

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

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WHOLE NO. 514

There Will Be A Millennium

(Reprinted from Our Hope)

Most of our readers are familiar with the general teachings of two schools of interpretation of the Scriptures, those of the Post-millennialists and the Pre-millennialists. The former, affirming that Christ will not return until after the Millennium, confidently look for the world to get better and better through the leaven of Christianity until

man-made peace and righteous government on earth will result in the second advent of the Lord. The latter believe that the Scriptures reveal that the millennial kingdom cannot come into being without the King Himself. He must come in power and glory to establish that kingdom, else it will not be. The editors of **Our Hope** are

Pre-millennialists.

There is another school of thought that is a somewhat recent development, we believe. Those who hold this position are known as A-millennialists. The prefix, "a", means without, and the A-millennialists declare that there will be no millennial reign of Christ on earth. The A-millennialists hold that Christ will

return, some of them even agreeing with us that His second coming is imminent, but they declare that His coming will have no relation to the Millennium since, they say, there is no Millennium. They reject entirely the doctrine of an earthly kingdom over which the Lord Jesus Christ will

(See **MILL** on page 23)

Two Religions

By Charles H. Stevens

Reduced to its final analysis there have never been, there are not now, and there never will be more than two religions in the world. There are many so-called pagan religions, there are more than 600 so-called Christian denominations in America. Religiously, men seem to be divided in a thousand ways. On the surface, this is true,

(See **TWO** on page 4)

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and

Neglected Church Discipline

By James W. Crumpton,
Westside Baptist Church, Natchez, MS

increased with goods, have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke

and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and him with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He

(See **CHURCH** on page 2)

Quiz The Pastor

Did The Shroud of Turin Cover Jesus Christ?

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: I recently saw on television a shroud that is said to have covered the dead body of Jesus. Could this be true?

Answer: I've seen pictures, and have also read many articles concerning this shroud which has been called the Shroud of Turin. There is no doubt it is an old piece of material, and could be a shroud that was placed over a dead body, but I most sincerely deny this shroud could be a covering placed over the dead body of Jesus, and I want to show you why.

Bear in mind that the face and shape of a man's body is said to be outlined in the shroud. This fact alone, as we will show, does away with the idea this shroud could have been placed on the corpse of Jesus.

When Jesus died on the cross, a disciple named

Joseph, a rich man from Arimathaea, went to Pilate, and boldly asked for the body of Jesus (Mk. 15:43). When Pilate had made sure Jesus was surely dead, he consented and granted the corpse (of Jesus) to Joseph (Mk. 15:45). Joseph and another disciple named Nicodemus (Jn. 3:1; 7:50) then took away the body of Jesus down from the cross, and prepared the body for burial in a new tomb, which incidentally, belonged to Joseph (Jn. 19:39).

Now, notice how they prepared His body for burial. They had about 100 pounds of mixture of myrrh and aloes, plus clean linen clothes (Jn. 19:39). They took the linen clothe, and began to wrap or wind these linen cloths about His body, from under the armpits down to his feet. And, as they did this, they

added the spices (myrrh and aloes) into the folds of the cloth "as the manner (custom) of the Jews is to bury" (Jn. 19:40).

Can you imagine 100 pounds of spices being placed around His body, and how bulky this would be? What kind of a body outline would this make? Certainly not anything like the Shroud of Turin. The 100 pounds of spices were placed on the body, perhaps as they thought, through their unbelief, to keep the odors of a decaying body to a minimum.

Observe also there is absolutely no mention of a shroud being placed over His body. Linen cloths were around about His body (Mk. 15:46; Mt. 27:59; Lk. 23:53; Jn. 19:40). This is the way the Jews buried their dead.

Notice when God smote Ananias, the Jews "wound him up (in linen) and ... buried him (Acts 5:6). There was no need to cover Ananias' linen bound body with a shroud or sheet.

Also, in the burial process by the Jews, a cloth napkin was sometimes placed upon the face of the corpse to cover the look of death, as in the burial of Lazarus (Jn. 11:44). Such was the case when Jesus was buried (Jn. 20:7).

A cloth napkin was placed over His dear face. The Shroud of Turin is said to show the outlined features of a man's face, but the cloth napkin over

the face of Jesus would remove any possibility of any outlined features showing up in His case.

As we all can plainly see, the scriptures once again refute the findings of those who constantly indulge in accumulating religious relics. There is simply no place in God's Word for a shroud being placed over the body of Jesus. Perhaps it is true in the imagination of men, but not as a scriptural fact. ■

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 1)

that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Revelation 3:14-22).

In our other chapters, we have looked at church discipline from several viewpoints: Constructive, Personal, Corrective, Punitive, and Local. Now in this chapter we want to consider how church discipline has and is being neglected and some of the tragic results.

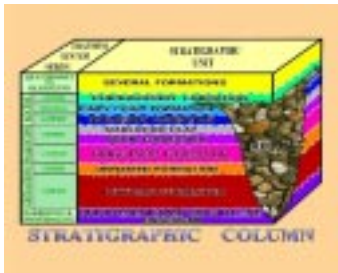
Our Scripture passage gives not only the command of our Lord that we exercise church discipline, but also the trend of the churches to neglect it during the time since our Saviour returned to the right hand of the Father after His death, burial, and resurrection.

There is not much true love — God's kind of love — known and practiced

(See **CHURCH** on page 15)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Creation Versus Evolution — Part II

Creation, Fall, and the Flood — Geological Time Column

By the late Kenneth Mathis

In discussing origins, three major events, as described in the Bible, provide a historical framework for understanding creation. First, in the beginning God created this world and all that is in it including all scientific laws that govern it. Second, as a result of the fall of man, God imposed a fundamental principle of decay and disintegration within the structure of conservation. Third, God judged this world with a catastrophic flood that was global in extent which produced a temporary drastic acceleration of many geophysical processes and produced vast changes in the superficial aspects of the earth's atmosphere and related systems.

As discussed in our previous article, the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics strongly support the Biblical account of the first two major events. The third major event gives the answer to the so-called proofs of evolution which states, in essence, that present geological processes, acting essentially as at present, are sufficient to explain the past history of the cosmos, including its assumed evolutionary development from its original chaos into

its present form. The evolutionist believes that these processes which can be observed in action at present, such as erosion, sedimentation, glaciation, volcanism, etc., are operating in essentially the same fashion (and at the same rate as observed today) and can be used to explain the origin and formation of all the earth's geologic deposits. It is also assumed that, at any given period in the past history of the earth, based on the assumption that evolution is true, that only one kind or type of organism was on the earth and that these organisms found as fossils in the rock stratum actually date that stratum. It is believed that, through evolution, these creatures, plants, etc. became progressively more developed and specialized in the course of the ages and therefore the fossils contained in the strata are the only reliable way to date the strata (We will discuss radioactive minerals and geologic dating later).

Based on this, evolutionists have worked up a geologic time-table which they claim shows a gradual progression of life from the simple to the complex, from lower to higher, and thus implies organic evolution.

This geological column is not actually found in the earth's crust but various partial columns are put together from different locations of the earth, based on the assumption that evolution is true.

It is difficult or impossible to correlate strata in different localities by this principle of superposition. Fossils must then be resorted to and the fossil sequence is assumed to be in accordance with the principle of evolution. Thus, the succession of organisms has been determined by a study of their remains embedded in the rocks, and the relative ages of the rocks are determined by the remains of organisms that they contain.

This type of reasoning starts with their reluctance to believe in God. They ignore or try to explain away the many contradictions where fossils are found in reverse order from that demanded by evolutionary theory or where fossils from supposedly different ages are found in the same strata. They try to explain the contradictions by the assumption that the strata has been folded or faulted out of their original sequence. Yet, in spite of this type of reasoning (the dating of strata by the

fossils they contain and the wrong assumption that the fossils evolved from primitive times to more modern times), modern biologists consider the geologic record as the cornerstone of their hypothesis of organic evolution and although they do not agree on how it occurred in the past and cannot provide examples of it occurring now (We will discuss mutations later), they believe that the geologic record provides proof that it did happen.

Now the creationist does not take issue with the observed data and genuine facts of geology but in the interpretation of those facts. He believes that the uniform operation of present geological processes could never, regardless of the billions of years, hypothesized by evolutionists, produce the phenomenon of the geological column as actually observed in the earth's crust. The flood, as described in Genesis was catastrophic to this world and geological processes were greatly accelerated and changed by this flood. The very existence of vast numbers of fossils all over the world is, in reality,

(See **MATHIS** on page 4)

MATHIS . . .

(Continued from page 3)

evidence not of evolution but of a sudden catastrophic happening. Fossils are not being formed today and they speak of sudden death and destruction (often extinction) of species on a vast scale. The flood resulted in great masses of sediment being eroded from other places and being deposited with the raising and lowering waters. Fossils are the result of species being rapidly buried and fossilized or they would not have been preserved at all.

Conditions Before the Flood

When God created this world, He created a world in perfect harmony and balance. Death did not exist before the fall of man and fossils speak of death. With the fall of man, the world was subject to vanity, death, deterioration, and decay (Genesis 3:17-19), Romans 8:22, Second Law of Thermodynamics). In the days between the fall of man and the flood of Genesis 6, the climate of the earth was vastly different than it is now. A great vapor canopy (Gen. 1:6-8) surrounded the earth such that the earth had a uniform warm temperate climate. Rainfall did not occur before the flood and storms were unknown. The extremes of hot and cold weather did not occur and



"My husband is strictly non-denominational — he ignores all churches equally!"

weather fronts, as we know them today, did not exist. Volcanic activity and earthquakes were unknown and the polar caps did not exist.

