

# The Baptist

# CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

VOL. XLVIII, No. 11

November 2007

WHOLE NO. 516

## *The Menace of Multiculturalism*

*By Laurence A. Justice*

For Christians today multiculturalism is a widely used but little understood term. Multiculturalism has found its way into our institutions and into our everyday lives yet the great majority don't even seem to realize it. Our children have been taught this philosophy in the schools. Hollywood and the whole entertainment industry are

constantly propagandizing the public with its principles. Liberalism and ecumenicalism have even brought multiculturalism into the churches. So pervasive has multiculturalism become that it has turned our

*“Thou shalt have no other gods before me” -- Ex. 20:3*

Western civilization upside down in one generation. Christians need to be aware of multiculturalism and to understand it and to act biblically in relation to it if we are to be pleasing to God.

### **What Multiculturalism Is**

I have in my possession several different dictionaries of the English language. No dictionary that I own defines multiculturalism, indicating that this is something that has come to prominence just in the present generation.

(See **MULTI** on page 20)

## **Satan And the Book of Revelation**

**By M. L. Moser, Editor**

### **Message #2, Preached January 14, 1979**

We are continuing with our introduction. We want to remind you of a few things that we previously covered, so that we might tie on where we left off.

From this book we learn that John the Apostle is the author (1:4, 9; 22:8). This is John, the one who is referred to as “the

beloved disciple,” the son of Zebedee, one of the three inner-circle disciples, Peter, James and John. The book was written around 96 A.D., and though the critics of the book try to give it an early date to say that it was all fulfilled during the days of Titus and Nero, they are completely in error because this is a book of prophecy. It speaks of events that are

yet future.

The purpose of the book is found in the first verse of this chapter, “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ.*” The book does not contain “revelations” (plural) but is one great revelation. It's name is not “the book of revelations,” nor “The revelation of Saint John the Divine” (John was not divine, 1:9), but “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

As you study and read this book, that ought to be your purpose and your motive; it is to read and to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't read it simply to try to learn what is to take place in the future. It is a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and as you read and study this book, this is what you are to see;

(See **REV** on page 11)

## Quiz The Pastor

# Doctrine of the Trinity Explained

By the late Nick Michalinos

**Question:** Would you explain to me the doctrine of the Trinity?

**Answer:** While the word “trinity” is not found in the Bible, the doctrine concerning the three distinct persons in the Godhead certainly is. We might also mention that neither is the word “oneness” as pertaining to the Godhead found in the Bible. Please bear in mind that the truth concerning the doctrine of the Trinity cannot be comprehended by rationalization. This blessed truth must be accepted by faith in the authority of the Word of God.

Those who are unitarian in their theology deny the teaching concerning the Trinity, and thus believe that God is a single being. They teach that one spirit personality is playing three different persons, even at the same time. This is an

error as we shall seek to prove in this brief article.

In Deuteronomy 6:4, Moses told Israel, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord (Jehovah) thy God (Elohim) is one Lord (Jehovah).” This does not state that God is “one” in number, a single personality, any more than to say that a man and a woman, being united in marriage and becoming “one flesh” (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:31), actually are “one” in number, a single being. No, though said to be “one flesh” as husband and wife, they are two distinct persons.

No one has any difficulty with two persons said to be “one flesh” if the Bible so teaches. When Christ prayed that His disciples “may be *one as we* [Father and Son] (Jn. 17:11, 21), He was requesting that the many disciples become “one” in unity of purpose and aims,

and not “one” in number. Notice “*one as we*” (Father and Son), thus Father and Son are “one” in purpose, plan, power, etc., but not “one” in number as some would have us to believe.

Christ said, “I and my Father are one” (Jn. 10:30), and again the idea is that these two members of the Godhead (three including the Holy Spirit) are “one” in purpose, power, essence, holiness, etc. If we can accept two persons as “one,” why do some have a problem with three persons (Trinity) as “one”? Each member of the Godhead-Trinity is absolutely equal to one another. Each possesses identical attributes of Deity. One is not “more God” than the others.

The population of people at the tower of Babel are called “one,” but by no stretch of the imagination can the people in the city be referred to as “one” in number, but they were “one” in purpose, plan, goal, etc. (Gen. 11:5-6).

In Genesis 1:1 we are told “God created the heaven and the earth.” The word God here is the Hebrew plural form of “*El*.” It is *Elohim*, which speaks of a plurality of beings, thus “God” (*Elohim*) is more in number than only one. See Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8 where God (*Elohim*) is referred to as “us” in the plural, more than one. The word *Elohim* is used about 2,500 times in the Old Testament.

There is no unitarian thought suggested in the word “*Elohim*,” but contrariwise a plurality of beings is taught in “*Elohim*.” In John 1:1 we read, “In the beginning (before creation) was the Word, and the Word was *with God*, and the Word was God.” The word “*with*” in the inspired Greek text means “face-to-face” thus, the “Word” (one personality) was “face-to-face” (“*with*”) to “God” (another personality) “in the beginning.”

This is at least a duality of beings, and does away with the idea of one single being playing two or three different parts. Both beings are said to be co-equally God. In John 17:5, Christ refers to “the glory which I had with thee (Father) before the world was.”

Here we have two personalities (Father and Son) enjoying “the glory ... before the world” was created. In the “fulness of time, God sent forth (from heaven) His Son (Jesus) into the world, made of a woman (Mary)” (Gal. 4:4; 1 Jn. 3:10, 14) and later the Father sent the Holy Spirit into the world as Comforter (Jn. 14:16). [Notice: Mt. 3:16-17; Jn. 5:17; 14:16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 13:14; Gal. 4:6; 1 Pet. 1:2; 1 Jn. 5:7.]

So, if we can count, there are three distinct personalities, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19). After His resurrection and

(See **NICK** on page 24)

### THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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

**Creation Vs. Evolution -- Part IV****Universe And Matter Not Eternal****By Kenneth Mathis**

The origin of life cannot be explained by the evolutionist. Some assume that the universe is eternal and that life sprung from non-living matter in the universe. That the universe obviously had a beginning is evident when you consider the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This law states that everything tends to run down, wear out and to disintegrate. Although energy can be neither created nor destroyed, the conversions occurring within our universe result in energy decreasing in its availability for further useful work. Our sun and the other stars are giving off energy all the time. They would have lost their heat long ago if they had existed eternally. Scientists today sometimes speak of an ultimate heat death of our sun.

Similarly, if the universe and matter are eternal, the decay of all radioactive elements would have been completed long ago. The fact that this process is still going on indicates the universe had a beginning. Thus the universe was created and had a beginning by means not going on today.

**Cause and Effect and the Big Bang Theory**

The law of cause and effect states that each phenomenon must have a cause adequate to produce it and that no effect can be greater than its cause. But the evolutionist assumes that effects (the universe) are of a higher order and complexity than the cause. An effect cannot produce itself and the universe could not have been its own cause. One scientist, on Public Educational Television recently stated that, using the laws of physics, the search for origins is like running a movie backwards until you reach that first spark of energy that started the process of creation of the universe.

At this point, science does not have a hypothesis to explain where that first speck of energy came from and how or why it produced that first gas, etc. The Big-Bang theory which says that the universe is explosively expanding from an original state of high density assumes the eternal existence of the universe. Some religionists try to correlate what they believe with the Big Bang theory. They consider the Big-

Bang as an act of God. This evolves man upwards by evolution and eliminates the fall of man (due to sin) and is contrary to the Bible and to all truly scientific evidence. If this is true, then Christ died in vain and the Bible is worthless. But creationists believe, as the Bible teaches, that God is the First Cause and that He did not evolve His creation but spoke it into existence including all life in the universe.

**Life Produces Life**

One of the basic truths of science is that life produces life. Life has never been created by science without life, in some form, being present. In the past, some scientists claimed that life sprung from non-living matter by spontaneous generation. But Louis Pasteur demonstrated, with his experiments, that this was not true. He was bitterly opposed by so-called scholars of his day. But the doctors and surgeons of our day, as well as the food industry, know that Pasteur spoke the truth.

But, scientists today are again advocating spontaneous generation. They are

now approaching it from the stand point of molecular and chemical evolution of life. Over the years, reports have been published claiming the creation of life in the test tube. But these reports fail to mention the presence of life in some form, such as enzymes or genes or virus, etc., and that no semblance of life, as we define life, has ever truly occurred.

The theory that life evolved from the first simple cells produced in our universe by random or blind chance is statistically unbelievable. Several men have calculated the time required for the formation of the first DNA (information) molecule and even with the billions of years estimated as the age of our universe by evolutionists, the universe is much too young. Let me briefly review the so-called simple cell and show you what the evolutionist is really saying about the origin of life. You will need greater faith to believe his hypothesis than to believe that God created it all.

**The Cell, Simple or Complex**(See **MATHIS** on page 4)

## Another Controversy Over the Pledge

By Kelly Boggs, Editor, Baptist Message

“We didn’t think it was fair for the whole school to have to listen to it. It’s almost religious oppression,” Emma Martens told the Associated Press. The senior at Boulder (Colo.) High School was so offended by the daily ritual that she and about 50 other students staged a walkout.

What was it that so incensed the students in Colorado? It was the utterance of two words. The (allegedly) nefarious phrase “under God” found in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It should come as no surprise that the outraged students charge that being forced to listen to the words “under God” in the Pledge violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. It also should be noted that no student is forced to participate in Boulder High’s daily recitation of The Pledge.

Of course, no one should be too hard on the students for their flawed reasoning and emotional overreaction. I am sure some of their parents have served as models for their behavior. If not, some of our esteemed Supreme Court justices certainly have.

In June 2000, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in a Texas case that public

schools cannot allow student-led prayer before high school football games. The ruling came in *Santa Fe Independent School district v Doe*, a case in which a Galveston, TX area school district allowed student-initiated and led

(See **PLEDGE** on page 5)

---

### MATHIS . . .

(Continued from page 3)

The smallest unit of living matter that can exist by itself is the cell. Some plants and animals consist of only a single cell but others are composed of many billions of cells. The simple cell is not simple at all. It is an incredibly complex and powerful unit. Within the nucleus of every cell is DNA molecules which are present in the form of structures called chromosomes. These DNA molecules are the material of genetics and contain the code by which proteins are assembled in the cells. Development and function of the whole organism is controlled by this code. The gene is a functional section of a DNA molecule which produces a certain characteristic in the individual. The characteristics of an individual is determined by the arrangements of a

series of subsections of the DNA molecule which may be very short or very long. The information is read and transferred to other molecules by RNA molecules and the energy to perform the necessary chemical reactions comes from food we eat reacting with the oxygen we breath.

