

# The Baptist

# CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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## *Introduction to the Book of Revelation*

*[This first message was preached on January 7, 1979. These messages are printed "as preached" and not as they would normally be in written form. These formed a total of 113 messages preached at the Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas in 1979 - 1980, over a period of two*

*years. We hope that they will be a blessing to each of you as you read them.]*

For this study of the book of Revelation, I recommend that you read the entire book before we begin. I believe that it will

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

be very helpful to you as you'll be able to understand it better if you have already read the book and have an overall viewpoint.

Simply because you read it through and did not understand all of what you read, does not mean that

you cannot understand the book. One should not jump to conclusions, and think that the Book of Revelation cannot be understood. It can! Let us now read the first three verses of this book:

*"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God*

(See **REV** on page 12)

Missions is missions. Divide it as we will "the field is the world" and nothing short of world-wide missions satisfies our risen Lord. Theorize as we may, argue as we may, make excuses as we may, God's word declares that every soul out of Christ is lost, dead in trespasses and sins, without God and without hope, guilty, condemned, and without excuse, whether that soul be the veriest heathen in the wilds of Africa or jungles of India or the president of the United States. God says "there is no distinction; for

## **Missions Is Missions**

**By H Boyce Taylor**

This article is a part of the report on missions as published in the minutes of the 1908 meeting of Blood River Association in Kentucky. It was written and read by H. Boyce Taylor. That was 100 years ago, but the conditions he described are even worse today than they were then; but, thank God, the gospel has not lost any of its power to change men's lives! God help us to quit playing at this task that Jesus has given us!

all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." They are all guilty, all under the curse, all under divine

wrath and every mouth and every man speechless before God. While the lost are without excuse, Baptists

are likewise without excuse before God for their failure to warn these lost ones of the impending wrath of God. Paul said he was pure from the blood of all men. God declares that if we fail to give the wicked warning from Him that their blood will be required at our hands.

The gospel is a trust committed to us and we must stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give account for our faithfulness or unfaithfulness in the use of this trust.

(See **TAYLOR** on page 4)

## Quiz The Pastor

# Why Is The Resurrection of Jesus Christ So Important?

By the late Nick Michalinos

**Question:** Why is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ so important to the thinking of some?

**Answer:** The resurrection of our Lord is the very foundation of our salvation and our hope. Unbelievers have long sought to shut down the tomb of Christ and keep Him therein.

They know how vital His resurrection is to Christianity. There would be no Christianity if Christ be not raised from the dead. Let me briefly show the great tragedy if Christ be not raised from the dead:

(1) It would dishonor God and His Word, because He had promised to raise Him from the dead (Psa. 2:7), and therefore His "flesh (in the tomb) rested in hope" (Psa. 16:9-10). But if He didn't raise Him from the dead, He (Father) failed to keep His

Word to His Son. A person's word is his honor. If we don't keep our word, we are dishonest and dishonorable. Thus, if the Father didn't raise up Christ from the dead, then He has disgraced Himself because He didn't keep His Word.

(2) It would make Christ an impostor and a deceiver because He had promised many times He would be raised from the dead (Mt. 12:40; 17:22-23; Jn. 2:19; 10:17-18). If He wasn't raised as promised, He lied, and therefore all of His claims about Himself were false. He had instilled a false hope in His followers if He be not raised from the dead.

(3) It would make the Bible writers of both the Old Testament and the New Testament equal impostors and masters of deception. All these men are low, contemptible men

if our Lord's resurrection was only a made-up story.

(4) Believers in Him as Savior would yet be unsaved and in their sins (1 Cor. 15:12-19). We would be of all men most miserable. His death then becomes of no value at all. It was a needless tragedy. A "dead" Christ cannot come back for us (Jn. 14:1-3); a "dead" Christ cannot be the Head of the church (Col. 1:18), our advocate (1 Jn. 2:1), our High Priest (Heb. 10:21), give us strength (Phil. 4:13), keep us safely in His hand (Jn. 10:26), be the future judge of the lost (Rev. 20:11), etc. Baptism pictures His resurrection while the Lord's Day speaks of His resurrection. I hope by now you can see the importance of the resurrection of Christ.

Thanks be unto God, He has "risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15:20). By His resurrection, we have the assurance that He is the Christ (Rom. 1:4), and that it is safe to trust Him as Savior (Acts 16:31), and that He will keep us by His divine power (Jn. 10:28), and as saved ones we have the promise that we shall be raised as certainly as He was (Jn. 14:19), and the ordinances do symbolically speak the Truth. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be

saved" (Rom. 10:9). Christianity stands or falls with regard to the resurrection of Christ. "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" (Acts 26:8). ▣

## Why Go to Church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this ... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" ▣

### THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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**Creation Vs. Evolution -- Part III****Fossils As Evidence****By the late Kenneth Mathis**

To use the so-called Geological Column (or Time Table) and fossils contained in the strata as proof of evolution is ridiculous. The fossil record should have, if evolution is true, billions of transition fossils, fossils showing the evolution of one kind to another (missing links), but these transition fossils are nonexistent. Not one fossil exists showing the evolution of invertebrates (w\ekoskeleton and life systems inside the skeleton) to vertebrates (Endoskeleton and life systems outside the skeleton), not one fossil showing, for instance, the evolution of limbs into wings or serpents into mammals or birds. Yet, in the fossil record is an abundance of most all modern families of plants and animals as well as extinct creatures. Also, some large fossil beds have species of both plants and animals that are from entirely different habitats and even from areas of different climates.

The fossil record speaks not of the evolution of all things but rather of the sudden and catastrophic judgment of God upon this world through the flood. When God created living things, He decreed that they reproduce after their kind so that dogs begat dogs,

cats begat cats and man reproduces man. The basic kinds or forms of living plants and animals were placed on the earth by direct action of God and the changes observed are the adaptational and genetic variations within the limits of kinds or forms of plants. A dog-kind, horse-kind, bird-kind and man-kind exist; a moss-kind, fern-kind and flowering plant-kind exist. The attempt to show evolution by, for instance, the so-called series of horses of different sizes and with different number of toes, really only shows variational changes within one kind, the horse. When God created the horse, He placed within its genetic code the information for all the varieties of horses that would ever develop. Many variations have occurred but there is no living or fossil records of a horse changing into another kind.

It is true that, due to isolation, a species may develop certain characteristics that dominate (races may have developed this way after God confounded their languages). But all of the characteristics possible exist within the original DNA or genetic code of the first pair or group isolated. Adaptational changes may or may not

occur but any changes that do occur are within a kind and no evolution from one kind to another occurs.

Also, the comparison of limbs or other structural parts of living species does not prove evolution but rather a common creator, God. The statement that the extinction of certain species prove evolution only reflects the unscientific bias of the writer. Extinction speaks of death and not evolution.

**Mutations**

Not only does the evolutionist have problems with the fossil record, he also has problems finding some means, or mechanism that would produce the changes in plants and animals necessary for evolution to be true. Although many theories have been presented, the only one seriously considered today is the accumulation of successive random mutations.

A mutation is a change in some characteristic of an organism that can be inherited. A mutation can be caused by damage to the chromosomes in one form or the other or more often by mutation of a gene within the DNA molecule. Mutations are a genetic mistake and usually harmful and often fatal.

Of mutations that can be documented, only one or two can be said to be beneficial. Even the so-called beneficial mutations are random and must

appear when conditions are right for their survival. Mutations do not produce new traits but only degenerative or variational characteristics of already existing traits (per DNA molecule). For an accumulation of a succession of these mutations (the few assumed beneficial) to change one animal kind to another would require time to be speeded up by chemicals or by powerful radiation but the consequences are always harmful or lethal. No one in their right mind would willingly expose themselves to radiation today because we know that, normally, radiation is very harmful. The truth is mutations reflect the Second Law of Thermodynamics. No mutations exist showing the change from one class of organisms into a more complex type of another organism. Rather, these changes have been observed to be harmful and often involve the loss of some physical trait. To believe that amoebas, through mutation, have changed to man requires greater faith than believing that God created all things.

**Dating Methods**

Because of his theories on the way all things evolved, the evolutionist must have billions of years for his belief to be reasonable. Therefore, he

(See **MATHIS** on page 24)

## Should A Woman Teach In Any Church Service?

By A. M. Overton

The question is often raised by truth loving Christian women concerning their Scriptural right to teach in Sunday School, Training Service, Missionary Society, etc. God-fearing and Christ-honoring women want to follow the Lord's will, whatever it is, and many of them are greatly disturbed by what they hear on this matter.

Briefly here we wish to consider a few Scriptural facts. In a definitely pastoral letter to instruct a young pastor "how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God" (1 Tim. 3:15), the Lord through the apostle Paul declares, "I suffer (allow) not a woman to teach, nor to usurp (exercise) authority over the man" (1 Tim. 2:12). This is definite and easy to understand. Christian women are not to teach men, nor to exercise authority over them in the Lord's work of any kind.

Some think that this prohibition to teach is conclusive and applies to all teaching. Taken alone, this Scripture might be accepted as saying just that, but the same Lord, through the same apostle, in writing another young pastor, Titus, urges him to teach the older women (Tit. 2:3-5) to teach "good things", and especially to "teach the young

women".

It may be objected that this teaching applies to the home life only. However, the letters to Timothy and Titus are equally pastoral letters and we have no right to apply one to the church services only and the other to the home only.

In the light of these Scriptures without any desire to prove either statement true or false, it appears that Christian women are forbidden to teach or to exercise authority over men in the Lord's services. They may teach women and children, but Christian women who desire to honor and please their Lord will not teach a group in which there are men, and neither will she preside over or in any sense exercise authority over men.

