

# The Baptist

# CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

VOL. XLVIII, No. 4

April 2008

WHOLE NO. 521

## *Christian Foundations*

*By Victor I. Masters*

**People Are Not Informed As To The Facts.** When we set before us the task of making America Christian, we are only proposing to hold to the course in which the providence of God and the faith of its founders started it. American historians generally minify the part

religion had in making American institutions. The textbooks used in our schools and colleges give scant attention to the vital part the faith of the American fathers had in molding the form of government. In this authors have done a deep injury to truth and to our people.

They are left in ignorance concerning that which is most unique and fundamental among the formative forces of the Republic. The author's search enabled him to discover only three or four books which treat the subject of our country's debt to religion. Perhaps

the best of these, "*Christianity and the American Commonwealth*," by Bishop C. B. Galloway of the Southern Methodists, had lain unused for years on the shelf of the Carnegie Library, while thousands of volumes of less significance

(See **MASTERS** on page 2)

**Message #7, Preached  
February 18, 1979**

*"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea"* (Rev. 1:10-11).

## **The Voice of the Trumpet**

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

John, as already noted, is on the Isle of Patmos, one of the remote prisons that were used in that day and time, similar to Alcatraz when it was active in California. Even though he has been isolated from everybody and placed on this island where there is very little vegetation and many salt mines, he is not separated altogether. While he is there, he says, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's

day."

I don't care what man can do to you, man can not separate you from God. When you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, man can do little to you. He might separate you from others, he might isolate you, he can put you where you are all by yourself; he may put you down in the inner most dungeon as they did Paul

and Silas, yet you will never be alone, because the Lord will always be there with you. God can meet with His people anywhere. Though they sought to isolate John from everybody by putting him on this island with just a few other prisoners, no friends, nothing around him to give him any of the comforts of life, we find the Lord right there with John, and not just in an ordinary capacity. For John says:

*"I John, I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day."*

(See **REV** on page 18)

## Quiz The Pastor

# Is It Right For Older Women To Teach Younger Women In Sunday School?

By Garner Smith

I recognize that there are some questions that do not have an absolute definitive answer to the minds of some but, I believe there is in the Scripture ample information to satisfy any reasonable Bible believer the position of women in the church.

Christianity, like no other religious faith elevated the position of women and children. Instead of criticizing Paul for the instructions on the Scriptural restrictions on women, they should thank God for the blessing the Christian faith has been to womanhood.

There are restrictions placed upon women in public worship (see I Cor. 11:1-16; I Cor. 14:34; I Tim. 2:1-15; Titus 2:1-8). Paul is emphasizing in these

Scriptures the threefold headship in the local church.

There is a threefold headship in the local assembly: (1) the headship of Christ over the body, Col. 1:18; (2) the headship of the Pastor over the flock, Acts 20:28; (3) the headship of the man over the woman, I Cor. 11:1-16. Certainly the Scripture teaches that the woman is to be silent and in subjection in the mixed assembly (I Tim. 2:8-15; I Cor. 14:34), but we find nothing against the teaching of women and children alone by women at any time and at any place. Titus 2:3-5 commands that women are especially charged to teach young women practical home duties, but this Scripture does not limit their teaching

to this. They are to be “teachers of good things” (v. 3), and the reason for their teaching, “that the Word of God be not blasphemed,” open up a considerable field of instruction. The Scriptures do not say that their teaching is to be done only in the home, nor does it say that they must teach only one at a time.

There is nothing, absolutely nothing, in the Scripture against women teaching Bible classes composed wholly of women or children, so long as they do it in subjection to the church, the pastor, and their own husbands.

There are, perhaps many cases where some young women do not get the Biblical instruction of their position in Gods plan at home and unless they receive it from some godly woman maybe only at Sunday School they would never know it.

What a great opportunity for godly women at church. Those who would forbid women to teach women or children are adding to Gods Word not just obeying. □

ancestry will be despised by its posterity.” The pathos of the general ignorance of our people concerning the part religion played in forming their country is that it has resulted more from the waywardness and materialism of the men who have written their history than from any will of the people. Fear of somehow offending against the American principle of separation of Church and State has been a reason why religion has been let severely alone by the average writer of American history. The independence of each in its own field has apparently been thought to forbid an effort to show how each has influenced the other. But this idea can only arise from sad confusion of thought.

**All Governments Rest On Religion.** All governments are typed and determined by their religion. Rousseau, the brilliant French writer, though a skeptic, declared: “Never was a State founded that did not have religion for its basis.” Eskine, a distinguished English jurist and orator, said: “Depend upon it, the world could not be held together without morals; nor can morals maintain their station in the human heart without religion.”

Philip Schaff, the German-American scholar, adds his testimony, saying: “The destruction of religion

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## THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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are called for daily.

Bishop Galloway throws much light on the subject. Among the vital statements in his book, the following is worthy to be fixed in the memory: “A nation ashamed of its



**Barack Hussein Obama**

The frenzy surrounding Barack Obama's U.S. presidential campaign is a little foretaste of the mindless passion that will accompany the rise of the antichrist when he comes on the scene as a man of peace and a superman problem solver.

Speaking in Omaha, Nebraska, Obama said that he and his supporters "will remake the world" (YouTube.com, Feb. 7, 2008).

At Obama's appearances women scream and faint and even hardened reporters and Hollywood movie stars are agog.

After his appearance in College Park, Maryland, the newspaper said: "You can see it in their flushed-face smiles and hear it in their screams. They say the phenomenon is difficult to describe, but once they experience it they tell their friends, sisters, mothers and daughters, and they come back for more if they can. He did not flinch when women screamed as he

was in mid-sentence, and even broke off once to answer a female's cry of 'I love you Obama!' with a reassuring: 'I love you back'" ("Women falling for Obama," News24.com, February 12, 2008).

The Associated Press called him "a metaphysical force in American politics" (AP, Feb. 12).

Chris Matthews said: "My, I felt this thrill going up my leg. I mean, I don't have that too often" (MSNBC, Feb. 12).

Gary Hart said Obama is "the agent of transformation in an age of revolution" (Huffington Post, Feb. 13).

Michael Sietzman says, "He empowers us with words and the authentic emotion behind them and people are rushing into the tent to drink that magic water" (Huffington Post, Feb. 14).

Danny Westneat said "the Obamapalooza is a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle" (Seattle Times, Feb. 9).

Stanley Crouch of the New York Daily News called the Obama campaign "a purification ritual" (Feb. 18).

ABC Nightline correspondence David Wright said: "Politics doesn't even begin to describe it. A visit to an Obama rally is a

pilgrimage" (Newsbusters.org).

Christena Weather- spoon said that it was like Obama was "inside her head" and "knows what I want" (Tribune-Chronicle, Youngstown, Ohio, Feb. 19).

Actor George Clooney said, "He walks into a room and you want to follow him somewhere, anywhere," and actress Halle Berry said, "I'll do whatever he says to do. I'll collect paper cups off the ground to make his pathway clear" (Lisa Lehrer, Politico, Feb. 20).

When New Age billionaire Oprah Winfrey in-

troduced Obama on December 11 in Columbia, South Carolina, she called him "an evolved leader" and said, "We're here to evolve to a higher plane." She said he is a "force for peace" who can break down everything that divides, including race and politics and religion.

Obama's wife said he is a leader "who's going to touch our souls" ("Messianic Rhetoric Infuses Obama Rallies, Politico, December 11, 2007).

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20). ▣

# The Obama Frenzy

By David Cloud

## Never Say Fail

By A. J. Showalter

Keep working, 'tis wiser than sitting aside,  
And dreaming and sighting and waiting the tide;  
In life's earnest battle, those only prevail,  
Who daily march onward and never say fail!

With eyes ever open, a tongue that's not dumb,  
A heart that will never to sorrow succumb,  
You'll battle and conquer, tho' thousands assail,  
Then onward and conquer, and never say fail!

In life's rosy morning, In manhood's fair pride,  
Let this be your motto your footsteps to guide:  
In storm and in sunshine, whatever assail,  
We'll never, oh, never, oh, never say fail!



**Obama's Wife Received Nearly \$200,000 Raise.** — Michelle Obama is on leave from her job while her husband campaigns for president, but after Barack was elected to congress, she received a big raise. *USA Today* reports that officials at the University of Chicago Hospitals told the Chicago Tribune that Michelle is “worth her weight in gold.” “She’s terrific,” added Michael Riordan, who was president of the hospital in March 2005, when Michelle Obama was promoted to vice president for external affairs and had her annual salary increased from \$121,910 to \$316,962. Hospitals spokesman John Easton told the Tribune that Michelle Obama’s salary is in line with those of the 16 other vice presidents at the not-for-profit medical center. — Newsmax

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**Gore Expresses Support for Homosexual Marriage.** — Al Gore, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and self-proclaimed “inventor of the Internet,” has earned a new moniker: champion of homosexual

## World News Roundup

marriage. And while some observers are excited about Gore’s endorsement of same-sex marriage, the laws at the state level show overall that traditional marriage is supported by a vast majority of Americans and legislatures. “I think gay men and women ought to have the same rights as heterosexual men and women — to make contracts, to have hospital visiting rights, to join together in marriage,” Gore said in a video he posted recently on the Current TV Web site. “I don’t understand why it is considered by some people to be a threat to heterosexual marriage ....” — CNS

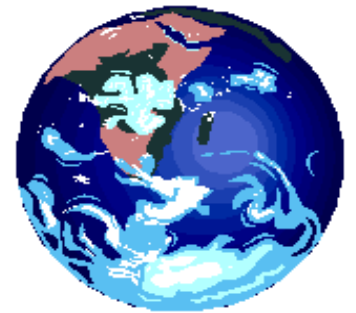
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**Beware of Programs on “Christian Radio.”** — James Kieferdorf has compiled some important information on heretical and anti-Trinitarian programming being carried by radio stations that are known as Christian. Kieferdorf notes that clear channel radio station KAAY, 1090 A.M. Little Rock, Arkansas, carries a number of anti-Trinitarian programs on its station. Included on KAAY’s programming is the “*Born to Win*” program, featuring anti-Trinitarian Ronald Dart who is

a follower of the doctrines of the late Herbert Armstrong, founder of the Worldwide Church of God cult. “*Earnest and Frank*” is a program produced by the Dawn Bible Students Association, a branch of the Jehovah’s Witnesses. “*The Sacred Name Broadcaster*” with Jacob Meyer is produced by the Assemblies of Yahweh of Bethel, Pennsylvania and is anti-Trinitarian. “*Politics and Religion with Irvin Baxter*” is anti-Trinitarian, as is “Yahweh Ministries with Jerry Kirk” and “*Advice Line*” with Roy Masters, from the Foundation of Human Understanding. All these programs are carried on KAAY. KAAY is just one of many “Christian” radio stations that are broadcasting blatantly heretical material, in spite of protests by concerned researchers like Kieferdorf.