Now, one other very important element is necessary for the function of the cell and that is the presence of enzyme molecules who harness the energy and direct its actions. Otherwise the cell would self-destruct. Since these enzymes act on only one structure or substance and perform a very specific reaction, there are many, many different enzymes in each cell. For every reaction that occurs in a cell, there is a different enzyme. Now these enzymes are found in the structure of cells of all living creatures, plant, animal or human and they enable the cells to carry on the various processes that are chemically essential to the continuance of life of the cells. They have incredible power and continue to act as a catalyst over and over again, without loss of power, as long as they are supplied the conditions and the substance they are designed to catalyze.

### Amino Acids

Now one of the building blocks of cells (and all living organisms) is proteins (also

nucleic acids, carbohydrates and lipids or fats). Proteins are very large complex molecules that are made up of long chains of chemical units called amino acids. Biochemists know the complete structure of very few. Slightly more than twenty amino acids contribute to the formation of protein molecules. Each type is structurally and chemically different from all the others. There are many, many different kinds of protein molecules (perhaps billions).

The arrangement of amino acids in a protein molecule is not random, the sequence is precise, forming the primary structure of the molecule as dictated by the cell’s genetic system. Each individual within a species usually is very distinctive in regard to certain proteins. This becomes obvious when doctors try to transplant tissues from one individual to another during surgery. Except for twins, skin grafts, etc. rarely take.

Thousands of years before science discovered any of this, the Bible said in First Corinthians 15:39 that “All flesh is not the same flesh.” It is very apparent from all of this that living cells are very complicated and involved in some very complicated and interrelated processes. For more information cell reproduction, see the section on test tube babies, cloning and genetics later.

{Next month: “Life In A Lethal Atmosphere.”}

**PLEDGE . . .**

(Continued from page 4)

prayer to be broadcast over the public address system prior to games.

Justice John Paul Stevens, writing the majority opinion, asserted, "Even if we regard every high schools student's decision to attend a home football game as purely voluntary, we are nevertheless persuaded that the delivery of a pre-game prayer has the improper effect of coercing those present to participate in an act of religious worship."

I don't really care how much legal training Justice Stevens and his cohorts have, equating "listening" to a prayer with "coercing those present to participate in an act of religious worship" is a gross abuse of logic.

If people were forced to recite a prayer or if people were required to bow their heads in a show of respect, the justice might be on to something. But as it stands, his conclusion is asinine.

The same is true for students at Boulder High who object to the phrase "under God" in The Pledge. If they were forced to recite the words and punished for refusing, they would have a case for "religious oppression."

Even if you believe, as Justice Stevens does, that being present when a prayer is being uttered has the effect of "coercing

those present to participate is an act of religious worship," how does the activity constitute, in the words of the First Amendment, a "law respecting an establishment of religion"?

Those who object to the prayer might be offended. They might be angered. But there is no way that simply listening to a prayer, one that you may not like, rises to the level of a law that establishes anything.

Again, the same is true for the Boulder High situation. It is clear that a few students object to the phrase "under God." Some seemingly are outraged that they must hear it once a week. But please tell me what religion is being established by the phrase "under God?" Which specific religion is being forced upon the students?

It seems to me the problem at Boulder and other schools is that misguided adults have led kids to believe that the Constitution provides protection from being offended — particularly by religious expression — which is utterly false.

"If liberty means anything at all," observed George Orwell, "it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear." The English writer's sentiment is a right given to the American people in the form of the First Amendment.

It is clear some people do not want to hear the phrase "under God" in the

## Going Home

**By E. D. Solomon in Florida Witness**

There is always something interesting about a boy leaving home for his first job. There was a sawmill, heading and stave factory several miles from our home. A man named Cahill owned and ran this mill. He offered me a job. Mother objected: Father said, "Let him go." I got an affectionate good bye from the family.

The work was hard and the days were long. That did not bother me as much

Pledge of Allegiance and others do not want to hear prayers uttered in public. My advice to them is simple: Don't listen. &

as the wickedness of the workers. I heard more profanity than I had heard in all my life. The food was course and poor. The bed was hard. The mosquitoes were fierce. There was nothing easy, agreeable, or pleasant about the work. I began to realize it was not a job for a boy. Also homesickness was getting in its work.

One evening after work I heard a woman's voice as from heaven. I had not seen a woman's face since leaving home. This voice was coming from a high hill north of the mill and she

(See HOME on page 24)

## A Thanksgiving Prayer

**By Georgia B. Adams**

O precious Father, we bow  
 We count the many blessings  
 Thou hast shower'd upon our way.  
 The comfort of our humble houses,  
 Our health and happiness.  
 The strength provided for each day  
 To meet the strain and stress.  
 We thank Thee for Thy precious Son  
 Who brought salvation free.  
 And for this mighty land of ours—  
 A land of liberty!  
 So, Lord, help us to give Thee thanks  
 For all that we hold dear—  
 Not only on Thanksgiving Day  
 But each day of the year!

## Two Religions

By Charles H. Stevens

Reduced to its final analysis there have never been, there are not now, and there never will be more than two religions in the world. There are many so-called pagan religions, there are more than 600 so-called Christian denominations in America. Religiously, men seem to be divided in a thousand ways. On the surface, this is true, but actually there are just two systems. One is divine, the other is satanic or human; one is real, the other is counterfeit; one is a revelation, the other is an evolution; one is by faith, the other is by works; one is divine accomplishment, the other is human accomplishment; one is salvation by grace, the other is salvation by works; one looks to God, the other looks to man; one is supernatural, the other is natural; one is by blood, the other is bloodless; one is justification by faith, the other is justification by works; one is to natural philosophy foolishness, the other, to the saved, the wisdom of God.

God has hung the key in the vestibule of revelation by which His creatures may test these two religions. Understand the two principles involved and all else is easy. The type of the false religion is to be found in the fig-leaf aprons made by the fallen couple

and rejected by Jehovah. Man knew he was naked, he sought to repair by his own hand — “hand-made” and “man-made”. But a fig-leaf covering was not sufficient for man or God; man fled from the presence of God; God sought hiding man, covered him with a divinely provided coat of skin, made possible by the substitutionary death of another.

The whole story of redemption hangs by these two threads. Every pagan religion in the whole world comes under the “fig-leaf” classification — work, self-righteousness, ceremony, ordinances. Christianity as set forth through the revealed Word stands alone in proclaiming salvation by substitution, atonement by sacrifice, righteousness by imputation, justification by faith.

Paganism presents natural religion in the raw — man trying to win salvation by work. The gospel of grace is found at the other end of the line. Sad to say, intervening is to be found much that parades under a Christian banner, but, in truth, is nothing more than christianized paganism. A Bible basis, Christian terms, the framework of Christianity is used, but the system is of the Adamic subterfuge — salvation by charter, going

to heaven by being good.

It is difficult to find a church today where there is not present an admixture of the two systems, work and faith, law and grace. It is this adulteration of truth, this unholy mixture of good and bad, cold and hot, that has produced such con-

fusion and luke-warmness.

When we learn to look for and recognize the two trademarks which characterize each, we have gone a long way toward solving one of the major problems of life. “The entrance of thy words giveth light” (Psa. 119:130). □ □

## Light Shining Out of Darkness

By William Cowper

God moves in a mysterious way,  
His wonders to perform:  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines  
Of never-failing skill,  
He treasures His bright designs  
And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning Providence  
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,  
And scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter,  
And He will make it plain.

## Denominational Divisions Are Doctrinal

By David Cloud

One of the theme songs of the ecumenical movement is “God is destroying denominational lines.” This, of course, is one of the stated goals of the Promise Keepers movement. They are breaking down the walls between denominations. This is a gross error that ignores the reason for such divisions. While some divisions between Christians are man-made and unnecessary, many others, most, in fact, are doctrinal.

Why, for example, is an Episcopal church different from an independent Baptist church? They have different doctrine. One teaches baptismal regeneration; the other, that baptism is symbolic only. One baptizes infants; the other practices believer’s baptism. One sprinkles; the other immerses. One has a priesthood; the other has pastors and deacons. One has a hierarchical church structure; the other practices the autonomy of the assembly. One interprets prophecy literally and is looking for the imminent return of Jesus Christ; the other interprets prophecy symbolically and is working to establish the kingdom of God on earth. One allows its leaders and members to hold every sort of heresy and immorality; the other

(generally speaking) practices discipline and separation.

What is the difference between an Assemblies of God congregation and an independent Baptist church? Again, it is doctrine. One believes the baptism of the Holy Spirit is subsequent to salvation and is something the believer must seek and that its manifestation in tongues-speaking; the other believes the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred at Pentecost and that every believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit when he is saved. One believes the sign gifts are operative today; the other believes the sign gifts were given to the apostles and ceased with their passing. One believes the Holy Spirit “slays” people; the other, that “spirit slaying” is unscriptural. One believes the gift of tongues is operative today; the other, that the gift of tongues had a temporary purpose that ceased in the first century. One believes salvation can be lost; the other, that salvation is eternally secure. One believes ecumenical unity is the work of the Holy Spirit; the other believes ecumenical unity is the work of the devil.

Those who call for the removal of denominational divisions are ignoring these serious doctrinal differences. Any Bible doctrine worth believing is worth fighting for.

When Paul wrote to Timothy to instruct him in

the work of the Lord, he did not tell him to “lighten up” and to ignore doctrinal differences. He solemnly instructed him to remain absolutely steadfast in the apostolic doctrine and not to allow *any* other doctrine to be taught.

“As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach *no other doctrine* (1 Timothy 1:3). “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, *the same* commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach

others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

The believer is instructed to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). There is not a hint here or anywhere else in Scripture that some part of the Christian faith is of such little importance that it is to be disregarded for the sake of a broader unity.

Those who have the most to lose from the ecumenical call to dissolve denominational walls are those whose doctrine is based upon the Word of God. □

### When One Is Eighty Two

[Your Editor begins 82 years November 23]

Most all your worries will be gone,  
Most all your work will then be done;  
Your children, too, grown up and gone,  
And life’s best things most surely won,  
When one is really eighty-two.