Truly women are frequently better qualified by natural endowment and training than men to teach and they may be able to direct a service better than many men, but that does not in any wise change what the Lord says so plainly in His Word. □

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**TAYLOR . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

At that day shame and confusion shall cover the face of every child of God

who has been recreant to this trust. John warns us to abide in Him and let His word abide in us that we may not be ashamed before Him at His coming. The gospel is a trust committed to us to give to others, "Have we been true to the trust He left us? Have we sought to do our best?"

The supreme need of Kentucky and the world is the "glorious gospel of our blessed God." The prevailing lawlessness in our state makes this need an imperative one. The night riders destroy property and threaten life in western Kentucky; the bribery, graft, gambling, profanation of the Lord's day, and political corruption of Louisville and other cities; the feuds and shameful proceedings of mock courts of justice in the mountains and in western Kentucky, all reveal an appalling state of lawlessness and crime in our state.

Education, law enforcement, temperance and other reform legislation may curtail and hold in check this spirit of lawlessness for a while, but the only permanent and effective

cure is the gospel of Jesus Christ. John tells us that sin is lawlessness, and that he that doeth sin doeth lawlessness. The only way to stop the lawlessness, then, is to remove the sin. Lopping off a few branches may check the growth and manifestation of the lawless spirit for a while; but the only cure is to lay the ax at the root of the tree. Let men be made new creatures in Christ Jesus and the blood of Jesus Christ applied to their hearts and the spirit of lawlessness is dead. This is why that one missionary has often been worth a dozen officers in promoting peace and restoring order.

What have we done to give this gospel of peace to our state, our nation and our lost world? As Amy Wilson Carmichael says: "We are playing at praying, and caring, and going, playing at doing — if doing cost — playing at everything but play."

God open our eyes and convict us of our insincerity, and burn out the superficial in us and make us intensely in earnest! □

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## Give, Give, Give

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

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

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

## What God Does For the Sinner When He Believes On Jesus Christ

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|---|--|
| 1. Forgives his sins. — Eph. 4:32                                   | companion, the Holy Spirit. — Jn. 14:16  |
| 2. Blots out his sins. — Isa. 44:22                                 | 11. Gives him everlasting life. — Jn. 3:16                                       |
| 3. Makes him a child of God by the new birth. — Gal. 3:26           | 12. Gives him exceeding great and precious promises. — 2 Pet. 1:4                |
| 4. Makes him a new creature. — 2 Cor. 5:17                          | 13. Redeems him. — Gal. 3:13   |
| 5. Gives him peace that passes all understanding. — Rom. 5:1        | 14. Justifies him — gives him perfect standing with God. — Gal. 3:16             |
| 6. Casts all his sins behind His (the Lord's) back. — Isa. 38:17    | 15. Seals him by the Holy Spirit. — Eph 1:13                                     |
| 7. Adopts him into His family. — Eph. 1:5                           | 16. Makes him a citizen of heaven. — Phil. 3:20                                  |
| 8. Sanctifies him. — 1 Cor. 1:2                                     | 17. Dresses him up in the beautiful robe of Christ's righteousness. — Isa. 61:10 |
| 9. Makes him free from the bondage of sin and the law. — Rom. 8:1-2 | 18. Saves him by His Amazing Grace. — Eph. 2:8-9                                 |
| 10. Gives him a new   |  |

## Are We Crazy?

“Americans are insane,” said a European of us recently. Before we show you much resentment at that remark, we should study ourselves just a bit.

Dr. Oliver R. Bryant of Los Angeles recently said: “Tobacco today kills more people than hard liquor. Tobacco, especially in the form of cigarettes, causes 70% of all deaths in coronary heart disease and its associated heart and circulatory ailments.” This statement is from a physician who concedes that he himself is a smoker.

He adds, “Seventy-eight per cent of all deaths among doctors are due to coronary heart disease and a similar per cent of all doctors are heavy smokers.”

If this is true, and other physicians concur, then we are an insane people, for only the insane deliberately plot and assist in the taking of their own lives. “In seven cases out of ten, sudden death among prominent business men across the nation is caused by heart disease due to tobacco,” says Dr. Bryant. How Dr. Bryant ever got that statement into a daily

## The Bible

By Kathryn Parrish

There it stands, like a mighty rock  
In the midst of a raging sea;  
The Bible stands, though men may mock  
And attack it vehemently!

Why do men mock and hate it so?  
This Book of eternal salvation!  
Could it be that wicked men know  
It warns of their condemnation?

They have burned it, and spurned it,  
And explained it away;  
They have denied and spiritualized,  
But the Book is here to stay!

And though wicked men like Jehoiakim,  
May take their penknives and whittle,  
The Bible will not be expired by them,  
Not even one jot or tittle!

For should they destroy it from the earth,  
This Book which God has given;  
'Tis settled forever from the first,  
And has been preserved in heaven!

They shall be judged by this Holy Word,  
All whose sins have not been atoned,  
When they meet a thrice-Holy God  
At the great white judgement throne!

newspaper is the riddle. It is certain that he will not be the idol of the American  
Tobacco Company or Marlboro after this. — Copied

## The Importance of the Church

By I. W. Rogers

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

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

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

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

The importance of the church is attested by the emphasis that Jesus and the apostles and the New Testament Scriptures, as a whole, place upon this God-ordained, and God-built institution. Jesus not only instituted His church, but He built it. On the night before He was crucified, in (See **ROGERS** on page 23)

## Others May, You Cannot!

Anonymous

If God has called you to be really like Jesus He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to follow other people, or measure yourself by other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it, and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you surely penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their success, of their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, or may have a legacy left to them, but it is likely God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, a

helpless dependence upon Him, that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored and put forward, and keep you hidden in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. He may let others be great, but keep you small. He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit of it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious He may let others get credit for the work which you have done, and thus make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings or for wasting your time, which other Christians never feel distressed over.

So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do as He pleases with His own. He may not

(See **NOT** on page 23)



## An Airplane Stewardess Finds the Lord

By Torrey Johnson

“How’s everything,” I asked, as she was passing out the Chiclets.

The plane stewardess did not answer. Instead of receiving an answer, I noticed a tear in her eye.

Sensing that something was wrong, I told my traveling companion to pray while I would talk with her at our next landing at Wichita.

Half the passengers got out to stretch their legs for the brief stop-over. I found the stewardess at her station in the rear of the plane.

There, after some introductory remarks between us, she told me her story. Her fiancée was to have been returned to the States from England. At her request, the airline officials

had changed her from the West Coast to Chicago, where she was to have been stationed, so that she could be with him between flights. Instead of the anticipated reunion in Chicago, however, she got word that he had been killed while returning from his 50th and last bombing mission. Her plans were “shot”, her disappointment bitter, and life no longer seemed worth living.

Secretly I prayed for the right words. “It is hard for one to put one’s self into your place,” I said. “I wonder what I would do were I to receive word right now that my wife had met sudden death. What a blow it would be!” I reflected. “How lonely the days that would stretch

ahead!”

“Yet,” I ventured, “I have a very dear Friend who, I believe, would help me face the sorrow and the empty days. I have known this friend for many years, and He has never let me down. It is the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you know Him?”

“I can’t say I do” she replied.

Her attitude bespoke her readiness to hear more about the Lord, and with open Bible I pointed out to her how to accept this Friend as her personal Savior.

And there in the back of the plane we bowed our heads and the stewardess uttered the penitential prayer, “Lord be merciful to me a sinner.” God heard

that prayer and definitely witnessed to her heart that she had become a child of God through faith in the One who died for her.

When the plane resumed its flight, it carried a lighter cargo, for the burden of sin and sorrow had been lifted from the heart of its stewardess.

And when we finally left her plane at Tulsa, with tears in her eyes, she looked up in the blue sky and said, “If I were to die right now, I know I would go straight to heaven.”

A few hours later that stewardess did “go straight to heaven,” for when we picked up the newspaper next morning we read that our plane had crashed and that the stewardess was instantly killed. □ □

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## D. N. Canright’s Verdict On Seventh Day Adventism

After keeping the Seventh Day for 28 years;

After having persuaded more than a thousand others to keep it;

After having read my Bible through, verse-by-verse more than 20 times;

After having scrutinized to the best of my ability every text, line, and word in the whole Bible having

the remotest bearing upon the Sabbath question;

After having looked up all these, both in the original and in many translations;

After having searched in lexicons, concordances, commentaries, and dictionaries;

After having read armfuls of books on both

sides of the question;

After having read every line in all the early Church Fathers upon this point;

After having written several works in favor of the Seventh Day, which were satisfactory to my brethren;

After having debated

the question more than a dozen times;

After seeing the fruits of keeping it; and after weighing all the evidence in the fear of God, and of the judgment day,

I am fully settled in my own mind and conscience that the evidence is against the keeping of the Seventh Day. □



**Judge: Same-Sex Couples Can Wed in Iowa.** — A county judge in Des Moines, Iowa struck down Iowa's decade-old gay marriage ban as unconstitutional Thursday and ordered local officials to process marriage licenses for six gay couples. Gay couples from anywhere in Iowa could apply for a marriage license from Polk County under Judge Robert Hanson's ruling. Less than two hours after word of the ruling was publicized, two Des Moines men applied for a license, the first time the county had accepted a same-sex application. The approval process takes three days.

