invitation at the close of the services tonight, will you come forward publicly confessing your faith in Christ, presenting yourself for baptism and church membership because you love Jesus for dying for you and saving you.

She said, “God helping me, I will.” She did, and has been a faithful Church member since then.

And a few years later Mr. Doe made a profession of faith in Christ. □

The Quiet Sermon

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastors’ visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember’s flame flickered and diminished,

there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, “Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday.”

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken. □ □

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

*He also that is slothful in his work is brother
to him that is a great waster.*

—Proverbs 18:9

HENRY . . .

(Continued from page 1)

1784.

“Patrick Henry was a strong critic of the Constitution proposed in 1787. He was in favor of the strongest possible government for the individual states, and a weak federal government. He was also very critical of the fact that the convention was conducted in secret.

“President Washington appointed him Secretary of State in 1795, but Henry declined the office. In 1799, President Adams appointed him envoy to France, but failing health required him to decline this office, too. He died on June 6, 1799 at age of 63.” (Quotes from www.ushistory.org.)

Although he did not quote scriptures, there were many references to God and the Bible in his famous speech. Scripture references have been inserted into his speech, as were appropriate.

* * *

“No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism, as well as abilities, of the very worthy gentlemen who have just addressed the House. But different men often see the same subject in different lights, and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do, opinions of a character very opposite to theirs. I shall

speaking forth my sentiments freely and without reserve.

“This is no time for ceremony. The question before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate. It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfill the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country. Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.

“Mr. President, it is natural for man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not [Jer. 5:21], the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it. I have but

one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves and the House. Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received? Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet. Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss [Mt. 26:48]. Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports with those warlike preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled that force must be called in to win back our love?

“Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation; the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask gentlemen, sirs, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission? Can gentlemen assign any other possible motive for it? Has Great Britain any enemy, in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are

meant for us; they can be meant for no other. They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer upon the subject? Nothing. We have held the subject up in every light of which it is capable; but it has been all in vain. Shall we resort to entreaty and humble supplication? What terms shall we find which have not been already exhausted? Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves.

“Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne!

“In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope.

(See **HENRY** on page 24)

**FELLOWSHIPS
and
CONFERENCES**

SIoux FALLS, SD

Sept. 30 — October 4, 2007, Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S. Hawthorne, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Erich McCandless, Pastor.

FAITH . . .

(Continued from page 2)

are willing to believe in Christ, yes, but not in Christ upon the cross, bearing “our sins in his own body on the tree.”

It is the same old cry of the priests and rulers who stood upon Calvary — “Come down from the cross and we will believe.”

HENRY . . .

(Continued from page 23)

If we wish to be free — if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending — if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained — we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us!

“They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to

cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot?

“Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us.

“Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us [2 Chr. 32:8]. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone [Eccl. 9:11]; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable — and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.

Alone With Jesus

Alone with Jesus! What a sweet and holy spot! What a blessed refuge to which the soul may betake itself from the

“It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, ‘Peace, peace,’ — but there is no peace [Jer. 6:14]. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle [Mt. 20:6]? What is it that the gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”

(Scripture references added. This speech can be found in “Sketches of the Life and Character of Patrick Henry”, by William Wirt (James Webster: 1818), pages 119-123.)

Patrick Henry in his impassioned speech was confident that the LORD would help the colonies to triumph against a greater, better trained and better equipped army. God did, and has blessed America through the years. Let us pray that America will return to her godly heritage from the godless tendencies that prevail today. □ □

charge of Satan, the accusations of the world, and the sorrows of life! Sweet spot for the heart to unfold itself, to tell its hidden tale in the ear of infinite love, tenderness, and compassion. Alone with Jesus!

How different a front would Christianity present to the world if the Lord’s people were oftener there! What humanity and gentleness and love would characterize all their dealings! What holiness stamped on every brow, that all might read! What few judgments passed on others — how many more on ourselves! What calmness and resignation and joyous submission to all the Lord’s dealings!

Be much “alone with Jesus.” Then will the passage of glory be one of sunshine, whether it be through the portals of the grave or through the clouds of Heaven. □

**Although the
tongue weighs
very little,
few people
are able to
hold It**

James 3:5