The earth's surface and the ratio of land to water also was different. The flood changed all this including climate changes and changes in related systems that produced the ice age. The flood was a supernatural judgment of God and was caused not just by the first rainfall from the heavens but, I believe by the upheaval of the ocean floors and the beginning of volcanic action (as well as earthquakes) (Genesis 7:11).

The tremendous erosion and resulting sedimentation from the flood can only be

imagined. Consider local floods today as they rip out trees, wash away homes and buildings, erode streams and sometimes plot new courses for streams and rivers. The power of a local flood is as nothing when compared to the Genesis flood. It is not hard to understand how things, such as the Grand Canyon occurred. I do not believe that it took millions or billions of years to form the Grand Canyon when you consider the power of the Genesis flood coupled with events causing this flood.

Fossils are a direct consequence of this flood. The various species buried in strata have a direct correlation to the kinds of species and their ability as they tried to escape the

flood. Living creatures, as well as plants, were buried by huge moving masses of sediment and under conditions unique for fossilization. Conditions like these have never before or after existed to allow the formation of world-wide beds of fossils.

(Next month: Fossils As Evidence.) □

TWO . . .

(Continued from page 1)

but actually there are just two systems. One is divine, the other is satanic or human; one is real, the other is counterfeit; one is a revelation, the other is an evolution; one is by faith, the other is by works; one is divine accomplishment, the other is human accomplishment; one is salvation by grace, the other is salvation by works; one looks to God, the other looks to man; one is supernatural, the other is natural; one is by blood, the other is bloodless; one is justification by faith, the other is justification by works; one is to natural philosophy foolishness, the other, to the saved, the wisdom of God.

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

(See **TWO** on page 5)



Mother Teresa Did Not Feel Christ — Doubted the Existence of God

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who has been put on the “fast track” to sainthood, was so tormented by doubts about her faith that she felt “a hypocrite,” it has emerged from a book of her letters to friends and confessors.

Shortly after beginning her work in the slums of Calcutta, she wrote: “Where is my faith? Even deep down there is nothing but emptiness and darkness. If there be a God — please forgive me.”

In letters eight years later she was still expressing “such deep longing for God,” adding that she felt “repulsed,

empty, no faith, no love, no zeal.”

Her smile to the world from her familiar weather-beaten face was a “mask” or a “cloak,” she said. “What do I labor for? If there be no God, there can be no soul. If there be no soul then, Jesus, You also are not true.”

Mother Teresa, who died in 1997 and was beatified in record time only six years later, felt abandoned by God from the very start of the work that made her a global figure, in her sandals and blue and white sari. The doubts persisted until her death. — Fox News

TWO . . .

(Continued from page 4)

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

possible by the substitutionary death of another.

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

imputation, justification by faith.

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

It is difficult to find a church today where there is not present an admixture of the two systems, work and faith, law and grace. It is this adulteration of truth, this unholy mixture of good and bad, cold and hot, that has produced such confusion and luke-warmness. When we learn to look for and recognize the two trademarks which characterize each, we have gone a long way toward solving one of the major problems of life. “The entrance of thy words giveth light” (Psa. 119:130).

Alone With Jesus

Alone with Jesus! What a sweet and holy spot! What a blessed refuge to which the soul may betake itself from the charge of Satan, the accusations of the world, and the sorrows of life! Sweet spot for the heart to unfold itself, to tell its hidden tale in the ear of infinite love, tenderness, and compassion. Alone with Jesus!

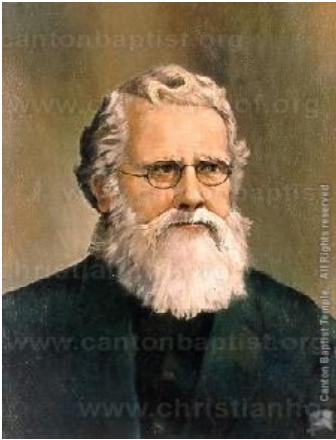
How different a front would Christianity present to the world if the Lord’s people were oftener there! What humanity and gentleness and love would characterize all their dealings! What holiness stamped on every brow, that all might read! What few judgments passed on others — how many more on ourselves!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

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

Prayer is an invisible tool which is wielded in a visible world

*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,
but mighty through God to the pulling
down of strong holds.*

2 Corinthians 10:4



James Hudson Taylor

James Hudson Taylor was born at Barnsley, England, May 21, 1832. He was fortunate to have been born in a home of genuine piety. Heaven lay about him in his infancy. He saw it in his father's faith and in his mother's prayer's. Even prior to his birth his parents had dedicated him to God and prayed that he might be a missionary to China, though this information was withheld from him until long after he had reached that land.

Despite the godly example and teaching of his parents, Hudson became a skeptical and worldly young man. He began to think that for some reason or other he could not be saved and that the only thing for him to do was to take his fill of this world, since there was no hope for him in the next.

Hudson Taylor's conversion, like all else in his life, is a monument to the power of prayer. When he was about seventeen years of age he went one afternoon into his father's library in search of a book

The Fountain That Cleanses From Sin

By E. Myers Harrison

with which to while away the time. Finally he picked up a gospel tract which looked interesting, saying to himself: "There will be a story at the beginning and a sermon at the end. I will read the former and skip the latter."

Little did he know what was going on at the very time in the heart of his mother, who was on a visit seventy or eighty miles away. That very afternoon she went to her room with an intense yearning for the conversion of her son, turned the key in the door and resolved not to leave the spot until her prayers were answered. Hour after hour she continued pleading, until at length she arose with glad assurance that the object of her prayers had already been accomplished.

Meanwhile, in the course of reading the tract, Hudson had come upon the expression, "The finished work of Christ." Remembering the words, "It is finished", he raised the question, "What was finished?" He at once replied: "A full and perfect atonement and satisfaction for sin. The debt paid by the Substitute. Christ died for our sin and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world."

Next came the thought, "If the whole work was

finished and the whole debt paid, what is there left for me to do?" Then came the blessed realization that there was nothing in the world to be done but to fall down on one's knees in prayer and in faith accept the salvation wrought out by Christ.

"Thus", says Hudson, "while my dear mother was praising God on her knees in her chamber, I was praising Him in the old warehouse to which I had gone alone to read at my leisure this little book."

Several days later he told his sister of his newfound joy in Christ and secured her promise not to speak of it to anyone. When the mother returned a fortnight later, he met her at the door and told her he had a piece of good news for her.

Writing many years later, Hudson Taylor said: "I can almost feel that dear mother's arms around my neck, as she pressed me to her bosom and said: 'I know, my boy. I have been

rejoicing for a fortnight in the glad tidings you have to tell me'."

"Has Amelia broken her promise?" I asked in surprise. "She said she would tell no one."

My mother assured me that it was not from any human source that she had learned the tidings and went on to tell the incident mentioned above. While the mother far away was praying in faith that he might that very day enter into the experience of salvation, he actually tasted its felicity, having realized that there was nothing for him to do but to lay hold of the finished work of Calvary, in faith believing, prayer receiving.

Mother and son alike were casting their anchor in the promise of John 14:13 "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

— From the book "Heroes of Faith On Pioneer Trails" by E. Myers Harrison. □ □

**When we do What
We can, God will do
What we can't**

"For with God nothing shall be impossible."
Luke 1:37

A Bit Of Forgotten Baptist History

By Late Clarence Walker, Pastor
Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, KY

“Thy word is truth”
(John 17:17)

While searching through a number of old histories to obtain the facts concerning Cardinal Hosius’ statement that Baptist history goes back from his day (1504-1579) for twelve hundred years — I found a bit of very interesting Baptist history. I have read history all my life but if I had read this which I am about to give you, it had not impressed itself upon my mind.

The thing which makes the history so interesting at this particular time is — it deals with the question of being true to the Word of God when it is translated from one language into another. This is the question raised concerning this new translation — the Revised Standard Version, called by some “a new Bible.” Have the translators been true to the Word of God? Have they given to the common people the words so that they can understand what God means — when he says a certain thing?

Translators ought not to consider their own doctrine and belief but — does the translation make clear to the common people God’s Word?

What A Stir!

This bit of history takes us to the word “*baptizo*”. “Baptizo” is a Greek word which meant to the Greek people “to immerse” or “dip”.

The King James Version was translated by members of the Church of England (Episcopalian) 400 years ago. They sprinkled — following the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, when they came to the word “*baptizo*” in the Greek — they faced a problem.

This is what they did. They agreed to transliterate the word “*baptizo*” instead of translating it. Transliterate meant to transfer the Greek word “*baptizo*” into the English language and not translate it. Can you imagine what “a stir” it would have caused in those days among the Protestants if the King James translators had been true to God’s Word and translated the word “*baptizo*” instead of transliterating it into the English language?

Judson Meets Carey

Adoniram Judson was the first foreign missionary to go out from America — February 18, 1812. It took

nearly three months to cross the ocean in those days. Judson knew when he reached Burma he would meet William Carey — the Baptist, and that he ought to be prepared to translate the Bible into the language of the Burmese people. As he crossed the ocean he studied his Greek New Testament, preparing himself to meet Carey, but instead he found that the Word of God said that after a man was saved he should be immersed in the likeness of the Savior’s death, burial and resurrection.