Your deepest sorrows will be past,  
The clouds rolled back from trouble’s blast;  
Life’s sunset glow with gold o’er cast,  
And rich rewards that come at last,  
When one is really eighty-two.

Of God’s good things you’ve had your share,  
And hundredfold with blessings rare,  
For His best things you now prepare  
And think of home with Him o’er there  
When one is really eighty-two!

Your old-time friends — they’ve gone before!  
And loved ones, too, stand on that shore,  
To hail your coming o’er and o’er  
And praise the Lord forevermore,  
When one is really eight-two.



### A Worldly Baptism

— NewSpring Church's baptism ceremony on September 8 featured a tailgating party. This contemporary, seeker-friendly Southern Baptist Church in Anderson, South Carolina, baptized 562 people that day, and church members were encouraged to emulate a football tailgating party. Tony Morgan, the church's "chief strategic officer," said: "People brought their RVs and set up tents. There were televisions going with people watching football games before the baptism service started. ... It was pretty fun" (Baptist Press, Sept. 25, 2007). Football and baptism. What an unholy, carnal mess! A baptism is not a worldly party. It is a joyful event but also a solemn and holy event. It depicts the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It depicts dying to the old life and rising to the new. A baptism is a time to pray and a time to reflect and a time to repent and a time to re-dedicate, but it is not a time for a worldly sports party. The contemporary seeker-friendly churches, with their repentance-less quick

## World News Roundup

prayerism, allow people to hold on to their gods and allegedly have Christ, too. What do North Americans worship today? Four of their gods are Rock & roll, Sports, Hollywood, and immodest Fashion, and these are the very things that seeker-friendly churches love. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy" (James 4:4-5). "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15-16). — FBIS

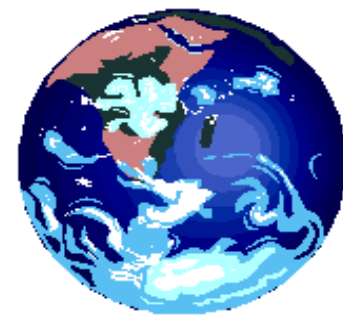
\*\*\*

**Hula Worship** — According to the Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) philosophy music is neutral and therefore any music can be used to worship God. This has produced rock & roll worship, heavy metal worship, jazz worship, rap worship, even hula worship.

Rick Warren's Saddleback Church features an "Ohana worship venue" as one of its nine Sunday morning worship selections. The Ohana venue comes "complete with hula and island-style music," and on the first Saturday of every month you can take hula lessons during the potluck following the service. Saddleback isn't the only church offering hula worship. According to the Monday Morning Insight blog for April 6, 2006, it is used in churches in many parts of the world. The hula dance originated as a pagan religious ritual associated with the goddess Laka in the Hawaiian Islands. Missionaries who arrived in the early 19th century denounced the hula as a heathen dance ("Hula," Wikipedia). Today the CCM crowd offers it up to God in worship, but those old self-sacrificing missionaries knew much more about God and true worship than the CCM crowd will ever know. "Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen..." (Jeremiah 10:2). — FBIS

\*\*\*

**Crocodile Intelligence.** — Australian scientists have discovered that the crocodile is capable of complex navigation over



long distances. The discovery came after satellite tracking devices were fitted to three dangerous crocodiles that were removed from popular tourist spots in the Australian Outback and released hundreds of miles away. All three found their way back, one after traveling 250 miles in 20 days ("Clever Croc Has Its Own Version of Sat-nav," The Times, Sept. 27, 2007). The fact that the creatures of this world have intelligence prove that they were designed by an intelligent Being. Empirical science is "knowledge based on observable phenomena," and observation has never witnessed intelligence seeping from a rock or wafting from an inanimate soup or spinning out of an explosion. The scientists who conducted the study don't get it because of their evolutionary blinders. Craig Franklin of the University of Queensland's School of Integrative Biology said, "Crocodiles are more closely related to birds than they are any other reptile. Maybe they are using

(See **WNR** on page 13)

# La Voz Del Desierto

## ¿Qué Hay De Los Estigmas?

Los estigmas son marcas o señales que se manifiestan en las manos, los pies, el costado y la cabeza. Este fenómeno de llevar supuestamente las llagas que Jesús sufrió en la crucifixión continúa llamando la atención. Una película en 1999 llamada *Stigmata* (Estigmata) atrajo nuevamente el interés por el estigmatismo y el programa televisivo de los *X-Files* ofreció varios episodios sobre el asunto. Pero en la vida real hay gente que exhibe algo que se conoce como estigmas místicos. Estas son llagas que han manifestado principalmente algunos proclamados santos de la Iglesia Católica como un signo de su participación en la pasión de Jesucristo.

Los estigmas pueden ser visibles o invisibles, sangrientos o no, permanentes o periódicos, generalmente resurgiendo en días o temporadas asociadas con la Semana Santa o transitorios. Pueden permanecer muchos años o desaparecer cuando el estigmatizado muere, como sucedió en el caso de San Francisco de Asis. Ha sucedido en mujeres y en católicos o no católicos.

Hasta el momento, más de 60 estigmatizados han sido canonizados por la Iglesia Católica.

Sin embargo el registro del estigmatismo está vacío durante los primeros 1,200 años de la historia de la iglesia cristiana. El primer caso del estigmatismo que fue reportado, fue el de San Francisco de Asis (1182-1226). Siglos más tarde, encontramos, más casos como el de Anna Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824), quien se convirtió en una monja en Agnetenberg; María von Morl de Caldaro (1839); Louis Lateau (1850-83, en 1868), quien los estigmas empezaban a sangrar cada viernes (el erróneo día católico de la crucifixión); y la señora Girling (1827-86, en Navidades del 1864), de la comunidad New Forrest Shaker. Luego, a partir del 1889 a 1901, tenemos a Gemma Galgani de Lucca quien clamaba tener estigmas, pero luego clamó que fueron removidos por medio de la oración.

Según historiadores algunos estaban enloquecidos al extremo que se torturaban y se mutilaban a si mismos. Ha habido hasta casos donde algunas almas

excesivamente fanáticas deseaban tanto estos “sagrados” estigmatismos que se herían intencionalmente con cuchillos, estacas, etc., de manera que pudieran producir falsas impresiones a otros de que eran santos extraordinarios.

Incluso los estigmas nunca han sido vistos con buenos ojos por los expertos de la comunidad médica. Mario Martinez, un sicólogo clínico que investiga los estigmas, hace este comentario: “Por lo general resulta ser auto-sugerido, un falso estigma, o algo más que la ciencia puede explicar.” Por cierto no hace mucho, Javier Ortiz Rivera, un joven católico de la Parroquia San Fernando Rey en Carolina, Puerto Rico, donde es venerado por los feligreses que consideran sus estigmas como una manifestación de Dios, se autoproclamaba como un enviado de Cristo.

Sin embargo en un proceso de investigación en las cuales participaron varios sacerdotes y profesionales en el campo de la salud y la psicología concluyeron que los alegados estigmas que el hombre presentaba eran de naturaleza autoinfligidas y

que no respondían a la intervención divina. Hasta el mismo Arzobispo de San Juan, Roberto González Nieves, se “inclina a pensar que estos estigmas fueron autosugeridos” por el joven en un intento de “cambiar su vida y luego de ver la película *“La Pasión”*, de Mel Gibson” (El Nuevo Día, sábado, 22 de abril de 2006, p. 12 *Estigmas Lejos de la Divinidad según la Iglesia*).

Además sabemos por Hebreos 10:10 que Jesús solo sufrió una vez, así que si no hay fraude, nuestra única opción es que el estigmatismo es la obra de demonios. Es Satanás, no Dios, el que hace que la gente se corte y se mutile a sí misma (Marcos 5:1-5; 1ra Reyes 18:28). Dios prohíbe tales prácticas contra nuestro cuerpo (Levítico 19:28; 21:5; Deuteronomio 14:1; Filipenses 3:2; Colosenses 2:21-23).

La Iglesia Católica ha ofrecido una débil apología usando Gálatas 6:17 para apoyar y reconocer el estigmatismo. Pero en primer lugar la interpretación que da la Iglesia (Vea **ESTIG** en la pág 10)

**ESTIGMAS . . .**

(Vino de la pag. 9)

Católica se derrumba debido a que no se conoce caso alguno sobre el estigmatismo antes del siglo 13.

Segundo, note que Pablo no localizó las cicatrices específicamente en sus manos o pies, sino que simplemente dice “porque yo traigo en mi cuerpo las marcas del Señor Jesús.” ¿A qué “marcas” se refiere entonces Pablo? Ciertamente podría estar refiriéndose a sus cicatrices de golpes, azotes y pedradas como las marcas de un esclavo por Jesucristo (2da Corintios 11:23-25). Estas cicatrices lo calificaron como siervo (esclavo) de Cristo (Romanos 1:1; Filipenses 1:1; Tito 1:1).

Jesús dijo que debemos hacer todo lo que Él enseñó y ordenó (Mateo 28:18-20). Sin embargo Jesús nunca enseñó u ordenó los estigmas para la vida cristiana como tampoco es mencionado en la Biblia, así que uno puede concluir que ni es necesario, ni sagrado. Cualquier “marca” o identificación exterior con la muerte de Jesús es solamente simbólico del Bautismo y la Santa Cena.

Ciertamente el estigmatismo cuestiona la

finalidad del Sacrificio y el carácter de Cristo. Jesús dijo que sus sufrimientos fueron “Consumado”, terminado, pagado absolutamente por completo (Juan 19:30). Todo lo que se necesitaba para ser lograda nuestra redención fue logrado de una vez por todas, por siempre. Hebreos 9:26-28 afirma que Jesús murió una *sola* vez.

Por tanto, podemos concluir que los estigmas no son de Dios porque son antibíblicos y pueden ser falsificados, demoníaco o una condición médica. Si es un fraude o demoníaco, entonces el arrepentimiento sincero es la respuesta (Marcos 5:6-13). Si es una condición de salud, entonces la atención médica y la consejería son la respuesta. El apóstol Tomás vio algo mejor que los estigmas. Él vio las mismas heridas de Jesús las cuales podía tocar. Con todo y eso, Jesús le dijo: “Bienaventurados los que no vieron (sus heridas) y creyeron” (Juan 20:29). No necesitamos Sus heridas literales simplemente porque tenemos las riquezas espirituales que esas heridas nos han proporcionada (Ira Perdo 3:18).