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**Ford Sales Collapse Again. Boycott A Driving Force.** — Simply put, people are not buying Fords. Ford Motor Company continues to suffer monthly sales losses because of its support of homosexuality. For August, Ford reported a 14.4% drop in sales over the same month last year. Rather than taking a neutral position in the culture war, Ford uses its profits to support gay activist groups,

## World News Roundup

whose top agenda is to push pro-homosexual marriage and "gay" hate crimes laws on the rest of the nation. While other auto-makers are at least holding their own (GM sales actually went up in August), Ford continues to suffer huge sales losses month after month. — AFA

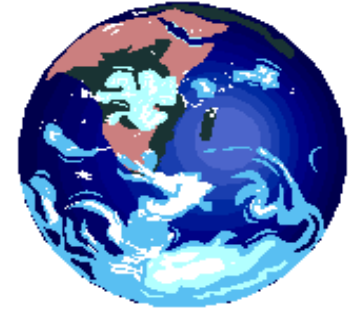
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**Hindu Offers Prayers In U.S., California, and Nevada State Senates.** — 2007 is a sad milestone in U.S. history, for this was the year that a Hindu first offered prayers in the U.S. Senate as well as in the California and Nevada state Senates. Rajan Zed, who works at a Hindu temple in Reno, Nevada, offered the prayers on each occasion. At the Nevada State Senate on May 12 all of the senators stood to honor the Hindu scriptures, and ministers from various Presbyterian, Episcopal, United Methodist, and Seventh Day Adventist "attended the prayers as a gesture of support" ("Nevada State Senate Opens with Sanskrit Prayer," Indolink News Bureau, Sept. 7, 2007). At the U.S. Senate on July 12, Zed's prayer was interrupted by protests from Christians who shouted, "Lord Jesus, forgive us, Father, for allowing the

prayer of the wicked, which is an abomination in your sight." The Christians, who were simply exercising their first amendment right to the free exercise of their religion, were arrested and are facing criminal charges. At the California Senate on August 27 Zed prayed: "We meditate on the transcendental Glory of the Deity Supreme, who is inside the heart of the earth, inside the life of the sky and inside the soul of the Heaven. ... Lead me from the unreal to the Real. Lead me from darkness to Light. Lead me from death to immortality" ("Hindu Leads Senate in Prayer," According to the Bible, the sky has no life and heaven has no soul, and light and life are found *only* in Jesus Christ. Further, the Bible says that God hates idolatry. In California, Zed sprinkled water from an Indian river on the podium before saying his prayer, which makes us wonder where the environmentalists were and why they didn't require that the suspicious water be tested before it was poured out or even before it was brought into the country? — FBIS

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**US Urged to Do More for Jailed Egyptian Christians.** — The U.S. should be using its influence



with Egypt to obtain the release of two Egyptian Christians, human rights groups said. The two were arrested last month for investigating the death of a third Christian who may have been murdered by Egyptian police. The arrests are seen by human rights groups as symptomatic of a larger religious freedom problem in Egypt, a country in which the U.S. has invested heavily, ostensibly to promote the spread of democracy. Dr. Adel Fawzy Faltas and Peter Ezzat Mounir, who work for the Canadian-based religious freedom group Middle East Christian Association (MECA), were arrested by the Egyptian state security officials in early August. Their office was raided and computers and books confiscated. The two reportedly were accused of posting anti-Islamic comments on the Internet, insulting Islam, jeopardizing state security and preaching Christianity. — CNS

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**Court Upholds Ban**

(See **WNR** on page 11)

# La Voz Del Desierto

## Naturaleza de la Perpetuidad de la Iglesia

Por Luis M. Alicea, Redactor

Todos los Bautistas que están bien informados sobre su historia están de acuerdo que, como un pueblo, han continuado desde el tiempo de Cristo hasta ahora. En otras palabras, creen y enseñan la doctrina de la perpetuidad de la Iglesia que Cristo edificó, que ha existido y que siempre existirá hasta el fin de todos los siglos (Mateo 16:18; 28:19-20; Efesios 3:21).

Sin embargo, algunos

que dicen creer en la perpetuidad de los Bautistas, al mismo tiempo pretenden que no se puede probar tal doctrina. Esto es completamente inconsistente, porque ningún hombre debe de creer en alguna cosa que no se puede probar a lo menos satisfactorio a sí mismo. No es posible tener una fe inteligente sin evidencia. Si no tenemos ninguna evidencia para probar la

perpetuidad, está fuera de razón afirmar que creemos en la existencia de la sucesión o perpetuidad de la Iglesia.

Parece que por causa de las burlas de nuestros opositores habla algunos que habían vendido esta doctrina diciendo que es un principio papista, etc. Pero ¿debemos rechazar la doctrina bíblica tan sólo porque ha sido pervertida por la Iglesia Romana?

Nosotros no enseñamos la sucesión apostólica como los católicos, como tampoco enseñamos que para ser salvo hay que ser Bautista. De hecho, siempre hemos creído lo contrario, que uno tiene que ser salvo antes de poder ser Bautista. Toda esta confusión viene porque muchos cristianos no saben diferenciar entre lo que es la Familia de

(Vea **LUIS** en la pág. 10)

## Cuidado Con Los Espíritus Engañadores

Por Galo Rodríguez, Redactor

El discernimiento espiritual es nuestra primera línea de defensa contra el engaño. El Espíritu Santo ha hecho morada en cada creyente y no calla cuando algo no anda bien y encontramos falsificaciones, que ocurren tanto en nuestro interior, como en nuestro exterior. Para tener un espíritu con discernimiento, necesitas examinar tus motivos.

En 1ra Reyes 3, el joven Salomón, rey de

Israel, clama a Dios pidiendo ayuda. Dios viene a Salomón en sueño y le pregunta lo que quiere. Entonces Salomón responde: "Da, pues, a tu siervo corazón entendido para juzgar a tu pueblo, y para discernir entre lo bueno y lo malo; porque ¿quién podrá gobernar este tu pueblo tan grande? Y agradó delante del Señor que Salomón pidiese esto" (V. 9-12).

La motivación del

verdadero discernimiento no es la promoción de sí mismo, y las ganancias personales no logran ventaja sobre el enemigo. La palabra griega para "discernimiento" (*diakrino*), sencillamente significa hacer un juicio o una distinción. El discernimiento tiene una función y esa es la de distinguir entre el bien y el mal, para retener lo bueno y desechar lo malo (1ra Corintios 12:10).

El discernimiento es la

capacidad divinamente concedida de distinguir un buen espíritu, de uno que es malo. Es una manifestación del Espíritu que ha de ser utilizada para la mente (1ra Corintios 2:11-16). Nuestra unión con Dios es lo que posibilita el discernimiento espiritual. Nosotros trazamos rectamente la Palabra de verdad con nuestra mente. Pero el Espíritu nos ayuda a cono-

(Vea **GALO** en la pág. 10)

**LUIS . . .**

(Vino de la pág. 9)

Dios, el Reino de Dios y la Iglesia de Dios.

Los Bautistas saben que el oficio apostólico dejó de existir con la muerte de Juan, el último apóstol. No había necesidad de este oficio cuando el cristianismo había sido bien establecido y el canon de la revelación se había completado. ¿Acaso debemos nosotros rechazar la divinidad de Cristo tan sólo porque la Iglesia Católica enseña esta doctrina? ¿Acaso debemos rechazar las ordenanzas porque han sido pervertidas por sectas y religiones falsas? De ninguna manera.

Los versículos citados anteriormente declaran lo que la historia ya ha confirmado, que nunca ha habido un tiempo desde los días del Señor Jesucristo, cuando no han existido iglesias neotestamentarias en la tierra. Despericiadas, en unos tiempos casi eliminadas, pero siempre fieles. Con un testimonio escrito con sangre, estas iglesias, amadas por el Señor han guardado la fe y han testificado de la gracia salvadora de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. La perpetuidad de la Iglesia que Jesús edificó con los discípulos

que le preparó Juan el Bautista, una Iglesia Bautista, se ha mantenido hasta nuestros días a través de una sucesión de Iglesias.

No nos “jactamos” de ser la Iglesia que Cristo fundó. Más bien el empeño nuestro, es presentarla al mundo actual, como los apóstoles la presentaron en el primer siglo a judíos y a gentiles por igual; sin añadiduras, alteraciones, divisiones, mandamientos de hombres o culto voluntario. □

**GALO . . .**

(Vino de la pag. 9)

cer lo que se puede verificar objetivamente a la luz de las Sagradas Escrituras. “Pero vosotros tenéis la unción del Santo, y conocéis todas las cosas” (1ra Juan 2:20, 26-27). No hay nada de mágico en ello. El Espíritu Santo nos da testimonio de que los espíritus que controlan a otras personas no son el mismo Espíritu que tenemos, debido a que sus manifestaciones espirituales No son compatibles con las Escrituras. En el mundo occidental, la orientación cognoscitiva del cerebro excluye el discernimiento como guía esencial para la navegación

en el mundo espiritual. Pero en Hebreos 5:14, el apóstol Pablo identifica a los que tienen el verdadero discernimiento y nos manda a: “Examinadlo todo” (1ra Tesalonicenses 5:21; 2da Tesalonicenses 2:3-12).

No podemos delatar los engaños de Satanás por medio de razonamientos humanos. Sólo podemos hacerlo por la revelación de Dios, pues Jesús dijo que la luz de la verdad es la única arma válida contra las tinieblas del engaño (Juan 8:31-32; 17:17; Efesios 6:14; 2da Pedro 1:19-20). Juan también nos advierte que en este mundo confundido hay que “Probad los espíritus si son de Dios” para desenmascarar a los anticristos y distinguir entre el espíritu de verdad y el espíritu del error (1ra Juan 2:18; 4:1-6).