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**Atheists Assail Bill Recognizing America’s Religious History.** — A resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives that recognizes America’s “rich spiritual and religious history” is drawing fire from some of America’s most prominent atheists. The resolution, H.R. 888, resolves to “affirm” the



religious traditions that most historians say played a crucial role in America’s founding. It calls religious principles and foundations “critical underpinnings” of America’s institutions, condemns attempts to remove religion from U.S. history, and designates the first week in May as “American Religious History Week.” The resolution’s language has aroused the anger of many atheists who see its provisions as violating the First Amendment of the Constitution and amounting to religious nationalism. “They’re throwing 25 million Americans under the bus who don’t believe in the Christian faith,” Rick Wingrove, the Capitol Hill representative for American Atheists, told **Cybercast News Service**. “If you have a piece of legislation that favors Christians, what does that say to non-Christians?” Atheists are taking particular umbrage to a five-page list of factual line-items that allegedly points to a strong Christian tradition in American history. Among the items

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are examples of prayers routinely conducted in the Capitol building and on government property, the inclusion of the phrases “In God We Trust” and “under God” on American coins and in the Pledge of Allegiance respectively, and various quotes from presidents acknowledging God.

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**Episcopalians Worship With Hindus and Apologize For “Proselytizing.”** — On January 19, Episcopalians in southern California joined hands with Hindus in a joint worship service and apologized for attempts to convert them to Jesus Christ. The service was held in St. John’s Cathedral in Los Angeles and the participants included members of St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church of Thousand Oaks and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Pomona. J. Jon Bruno, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, issued the statement of apology to the Hindu community and said he renounced “proselytizing” of Hindus. A Hindu nun blew into a conch shell to start the service and members of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness chanted (“Episcopalians Hold an Indian Rite Mass with

Hindus,” Los Angeles Times, Jan. 20, 2008). A female Episcopal priest, Karen MacQueen, who spent two years in India studying Hinduism, preached on “A Vision for Inter-Religious Dialogue.” She said that both Hindus and Christians worship the “divine light” and teach “the divine truth.” “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (2 Peter 2:1-2). — FBIS

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**Blasphemous Play Opening In Sydney.** — The blasphemous play *Corpus Christi*, which depicts Jesus as a homosexual, is scheduled to open in Sydney, Australia, on February 7 as part of the city’s annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras festival. When the play ran in London, England, in 1999, it drew a death threat from an Islamic group. The author of the play, Terrence McNally, a homosexual, said he wrote it to show parallels between Christ’s persecution and the rejection he faced as a homosexual growing up in Texas (“Gay Jesus Play

Angers Australian Church Leaders,” Reuters, Jan. 21, 2008). To the contrary, Jesus was persecuted because of holiness and truth, whereas a homosexual’s “persecution” comes as a result of sin. Unrepentant sinners who are reproved often confuse it with persecution. The play’s director, Leigh Romney, claims to be a Christian. The Bible warns: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:1-5). — FBIS

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**Arrested In China.** — 42-year-old Li Mei and nine house church leaders were arrested, when they were discovered having a Sunday worship service. They were charged with singing Christian hymns to villagers, showing the *Jesus* film in a nursing home and praying for healing for a disabled elderly man. The nine were sentenced to re-education through labor for 12 to 18 months. Li Mei

served part of her one-year sentence in a hospital with both hands chained to her bed. Repeated beatings and torture caused her to require a hysterectomy.

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**Ford Sales Continue Slide As Boycott Hurts.** — Your actions are making a difference! Ford Motor Company sales dropped 4 percent in January compared to monthly sales a year ago. AFA’s boycott of Ford is partly responsible for the decline. AFA began a boy-cott of Ford in March 2006 after Ford reneged on a commitment to stop funding homosexual groups. Ford’s sales have declined in 20 of the 23 months since the boycott began. The company’s sales increased in two months and were flat in one month. — AFA

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**Afghan Blasphemy Death Sentence Shows Islam’s Role in Constitution.** — The death sentence given to a young Afghan man convicted of insulting Islam is focusing attention once again on the dominant — and controversial — role the religion enjoys in the country’s constitution and laws. After a buildup of international concern about the case, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said this week

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she would take it up with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. "It won't surprise you that we are not supportive of everything that comes up through the judicial system in Afghanistan," Rice told reporters en route to London where she held talks on Afghanistan. "I do think that the Afghans understand that there are some international norms that need to be respected," she added. Earlier, an independent commission that advises the administration and Congress on religious freedom urged Rice to intervene in the case of Sayed Parwez Kambakhsh, a the 23-year-old journalist and student. "Afghanistan's unique circumstances present the United States with a special responsibility to act in the face of such travesties of justice," U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom chairman Michael Cromartie said in a letter to the Secretary of State. Kambakhsh was accused of distributing to fellow students an article found on the Internet questioning the fact that Muslim men are allowed to have multiple wives, while women may have only one husband. A court in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif handed him death in a closed trial on January 22 after convicting him of blasphemy. Afghanistan's upper legislature issued a statement of

support for the sentence, although it was later withdrawn. Karzai's official spokesman told a press conference Tuesday the president was concerned about the case but would not get involved until the courts had made a final decision. Kambakhsh, who has already been in custody for more than three months, is appealing the sentence. — CNS

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#### **Creationists Launch Scientific Journal.** —

Answers In Genesis (AIG), the Christian ministry that founded the \$27 million Creation Museum in Kentucky last year, has now launched an online technical journal to publish studies consistent with its biblical views. The Answers Research Journal will disseminate research conducted by creationist theologians and scientists "that are consistent with the biblical account of origins." Ken Hamm, president of Answers in Genesis, said submissions will be peer-reviewed, but the journal's guidelines discourage asking non-creationists to conduct those reviews. The journal is needed because of academic bias in most scientific journals against creationists, Hamm said. "As soon as you overtly say it's to do with creation, they say it's not science and refuse to publish it," he said. — RNS

#### **Homosexuals In Church Pictorial Directory?** —

"Photo shoots for a pictorial directory have brought to light a dilemma over the acceptance of homosexual couples in a large Baptist church in Texas. Members of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth are divided over whether homosexual couples should be pictured together in the same way as photos of other couples within the church. 'For decades Broadway has had gay members as part of our membership, but no couple had been pictured as a couple in a church directory,' pastor Brett Younger said in a statement to the membership of the church. The possibility of including homosexual couples in the directory 'was troubling to many,' Younger acknowledged ... For now, Younger said the pictorial directory is on hold and the material that was to be used in it will be considered for inclusion in publications celebrating the church's 125th anniversary next year. Several church members were reticent to speak to Baptist Press on the record, but confirmed that several people serving on and leading committees within the church are living openly homosexual lifestyles..." — BP

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#### **Texas Governor Urges Protection for Boy Scouts of America.** —

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, an Eagle Scout himself, is now the father of an Eagle Scout. And that's just one reason it worries him to see the Boy Scouts of America under attack. He described the Boy Scouts organization as a moral beacon for the rest of the country, adding that's why it has become a target for the secular left. "The venerable institution of the Boy Scouts of America, with its clearly-stated belief in God, adherence to a strict moral code and steadfast focus on shaping young men, is the trophy buck that the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) and their friends would like to hang above the fireplace," Perry said on Saturday at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington. ... It was Perry's comments about the Boy Scouts that generated the most reaction from the crowd. The scouts have won court battles against the ACLU, which attempted to force the organization to accept homosexual scout masters and abandon adherence to a belief in God." Now, the secular left has shifted its attacks to public entities that have sponsored scout events at city parks, public schools, even the Department of Defense," Perry said. "They have gone after anyone with access to public funds to prevent them from provi-

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ding space to the Boy Scouts. "Friends, it saddens me to say, they are winning some of these lawsuits," Perry continued. "In some instances, just the threat of a lawsuit has compelled certain public organizations to close their doors to the scouts. In other instances, city officials sympathetic to the secular agenda are creating new policies that ban access to city facilities for scouts." In one instance, the Boy Scouts were evicted from a facility in Philadelphia that they had rented for one dollar a year for almost a century. The city told the scouts they would have to pay fair market value — \$300,000 a year — unless the Boy Scouts renounced its policy on excluding openly homosexual scoutmasters. The scouts declined and were forced from the building. "You know what is amazing about that?" Perry went on. *"The scouts actually built that facility more than 80 years ago and gave it to the city for free."* That prompted boos from the crowd. "We have to protect the Scouts. We want it to be around for another 100 years teaching young men the value of being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent," he said to a standing ovation. "They are our future leaders, future

husbands and future fathers. We'll need their influence then, so we need [to come to] their defense now." — CNS

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**When Justice Is Sentenced To Death.** — Death in the electric chair is now unconstitutional in the state of Nebraska. Why? Because the Nebraska Supreme Court has decided that it is "cruel and unusual punishment." Nebraska is the last state in the country to use electrocution as its sole means of capital punishment. Instituted in 1913, the chair was first used in 1920. Since then, fifteen murderers have been executed in this manner. One of them was John Joubert, a 20-year-old airman stationed at Offutt Air Force Base. In late 1983, Joubert terrorized the adjacent city of Bellevue for four months. Beginning in September of 1983, he kidnapped, tortured and murdered two local boys, ages 12 and 13, and then committed sexual acts on their mutilated bodies. In January of 1984, Joubert was captured and subsequently confessed to his crimes. In spite of this clear-cut, straightforward confession, with all the ridiculous appeals now built into the system, it took 12 years before he was finally put to death in 1996. The Nebraska Supreme Court's ruling was a