Judson was not “disobedient to the heavenly vision” — the word of God. Just as soon as he reached Burma he repudiated his infant baptism by sprinkling and presented himself to the Baptist church of which Carey was pastor — who immersed him, “according to the scriptures.”

He began translating the Bible into the Burmese language and when he came to the word “*baptizo*” — he, too, faced a problem. The problem was — should he transliterate the word “*baptizo*” or translate it into the word by which the Burmese people would understand “what God said”? Just as he was true to God when he saw that the Word of the Lord

taught that after he was saved he was to be immersed in the likeness of the Savior’s death, burial and resurrection; so, he was true to his God and to the word of his God — he translated it so the people could understand that the Lord Jesus was immersed in the river Jordan by John and that all who are saved are commanded thus to be obedient unto their Lord and Master.

American Bible Society

This much of the history is familiar to Christian people everywhere. The following facts are not.

There had been organized on the first part of the nineteenth century an organization known as the American Bible Society. Its one and only purpose was to publish the Bible in all languages. It was interdenominational, but Baptists were among the largest contributors.

When word reached America that Judson had not transliterated the word “*baptizo*” but had translated it into the Burmese language — using the word which meant immerse — to dip — the

(See **BAPTIZO** on page 24)



Ford Ups Gay Support With More Cash Donations. — Just announced by Human Rights Campaign, Ford Motor Company donates \$25,000 to aid group in its fight to defeat a Federal Marriage Amendment. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest homosexual activist organization, is acclaiming Ford Motor Company as its top-tier sponsor of an upcoming October 6 "Gala Dinner" in Washington, DC. HRC uses event sponsorships to fund their agenda, and is largely recognized as the frontline political lobbying group for homosexual marriage in America. In addition, the Seattle, Washington branch of HRC announced a separate \$5,000 sponsorship donation from Ford Motor Company. [I refuse to buy any Ford products. Editor] — AFA

Homosexual Wins Discrimination Claim Against The Church of England. — In a landmark case, a homosexual man has won a job discrimination claim against the Church of England. After John

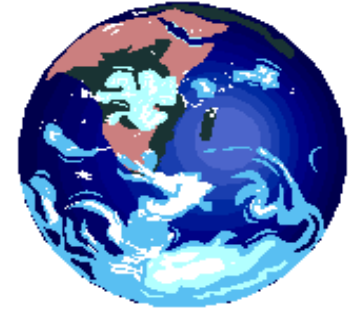
World News Roundup

Reaney was turned down for a youth worker's post in Cardiff, Wales, he complained to the government that he was being unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of his sexual orientation contrary to a new law. The employment tribunal has agreed and will next set the amount of monetary compensation that the Church of England must pay. Homosexual activists re-joiced at the ruling. One said that the "church must learn that denying people jobs on the ground of their sexuality is no longer acceptable" ("Gay Christian Wins Job Tribunal against Church of England," Daily Mail, July 18, 2007). Reaney had the backing of Stonewall, an influential homosexual rights organization. This shows the danger of the Hate Crimes legislation that is currently moving through the U.S. Congress. Homosexual activists will not be content until they shut down every church that opposes their agenda. — FBIS

Number of Ordained Women In Baptist Churches Increases. — According to a new report the number of ordained women among Baptist churches in the United States has increased 20% since 2005.

There are now 607 women serving as pastors, co-pastors, interim pastors, and church planters in the American Baptist Convention, the Alliance of Baptists, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and other groups. This is according to a report entitled "State of Women in Baptist Life" issued by Baptist Women in Ministry. "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (1 Timothy 2:12). — FBIS

Arkansas Abortion Law Prohibits "Forced Abortions." — "A new abortion law took effect in Arkansas July 31, and it's one that could spark other state legislatures to head in the same direction," said a LifeNews report by Editor Steven Erbelt. The statute seeks to help women by requiring abortion centers to post signs saying coerced abortions are illegal ... Under the measure, abortion businesses would be fined \$1,000 for each day they do not post a sign indicating that women cannot be forced to have an abortion they don't want. The bill states that no one — including a husband, boyfriend or parent — can pressure a pregnant woman into having an abortion.



Arkansas Charitable Bingo Begins. — Arkansas has long been a holdout in the push to bring more gaming to the Bible Belt. But (July 31) more games will begin." Hundreds of charities across Arkansas will be allowed to run bingo games and sell raffle tickets to raise money for their causes. A constitutional amendment approved last year approved the new games, marking a major shift for Arkansas, which is surrounded by states that offer riverboat wagering, lotteries and large casinos.

Iraqi Religious Groups Suffer. — Conditions for religious minorities in Iraq "have deteriorated very considerably" in the last three to four months, the bipartisan U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) was told recently. The panel heard testimony July 25 about the plight of Chaldo-Assyrian Christians and other minorities in the first Washington hearing invol-

(See WNR on page 11)

La Voz Del Desierto

La Iglesia Bautista Reveladora de la Sabiduría De Dios — Parte 2

Por M. A. Curet

En el artículo anterior dijimos que el método de preservación de los Bautistas ha sido siempre a través de un Libro, la Biblia, la infalible e inequívoca Palabra de Dios. El Libro de Dios y el Espíritu de Dios han preservado a los Bautistas y a las iglesias

Bautistas. Los Presbiterianos y Episcopales dependen de su crecimiento en la educación. Los Metodistas y los así llamados Cultos de Santificados, viven basándose en el emocionalismo. Los Católicos florecen y alcanzan su gloria y poder

donde abunda la ignorancia y domina la fuerza. Pero los Bautistas, aún bajo la más amarga persecución, se multiplican y llenan la tierra, dondequiera que se lee y se obedece la Biblia (Hechos 8:1-4; 16:5). De nuevo, vemos la multiforme sabiduría de Dios en la

notable unidad de estas pequeñas democracias independientes (iglesias Bautistas).

Sin estar unidas por credos, por tradiciones, por juramentos, por rituales o autoridad eclesiástica por

(Vea CURET en la pág 10)

El Modo Fácil Y El Modo Difícil

Por Hno. Galo Rodríguez, Redactor

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

Si sabes que Dios te ha pedido que hagas algo, no retrocedas sólo porque se hace duro (Éxo. 13:17). Cuando las cosas se hagan

difíciles, pasa más tiempo con Él, apóyate más en Él y recibe más gracia de Él (Heb. 4:16). La gracia es el poder de Dios que viene a ti, sin que te cueste nada, para hacer por medio de ti lo que tú no puedes hacer por ti mismo. Cuídate de pensamientos como: *“No puedo hacer esto, es demasiado duro.”*

Algunas veces Dios nos conduce por el camino difícil en lugar del fácil, porque está obrando en nosotros. ¿Cómo podemos aprender alguna vez a apoyarnos en Él, si todo lo

que viene a nuestras vidas es tan fácil que podemos lidiar con ello nosotros mismos? Dios guió a los hijos de Israel por el camino largo y difícil porque eran todavía cobardes, y Él tuvo que obrar en ellos a fin de prepararlos para la batalla que tendrían que enfrentar en la tierra prometida.

La mayoría de la gente piensa que entrar en la tierra prometida significa el fin de las batallas, pero no es así. Si lees los relatos de lo que sucedió después que los israelitas cruzaron el río Jordán y fueron a

tomar posesión de la tierra que les habían prometido, verás que libraron una batalla tras otra. Pero ganaron todas las batallas que libraron con la fuerza de Dios y bajo su dirección. Dios los guió por la ruta más larga y difícil aunque había una más corta y fácil, porque Él sabía que ellos no estaban listos para las batallas que tendrían que enfrentar para poseer la tierra. A Dios le preocupaba que cuando vieran el enemigo podrían huir a Egipto, así que los llevó por el camino difícil para enseñarles quien era Él, y que ellos no podían depender de si mismos.

(Vea MODO en la pág. 10)

CURET . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

centralizada, las filas de nuestra iglesias Bautistas están más unidas en una sola fe y práctica, que cualquier otra gente en la tierra. El secreto de su unidad se encuentra en que ellos en todo el mundo leen el mismo Libro y lo obedecen. Todavía sigue siendo verdad tal como fue en los días del Nuevo Testamento, que Dios usa “hombres iletrados e ignorantes” (1ra Corintios 1:26-29). La gran variedad de la sabiduría de Dios se manifiesta en que Él escoge lo débil, lo necio, lo bajo, lo despreciable y lo vil para confundir lo sabio, lo poderoso y lo noble.

Por último, Dios ha dado una demostración de Su inmensa y multiforme sabiduría a los reyes, jerarquías, cortes eclesiásticas y cábalas satánicas, a través de pequeñas e independientes democracias Bautistas que Él ha escogido como Su forma de predicación para la propagación de Su verdad. La sabiduría de este mundo favorece a las escuelas, a los servicios sociales, a las organizaciones, al dinero, o a la publicidad. Pero la Biblia no hace esto. “Esta complace a Dios por medio de la locura de la predicación para salvar a los que creen.” Los Bautistas prosperan en el campo porque es allí

donde las personas dependen más de la predicación. Predicar y enseñar la Biblia son las dos formas escogidas por Dios para la salvación de los perdidos y la edificación de los salvos.