Las fuerzas demoníacas de Satanás siempre están en busca de contaminar nuestras mentes con mentiras a fin de evitar que se camine en la verdad (1ra Timoteo 4:1). Existen las voces del mal y de los espíritus engañadores que mienten, a la espera de enlazar a todo viajero hacia el ancho camino que parece derecho, pero que su fin es camino de muerte (Proverbios 14:12). Es por eso que toda experiencia espiritual debe ser juzgada e interpretada a la luz de la Palabra de Dios.

“Porque si viene alguno predicando a otro Jesús que el que os hemos predicado, o si recibís otro espíritu que

el que habéis recibido, u otro evangelio que el que habéis aceptado, bien lo toleráis, Porque éstos son falsos apóstoles, obreros fraudulentos, que se disfrazan como apóstoles de Cristo. Y no es maravilla, porque el mismo Satanás se disfraza como ángel de luz” (2da Corintios 11:4, 13-14). □

## “Reto a La Blasfemia”

Recompensa a Participantes Por Demostrar su Incredulidad en la Página Electrónica en El Internet “Youtube.”

La Esquadra de Responsabilidad Racional ha lanzado una campaña de \$25,000 para atraer a la juventud a que renieguen públicamente cualquier creencia del Dios de la Cristiandad. Llamado “*El Reto a La Blasfemia*”, esta campaña motiva a los participantes a cometer lo que la doctrina cristiana llama el pecado imperdonable, la blasfemia contra el Espíritu Santo.

El Espíritu Santo es el Espíritu invisible, en quienes los cristianos creen que habita en la Tierra como el representante de Dios. De acuerdo a la página electrónica “Más de 160 participantes ya han blasfemado contra el Espíritu Santo y han recibido gratis DVDs durante la fase de prelanzamiento del Reto a la Blasfemia. Lea la Biblia en Mateo 12:31-32. □

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

**On School Bible Distributions.** — A federal appeals court upheld a lower court ruling that prohibited the distribution of Bibles to grade school students in a southern Missouri school district. At issue was a long-held practice at South Iron Elementary School in Annapolis, 120 miles southwest of St. Louis, in which Gideons International representatives came to fifth-grade classrooms and gave away Bibles. A U.S. district judge issued a temporary injunction, and a three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis agreed the classroom distribution should be prohibited. Parents of some students first raised concerns about the Bible distribution in 2005. That fall, the school board voted 4-3 to allow the distribution to continue, against the advice of the district's insurance carrier and attorney. A day after the vote, the Gideons came to the school and distributed Bibles. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed suit in February 2006 on behalf of four sets of parents. — AP

\* \* \*

**Another Catholic Diocese Settles Clergy Abuse Claims.** — The Roman Catholic diocese in San Diego, California, has

agreed to pay \$198 million to settle 144 claims of sexual abuse by its priests. This follows the announcement in July by the archdiocese of Los Angeles to pay \$660 million to settle 508 cases. The total payout for sex abuse by the Roman Catholic Church in America is over \$2 billion. A conservative Catholic organization documented this wretched business in the fall/winter 2002 issue of the magazine *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, observing: "the overwhelming majority of sexual abuse cases in the Catholic Church — about 90% — involve homosexual priests preying on teenage boys. The major media and the U.S. culture at large want to deny or spin the homosexual factor out of the scandal." We would also comment that the judicial system in America is nearly as corrupt as the child-abusing Catholic priests. If a religious "minister" of whatever brand is guilty of a heinous crime, he should be held liable and should pay for his crime, and if a fellow "clergyman" is found to have contributed to the crime by trying to cover it up, then he, too, should be accountable. But an entire group of churches should not face the threat of bankruptcy by greedy lawyers as the present system unjustly allows. The American judicial system is no longer about justice for those who have been wronged; it is about money,

which it drains from every victim that falls into its uncaring clutches.

\* \* \*

**Nearly Half Of British Mosques Are Hardline.** — The following is excerpted from "Hardline Takeover of British Mosques Undefined," *The Times*, London, September 7, 2007: "Almost half of Britain's mosques are under the control of a hardline Islamic sect whose leading preacher loathes Western values and has called on Muslims to 'shed blood' for Allah, an investigation by *The Times* has found. Riyadh ul Haq, who supports armed jihad and preaches contempt for Jews, Christians and Hindus, is in line to become the spiritual leader of the Deobandi sect in Britain. The ultra-conservative movement, which gave birth to the Taleban in Afghanistan, now runs more than 600 of Britain's 1,350 mosques, according to a police report seen by *The Times*. The *Times* investigation casts serious doubts on government statements that foreign preachers are to blame for spreading the creed of radical Islam in Britain's mosques and its policy of encouraging the recruitment of more 'home-grown' preachers. Mr ul Haq, 36, was educated and trained at an Islamic seminary in Britain and is part of a new

generation of British imams who share a similar radical agenda. He heaps scorn on any Muslims who say they are proud to be British' and argues that friendship with a Jew or a Christian makes 'a mockery of Allah's religion.' Seventeen of Britain's 26 Islamic seminaries are run by Deobandis and they produce 80 per cent of home-trained Muslim clerics." — FBIS

\* \* \*

**Guessing Presented As Science.** — A Reuters article on September 5 was titled "Distant Space Collision Meant Doom for Dinosaurs." From the title one would assume that the article provides proof of such a thing, but there is no proof, only guessing. The article begins like this: "A collision 160 million years ago of two asteroids orbiting between Mars and Jupiter sent many big rock chunks hurtling toward Earth, including the one that zapped the dinosaurs, scientists said on Wednesday." Again, we have what appears to be a statement of fact, but when we continue reading we find that the facts are nonexistent. Consider the following key phrases: "... *many scientists ... believe ... The impact is thought to have triggered ... are thought to be leftovers ... along with probably Mars and Venus ... The collision*

(See **WNR** on page 20)

**REV . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

*gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand”* (Rev. 1:1-3).

As I contemplated the Book of Revelation, I realized that there are many who are prejudiced against this book, yet, we find that it is the greatest prophetic book within the New Testament, perhaps within the entire Bible. I have read that there are some preachers that say they are not able to understand the book, and therefore, they neither read it, study it, nor teach it. To me that is a statement contrary to the word of God. After all, why should a preacher take the position that he should warn people away from the study of anything that God has caused to be written for us. That’s about what it amounts to.

After all, this Bible is God’s Word. All of it is, not just the Gospels. Some people think we ought to just stay in the Gospels and that’s all, but it is *all* the Word of God. When the

Lord inspired and caused this book to be written, He did it with the purpose and the intention that we would not only read it, but study it and use it. So if a preacher tells us that we are not to waste our time trying to read and study the Book of Revelation, it seems to me that he’s trying to defeat God’s purpose in giving us this book.

It may be a difficult book to study. It may be deeper than some other books, but that does not change it’s importance. It may amplify and add to its importance. So it is our responsibility to search for the full truth which God has given for our learning and for our profit. That will be the basis of our study during this series of messages.

We will go through it on a verse-by-verse basis. We will attempt to learn what was meant for that day and time, as well as what is meant for us today. The Book of Revelation, as do many of the prophecies of the Old Testament, has a two-fold fulfillment, an immediate fulfillment and purpose, and then a long-range fulfillment and purpose.

Just as many of the prophetic books of the Old Testament had a special meaning and a special purpose for that day and time, there is a second fulfillment, much of which is still future and has not yet been fulfilled. As we read and study this book,

we must recognize that it was written for believers and Christians of the first century. It had a purpose for them, but its major purpose is its second fulfillment that is still future.

By way of introduction to the book, first, who is the author of this book? We read, “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John”* (Rev. 1:1).

God is the author. It is God who gave this revelation as a gift to the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice the sequence of events. God gave it to the Lord Jesus Christ, who sent it by an

angel to John, who wrote it down, and then John was commanded and did communicate this revelation to the churches. Verse 4 tells us: “*John to the seven churches which are in Asia”* (Rev. 1:4). So if you want to know who is the author of the Book of Revelation, it is God. God is the one who has given us this revelation. It came to us through these channels that God used. What we have within our possession, is a special message which God gave to us as members of His churches on the earth. This is the revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave. Does that not show the importance of this book, that God Himself has given it

(See **REV** on page 13)

## In Any Office

By Amy Carmichael

My potter’s busy wheel is where  
I see a desk and office chair,  
And well I know the Lord is there.

And all my work is for a King  
Who gives His potter songs to sing,  
Contented songs, through everything.

And nothing is too small to tell  
To Him with whom His potters dwell,  
My Counsellor, Emmanuel.

Master, Thy choice is good to me,  
It is a happy thing to be,  
Here in my office — here with Thee.

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 12)

and that John recorded it and has now communicated it unto the churches?

As far as the human author is concerned, the human author is John. There's more than one John mentioned in the Bible and this John is identified for us as the Apostle John, the same one who wrote the Gospel of John, along with 1st, 2nd and 3rd John. He was one of the inner-three close to the Lord Jesus Christ while He lived here upon the earth. Remember that Jesus called His twelve disciples, and there were three of them that were the closest to Him, the inner circle, Peter, James and John. This is that John. Verse 2 makes this identification very clear, for it says: "*Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw*" (Rev. 1:2).