6-1 decision. Interestingly, but not surprisingly, the six judges who suddenly discovered that the electric chair was unconstitutional after 95 years in practice were appointed by Nebraska's last Democrat governor, Ben Nelson. The one dissenting vote on the court was from Chief Justice Mike Heavican, appointed by Nebraska's current Republican governor, Dave Heineman. Heavican said the court's majority injected "their own subjective values into the constitutional analysis." "The danger in such subjectivity is subtle but nonetheless potent," the chief justice wrote. "Judges do not sit as a body of elected representatives, as do legislatures." Heineman agreed, saying he was "appalled" by the ruling. He sharply criticized the Supreme Court for what he called "unprecedented and deeply disappointing" judicial activism. "Today, the court has asserted itself improperly as a policymaker," the governor said. "Once again, this activist court has ignored its own precedent and the precedent set by the U.S. Supreme Court to continue its assault on the Nebraska death penalty." The Nebraska court upheld the constitutionality of the electric chair as recently as 2000. Ten men now sit on death row in Nebraska. —

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**UK Boy Scouts Un-**

**der Fire for Oath Mentioning God.** — Echoing a battle already fought in America, secular humanists in Britain are attacking the Boy Scouts for requiring children to swear an oath to God. In a joint campaign, the British Humanist Association and National Secular Society accused the Scout Association, which has around half a million members, of excluding atheists from its ranks. Spokesmen for the two groups criticized the organization for refusing to allow non-believing adults in leadership positions, and for having scouts swear to "do their best to do their duty to God and to the Queen." — CNS

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**Procter & Gamble Top Pro-Homosexual Sponsor on Television.** — Procter & Gamble is the top pro-homosexual sponsor on network television. That is the result of a 12-week monitoring project by American Family Association. Other companies listed in the top ten pro-homosexual sponsors include Verizon, Target, Ford Motor Company, Sears, and Macy's. *The study showed Procter & Gamble more than doubled its advertising support to pro-homosexual programs over any other company in America!*

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The programs selected for monitoring were those that Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), a homo-sexual organization, identified as being supportive of the homosexual lifestyle. No one except the networks and sponsors had any foreknowledge of which companies would help sponsor a program. Neither the networks nor the sponsors provide that information to the public in advance. — AFA

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**Atheist Again Tries To Have “Under God” Removed From Pledge of Allegiance.** — Atheist Michael Newdow is again trying to have the phrase “under God” removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. His latest lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for New Hampshire. It should be obvious to anyone that America is indeed not a nation “under God,” certainly not the God of the Bible, but if atheism is true there is no meaning to this or any other issue. If atheism is true, life is mere blind chance with no significance, and Newdow and his views are of no more importance than a slug. A few years ago Newdow tried to have the Pledge overturned by California courts, but he was overruled by the

Supreme Court, though only on a technicality. The court ruled that he did not have a standing in the case. The Pledge of Allegiance was first printed in 1892, and the words “under God” were added by Congress in 1954 at the request of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic organization.— FICA

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**Farrakhan: Obama is the “Hope of the Entire World”.** — Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan said Sunday that presidential candidate Barack Obama is the “hope of the entire world” that the U.S. will change for the better. Farrakhan, addressing an estimated crowd of 20,000 people at the annual Saviours’ Day celebration at McCormick Place, never outrightly endorsed Obama but spent the majority of the nearly two-hour speech praising the Illinois senator. Farrakhan also leveled small jabs at Hillary Rodham Clinton in his keynote address. — CNS

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**“Oprah and Friends” To Teach Course on New Age Christ.** — Oprah Winfrey will be letting out all the stops on her XM Satellite Radio program this coming year. Beginning January 1, 2008, “Oprah & Friends” offered a year-long course on the

New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles*. A lesson a day throughout the year will completely cover the 365 lessons from the Course in Miracles “Workbook.” For example, Lesson 29 asks you to go through your day affirming that “God is in everything I see.” Lesson 61 tells each person to repeat the affirmation “I am the light of the world.” Lesson 70 teaches the student to say and believe my salvation comes from me.” By the end of the year, “Oprah & Friends” listeners will have completed all of the lessons laid out in the Course in Miracles Workbook. Those who finish the Course will have a wholly redefined spiritual mindset — a New Age worldview that includes the belief that there is — no sin, no evil, no devil — and that — God is “in” everyone and everything.

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**Obamas Class War Supreme Court.** — When John Roberts was nominated to be chief justice of the Supreme Court in the Senate in 2005, Sen. Barack Obama argued that the role of a justice is to favor the “weak” over the “strong.” He made the same argument when Sam Alito was nominated a year later. Obama does not want a Supreme Court that preserves the rule of law, he wants a Supreme Court that wages class war under

color of law. If Obama becomes president, he will try to stack the court not with umpires, but with players who put their heart in every game — consistently pitching and batting for Obama’s favorite teams. — CNS

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**Coldest Winter In Decades Casts Doubt On Global Warming.** — The following is excerpted from “Global Warming? It’s The Coldest Winter in Decades,” *London Daily Express*, Feb. 18, 2008: “New evidence has cast doubt on claims that the world’s ice-caps are melting, it emerged last night. Satellite data shows that concerns over the levels of sea ice may have been premature. It was feared that the polar caps were vanishing because of the effects of global warming. But figures from the respected US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration show that almost all the ‘lost’ ice has come back. . . . Figures show that there is nearly a third more ice in Antarctica than is usual for the time of year. The data flies in the face of many current thinkers and will be seized on by climate change sceptics who deny that the world is undergoing global warming. A photograph of polar bears clinging on to a melting iceberg has become

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# La Voz Del Desierto

## Verdades Vitales de la Asamblea Parte 1

Por R. J. Anderson

Abro este artículo diciendo que cada creyente debe ser miembro de una asamblea cristiana que *llene los requisitos del Nuevo Testamento*, y que cada miembro de una asamblea de Jesucristo debe ser una persona nacida de nuevo, o sea regenerada por la obra del Espíritu Santo y sumergida por la autoridad de aquella asamblea.

Ya que es un asunto vital, es de gran importancia que cada creyente pertenezca a una asamblea *verdadera* de Jesucristo y no a una "iglesia" de una denominación cuyo comienzo fue por un hombre o una mujer.

El Señor Jesucristo, durante Su ministerio terrenal, no fundó una "variedad de iglesias", *cada una con sus propias doctrinas hechas por hombres*. Jesús comenzó Su **ecclesia** con doctrinas bien definidas en las páginas del Nuevo Testamento. Por eso, cada creyente está *obligado* a estudiar lo que dicen las Escrituras y no lo que dice

un libro de doctrina de tal y tal denominación.

Tengo que llamar tu atención al significado de la palabra "iglesia" como se encuentra en nuestras Biblias. En el idioma griego aquella palabra es **ecclesia** y en vez de traducir la palabra, los traductores la *transliteraron* (representar los sonidos de una lengua con las letras de otra). La palabra griega **ecclesia** se compone de dos palabras, la primera que quiere decir "fuera de" y la segunda "unido con propósito."

Por eso, la **ecclesia** que Jesucristo comenzó durante Su ministerio terrenal y *todavía está construyendo*, está compuesta de gente redimida, llamada del sistema del mundo (Juan 17:14), y llamada a reunirse *con el propósito* de llevar a cabo la Gran Comisión.

Lo que sigue se muestra como la palabra **ecclesia** se usa en las páginas del Nuevo Testamento:

1. En Hechos 7:38 se usó hablando de la nación de Israel en el desierto.

2. En Hebreos 19:32,

39, 41 se usó hablando de reuniones *no cristianas*.

3. En Mateo 16:18 se usa en el sentido *institucional*. Hay la "**ecclesia**" pero hay muchas **ecclesias** en todas partes del mundo. Nunca es *invisible ni universal*. Cada **ecclesia** del Señor siempre es local o sea visible.

4. La palabra **ecclesia** se usa hablando de una congregación *local* de creyentes sumergidos en la ciudad de Corintio (1 Corintios 1:2).

En estos artículos cuando uso la palabra "*asamblea*" la uso según las explicaciones dadas arriba.

Hay una teoría peligrosa hoy, que la "iglesia" consiste de "todos los cristianos, pasados, presentes y futuros" no importa si fueron sumergidos con la autoridad de una asamblea de Jesús o no. Los que siguen tal teoría dicen que la "iglesia" es invisible, universal. ¡Pero, *no hay tal enseñanza en las Escrituras!*

Para tener una **ecclesia** del Señor, hay que

tener:

1. Gente convertida, salva, nacida de nuevo, regenerada, cambiada.

2. Gente que ha recibido una *inmersión correcta*, dada por la autoridad de una **ecclesia** comenzada por Jesús.

Por esto es imposible que haya "una iglesia universal" ya que todos no pueden estar en *un sitio* a la vez.

La teoría de la "iglesia universal" es contraria a la clara significación de la palabra griega **ecclesia**. Una "iglesia universal" no puede ser la custodia de los tres mandamientos dadas por Jesús en Su Gran Comisión:

1. Haced discípulos. Si uno guía a otro al Señor, ¿dónde se reúne?

2. Sumergirlos. ¿Dónde? ¿Con qué autoridad?

3. Enseñarlos. ¿Dónde? ¿Enseñarlos a qué?

Tampoco puede observar la Cena del Señor, la cual es dada a la asamblea local que puede practicar reglas de admisión

(Vea **IGLESIA** en la pág. 10)

**IGLESIA . . .**

(Vino de la pág. 9)

para participar. No tiene autoridad para recibir ni excluir miembros. No tiene autoridad para practicar la disciplina. No tiene autoridad para llevar a cabo la obra misionera alrededor del mundo.