Las iglesias Bautistas presperan y se multiplican por la predicación de la Palabra de Dios. La sabiduría del mundo pone el énfasis en la educación y los servicios sociales (*escuelas, centros de rehabilitación, etc.*). Pero la maravillosa y multiforme sabiduría de Dios pone el énfasis total sobre la predicación de la Palabra. La predicación es el único método ordenado por Dios para la evangelización y la doctrinación; y la predicación y el estudio bíblico son las únicas formas prescritas por Dios para la información e inspiración. El apóstol Pablo le dijo a su hijo predilecto en el ministerio que la Biblia podría “prepararlo enteramente para toda buena obra” (2da Timoteo 3:17). Este mismo predicador le escribió a la iglesia de la cual su hijo predilecto era el pastor, y le dijo que Dios había dado a las iglesias pastores y maestros “a fin de perfeccionar a los santos para la obra del ministerio, para la edificación del cuerpo de Cristo, hasta que todos lleguemos a la unidad de la fe y del conocimiento del Hijo de Dios, a un varón perfecto, a la medida de la estatura de la plenitud de Cristo”

El Valor Del Dinero

Con dinero podemos comprar una cama, pero no descanso, una casa, pero no un hogar. Pero la salvación que Cristo nos ofrece no se puede comprar, ni con todo el dinero del mundo porque sólo Dios la da (Apoc. 7:10).

Las cosas que el Dinero ofrece son temporales, lo que Dios ofrece es para la eternidad. El amor de Dios fue tan grande que dio a su Hijo unigénito por nuestros pecados (Rom. 5:8). Aún así, se niegan a aceptarlo, siendo rebeldes, despreciando al Señor, teniendo el pleno conocimiento de que visitando el Templo o calentando una silla no se salvará nadie.

(Efesios 4:12-13). El pastor por medio de la predicación y enseñanza de la Biblia puede traer a cada miembro de su iglesia, que oiga y obedezca la Palabra, a la perfección en carácter y servicio; así como su Señor. Dios demuestra a través de la iglesia Bautistas, Su sabiduría y poder al escogerlas como Sus agencias para llevar a cabo Su comisión hasta el fin del mundo, y cumplir Sus propósitos hasta el fin del siglo. Como climax de Su demostración, Él mostrará Su inmensurable sabiduría a la imagen de Su glorioso Hijo Jesucristo, por la locura de la predicación y la enseñanza de sólo un

Evalúen sus vidas aquellos que no le han aceptado, ¿es la vida que prefieren vivir?, sin dirección, sumergidos en el mundo de pecado, teniendo presentes que si el Señor viene de un momento a otro se condenarán en el infierno (Jn. 3:36).

Aprovechen la oportunidad que les brinda Dios de vivir una vida separada del pecado teniendo la certeza de vida eterna que es el regalo más valioso que tenemos aquellos que le hemos aceptado (1ra Juan 5:13).

Aprovecha ese regalo de vida, no lo pienses más, acepta a Jesucristo como el único Salvador personal de tu alma hoy. ■

Libro; el Libro de Dios, el Libro Bautista, la Biblia.

Por lo tanto, hermano y amado pastor, como el más honorable de todos los siervos del Señor sobre la tierra, predique y enseñe la Palabra de Dios, la Biblia (2da Timoteo 3:15-17). ■

MODO . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

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

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

ving representatives of those communities. The Capitol Hill hearing demonstrated the situation for such religious minorities has not improved in the time since the American-led coalition deposed Saddam Hussein in 2003 and began seeking to rebuild the government. Members of religious minorities have been kidnapped, tortured and killed, according to Andrew White, vicar of St. George's Anglican Church in Baghdad. As much as 50% of the Iraqi Christian population has fled the country. — BP

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Taliban Executes Christians. — In a mounting crisis in Afghanistan, two South Korean Christians have been executed by the Taliban, which took 23 Korean aid workers hostage July 19. The Taliban executed the group's leader, Bae Hyung Kyu, on July 25 and another male, identified by the Taliban as Sung Sin, on July 30 over the Afghanistan government's refusal to meet demands, which reportedly have called for the release of Taliban prisoners, ransom payments and withdrawal of 200 South Korean troops in Afghanistan. Bae Hyung Kyu, the Taliban's first victim, was a minister who

turned 42 on the day he was killed, reportedly by 10 bullet wounds. Bae leaves behind a wife and 9-year-old daughter, Compass Direct news service reported. The Korean believers were traveling on a charter bus from Kandahar to the capital, Kabul, when armed men stopped them, according to International Christian Concern. The volunteers had arrived in Afghanistan on July 13 and were scheduled to return home July 23. — BP

* * *

Protecting Unborn Girls. — India's first woman president will seek to put an end to the widespread, gender-based abortion of females. Pratibha Paril, 72, was sworn in July 25 and called for action against sex-selection abortions that result in the deaths of an estimated 7,000 unborn girls a day in India, according to the United Nations Children's Fund. "We must banish malnutrition, social evils, infant mortality and female feticide," she said in a speech to India's Parliament. A preference in India for sons has fueled the abortion onslaught against girls and produced an imbalance between the sexes. There are 927 females for every 1,000 males in the populous Asian country, contrasted with a global average of 1,050 females for every 1,000 males. — BP

Cambodia Bans Door-to-Door Evangelism and Literature Distribution.

— Cambodia has banned door-to-door evangelism and the distribution of Christian literature except inside church buildings. The government says such activities "disrupt society" and "cause other insecurities" in this largely Buddhist nation. Officials admitted that the ruling is aimed at reducing Christian evangelism. The vast majority of Christians in Cambodia were among the 3 million people who died in the 1970s under the brutal communist regime of the Khmer Rouge led by Pot Pol, but the number of churches has grown rapidly since the collapse of communism in the early 1990s. — FBIS

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"Biggest Ever" Rally Calls for Revival of Islamic Caliphate.

— An estimated 80,000 Islamists packed a sports stadium in the Indonesian capital Sunday to call for the re-establishment of a single Islamic state or caliphate, uniting Muslims around the world under Islamic law. Video footage posted on the group's websites showed tens of thousands of people, men and women seated apart in the stadium in Jakarta, waving black and white flags and shouting "Allah is greater." The event was organized by Hizb ut-Tahrir (the Party of

Liberation), which called it the biggest event calling for the revival of a caliphate since the last time one existed in the 1920s. — CNS

* * *

Fine Against Street Preacher Upheld In Norway.

— A \$1,500 fine that was levied against street preacher Petar Keseljevic in Oslo, Norway, in June, has been upheld by an appeals court. Keseljevic was preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ on June 30 when he was arrested and given the heavy fine. Keseljevic said, "In these last days it is important that someone takes a stand and do what the message is meant for, share it" ("Preaching in Public Gets Minister Fined," WorldNetDaily, Aug. 10, 2007). The International Human Rights Group (IHRG), based in Rome, Georgia, is assisting Keseljevic and plans to appeal the conviction to the European Court of Human Rights. Joel Thornton, president of the IHRG, said this case is not just a dispute between a street preacher and a police officer. "It is about the right of a Christian to share his faith in public without the fear of arrest. It is about stopping the implementation of a police state where citizens only have the rights granted to them by the local

(See WNR on page 12)

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 11)

police department.”

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Wake Forest Divinity School Professor Warns About Narrow Minded Christians. — Charles

Kimball, a professor at Wake Forest University Divinity School in North Carolina, warned recently that religion is evil and dangerous when it is “narrow” and refuses to appreciate different views. Speaking at a Community Prayer Breakfast at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers, Florida, he also said that Christians and Muslims are “all talking about the same God” (“Author Cites Need for Understanding,” The Berean Call, July 31, 2007). Wake Forest was founded in the first half of the 19th century as a Baptist institution, but it has been theologically liberal since the early 20th century. Under the presidency of William Poteat (1905-1927) evolution began to be taught there and since then the Baptist State Convention has supported the school’s “right to academic freedom.” The convention continued to support the school financially, even under the BC’s “conservative renaissance,” until recently. Kimball spoke at the annual Cooperative Baptist Fellowship convention in 2003 and said

that Christians who say there is only one way of salvation are potentially dangerous (Baptist Press, July 2, 2003). It is strange how that Liberals and New Evangelicals condemn strict Biblicist preachers for “judgmentalism” but have no qualms about judging strict Biblicist preachers in the severest manner.

* * *

Retired NASA Engineer Believes Genesis Account Of Creation. —

The following is excerpted from “Former NASA Engineer Touts Creationism,” Galveston Daily News, August 4, 2007: “Tom Henderson is not much of a watchmaker. He shakes a small glass jar containing a tiny metallic gear, a brass bezel, a scarred watch crystal and dozens of other nearly microscopic, shiny objects. But, no watch. He vigorously rattles the container again. Still, no watch. For Henderson, a retired NASA engineer and creationist speaker, that is the point. No watchmaker—no watch. He’s carried the somewhat-out-of favor message of special creation to nine foreign countries in the past several decades because he is convinced that how we believe the world came to be it is important. . . . He has degrees in math, physics and science education and worked at the Johnson Space Center for 37 years. . . . Why should the average

person in the pew care? Henderson argues that societal decay, theological erosion and moral bankruptcy will ensue if the evolutionary model is embraced. ‘The basis for all Christian doctrines is found in the first 11 chapters of Genesis,’ he said. ‘If it is not true, then what is our basis for morality?’ He also said that the evidences he has found for creationism could remove barriers to faith. ‘For some people, evolution is a barrier to the good news of Jesus. They feel if evolution is true, Christianity can’t be — and they

are right,’ he said. ‘But if evolution is a myth, then they can take that step to faith.’ . . . Now retired from NASA, Henderson coordinates the Web site:

www.creationsuperlibrary.com

from his home, where he answers questions from both believers, skeptics and the merely curious.”