When you go to the Gospel of John you find that this is exactly what John says. Verse 4 says: "*John to the seven churches.*" Verse 9 says, "*I John.*" In chapter 22:8 he mentions again "*And I John saw these things, and heard them*" (Rev. 22:8). This then is John the Apostle, the beloved disciple, the son of Zebedee who wrote this book after he had been banished to the Isle of Patmos.

As John is writing this book, he is aware of what

he is doing. John knows that he is writing Scripture. John knows that he is writing the actual words of God that are to be perpetuated to all generations so that all might have the prophecies of this book.

If you will turn to the 22nd chapter of this book, John shows us that he knows that what he is writing is God's word. He quotes God in verse 9 saying: "*Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*" He knows that he is one of the prophets. Notice also what he says concerning his book:

*"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book"* (Rev. 22:18-19).

As John writes these words he knows what he is writing. He knows that these words come from God and he quotes these words from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, "*I Jesus have sent mine angel to*

*testify unto you these things in the churches"* (Rev. 22:16). At the very beginning, as John writes this Book, he knows that what he is writing is to be placed on a par with the Old Testament Scriptures, the Gospels, the books of Acts, Romans, and with all the Church Epistles or Pastoral Epistles. John knows that he is writing the word of God, and we are to understand it as God's Word also. So John is the author as he has received it from the angel sent by the Lord Jesus Christ, after He had been given this by God.

The date of this book is also a point of dispute. The liberals, the modernists, the unbelievers, have problems with the Bible. Their problems are with the

parts that deal with either miracles or prophecies. As far as history is concerned, that doesn't bother them, but for a modernist or a liberal, he is bothered by miracles and prophecies. He is bothered by miracles because he is not able to explain them. He has already ruled out supernaturalism; he has already ruled out the fact that God could perform a literal miracle in contradiction to what are called natural laws. He doesn't believe in miracles, so miracles have to be explained away in some manner.

In like manner, the modernists and liberals are worried about prophecies. They do not like prophecies, because it is God injecting

(See **REV** on page 14)

## Think Through Me

By Amy Carmichael

Think through me, Thoughts of God,  
My Father, quiet me,  
Till in Thy holy presence, hushed,  
I think Thy thoughts with Thee.

Think through me, Thoughts of God,  
That always, everywhere,  
The stream that through my being flows,  
May homeward pass in prayer.

Think through me, Thoughts of God,  
And let my own thoughts be  
Lost like the sand-pools on the shore  
Of the eternal sea.

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 13)

Himself into the affairs of men whereby He reveals to man, supernaturally, events that are to take place. Prophecies relate events sometimes hundreds of years before their fulfillment. Because a modernist automatically repudiates supernaturalism, he automatically repudiates the fact that God would (or could) reveal to mankind these things. Then he has to try to find a way out of his problem of fulfilled prophecy.

In the Old Testament they do it in this fashion: The book of Daniel has prophecies that are beyond dispute, and they just can't accept them as prophecy, so what do they do? They have determined that since Daniel wrote these words and was so accurate in all the things that he wrote, then he must have written it *after* it took place rather than *before* it took place. They say the date commonly accepted for the Book of Daniel must be in error. The commonly accepted date for Daniel is before the events, and he writes in such detail, that the modernists say, that it couldn't be that way, he must be writing after the event, and he writes it as history. In this fashion, they eliminate the supernatural and the prophecies. His writings no longer are prophecy, they simply become Daniel, the his-

torian, writing about things that have already taken place.

Now they make two errors about the Book of Revelation. The first error is assuming that the Book of Revelation is written about current events taking place under the Roman Empire, primarily under Titus and Nero. They say that the Book of Revelation could not have been written before these events, but during these events. So they try to change the dates and put it earlier, so that he is writing it as it takes place rather than afterwards.

When we read the Book of Revelation, he is not writing about the things of Titus. He is writing about the things that are to occur on this earth that have not yet taken place. I don't know how much Titus sacked the city of Jerusalem, and the destruction brought upon that city, but there are many things in the Book of Revelation that did not take place then. One cannot say that these prophecies have been fulfilled, and yet the liberals and modernists do say they have. They try to "update" the writing of John to an earlier rather than a later time.

We know, however, that the Book of Revelation was written somewhere around the year 96 A.D. John is not writing about events that took place in the days of Titus, which is what the liberals say. He is writing about events,

quoting Jesus Christ, that are to take place at the end times, and are still future even today. They were not fulfilled during the times of Titus or Nero.

**The Purpose**

What is the purpose of the book? When you read a book, you need to understand what the purpose of the writer is. Why is the book written? What is his purpose? What is he trying to get across? He tells us the purpose of the Gospel of John. He says: "*But 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). When you read the Gospel of John, you need to remember the purpose of

the Gospel. John tells us what his purpose is. His purpose is "*that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*" That is the purpose of the Gospel of John. If we take that into consideration as we read the Gospel of John the book will have much more meaning to us, we'll understand it better, and the same is true of any other book of the Bible if we understand what its purpose is.

The Book of Revelation is a very necessary book to the Bible. It is just as necessary as is the Book of Genesis, for everything must have a beginning and everything must have an

(See **REV** on page 15)**God Give Us Men****Anonymous**

God give us men! A time like this demands  
 Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands,  
 Men whom the lust of office does not kill;  
 Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;  
 Men who possess opinions and a will;  
 Men who have honor, men who will not lie.  
 Men who can stand before a demagogue  
 And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking;  
 Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog  
 In public duty and in private thinking;  
 For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,  
 Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps,  
 Their large possessions and little deeds,  
 Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice weeps.

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 14)

end, and the Book of Genesis is “*In the beginning.*” It is the beginning of all things, and the Book of Revelation is that which gives us the climax of all things. God’s work of redemption had its beginning with the first Adam found in the Book of Genesis and God’s redemptive work will have its conclusion, consummation or its end with the Last Adam, Jesus Christ, which we read about in the Book of Revelation.

The primary figure, and the primary revelation of the book is Jesus Christ. He is supreme. It is Jesus Christ that we are to see throughout this book. This is what the book tells us. As John writes this book, he gives us “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*” (Rev. 1:1). This then is the purpose of the book. It is a revelation of Jesus Christ and the book is named “The Revelation.”

The name of God expresses what God is, and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ expresses what He is. “Lord” meaning “the anointed one,” “Christ” meaning the “Messiah,” “Jesus” being His earthly name, so when we say He is the Lord Jesus Christ, His name expresses who He is. Jesus identifies Himself as the Son of the virgin Mary. By saying He is Lord, we say He is the anointed of God. By saying

He is Christ, we are saying that He is the promised Messiah, so we have identified Jesus Christ as the anointed Messiah that God sent into the world to fulfill all the prophetic Scriptures concerning the Messiah. So the name of the Lord Jesus Christ expresses what and who He is.

The books of the Bible do the same thing. The word “genesis” means “beginnings.” The word “exodus” means “going forth.” The word “gospel” means “good news.” Here we find the title of this book “The Revelation,” and that expresses exactly what this book is.

The word revelation, contrary to what the modernists and liberals have to say, does not mean a hiding or a concealing, but a revelation in every sense of the word. The modernists and liberals who say that they can’t understand it, do not study it, nor teach it, say that it is a book that is hidden in symbols and impossible to understand. They do not even understand the title, for the title says that it is a revealing and not a concealing. It is not a hiding.

Often this book is referred to as the apocalypse. If you had a Spanish Bible, you would find that the title of this book in Spanish is *Apocalypses*, and it is an apocalypse. Every time someone uses the word apocalypse, some people,

not knowing the meaning of the word, are confused. They are confused, not only with the word “apocalypse” but they confuse it with the word “*apocrypha*,” and sometimes interchange these two words as though they are the same.

We want to define these words at this point. The Book of Revelation is an apocalypse, not an apocrypha. The word apocrypha means “something that is concealed, not set forth, not authentic.” So it means “hidden” or “to hide away.” The word apocrypha is the name used for some 14 (some say 15) books that are included in

the Roman Catholic Bible that are not in our King James Bible. Books of the Apocrypha are: 1st and 2nd Macabees, the book of Judith, the book of Tobit, 1st and 2nd Esdras (Greek for Ezra), additions to the Book of Esther, The Wisdom of Solomon (an imitation of the Book of Proverbs), The Prayer of Manasseh (a compilation of Old Testament passages), Bel and the Dragon (placed at the end of the Book of Daniel), Susanna (added as a prefix to the Book of Daniel), Ecclesiasticus, or the Wisdom of Jesus the

(See **REV** on page 16)**Worthy The Lamb!****By Mona A. Fetter**

Heaven’s glories He laid aside,  
Man became, with men to abide.  
Past all eternity and space,  
That He might die for Adam’s race.

And who was this glorious One?  
'Twas God’s well beloved Son!  
The Lamb of God, who this earth trod,  
To bring His chosen ones to God!

He who knew no sin, sin became,  
Now His shed blood removes sin’s stain.  
For He was the Lamb of God given—  
Sin’s sacrifice — His side was riven.

Before the world e’er came to be,  
He was the Lamb by Gods decree.  
Now evermore we can proclaim,  
“Worthy the Lamb for sinner’s slain!”

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 15)

Son of Sirach, the Book of Baruch, The Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Young Men which is an addition to Daniel 3, and the Letter of Jeremiah. 1st Maccabees is valuable as a history of the Maccabean rebellion which occurred between 175-130 B.C. However, 2nd Maccabees has very little historical value. Portions of this book advocate prayers and offerings for the dead, and other parts justify suicide. These are called "the apocrypha." These books were written either a short time before the birth of Christ or a short time after the birth of Christ.

