

# The Baptist

# CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 511

## *The Battle of the Baptists*

*By W. M. Nevins*

This battle has been in progress for at least 1750 years. We were first called Anabaptists because we would not accept alien baptism, that is, baptism administered by heretics; and insisted on baptizing all that come to us from them.

About 200 A.D., Tertullian, one of the Ante-Nicene fathers, writes:

[This article appeared in the August 1951 issue of "**The Faith and Southern Baptists.**"]

"Heretics have no fellowship in our discipline. Their baptism is not one with ours, either, a baptism which, since they have it not dully, doubtless they have it not at all" (Vol 3, p. 676).

Neander, another his-

torian, in speaking about the churches planted by Paul, says: "It was a Roman bishop Stephanus, who, instigated by the spirit of ecclesiastical arrogance, issued a sentence of excommunication against the pastors of Asia Minor,

stigmatizing them as *Anabaptists*, a name, however, which they could justly affirm they *did not deserve*, by their principles: for it was not their wish to administer a second baptism, but they contended that the previous baptism given by heretics (other sects) could not be re- (See **BATTLE** on page 23)

Here are submitted seven reasons for believing the Bible to be the Word of God.

First, **because of its testimony**, what it says about itself. Second Peter 1:20-21 reads: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." This means that Paul, John, Peter, James, and the others record not what they thought, but what the Spirit

### **Why We Believe The Bible To Be The Word of God**

**By Paul S. James,**

**Tabernacle Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA**

taught. Second Timothy 3:16-17 leads us to believe in the plenary inspiration of the Bible, which means that the whole Bible came to us as a supernatural message of God, was given through inspired personalities, and is authoritative and final in all matters of faith and practice. So our authority, is not individual conscience, or the law of the church,

but rather the Word of God.

Second, **because of its authority**. It has been said that more than 3,800 times in the Old Testament alone there are such expressions as "the Lord spake," "God said," "the word of the Lord came." So in First Corinthians 2:13 Paul writes, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom

teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." The psalmist cried out, "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." By illustration, God's authority is felt in such texts as Psalm 101:7, "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight."

Third, **because of its accuracy**. "Scripture in its details contradicts no received results of science, but anticipates many of its discoveries." This is illustrated by such texts as

(See **BIBLE** on page 5)

## Quiz The Pastor

# Do We Know Whether Or Not We Will Know Each Other In Heaven?

By the late Nick Michalinos

**Question:** Do we know whether we will recognize and know one another in Heaven?

**Answer:** Yes, I am convinced that in that future life beyond our earthly life, we will recognize and know one another. After our Lord's resurrection out from among the dead, He suddenly appeared to His frightened disciples in a place called the upper room, and we read: "Jesus *himself* stood in the midst of them" (Lk. 24:36). Though now clothed with immortality, He was still "Jesus *himself*," for we are told He then sought to assure His disciples at that time that it was truly He that stood before them, by saying to them: Behold *my hands and feet*, that it is I

*myself*, handle *me*, and see" (Lk. 24:39). The reason He showed them His hands and feet is because His hands and feet still had the wounds of the crucifixion nails in them.

They now recognized Him without any problems. It was not another Jesus. In fact, for 40 days after His resurrection, He showed Himself alive to them "by many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3).

When our Lord ascended up into Heaven on a cloud while in the presence of His disciples, two men in white apparel (angels) told them, "this *same* Jesus" will come back to earth the same way, to the same place, and with the same wounds (Zech. 13:6).

You see, He didn't

change in His bodily appearance for He still had "flesh and bones" [no blood] (Lk. 24:39). Why would God go to the trouble of resurrecting His body, or the bodies of the saints unless these resurrected bodies will retain to some degree the same physical appearance they had prior to death? Job realized that even though "worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:26).

This more than implies the resurrection of His body. In Matthew 17:1-4 Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus on a mountain that we call the Mount of Transfiguration, and His three disciples, Peter, John and James, recognized Moses and Elijah though they had never seen them before. They knew them. Even in a disembodied state there is recognition. The rich man in this true story, though in Hell's torments, knew Abraham and the beggar Lazarus (Lk. 16:23). In the future kingdom of our Lord on earth, we "shall see Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets" (Lk. 13:28-29). Certainly, this implies recognition.

King David had great comfort in knowing that he would one day meet his infant son who had earlier been slain by God (2 Sam. 12:23). He knew he would see him and know him. This brought joy to this great man's sorrowful heart.

As for me personally, I

want to see my Lord first of all in Heaven, and then to see my loved ones and fellow saints that have preceded me in death, and oh, what joy unspeakable and full of glory this brings to my heart. Together and forever in eternal bliss.

But here is a sad note also. I believe the lost in the Lake of Fire will also recognize one another. Imagine, families and relatives and friends together in eternal torment (Rev. 20:15). Children there forever hating their parents because these parents didn't concern themselves with spiritual and eternal things in order to acquaint them with saving faith in Christ so they might be delivered from the Lake of Fire. How very tragic! Eternal damnation is now their portion when there was a way of escape available through the redeeming merits of the cross. They neglected the most important decision a person can make, that will affect them for time and eternity.

That decision is to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, and escape eternal damnation. "Broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and *many* there be which go in thereat" (Mt. 7:13). □

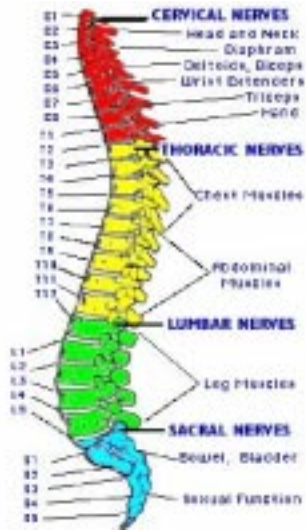
The train of failure usually runs on the track of laziness.

Ecclesiastes 10:18

## THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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God's Masterpiece: The Human Body — #49



The Spinal Cord, as we have seen, is a very important part of the nervous system and with great ingenuity and care has been placed inside the vertebral canal, where it is protected from injury under the ordinary circumstances, which govern the every day activities.

It is so intimately connected with the brain that it is impossible to explain all of its functions without referring to the brain, but certain uses may be exercised independently, a few of which we shall consider in this connection.

And first the spinal cord is a center for what is known as reflex action — one of the most important of its functions and the simplest form of nerve and muscle action. Reflex actions are not confined simply to those which may be performed without thinking of them, but include those performed with perfect consciousness on

our part but independently of the will. For example, you may shiver with the cold or tremble with excitement. These are purely reflex acts of which we are conscious but at the same time are unable to control. When the heart palpitates we know about it; but cannot control it; that also, is a reflex act.

In each lateral half of the cord, the cell tissue is grouped in the form of a crescent with horns projecting in front and behind. Sensory impulses from various parts of the body are transmitted to cells in the posterior horns of the crescents, while the motor impulses are carried *from* the anterior horns to that portion of the body which requires attention.

And this is what happens when there is a reflex muscle action. A sensory or afferent nerve, that is, one carrying messages to the center, receives an impression which results in a series of impulses being transmitted to the spinal cord. The cells in the cord thus stimulated liberate energy conducted by a motor or efferent nerve to the muscle which is commanded to contract; or the message may be to

# The Spinal Cord

By Arthur I. Brown

a gland requesting immediate secretion; or to a vessel wall to have the caliber changed. The response is speedy in all these cases. These acts are comparatively simple.

You can see the working of this simple reflex arc in a multitude of ways. Let us suppose you go to the circus. If you are an adult, of course you go just to take the children to see the animals. You do not care to admit that you are really keen yourself to be young again, although that is nothing to be ashamed of! You stand watching the elephant quietly eating from the pile of hay in front of him, skillfully twining the end of his nose or trunk around a suitably sorted and arranged amount. Well, suddenly you see the elephant's tail which has been hanging downward, as if sound asleep, give a tremendous flip and you wonder what happened. And here is the explanation. In that elephant's tail, right on the surface, are many tiny sensory nerves on guard against intruders. A passing mosquito decided to alight on the said tail and investigate the situation. It plunges its dagger into the tail, strikes sensory cells

which are angered and hurt so that they send an urgent "S.O.S." up to the Center or "G.H.Q." asking for action — and it must be speedy. The Master Control responds by sending down, far more quickly that I can tell of it, a command to the tail muscles to get busy with whatever is doing the damage — and shake it off — and violently. And that is what happened to the tail and to the mosquito, which unless very firmly entrenched was thrown unceremoniously to the four winds — and the elephant goes on eating hay.

These muscular activities, however, are not quite so simple as this description may indicate, and require the action of several organs. In these cases many motor cells and nerves must be stimulated, many wires or nerve fibers going to various parts being brought into action simultaneously. For instance, you get an unsuspected blow on the hand. Instantly the muscles of the entire upper extremity are called into action, and the hand and arm are removed from the area of danger.

At first, walking is a

(See **BODY** on page 4)

**BODY . . .**

(Continued from page 3)

purely voluntary act, but by education the controlling centers become independent, and it takes its place among the reflexes. This is so with piano playing and many other acts. You have watched a pianist talking with a friend, paying close attention to what is being said, and all the time his fingers are playing across the keys, striking each note correctly, that is, if they have been previously trained to do this.