* * *

Uniting to Exclude Saudi Arabian Airlines.

— Saudi Arabian Airlines

(See WNR on page 13)

In His Hand

By Charles Neilson
Psalm 31:15

Be still, my heart, if trouble comes
And pauses at thy door.
Just turn and seek His lovely face,
And trust His rich redeeming grace,
And love Him more and more.

Be still, my heart, if sorrow comes
An uninvited guest.
For thou wilt find His loving arm
A shelter and a strength from harm,
And in His comfort — rest.

Be still, my heart, and realize
Thy times are in His hand.
His wisdom knows the best for thee,
His Spirit guides thee tenderly
For thou art in His hand.

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 12)

(known as Saudia) declares on its English-language website that the kingdom bans “Bibles, crucifixes, statues, carvings, items with religious symbols such as the Star of David.” Until the Saudi government changes this detestable policy, its airline should be disallowed from flying into Western airports. Michael Freund brought this regulation to international attention in a recent Jerusalem Post article, “Saudis might take Bibles from tourists,” in which he points out that a section on the Saudia Web site, “Customs Regulations,” lists the forbidden articles above under the rubric “Items and articles belonging to religions other than Islam.” Freund followed up by calling the Saudia office in New York, where an employee identified only as “Gladys” confirmed that this rule really is applied. “Yes, sir, that is what we have heard, that it is a problem to bring these things into Saudi Arabia, so you cannot do it.” An unnamed official at the Saudi consulate in New York further confirmed the regulation. “You are not allowed to bring that stuff into the kingdom. If you do, they will take it away. If it is really important to you, then you can try to bring it and just see what happens, but I don’t recommend that you do so.”

Benny Hinn’s Ministry Caught Screening Healing Candidates. —

In an expose of Benny Hinn’s lavish lifestyle and deceptive healing practices, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s The Fifth Estate documented with hidden cameras how that his staff screens audience members who come forward for healing (“Evangelist Hinn Lands under a Cloud,” The Star, Toronto, August 17, 2007). Those with obvious physical ailments are not allowed to get near Hinn. Justin Peters, a Baptist pastor in Mississippi who has studied Hinn, was quoted as saying, “It’s always somebody that has some kind of illness that can’t be readily seen” that makes it to the stage. CBC tracked down some of the people who claimed healings, only to find that “they were either still sick, never had the condition they were supposedly cured of, or had died.” The report also documented Hinn’s lavish lifestyle, his fancy cars, 7,000-square-foot ocean-side mansion, private jet, etc. In 2003 the Dateline program on NBC asked Hinn’s ministry to provide confirmation of the 56 cases of healing that were claimed at one of his crusades. Hinn’s people came up with only five cases of what they called “irrefutable and medically proven miracles.” When Dateline researched these five cases, it found that only one of the people involved

could provide medical records, and her doctor suspected that the woman never had the Lou Gehrig’s disease she claimed to have been healed of (Charisma Online, Feb. 20, 2003). In January 2005 a 52-year-old man died of an apparent heart attack while attending Hinn’s “healing” crusade in Bangalore, India (“When the miracle failed to save a life,” Deccan Herald, Jan. 23). At a Hinn crusade in Fiji in January 2006 a “crippled man” on crutches who was “healed in his legs” had been photographed earlier by missionary friend Ryan Gray walking into the stadium without needing the assistance of the crutches he was carrying. Bogus “faith healers” like Hinn bring reproach to the cause of Christ. No one ever died when they were seeking healing from Christ, and He healed everyone that came to Him! God often heals today in answer to prayer, and we thank the Lord for it, but there are no apostolic gifts of healing operative

today. — FBIS

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Iranian Police Have Closed More Than 20 Barbers’ Shops In The Capital Tehran. —

The authorities say the barbers were encouraging un-Islamic behaviour by offering Western hairstyles, tattooing and also eyebrow-plucking for men. Police say they have inspected more than 700 shops during a two-week crackdown in the city. The move is part of an annual campaign against what is known locally as bad hijab, or un-Islamic clothing, that this year is also targeting men. Hundreds of women and men have already been cautioned. Police say that as well as avoiding Western hairstyles and make up, barbers should not pluck customers’ eyebrows.

The closure of the shops comes several months after barbers were warned that they could lose their licences if they did not comply. — CNS □ □

When a preacher feels that he must pull an old joke and get his congregation to giggle a little when he gets up to preach, he is already in a badly backslidden condition.

His is a frivolous, lighthearted ministry that does not get hold of hearts to transform their lives. And the chances are, he is a theological tadpole. — Copied

Where Did Cain Get His Wife?

By D. B. Estep

It has been our experience that in almost every community there are people who try to make themselves and others believe they are infidels. This group of people belong to the Rip Van Winkle class — dead 20 years and do not know it. After reading the arguments of various well-known pseudo-infidels, we have profited but one way, namely: we know almost every argument and question they ask, and we know from what source they have obtained them. Why do they not at least try to be original? That would show much more mature thinking.

Maybe some pacifist will say, “Why all this argument?” Because we have come to the place where we believe that God must be provoked at His children for making apologies for His blessed Word. His Word does not need defense half as much as some people need it (Psa. 119:89).

One question many unbelievers ask is, “Where did Cain get his wife?” Many of them ask it thinking they have found a flaw in God’s Word. They expect to laugh with glee when the man of God will not be able to answer them. But when God’s man does answer them, they keep still.

While it is true that many unbelievers ask this question, it is also true that many honest Christians ask the same question. Maybe they have been asked by some unbeliever, and, not being able to answer, they feel defeated. We trust this article will bring help to them.

Where did Cain get his wife? Where did you get your wife? You could not get a wife unless she existed, could you? In Genesis 3:20 we read that Eve was “the mother of all living.” She certainly would have to have children before she could be referred to as a “mother.” The words “all living” would indicate that there were a number then living of whom she was the mother. But at this time neither Cain, nor Abel, nor Seth was even born. At least their births are events recorded after the fact just referred to. Adam and Eve came into the world a grown man and woman. Adam lived 130 years before he begat Seth (Gen. 5:4-5). During this 130 years, with the curse of multiplied conception pronounced by God upon Eve because of sin (Gen. 3:16), there was abundance of opportunity for the birth of sons and daughters. This fact could justify the statement that Eve was

“the mother of all living” before there was a record of her being the mother of Cain (Gen. 4:1). That people were then living in numbers is further evidenced by the fact that after Cain killed Abel he was in terror lest “whosoever findeth me will slay me” (Gen. 4:14).

The Bible records that “the days of Adam after he begat Seth were eight hundred years; and he begat sons and daughters” (Gen. 5:4). In the course of eight hundred years he certainly would have had many daughters. Cain would probably have gladly married one of them after he became an outcast and a wanderer. Ladies did not have much choice in those days. Adam lived 930 years (Gen. 5:5). This was the usual age of the antediluvians (Gen. 5). Cain might have been like some of our modern men, “in no hurry to get married”; then he could have waited a “small spell” of about 700 years and married one of his brother Seth’s great-great-great-great-great-great-granddaughters, or he could have married one of his 18-year old sisters. Evidently it was not as much trouble for Cain to get married as for some folks nowadays. Cain’s wicked offspring proves that he did get married.

You have been so concerned about Cain’s wife, but there is a great deal more reason to be

concerned about where did Cain’s brother Seth get his wife, because from the offspring of Seth’s wife the world’s Redeemer was born (Luke 3); and unless you receive Him as your Savior you are not “going to be lost” — but you are lost already. Who says so? God says so in John 3:36: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Why do you need a Savior? Because “all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23). “Your iniquities (sins) have separated between you and your God” (Isa. 59:2). God says you are lost now. Therefore, you need a Savior now.

Who is the sinner’s Savior? “Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6). Christ died as a substitute for the sinner. “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15).

How can you make the Savior your Savior? “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). When you “believe” (depend upon) the Lord Jesus Christ, your salvation is guaranteed by the “shalt” of Almighty God. Won’t you take God at His word? □

**Don’t wait for 6
strong men to take
you to church.**

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 2)

today. There is not a lot of sentimental selfishness that is passed off as love. I might illustrate what I am talking about by referring to the pastors who “cut corners” and compromise when it comes to preaching the whole counsel of God (and that would include church discipline). They claim to love their people and cannot press for these points that reprove and rebuke. But the truth is that they so love themselves they fear the criticism which Satan would foster against them, if they were true to the teachings of our Lord, if they really loved their people, they would teach them and lead them to practice what our Lord taught. Certainly, He loves the people and knows what is best and a necessity for all. It is never right to do wrong to make an opportunity to do right, and love — real love — true love — always constrains us to do right.

The loss of respect by many unsaved people for the churches goes right back to the spineless position, sentimental selfishness, unscriptural promotion, and numbers racket that exists in some of our churches today.

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of

God” (Revelation 3:14).