Por eso las únicas asambleas que se encuentran en las páginas del Nuevo Testamento son asambleas que siguen las instrucciones dadas por Jesús durante Su ministerio terrenal.

Hay otros que cometen un error feo y esto es presumir que todas las “iglesias” tienen la misma base bíblica. ¿Cómo es posible decir que los Presbiterianos, los Metodistas, los Evangélicos, etc. etc. *son de Jesucristo cuando no enseñan lo que Él enseñó?* Dios no es Autor de confusión tales “iglesias” mezclan la pura doctrina con doctrinas hechas por hombres ... *¡esto produce pura confusión!*

Una asamblea verdadera del Señor es una congregación de creyentes que han confesado abiertamente su fe en la obra final de Jesús en la cruz, y por la autoridad de la asamblea han sido

sumergidos (un acto de obediencia, no para obtener perdón de pecados), que siguen a la letra las instrucciones dadas en el Nuevo Testamento, que han aceptado la Guía del Espíritu Santo. Si una asamblea cristiana no ha llenados estos requisitos, *¡no es una **ecclesia** del Señor!*

Por lo tanto es muy natural que las muchas “iglesias” inventadas por hombres y mujeres años después que Jesús fundara Su **ecclesia** dicen que la teoría de una “iglesia universal” es correcta porque tienen que justificar su existencia porque cada una de las muchas denominaciones en existencia hoy *tuvieron su principio varios cientos de años después de la resurrección de Jesús*. Ellas han rechazado la verdad de las Escrituras y han inventado cientos de doctrinas que agradan a los hombres pero que abominan a Jesús.

Si, hay muchas “denominaciones, organizaciones inventadas por hombres o mujeres para llevar a cabo sus feas doctrinas. No hay mención de “denominaciones” en las Escrituras. Una “denominación es una organización hecha por los

# Hoy Sembraré

Hoy sembraré una sonrisa ... para que haya más alegría. Hoy sembraré una palabra consoladora ...

hombres y mujeres que han rechazado las enseñanzas de Jesucristo.

Esta es la razón por la que nosotros, los Bautistas No Conformistas (independiente) no tenemos ninguna organización, ni jefes, ni obispos, ni papas. No tenemos un “encargado” que tenga autoridad sobre la asamblea local. Cada asamblea es *autónoma*, independiente de todo control afuera. Todos los miembros tienen voto y el pastor, anciano, obispo tiene un voto también. Él no es un dictador y debe compartir su oficio con otros que Dios haya dado el don de predicar o enseñar.

Los llamados “diáconos” (siervientes) no tienen control del pastor ni de la asamblea pero son hombres dedicados a cuidar las necesidades de la congregación.

Es el deber de cada pastor, anciano, obispo, evangelista enseñar estas verdades a sus congregaciones. Ya que una Asamblea Bautista No Conformista (independiente) es una institución divina, debe ser el deseo de cada creyente ser una parte de ella. □

para cosechar serenidad. Hoy sembraré un gesto de caridad ... para que haya más amor.

Hoy sembraré una oración ... para que el hombre esté más cerca de Dios. Hoy sembraré palabras y gestos de verdad ... para que no crezca la mentira. Hoy sembraré serenidad de acciones ... para colaborar con la paz.

Hoy sembraré un gesto pacífico ... para que haya menos nerviosismo. Hoy sembraré en mí mente una buena lectura ... para el gozo de mi espíritu. Hoy sembraré justicia en mis gestos y palabras ... para que reine la verdad.

Hoy sembraré un gesto de delicadeza ... para que haya más bondad.

Si cada uno de nosotros en el día de hoy sembramos, al menos, algunas de estas semillas como parte del fruto del Espíritu Santo ... posiblemente nos podamos mirar como verdaderos hermanos en Cristo Jesús hijos de un mismo Padre y colaboradores del evangelio de la gracia, dentro de un mundo más humano. □

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**MASTERS . . .**

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would be the destruction of morality and the ruin of the State." Alas, that his native country should give the world its most conspicuous illustration of the truth!

David Hume, the renowned historian, adds this testimony: "If you find a people without religion, rest assured that they do not differ from brute beasts." But no testimony carries more conviction to American hearts than that of the Father of his Country. In his "Farewell Address," President George Washington made this declaration: "Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles." These distinguished exponents of the wisdom of experience only confirm divine wisdom as recorded in Holy Writ, which in Isaiah 60:12 declares: "The nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish," and in Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

**Notable Examples.**

The reign of terror which followed the French Revolution was greatly intensified by infidelity. The National Assembly passed a resolution which declared, "There is no God." They

abolished the Sabbath, unfrocked the ministers of religion, turned the church buildings into business houses, and enthroned a wicked and beautiful woman as Goddess of Liberty. Then followed a carnival of terror and blood-letting which appalled the imagination of mankind. No wonder Macaulay, after tracing the record of nations, wrote: "Whoever does anything to depreciate Christianity is guilty of high treason against the civilization of mankind."

But men who will not learn of God are deaf to the lessons of history. Fat with much learning, post-graduate in the mysteries of science and philosophy, Germany lusted for the glory and power of imperial world dominion. Waking up to a sense of its power, this nation adopted atheistic evolution and Spencer's "survival of the fittest," interpreting the latter to be "survival of the strongest," and being confident that this could only mean Germany.

Blinded by the lust of its heart to believe a lie, Germany entered on a course of conquest which ignored God and exalted material science and Woden, Germany's old heathen God of War. Germany has fallen. Though the victorious Allies desire Germany to live, it staggers like a sick man in weakness. It is a notable demonstration that a nation that forgets God shall perish.

Russian Bolshevism proposed to establish a nation without God. After two years of blood and butchery, which by far eclipse the orgies of the French Revolution, this beastly autocracy of a small group of the most depraved element of Russia is weaker and more insecure in its rule than it has been, and will doubtless perish. History, revelation and present facts assure us that the government of God-renouncing wolves who oppress the people and drag the hearts of nations through the mire, shall not endure.

**God's Hand In Settling America.** The hand of God has never been so manifestly shown in the settling and developing of any nation as in America. If we eliminate from our history the direct and powerful influence of the Christian religion, we shall have little left but a set of disjointed facts without significance. As surely as the temple of Jerusalem was built by a sacred patriotism and under the benedictions of a favoring providence, so surely were Christian aspirations and teachings the seed thoughts of our political constitution and Christian evangelism the inspiration of American colonization.

The Reformation in Europe had emancipated the State from the thralldom in which it had existed under the Catholic Church since Constantine and

Rome had united Church and State. But it had stopped short of securing liberty of conscience. The pope was unhorsed in Northeastern Europe, but the king still acted as the guide of men's consciences. Hardship and persecution followed for non-conformists in France, England and Germany. The Huguenots, for example, were persecuted in France for 200 years. Concerning their difference of belief from that of the State religion, the Jesuits said: "Crush these things out of the Huguenots. Crush the Huguenots themselves." This implacable hate of the Jesuits found expression on St. Bartholomew's Day in a wholesale butchery of the Huguenots which will always be a measure of the evil of Jesuitism.

**God Picked the Settlers.** Such was the oppression in Europe. It made the noblest and best men and women whom civilization had produced anxious to get away into the American wilderness where they would face wild men and animals, but not the infuriated animosity of religious autocracy. This autocracy had made men who professed to know God, more to be feared than were the savages and brutes in the American wilderness. It is not surprising that such a people should set forth the worship and service of God

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as their purpose in establishing colonies in America. It is not surprising that the charter of the settlers at Jamestown, in 1606, should set forth that their purpose was "to propagate the Christian religion." It is not surprising that the compact of the Plymouth settlers, in 1620, drawn up on board the ship before they landed on the bleak New England shores, opened with the expression, "In the name of God. Amen."

Nor is it odd that their first act, when they landed on the historic Plymouth Rock, was to bow in prayer and thanksgiving. It is not surprising that the colonial seal of Massachusetts, adopted eight years after the landing, bore the effigy of an Indian, with the motto in his mouth, "Come over and help us." Deep religious conviction and purpose characterized the Huguenots who came in at Charleston, and the Scotch who entered at Philadelphia and the various ports southward. This was the motive which brought the Quakers and many of the Dutch.

**God Gave A Great Country to His People.** Never was a nation settled by a body of people so strong and admirable. Adventure or lust of conquest have been predominant motives in colonizing the waste places

of earth. They have enlisted mostly the reckless and the unattached. The Spanish settlements to the south and the French to the north of those set up by the American fathers, were examples of this. They were destined to have little influence in the future of America, but God strengthened the persecuted argonauts of conscience, who came with wives and children and Bibles and preachers and prayers, to subdue and set on its feet the greatest land on which the sun ever shone. It took men of this stripe to endure the hardness and rigor of the wilderness, to overcome the lurking savages, to subdue the wilds to husbandry, to wrest the colonies from the oppression of the mother country, and to write for their national law a constitution which has been the wonder and admiration of the greatest minds of the earth.

No such clear evidence of God's providential hand was ever shown in the establishment of any other nation, except in His dealings with the Jews in their Palestinian home. And such a country it was to which God brought these persecuted pilgrims! Large, in the temperate zone, fertile, rich beyond dreams in forests and minerals, well watered, it was destined to become and now is by far the wealthiest land of the earth, the home of the freest and most resourceful and intelligent people.

**Religious Laws.** Their faith was the greatest concern of these settlers. What would they do concerning their faith, when they came to making laws for the control of their colonies? Should they neglect to say anything about it? Surely so great a thing as religion must be safeguarded in the laws that control society, but how can you safeguard without regulating? They did not see how.

They had fled from the persecution which necessarily grows out of regulating religion by law, but they proceeded to make a large number of laws to regulate religion, and the penalties for disobedience included death. Some of our Baptist fathers in their own experience found that they included imprisonment, banishment and whipping.