A familiar example of tendon reflex is the “knee jerk” or Patellar Reflex. The kneecap or patella, lying in front of the knee joint, is enclosed in a ligament or tendon attached above to the muscle and below to the front of the shinbone. When this patellar tendon is struck, the news is carried promptly to the motor cells which control the quadriceps muscle on the front of the thigh. Immediately this muscle contracts and the leg is slightly and suddenly extended. There are a number of these tendon reflexes in the body.

A Skin Reflex is seen when you tickle the sole of the foot and bring about what is known as a Plantar Reflex, the muscles in the sole of the foot causing the plantar muscles to shorten. Scratching the skin of the side of the abdomen causes similar contraction of abdominal muscles — the

abdominal reflex.

Vascular tone, or the measure of contraction in the muscles of the blood vessel wall, is controlled from centers in the cord. Glands are stimulated to secrete and muscles associated with internal organs are caused to contract through the same system. These functions are exercised by the action of masses of cells, called ganglia, lying close to the backbone, and known as the sympathetic ganglia, about which I may have something to say in the next article.

Finally, the spinal cord contains strange centers which control certain processes of nutrition, and known as trophic centers. If these centers are injured, the parts over which they stand guard waste away. They are known as Trophic Centers.

So, you see that this cord, because of the wide distribution of its nerves, is able to provide for most of the activities of the body. When, recently Gen. Patton suffered serious injury to the vertebral column in the form of a fracture, with pressure on the cord, we know the tragic result.

Taken as a whole it may be regarded as a great Common Center of Sensation and Motion. Because of many connecting fibers running upward, downward, and across, it can combine its powers, and regulate, at least partially, the functions of many different parts, so

that systematic groups of movements may be executed by organs more or less distant and separated in the body. That is, it has the power of coordinating the functions of spinal nerves and skeletal muscles.

To sum up the functions of the spinal cord then, here they are: 1. Reflex Action; 2. Muscle tone; 3. Vessel tone; 4. The action of secreting glands; 5. Nutrition; 6. Coordination of skeletal muscles.

All these functions may be exercised independently of the brain, so that all parts of the body (except the face, chin, and front portion of the head) are connected with the spinal cord for the purpose of conducting messages or impulses to and from the center.

We have been looking at the various devices placed in this part of the body in order to assure adequate protection against injury. These devices work automatically and with great rapidity. It is not possible that they could have engineered this unique system of communication between all parts of the body — a system which is exceedingly delicate and complex in its workings. There is no explanation which satisfies the intelligent understanding, but that which postulates the existence and work of a Master Mind. This care of our God for His creatures is characteristic wherever we examine living things.

Without exception, they have been given remarkable defenses, many of them working without any help from the conscious mind of the individual, and far more promptly than would otherwise be possible.

How full of precious promises is the Word of God. Listen to some of them. They come to us with increasing power during these days of chaotic disorder and impending world dissolution. Today we need a *Friend*, and there is only *one* that “sticketh closer than a brother” and can be depended upon under all circumstances of need and danger.

“I will not fail thee nor forsake thee” (Josh. 1:5). “God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent: hath he said and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken and shall he not make it good?” (Num. 23:19). “The Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, who keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him” (Deut. 7:9). “He will ever be mindful of his covenant” (Psa. 111:5).

“Can a woman forget her sucking child that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee on the palms of my hands” (Isa. 49:15-16). “The Lord thy God in the midst of thee

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**BIBLE . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

Genesis 1:3, where light is created before the sun, and Second Peter 3:10-11, where Peter refers to the loosing of the component parts of matter. Dr. Harry Rimmer has offered a \$1,000 reward to anyone who can prove that the Bible contains a scientific error. This reward has been available for years, but it has never been taken. One Christian scholar has said, "The time has come to test scholarship in the light of the Bible, rather than to test the Bible in the light of scholarship."

Fourth, **because of its prophecy.** The first prophecy points to Christ (Genesis 3:15). Centuries after it was made, He fulfilled it. Look at Genesis 12:2-3. Joseph in a pit. Moses in a basket, Jonah in a fish. Daniel in a den; yet across four thousand years God has fulfilled His Word to this people in spite of plagues, persecutions, and pogroms. That which has been fulfilled supports our faith in that which is to be fulfilled: the rapture of the saints, the great tribulation, the millennial reign

of Christ, the judgment of the dead, the eternal woe of the lost and weal of the saved.

Fifth, **because of its unity.** Here sixty-six books, written by more than forty different authors over a period of fifteen hundred years, have the scarlet cord of divine redemption running through them. Here is a central person, our Lord Jesus Christ, who in Luke 24 showed His disciples the testimony of all the Scriptures to Himself.

Sixth, **because of its persistency.** Across hundreds of years, it has come to us, surviving all the attacks that have been made against it. This anvil has broken many hammers. It remains today the world's best seller and only light.

Seventh, **because of its potency.** It is able to make us wise unto salvation. We are born again by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever (1 Pet. 1:23). It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved (Jn. 5:24), and practice it to be holy.

— Watchman Examiner.

### Importance of Baptism

"To eliminate, modify, or soften the emphasis on baptism is to hide redemption's cost. One may be perfect on a thousand points of Biblical Theology, but if he is wrong on baptism he is not a Baptist.

— Dr. Earl Griffith in Daybreak.

## Ford Continues To Support Homosexuality

### Sales Plummet Once Again In April

Ford gives another \$10,000 to support homosexual marriage! Unyielding support for same-sex marriage grows with multiple hand-outs.

The Ford Motor Company has again financially expressed its support for homosexual activism by donating another \$10,000 to help efforts to legalize same-sex marriage. *Ford has signed on as a major sponsor of the 2007 PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) National Convention.*

According to PFLAG's own website, "PFLAG... supports revision of federal and state statutes to extend to persons in same-gender committed relationships the right to marry with the full legal rights and benefits."

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Ford continues to ignore the plea of hundreds of thousands of Ford customers to stop supporting homosexual activist groups:

Ford carried a full page ad in the nation's top homosexual magazines, *The Advocate* (April 24 issue) and *Out* (May 2007 issue).

Ford supports homosexuality not only in the U.S., but worldwide. Ford is listed as a main sponsor of the *2007 London Gay Pride Parade* and Festival

Ford, taking an in-your-face attitude, continues its support for homosexual marriage and the homosexual agenda by making yet another contribution to a homosexual event. Meanwhile, the Ford family is at odds with one another over company's future.

Ford has given \$10,000 to become a sponsor of the 2007 Out and Equal Workplace Summit to be held in Washington, DC, Sept. 27-29.

This follows our report to you just a couple weeks ago concerning Ford's \$10,000 contribution to sponsor the 2007 PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) National Convention. While Ford is losing billions and laying off scores of thousands of their employees, the company still has money to give to help promote homosexual marriage and the homosexual lifestyle. In April, Ford sales dropped 13% over the same period in 2006. This was the 10th month out of the last 12 (since AFA began the boycott) that Ford sales have been down.

Earlier this week, *Detroit News* reported that on April 21, Ford family members, including Ford chairman Bill Ford, Jr. held a "critical meeting on the

(See **FORD-1** on page 6)

(See **FORD-2** on page 6)



An Afghan Christian threatened with execution for leaving Islam has arrived safely in the West, but religious freedom campaigners remain concerned about the broader and enduring problem of the shari'a-mandated death penalty in parts of the Islamic world.

Heavy pressure was applied by Western countries, led by those that took

#### **FORD-1 . . .**

(Continued from page 5)

in England. Ford's Board of Directors, under Chairman Bill Ford, is unanimously urging shareholders to vote against a proposal to remove sexual orientation from its corporate policies. The vote will be held during its annual meeting on May 10.

Although Ford has suffered massive losses in seven consecutive business quarters, it persists in alienating its core customers with bad business decisions. — Donald E. Wildmon, Founder and Chairman American Family Association. □

## Shari'a Mandated Death Penalty

part in the U.S.-led campaign to topple the Taliban in 2001 or sent troops later, and which shore up the government of President Hamid Karzai.

Afghan officials said the case against Rahman, who reportedly became a Christian while working with an aid group outside his homeland, was dropped for lack of evidence and because of suspicions he may be mentally unwell.

On the day he flew to Italy, the Afghan parliament debated the case, protesting the convert's release and demanding that he not be allowed to leave the country. During the debate, lawmakers declared that not punishing Rahman violated shari'a, or Islamic law. According to a fatwa, or religious ruling, posted on the Islam Online website,

#### **FORD-2 . . .**

(Continued from page 5)

company's future." As controlling shareholders, Ford family members "highlighted differences within the family." While the article didn't specifically mention the boycott and Ford's continued support for homosexual marriage, it has had a deep impact on the company. — Donald E. Wildmon, Founder and Chairman American Family Association. □

"leaving Islam is the ugliest and the worst form of disbelief in Almighty Allah." How Moslems should treat an apostate (or "murtadd" in Arabic) is the subject of much debate. Some Islamic scholars focus on the words and actions of Mohammed, who was reported in the Hadith, or traditions of the prophet, to have said that anyone who abandons Islam should be killed. ...

Arie de Pater, advocacy spokesman for Open Doors, said the release of Rahman "leaves the [Afghan] constitution and the law unchanged, so that apostates remain under threat of being hanged."

Campaigners say the problem is not restricted to Afghanistan. "Minority Christians face severe and growing persecution in many Islamic nations including Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and elsewhere," Jim Jacobson of Christian Freedom International said earlier.