The word “angel” means messenger or pastor. So, the letter is addressed to the pastor, and the message is for him and for his flock. It is the church at Laodicea. Laodicea means “the rights of the people” or “the rule of the people.” In other words, it means “democracy.” Could any other term more aptly set forth the condition of the present-day church affairs? It is the mistaken idea that the voice of the people is the voice of God; the age of anarchy is almost upon us. Someone has said that we once fought a war to save the world for democracy, but that the day will come when we will have to fight to save the world from democracy.

The Bible nowhere teaches that the New Testament Churches are democracies; it does teach that they are theocracies. Baptists have been as guilty, if not more guilty, than other groups in this matter. What is a theocracy? It is government by the immediate direction of God; yes, it is government by priests, servants, and kings as representatives of God. Who are the priests, servants, and kings in the New Testament church? Every believer is a priest, servant, and king. Therefore every individual member is under obligation to find God’s will in the policies, and methods followed in His church. And then when the church votes,

there will never be divisions. He will not lead two people in the same congregation two different ways on the same subject. We have no right to vote and do as we please. We do have the right to vote and do as He pleases. So, New Testament churches are theocracies operated on democratic principles. He is the one “to run” the church as He speaks through us: His priest, servants, and kings! Most churches are far more concerned now

about what will please the people than they are about what He wants. It is characteristic of the church that neglects discipline as ordained by our Lord.

The remainder of the verse states that this message comes to the Laodiceans from “the Amen,” “the faithful and true witness,” “the beginning of the creation of God.” When our Lord is spoken of as “the Adam,”

(See **CHURCH** on page 16)

Nothing In The House

By Amy Carmichael

Thy servant, Lord, hath nothing in the house,
Not even one small pot of common oil;
For he who never cometh but to spoil
Hath raided my poor house again, again,
That ruthless strong man armed, whom men call Pain.

I thought that I had courage in the house,
And patience to be quiet and endure,
And sometimes happy songs; now I am sure
Thy servant truly hath not anything,
And see, my song-bird hath a broken wing.

My servant, I have come into the house—
I who know Pain’s extremity so well
That there can never be the need to tell
His power to make the flesh and spirit quail:
Have I not felt the scourge, the thorn, the nail?

And I, his Conqueror, am in the house,
Let not your heart be troubled: do not fear:
Why shouldst thou, child of Mine, if I am here?
My touch will heal thy song-bird’s broken wing,
And he shall have a braver song to sing.

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 15)

It means that He is the truth. He could be the truth without uttering a word, but the expression, “the faithful and true witness” means that He is not only the truth but that He faithfully proclaims, manifests, and makes known the truth to us. What He says will be exactly true because He is in Himself absolute truth, and there is nothing beyond Him in all the realm of truth. He is the faithful and true witness of God. When He speaks there is no exaggeration and no minimizing. When It says that He is “the beginning of the creation of God,” it is referring to His deity. The Lord Jesus is God, and thus He speaks to this church at Laodicea.

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:15-16).

The meaning of hot is seen in Romans 12:11, where the same Greek word is used — fervent (burning) in spirit. The word translated cold is used in Matthew 10:42, “a cup of cold water” and “as cold waters to a thirsty soul... “ (Proverbs 25:25). The church at Laodicea was neither cold nor hot, but lukewarm. Some would lead us to believe the hot

means the saved, the cold means the lost, and the lukewarm means the saved who are out of fellowship. Such an interpretation is not acceptable. The hot and the cold could both be applied to the saved who were doing something for Him. Some burning hot in His service — some doing little things that will also be rewarded — as those giving a cup of cold water in His Name. Certain things are good whether hot or cold — tea for example — but nothing that is lukewarm is good to the taste. This church was neither hot nor cold — nothing was good — it was a church filled with unsaved members. The Lord spoke of it as such a disgusting situation that He was about to spue (vomit) them out of His mouth.

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see” (Revelation 3:17-18).

These people had no consciousness of any need. They considered themselves rich. We see the same all around us today;

churches so often measure themselves by the size of their offerings, membership, and buildings. And many of them from that materialistic viewpoint have need of nothing. But Jesus said that they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Jesus said that they were miserable; it means pitiable. His heart was moved in pity toward them; He had no congratulations to offer them. When He said that they were poor, He meant that from His standpoint they were possessing nothing worth having. Then He used the word “blind” to describe them; it is the word “nearsighted” which most accurately expresses the thought — lacking in vision, lacking light, devoid of the sense of the far

distances, confined within narrow limits. Then again, He says that they are naked; yes, they were nude, stripped of the clothing of glory and beauty that ought to adorn the church as the Bride of Christ. They were lost people who needed to be clothed in the garment of His imputed righteousness.

The Lord Jesus counsels them to get “gold tried in the fire,” “white raiment,” and to “anoint thine eyes with eyesalve.” “The gold tried in the fire” would make them rich; it is divine righteousness — that which is imputed to helpless sinners when they receive our Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.

(See **CHURCH** on page 17)

My Bible

This Holy Book I'd rather own
Than all the gold and gems
That e'er in monarch's coffers shone,
Than all their diadems.
Nay, were the sea one chrysolite,
The earth one golden ball,
And diamonds all the stars of night,
This Book outweighs them all

Ah, no, the soul ne'er found relief
In glittering hoards of wealth:
Gems dazzle not the eyes of grief:
Gold cannot purchase health.
But here a blessed balm appears
To heal the deepest woe.
And those who read this Book in tears,
Their tears shall cease to flow.

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 16)

The “white raiment” would give them clothing; this is referring to practical righteousness. It is the bride’s trousseau, that she may be properly clothed; yea, it is practical righteousness produced in the life of the saint by the Holy Spirit, when the individual surrenders to Him. The “eyesalve” for the eyes is the anointing of the Holy Spirit. John in the second chapter of his first epistle tells us what is ours through this anointing. Let us read verses 20 and 27, “But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent” (Revelation 3:19).

Here our Lord makes it clear that these stinging words of rebuke from Him come because He loves them. He then challenges them to repent. And that is Christ’s last word to the churches — “repent.” Today the way so many leaders talk you would think that His last word is “go,” evangelize. But it is not! Evangelism comes as a result of revival. Revival

comes when men repent. So, to get to the bottom of our troubles, we need repentance. He said “go” before His ascension. The churches were not going now; so, this time His Word is “repent.”

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

Here our Lord stands outside the local church seeking entrance. Think of it — Jesus shut out of a church which claims to be His. What a tragedy! But after all, the church which “cuts out,” ignores, and refuses to practice some sections of His Word that displeases the members is shutting Christ out. We cannot refuse His Word and have Him!

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches” (Revelation 3:21-22).

Our Lord certainly knows that many local churches as such in these last days will never open the door to Him. Yet, some are so stupid as to teach that the whole world will be converted. And when He is not even wanted in so many churches! Yet, our Lord does plead with any and every individual

who will heed. He also mentions the special reward for those who do heed and who overcome.

Neglect of Church Discipline is Rebellion Against God’s Authority.

The fact that man is sinfully depraved makes him rebellious against authority. And the Word makes it clear that this rebellion will wax more and more evident as we approach the second coming of Christ. Today we see as never before rebellion against authority in the home, school, government, and churches.

Is there any wonder so many fight against the Bible as being verbally inspired? They desire to excuse themselves from accepting the authority of the Word.

Yes, the Laodicean age is upon us. There is much talk that illustrates it: “The majority is right” — “The people don’t like it” — “The voice of the people is the voice of God” — “You should not preach like that; people won’t like it” — “I believe in going along with the boys” — “Everybody does it; it must be all right.”

In neglecting the Word of God and its teachings

(See **CHURCH** on page 18)

No Flies Enter the Closed Mouth

By A. B. Carlisle

In the closed mouth enter no flies
Says an old proverb of Spain as told to me
Which means “you better be silent than tell lies”
For it is knowing the truth that makes you free.

The tongue is such a little, bitsy, tiny thing
But it boasts of mighty work and holy deeds
But its children — Hate and Gossip bring
Crime and all kinds of evil deeds.

To, think much listen and look
While you are gentle and young.
Then turn to the Holy Book
And learn to control the tongue.

You are masters of your words before you speak;
And can send them where you will,
But once spoken, they master you and break
The hearts of friends and wound and kill.

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 17)

concerning church discipline, we are simply showing how we are rebelling against God's authority. We prefer our ways and will to God's Way and Will. The natural man is that way, but God expects us to be different because He saved us. He expects us to submit to His authority. Could it be that the big trouble today is the same as it was at Laodicea — church members who need to be saved?

Neglect of Church Discipline Leads to Boasting

The church at Laodicea was actually boasting that she had no needs. These folk felt that they "had arrived." Churches with big buildings, offerings, and memberships often do the same and class folk as "of brand," and "fanatical" who emphasize the need of not compromising the Word, living a separated life, and walking in the Spirit.

Paul said, in the second verse of the fifth chapter of First Corinthians, that the church at Corinth was all puffed up. Look at the verse, "And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you." They were boasting of how liberal they were in having a man in the church guilty of this gross sin of

fornication or adultery. You see, they did not want to be accused of being narrow-minded; so, they boasted (and surely such boasting was in the flesh) that they permitted such a man to retain his membership with them. Does it not remind us of such boasting today?

Could you imagine one in the leadership of the Holy Spirit boasting that his or her church condoned immorality? But the Laodiceans believe that what pleases the people is right; they believe the voice of the people is the voice of God. Their own will is their authority, not the Word of God. They follow their own desires and defy those who would in any way cross them.