President George Washington himself was arrested for breaking the Sabbath law. Returning from a tour through Connecticut, on a Saturday in November, 1789, and having missed his way, he had to ride a few miles on Sunday morning to reach the town where he expected to attend church service. On his way he was stopped by a "tithing" man, who demanded to know why he was traveling on Sunday. It was only after long explanation by the President and a promise to go no farther than the church that the constable allowed him to go forward.

[American State Papers, pg. 38.]

The early colonists who had lived in the mother country under the union of the state and a religion which they did not profess, established in American colonial governments under which there was the closest union between the state and the religion which they did profess. The freedom of conscience which had been denied to them in the old country they denied to others in the new country.

**How Light and Liberty Were Found.** It was difficult for them to see how religion can get along without being buttressed by the law. Nobody else had seen it in a way to grapple men's minds, since the time when Constantine and the early ecclesiastics disobeyed Christ's teaching, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

Martin Luther did much in the Reformation. But he did not understand religious liberty. Some Baptists had been preaching in England and on the Continent, but they had no influence with the powers that ruled, no prestige with a worldly public opinion. In God's good providence, some of these same obscure Baptists came to America. Where the lodestone of liberty was, Baptists were sure to be drawn.

Soon they saw that li-

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berty was not as thoroughgoing in the Colonies as they had hoped. In the realm of conscience it had no thoroughfare. Unlike the great majority of their fellow colonists, they promptly saw what was the matter. The hour of the Baptist opportunity had struck. Before twenty years had passed after the landing of the Pilgrims, the rightfulness of Sunday laws was one of the leading subjects for debate in America, and Roger Williams was the outstanding champion against such laws.

**Baptist Primacy In Religious Liberty.** To Virginia, chiefly to Virginia Baptists, belongs the honor of dis-establishing religion in America. To Roger Williams, a Baptist, belongs the honor of first establishing, in Rhode Island, a commonwealth upon the principle of the entire separation of Church and State. "Roger Williams," declares the historian Bancroft, "was the first person in modern Christendom to assert the doctrine of the liberty of conscience." Through more than a score of years, toward the close of the eighteenth century, the battle raged in this country for religious liberty. It extended among the Colonies from Massachusetts to Georgia, but the heat of the conflict was in

Virginia, and the Baptists were the fearless, determined, untiring and always consistent leaders of the fight.

God raised up influential friends for these Baptists. Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Patrick Henry and others came to their support, and at last religious liberty was written into the national Constitution and reiterated explicitly in the First Amendment.

In his address, during the Southern Baptist Convention, on the capitol steps at Washington, Dr. George W. Truett, after eloquently setting forth the primacy of the Baptists in winning these great privileges for America, added: "I take it that every man informed on the subject, whatever his religious faith, will be willing to pay tribute to our Baptist people as being the chief instrumentality in God's hands in winning the battle in America for religious liberty." Because the truth always helps and its repression always hurts everybody concerned, we could wish the desire expressed by this distinguished Baptist minister might be realized. Baptists can get along without it quite as well as other denominations can afford to withhold from them credit for this outstanding service of theirs to the nation and to every Christian body.

**Early Law Makers and Religions.** The closer we scrutinize early Ame-

rica, the more conclusive becomes the proof that the formative force of its institutions was not only religious, but Christian. In its meeting at Philadelphia, the Continental Congress humbled itself on its knees in prayer before God, beseeching Him for wisdom and guidance through Christ the Redeemer. It was proposed before the Congress, though not adopted, that the seal of the country should bear a picture of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, surrounded by the words: "Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God." For eight years, during the Revolution, this Congress appointed days of national fasting and prayer, and urged the people to repentance for their sins, and to reformation and Christian faith.

At the beginning of the struggle, it expressed the desire to have the "people of all ranks and degrees duly impressed with a solemn sense of the superintending providence of God, and of their duty, in all of their lawful enterprises, to rely on His aid and direction." It called on the people "to repent, and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, obtain pardon and forgiveness." What the Congress did in Philadelphia to honor God and encourage faith, ministers of the gospel were forward to do among the people and in the camps of the Revolutionary Armies. As one student of the

period says: "The preachers of the Revolution were the secret of that moral energy which sustained the Republic in its national weakness against the superior numbers and discipline and all the powers of England."

In another volume the author has recounted how Dr. Richard Furman, a distinguished Baptist preacher of the Revolutionary period, was sent by the civil authorities on a tour through South Carolina and into the American camps to preach to the people. He so stirred the patriotism of the people and soldiers that Lord Cornwallis offered a reward of five thousand pounds for his head. The power of those preachers had behind it the spirit of the National Congress, and the Congress in turn only sought to voice the recognized spirit and purpose of the people of the nation concerning religious faith.

**The Constitution and Religion.** There are those who would have us believe that the Federal Constitution proposed a nation that should have no concern with religion. They point to the fact that the name of God is not mentioned in the document. They would have us observe that the two references to religion are rather of a negative character.

The first reference to religion declares that "no religious test shall ever be

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required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.” The second is the First Amendment, which our Baptist fathers were so influential in securing: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

The Constitution did not create a nation or its religion or institutions. The purpose of the two references to religion was not to exclude religion, but to equalize the opportunities of religious bodies. *It was not anti-Christian, but anti-sectarian.* The Constitution-makers had the task of organizing a general government for the nation out of materials already in hand. This government was to do what the States could not do so well for themselves. The States, as abundant testimony affirms, were committed to the idea of Christian faith as a formative force, to a degree and with a unanimity never elsewhere equaled in history. Since there was to be separation of Church and State, the Constitution had no business to legislate on religion, except to make sure fair play on the part

of the government itself. If the Constitution had not a single word about religion, law and reason would yet bid us seek its religious character among the States and the people who formed it, a people who were religious by profession and through their ancestors.

**National Principles Which Come From God.**

The limits of this article will not allow us to study the great principles of government which our Constitution announced to mankind, for the first time in history. But it is pertinent to remark that what our Lord Jesus Christ does for the individual soul in setting it free and magnifying its worth, the American Constitution seeks to set forth in terms of the fundamental law of a nation. No autocrats willed the Republic; the soul of a people willed it. No king was to be obeyed, but law was to be obeyed. And the people themselves made the law. They are the sovereigns.

By separating the government into three departments, each independent and equal in authority, it was sought to prevent the possibility of centralization and autocracy on the part of some ambitious president. By specifically reserving certain inalienable rights to individuals, it was intended to protect the single man against the persecution or injustice of the majority, should the majority be misguided enough to invade

his rights.

These safeguards of the Constitution are now openly flouted in America by certain classes. They find the Constitution too conservative to represent their advanced ideas. The majority rules in America, but it rules according to law and with respect for certain rights of the individual. If these safeguards should be taken away we would no longer have a republican democracy. We would have a social democracy, in which the closely organized minority, by agitation and propaganda, could often put over their selfish schemes to the undoing of unorganized majorities.

For our present purpose we only remark that the Constitution which the American fathers gave us is far more in consonance with the religion of Christ than any of the socialistic prepositions which now harass the public mind, just as it was far in advance of any similar compact which preceded it. England’s great statesman, Gladstone, said of it: “It is the greatest piece of work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of men,” and the world-famed William Pitt, when he read it, exclaimed: “It will be the wonder and admiration of all future generations and the model of all future Constitutions.” It becomes American Christians to defend it and be proud of it. For never on this earth was the fundamental law of

another nation so shot through with that spirit of peace, good will, justice and righteousness which our Lord came to establish.

**Views of Eminent Jurists.** The views of early statesmen and jurists on the position of Christianity in America are of great value, because they were in the best position to judge of the facts, and their position in society is such that they may be expected to understate rather than magnify the facts about Christianity.

James Madison, who probably gave more effort toward establishing religious liberty than any other statesman, declared: “Religion and government will both exist in greater purity the less they are mixed together.” Daniel Webster said: “There is nothing that we can look for with more certainty than the general principle that Christianity is a part of the law of the land.” Chief Justice Brewer wrote a book, the thesis of which is that America is a Christian nation. Chief Justice Corley, writing on constitutional limitations, says: “The Christian religion was always recognized in the common law, and so far as that law continues to be the law of the land, the fundamental principles of that religion must continue to be recognized.” Judge F.W. Dent, once dean of Columbia University Law School, declares: “Our national development has in

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it the best and purest elements of vital Christianity. Should we tear Christianity from our law, we should rob our law of its fairest jewels, arrest its growth and unfit it as a vehicle for progress." Chief Justice Kent says: "We are a Christian people and the morality of the country is deeply grafted on Christianity." Our whole social fabric and legal procedure is shot through with evidences that this country was born a Christian country.

**Tremendous Implications.** What does the fact that America was born Christian mean to us? We are the inheritors of a country whose fundamental law was framed under the guiding hand of a people whose spirit and purpose were Christian. The passion of their souls was for civil and religious liberty. They safeguarded those liberties in the greatest and most beneficent Constitution under which the people of any nation ever lived. Under it, they developed initiative and resourcefulness.

Freed from the age-long clog of State interference in religion, they developed the highest order of Christianity the world has seen, by the witness of authorities in the nations themselves. They proceeded to unfold in the nation the greatest wealth any nation on earth ever

possessed. And we are the inheritors of it all.

This unmatched heritage of American Christianity from our past carries with it obligations that are staggering. We are the only nation that was born Christian. We are the first country to be settled by Christian men and women with religious purpose. Our Constitution provides that religious liberty which the oppressed peoples of earth had through the centuries longed for in vain. Our fundamental law exalts the individual citizen and his rights, instead of exalting the power of the State. Under these beneficent laws, Christianity has had its greatest development in America. With these unexampled advantages in the great Republic, for Christian bodies to contemplate losing the nation to the forces of atheistic philosophy and outbreaking sin, is unthinkable. To do so, we would first have to forsake our faith in the power of Christ to save men, and practically confess despair that this faith of the Christ is powerless to lift up other nations far less advantageously circumstanced than we are.

The religious origin and history of America binds every true disciple at all costs to the task of winning this land to Christ afresh in every new generation. It binds us to maintain here a spiritual power-house adequate to generate currents that shall light the whole

world.