"This must be condemned at the highest levels wherever and whenever it occurs. There are former Muslims who now follow Jesus Christ in every country of the world, including others in Afghanistan," said the Barnabas Fund.

"For all of them Islam's apostasy law has implications. Though only a handful of countries have the death sentence for apostasy in their law, in every Muslim society there is a widespread knowledge of what shari'a says on this subject."

As a result, it said, converts face difficulties including harassment, rejection by their families and communities, official discrimination on a variety of pretexts, violence, and sometimes murder. — CNS

### 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 watch-dog 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

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**IRAQ . . .**

(Continued from page 6)

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 □ □

**The Old Paths**

I liked the old paths, when Moms were at home. Dads were at work. Brothers went into the army. And sisters got married *before* having children!

Crime did not pay. Hard work did. And people knew the difference.

Moms could cook; Dads would work; Children would behave. Husbands were loving; Wives were supportive; And children were polite. Women wore

the jewelry; and Men wore the pants. Women looked like ladies; Men looked like gentlemen; And children looked decent.

People loved the truth, And hated a lie; They came to church to get *in*, not to get *out*! Hymns sounded Godly; Sermons sounded helpful; Rejoicing sounded normal; And crying sounded sincere.

Cursing was wicked; drinking was evil; and divorce was unthinkable.

The flag was honored; America was beautiful; and God was welcome! We read the Bible in public; prayed in school; and preached from house to house.

To be called an American was worth dying for; to be called a Christian was worth living for; to be called a traitor was a shame!

Sex was a personal word. Homosexual was an unheard of word, and abortion was an illegal word.

Preachers preached because they had a message; and Christians rejoiced because they had the *victory*! Preachers preached from the Bible; singers sang from the heart; and sinners turned to the Lord to be *saved*! A new birth meant a new life; salvation meant a changed life; following Christ led to eternal life.

Being a preacher meant you proclaimed the word of God; being a deacon meant you would

serve the Lord; being a Christian meant you would live for Jesus; and being a sinner meant someone was praying for you!

Laws were based on the Bible; homes read the Bible; and churches taught the Bible.

Preachers were more interested in new converts, than new clothes and new cars. God was worshiped; Christ was exalted; and the Holy Spirit was respected.

Church was where you found Christians on the Lord's day, rather than in the garden, on the creek bank, on the golf course, or being entertained somewhere else.

I still like the old paths the best ! □ □

**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.

6. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

7. Do what you should, and you will have no time to do what you should not.

Remember the banana. When it left the bunch it got skinned. — Heb. 10:25

**The Anvil Of God's Word****By John Clifford**

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door  
And heard the anvil sing the vesper chime;  
Then, looking in, I saw upon the floor  
Old hammers, worn with blasting years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,  
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"  
"Just one," said he; and then, with twinkling eye,  
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so I thought, the anvil of God's Word  
For ages, skeptic blows have beat upon.  
Yet tho' the noise of falling blows was heard  
The anvil is unharmed — the hammers gone.



**Congress to Overrule the U.S. Supreme Court.** — What you think doesn't count. The will of the people? Forget about it. **That's how it seems, anyway.** A majority of Americans abhor the practice of partial-birth abortion — Congress passed a ban against it — the President signed it — the Supreme Court of the United States upheld it...Yet within minutes of that ruling, pro-abortion members of Congress raced to introduce a so-called "Freedom of Choice" Act which would totally reverse the decision of the people, the Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court. Not only that, but they made this new bill retroactive — so that the decision of the high court would evaporate! It didn't take long for the applause to start from the entire abortion lobby — the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, N.O.W., NARAL Pro-Choice America, and others. *Which means millions of dollars could flow into the campaign for this legislation.* For Senators Barbara Boxer, Hillary Clinton, Charles Schumer, and others to

## World News Roundup

introduce a bill (H.R. 1964 and S.1173) enshrining abortion into law is nothing less than a brazen, political move — but it is also extremely dangerous. This bill says the federal government cannot regulate abortion. Bottom line: It will enshrine abortion into law and completely decimate our efforts to eliminate it from America! — ACJU

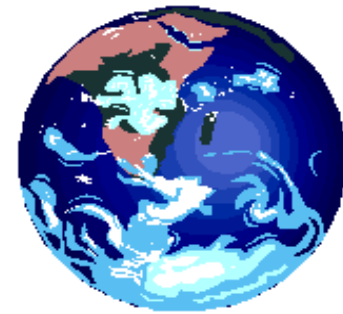
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**The Congress As Commander-in-Chief.** — For the first time in American history, the House of Representatives has informed the military that it knows more than the commander-in-chief about conducting a war. In doing so, this Congress also has notified the enemy when it should expect us to begin withdrawing our troops from Iraq — and precisely how many months it will take for complete withdrawal. If only the Congress had thought of this idea earlier — perhaps back in 1944 — we could have sent a telegram to the Germans that included the D-Day schedule. This certainly would have saved the United States Government a lot of money and saved the Nazis a lot of trouble.

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**Group Says "Hate**

**Crimes" Bill An Impending Threat To Christians.** — The head of a Washington-based pro-family group is urging opposition to federal "hate crimes" legislation she fears will soon be approved by the Democrat-led Congress — and that bill, she believes, threatens the free-speech rights of those who strongly oppose homosexuality. Representatives John Conyers (D - Michigan) and Mark Kirk (R - Illinois) have reintroduced the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The bill would include crimes against homosexuals, bisexuals, and transgenders in federal hate crimes statutes. Andrea Lafferty, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition (TVC), contends the ultimate goal of the bill is to silence anyone who believes homosexuality is a sin. "People need to understand that the hour is very, very late," Lafferty urges. "We now have a bill that give special protections to people who are homosexual, bisexual, transgendered, cross-dressers." She describes transgenders as individuals "who have had sex-change operations and are clearly very disturbed." According to Lafferty the bill would elevate homosexuals to a special protected status. "So if a pastor stands up in the pulpit and says



homosexuality is a sin ... it will be considered hate speech," she says; "and if this law passes, the federal government will go after people who say those kinds of things."

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**Update On The Ford Boycott Ford,** — DiversityInc Media, a top national homosexual activist organization promoting the homosexual lifestyle and same-sex marriage, has announced the winners in their ranking of corporations supporting the homosexual agenda. Ford Motor Company is ranked fifth highest in the nation of all companies and tops the list of automakers. DiversityInc says their list "demonstrates consistent strength in the four areas the survey measures: CEO Commitment (the most heavily weighted), Human Capital, Corporate Communications and Supplier Diversity." To be eligible for the top ranking, Ford had to apply by voluntarily submitting a detailed report, outlining their strong commitment to homosexuality. In fact,

(See **WNR** on page 11)

# La Voz Del Desierto



## ¿Por Qué Los Bautistas Rechazan Los Libros Apócrifos? — Parte 1

Por Hno. Félix M. González Bulgalá Redactor

La Biblia que usan los Bautistas se compone de 66 libros mientras que la Biblia que usan los católicos se compone de 73. ¿A qué se debe esto? Esto se debe a los 11 libros apócrifos conocidos también como los Deuterocanónicos que la Iglesia Católica añadió en el canon del Antiguo Testamento de su Biblia católica en el Concilio de Trento (1546). Sin embargo, son 14 libros “apócrifos” (que significa de origen dudoso, falsificados, espurios), los que se hallan en la traducción griega del Antiguo Testamento llamada la versión de los Setenta o Septuaginta (LXX). Estos libros son: **1)** Ira Esdras. **2)** 2da Esdras. **3)** Tobías. **4)** Judit. **5)** Ultima Parte de Ester. **6)** Sabiduría. **7)** Eclesiástico (también llamado “Sirach”). **8)** Baruc, con la Epístola de Jeremías. **9)** Cántico de los Tres Niños Santos. **10)** Historia de Susana. **11)** Bel y el Dragón. **12)** Oración de Manasés. **13)** 1ra Macabeos. **14)** 2da Ma-

cabeos. Pero de éstos, la Iglesia Católica aceptó solamente 11 de los libros que les convenía y no los 14 que contiene la versión de los Setenta (LXX). Los Bautistas sostenemos que nuestra Biblia está *completa*; pero los católicos afirman que le faltan libros. Sin embargo, el canon completo no tiene que ser el que más libros tenga sino el que tenga los libros que Dios inspiró.

La Iglesia Bautista tiene razones suficientes para creer que el canon completo es de 66 libros y más ninguno. Los libros inspirados que componen el Antiguo Testamento fueron escritos en hebreo, por profetas hebreos y dirigidos al pueblo hebreo (Romanos 9:4). Mientras que los Deuterocanónicos, es decir, los libros apócrifos, no fueron escritos en hebreo, ni por profetas hebreos inspirados por Dios. Nunca formaron parte del Antiguo Testamento hebreo y esta es una de las razones por la cual los judíos palestinos,

a quienes se les confió la Palabra de Dios, específicamente, el Antiguo Testamento (Romanos 3:1-2), también rechazan los libros apócrifos.