The Apocrypha is not inspired. In some of the early editions of the King James Version they were included but for historical references only and were not considered as Scripture. Later they were totally removed. Until recently this didn't concern us, because they were not included in our King James Version, so we were never confused by it. However, because of these new modern versions, many of them not only contain the 66 books of our Bible, but they are now beginning to include the Apocrypha. **Good News for Modern Man** has come out with an edition that includes the Apocrypha. The **New English Bible** also includes the Apocrypha. I repeat, *these*

*books are not inspired.*

They are false books. God is not the author of them, and yet, because some of the newer versions include the Apocrypha, the people who have these new Bibles are going to read them and give them the same credence as though they were the Word of God. They are not! I hope that every one of you will remember that, because you may have a version of the Bible that includes these books, and they are not labeled the Apocrypha (in some they are), and you may read them and accept them as though they are Bible and inspired. They were written in Bible language, and translated in 15th century language as the Bible is; they might seem like Bible as you read them, but they are not. There were many books written during and before the first century, and because the Bible was written in common every day Greek and Hebrew that the people would understand, then the Apocrypha would be written in the same fashion as far as style and language is concerned. So if you find a book written back in that day and time, it would have an overall reading appearance as though it were Bible, but it is not. The only inspired books that we have are these 66 books in our King James Version, Genesis through the Book of Revelation.

The books of the Apocrypha are false books,

spurious books. Some of them may be books of history, written by somebody writing as a historian. Some of the facts may be correct, but many of them are incorrect. As an example of these books, First Esdras contains an old Persian tale, along with the debate of three soldiers. Second Esdras is a book of apocalyptic visions. The book of Tobit teaches salvation by

works, along with the use of magic and sorcery. It contains a false doctrine that people can buy salvation with money. It says: "For alms deliver from all sin, and from death and will not suffer the soul to go into darkness"(Tobit 4:11).

This book also contains some weird accounts. In

(See **REV** on page 17)

## A Mother Builded A Temple

Author Unknown

A builder builded a temple,  
He wrought it with grace and skill.  
Pillars and stones and arches  
All fashioned to work his will.  
Men said as they saw its beauty,  
It shall never know decay.  
Great is thy skill, O builder,  
Thy fame shall endure for aye.

A mother builded a temple  
With loving and infinite care,  
Planning each arch with patience,  
Laying each stone with prayer,  
None praised her unceasing efforts,  
None knew of her wondrous plan,  
For the temple the mother builded  
Was unseen by the eyes of man.

Gone is the builder's temple,  
Crumbled into dust,  
Low lies each stately pillar,  
Food for consuming rust.  
But the temple the mother builded  
Will last while the ages roll,  
For that beautiful unseen temple  
Was a child's immortal soul.

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 16)

this book we find an angel named Raphael instructing Tobias to anoint the eyes of his father Tobit with fish gall in order to heal him of blindness. This gall came from a fish he had caught in the Tigris River. The angel also told him to save the heart, the liver and the gall of the fish for the future, which he did.

The book of Judith is a fictional narrative or an immoral tale which implies that the end justifies the means. Esther includes some seven chapters that were added to the authentic book of Esther in our Old Testament. The Wisdom of Solomon is an imitation of the book of Proverbs. This book teaches that one's parents, rather than God, produce his soul as well as his body. Others are just plain outlandish. Let me give you an example.

There's a larger group than just the Apocrypha. It is called the "*Pseudepigrapha*." It includes books that are such outlandish books that hardly anyone accepts them as genuine. They're called "the lost books of the Bible." The modernists and the liberals like to make fun of these "lost" books. They try to say that "we have discovered more books of the Bible." They try to give them the same credence or credibility as they do the Bible. Some of these books are supposed to tell us

about the childhood of Jesus Christ. One of them says that while He was a boy about 4 or 5 years of age, He took mud and shaped it into the form of a bird, then changed that bird into a live bird, just to entertain His playmates.

Let me mention another thing about the Apocrypha. St. Jerome (now he's no more a saint than anyone else as far as that goes, but that's what the Catholics call him) is the man who translated the Douay version or the Roman Catholic version of the Bible or the Vulgate. The Vulgate is the Latin translation. Jerome rejected the books of the Apocrypha because he said they were not valid scripture. He said the Jews rejected them and therefore they should be rejected, but the Catholics ignored what their supposed "holy St. Jerome" said. After Jerome said they were not Scripture, they included them in their Bible anyway. The Council of Trent in 1546 decreed that the canon of the Old Testament should include them with the exception of the Prayer of Manasseh and 1st and 2nd Esdras. Their decree stated "the decree pronounces an anathema upon anyone who 'does not accept as sacred and canonical the afore said books in their entirety and with all their parts.'" The reason they include them is that there is a place they can twist to make it teach purgatory, and another

place they can twist to make it teach limbo, the place they say unbaptized babies go when they die. They can't find these doctrines in the Bible, so they use these false books. There are teachings in these books that are contrary to the 66 books of our Bible. Praying to the dead and making offerings on behalf of the dead is taught in the book of 2nd Maccabees. This book also teaches that dead saints intercede in heaven on behalf of those on earth.

The word Apocalypse is the very opposite of the word Apocrypha. The Apocrypha is a hiding, a concealing. It means "hidden" or "to hide away." The word apocalypse means "something revealed, disclosed, manifested, shown." In other words "an unveiling" or "an uncovering." This book is the "revelment, manifestation and appearing" of

Jesus Christ, an unveiling, an uncovering of Jesus Christ. Christ is therefore the subject of the entire book. Other writers express the same thought. All of these scriptures, (including Rev. 1:1), mean the personal appearing of our Lord at His second advent. This is what you are to see. It is not Jesus Christ as we saw Him in the Gospels. What we saw there was His humanity as He went to the cross and died. However, we have a foretaste of what we will see in the book of Revelation, when Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration and was transfigured before Peter, James and John. Here in Revelation we have the uncovering or the unveiling of the Lord Jesus Christ in all His majesty and in His glorious appearing. This is the one book that gives us

(See **REV** on page 18)

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## How To Become A Baptist

By F. M. Goodchild

If you will leave a man alone with the New Testament, uninterfered with in any way, without a commentary, he will come out a Baptist.

If you send a group of Christian believers to read the New Testament with a desire to find out what kind of church they should form, they will come out and form a Baptist

church.

That has been proved again and again in Christian history. They sought for themselves the directions in the New Testament, and were surprised when they organized a church to find that such a church was already in existence. That was the case in the history of the Dutch Baptists and others. □

## REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 17)

details and shows us the glorious appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes back to this earth. This is not the only book that talks about it. In First Corinthians we read: “*So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Cor. 1:7).

In Second Thessalonians we read: “*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day*” (1 Thess. 1:7-10).

In the book of First Peter we read: , “*That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see*

*him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, [that’s the first coming] and the glory that should follow [that’s the second coming]. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (1 Pet. 1:7-13).

This is the purpose of the book. This book then is an account of the revelation of Christ in His personal coming from His present invisible state, for the rapture of the saints, His marriage to His Bride, to judge the wicked, and set up His eternal kingdom on the earth. It is to reveal, to uncover, or to unveil for us,

the Lord Jesus Christ in His second coming when He comes back in all of His majesty and glory, so that you and I will see Jesus Christ as He is in heaven today.

In this book of Revelation we have revealed prophecies, infallible prophecies, of the Lord Jesus Christ, revealing unto us the style, the manner, the order of events in which the revelation of Jesus Christ is to take place. If we read the book of Revelation and we do not see this, then we have missed the entire point of the book. [In connection with this, read Amos 3:7; Job 33:16; Dan. 2:22, 28-29; 10:1; Dt. 29:29].

Too many people, when they come to the Book of Revelation, are only interested in finding out about the Battle of Armageddon or the last days. They are interested in the last events. When is this going to take place? When is that going to take place? When is the other thing going to take

place? They’re only interested in these things, but that is not the purpose. The purpose is that we might see what Jesus Christ is going to be like when He comes back to this earth as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It is not the judgments upon this earth that we are to look for, but it is the triumphs of Jesus Christ that are to come when He is to be revealed in all of His offices and all of His future works. It is Jesus Christ as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

The second purpose is that it was written to encourage saints during the times of tribulation and persecution of all ages, and to explain God’s prophetic plan. While John wrote this book, churches and Christians were being unmercifully tormented and persecuted by the Romans. They had already undergone a severe persecution by the Jews. Titus, the

(See **REV** on page 19)

## According to A. T. Robertson

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

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

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

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

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 18)

Roman General destroyed the city of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Nero, the Roman Emperor in 68 A.D. had many Christians thrown to the wild beasts, burned at the stake or thrown into prison. Believers were now discouraged, and thousands became martyrs for the cause of Christ. Following Nero, another cruel emperor, Domitian, came upon the scene around 94-96 A.D.

Christians are now undergoing a tremendous persecution under the Roman government, the heathen, pagan Roman government. John is given instructions by the Lord to write this book as a message of hope and strength, not only for himself but for all of God's people during this time of intense persecution, and John is writing this to give encouragement to these saints. It must be written in such form that the enemy would not destroy it. This book, then, is written in signs and symbols of the Old Testament for these early Christians knew the Old Testament, but the enemy would not be able to understand or decipher it. The only Scriptures these Christians had was the Old Testament. Therefore, the Christians would associate the book of Revelation with the writings of the Old Testament while their enemies would not under-

stand it at all. If we want to understand the book of Revelation, we must also have a good understanding of the Old Testament. The worship of Caesar was the one religion that covered the entire Roman Empire and because the Christians refused to worship Caesar, it led to their persecution and martyrdom. It was a choice of Caesar or Christ. They chose Christ.