**America's Soul Pictured In Marble.** On the rocky summit overlooking the bay where the Mayflower first anchored, stands a magnificent monument. On the corners of the pedestal are four figures in a sitting posture, representing Law, Morality, Freedom, and Education. Standing far above on the lofty shaft of granite is a majestic figure symbolizing Faith, holding an open Bible in one hand, and with the other uplifted, pointing far away to the throne of the unseen God. What a sublime conception! How true to the facts of our heroic history. The open Bible is the Magna Charta of America, and that uplifted hand, symbolizing trust in the God of our fathers, is the condition of our national stability and continued prosperity. □

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one of the most enduring images in the campaign against climate change. It was used by former US Vice President Al Gore during his Inconvenient Truth lectures about mankind's impact on the world. But scientists say the northern hemisphere has endured its coldest winter in decades."

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**Continuing Persecution In China.** — The

following is from China Aid Mission, Feb. 21, 2008: "China Aid has learned that the President of the Inner Mongolia Branch of the Chinese House church Alliance, Wang Dawei, was detained along with more than 40 co-workers on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. The leaders were in the 3rd day of Bible study when more than 100 Police officers from the State Security Bureau and members of the Religious Affairs Bureau disrupted the meeting and detained the ministers. Police officials also confiscated the offering collection and more than 30 boxes of Bibles and other Christian literature. Security Bureau members then searched the personal residence of Wang Dawei later on in the afternoon. The leader of the meeting, a South Korean minister, was also detained during the incident, his whereabouts remain unknown. The intensity of persecution amongst members of the Chinese House Church Alliance continues to increase as the Beijing Olympics draw near. This latest incident highlights the hypocrisy of Chinese officials who promote a 'Harmonious Society' while simultaneously persecuting innocent and patriotic citizens such as Wang Dawei and others. We urge the Chinese Government to release these Christians and remain consistent with its

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own rhetoric on Religious freedom and rule of law.”

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**Jehovah’s Witnesses Fastest-growing.** — Jehovah’s Witnesses are the fastest-growing church body in the U.S. and Canada, now with more than 1 million members, according to new figures that track church membership in the U.S. and Canada. Although Jehovah’s Witnesses ranked 24th on the list of 25 largest churches, they reported the largest growth rate — 2.25 percent — of all churches. The badly divided Episcopal Church, meanwhile, reported the largest drop, at 4.15 percent. — RNS

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**Three-Fourths of Mosques In America Preach Jihad.** — The following is excerpted from “Study: 3 in 4 U.S. Mosques Preach Anti-West Extremism,” WorldNet-Daily, Feb. 23, 2008: “An undercover survey of more than 100 mosques and Islamic schools in America has exposed widespread radicalism, including the alarming finding that 3 in 4 Islamic centers are hotbeds of anti-Western extremism, WND has learned. The Mapping Sharia in America Project, sponsored by the Wash-

ington-based Center for Security Policy, has trained former counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism agents from the FBI, CIA and U.S. military, who are skilled in Arabic and Urdu, to conduct undercover reconnaissance at some 2,300 mosques and Islamic centers and schools across the country. “So far of 100 mapped, 75 should be on a watchlist,” an official familiar with the project said. Many of the Islamic centers are operating under the auspices of the Saudi Arabian government and U.S. front groups for the radical Muslim Brotherhood based in Egypt. Frank Gaffney, a former Pentagon official who runs the Center for Security Policy, says the results of the survey have not yet been published. But he confirmed that ‘the vast majority’ are inciting insurrection and jihad through sermons by Saudi-trained imams and anti-Western literature, videos and textbooks. The project, headed by David Yerushalmi, a lawyer and expert on sharia law, has finished collecting data from the first cohort of 102 mosques and schools. Preliminary findings indicate that almost 80 percent of the group exhibit a high level of sharia-compliance and jihadi threat . . . Experts say there are at least 40 episodes of extremists and terrorists being connected to mosques in the past decade alone. Some of the 9/11 hijackers,

in fact, received aid and counsel from one of the largest mosques in the Washington, D.C., area. Dar al-Hijrah Islamic Center is one of the mosques indentified by undercover investigators as a hive of terrorist activity and other extremism. It was founded and is currently run by leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood. Imams there preach what is called ‘jihad qital,’ which means physical jihad, and incite violence and hatred against the U.S. Dar al-Hijrah’s ultimate goal, investigators say, is to turn the U.S. into an Islamic state governed by sharia law.” — FBIS

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**California Parents Who Don’t Have Teaching Credentials No Longer Can Home School Their Children.** — According to a recent state appellate court ruling “Parents do not have a constitutional right to home school their children.” Justice H. Walter Croskey wrote in a Feb. 28 opinion for the 2nd District Court of Appeals. Noncompliance could lead to a criminal complaint against the parents, Croskey said.

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**Human Remains Found in Dumpster of Abortion Clinic.** — The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Lathrup Village (Mich.)

Police Department are investigating the contents of a dumpster behind the WomanCare abortion clinic where body parts of aborted babies, bio-hazardous materials and patients’ medical records were found earlier this month. “I was aware of the reality of abortion, but it was unnerving,” Police Sgt. Vincent Lynch said of viewing the evidence, adding that “intact fetuses” were among the debris. The clinic, in Lathrup Village, and several others in the Detroit area, are owned by Dr. Alberto Hodari, a controversial abortionist who was caught on videotape late last year telling medical students that doctors have “a license to lie,” as reported by **Cybercast News Service**, and who has been outspoken about his opposition to a ban on partial-birth abortion. At least one patient died — a 15-year-old girl in 2004 — following an abortion at one of Hodari’s clinics, but no criminal charges were filed. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will decide if the improper disposal of “pathological waste” at the Lathrup Village clinic violates civil or administrative statutes, according to Robert McCann, press secretary for the state agency. Because this kind of disposal is not con-

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# Can One Be Saved Apart From Christ & The Bible?

By Rolland C. Starr, Editor The Cornerstone Challenge

The following statement is from Newsweek Online (8/14/06:

“When asked whether he believes heaven will be closed to good Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus or secular people, Billy Graham says: ‘Those are decisions only the Lord can make. It would be foolish for me to speculate on who will be there and who won’t. I believe the love of God is absolute. He said He gave His Son for the whole world. ...’”

In 1997 Robert Schuller interviewed Billy Graham. Schuller: “Tell me, what do you think about the future of Christianity?”

Graham: “... I believe there is the body of Christ. ... I think everybody that loves Christ, or knows Christ, whether they’re conscious of it or not, they’re members of the body of Christ. ... They may not even know the name of Jesus, but they know in their heart they

need something ... and they turn to the only light they have, and I think they are saved.”

Schuller: “What, what I hear you saying is that it’s possible for Jesus Christ to come into human heart ... even if they never had exposure to the Bible.”

Graham: “Yes ... I’ve met people ... that have never seen a Bible, or heard about a Bible, and never heard of Jesus, but they’ve believed in their hearts there was a God, and they tried to live a life that was quite apart from the surrounding community ...”

Cornerstone Editor: I heard Billy Graham many times in the very early 1950’s. He preached sin, repentance and eternal Hell fire. He said that Christ was the only way to avoid the judgment of God and enter Heaven! This cannot be denied! It is well known that in the beginning he worked only with fundamentalists, but soon included liberal Protestants. He later invited Roman Catholics to participate in his crusades, even having Roman Catholic priests as counselors. There have been many other changes. When people start changing their theology and their

fellowship, you had better be careful. (One sign of false teachers is they change their doctrine and practices to fit circumstances). There is no way to deny that Billy Graham has completely changed his beliefs and methods. For a professed Bible believer to say one can be saved without the Bible is incredible! Romans 10:17 says, “*Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*” 1 Peter 1:23: “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God.*”

You cannot be born again apart from the Word of God. Only the Word of God can give eternal life! Graham says, I believe people can be saved without them knowing the Bible or Christ. Who are you going to believe, Graham or the Word of God? Saved some other way than through Christ?

Look at Scriptures:

“*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me*” (John 14:6).

“*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name, under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12).

“*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*” (1 Tim. 2:5).

“*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Rom. 5:1).

“*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16).

Somebody is wrong! It’s not God! □

WNR ...

(Continued from page 16)

sidered criminal, Hodari could receive a warning or be fined, depending on the results of the investigation, McCann said. — CNS □

**Train your child in the way in which  
You know you should have gone yourself  
— Charles H. Spurgeon**

*“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. — Psalm 32:8*

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

By being “in the Spirit” it means more than simply having the Holy Spirit indwell him. You and I know that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer, but when John talks about being “in the Spirit” he means that he is now being completely possessed and dominated by the Holy Spirit.

Now that is the ideal. Our lives should be such that we are completely controlled by the Holy Spirit. It is not always the case. There are times when one can be filled with the Spirit to do a special work for the Lord. When you are filled with the Spirit, you are so possessed and so dominated by the Holy Spirit, that you are able to do a special work that God has set aside for you to do. There is no such thing as living in a constant state like that.

There is a distinction to be made in being *filled* with the Spirit, *indwelt* by the Spirit and *led* by the Spirit. There is another phrase commonly used today and that is “*baptized* in the Spirit,” but that’s never applied to any individual. No individual has ever been “baptized in the Spirit” or “by the Spirit.” The baptism of the Holy Spirit was an immersion of the New Testament church on the Day of Pentecost and it has never been applied to any individual. It

only applied to the New Testament church for the purposes of empowering the church and to enable it to fulfill the commission and do the work that God had given it to do. That’s why the Lord told them to tarry “until ye be endued with power from on high” (Lk. 24:49) so they might have the power to carry forth the Great Commission that the Lord gave them. There is no such thing as a “baptism of the Holy Spirit” today, for every New Testament church is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians tells us that the New Testament church is God’s dwelling place or God’s habitation “in the Spirit” (Eph. 2:22), and we do not have to have a “baptism in the Spirit” because He already indwells every New Testament church.