A pesar de esto los católicos insisten en sostener que los judíos palestinos rechazaron los libros apócrifos, a finales del siglo 1. Alegando que ya existía la Iglesia de Cristo, y por lo tanto, ya no eran los judíos la autoridad competente en materia de doctrina. Pero esto es *falso*. En los días de Esdras, por el año 457 a.C., los judíos ortodoxos (inclusive Israel) adoptaron los 39 libros del Antiguo Testamento como el canon verídico de las Sagradas Escrituras. Los hebreos siempre han creído que fue Esdras quien fijó, bajo inspiración divina, el canon o catálogo de los libros inspirados del Antiguo Testamento, y en términos generales, se puede decir que los libros apócrifos fueron escritos entre el año 150 a.C. y el año 100 d.C.

Por lo menos dos siglos después de la muerte de Esdras. Así lo declara Flavio Josefo, el más grande historiador judío de la era de los apóstoles (100 d.C.), enumerando solamente los libros que los judíos consideraban ser inspirados por Dios y que nada fue añadido al canon del Antiguo Testamento, excluyendo de esta manera los libros apócrifos.

Además, el Señor Jesucristo y los apóstoles citaron casi 300 veces del Antiguo Testamento, pero estos libros apócrifos *nunca* fueron citados en el Nuevo Testamento por Cristo, ni por sus apóstoles, aunque ya existían la mayoría de ellos. Los católicos claman que Cristo y sus apóstoles sí citaron diciendo que algunas enseñanzas de los Deuterocanónicos (libros apócrifos) son iguales a las enseñanzas del Nuevo Testamento. Pero en primer lugar las citas que (Vea APOC en la pág. 10)

## La Biblia Como La Unica Regla De Fe Y Práctica

Por C. L. Neal

Si todos los hombres en todas las épocas hubieran aceptado y seguido la Palabra de Dios como su única regla de fe y práctica, como debían haberlo hecho, no tendríamos en el día de hoy, mas que una sola denominación en el mundo. Debemos saber que la Iglesia no es la regla de fe y práctica, ni las ideas de algunos hombres sabios, sino la Biblia y sólo la Biblia.

La Iglesia no tiene derecho de hacer leyes y

doctrinas, porque tal cosa es contraria a las enseñanzas de la Palabra de Dios. Cristo confirmó esta doctrina cuando dio la Gran Comisión a Su Iglesia, y una parte es como sigue: “enseñándoles que guarden todas las cosas que os he mandado” (Mateo 28:20). En esta frase hay un mandamiento positivo, el que la Iglesia debe enseñar las cosas que Cristo ha mandado. No deja lugar para introducir ceremonias, tradiciones o mandamientos

de hombres, y los que hacen tales cosas son rebeldes y muestran el espíritu del error.

Es indiscutible que el Dios del cielo reconoció en Cristo el Legislador de Su iglesia cuando dijo en el monte de la transfiguración: “Este es mi Hijo amado, en quien tengo complacencia; a él oíd” (Mateo 17:5). No estamos bajo la obligación de escuchar y obedecer ninguna otra autoridad, en cuestiones religiosas, sino a Jesucristo. Acerca de esto mismo, Moisés profetizó a los hijos de Israel (Deuteronomio 18:15).

La exhortación de Pablo a Timoteo fue: “... que prediques la palabra” (2da Timoteo 4:2). Esta es una declaración que excluye toda predicación que no es la de la Palabra de Dios. Pablo explicó la razón por la cual se debía predicar por la Palabra de Dios: “*Toda la Escritura es inspirada por Dios, y útil para enseñar, para redargüir, para corregir, para instruir en justicia, a fin de que el hombre de Dios sea perfecto, enteramente preparado para toda buena obra*” (1ra Timoteo 3:16-17). Estos pasajes de la Biblia nos muestran verdaderamente que la Palabra de Dios es divinamente inspirada por Él. A Dios sea la gloria siempre.

### APOCRIFO . . .

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usan del Nuevo Testamento en *ninguna* de ellas hay *referencia* alguna de los Deuterocanónicos. En el Nuevo Testamento no son citados por nombre, ni por Cristo ni por sus apóstoles, aunque ya existían la mayoría de ellos; y si aún estuvieran en lo correcto, los escritores del Nuevo Testamento *no se refirieron a ellos como escrituras*. Pablo, por ejemplo, era un hombre tan culto y versado aun en la literatura griega, que hasta citó a los mismos autores clásicos (Hechos 17:28; 1ra Corintios 15:35; Tito 1:12); pero no por eso se deben considerar dichas obras como inspiradas divinamente.

También es sumamente importante el testimonio de Jesús con respecto al canon hebreo. Jesús se refiere a todo el Antiguo Testamento con la frase “*desde la sangre de Abel hasta la sangre de Zacarías*” (Mateo 23:35). Estos dos mártires se mencionan en Génesis 4:8-11 y 2da Crónicas 24:21. Génesis es el primer libro del canon hebreo, y Crónicas el último. En otras palabras, Jesús indicó que el canon del Antiguo Testamento abarca desde Génesis hasta Crónicas, lo que según nuestro orden de libros nosotros diríamos desde Génesis hasta Malaquías. Otro hecho además, que no puede ser pasado por alto es que Jesús también se refirió a todo el canon del Antiguo Testamento men-

cionando las tres primeras partes que la componen: “*La ley de Moisés, en los profetas y en los salmos*” (Lucas 24:44). Note que aquí Jesús tampoco incluyó estos libros apócrifos.

Por último, los mismos libros apócrifos afirman no ser inspirados. En el segundo libro de Macabeos 15:37-38 leemos: “*Yo también terminare aquí mismo mi relato. Si ha quedado bello y logrado en su composición, eso es lo que yo pretendía; si imperfecto y mediocre, he hecho cuanto me era posible*” (Biblia de Jerusalén). ¿Acaso la Palabra de Dios puede ser *mediocre e imperfecta*? De ninguna manera (Salmo 19:7-10; 1ra Pedro 1:23-25). De este versículo se ve que el escritor se atribuye a sí

mismo la autoría de dicha obra y que no está escribiendo por inspiración divina. Por lo tanto, ésto sólo es suficiente para aprobar que este libro no es inspirado divinamente. Es importante notar, que esta cita directa de uno de los apócrifos, se puede aplicar a todos los demás; ya que todos esos libros siempre se han manejado como un todo, un conjunto. Recordemos que, “*Toda palabra de Dios es limpia: Él es escudo a los que en él esperan. No añadas a sus palabras, para que no te reprenda. Y seas hallado mentiroso*” (Proverbios 30:5-6).

“Porque Jehová conoce el camino de los justos; Mas la senda de los malos perecerá.”

— Salmos. 1:6

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when announcing Ford as a top supporter, Diversity-Inc Co-founder Luke Visconti bragged that Ford Motor Company is on the list every year! The listing of CEO commitment as the most heavily weighted measure can be seen in the support Ford gives to the homosexual agenda. Chairman Bill Ford has cooperated fully with the homosexual groups, even to the point of renegeing on a pledge to AFA to drop some of their support. Ford agreed in November 2005 to stop some of their support for the homosexual agenda, then reneged after meeting with a group of angry homosexual activists. Ford's actions show they are more concerned with supporting the homosexual efforts than listening to their customers. Nearly 700,000 individuals have pledged to boycott Ford.

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**L.A. Gay Retirees Get First Low-cost Housing Units.** — The first low-cost housing development in the United States “aimed specifically at gay, lesbian and transgender retirees opened its doors in Hollywood on Thursday with a promise to provide a dignified haven for elderly homosexuals to live out their days.” About one third of the units are set aside “for low-income

older Americans with HIV/AIDS, those who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.” According to a University of California study LA has a population of 442,000 sodomites. Only New York has more. The almost twenty one million dollar project was paid for by the California taxpayer and LA city agencies which I assume also receive their money from the taxpayer. Sodomy is becoming more and more accepted and the taxpayer is going to pay the bill! Sodomy is an abominable sin in the sight of our holy God! “And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel” (1 Kings 14:24) — DCB

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**Evangelist Suspends Ministry After Extramarital Affair.** — Southern Baptist Evangelist Rick Ousley has admitted to an adulterous affair (the article called it an extra-marital affair) and consequently Ousley has “suspended his ministry and speaking engagements.” The statement he made to his former church, said that he had made “a moral and spiritual indiscretion with a woman not my wife.” Ousley has also stepped down as chaplain of the Samford University football team. He resigned from The Church of Brook Hills,

Birmingham, AL in May of 2005 after leading it from thirty members to over 4,000. Ousley has also been divorced once. This is the Laodicean condition of Christendom in the USA today! — DCB

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**New York Jewish Seminary Will Allow Gays, Lesbians.** — A so-called conservative New York Jewish seminary, The Jewish Theological Seminary, “has agreed to admit gays and lesbians who want to become rabbis, but declined to take a stand on whether rabbis should officiate at same-sex unions.” The seminary commissioned a survey which showed “65 percent of Conservative rabbis in favor of allowing gay and lesbian rabbis and cantors compared to 28 percent who were opposed.” In early March, 2007 the “conservative” “Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles — began accepting gay and lesbian applicants.” The pressing issue now for Jewish congregations and rabbis “is whether they are going to do commitment ceremonies.” — DCB

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**Lawmakers Urge Americans To Pray For Nation.** — A group of lawmakers who meet each week to pray in the U.S.