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

## El Modo Fácil Y El Modo Difícil

Puedes estar seguro de que dondequiera que Dios te guíe, Él es capaz de guardarte. Él jamás permite que nos venga algo que no podamos soportar (1ra. Cor. 10:13). Lo que sea que ordene. Él paga la cuenta. No tenemos que vivir en una lucha constante se aprendemos a apoyamos en Él continuamente, para tener la fuerza que necesitamos.

Si sabes que Dios te ha pedido que hagas algo, no retrocedas sólo porque se hace duro (Éxo. 13:17). Cuando las cosas se hagan difíciles, pasa más tiempo con Él, apóyate más en Él y recibe más gracia de Él (Heb. 4:16). La gracia es el poder de Dios que viene a ti, sin que te cueste nada, para hacer por medio de ti lo que tú no puedes hacer por ti mismo. Cuídate de pensamientos como: “*No puedo hacer esto, es demasiado duro.*”

Algunas veces Dios nos conduce por el camino difícil en lugar del fácil, porque está obrando en nosotros. ¿Cómo podemos aprender alguna vez a apoyarnos en Él, si todo lo que viene a nuestras vidas es tan fácil que podemos lidiar con ello nosotros mismos? Dios guió a los hijos de Israel por el camino largo y difícil porque eran todavía cobardes, y Él tuvo que obrar en ellos a fin de

prepararlos para la batalla que tendrían que enfrentar en la tierra prometida.

La mayoría de la gente piensa que entrar en la tierra prometida significa el fin de las batallas, pero no es así. Si lees los relatos de lo que sucedió después que los Israelitas cruzaron el río Jordán y fueron a tomar posesión de la tierra que les habían prometido, verás que libraron una batalla tras otra. Pero ganaron todas las batallas que libraron con la fuerza de Dios y bajo su dirección. Dios los guió por la ruta más larga y difícil aunque había una más corta y fácil, porque Él sabía que ellos no estaban listos para las batallas que tendrían que enfrentar para poseer la tierra. A Dios le preocupaba que cuando vieran el enemigo podrían huir a Egipto, así que los llevó por el camino difícil para enseñarles quien era Él, y que ellos no podían depender de si mismos.

Cuando una persona está atravesando un momento difícil, su mente quiere darse por vencida. Satanás sabe que si puede vencernos en nuestra mente, puede derrotarnos en lo que hacemos. Por eso es tan importante no desalentarnos, cansarnos y desmayar (Gál. 6:9-10).

[Por Hno. Félix M. González Bulgalá.] □

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

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

what can I learn about the Lord Jesus Christ. What you find is the consummation of the Lord Jesus Christ and His work. We see all of these things that He has done in the past. Now as we read the Book of Revelation, we see how all of this work, the work of redemption, is going to culminate with the Lord Jesus Christ returning to this earth so that He might fulfill His work as the Last Adam.

We also pointed out to you that the word “revelation” means an apocalypse, an unveiling, a revealing, an uncovering, so that the Book of Revelation is a book that can be understood. It is not, as some say today, a book difficult to understand, but is a book that is easy to understand because it reveals itself. It interprets itself. All we need do is read the book, take it literally, and then it reveals itself to us. Even all the symbols that are considered to be difficult, interpret themselves, so as we study, and read it, we find it reveals itself to us without much difficulty. It all depends upon our approach and our motive in coming to the book.

Now the book was written during the times of persecution. We know that this persecution began under the Jews during the times of the churches of Jerusalem and Antioch.

You remember how they were scattered everywhere. Now under the Roman Empire we find that pagan Rome also brings a persecution upon the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. When John is writing this book, they are undergoing a time of severe persecution. Jerusalem has already been destroyed; many of the believers are wondering just what the outcome is going to be, and what is going to happen.

The Lord gives us this book as a message of hope. For all of those who were undergoing persecution, in reading this book, they will see that it is not hopeless, that there is light at the end of the tunnel. All of these visions are different aspects of the glorified Lord Jesus Christ as He returns in judgment and as He ultimately will be at the conclusion of all things.

The keynote of this book is to be found in four words “*Behold, I come quickly.*” These words are repeated over and over, showing us that the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is to be sudden and wholly unexpected at the time of His appearing.

We want now to look at the reasons why there are so many who teach that you ought not to study the Book of Revelation. Since this is “The Revelation of Jesus Christ,” and since this book is the capstone, the final book that completes

our Bible, we would think that men would urge us to read, to study, and to learn about this book. It is amazing to learn that there are many today who are supposed to be preachers, Bible scholars, and teachers of others, who readily say they do not understand this book, nor do they study this book, and they recommend that you not study this book either. They say you cannot understand this book.

Why would men tell us such things as this? I think we can find some reasons why. The main reason is that Satan hates this book more than any other book. If you did not have the Book of Revelation, it would appear that Satan is the winner; as if Satan is the victor. When you read the other books of the Bible, either Old Testament or the New Testament, you do not find the fulfillment of all these prophecies in the Old Testament. You do not find the fulfillment of these other prophecies that are in the New Testament. As far as all intents and purposes are

concerned, if you do not have the Book of Revelation, then seemingly Satan is going to be victorious, has the world in his control, and is going to win the final victory.

It is when we come to the Book of Revelation that we see that the Lord puts everything in its proper perspective. Satan appears to have control of this world right now. He even appears to have control and charge of all the churches. He seemingly is winning on every front, but when you come to the Book of Revelation, you find that Satan is not going to win the final victory, nor is he going to be victorious in any sense at all. The Book of Revelation tells us all about his final defeat.

The Book of Revelation warns us about Satan. We find some eight times in this book that Satan is named. Five times in connection with the churches, showing that the main activity of Satan is through and in the

(See **REV** on page 12)

## Heaven

“That unchangeable home is for you and me,  
Where Jesus of Nazareth stands;  
The King of all kingdoms forever is He,  
And He holdeth our crowns in His hands.

“Oh, how sweet it will be in that beautiful land,  
So free from all sorrow and pain;  
With songs on our lips and with harps in our hands,  
To meet one another again.”

## REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 11)

churches of the Lord Jesus Christ, and he does not want us to know that. This shows his main work is through the churches. Satan's work is not in the world, but in the churches.

Many people are misinformed about Satan. They think that Satan is down at the racetrack at Hot Springs or in all the beer halls, the taverns, in the places of wickedness, etc. That's not where Satan is. Satan doesn't spend his time there. Those people are already under his control. He doesn't have to bother them. They're already doing what he wants. He's satisfied with them, but Satan's sphere of influence, and Satan's sphere of activity is within the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is where Satan works today.

You know where Satan is now? He's right here in our midst. He is seeking to harm our services. Satan begins early on Sunday morning. He provides you excuses why you ought not to go to church. Satan will provide you with excuses why you're not able to stay for church or come to Sunday school or study your Bible, or do these things.

This is part of Satan's activity. Satan's idea is to provide you excuses why you do not sing in the choir. He provides you with excuses why you're not

more regular and more active in your church work. He provides you excuses why you should not take part in the activities of a church, such as visitation, calling on the telephone, doing work for your Sunday school class, or your department or whatever it is. These are the areas where Satan works. Satan works *within* the churches, not outside, but he does not want you to be aware of that, and he does not want you to know that. Satan works today in the churches, and in this book of Revelation, five out of the eight times we find his name mentioned, it is mentioned in connection with the churches. If you include the one time that he is called the devil in chapter 2:10 it means that six times his name is mentioned in relationship with the Lord's churches.

Satan will attempt to prevent the reading of this book. One of the reasons is because it reveals his character and nature. I'm sure that you have seen the caricature of Satan, where he is supposed to have horns, a long forked tail, a pitchfork in his hand, looking like a dragon breathing out fire and brimstone. This is the way that most people think Satan looks. Some people have the idea that Satan is in hell and that he is the one stoking all the fires of hell. Well, don't you believe

(See **REV** on page 14)

## He Careth

What can it mean? Is it aught to Him  
That the nights are long, and the days are dim?  
Can He be touched by the griefs I bear,  
Which sadden the heart, and whiten the hair?  
Around His throne are eternal calms,  
And glad, strong music of happy psalms,  
And bliss unruffled by any strife,  
How can He care for my little life?

And yet I want Him to care for me  
While I live in this world where the sorrows be;  
When the lights are down from the faith I take;  
When strength is feeble, and friends forsake;  
When love and music that once did bless  
Have left me to silence and loneliness;  
And my life-song changes to sobbing prayers,  
When my heart cries out for a God who cares.

When shadows hang o'er me the whole day long,  
And my spirit is bowed 'neath shame and wrong;  
When I am not good, and the deepening shade  
Of conscious sin makes my heart afraid;  
And the busy world has too much to do  
To stay in its course to help me through;  
And I long for a Savior — can it be  
That the God of the universe cares for me?

Oh, the wonderful story of deathless love!  
Each child is dear to that heart above;  
He fights for me when I cannot fight,  
He comforts me in the gloom of night.  
He lifts the burden for He is strong,  
He stills the sigh, and awakens the song;  
The burdens that bow me down He bears,  
And loves and pardons because He cares.

Oh, all that are sad, take heart again!  
You are not alone in your hour of pain;  
The Father stoops from His throne above  
To soothe and comfort us with His love.  
He leaves us not when the storm beats high  
And we have safety, for He is nigh  
Can it be trouble when He doth share?  
Oh, rest in peace, for your Lord does care!

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

navigation systems that are similar to what occurs in birds." I don't think so! — FBIS

\* \* \*

### **Muslim Persecution Increasing In England**

— The following is excerpted from "Christian Converts Risk Muslim Attack," The Sunday Times, London, September 16, 2007: "One of Britain's most senior bishops has warned that a sustained campaign by Muslim extremists to intimidate and attack converts to Christianity risks ending in a murder. Michael Nazir-Ali, the Bishop of Rochester, says that the persecution of Christian converts from Islam is so widespread that it may be only a matter of time before there is an 'honour killing' of a convert by family or relatives. He spoke out as the Barnabas Fund, a charity that looks after persecuted Christians around the world, estimated that there are more than a thousand attacks each year against former Muslims across Britain. . . . The Barnabas Fund has uncovered widespread abuse against new converts, from being verbally abused and spat at to being assaulted by gangs of men on the street and left for dead. In some cases it believes that women converts were abducted to Pakistan."