Neglect of Church Discipline Condones Immorality

As Paul wrote to the brethren at the church of Corinth, he reminded them that to neglect dealing with the case of immorality in their midst would affect the whole congregation. He put it this way, "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the

unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). Surely as members of the same local church of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are our brother's keeper. And not to do something to help our brother who has gone into gross sin that needs to be dealt with by the church makes us guilty before God.

To ignore sin that should be dealt with in our local congregations is to condone it. Today many people remain in good standing in their churches even though they are

drunkards, harlots, murderers, adulterers, adulteresses, gamblers, dope addicts, etc. We know that there are unsaved people who will always be critical of the churches, but they certainly have a right to be so, when churches so operate as to condone immorality.

Neglect of Church Discipline Eventually Omits The Gospel

Practically all churches

(See **CHURCH** on page 19)

The Gospel According To You

If none but you in the world today
Had tried to live in a Christ-like way,
Could the rest of the world look close at you
And find the path that is straight and true?

If none but you in the world so wide
Had found the Christ for his daily guide,
Would the things you do and the things you say
Lead others to live in his blessed way?

Ah, friends of the Christ in the world today
Are many who watch you upon your way,
And look to the things you say and do
To measure the Christian standard true!

Men read and admire the Gospel of Christ
With its love so unfailing and true!
But what do they say and what do they think
Of the Gospel according to you?

You are writing each day a letter to men —
Take care that the writing is true;
'Tis the only Gospel that some men will read,
That Gospel according to you."

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 18)

who neglect the practice of church discipline do so because it displeases the people. It is so clear how the erroneous idea of the churches of Jesus Christ being democracies instead of theocracies leads to the doing of what human nature likes instead of what God commands.

The average church begins by saying that she is opposed to drinking, adultery, gambling, etc., but that she can not, or will not, go so far as to take any action against it. You know, it is like being against a rattlesnake coming into your house, but certainly not being so drastic as to put it out should it come in anyway. *This spirit of compromise grows like creeping paralysis, and before one realizes it, the churches speak out so weakly against any sin that it can barely be heard, and certainly they would never take action of any kind. They just sit trying to be pleasing to everybody uttering a few pious meaningless platitudes.*

And, of course, when the churches get to this point, they cannot afford to preach the Gospel, telling people that they are hopelessly lost unless they get born again and washed in the blood of Christ. They are already so filled with unregenerate members that the voice of the people,

which they suppose is the voice of God, would not allow such preaching or teaching. It would be all right to brag on buildings, offerings, membership, etc., but to preach on Hell, Sin, or Regeneration would be unthinkable. They need nothing, in their estimation, not even the Gospel!

**Neglect of Church
Discipline Leaves
Churches No More Than
Social Clubs**

When a church is what Christ teaches her to be, she is as attractive as a very beautiful woman, but wrong doing is as out of place in her presence as immorality is with a real lady! But today because of rebellion against God's authority, holy living, and an uncompromising stand for right and against wrong, the average church is no more than a social club. In fact with the eating programs, athletic programs, and forms of amusement programs you would think that most of them *are* social clubs. If an Elijah, Moses, Amos, Paul, John the Baptist, or our Lord Jesus Christ should come to preach in the average church today, they would declare them fools and fanatics who were so crude that they should not be permitted to speak in polite (?) society. You can join the average church today, and then, never attend,

(See **CHURCH** on page 20)

Five Minutes After I Die

Loved ones will weep o'er my silent face,
Dear ones will clasp me in sad embrace,
Shadows and darkness will fill the place,
Five minutes after I die.

Quickly the years of my life have flown,
Gathering treasures I thought my own,
There I must reap from the seed I have sown,
Five minutes after I die.

Naught to repair the good I lack,
Fixed to the goal of my chosen track,
No room to repent; no turning back,
Five minutes after I die.

Oh, what a fool! — hard the word, but true,
Passing the Savior with death in view,
Doing a deed I can ne're undo
Five minutes after I die.

If I am flinging a fortune away,
If I am wasting salvation's day,
"Just is my sentence," my soul shall say,
Five minutes after I die.

Thanks be to Jesus for pardon free,
He paid my debt on Mount Calvary's tree,
Paradise Gates will enfold even me,
Five minutes after I die.

O marvelous grace that has rescued me!
O joyous moment when Jesus I see!
O happy day when like Him I'll be,
Five minutes after I die.

God help you to choose! Your eternal state
Depends on your choice, you dare not wait;
You must choose now; it will be too late
Five minutes after you die.

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 19)

never give, and do everything to destroy that church's influence for 40 years and still be in good standing. The average social club is not that lenient. What a shame and a tragedy for a church of the Lord Jesus Christ to command less respect than a social club, all because of an effort to appease the sinful flesh.

Neglect of Church Discipline Causes a Loss of Spiritual Values

The church at Laodicea was thinking altogether in terms of the materialistic: money, buildings, crowds, popularity, etc. They had no place for the message of salvation and finding of God's Will for Christian lives. Today we see the same things. Some are more concerned to have a good report at the close of the year than to reach the lost, build up the saved, and walk with Him. Some are more concerned to build fine buildings than to send out missionaries, claiming that they will send out missionaries after they get well fixed at home. Do you suppose they ever realize that it may be to late then? Most of them forget about missionaries when they get their fine buildings. They feel like the people at Laodicea — they are in need of nothing.

Oh, how temporal and

materialistic churches can become. How easy it is for spiritual values to be lost in the debris of the desires of the flesh. How they find themselves trying to appeal to and please the material man who knows not Christ. Yet from this standpoint Christ was a perfect failure, and so will these churches be when they follow His steps.

Neglect of Church Discipline Makes Church Membership Mean Little If Anything

How many members of the average church could die and it would make no difference, as far as the work of our Lord is concerned? Can one honestly say that his or her church membership really means something, if the church would have to close her doors if all the members were like that individual? Church membership reports are the highest ever in our nation and so is crime. Does being a church member really mean something today, or is it a sort of badge of respectability or even a "cover-up?"

If churches respected the authority of Christ and His Word instead of rebelling against them, it would be a different matter. Church membership would then mean something. I had rather be a member of a church of Jesus Christ than any other organization on earth. But many prize membership in lodges, clubs,

and societies above that of membership in a church. They prove it by the small place they give the church in their lives. And this all goes back to our churches neglecting to do what our Lord Jesus taught them. What a price has been paid to please people! How foolish to believe that the voice of the people is the voice of God!

Conclusions

1. The churches as a whole are doomed because they are listening to and will continue to listen to the voice of people as though it were the voice of God. Jesus made it clear such would be the case.

2. New Testament churches are theocracies and not democracies.

3. Churches cannot please unregenerate men, if they follow their Christ.

4. Many preachers today find where their churches want them to go and follow along instead of finding out where Christ wants them to go and teaching and leading them in His way.

5. Most churches had rather be popular with men than popular with Christ.

6. The measure of greatness by most local churches today is money, members, and buildings, not devoted faithful servants of God.

7. The historical Christ and His message are just as unpopular today as when He lived here on earth some 1900 years ago.

8. The supreme need now is for saints who will follow Christ regardless!

The previous is one chapter of the book *New Testament Church Discipline*. □ □

Feed My Sheep

An old farmer who attended a pastor's conference commented:

"You amuse me, for you have papers and discussions on how to get people to come to your meetings.

I have never heard a single address at a farmer's meeting on how to get cattle to come up to the rack. We put all our time on the best kind of feed."

The Pastor: A Prophet Or A Promoter — Which?

By Charles H. Stevens

Life in every aspect becomes more complicated with the passing years. The impact of such has not failed to alter greatly the Christian ministry. In the New Testament days the "Seven" were appointed for the express purpose of relieving the apostles in order that they might give themselves "continually to prayer, and the ministry of the word."

It seems we have greatly improved upon this New Testament arrangement in days of late; at least we seem to think we have. Under present arrangements the preacher is engaged in matters more important than that of prayer and the ministry of the Word. The modern preacher, according to the public standards, must be a thoroughly educated person, trained and proven as an executive, schooled as a social diplomat; skilled as an efficient organizer; groomed as a specialist in counseling. Besides he must be a good mixer, a fluent speaker and a ready member of all committees whether civic or denominational.

With all our would-be improvement there is no question but that the preacher has lost something of inestimable value. Today he could better be charac-

terized as "a man of the people" rather than a "man of God"; a promoter rather than a prophet. Instead of being a prophet, a man who goes in to receive his message from God and goes forth to speak for God, he is a master mechanic appointed to keep up the machinery of the local church and the denomination.

Nowhere has the transition from a prophet to a promoter of programs been more evident than in our denominational life. The overhead machinery is now so enormous and so complicated and the denominational program so stereotyped as to leave little room or time for prayer and the ministry of the Word.

If the average pastor carries out the full program handed down to him, keeps up with all the special days, attends all the special rallies; reads all the special promotional literature, formulates, promotes and oils all the suggested organizational machinery, there is not much time left for outside mischief.

The average pastor today is in danger of becoming a cog in a man-made set-up which holds as the highest virtue the ability to cooperate without asking questions. It is a sad day for the ministry when the

If Dr. Bob Had It To Do Over Again

"Some few years ago it was my great privilege to sit at the feet of Dr. A.T. Robertson as he gave a course of lectures on the Epistle to the Colossians directly from his Greek Testament in Calvary Baptist Church in New York City. He was conducting a ministerial conference and it was my privilege in that conference to give a series of addresses from my English preacher accepts the assignment as a handyman, forgetful of the fact that he is called and ordained to be a servant of Almighty God, a preacher of the unsearchable riches of Christ and a minister of the mysteries of divine grace.