Capitol called on the American people Wednesday to join them in praying for the country. However, supporters of a so-called separation between church and state said the lawmakers should “stop meddling in religion and get back to work.” “There is an enormous power in prayer,” Rep. Randy Forbes (R-Va.) told a news conference outside the U.S. Capitol. “This is a crucial time for those who believe in the power to pray that God would heal our land and sustain our nation.” The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, a group of lawmakers led by Forbes that holds a weekly prayer meeting in the Capitol, has launched a website asking Americans to commit to pray for five minutes every week. “Our nation faces enormous challenges that seem to grow daily,” Forbes said, calling on Americans of all faiths to “build a spiritual prayer wall around America that will go 24 hours a day, seven days a week.” Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-N.C.) asked Americans to “pray for our Congress and to pray for our nation — no matter what your religious background or political affiliation — to pray for our country and pray for those who are seeking to lead our country, for wisdom.” “We know we’re promised in scripture that if you ask for wisdom, God will grant it, and we

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want to ask for that wisdom," he said, adding that "there are no limitations to prayer, no limitations to what God can do as we seek wisdom and guidance for our country." While more than two dozen lawmakers — mostly Southern Republicans — took turns praising the power of prayer on the Capitol grounds, proponents of a separation between church and state criticized them for mixing religion and politics." Congressional meddling in religion is an affront to the First Amendment principle of church-state separation," Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said in a statement. "Religion is too important to become a political football." Lynn said there are "a host of political issues of utmost importance to Americans. Rep. Forbes and other members of Congress should work on those and leave decisions about religion to the American people." — CNS

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**Street Preacher Jailed For Not Obtaining A License.** — Street preacher Billy Ball was arrested and jailed on March 24 after receiving repeated citations for preaching without a license from the city of Hen-

dersonville, North Carolina. He was charged with "use of sidewalks and streets for sermon" in violation of the city's public demonstrations' ordinance that requires permission from the police chief ("Law-testing Street Preaching Lands in Jail," Times-News, Hendersonville, March 24, 2007). The ordinance states: "No person shall deliver a sermon, lecture, address or discourse ... on the streets, alleys, sidewalks, public squares or any public grounds of the city without having first obtained the written permission of the chief of police." Ball, a 46-year-old preacher, rightly protests that his Constitutional liberties are being violated by this ordinance restricting free speech and the free exercise of religion in public places. One thing that Police Chief Donnie Parks seems to object to is Balls' display of a sign that reads: "Three gay rights: AIDS, hell, salvation." Parks said it is wrong to use "any terminology that is inflammatory to the general public, such as making reference to sexual orientation or race in offensive terms or a derogatory nature" ("Street Preacher Vows to Bring More Protesters to Challenge Law," Times-News, March 23). I would not personally hold up such a sign, because that is not the way I practice evangelism; but it is not wrong and Ball certainly has the right to

free speech and to the free, unrestricted exercise of his religion. We pray that the courts will rule constitutionally on this matter as opposed to ruling by the whim of Political Correctness. — FBIS

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**Hostage Drill At NJ School Features Mock "Christian Terrorists".**

— The head of a national, Texas-based pro-family group says a recent hostage drill at a New Jersey high school, which portrayed conservative Christians as terrorists, is reflective of a dangerous philosophy that has become prevalent in many parts of America, where it is having negative effects on education. A local paper reports that a drill at Burlington Township High School in New Jersey involved police portraying mock gunmen, described as "members of a right-wing fundamentalist group called the 'New Crusaders' who don't believe in the separation of church and state." The fake gunmen were said to have been "seeking justice because the daughter of one [member] had been expelled for praying before class." Historian and constitutional expert David Barton is president of WallBuilders, a national pro-family organization that distributes historical, legal, and statistical information and helps citizens become

active in their local schools and communities. He says the stereotyping used in the high school's drill is an accurate indicator of what is being taught in public schools in the Northeast region of the country.

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**Ethiopian Christian Evangelist Beaten To Death In Muslim Mosque.**

— Christians in southeast Ethiopia face increased violence and tension as Muslims recently beat an evangelist to death. Last week, an Ethiopian evangelist named Tedase was beaten and killed by Muslims as he and two young women were taking part in street witnessing. While the women escaped, witnesses say Muslims chased the man, caught up with him, pulled him into a mosque, and attacked him. Sara Jennings with International Christian Concern (ICC) says such attacks are not new throughout southeast Ethiopia, which many people believe is a Christian nation. "[But] Muslim extremism has really become a stronghold there," she explains. "Six months ago, in September, there were people attacked in Jima," she shares, adding that "a number of Christian homes, churches, and orthodox parishes were burned down — at least 2,000 people were displaced during that inci-

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dent.” According to Jennings, Saudi Arabia is responsible for much of the violence in the east African nation. That oil-rich nation, she says, is “funneling a large amount of money” into Ethiopia to build mosques. “And not just to build mosques,” she adds, “but to finance training centers where very extremist ideologies are taught to young people, which really breeds hate.” Evangelical church leaders say if police ignore Tadase’s death, it will empower radical Muslims and encourage them to attack Christians without fear of retribution. The ICC recently included Ethiopia in its “Hall of Shame” list, which highlights countries where Christians are enduring harsh persecution.

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**Persecution Against Christians Spreads Throughout India.** — An official with Voice of the Martyrs says persecution against Christians continues to increase throughout India. In one recent example, a mob of Hindus in Rajasthan took a church leader hostage as he headed home from a village where he had been visiting Christians and praying for the sick. And in another incident, two Christian evangelists in the Indian state of Kerala were beaten

as they returned from a gospel meeting. They were also arrested and jailed on a complaint of forcible conversion filed by their attackers.

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**Muslims Kill Christians In Ethiopia and Nigeria.** — Two Christians were murdered in Ethiopia and Nigeria the last week of March. In Gombe, Nigeria, on March 21, Muslim students lynched a female Christian teacher to death after accusing her of desecrating the Koran (Berean Call, March 30). On March 26 an Ethiopian preacher named Tedase, who was sharing the gospel on a public street, was murdered. He was walking in front of a Wahabbi Mosque in the town of Jimma when a group of Muslims confronted him, pulled him into the mosque, and savagely beat him to death (“Evangelist Beaten to Death,” Christian Post, March 30, 2007). There is speculation that the murder was an effort to scare Christians in the area who are in the midst of an evangelism campaign. International Christian Concern, a persecution watchdog organization, ranks Ethiopia 3rd in its “Hall of Shame” list of the world’s top ten persecutors of Christians. — FBIS

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**Congressman Admits**

**Atheism.** — U.S. Rep. Pere Stark, a Democrat from the San Francisco Bay area, has become the highest elected official and the first congressman to declare himself an atheist, according to a statement he provided on the Associated Press. The Secular Coalition for America had offered a \$1,000 prize to the person who could identify the “highest level atheist, agnostic, humanist or any other kind of non-theist currently holding elected public office in the United States,” AP said. “I look forward to working with the Secular Coalition to stop the promotion of narrow religious beliefs in science, marriage contracts, the military and the provision of social services,” Stark wrote, adding that he is “a Unitarian who does not believe in a supreme being.” Stark, who began serving in Congress in 1973, was nominated as America’s highest level atheist by a member of American Atheists California. — ABN

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**Court To Hear Arguments On Whether An Abortion Ends Human Life.** — A federal appeals court will hear arguments Wednesday in a potentially groundbreaking case that — for the first time, according to attorneys — addresses the question of whether an abortion

terminates a human being’s life. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit in St. Louis will consider a 2005 South Dakota law that requires abortionists to tell women that their abortion will terminate the life of a living human being. The judges will hear Planned Parenthood’s claim that a “statute designed to protect the rights, interests and health of pregnant women violates the abortion doctors’ right of free speech,” said attorney Harold J. Cassidy, who is representing pro-life pregnancy help centers which have joined the state as defendants in the case.” Planned Parenthood has argued that the harm to the rights of these pregnant women was outweighed by the alleged harm to the interests of the abortion doctors,” he said. — CNS

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**From ‘Rock Star’ To Pariah: Conservative Teacher Sues University.** — An academic who received awards for excellence and produced several peer-reviewed publications said he fell from grace when he began espousing “religious beliefs and [a] conservative political viewpoint” and is now suing his university for denying him promotion. Criminologist Mike Adams has filed suit against the University of North Caro-

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lina-Wilmington, saying the school refused to promote him because his superiors disagreed with his religious and political beliefs. According to the complaint filed on Monday, Adams was hired to teach at UNCW in 1993 and has served as an associate professor since 1998. During his tenure, he was named "Faculty Member of the Year" three times and generated research resulting in 10 peer-reviewed publications. Adams applied for full professorship in 2004, but the then-interim chair of the department — who was known as an outspoken feminist with leftist political leanings — raised concerns about Adams' "political activity" and reprimanded him for his weekly nationally syndicated column. In 2005, Dr. Kimberly Cook took over the school's Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. An outspoken atheist said to have openly criticized Christianity, Cook described to a recruitment committee her ideal candidate for a teaching position as "a lesbian with spiked hair and a dog collar." Adams completed his 11th peer-reviewed publication in 2006 and again applied for full professorship. But during a closed-door meeting on Sept. 14, Cook and senior faculty members decided not to promote him,

according to the complaint. — CNS

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### Episcopal Church Loses Its Property.