### **Religion Must Be Destroyed, Atheist Alliance Declares.**

— Science must ultimately destroy organized religion, according to some of the leading atheist writers and intellectuals who spoke at a recent atheist conference in Northern Virginia. God is a myth, and children must not be schooled in any faith, they said, at the "Crystal Clear Atheism" event, sponsored by the Atheist Alliance International. Some of the luminaries who spoke at the conference, held at the Crown Royal Hotel in Crystal City, Va., over the weekend, included Oxford professor Richard Dawkins, author Sam Harris and journalist Christopher Hitchens. The Atheist Alliance International describes itself as "the only democratic national atheist organization in the United States." — CNS

\* \* \*

### **Ford Boycott Continues To Be Effective.**

— Ford Motor Company sales dropped 21% in September compared to that month's sales a year ago. Ford sales have dropped in 17 of the 19 months since AFA began a boycott of the company. AFA began boycotting Ford in March 2006 when the company reneged on a pledge to stop supporting homosexual organizations and same-sex marriage. While not totally respon-

sible for the decline in sales, the boycott is having an impact. When the boycott began, Ford was approximately in the same financial condition as that of General Motors and Chrysler. But because of the boycott, Ford is now in much more of a serious financial situation than GM and Chrysler. Ford continues to consider support for the homosexual agenda and same-sex marriage more important than making a profit for the company. Ford has rebuffed repeated attempts by AFA asking the company to remain neutral in the culture war. — AFA

\* \* \*

### **Last Supper Mocked In "Gay Street Fair" Ad.**

— "Last Sunday, San Francisco's homosexual community and its supporters hosted the annual Folsom Street Fair. This year's event stirred up more controversy than usual because of an advertisement mocking the famed Last Supper painting," said a Focus on the Family (FOF) report. To advertise the fair (which included public nudity and perverted acts without regard for children who might be attending) organizers put together a depiction of da Vinci's Last Supper with leather-clad men and women posing as Jesus and His disciples. Judas apparently is portrayed by a drag queen, and Peter is

wearing a leather dog mask. Jesus is portrayed by a shirtless man. Taxpayers are helping to fund this debauchery.

\* \* \*

### **Maryland Rejects Gay Marriage.**

— The highest court in Maryland refused to legalize gay marriage Sept. 18, handing homosexual activists another significant defeat in one of the nation's leading cultural issues. In its 4-3 decision the Court of Appeals ruled the state has a "legitimate governmental interest" in "fostering procreation" by limiting marriage to one man and one woman. The ruling overturned a lower court ruling from last year that had sided with gay marriage supporters. It is the fourth consecutive time that a state high court has said there is no constitutional right to gay marriage. Courts in New Jersey, New York and Washington ruled similarly last year, although the New Jersey court allowed gay couples the legal benefits of marriage. Massachusetts remains the lone state to recognize gay marriage. — BP

\* \* \*

### **Air America Launches Nationwide Atheism Program.**

-- The liberal talk radio network Air America announced this

(See WNR on page 18)

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 12)

it. Satan is not like that at all.

We do find there are descriptions of Satan in this book. These are not physical descriptions but descriptions of his character and nature. In chapter 12:9 you read about Satan being called “the old dragon.” You don’t find Satan as a dragon in a physical sense, but he has the character of a dragon, being a destroyer, and one that is to destroy everything.

He is called a serpent in 12:9. That does not mean that he goes around slithering on the ground like a snake, but he has some of the characteristics of a snake. He is sly, cunning, stealthy, quiet, underhanded. He comes upon you and you are unaware of him until he is there, just as an old serpent would do.

He is also called the devil in 12:9. This identifies him for us. In 19:20 is the description of him that we see today, and that is as the false prophet. Satan today does not look, as some have described him, with horns, forked tail, pitchfork, etc. A being like that would never deceive anyone. If you saw someone coming toward you like that, you would turn and run, but instead, Satan comes as a false prophet.

Now a false prophet never tells you he is a false prophet. A false prophet

never comes with a sign on his chest saying “false prophet.” A false prophet tells you that he is a true prophet (2 Cor. 11:13-15). He tells you that he is a prophet of the Lord. How are you going to know whether he is a true prophet or a false prophet? The only way is by listening to what he has to say and comparing his message with the Word of God. That’s how you tell whether a true prophet or a false prophet is speaking or not. You don’t listen to what they say, as far as whether it sounds good or not, but you take it to the Word of God and prove it by the Word of God.

If you listen to Herbert or Garner Ted Armstrong, or some of these other heretics, sometimes they sound very good. They have real appeal to their voice; they have good “pulpit ability,” or speaking ability. They sound very convincing because they’re good orators and quote the Bible, and for this reason, they’re able to deceive many. Well, how are you going to tell? You don’t go by the fact he quotes the Bible. You don’t go by the fact that they have big churches, but you take their message and compare it with the Word of God. The Lord says that it is by the Word that we are to determine whether they are true or false prophets. Satan is a false prophet. The scripture says *try* the Spirits to see whether they

be of God or not (1 Jn. 4:1).

That’s how you tell whether it’s the Holy Spirit that talks, deals or impresses you with something or not. We have many people today that never try the spirits and get involved in some of these charismatic movements such as speaking in tongues, divine healing, praying, etc. and they say, the “Spirit” just leads me to do all these things. Well, what spirit? You must try the spirits to see whether they be of God or not. The Holy Spirit never leads anybody to do those things.

I heard a preacher from South Carolina speaking in Texas say that once as he was preaching in a church (and he is supposed to be a Baptist), the Holy Ghost got such a hold of him, that he got in a “high-weaving way,” and said that he actually jumped out the window of the church. He said he tried to get back in the window but it was too high, so he ran around to the front of the church, ran back down to the front of the church, got back into

the pulpit, and kept preaching, and never even missed a word. He said the Holy Spirit led him to do that. Now listen, the Holy Spirit never leads anyone to make a fool of themselves. The Holy Spirit never leads anyone to do things like that. The Lord says that everything should be done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40), and He never leads anybody to do those kinds of things. So you try or test the Spirits to see whether they be according to the Word of God. You just don’t run off half-cocked like that at all.

Now a false prophet is that way. I hope you read the next month’s issue of **The Baptist Challenge** about Oral Roberts. “Oral Roberts has his hand out and his hand is hot.” That’s what he says. Read the article about this on the front page of the March issue of TBC. These are the ways the false prophets act and operate. They deceive. They don’t tell you they are false prophets, but

(See **REV** on page 15)

---

## A Glorious History

By Charles Wellborn

Baptists have a glorious history of upholding the pure democracy of the local church. We face today the challenge of standing fast by that doctrine.

A church which is “run” by the pastor, or by

the deacons, or by any other minority group is not a New Testament church. Many other groups are giving up their hard-won freedom. May God help Baptists to maintain real democracy in their churches! **■**

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 14)

you tell if they are false prophets or not by comparing what they say with the Word of God, and that's the only way you can tell sometimes. The Scriptures say that the ministers of Satan have transformed themselves into ministers of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:13-15), so they *appear* to be righteous. They *appear* to be religious. They are religious, but they're not the ministers of God, and Satan doesn't want you to learn all these things. Since this book tells about Satan, he will try to prevent you from studying and reading this book so that you will not learn about him.

Finally, this book tells you about Satan's doom and his failure (20:10). He's doomed to lose. He's doomed to failure for the Lord is going to destroy him. He is going to be placed in an eternal hell. He is going to be the prime subject rather than using a pitchfork shoveling coal, making the fire hotter for all the unsaved who are also going to hell. He is going to be down there suffering in hell. After all, the scripture says, that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels (Mt. 25:41). He's not going to be king of hell; he's not going to be in charge of the domain of hell. He's going to be there suffering. That's his doom. It's certain; he can't change it, but he's hoping

to change it. He knows what the Bible says, but he thinks he has power enough to overcome God and to overcome the Lord Jesus Christ, and thereby still win the victory. That's why he's still fighting; he still has hopes of winning the victory, but he will not.

This Book, not only tells you about Satan and his doom, but it tells you also about his character. Satan is the instigator of all evil. If you want to know where it all began, it began with Satan. He is the instigator of all evil.

Did you ever do anything wrong? Then don't blame God. Blame Satan or yourself. Sometimes we blame Satan with more things that we ought to give him credit for. Wasn't it Flip Wilson who said "The devil made me do it?" I don't think we ought to blame the devil with everything. Sometimes we do things simply because we want to do it, and try to place the blame on the devil. You can't do that. If you do something wrong, don't blame the devil if you wanted to do it. He might entice you; he might tempt you, but he can't make you do it. You do it because you want to. Though he may instigate it, yet you yourself do it because you want to do it, but he will be the instigator, and he'll do everything in his power to enable you to do anything that's wrong.

Not only that, but he is the corrupter of churches.

We read in the New Testament about churches that apostatize. A believer, a Christian, a child of God cannot apostatize. They cannot lose their salvation. A church can, and if a church does, it is because Satan has managed to worm himself into the inside whereby he corrupts that church and leads that church into apostasy. Satan is the one who does it.

Occasionally we have little problems in our church. Some of them haven't always been so little, but we do have difficulties or problems within our church, as do all true churches. When that happens, there may be somebody that wants to leave and go to another church because they say our church has problems and I don't want to be in a church that has problems. Let me tell you now, that any church that tries to do the work of the Lord is going to have problems. Satan is going to see to it; that's his job, and if you ever find yourself in the membership of a church that never has any difficulties, never has any problems of any kind, then you can know that Satan is satisfied with that

church. Satan is going to cause problems within a church that works for the Lord.

The thing is, *don't let him use you*. He will use Christians, he will use believers, and he will use those who are members of that church to cause problems within that church. There can be all kinds of problems with a church. Sometimes they are doctrinal problems. Sometimes you may have a member of the church that may be doctrinally right on many things, but doctrinally wrong on others. He (or she) will sow seeds of discord within the church by teaching things contrary to the Word of God, and contrary to what the pastor teaches. You can only have one pastor within a church, and that pastor is accountable and responsible to God for everything that is taught in that church. This is not only in the pulpit, but also in the Sunday school, Training Union, Bible Class, or any other area of the church. The Bible places the responsibility for all teaching in the church underneath the pastor.

(See **REV** on page 16)

---

## To Some Preachers

Brother, get rid of that hang-dog look. The world is in bad shape and getting worse every hour.