In this field there is no competition. The servant of God stands alone. In this particular he must stand apart and alone from the world if he would please his Lord and serve his day and generation. If you desire advancement and the approbation of men, be a promoter; but if you would be obedient to the heavenly calling, be a prophet.

History and experience have proven that in the same ratio as churches and denominations move away from a simple New Testament faith and dependence upon divine guidance, they

(See **WHICH** on page 24)

Bible (because I am not scholar enough to give them from a Greek Testament and most folk are not scholars enough to follow me if I were) and I was rather gratified to see the great man sitting down before me every day.

I recognized Dr. Robertson as undoubtedly the outstanding Greek scholar of America, if not of the world, and yet that dear, kindly man of God sat and listened to a poor insignificant person like myself, and he was just as gracious and just as attentive as anyone could possibly be.

I went through the two letters to the Thessalonians, and at the close of the last address, Dr. Robertson came to me and said,

"Well, this is the first time that I have ever listened to anyone go carefully through those epistles from the pre-millennial standpoint, and I must say that my judgment has gone with you through the entire series. I have never definitely declared myself as a pre-millennialist, but I think if I had my life to live over again I would be much more positive concerning this for I have never in all my ministry known a pre-millennialist who was a modernist." — H. A. Ironside in *Lamp of Prophecy*. ▣



A Church Ordinance

By C. A. Darst

The Lord instituted the Lord's Supper in the church the same night that He was betrayed (1 Cor. 11:23). It is not a community affair. Paul said "When ye come together in the church," that is, the Supper is to be observed by the local church in church capacity (1 Cor. 11:18). It is as much an ordinance as baptism.

People who are not members of that particular local Baptist church do not vote to receive a candidate for baptism. Then why should they partake of the Lord's Supper? They do not vote in regular business meetings. The local church does her own baptizing; the local church calls her own pastor; the local church should observe the Lord's Supper.

If open communion, or if inter-communion were taught in the Bible then just anybody would have the right to vote to receive a candidate for baptism; they would have the right to join

the members in calling a pastor. I contend that only members of the church that is observing the Supper have the right to partake of the Supper. If others shared that privilege, the Supper would be moved out of the church. All outsiders should refrain from observing it. This includes Baptists of like faith and practice.

Paul said to the church at Corinth that they should not eat with a brother who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, etc. If open communion and inter-communion were scriptural, how could a church keep such characters from observing the Supper? Paul said for the church to refrain from eating with such characters. It would be impossible unless the church restricted the Supper to the local body. The Bible restricts it to the local body, and so should Baptists. — Missouri Missionary Baptist. ❏

Looking Death In The Face

August 14, 2007 - By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

Today I looked at death in the face.
"Ah," he said, "one day soon I will come
for you."

"No," I said, "you will not.
When my body is weak,
My eyes are dim, and my heart is slow,
You may visit me,
But when these eyes are blind,
These ears are deaf, and this heart is cold,
You will be imprisoned in the grave with
my body,
But I will not be there.

You must stay there in the morning dew,
The heat of noon, at dusk, and in the frost
of the night, but not I!
I will be in Glory Land
Where I shall never die,
And you must wait here in the grave
Until my Savior comes to raise my body
And snatch it from your clutches.
And you must stay behind
To answer your own call to destruction.
The victory is mine!"

Yes, I looked at death in the face,
And he stared back at me.
He could not answer my hope nor understand
my joy.
I just stood there, and he left me ...
for a while.

Some folks have no problem going to shop at one of the big discount department stores in the rain. But, going to church in the rain is another thing altogether.

MILLENNIUM . . .

(Continued from page 1)

reign.

The A-millennialist teaches that the promises made to Israel must be spiritualized; they are, he says, for the church and not for the nation Israel. We do not understand how this group can ignore the direct statement in Revelation 20 as to the thousand-year reign of Christ and His saints, but it does disregard it. Yet there are other passages of Scripture that clearly indicate an earthly reign of Christ over a restored earthly people, Israel. We cite below but a few of them:

“Thine (David’s) house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever” (2 Sam. 7:16).

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plow-

shares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isa. 2:2-4).

“Behold a King shall reign in righteousness. . . and my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places” (Isa. 32:1, 18).

“At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers” (Jer. 3:17-18).

“And in the days of these kings (Gentile world powers predicted by the prophet) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Dan. 2:44).

These promises pertain to an earthly kingdom for an earthly people. The church is not an earthly people but a heavenly people who are to be caught up to be with the Lord. The throne promised to the Son of David is an

earthly throne, for David had no throne in heaven. The kingdom for which Israel looked was an earthly kingdom in their own land and is assuredly not to be confused with the standing of Christians in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. The promises of God that are found in the Old Testament predict that the Lord Jesus Christ will reign upon the throne of His father, David, over an earthly kingdom established in righteousness and blessed with peace. This did not occur when He came the first time. It has not taken place since His ascension. It is, therefore, yet future. He Himself prophesied concerning such a reign: “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all his holy angels with him.” He said, “then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations . . .” (Mt. 25:31-32).

This is neither a heavenly scene nor one that may be spiritualized to fit our Lord’s relationship to His church. It is, rather, such a scene as was predicted by the Old Testament prophets, and pertains to an earthly kingdom and earthly peoples. It is the kingdom that the King of kings and Lord of lords will establish upon His return to this earth in power and great glory, the millennial kingdom.

The very last question that His apostles asked the Lord Jesus, before His

ascension, was this: “Lord, wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel” (Acts 1:6). Did He reply that Israel would have no future earthly kingdom? Did He say that the promises made of old to David and to the nation as a whole, predictions concerning a glorious kingdom, had been misunderstood by His apostles? Did He suggest that the promises, to which they were alluding in their interrogation, had a new meaning now that He had suffered, and bled, and died, and been raised? Did He warn His apostles not to look any more for such an earthly kingdom? Did He indicate in any way that such an expectation would never come to pass? Did He imply that His apostles were wrong in having such a hope? He did nothing of the kind. He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power (Acts 1:7).

Assuredly there will be an earthly kingdom over which Christ will reign, and all His saints with Him. That kingdom will exist in the thousand year period denoted in Revelation 20. It will be Christ’s millennial kingdom. *There will be a Millennium, as predicted in the Word of God.* □ □

**“The voice of one crying
in the wilderness.”
Some preachers are not
voices; they are just
echoes.**



FELLOWSHIPS and CONFERENCES

SIoux FALLS, SD

Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, 2007,
Empire Baptist Temple, 412
S. Hawthorne, Sioux Falls,
SD 57104. Erich McCand-
less 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
Hgts., MI 48125, Greg
Albright, Pastor.

Abortionists Avoid Ban By Killing Baby First

Focus on the Family

To steer clear of the federal partial-birth abortion ban, abortionists are injecting preborn babies with a lethal drug dose before aborting them, according to *The Boston Globe*. The National Abortion Federation is training doctors to inject potassium chloride into a preborn baby's heart. Since the procedure kills the baby while in the mother's womb, abortionists argue

they cannot be prosecuted under the ban.

Dr. Gene Rudd with the Christian Medical Association called it an appalling situation ... and also points out that if potassium chloride gets into the mother's system, it could place her health at risk. "We have breached a major tenet of medical ethics," Rudd explained. "We're not really doing what's in her best interest. We're

doing what's in the physician's best interest."

Denise Burke, staff counsel for Americans United for Life, pointed out that potassium chloride is also used to execute death row inmates. "It is ironic that they're using drugs to end an innocent life," she said, "using the exact same drugs that we use to execute prisoners who've had all their due process rights." □

WHICH . . .

(Continued from page 21)

move in the opposite direction of a formal, cold, and lifeless efficiency, characterized by an ever-growing complexity in human organization. What man loses in divine power, he seeks to make up in human accomplishment.

This is certainly no argument for "sloppiness" and inefficiency in the Lord's work but a warning and an appeal to keep the human element thoroughly under subjection to the Spirit's control. Every preacher and, for that matter, every believer, is a priest of God and as such, finds no need to go to man-set-up headquarters to get his orders but rather with the veil where a sovereign God speaks to men and makes known His will. Such a practice does not exclude co-operation but

promotes it with a direction and freedom that is from above. Let not the servants of Christ come down from their high estate and prophets and bond slaves of Jesus Christ become promoters of a human juggernaut.

"The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men — men of prayer." □

BAPTIZO . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Bible Society passed a by-law — "refusing to print Judson's Burmese Bible, or any other pure translation of the Word of God" (Story of the Baptists, R.B. Cook, p. 368).

The **Independent** of New York was the leading Pedo-baptist (those who sprinkle) paper of those

days (1830-1850). This paper published an editorial on the fact that the Bible Society would not help publish or distribute Judson's Burmese Bible for the reason I have just given above. Baptists and all others ought to read this editorial when so much discussion is going on about translations. Let me ask, did the King James translators do right when they transliterated the word "*baptizo*" instead of translating it into the English? Let me ask, why did they not translate "*baptizo*"? □

**Prayer is an
invisible
tool which is
wielded
in a visible world**

2 Corinthians 10:4