— The Redeemer Anglican Church of Jacksonville, Florida, has lost its property because of a lawsuit filed against it by the liberal Episcopal Church in America. The church voted in January to leave the denomination over the issues of theological liberalism and homosexuality. John Howard, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida, ignored a call from the Archbishop of Canterbury to suspend litigation over property. It takes conviction and courage to walk away from a denominational structure, and conviction and courage are sorely lacking in Christianity today. We would urge these Episcopalians to use this occasion to take many other steps, going all of the way back to the biblical pattern for the church, to aregenerate church membership, to believer's baptism by immersion, to the Lord's Supper as a simple memorial meal, to the autonomous assembly, to the simple office of pastor/elder/bishop, to the priesthood of the believers, to church discipline. — FBIS

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### Wiccan Star OK'd For Soldiers' Graves.

The Wiccan pentacle has been added to the list of emblems allowed in national cemeteries and on government issued headstones of fallen soldiers, according to a settlement announced Monday. A settlement between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Wiccans adds the five pointed star to the list of "emblems of belief" allowed on VA grave markers. Eleven families nationwide are waiting for grave markers with the pentacle, said Selena Fox, a Wiccan high priestess with Circle Sanctuary in Barneveld, Wis., a plaintiff in the lawsuit. The settlement calls for the pentacle, whose five points represent earth, air, fire, water and spirit, to be placed on grave markers within 14 days for those who have pending requests with the VA. The VA sought the settlement in the interest of the families involved and to save taxpayers the expense of further litigation, VA spokesman Matt Burns said. The agency also agreed to pay \$225,000 in attorneys' fees and costs.

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### Texas Courthouse Bible Display Dealt Legal Setback.

— A federal appeals court Tuesday let stand an earlier ruling that a monument outside a courthouse in Houston, Texas, violated the so-called separation of church and state, because

the display contained a Bible. A group of local pastors vowed to continue fighting "the anti-religious bigots who initiated this case." After a member of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State initiated a complaint, U.S. District Judge Sim Lake in August 2004 ordered Harris County officials to remove a King James Version Bible from a lighted glass display case in a four-foot-high stone monument outside the civil courts building. The county was also ordered to pay \$41,000 in court costs and attorney fees

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### Einstein Struggled With God.

— The following is from the Kathmandu Post, April 18, 2007: "Walter Isaacson, the biographer of Ben Franklin and Henry Kissinger, is tackling Albert Einstein in his new book Einstein: His Life and Universe. According to Isaacson, Einstein, arguably the greatest scientist of the 20th century, struggled with God. Isaacson: 'You know, he was at a dinner party once in Berlin, and everybody assumed he was an atheist and he said, "No. I have a deep feeling of faith, a deep religiosity that comes from my appreciation of the way the Lord made the universe," and everybody was stunned. He said he

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was like a child walking into a library, and you see the books and you know somebody must have written them, and you see them ordered and you know somebody must have ordered them, and there's a sense of awe that's manifest in that, where you kind of understand that there's an order underlying everything and the more you appreciate it, the more humble you become in the face of it, and the more you have a sense of what he called cosmic religion. In some ways, his belief in God, that God had created an orderly universe, informed his science. He believed that underlying everything, there are laws." What Einstein expressed in the previous statement is called "Intelligent Design" today. The existence of a clock testifies to a clockmaker. Such reasonable and truly scientific thinking is ridiculed by most of today's evolutionary scientists, who think of themselves as so much advanced over their benighted predecessors. It is sad that Einstein did not follow the light of creation, which testifies of God's existence, to the greater light of the Bible, which testifies of God's glorious salvation in Jesus Christ.

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**"Emergent" Southern**

**Baptist Churches Rocking In Tucson.** — KVOA television in Tucson, Arizona, ran a report last month on "non-traditional churches booming in Tucson." The Southern Baptist Convention is planting churches in this city with names such as "The Journey," "City Edge," "The Element," and "Epic." The music is rock & roll, the atmosphere is "non-threatening," and the message is positive. Sean Benesh, a "church planting strategist" for the Southern Baptist Convention's southern Arizona association, said they hope to open eight new churches this year. Jeremiah McDuffie, who is starting a church called The Element, said the music is "modeled after popular radio stations," testifying that "be not conformed to the world" is irrelevant to their program. Mary Ann Schneider, who attended a service at The Element, said: "Traditional church scares people. ... People don't want to be judged" ("Non-traditional Baptist Churches Booming in Tucson," KVOA.com). She also said that people don't like "pulpit pounding." The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has 221 church planters working in the USA and Canada. Obviously they aren't starting scriptural churches. It is impossible to bring the world's music into the church and to provide a non-judgmental message and be scriptural.

Jesus Christ preached on hell frequently and warned people to repent before it is too late. "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Jesus Christ, Luke 13:3). Nothing is more "judgmental" and "threatening" and "pulpit pounding" than preaching on repentance and hell. — FBIS

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**Legislators In California Pushing Anti-spanking Bill.** — Democrats on a legislative committee in California have advanced a plan that would make criminals of any parent who uses "a stick, a rod, a switch" to discipline their child ("Parents Who Spank Being Made Criminals," WorldNetDaily, April 19, 2007). The proposal is by California Assemblywoman Sally Lieber of Mountain View. Randy Thomasson, president of Campaign for Children and Families, warns: "AB755 biases police officers, social workers, district attorneys and juries to regard traditional methods of child discipline as hateful, harmful abuse. This irresponsible committee has passed a very irresponsible bill. Since juries already have broad authority to convict and sentence child abusers, AB755 is unnecessary. The real purpose of the bill is to transform good parents who use traditional methods of discipline into suspected

child abusers in the eyes of the law." According to the bill, a parent who spansks his or her child will be placed on probation for four years, forced to attend a "nonviolent parental education class," and be the subject of a criminal court order "protecting the victim from further acts of violence." — FBIS

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**Record Number of Abortions.** — "A preview of the latest annual report from the Planned Parenthood Federation of America shows that the nation's largest abortion business is doing more abortions than ever before," said a recent LifeNews article. "The report indicates PPFA affiliates across the country did 264,943 abortions in 2005 alone, increase of 3.9% over 2004. ... The nonprofit organization's income is rapidly approaching the \$1 billion mark and it generated an estimated \$100 million from doing abortions in 2005.

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**U.S. Army Base Broadcasting Muslim Prayers.** — The U.S. Army base at Fort Riley, Kansas, is broadcasting Muslim prayers five times a day over its loud speaker system. When challenged about the practice, which began about two months

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ago, the Army said it is preparing troops heading to Iraq and Afghanistan. Dub Skidmore, of the Public Affairs Office at the post, says that the soldiers must be immersed in Islamic culture (OneNewsNow, May 9, 2007). In fact, Islamic prayers are purely religious, and Baptist prayers would doubtless not be allowed. Sarah Holler, whose husband has been stationed at Fort Riley for about five years, protests: "My kids are subjected to it, I'm subjected to it, and spouses and soldiers that aren't getting deployed are being subjected to it. And one of my concerns is actually that soldiers who have already been deployed to Iraq are coming home and hearing it in their own country." For an American Army base to broadcast Islamic prayers is certainly ridiculous and probably unconstitutional.

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### 26% Of Young U.S. Muslims Say Violence OK.

— Are the mainstream media giving the public an accurate view of radical Islam? According to a new poll by the New York Post, one of four young Muslims in the U.S. believe suicide bombings against innocent civilians are OK. The nationwide survey, one of the most exhaustive ever conducted

of American Muslim attitudes, found that more than 60% are very concerned Islamic extremism will grow in America. There are an estimated 2.35 million Muslims in the U.S. Thirteen percent said suicide bombings and other violence against civilians can be justified "in order to defend Islam from its enemies." Among those under the age of 30, that 13% doubled to 26%. — AFA

\* \* \*

### No Change of Religion In Malaysia.

— Lima Joy, 43, a Malaysian woman who lost a court battle to change her religion from Islam to Christianity, suggested that she is considering leaving Malaysia rather than stay without the right to practice the religion of her choice, saying in a statement, "It would be extremely difficult to exercise freedom of conscience in the present environment." — Ark. Dem./Gaz.

### Alcoholism Is A Sin

If there is one thing above all others that the present-day liquor-backed educational program is stressing, it is that "alcoholism is a disease". The liquor business has more than one trick up its sleeve in making such a classification. As this "disease" idea is getting a foothold in this country, all

sorts of unheard-of things are coming to pass. Our governments, state and federal, are being urged to appropriate funds to provide medical care for those afflicted with this dread ailment. The public is appealed to for financial assistance, and insurance benefits are sought under disability policies.

Alcoholism is being classed with diabetes, tuberculosis and cancer, and unless we come to our senses and prevent it, some day the radio, television and press will announce to the gullible public — "Your dimes have made our drives to exterminate polio, cancer and tuberculosis a success. We now appeal to you to give your dollars to stamp out alcoholism" (while retaining alcohol).

The Bible makes it very clear that no drunkard shall inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. What keeps people out of Heaven? Sin. Therefore, alcoholism is a SIN. *Nowhere in the Bible do we read that persons suffering from diabetes, tuberculosis or cancer shall not go to Heaven.* In fact these diseases may be the means of getting them

there sooner than they anticipate. Thus we conclude that alcoholism has no business in the column labeled "disease".