But, God hasn't abdicated His throne; He isn't dead. He is not even sick — and not going to

be either. And, if everything was all right in this world, what use would He have for you in the ministry? God did not reserve any place in the ministry for whiners. Perk up and be a man! □ □

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 15)

When there is somebody teaching a doctrine contrary to what the pastor teaches, it will not be long until the church is divided. That ought not to be. That doesn't happen often but even one time is too often.

Sometimes, Satan causes difficulties within a church over other things. I'm thankful we've never had it here, but I can name more than one church that has had difficulties deciding who was going to play the organ and who was going to play the piano. You might consider that a small thing, but a Baptist church in Colorado had a split in which a sizable group left that church, divided over who was going to play the organ. Two people wanted to play it, and it so happened that one of them was the pastor's daughter. I don't know the ins and the outs as I wasn't there at the time, but I know that it caused such a difficulty over who was going to play the organ that it caused a split in the church. Several families left the church simply because the one they wanted to play the organ didn't get to play the organ, even though she was going to play the piano instead. There were two of them, and one could play the organ and the other the piano, but they both wanted to play the organ, and it split the church. Who causes things like that?

Satan does. Sometimes Satan uses good people, God's people, saved people, to cause trouble within a church. Don't let Satan use you. Don't be tools of Satan. He is the corrupter of the churches and he will do it from the inside if he is able to do so.

He is also the persecutor of the churches. Persecution often comes from the outside, and Satan is always behind it. I am sure that we'd be surprised how many churches that are true, sound, Bible-believing churches have difficulty with forces on the outside seeking to persecute them. I don't mean that they are going to boil us in oil, or take us out and throw us to the lions, but there are differences made sometimes between churches. If your church is in the World Council of Churches (WCC), the National Council of Churches (NCC), or one of these ecumenical-type organizations, you will find that you have no difficulty with the government at all. You can secure your tax-exempt status with no problem at all. If you want a building permit or if you want to modify your building, you usually don't have any difficulties with the government either. But, if your church stands for the truth, and will not join the World or National Council of Churches, or any of these other ecumenical organizations because they believe all such organizations are of the devil, they

won't have anything to do with them. Because they don't, then they run into problems with the Federal Government and the IRS and all these other things, and none of the others do. It is a form of persecution.

Here in the United States we see that the Federal Government is persecuting churches right now, especially in the area of private schools. I hope you read that article in this month's issue of **The Baptist Challenge** about private schools and how the government is trying to close

churches down, or make these churches submit to the bureaucracy of the Internal Revenue Service, or else forfeit their tax-exempt status. What they do with private schools, church-owned schools, if they can get by with that, then the same rules that apply to a church-owned school will apply to a church or else you won't get a tax-exempt status. If you don't know what we're talking about, you haven't been reading your

(See **REV** on page 17)

---

## He Knew His Bible

A boy was on a steamboat taking a journey. One day as he sat alone on the deck, looking down into the deep water, two ungodly men agreed that one of them would persuade him to take a drink of liquor. So one of the men drew near the lad, and in a very pleasant voice and manner invited him to go drink a glass of wine with him.

"I thank you sir," said the boy, "but I never drink intoxicating liquors."

"Never mind, my lad; it will not hurt you. Come and have a drink with me."

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise," was the boy's ready reply.

"You need not be deceived by it. I would not have you drink much. A little will do you no harm but

would liven you up."

"At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder," said the boy, "and I certainly think it is wise not to play with an adder."

"My fine young fellow," said the crafty man, "it will give me great pleasure if you will only come and drink one glass of the best wine with me."

"My Bible says, If sinners entice thee, consent thou not" was his reply.

This was a stunning blow to the tempter, and he went back to his companion, defeated.

"Well how did you succeed?" he asked.

"Not at all. The fact is," replied the man, "that youngster is so full of the Bible that I cannot do. □"

## REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 16)

papers recently, and especially **The Baptist Challenge**. What they're trying to do, is to tell you that you have to have 20% minorities (which means black) in your school, and if you don't, you have to prove to them that you have actively gone out and recruited them. If you find that they don't have the money, then you have to prove that you have donated them a scholarship and paid their expenses to come to your school. Then you must prove that you have 20% of the faculty members minority, and if you haven't, then you have to prove that you have gone out and recruited blacks to become members of the faculty. If you don't have them, you at least have to prove that you tried to get them anyway. These are just some of the requirements imposed on a church in Mississippi. You're guilty until you have proved yourself innocent to the IRS or else they will close your school by removing your tax-exempt status. If they can do that with a school, it is only one step further to do that with a church. That's a form of persecution.

Satan is behind all of this! Satan seeks to destroy every New Testament church, and he is going to use all these methods. He is going to instigate evil; he will seek to corrupt the

churches, and he is going to be the persecutor of the churches because he is the enemy of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan hates the book of Revelation because he knows that if people could see the end from the beginning they would not be so quick and willing to follow him. If people knew the result, they wouldn't be so quick to follow him.

Another reason why Satan hates this book is because the gospel message is preached in the Book of Revelation.

*“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (1:5). Again, “And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 7:13-14; Heb. 9:22).*

You see the gospel is preached in these verses. In the first chapter it says *“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”* That's the way sins are removed. Sins are not

removed by joining a church. Sins are not removed by being baptized. Sins are not removed by keeping the commandments. Sins are not removed by keeping the Law. Sins are removed by only one way, and that is through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has “washed us,” and that word “washed” means “loosed” us from our sins in His own blood. It is the modernist who wishes to eliminate the blood. They wish to take all the songs from our hymn books that sing about the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. “What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus, What can make me whole again, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” The song we sang a moment ago, “There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Emmanuel's veins, And sinners plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains.” Satan does not want people to know about the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, because this is the only way that sin can be removed.

Do you know that? Have you learned that? Do you know that the only way that your sins can be removed is by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ? Hebrews 9:22 says that it

is the only way that our sins can be removed, by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no cleansing apart from the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Have your sins been washed away? Are you free? Have you been “loosed,” for that word “washed” in verse 5 means “loosed.” That's what your laundry detergent does when you put it in your washing machine, it “looses” the dirt from the fabrics that you put in there. That's what washing is. It loosens the dirt so that it can all be washed out and drained out through the drain. That's what Jesus does with His blood. He cleanses us; He washes us; He “looses” us from our sins, so that when we stand before Him, we stand before Him as though we had never sinned at all — pure, spotless and white. We have been washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This book tells us about that. Satan does not want you to know that. Satan does not want you to realize that your sins can only be cleansed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

[Next month: “The Interpretation of the Book or Blessings From the Book.”] □ □

**Don't Put a Question Mark  
Where God Put A Period**

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 13)

week it will launch a nationwide show focusing on atheism. The first national show will feature Christopher Hitchens, author of "God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything." The Freethought Radio Program, hosted by the co-presidents of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, has been airing on Air America's Madison, Wis., affiliate since April 2006. On Saturday, Oct. 6, the show will begin airing on 14 other affiliates from Palm Springs, Fla., to Eugene, Ore., and on XM Satellite radio." You can turn on the radio or TV 24/7 to be preached at," Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-president of the FFRF, said in a statement. "This is one hour a week of the public airwaves that offers an alternative. "Gaylor said the program "offers irreverent views, news, music and interviews," including a regular news feature called "Theocracy Alert." Peter Sprigg, vice president for policy at the Family Research Council, noted that atheists have the same free speech rights as all Americans. Yet, as he told **Cybercast News Service**, "I doubt atheist radio will be any more popular than liberal radio." "Conservative talk radio dominates, as do Christian radio programs," he said. "I don't think Dr. James Dobson,

with Focus on the Family, has anything to worry about from atheist radio." Sprigg further said that liberals often claim that one can be a Christian and a liberal at the same, but, in his view, the step to promote atheism on the airwaves is indicative perhaps that liberalism is incompatible with traditional religious belief. — CNS

\* \* \*

**Gaza Christians Fearful After Murder of Bible Society Worker.** — The small Christian community in the Gaza Strip is in shock and many Christians may seriously consider leaving after the murder Sunday of a Bible Society worker, possibly for missionary activity, Christian sources said. The body of Rami Ayyad, 30, was found early Sunday morning near the Palestinian Bible Society Teacher's Bookshop that he ran in Gaza. The Bible Society had been attacked earlier this year. Ayyad, who had received death threats over his Christian activity, had been stabbed and shot to death. He leaves behind a pregnant wife and two young children. The Palestinian Bible Society said he had been kidnapped on Saturday evening by people who had followed him home a day earlier. No group has claimed responsibility for the killing. Islamic extremists have carried out numerous attacks in the Gaza Strip

against Christian and Western concerns in recent years. Gaza's Interior Ministry, which is run by Hamas, was quoted by the Associated Press as calling the murder a "grave crime" that would not "pass without punishment." "It is very difficult. We are in shock," Pastor Hanna Massad of the Gaza Baptist Church told **Cybercast News Service**. Although there have been bomb attacks against members of the Christian community in the past, this was the first time a Christian had been abducted and killed, he said. Christians don't know what to expect next and whether there may be other killings, he said. "As Christians we know where he's at," Massad said of Ayyad. "He's in a better place [with God]." Nonetheless, he said, "it's painful for us." — CNS

\* \* \*

**Creation Crisis In Christian Colleges.** — The following is excerpted from "Creation Crisis in Christian Colleges," by Dr. Kurt Wise, Answers In Genesis, Jan. 31, 2006: "Recently, both the Wheaton College student newspaper (this is a prominent Christian school near Chicago) and Chicago Tribune ran stories about the age of the earth in Christian colleges. ... With the exception of Seventh Day Adventist colleges, it's virtually impossible to find

young-age creation taught at denominational colleges (Southern Baptist, Presbyterian, Nazarene, etc.) ... the Tribune article mentions three biology majors at Olivet Nazarene College who entered the school as creationists, but who are now theistic evolutionists. As a further example, the Wheaton College newspaper shows the results of a student survey (42% of the students responded) which showed that whereas 47% believed in a young earth before entering Wheaton (the same percentage which Gallup finds for the population at large in its polls), only 27% believed in a young earth by the time of the survey. The same survey indicated that Wheaton professors were a greater influence on their age-of-earth belief than their parents were!" — Concluding Note: The Bible says the world was divinely created in six literal days, and that settles the matter for a Bible-believer. The only sure protection from the apostasy of these last days is for God's people to have *nothing whatsoever* to do with those who name the name of Christ but deny or question the Bible's plain teachings. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 16:17).