John shows them that though Jerusalem has already been destroyed, many of the churches have been dispersed and driven underground, many of their preachers have been slain, killed or put in jail, yet the outcome of the conflict is to be victory, for Jesus Christ is to be victorious. Therefore the message of the Book of Revelation is a message of hope.

It is written to give Christians the assurance that Christ will ultimately prevail; that all His enemies would be defeated and that the Messianic kingdom will ultimately be setup over the whole world (Mt. 16:18). Therefore, everything in the book looks forward to Christ's final triumph over all His foes and the establishment of His kingdom for a period of one thousand years over this whole earth (chaps. 21-22), and the deliverance of all the redeemed from sin and woe, and when all tears shall be wiped away from their eyes (21:4). This is accomplished by giving us just a glimpse of the future

events and by giving us a brief outline of future events that will occur.

The first vision is a vision of the resurrected Christ triumphant in heaven. All of these visions that follow are designed to show us the course of this world and its final outcome with Jesus Christ gaining the final victory, with Satan put under foot, Satan sealed, and ultimately, Satan and all of his forces cast into the lake of fire. Jesus is to be victorious.

There is one keynote to the whole book, and this key note is that which needs to remind us of certain things. Note: "*Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him*" (Rev. 1:7). Another verse says,

*"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly"* (Rev. 2:5). Again, *"Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly"* (Rev. 2:16). Also, *"Behold I come quickly"* (Rev. 3:11). Finally, *"For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"* (Rev. 6:17). [See also Rev. 2:25; 3:3; 16:15; 22:7, 12, 20.]

The keynote that permeates the whole book of the Revelation is that Jesus says, *"Behold, I come quickly."* We're living on the brink of the fulfillment of the Book of Revelation. That shows it's importance for our day and time, for Jesus is going to come quickly.

(See **REV** on page 20)

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## Cause of Civilization's Collapse

Edward Gibbon, author of **The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire**, gave the following five reasons for the collapse of the Roman Empire:

1. The rapid increase in divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.

2. Higher and higher taxes — the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses.

3. The mad craze for pleasure, sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.

4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within; the decadence of the people.

5. The decay of religion; faith fading into a mere form, losing touch with life and becoming impotent to guide the people.

If there is a citizen in America who can read and ponder these five tragic facts without trembling for fear, such one needs to have his head examined, or his heart changed, maybe both. ▣

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 19)

We've already looked at many of the Scriptures that show events of the last days, what they are to be like, — moral events, economic events, religious events, all of these things. We see that right now our world has already reached that state that Jesus said it would be in immediately preceding the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, the calendar of the Lord has now reached the point that the Day of the Lord is soon to come. The calendar page is just ready to turn. The clock of the Lord Jesus Christ is nearly at the midnight hour. When the clock strikes midnight, the trump shall sound, and the dead in Christ shall rise. The saved, who are living, will be caught up to be with the dead in Christ. Thus shall we be evermore with the Lord.

All the unsaved are going to be left behind to suffer, endure, and undergo all the plagues that we read about here in the book of Revelation, because they did not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Some will never make it through the Tribulation Period. At least two-thirds of the world's population are to be killed at one time, and the rest of those who do live through it, are going to suffer unmercifully — tribulation and anguish, the judgment

of God upon this earth.

That's not all. At the end of time, the bodies of all the unsaved dead will be resurrected, and with those still living on the earth, will be brought before the Lord, and will be cast into the lake of fire. Why? Because they did not receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. You cannot reject Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and then expect to receive Him as the glorified coming King. If you are going to receive Him as the glorified coming King, you must receive Him now. He must become the King of your life now, else you will not receive Him in that day and time, but rather will undergo the judgment of Almighty God.

As we study this book we're going to learn what's going to happen to this old world under the terrible judgment of God. You think God is a God of love. Well, He is, but after a world has spurned His love, crucified His son, rejected His offer of salvation, there is no love. It is the wrath of God and the wrath of God abides upon this world today. It just has not yet fallen, and there's no wrath ever been visualized or thought about like the wrath of God that's going to fall upon this world.

What will happen to you in that day? Jesus says "*Behold I come quickly.*" Suppose He were to come today, where would you be? Would you be raptured? Would you be caught up?

Would you leave this world as one who has trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, or would you be left behind to undergo all the tribulations to be poured out upon this old world? If you don't know what they are, just wait until we get there in the study of this book. The worst thing that has ever happened; the most painful, tragic, sufferings are yet future, and if you're unsaved when Jesus comes, you will be left behind to undergo great tribulation.

It doesn't have to be that way, for Jesus has already come the first time. He's already paid the penalty for sin. He's already completed everything necessary to be your substitute and pay the penalty for your sin whereby you can be saved based upon what He has done for you. Today He offers you free salvation. Will you receive Him now?

[Next month: "Satan and the Book of Revelation."]

**WNR . . .**

(Continued from page 11)

is *believed to have ... thought to have ... estimated ... probability. ... it's hard to say.*" Now there's some solid science for you! In fact, the whole thing is based on computer simulations, and in a computer simulation of something allegedly occurring 165 million year ago, what you have is

"garbage in garbage out." And these people actually have the gall to mock Bible believers as unscientific. — FBIS

\* \* \*

**Study Finds That Rock Stars More Likely To Die Young.**

— A study of British and North American rock stars has found that they are two to three times more likely to die prematurely than the general population. The study of more than 1,000 musicians was done by the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University. More than a quarter of the deaths were related to drugs or alcoholic abuse ("Rock stars more likely to die prematurely," Reuters, Sept. 3, 2007). There is no surprise here, of course. I have collected the names and information on almost 1,600 rockers who have died young. The rock & roll lifestyle is deadly because it is in open rebellion against the God of the Bible and His absolute laws of right and wrong. It promotes the philosophy of license. If it feels good, do it. Down with restraint; down with law. Though the rock & roll crowd rejects the Word of God, it cannot escape His law. The Bible warns: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh

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WNR . . .

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shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8). Rock and roll has sown to the flesh and it has reaped corruption and death. It has mocked God-ordained authority and has suffered the curse of God. What a blessing it was 34 years ago to be delivered from the bondage of rock & roll to the eternal liberty that is found in Jesus Christ. —FBIS

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### Ancient Escape Tunnel Found In Jerusalem.

— In late August an escape tunnel mentioned by Josephus was found by Jewish archaeologists who were searching for ancient Jerusalem's main road. In "The War of the Jews" Josephus, a first century historian, wrote that many Jews took shelter in the drainage channel when the Roman armies were destroying the city and the Jewish temple in 70 A.D., and they eventually fled Jerusalem through its southern end. The walls of the large tunnel reach a height of 10 feet in some places. So far it has been uncovered for a length of 100 yards under the direction of Ronny Reich of the University of Haifa and Eli Shukron of the Israeli Antiquities Authority

("Ancient Escape Tunnel," AP, Sept. 9, 2007). Pottery shards, vessel fragments and coins from the Second Temple period were discovered inside the channel. Reich estimates the total length of the channel to be more than a half mile, stretching from the Temple Mount in the north to Shiloah Pool at Jerusalem's southern end. In recent years the doctrine of Temple Denial has spread rapidly among Muslims in the Middle East. According to this brazen doctrine a Jewish temple never existed in Jerusalem, but the recent discovery authenticates Josephus' account of the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. and is just one more of many historical proofs of the existence of the temple. Earlier this year a team of archaeologists under the direction of Ehud Netzer found the tomb of Herod the Great by following the description given by Josephus. — FBIS □

### Baptist Popes

The thing that many Southern Baptists hate most is not compromise and infidelity in high places among us. But what they hate most is for someone to come along telling the facts about what is going on among our leaders and institutions. They would make good Catholics because they thoroughly believe in the infallibility of the Baptist popes. — I. W. Rogers.

## Nothing "Secret" About A Revival

By Edwin R. Anderson

We hear and read a great deal these days about the "secret" of revival.

Personally I am somewhat suspicious when that low word "secret" is attached to so high a wonder as "revival." They do not belong together, and there is more than a great gulf fixed between them. With the clear Word of the Lord open before us there can be little that is "secret" about the mind and will of the Lord in the matter.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways" — that is in the Book. Of course whether or not it has been transferred from that Book to our innermost bosom is always another matter! Perhaps that is why many prefer to speak of revival as being secret, and why they appear so secretive about the how and why of it.

Too long have far too many of God's people lived in the barrenness of a tearless theology with no heavenly joy to warm the praises of the lips. And the loss is such that it can never be imagined nor measured.

Gypsy Smith had his searching way of indicating the reality of this revival. Said he to many a revival seeker upon many an

occasion, "Go home. Go to your room. Lock the door. Take out a bit of chalk and mark a circle around you on the floor. Then fall on your knees and cry aloud, 'Lord, begin right here with me!'" There is nothing secret about it whatsoever!

"Lord, begin here." That is the bedrock, the beginning of the true blessing. We must start by crowning Him Lord of all, including the full sweep of heart and life. Then shall we go on to know the reality of the heavenly revival!

We need the chalk. It is tragic that many have anything and everything else. There is *balk* upon the part of some; a drawing back rather than a driving ahead. There is *talk* upon the part of others, and for them, revival is allowed to descend to the level of mere discussion. Few and far between are the chalk-carrying Christians who are convinced that they should begin with self.