But, there is such a thing as being “*filled* with the Spirit,” being “*led* by the Spirit” and being “*indwelt* by the Spirit,” and every child of God, every saved person, is indwelt by the Spirit. Romans tells us that “if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Rom. 8:9). So there is no such thing as a saved person not being indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God.

Secondly, there is being “*led* by the Spirit.” All of us ought to be led by the Spirit, and God will lead us by the Spirit. Our difficulty is that sometimes we do not follow. There is the leadership of the Holy Spirit

if we will but follow His leadings. Remember, however, that in the leading of the Holy Spirit, He always leads according to the Word of God, never contrary to the Word of God.

Thirdly, being “filled with the Holy Spirit” occurs when God has some momentous or special work that He has for that person. You can only be filled one time until you have been emptied, then you can be refilled just like a cup. You only fill a cup one time until it’s emptied and then you can refill it, so believers can be filled more than once.

This is the case with John. Though he is separated and isolated, though he is on this island by himself, yet he says, “I was in the Spirit.” The Holy Spirit had come near to him in an especial way and was preparing him for this special work that he was going to do.

We find something very similar to this with the Apostle Paul. This is something entirely unique and different for John and Paul. It’s going beyond that which you and I can have; it’s going to that which is not the natural, but the supernatural, for in Second Corinthians chapter 12 we find a similar occurrence with Paul. Paul says:

*“It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he*

(See **REV** on page 19)

**Where is the blessedness I knew  
When first I saw the Lord?  
Where is the soul refreshing view  
Of Jesus and His Word?**

**What peaceful hours I then enjoyed!  
How sweet their mem’ry still!  
But they have left an aching void  
The world can never fill.**

**Return, O Holy Dove, return,  
Sweet messenger of rest;  
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn,  
And drove Thee from my breast.  
— Cowper**

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 18)

*was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter*" (2 Cor. 12:1-5).

John is to be given a revelation similar to what the Apostle Paul had. The Lord is going to take John to heaven where he is going to get a vision of the future of this world. He will see it's climax and the ultimate victory that the Lord Jesus Christ is going to gain over Satan and all of his forces. It seemed as if Satan was going to be victorious, but the Lord is going to show him differently. So he says "I was in the Spirit."

I want to notice something else he says. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." I want us to make a distinction between "the Lord's Day" and "the day of the Lord." They are not the same. The "day of the Lord" is not a 24-hour day. The "Day of the Lord" is really a period of time; that time of judgment when Jesus Christ returns to this earth to fulfill the prophecy of what is called "the Tribulation Period." This is the Day of the Lord, but the Lord's Day has reference to the first day of the week. That day that we know as Sunday. The first day of the week was early recognized as a special day so that the mere mention of it would be sufficient to identify in the minds of those to whom the Apostle

wrote, as the Lord's Day. Thus the Apostle John sanctions the first day of the week as the Day for special worship of the Lord. Though alone, he was worshiping on that day.

This is the day that the believers in the New Testament set aside to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. It was on the first day of the week that the disciples came and found the tomb empty. "And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him" (Mk. 16:1-6). So we see that Jesus came forth from the grave on the first day of the week, and from that day on, the New

Testament Christians worshiped the Lord on the first day of the week.

Notice in Luke 24:1: "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre." Also in John 20:19-26 we find it repeated. These verses speak of this resurrection, but verse 19 says: "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week." Turning now to Acts 20 we find that the New Testament churches were meeting in regular weekly services. In Acts 20:7 we find: "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow."

In First Corinthians 16 we read: "Now concerning the collection for the saints,

as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1 Cor. 16:1-2). So we see that Paul was writing and telling the church at Corinth that they are to make their collection upon the first day of the week. But this was not limited to the church at Corinth. He says: "As I have given order to the churches of Galatia" (1 Cor. 16:1). So it was the custom of the New Testament churches to meet on the first day of the week in celebration of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Also, the empowering of the New Testament

(See **REV** on page 20)

## One Thing

**One thing I have on earth which I  
Can never have in Heaven.  
A rare and blessed privilege  
Which He to me has given:**

**A chance to preach His wondrous Word,  
To save a soul from dying.  
(Hark, far off in the dark and cold  
The little lambs are crying!)**

**A chance to win a starry crown,  
Not for my own adorning—  
A gift to lay at His dear feet  
Some bright eternal morning!**

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 19)

church on the Day of Pentecost was on the first day of the week. Ignatius who wrote his "Epistle of Ignatius" to the Magnesians about 101 A.D. calls the Lord's day "the queen and prince of all days." Chrysostom in writing on Psalm 119 says, "It was called the Lord's day because the Lord rose from the dead on that day."

There is a denomination called Seventh Day Adventist, and another called Seventh Day Baptist that say we are to worship on the Sabbath day. Nowhere in your Bible will you find any Gentile ever commanded to worship on the Sabbath day, nor will you find that the New Testament churches met upon the Sabbath day. It was already an established custom for churches to meet for their weekly services upon the first day of the week. The early church fathers such as Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Minutius Felix, and all of those who lived in the first, second, third and fourth centuries, met on the first day of the week. Thus, the Lord's day is not just an ordinary day. It is a special day and should be treated as such!

Do you know what some of the Adventists will tell you? They say, "Yes, but you see, when you are meeting on the first day of the week, you are meeting

on Sunday, and that's a day that's been set aside for the worship of the Sun, and you worship on a pagan, heathen holiday. Well Saturday is named after Saturn, so has that helped them any at all if they worship on the day set aside for the worship of Saturn? That's where the name Saturday comes from. So really they haven't helped themselves one bit if they try to use that as a basis of argument.

I think I told you before when we were studying the book of Acts what happened to me one time. While I was a student at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, I was doing some visitation, and ran into a fellow who was a Seventh Day Adventist. He began saying the Roman Catholics were the ones who changed from worshiping on the Sabbath day to the first day of the week, and he said, "I can prove that from the Bible." Well, I thought that was very unusual that he was going to prove it from the Bible, so I told him that I wanted to see it. He had a Seventh Day Adventist Bible but he didn't go to the Bible. He went to the notes that are in the back of the Bible. He didn't go to one of the 66 books between Genesis and Revelation, but to the notes that had been appended to the back of the Bible after the Book of Revelation. Somebody had written in the notes that the day had been

changed by the Roman Catholics and that they were responsible for changing it from worshiping on the Sabbath day to worshiping on the first day of the week. That poor fellow didn't have any more sense than to believe that those notes were just as much Bible and inspired as the books of Genesis through Revelation.

Now don't laugh, because we have some Baptists that do the same thing. There are some Baptists that will take a Scofield Reference Bible and consider all the notes at the bottom of the page to be as inspired as the part above. Remember this, only the part that *is* the Bible itself is inspired. All the notes, the marginal notes, and the commentaries are simply man's opinions, his ideas, what he believes. They may be right, they may be wrong, therefore they must be checked out by the Word of God, and not to be accepted automatically as fact.

I think Scofield has (See **REV** on page 21)

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## Deacons

Deacons are *servants* of the church. Only within recent years has the body of deacons been referred to as the "board."

The objection to this designation is that it may somehow imply that deacons are managers rather than ministrants.

Deacons are not to give orders to the church; they are to receive instructions

done much harm with his doctrine of the church, because Scofield was not a Baptist, and he has tried to destroy much Baptist doctrine with his so-called universal, invisible church theory. That's not a Bible doctrine, but it is in Scofield's notes. Particularly as you read concerning the church on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, he says the church started there; that it was born on the day of Pentecost, and that is simply not true. You'd be surprised how many Baptists (and others) have been influenced to accept that theory simply because it's there at the bottom of the page in Scofield's notes. Remember, any notes by any man need to be tested by the Word of God. This Adventist man really believed that the Catholics changed Saturday worship for Sunday worship because there it was in the back of his Bible. The churches in the New Testament worshiped

from the church. Deacons are not to decide for the church, they are to carry out the decisions of the church.

They should never arrogate to themselves any authority for running the church.

Their greatest service to the church will usually be found in their assistance to the pastor. □ □

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 20)

on the first day of the week, commemorating the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Next, notice, *"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet"* (Rev. 1:10). Trumpets were customarily used in the Old Testament to announce the divine commandments from the Lord. In the 19th chapter of Exodus there are at least three occasions where God speaks to the children of Israel. In verse 13 the Lord tells Moses that the trumpet is to be a signal that He is to speak unto them. Verse 10 says *"And the Lord said unto Moses, Go unto the people,"* etc. He then says, *"There shall not an hand touch it,"* talking about the mountain, *"but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount"* (Ex. 19:13).

Then verse 16 says, *"And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled."* Now notice in verse 19: *"And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long,*

*and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice."* So we see that God used the sound of a trumpet to indicate that it was to be a divine command that was to come to the children of Israel.

Let us notice now another passage in Zechariah chapter 9. Again we find that the trumpet is to emphasize and point out the authority coming from the Lord. It says: *"And the Lord shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord God shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south"* (Zech. 9:14).

In the book of Matthew, chapter 24 we see that the Lord again talks about trumpets that are going to sound. He says: *"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other"* (Mt. 24:31).

Again in First Corinthians 15: *"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be change"* (1 Cor. 15:51-52).

In First Thessalonians 4: *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the*

*voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first"* (1 Thess. 4:16). So we see that the trumpet is connected with the authority of the Lord.

Look at the next thing in this first chapter of the book of Revelation. He said: *"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last"* (Rev 1:10-11). Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. In verse 8 he says the same thing, *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end."*

Also in chapter 22:13, *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."*

The Lord talks about the fact that He is the Alpha and Omega, and this is the sound of the trumpet that sounds, in which the Lord speaks as the voice of a trumpet. The trumpet then is that which calls John to attention. It is this that God uses to arrest John in his tracks to assure him that what he is about to be commanded to do is from God Himself. We must recognize the Lordship of Christ, for it is Christ's voice sounding "as of a trumpet."

(See **REV** on page 22)

## The Lord My Shepherd Is

The Lord my Shepherd is,  
I shall be well supplied;  
Since He is mine, and I am His,  
What can I want beside.