(See WNR on page 19)



## “Hearing” the Word

By A. M. Overton

The only way a sinner can ever have faith in Jesus Christ as Savior is by hearing the Word of God. We know this is so because the Lord says “Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). But, occasionally we come across the very serious error that the hearing of God’s Word is limited to the audible hearing of the ear. This theory would doom all deaf people, because they can never hear through their ears.

However, just a little honest study of the Word of God will settle this matter once and for all. The Book of John, the one book of all the sixty-six books of the Bible which is addressed to lost people, has for its purpose: “These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (Jn. 20:31). The Holy Spirit here definitely declares that this book of John was “written” that “ye might believe.” Likewise, to young Timothy, the apostle Paul wrote: “From a child (infant) thou hast known the holy scriptures (writings), which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in

Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:15).

Nothing could be clearer than that the things written in God’s holy writings are able to make one wise unto salvation. That reading what is written is considered “hearing” in God’s Word is seen in comparing the admonitions of the Lord unto John in writing the letters to the seven churches in Asia. “Unto the angel — write” (Rev. 2:1, 12, etc.) with His further admonition to the readers of the letter “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29, etc.). The Lord spoke to the churches through what John wrote and they “heard” in receiving the message written. No man need add anything to God’s Word for it to be effective in accomplishing what God pleases and in prospering in that whereto He sends it (Isa. 55:10-11). &

**WNR . . .**

(Continued from page 18)

**Church Leader Arrested In China For Receiving Imported Bibles.** — The following is excerpted from “House Church Leader in Xinjiang Formally Arrested for Receiving Bibles and

Abused in Jail,” ChristianNewsWire.com, Sept. 5, 2007: “China Aid learned that a well-known house church leader was formally arrested on August 31 for receiving 3 tons of Bibles. Mr. Zhou Heng is also the manager of a registered bookstore which is called Yayi Christian Book Room which is used to sell some Christianity related books published legally and officially inside China. His bookstore was already forced to close after his arrest by the local authority. ... The Bibles were reportedly donated by South Korean churches and were intended for local believers free of charge. However, the Chinese government only allows officially sanctioned (state) churches to print and distribute a limited number of Bibles each year. If convicted of the charges, he faces a 15-year prison sentence. ... CAA China investigators spoke with a recently released inmate who shared a cell with Brother Zhou. The inmate reported Brother Zhou was beaten in prison severely by other inmates and prison guards.”

\* \* \*

**ACLU Defeated Again.** — “A federal court recently dismissed a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) challenging a Harlan County, Ky., school display of historical documents that

includes the Ten Commandments.” said a Focus On The Family report. “The lawsuit later was attached to two cases involving the same display in two courthouses. A federal district court dismissed the Harlan County case. Liberty Counsel Founder Mat Staver said the dismissal is ‘the latest defeat for the ACLU’ ...”

\* \* \*

**Student Told To Not Mention Jesus.** — “A 4th grader in a school district in Florida was given a class assignment by his teacher. The assignment asked the student to prepare a short paper on ‘My Favorite Holiday’ or ‘My Favorite Season.’ The student decided to write about his favorite holiday, which is Christmas. This 4th grader understood that the significance of the Christmas season was the birth of Jesus Christ. The children were each told to read their paper in class. When it was time for the student to begin his reading, he mentioned in the first paragraph of his story that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Initially, the teacher did not react in any way to this statement. However, as the student continued to read his paper and was about to mention Jesus’ name again concerning the significance of the holiday, the teacher

(See **WNR** on page 20)

**MULTI . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

Multiculturalism is a worldview that declares that all human cultures and moral codes, no matter how ennobling or how rotten are equally valid. It believes that all human cultures are of the same worth.

The basic message of multiculturalism is that all cultures are equally good and beneficent, no matter how violent or oppressive. Ruthless, repressive, backward cultures are seen as equal to Western civilization.

Every culture is seen to be correct by its own standards and thus not to be judged by others. Westerners have no right to judge other cultures because they are of as much value as our own Christian culture. Multiculturalism calls for *diversity* which means that they will accept any religion and any culture. The obvious faults and shortcomings of non-Christian cultures are ignored and even praised.

Multiculturalism says that there is *no absolute truth*, only personal preferences and private opinions, each of which is as good as any other if believed sincerely. We therefore must be neutral and *tolerant* of all aspects of all human cultures and religions. One pundit has correctly called *multiculturalism, hyper-tolerance.*

Multiculturalists view the displacement of paganism by Christianity as an embarrassment and an injustice to paganism. Another name for multiculturalism is *PC* or *political correctness.*

Multiculturalism started on our college campuses during the 1960's. It has been brought in and continually promoted through the universities, the public schools and the media. The entertainment industry which is now without question the dominant force in our culture, is thoroughly multicultural in outlook.

Even our churches have been permeated by the multicultural worldview. An example of this is seen in an editorial by Diane West that appeared on Townhall.com March 10, 2007 and I quote: "While British authorities were sifting through the rubble of a terrorist bombing in London, an Anglican priest in a church within sight of that investigation urged his flock to rejoice in the capital's rich diversity of cultures, traditions, ethnic groups and faiths." By capturing and using these institutions our historic spiritual and moral values are being rapidly broken down.

**Multiculturalism Teaches That All Gods & All Religions Are Equally Valid.**

Multiculturalism would

place the one true God next to all of the idols of this pluralistic age instead of above them. According to the scriptures there is only one true God and all men are called upon to worship Him alone. It is the duty of all men to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God. The Triune God of biblical Christianity is the only true God! He says "Beside me there is no God!" (Isa. 44:6). In Isaiah 46:9 Jehovah God says, "I am God and there is none else." In Psalm 86:10 the Psalmist says to Jehovah, "Thou art God

alone!" Allah does not exist! There is *one* God. He is revealed in His word. His names are revealed in that word and Allah is not among those names. Hindus have so many gods they are hard to count!

The first commandment condemns all other gods, religious or material. In our text in Exodus 20:3 Jehovah God says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." In Exodus 34:14 Jehovah God says, "Thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is

(See **MULTI** on page 21)

**WNR . . .**

(Continued from page 19)

stopped him. She told the entire class that we are not to talk about religion. She then instructed him to continue reading his story, but he would have to omit anything religious. Remember,

the topic was to choose and discuss your favorite holiday. Of course, he was the only student who was told he could not read his story to the entire class." The American center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) legal team is working on the case ■ □ □

**You can accomplish  
more in one hour  
with God than one  
lifetime without  
Him.**

**"With God all things are possible"  
Matthew 19:26**

**MULTI . . .**

(Continued from page 20)

Jealous, is a jealous God.”

Christianity has the only true God and all other gods are idols. Turn to 1 Chronicles 16:26-30. This passage calls all men and nations to worship this one true God of the Bible. “For *all the gods of the people are idols*; but the LORD made the heavens. Glory and honor are in his presence, strength and gladness are in his place. Give unto *the LORD, ye kindreds of the people*, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Fear *before him, all the earth.*”

The apostle Paul did not recognize the culture of the Athenians as equal to his. He called on the Athenians to turn from their idol worship and worship the one true God. He declared to the idolatrous Athenians in Acts 17:28-29 that “in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, *we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.*” Paul called for these pagan Athenians to reject their gods and trust in the risen Christ. This would certainly be a

politically incorrect message today!

Many pastors and evangelists and theologians today have folded under the pressure of multiculturalism. Here’s what Billy Graham said in an article in McCall’s Magazine dated January 1978. The title of the article was **I Can’t Play God Anymore**. “I used to believe that pagans in far-off countries were lost — were going to hell — if they did not have the gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that. I believe there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God — through nature, for instance — and plenty of other opportunities therefore of saying ‘Yes’ to God ... I have never supported Jewish missions.”

*Christianity is the one true religion!* It is true, not only for Christians but for all men. God’s word teaches and Christians proclaim the uniqueness and exclusiveness of the Christian religion! God’s preachers have always declared the fact that biblical Christianity is the one true religion in this world but many preachers today would not dare to say such a thing.

Instead they put Christianity into a class with all the other religions of this world. The cowardly Lutheran Christian minister who spoke for Christianity at the Virginia Tech convocation after the terrible campus massacre

there said only politically correct things and didn’t even mention the name of Jesus Christ after whom his very religion is named.

*God’s word teaches that Jesus Christ is the only Savior!* As God, He created everything and thus is the source of everything. Jesus Christ is God incarnate, God come in the flesh. John 1:14 has reference to this fact when it says, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” One must see Jesus Christ to see God because Jesus Christ is God in the flesh! John 1:18 says: “No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him (or led him forth or manifested or revealed him).” The Lord Jesus Himself says in John 14:9, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.”

Man is a sinner, ruined by the fall, full of guilt and bound for hell, completely

unable to save or help save himself. Man needs a Savior to deliver him from his guilt and penalty and slavery to sin. In Jesus Christ God became flesh, died for sinners and rose again to save sinners. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is the only sacrifice that a holy and righteous God will accept for sinners. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead proves that everything He said and claimed is true.

Matthew 1:21 says that the name of Jesus means Savior. Here the angel says to Joseph before Christ’s birth, “thou shalt call his name JESUS: *for (or because) he shall save his people from their sins.*” God’s word tells us that only Jesus Christ can save and that *there is no salvation apart from him.* In John 14:6 the Lord Jesus Himself says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: *no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” Acts 4:12 says in speaking of Jesus Christ, “Neither is

(See **MULTI** on page 22)

---

## Four Types of Church Members

An English minister once stated that he had four types of church members.

There are the “futurists,” who are always going to church soon, and wish they were not booked up every Sunday.

The “specialists,” who come to church only on special occasions.

The “Roadsters” who work so hard they must rest on Sunday.

The rest consisting of traveling far and fast and returning dead-tired Sunday night.

And the “regulars” who can be depended upon and who are the inspiration and delight of their pastor. □

**MULTI . . .**

(Continued from page 21)

there salvation in any other: for there is *none other name under heaven* given among men, *whereby we must be saved.*"

All who are ever saved must enter through the narrow gate of faith in Jesus Christ the Savior. The Buddhist must believe in Jesus Christ in order to be saved! So must the Shinto and the Jew and the Muslim.