Another reason for making "alcoholism" a "disease" instead of a sin is to relieve both the liquor industry and the drunkard of the uncomfortable feeling that accompanies wrongdoing. Moderate drinking is to be regarded as a sign of good breeding, dignity and refinement. However, if the moderate drinker, because of the habit-forming quality of alcohol eventually finds himself a slave to the bottle, he must then be comforted by being assured that he is not a sinner, but is only suffering from a "disease", for which he is not responsible. The liquor gang is hereby also attempting to excuse its own waywardness. Even the name "alcoholic" is intended to nullify the sting inherent in the term "drunkard".

This whole wicked mess has been elevated to a dignified, respectable plane by a gang of racketeers whose greed for gold is insatiable. □

**"The Baptists are perhaps the only Christian sect in which a Christian of the first century would not find himself out of place."**

Orpheus, *A History of Religions* by Salomon Reinach, pg., 390.

Translated from the French, May 20, 1929  
English edition 1930.

## The Refiner's Fire

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining Silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then

she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy — when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you. □

## We Were Drugged

Bless our parents who drugged us!!!

The other day, someone at a store in our town read that a methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county and he asked me a rhetorical question, "Why didn't we have drug problems when you and I were growing up?" I replied: I had a drug problem when I was young:

I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals.

I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults.

I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best

effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profane four letter word.

I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and flowerbeds and cockleburrs out of dad's fields.

I was drug to the homes of family, friends, and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood; and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins; and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, and think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin; and, if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place! □

### What Is Antinomianism?

The meaning of "Antinomianism" has been set forth by one writer as follows: "In its most extreme sense, it denotes the rejection of the moral law as no longer binding upon Christians; and a power of privilege is asserted for the saints to do what they please without prejudice to their sanctity; it being maintained that to them nothing is sinful; and this is represented as the perfection of Christian liberty."

Antinomianism is identified with Johann Agricola, who was originally a disciple and friend of Luther. His heretical views brought him under sharp attack by Luther and, in 1540, Agricola recanted and pledged himself to teach in conformity with the Church of Wittenberg. It was a heresy with which the Wesleys and Whitefield also had to deal in England. — The Fundamental Fellowship.

# 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?" (Matt. 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" (Isaiah 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" (Isaiah 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" (Jeremiah 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" (Matthew 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" (John 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" (John 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" (Revelation 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" (Matthew 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" (Matthew 9:18).

"Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of

God" (Matthew 14:33).

"Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me" (Matthew 15:25). "Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him" (Matthew 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" (Matthew 28:9). "And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him" (John 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" (Philippians 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 is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is

(See **DEITY** on page 19)

**DEITY . . .**

(Continued from page 18)

Christ the Lord” (Luke 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” (John 9:35-38).

**Thomas called Him God.** “And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God” (John 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 John 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 John 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” (Philippians 2:5-6).

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born 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” (Hebrews 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. □ □

## The Bible

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter.

Here paradise is re-

stored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.

It is given you in life, will be open in the judgment, and will be remembered for ever.

It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents. □ □

### Too many parents are not on spanking terms with their children.

“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. — Proverbs 13:24



**John Bunyan in Bedford Jail 1667. His blind child leaving him for the night.**

John Bunyan was a Baptist preacher, a pious man, and a man well-beloved by all who knew him. John Bunyan was incarcerated in the Bedford jail in England. The following account is taken directly from a transcript of the trial on October 3, 1660, that led to his imprisonment at Bedford:

\* \* \*

**Judge Wingate:** “Mr. Bunyan, you stand before this Court accused of persistent and willful transgression of the Conventicle Act, which prohibits all British subjects from absenting themselves from worship in the Church of England, and from conducting worship services apart from our Church. You come, presumably, with no legal training, and yet without counsel. I must warn you, sir, of the gravity of the charge, the harshness of the penalty, in the event

of your conviction, and the foolhardiness of acting as your own counsel in so serious a matter.

“I hold in my hand the depositions of the witnesses against you. In each case, they have testified that, to their knowledge, you have never, in your adult life, attended services in the Church of this parish. Each further testifies that he has observed you, on numerous occasions, conducting religious exercises in and near Bedford.”

**John Bunyan:** “The depositions speak the truth. I have never attended services in the Church of England, nor do I intend ever to do so. Secondly, it is no secret that I preach the Word of God whenever, wherever, and to whomever He pleases to grant me opportunity to do so. I have no choice but to acknowledge my awareness of the law which I am accused of transgressing. Likewise, I have no choice but to

## The Protestant Trial and Incarceration of John Bunyan

confess my guilt in my transgression of it. As true as these things are, I must affirm that I neither regret breaking the law, nor repent of having broken it. Further, I must warn you that I have no intention in the future of conforming to it.”

**Judge Wingate:** “It is obvious, sir, that you are a victim of deranged thinking. If my ears deceive me not, I must infer from your words that you believe the State to have no interest in the religious life of its subjects.”

**John Bunyan:** “The State, M’lord, may have an interest in anything in which it wishes to have an interest. But the State has no right whatever to interfere in the religious life of its citizens.”

**Judge Wingate:** “The evidence I hold in my hand, even apart from your own admission of guilt, is sufficient to convict you, and the Court is within its rights to have you committed to prison for a considerably long time. I do not wish to send you to prison, Mr. Bunyan. I am aware of the poverty of your family, and I believe you have a little daughter

who, unfortunately, was born blind. Is this not so?”

**John Bunyan:** “It is, M’lord.”

**Judge Wingate:** “Very well. The decision of the Court is this: In as much as the accused has confessed his guilt, we shall follow a merciful and compassionate course of action. We shall release him on the condition that he swear solemnly to discontinue the convening of religious meetings, and that he affix his signature to such an oath prior to quitting the Courtroom. That will be all, Mr. Bunyan. I hope not to see you here again. May we hear the next case?”

**John Bunyan:** “M’lord, if I may have another moment of the Court’s time?”

**Judge Wingate:** “Yes, but you must be quick about it. We have other matters to attend to. What is it?”

**John Bunyan:** “I cannot do what you ask of me, M’lord. I cannot place my signature upon any document in which I promise henceforth not to preach.

(See **BUNYAN** on page 21)

**BUNYAN . . .**

(Continued from page 20)

My calling to preach the Gospel is from God, and He alone can make me discontinue what He has appointed me to do. As I have had no word from Him to that effect, I must continue to preach, and I shall continue to preach."

**Judge Wingate:** "I warn you, sir, the Court has gone the second mile to be lenient with you, out of concern for your family's difficult straits. Truth to tell, it would appear that the Court's concern for your family far exceeds your own. Do you wish to go to prison?"

**John Bunyan:** "No, M'lord. Few things there are that I would wish less."

**Judge Wingate:** "Very well, then, Mr. Bunyan. This Court will make one further attempt in good faith to accommodate what appears to be strongly held convictions on your part. In his compassion and beneficence, our Sovereign, Charles II, has made provision for dissenting preachers to hold some limited meetings. All that is required is that such ministers procure licenses authorizing them to convene these gatherings.

"You will not find the procedure burdensome (author's note: It is always less burdensome to comply and compromise than it is take a stand.), and even

you, Mr. Bunyan, must surely grant the legitimacy of the State's interest in ensuring that any fool with a Bible does not simply gather a group of people together and begin to preach to them. Imagine the implications were that to happen! Can you comply with this condition, Mr. Bunyan?

"Before you answer, mark you this: should you refuse, the Court will have no alternative but to sentence you to a prison term. Think, sir, of your poor wife. Think of your children, and particularly of your pitiful, sightless little girl. Think of your flock, who can hear you to their hearts' content when you have secured your licenses. Think on these things, and give us your answer, sir!"

**John Bunyan:** "M'lord, I appreciate the Court's efforts to be as you have put it — accommodating. But again, I must refuse your terms. I must repeat that it is God who constrains me to preach, and no man or company of men may grant or deny me leave to preach. These licenses of which you speak, M'lord, are symbols not of a right, but of a privilege. Implied therein is the principle that a mere man can extend or withhold them according to his whim. I speak not of privileges, but of rights.

Privileges (licenses) granted by men may be denied by men. Rights are granted by God, and can be legitimately denied by no man. I must therefore, refuse to comply."

**Judge Wingate:** "Very well, Mr. Bunyan. Since you persist in your intractability, and since you reject this Court's honest effort at compromise, you leave us no choice but to commit you to Bedford jail for a period of six years (which ultimately proved to cost Bunyan twelve years of his life behind bars). "If you manage to survive, I should think that your experience will correct your thinking. If you fail to survive, that will be unfortunate. In any event, I strongly suspect that we have heard the last we shall ever hear from Mr. John

Bunyan. Now, may we hear the next case?"

Of course, neither Judge Wingate nor the world had heard the last of John Bunyan, for during his lengthy incarceration in the old Bedford jail, with his Bible as his constant companion and guide, Bunyan gave to the world the epic *Pilgrim's Progress*, arguably the greatest literary work in the history of the world next to the Bible.

Bunyan was denied pen and paper, and *Pilgrim's Progress* was written with pieces of charcoal from the fire that kept his body warm on the paper wads used as stoppers in the milk bottles from which he drank.

— from **Purified Seven Times** by Evangelist Bill Brady, p. 89 - 92

### According to A. T. Robertson

"Let us not be weary in well doing" (Gal. 1:9). Dr. A. T. Robertson, the Great Southern Baptist Greek scholar translated it this way: "Let us not keep on giving in to evil while doing good." This is the literal translation.