He leads me to the place  
Where heav'nly pasture grows;  
Where living waters gently pass,  
And full salvation flows.

If e'er I go astray,  
He doth my soul reclaim,  
And guides me in His own right way,  
For His most holy name.

While He affords His aid,  
I cannot yield to fear;  
Tho' I should walk thro' death's dark shade,  
My Shepherd's with me there.

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 21)

So the trumpet serves four purposes. First, to gain John's attention. Secondly, to assure him of the deity of the speaker, that this is God speaking to him. Thirdly, to assure him of the importance of that which is to follow. Fourthly, to give him his commission to write these seven letters to these seven churches, and to write the book of the Revelation.

So now we find John in prison. But really this prison has suddenly been changed. It is changed to the "prophet's chamber." John is going to become the prophet to write the book of Revelation to these seven churches of Asia, and through them, to you and me, that we might have these great words of God that have been recorded for us in the book of Revelation. Now here are his orders: *"I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and what thou seest write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea"* (Rev. 1:11).

Now each church was given an individual letter which we find recorded and preserved in the second and third chapters of this book. Each letter was written to one specific church, but

was also intended for all churches as well, so that all seven letters were intended for every church. Each of these seven letters, though written to one particular church, was to be circulated among the other churches so that all might have the advantage of knowing each message. This entire book, all the book of Revelation, was also written for the churches and it has been transmitted down to us so that you and I might have it today.

As John is given the command to write, He says: *"What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia"* (Rev. 1:11). The book is to be sent to each church individually as all New Testament churches were separate and independent churches. They were not members of an organization, as there were no organizations other than independent churches. There were no Conventions, no Associations, no organized Fellowships. There were no Conferences, Synods, Dioceses, as each of these churches was an independent, separate church, not forming, composing or being a part of any kind of an organization. These churches were given these letters, by the Lord, through John the Apostle.

As far as organizations are concerned, they came into being at a much later

date, centuries later to be exact, and the first of these organizations was the Roman Catholic Church. They are the ones that set up the first Convention. The late Dr. W. W. Barnes, former Head of the Church History Department of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of Ft. Worth, Texas, a seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention is the author of the Encyclopaedia of Southern Baptists. In his book **"A Study in Ecclesiasticism, A Study of the Southern Baptist Convention,"** he declared that the way the Southern Baptist Convention is set up is identical with the way that the Roman Catholic Church was set up in its beginning. He declares that the beginnings of the Southern Baptist Convention pattern

exactly the beginnings of the Roman Catholic Church that soon developed into what is now known as the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church.

Now Baptists are a little bit behind time on all of this, because the organizations among Baptist churches did not begin until long after the Reformation period and thus are comparatively new and unscriptural and of recent origin. The Catholics began it, but these Baptist organizations are following the same pattern of the Catholics.

Now the Lord told John to write and He says: *"What thou seest, write in a book."* In the last chapter of Revelation John says I did what I was told to do; I followed my orders. *"And*

(See **REV** on page 23)

## God Eternal, Lord of All

By A. J. Showalter

God eternal, Lord of all!  
Lowly at Thy feet we fall;  
All the earth doth worship Thee,  
We amidst the throng would be.

All the holy angels cry,  
Hail, thrice holy, God most high!  
Lord all the heav'nly pow'rs,  
Be the same loud anthem ours.

All Thy church, in heav'n and earth,  
Jesus! Hail Thy spotless birth;  
Seated on the judgment throne,  
Number us among Thine own!

**REVELATION . . .**

(Continued from page 22)

*I John saw these things, and heard them*" (Rev. 22:8). John did write then what he saw. He says I saw these things and I heard these things. What I have written in this book are things that I personally saw, things that I personally heard. This did not apply only to these seven letters in chapters two and three, but it included the entire book of the Revelation.

God has also told us that the next thing to take place is the sound of the trumpet. The godless world will not hear it but the saved will hear it. All who have part in the suffering and waiting for Christ, whom John here represents, shall hear it. When they hear it, they shall be transfigured. That's how we are going to know when the Second Coming of the Lord takes place. In 1 Thessalonians 4 it tells us that the return of the Lord is to be preceded by the sound of the trumpet. *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent*

*(precede or go before) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"* (1 Thess. 4:13-17).

This is what you and I are listening for, the trump of God. I do not know when the trumpet is going to sound, but I do know that one day the trump of the Lord is going to sound, and when the trump of God sounds, all the saved that have died, their bodies are going to be resurrected. Their spirit and body are going to be united, and they are going to be with the Lord forevermore. Then, in "the twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor. 15:52), almost at the very same moment, all the saved living upon the earth, that same transformation is going to take place with them. Those of us who are saved are going to be caught up from this earth along with the dead in Christ, and together we will be the Lord forevermore. We shall mount up with wings like eagles to the very presence of the Lord (Isa. 40:31).

But the godless world will not hear that trumpet. The unsaved people, their ear will not hear that

trumpet. They will be left behind. The only thing that will let them know that the trumpet has sounded is the sudden disappearance of all the saved, from the face of the earth. They'll not hear that trumpet when it sounds. Every child of God, every saved person, every one who had received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior will hear that trumpet just as John on the Isle of Patmos heard the trumpet of God speaking unto him, saying: "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last." God is going to come back one of these days with the sound of the trumpet and when the trumpet sounds, the dead in Christ shall rise. The trumpet not only called John but it should summon our attention also.

Isaiah 40:31 describes to a certain extent how it will be for the believers in that day and time. *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"*

because they will then be in their resurrection body — a body made perfect like unto the glorious body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If the trumpet were to sound now, would you hear the trumpet? Would you be one of those left behind, and not really know what had happened until you begin to look around, and find that all of your saved friends and loved ones are gone, and you're left behind?

One day the trump will sound. I don't know when it will be, but it's not long. The coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Will you hear the trumpet? Unless you're saved, unless you've received Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior, you'll not hear the trumpet, and you'll be left behind. What can you do? You can become a child of God now; you can receive Jesus Christ now; you can trust Him as your personal Lord and Savior now. Then when the trump sounds you'll hear the trumpet and you'll be transfigured and changed like all the others who are saved. Would you trust Him now and be saved?

It is always a question as to which will change the other more, the community or the church. The community inevitably affects the church.

The problem is how to prevent the church from being conformed to the world-spirit of the community while still being in many ways identified with it.

## Fellowships and Conferences

### ST. CLAIR, MO

April 28-May 2, 2008,  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church,  
1352 Parkway Dr., St.  
Clair, MO 63077, Thomas  
Smith, Pastor. (636) 629-  
2501.

\* \* \*

### SANDUSKY, MI

May 4-7, 2008, Em-  
manuel Baptist Church, 635  
E. Forrester Rd., San-  
dusky, MI 48471, Thomas  
Guertin, Pastor. (810) 648-  
3495.

\* \* \*

### BENTON, KY

May 7-9, 2008, Faith  
Missionary Baptist Church,  
P. O. Box 153, Benton, KY  
42025, Bill Amberg, Pastor.  
(270) 362-8854.

\* \* \*

### DEARBORN HGTS., MI

June 17-19, 2008, Van  
Born Baptist Church, 25866  
Van Born Rd., Dearborn  
Hgts., MI 48125, Greg  
Albright, Pastor. (313) 292-  
8566

\* \* \*

### SALT LAKE CITY, UT

July 20-23, 2008,  
Anchor Baptist Church,  
1800 E. 5600 South, Salt  
Lake City, UT 84121,  
Thomas E. Corkish, Pastor.  
(801) 272-9405.

### SIoux FALLS, SD

October 5-8, 2008,  
Empire Baptist Temple, 412  
S. Hawthorne Ave., Sioux  
Falls, SD 57104, Erich P.  
McCandless, Pastor. (605)  
339-2038.

## Spirings of Joy

By A. B. Simpson

There are springs that  
flow in the low places of  
life, in the hard places, in  
the desert places, and no  
matter what may be our  
situation we can always  
find these springs of  
comfort from God.

Abraham found them  
amid the hills of Canaan.  
Moses found them among  
the rocks of Midian. David  
found them among the  
ashes of Ziklag when his  
property was gone, his  
family captive and his  
people talked of stoning  
him, "David encouraged  
himself in the Lord."

Habakkuk found these  
springs when the fig tree  
was withered and the fields  
were brown, but as he  
drank from them he could  
sing, "Yet will I rejoice in  
the Lord and joy in the God  
of my salvation." □

It is bad to have an empty  
purse, but an empty head is a  
whole lot worse.

## Some "If's" of the Christian Ministry

If you have put your trust in Christ alone,  
And made His precious life your very own,  
If you now put Him first in all your plans,  
And stand for everything for which He stands,  
If you have heard His call to preach His Word,  
(The sweetest call that mortal ever heard),

If you have put your hand unto the plow,  
And will not toward the world look backward now,  
If you love God's people all the while,  
And, for their sakes, go on the second mile,  
If you can labor patiently all day,  
And see no fruits to cheer you on your way.

If you can smile in Christian love divine,  
When everything against you would combine,  
If you can stand alone for God and right,  
Depending simply, solely, on His might,  
If you can face the world in hope and cheer,  
When other men would falter, dread, or fear.

If you can preach the Word to sinful man,  
And show him from the Book the Gospel plan,  
If you can hold your course amidst confusion,  
And never take for truth a mere illusion,  
If you can live the truth just as you preach it,  
And yet show how to justice it is founded,

If you can weep with those who are in sorrow,  
And yet rejoice with others on the morrow,  
If you can comfort hearts that grief has broken,  
And heal a wound—by Scriptures aptly spoken,  
If you can help the weaker ones that stumble,  
And yet the haughty bigots you can humble,

If you can preach to self more than to others,  
And never lord it o'er your Christian brothers,  
If you, your flesh can keep in prone subjection,  
And on the things above set your affection—  
THEN your life's greatest service will have rendered  
And, furthermore, you'll be a Man—

SURRENDERED!