Biblical Christianity has the only true Savior and all other saviors lead their followers to eternal ruin! The Lord Jesus promises eternal condemnation to those who do not believe that He is the Savior. John 8:24 says, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for *if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*"

*The Holy Bible is the one true religious book!* Most religions claim their own sacred books. Islam has its Koran and Mormonism has its Book of Mormon. But there is only one holy book that comes from God, only one written revelation from God and that is the Bible. Christianity has the only true and infallible book. Only the Bible is God's inerrant and infallible word for man. Only Christianity is based on a book whose every word is inspired or breathed out by God. 2 Timothy 3:16 says that "All scripture is given by inspiration of

God." Jesus Christ has emphatically declared that God's written word is *the truth*. Look at John 17:17 where He says, "Sanctify them through thy truth: *thy word is truth.*" God's book is the only book that reveals true salvation in Jesus Christ. The Bible is the written record of the doing, dying and rising from the dead of Jesus Christ for the salvation of sinners.

### **Multiculturalism Teaches Moral Relativism**

Moral relativists insist that no universal standard exists by which to assess the truth of an ethical proposition. Moral values are applicable only within certain cultural boundaries or in the context of individual preferences. In other words no system of morality or code of ethics is universally binding on all men! All truths are created by humans, the multiculturalists say and thus we cannot judge one truth as being superior to another. I am not bound by any particular moral code as an absolute standard because there is no absolute standard of right and wrong! We all as individuals are the final judges of how we should live. This means that your code of ethics is as good as mine and mine is as good as yours!

Because of this we are often asked to tolerate sin under the guise of tolerating cultural diversity. Multiculturalists often say that

what we need is to "understand" other cultures and view their wicked, immoral, and even terrorist acts "in context."

The other day I watched a special on the National Geographic channel on the Aztec Indians in México. The program made no reference to the heinous and morally reprehensible nature of their mass human sacrifices in which the hearts were cut out of their victims while they were still alive in order to appease their gods.

The Islamic culture that practices female genital mutilation is seen by multiculturalists as not to be criticized because after all we celebrate diversity. The heinous murders called honor killings practiced by Islam are rarely mentioned by multiculturalists. When Islamic girls or women participate in pre-marital sex, get divorced, or are raped, family members often kill them in order "to protect their family's honor." In 2002 the Independent Human Rights Commission reported that 460 women in Pakistan were victims of honor killings. Their killers were their own brothers and husbands and fathers and uncles and even mothers.

How can multiculturalists give moral justification to such a barbaric and unthinkable practice? Islamic Jihadists will strap a bomb on a child's waist, send him into a crowded market and blow up as

many people as possible. How can the promoters of multiculturalism justify or even rationalize such a barbaric and unthinkable practice?

Only God can authoritatively establish the standard of right and wrong for men! The only true morality is God's morality! God has the right to set the standard for right and wrong because he is the Creator of man and of all things and He is the only true God. If the God of the Bible is the only true God then keeping His law is the only true morality.

The Ten Commandments are God's standard of right and wrong. They show what God expects and demands of men as far as morality is concerned. God's code of ethics is true for all cultures at all times and is the ultimate moral authority. The Ten Commandments is the only system of morality that is valid in God's eyes. The law of God has clearly spoken concerning dishonesty, theft, murder and adultery and leaves no room for tolerance of these things no matter who is guilty of them. The nations and individuals in them must answer to God for their moral conduct in relation to the absolute standard of God's Ten Commandments.

At one time America was unified on the principle that our country was founded on a moral struc-

(See **MULTI** on page 23)

**MULTI . . .**

(Continued from page 22)

ture based on the Bible. We were a nation that based our judicial laws on the law of God. Christian virtues were seen and upheld as preferable. But in recent years multi-culturalism has chipped away at the idea of an absolute divinely inspired moral code.

Multiculturalism's undermining of our Christian sexual mores is fast bringing our country to its knees. Multiculturalism has now succeeded in making our country so politically correct and minority sensitive that we have all but forgotten our Christian roots.

### **Multiculturalism Is Dangerous To Biblical Christianity**

It is decidedly intolerant of biblical Christianity, even hostile to it. Because Christians proclaim an exclusive book, God and Savior, they are more and more being accused of "spiritual intolerance." But in fact multiculturalism which speaks so much of the need for tolerance is the most *intolerant* philosophy of all. No religion except biblical Christianity is treated by them as inherently offensive. Multiculturalists want to create the impression that Christianity is offensive in order to reduce its influence in public life. Virtually everything about multi-

culturalism is against God, against God's law, against God's word and against God's Son.

Our universities highly value multiculturalism but at the same time they censor and silence the Christian world view and Christians who oppose multiculturalism are called racist, bigoted and homophobic. The National Geographic and many scientists and educators today will no longer use the time designation of B.C. (Before Christ) and A.D. (the year of our Lord). Instead they have adopted B.C.E. for Before Current Era and C.E. or Current Era.

There is a whole list of dangers to our country and our churches created by multiculturalism.

1. Because of the widespread acceptance of multiculturalism our Christian culture is largely unable to defend itself. One of the purposes of multiculturalism is to mentally and spiritually disarm Christians so that they cannot and will not stand up for and proclaim biblical truth.

2. Multiculturalism creates a spiritual and moral vacuum into which any false god or doctrine or system may easily be introduced.

3. It is a Trojan horse that is bringing the homosexual agenda into our schools. The reason multiculturalists hate Christianity is because our moral values get in the way of their wicked lifestyles.

Since under their influence the biblical standard of morality is prohibited, sin goes unchecked.

4. Multicultural thinking keeps our country from understanding that Islamic Jihad is evil and must be stopped because multiculturalism leaves people blind to evil.

Multiculturalism causes Americans to oppose shutting down mosques in our midst where violence is preached.

Multiculturalism is a lie! God's word says there is one God, one way of salvation and one way of living that is acceptable to God.

### **What Should Christians Do About the Menace of Multiculturalism?**

1. **First we must realize that we are in a great battle in this matter.** We are now in a battle between moral relativism and biblical Christian values and morality. All our great American military and economic power will be for nothing if we lose our moral bearings.

2. **We must preach and stand for the truth in a world that is often offended by it!** We must begin to speak out against multiculturalism wherever we encounter it and speak up for Christ and the gospel. We need to get some Christian backbone that will enable us to boldly and unashamedly stand for

the gospel of Jesus Christ as the one great need of mankind. In doing this we must avoid all compromise with this dangerous, Satanic worldview.

3. **We must realize that the biblical program of missions is at stake in this matter.** Our very concept of missions and missionaries is at stake. Since multiculturalism teaches that all religions are of equal validity, the Christian work of preaching the one way of salvation through repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ is considered offensive and unacceptable. God's word reveals that sinful men need the Savior regardless of their culture or religion. Chinese people need to hear the gospel. Mexicans, Brazilians, Arabs, Jews and Filipinos. Christians have been commanded by Christ Himself to preach the gospel to every creature throughout the whole earth but multiculturalists want to shut our mouths about that gospel!

Multiculturalism has transformed most Protestants today from talking about mission and missionaries and evangelism to "holding interfaith dialogue." Biblical Christians must stay committed to the evangelization of all nations. □ □

---

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness." — Some preachers are not voices; they are just echoes.

## FELLOWSHIPS and CONFERENCES

### LUBBOCK, TX

March 10-12, 2008, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1911 34th St., Lubbock, TX 79411, Bob Jackson, Pastor.

\* \* \*

### ST. CLAIR, MO

April 28-30, 2008, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 1352 Parkway Dr., St. Clair, MO 63077, Thomas Smith, Pastor.

\* \* \*

### DEARBORN HGTS., MI

June 17-19, 2008, Van Born Baptist Church, 25866 Van Born Rd., Dearborn Hgts., MI 48125, Greg Albright, Pastor.

### NICK. . .

(Continued from page 2)

ascension into heaven, *our Lord* sat down at the right hand of His *Father* (Heb. 1:3) where He had been prior even before the foundation of the world (Jn. 6:38; 1:3). The *Holy Spirit* is said to be in the world, reproving it (Jn. 16:8). Thus, we find the Trinity in their distinct present day activities.

The Trinity idea is reflected in many other ways. Man himself, being one, is a trichotomous being, spirit, soul and body

(1 Thess. 5:18). Time is three-fold: past, present and future. Space consists of length, width and height. There are three levels of heaven as well as three aspects of one grand salvation (from the penalty, power and presence of sin). Christ is said to be the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd, and the Chief Shepherd. The ancient Tabernacle and Temple each had the outer court, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Therefore as we can see, the Bible and the world about us abound with the truth and principle of the Trinity. □

### HOME . . .

(Continued from page 5)

was singing “Nearer My God To Thee.” It was clear and sweet. The words went to my heart. I said, “I am going home.” I gathered my clothes and told the men good bye and “lit out” for home.

Before I got half way, darkness covered the earth. It was dismal and dark and difficult. The road was through woods and forests. It was hard to stay in the road. I finally lost it. I heard all kinds of frightful spooks. The old owls made the woods horrible. I ran into briars, thorns and muddy places. But I was going home. I knew when I got there all would be well.

I did not know where I was but I knew I was going

in the right direction. It was the most horrible trip of all my life. I was frightened, lonely, weary and distressed. But I was going home.

It was a great joy when I came to our back yard fence. I knew then where I was. I knew the rest of the way. I was no longer lost. The familiar sound I heard was the barking of our dogs. It sounded as sweet as the singing of the woman.

When I drew near enough I whistled for the dogs. They came running, barking every step of the way. Can anybody ever forget such a welcome? It was hilarious and wonderful.

All the family had gone to bed and were asleep except mother. She could not understand the “carrying-on” of the dogs. But it did not take her long to realize her son was coming home. She gave a glad shout and soon everybody was wide awake to welcome the returning boy.

Mother was shocked when she saw muddy and bloody clothes. The thorns and briars had scratched my face and hands. But what of it? I was at home with those who loved and cared for me.

There is another day coming — “Someone will be waiting and watching for me. And oh, what a glory that will be! □

## The Word of God

The Word of God should not only be a check on our thoughts, but the source of them, which is a far deeper thing. We see it in Christ, the only Perfect One. He only could say, “By the words of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.” “Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

There is a preserving power in the Word to keep

the feet from sliding, which those only know who receive the truth in the love of it. Merely having the Word hid in the memory and mind will not do. There is no preserving power in that. There must be the action of the truth on the heart and conscience separating from all defilement; otherwise its preserving power cannot be experienced. — Words of Truth, Vol. VI. □ □

*Having truth decay?  
Brush up on your Bible*