Most Southern Baptists are doing some good, but the trouble is, they are giving in to evil while they are doing good.

They seem to think that, if an evil has a Southern Baptist label on it, then it is a nice little evil, and won't hurt anybody. But God's plain command is for us to not give in to evil while we are doing good.

An evil is just as black in the eyes of the Lord when it carries a Baptist label as when it carries some other label, or no label.

## The Plan

Robin Williams, wearing a shirt that says "I love New York" in Arabic. You gotta love Robin Williams... Even if he's nuts! Leave it to Robin Williams to come up with the perfect plan. What we need now is for our UN Ambassador to stand up and repeat this message. Robin Williams' plan ... (Hard to argue with this logic!) "I see a lot of people yelling for peace but I have not heard of a plan for peace. So, here's one

plan.

1) "The US will apologize to the world for our "interference" in their affairs, past & present. You know, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Tojo, Noriega, Milosevic, Hussein, and the rest of those "good ole boys", we will never "interfere" again.

2) We will withdraw our troops from all over the world, starting with Germany, South Korea, the Middle East, and the Philippines. They don't want us there. We would station troops at our

borders. No one allowed sneaking through holes in the fence.

3) All illegal aliens have 90 days to get their affairs together and leave. We'll give them a free trip home. After 90 days the remainder will be gathered up and deported immediately, regardless of whom or where they are. They're illegal!!! France will welcome them.

4) All future visitors will be thoroughly checked and limited to 90 days unless given a special permit! No one from a terrorist nation will be allowed in. If you don't like it there, change it yourself and don't hide here. Asylum would never be available to anyone. We don't need any more cab drivers or 7-11 cashiers.

5) No foreign "students" over age 21. The older ones are the bombers. If they don't attend classes, they get a "D" and it's back home baby.

6) The US will make a strong effort to become self-sufficient energy wise. This will include developing non-polluting sources of energy but will require a temporary drilling of oil in the Alaskan wilderness. The caribou will have to cope for a while.

7) Offer Saudi Arabia and other oil producing countries \$10 a barrel for

their oil. If they don't like it, we go someplace else. They can go somewhere else to sell their production. (About a week of the wells filling up the storage sites would be enough.)

8) If there is a famine or other natural catastrophe in the world, we will not "interfere." They can pray to Allah or whomever, for seeds, rain, cement or whatever they need. Besides most of what we give them is stolen or given to the army. The people who need it most get very little, if anything.

9) Ship the UN Headquarters to an isolated island someplace. We don't need the spies and fair weather friends here. Besides, the building would make a good homeless shelter or lockup for illegal aliens.

10) All Americans must go to charm and beauty school. That way, no one can call us "Ugly Americans" any longer. The Language we speak is **English** ... learn it ... or **leave**.

Now, isn't that a winner of a plan?" The Statue of Liberty is no longer saying "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses." She's got a baseball bat and she's yelling, 'you want a piece of me?'" -- Copied from the Internet. □ □

## 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

**Time is more valuable than money  
because time is irreplaceable**

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."  
Ephesians 5:16

**BATTLE . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

cognized as a true one” (Neander, Vol. 12, p. 318-319).

Fifteen hundred and seventy-three years go by, and in 1773 a colony of Baptists was established in what was then known as the wilds of Georgia, of which Reverend Lewis of Margate, England, said: “These are the descendants of Moravian AnaBaptists in the new plantation of Georgia.” Note this significant fact: the first church established in Georgia was known as the *Kioka Ana-Baptist Church*.

Fifteen hundred and seventy-three years, and now, 1753 years, and Baptists still battling over, this ancient question!

Recently, I received the following statement from one of our leading Baptist editors of the South: “I am making another study of your great book — **Alien Baptism and the Baptists**. All Baptists and teachers especially — should have it close at hand for study and reference. Unquestionably, there is a gradual drifting away from the historic Baptist position, and the process has gone much farther than some suspect. The logic of Alien Baptism, in my judgement, leads to every other form of compromise.”

This indicates that the battle has shifted from the outside to the inside.

Dr. Whitsitt, who was

regarded as the historian of the early Baptists of Tennessee, called the receiving of alien immersion by some churches a “modern innovation.” Just before he died, he wrote an able paper on “Alien Baptism” for the Southern Baptist Review. Among other things he said: “We object to receiving the baptism of Pedo-baptists because we think it a dangerous innovation. We have no recollection that the history of the Baptists furnishes an example of the kind, and we are well assured that the common sense and the piety of the Baptists were as strong one hundred years ago as they are now. We say again, we think this is a dangerous innovation.”

So also speaks Dr. Cone, who in the early days was pastor of the First Baptist Church of New York City. Alas, alas! what would they think today if they could see this heresy rampant in the North, and invading the South also where we are establishing seminaries for the education of preachers with a neutral position on this vital doctrine of our fathers!

We are glad to note that in certain quarters the battle is still going on. In the minutes of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma for the year 1949, appears the following which was adopted:

“Be it resolved that the words Baptist Churches which appear in article II,

section I, (of the constitution defining the membership of the body) be interpreted to mean churches that are sound in faith and practice, and, be it further resolved, that churches that accept alien immersion, practice open communion, or affiliate with the Federal Council, World Council, or any similar unionizing organization, shall be considered unsound in faith and practice.”

I now quote from the annual of the Arkansas Convention of the same year, 1949: “Be it resolved: That the Convention refuse to seat any messenger from any church that accepts alien immersion, practices open communion, or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, or any other organization similar to, or growing out of such.”

One or two questions in conclusion, before I close this article. Were our Baptist fathers who died for this principle (a million in one century we are told) fanatics, mistaken, and did they die in vain?

Here is one picture: As we approach the great Protestant Reformation, we find the Anabaptists everywhere cowed before the growing power and inquisitions of the Roman Catholic Church. Many outrages were visited upon them. Orchard, the historian, describes one against the inhabitants of the valley of Preagela in

Piedmont as follows:

“The attack was made toward the end of December, when the mountains were covered with snow. The inhabitants fled to one of the highest mountains in the Alps with their wives and children, the unhappy mothers carrying the cradle in one hand and in the other, leading such of the offspring as were able to walk. The inhuman invaders pursued them until darkness obscured the objects of their fury. Many were slain before they reached the mountains. Overtaken by the shades of night, the afflicted outcasts wandered up and down the mountains covered with snow. Benumbed with cold, some fell asleep, never to awaken. When the night had passed, there were found in their cradles or lying on the snow four-score infants frozen to death. Many of the mothers were dead by their side.”

A little later, an army was raised by Albert, the pope’s legate, and marched into the Valley of Loyse. The inhabitants fled to the caves in the mountains. Albert and his hordes followed, and built fires at the entrance to the caves. Four hundred were suffocated in their cradles, or in the arms of their mothers. Multitudes, to avoid death by suffocation, or being burnt at the stake, threw themselves headlong down the precipices of the

(See **BATTLE** 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.

### BATTLE . . .

(Continued from page 23)

mountains, when they were dashed to pieces on the rocks below. If any escaped death by the fall, they were brutally slaughtered by the soldiers. More than three thousand from the Valley of the Loyse perished on this occasion. In order to have money for the expedition, the pope granted indulgence to sin, and pardon for past crimes.

Another question: if they were not fanatics, what shall we say of those who

take a neutral position and do not stand for the truth for which they died?

They climbed the steep ascent to heaven

Through peril and pain:  
O God, to us may grace  
be given

To follow in their  
train.”

In conclusion, we would issue this call to Southern Baptists and the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Miami next May.

That they demand of the Convention in the establishment of the new Seminary at Wake Forest, and any other Seminary that may be later established, that there be incorporated in the constitution of said institution or institutions a positive declaration against alien immersion as contrary to the teachings of Scripture and the faith of our Baptist fathers. □

## Daniel Webster Says:

“If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is going to become of us as a nation. If truth be not diffused, error will be; if God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy; if the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will; if the power of the Gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness, will reign without mitigation or end.” (1823).

## The Promise

President Roosevelt, on October 30, 1940, speaking to fathers and mothers on the selective service act:

“And while I am talking to you mothers and fathers. I give you one more assurance.

“I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again. Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.

“They are going into training to form a force as strong that, by its very existence, it will keep the threat of war far away from our shores.

“The purpose of our defense is defense.”

### BODY . . .

(Continued from page 4)

is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy, he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing” (Zeph. 3:17).

These are wonderful promises, and as sure as they are wonderful. Would you not like to hear the singing of God? His voice must be different from all voices ever heard, more lovely than can be imagined. And He sings because He is rejoicing in *us!* Think of it — a gloriously happy Father loving His children and bursting into song in our presence. Friends, I do not think we have ever heard music like that!

And we have so many assurances of help in every time of need. “When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him” (Isa. 59:19). “Their Redeemer is strong;

the Lord of hosts is his name” (Jer. 50:34). “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death; O death. I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction” (Hosea 13:14).

Does this not make you feel like joining with the Psalmist when he exclaims: “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God (Psa. 42:1-2). Surely it is hard to be indifferent to such a love as this! Are you, as a child of God, under this protection? It is only for those who belong to the family — having qualified through an acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ. You cannot possibly get in through any other door. Jesus said: “I am the door.” AND HE’S WONDERFUL!

[Next month: “The Brain.”] □