Yet here is the sum of the matter. It narrows down to longing, rather than mere learning; hunger of spirit rather than the outward hanging upon the frame of the letter. Let us be done once and for all with this trifling talk about the "secret" of revival. There is no such thing. The road to revival is as plain as daylight. □

## I Am King Tobacco

By George B. Curtis

I am Tobacco. I am an American. When the white man first came to the shores of America, I was already here. The Indian already knew me. He was never my slave. I was his servant.

How times have changed! Imagine me ever being the servant of anyone. I am King now, and what a king! I am a master who rules his subjects with a power stronger than that exercised by the Pharaohs and Caesars. I am King — an Absolute Monarch!

If you think this is boasting, here is the proof:

I take food from the mouths of babies that father and mother may have me. I take the keen intellect of the young man and turn him into a dullard. I take away the beauty, modesty, and self-respect of the sweet young woman. I drool and dribble down the chin in the old man, making him an object of loathing. I give to my subjects an odor and stench more abominable than that of goats and skunks.

I litter and befoul every cafe, hotel, and other public building in our land. I enter the quiet precincts of the hospital to fill this place of supposed cleanliness with my offal and the air with my obnoxious odor. I enter

the train, the bus, and all other public conveyances; and woe to be the person who is not my slave.

I burn his eyes; sear his lungs. I befoul his clothes. I befuddle his brain. I make his travel an unforgettable nightmare.

I am not content just to rule my own subjects. All must feel and know my power. I am king Tobacco.

If you doubt my strength, try to break the nicotine chain by which I have you bound. I am your master; you are my slave. I am Tobacco! □

## The Importance of Christian Training

Max Jukes lived in the state of New York. He did not believe in Christian training such as the Sunday School affords. He married a girl of like character. From this union they have studied 1,026 descendants. 300 of them died prematurely. 100 were sent to the penitentiary for an average of 13 years each. 190 were public prostitutes. There were 100 drunkards. The family cost the state \$1,200,000. They made no contribution to society.

Jonathan Edwards lived in the same state. He believed in Christian training. He married a girl of like character. From this union they have studied 729 descendants. Out of this family have come 300

## For Sale

**One Cross**, nearly new. I cannot carry it and keep up with the world and its crowd.

**One Talent**, new except slightly shelf worn. It has been laid away in a napkin for years.

**One five-piece set of Armour**. All pieces are in good shape, only needs polishing.

**One bundle of Christian Opportunities**. Contained in this bundle is one of the greatest opportunities in the world, that is going to my church every Sunday. Another one is the opportunity of being a soul winner. I seldom use these opportunities, so have decided to let them go in this sale.

**One badly used Christian Influence**. Buyer may be able to repair this influence if handled carefully.

**One group of old records of my conver-**

**preachers**, 65 college professors, 13 university presidents, 60 authors of good books, three United States congressmen, and one vice president of the United States; and outside of Aaron Burr, a grandson of Edwards who married a questionable character, the family has not cost the state a single dollar. The difference in the two families: Christian training in youth and heart conversions to Jesus Christ. — Copied. □

**sations** where I have been gossiping about my fellow Christians. These records will be good to play Sunday morning when you decide to stay at home from church.

The above mentioned items are stored in the basement of my home, located on the corner of Careless Avenue and Neglect Street. — Signed: A Lota Christians. □

## For The Bulletin

What are the necessary requirements for being a Baptist? Anybody who is right on the plan of salvation and on the doctrine of baptism is a Baptist. Anyone who is wrong on either of these is not a Baptist.

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A preacher who preaches the doctrine of the invisible church ought to be content with an invisible salary.

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The only state that permits a woman to work more than eight hours a day is the state of matrimony.

\*\*\*

America's number one energy crisis is Monday morning.

\*\*\*

Prayer — Don't give God instructions — just report for duty. □

**ROGERS . . .**

(Continued from page 6)

His intercessory prayer, He said, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (Jn. 17:4). This was spoken probably less than an hour and perhaps less than thirty minutes, after He had instituted the Lord's Supper, the final act in building His church. While the four Gospels do not use the word "church" but a few times, Jesus was diligently working throughout His ministry, using the material that had been prepared by John the Baptist, and fashioning it into the institution which he called, "My Church" (Mt. 16:18). Jesus, Himself, is the Chief Corner Stone upon which His institution was built; His apostles were the foundation sills, the charter members (Eph. 2:12; 1 Cor. 12:28). He loved His church so much that He died for it (Eph 5:25), and He promised to be with His institution all the days even to the end of the world (Mt. 28:20). This promise He has literally fulfilled down to the present day. One of the most beautiful word pictures in all the Bible, and one that stirs the saint of God with emotion, is the picture of Jesus walking among the seven golden candlesticks — His seven churches in Asia (Rev. 1:12-13, 20).

The apostles of our Lord placed strong emphasis on the church. The book of Acts is a story of

the growth of the institution which Jesus built, and its multiplication into many other like institutions. Paul wrote nine of his letters to one or more churches for each letter, and his other four letters deal largely with instructions as to how church officials ought to behave themselves "in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:13). John wrote his second and third epistles for instruction to churches and their leaders. He wrote the last book of the Bible as "The revelation of Jesus Christ" to the seven churches of Asia. One of the greatest burdens of Paul was his daily "care of all the churches" (2 Cor. 11:28).

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

Since the church of our Lord is so important, the question arises, "Are Baptists being taught what a church of Jesus Christ is, and are they being thoroughly grounded in the New Testament doctrine of

the church." In most of our churches and in most of our Southern Baptists institutions the answer is an unequivocal "No." In all too many instances, the pastors of our churches and the teachers in our institutions of learning know almost nothing about the church that Jesus built. They never, in all their lives, have made a thorough study of what God has told us in the New Testament about the supremely important institution brought into existence by our Lord, and, sad to say, many of them do not care enough about it to even learn! Is it, then, at all surprising that the average Baptist church member is extremely ignorant about the church that Jesus built? He does not know what a New

Testament church is, and there is no one who will instruct him! Is it any marvel that all the cults such as Mormonism, Seventh Day Adventism, Jehovah Witnesses, and Campbellism are making such inroads among Baptists? Is it not time we were doing something about it? □ □

**NOT . . .**

(Continued from page 6)

explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in His dealings with you, but if you absolutely sell yourself to be His love slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are in the inner circle. □

## The Printed Page

The printed page never flinches, never shows cowardice, it is never tempted to compromise; it never tires; never grows disheartened; it travels cheaply, and requires no hired hall.

It works while we sleep; it never loses its temper; and it works long after we are dead.

The printed page is a visitor which gets inside the home and stays there; it always catches a man in the right mood, for it speaks to him only when he is reading it; it always sticks to what it has said, and never answers back; and it is bait left permanently in the pool.

## FELLOWSHIPS and CONFERENCES

### SIoux FALLS, SD

Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, 2008,  
Empire Baptist Temple,  
412 S. Hawthorne, Sioux  
Falls, SD 57104, Erich  
McCandless, Pastor.

\* \* \*

### 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  
Heights, MI, Greg Albright,  
Pastor.

### MATHIS . . .

(Continued from page 3)

again uses selective methods for determining the age of the universe, earth and organisms on the earth. Among the many methods for dating the earth as we see it today, he selects a

few and rejects all others that do not agree with his theory of evolution. He ignores or explains away the contradictions with the methods he does select and, as a result of his pre-conceived approach, rejects all others as unreliable.

The most common methods used are based on calculations of radioactive decay of certain minerals (the element is transmuted into one or more simpler elements). The most common dating methods are carbon 14, potassium-argon, rubidium-strontium and uranium-lead methods. Note that these are all decay processes. The original elements decay radioactively into the simpler elements and the time required for half of the element to change has been determined (called the half-life of the element).

The accuracy of these methods is dependent upon several factors. One, that the radioactive decay of the element has always been true and that the rate of decay has always been the same. Also, that the quantity of the transmuted element was not in the sample to begin with and that no contamination from sources outside of the sample has occurred changing the element ratio. All of these assumptions are made by the evolutionist in using these methods for dating. He ignores the billions of years difference in dates that are given by these methods at times and

he definitely rejects the results when they reveal young ages.

When radiocarbon dating methods are used and indicate, as they do at times, that supposedly ancient coal and oil deposits are fairly young, the evolutionist explains away the results. Any honest scientist would look at the results and recognize that these dating methods are questionable. The carbon 14 (C-14) dating method assumes that the C-14 content in the atmosphere is constant and in balance. Thus, the content of C-14 per normal carbon content in dead specimens is determined and the radioactive decay rate is used to determine age. But we know, today, that C-14 in the atmosphere is not in balance and the rate of decay of C-14 from organisms is less than the

production rate of C-14 in the atmosphere. Carbon 14 is increasing in the atmosphere, and as a consequence, accuracy of dating of specimens decreases as one goes to older specimens.

Also, the vapor canopy that existed before the flood shielded the earth from neutrons that produce C-14 and probably reduced the rate of production before the flood. When these factors are considered, this dating method may well yield a young earth. Also, many geophysical processes, which are at least as reliable, indicate that the earth is quite young. One example would be that the influx of chemicals into the atmosphere and hydrosphere indicate a very young age for the earth.

[Next month: "Universe and Matter Not Eternal."]

## Love Through Me

By Amy Carmichael

Love through me, Love of God,  
Make me like Thy clear air  
Through which, unhindered, colours pass  
As though it were not there.

Powers of the love of God,  
Depths of the heart Divine,  
O Love that faileth not, break forth,  
And flood this world of Thine.