

# The Baptist

# CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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## Paul's Resolutions

By A. H. Yetter

Usually at the close of the old year or the beginning of the new year, many people make resolutions. Too often, the good resolutions do not seem to last very long. They are soon broken or forgotten.

However, since we believe that there is value in making good resolutions and keeping them, we would like to direct your

attention to some good resolutions that the Apostle Paul made. We find them in his letter to the believers at Philippi and they read thus: "*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press*

*toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 3:13-14).

In keeping with Paul's resolve, Dr. J. H. Jowett writes: "So many of us make our religion one of many interests. We take it up for a time, and then we put it down again. We are religious by spasms, we are devotional by turns. We

assume there is time for everything, and we often make the heavenly visitor tarry in the hall, or even at the door, until we have disposed of more urgent business' (p. 141, **The High Calling**).

This was not Paul's practice as his resolutions indicate. He was resolved

(See **PAUL** on page 20)

Message #4, Preached  
January 28, 1979

## Greetings & Salutations

By M. L. Moser, Editor

"John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us

*kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen*" (Rev. 1:4-6).

We pointed out to you previously that God the Father gave this message to the Lord Jesus Christ. He in turn gave this message to an angel, who in turn gave this message to John. John is now giving this message to the churches. Beginning with

verse 4 we see that John is writing this to seven specific churches. He says: "John to the seven churches which are in Asia."

We find in chapters two and three that a specific letter was written to each one of the churches. This does not mean that these were the only seven churches in existence. There are seven churches listed: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thya-

tira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. There were also churches at Jerusalem, Antioch of Pysidia, the other Antioch, Colossee, Thessalonica, Rome, etc. These specific churches were selected because they represent all Christendom, all kinds of churches and because of their proximity to one central location. Looking at a map you see that the locations of these churches roughly make a circle.

The churches addressed were all in the

(See **REV** on page 11)

## Quiz The Pastor

### Is Creation Really Brought About By God in Six Literal Days?

By the late Nick Michalinos

**Question:** Was creation brought about by God in six literal days, or by long periods of time?

**Answer:** The Biblical record itself makes it plain that the days of creation were literal days, and not long undated ages. There are those who are enemies of the Bible that seek to interpret the word "day" in the Bible record of creation to mean a period of millions or even billions of years. They do not accept creation as an instantaneous act of God. They use their billions-of-years theory in order to promote their unbelieving so-called scientific views of how things came about in this universe, but without a God. Others promote the day-age theory in order to prove their theory of evolution.

Shamefully, some who profess to be Bible believers adopt a theistic

evolutionist view in order to make the Bible to become more acceptable to unbelievers. They hope to profess a certain allegiance to the scriptures, and at the same time attempt to harmonize the evolutionist theory along with it. The Biblical record suffers at the hands of such teachers.

The word translated "day" is the Hebrew word "yom," and is used over 2,000 times in the Old Testament, and in over 95 percent of the cases the word is clearly shown to mean a 24-hour day, or of the daylight portion of a normal day. Many of the other five percent usages refer to expressions such as "the day of the Lord (Joel 2:1; Zech. 14:1), or the "day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). Therefore, even without a context, an unbiased translator would normally understand the idea of a 24-

hour period" for the Hebrew word "yom" (day).

For example, "God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day" (Gen. 1:5). Here we can see, unless we are theologically tampered with, a "day" which consists of a period of light and a period of darkness. This period is called "the first day." This is repeated for the "third day," the fourth day," the fifth day and the "sixth day" (Gen. 1:13, 19, 23, 31). We are then told that God rested on the "seventh day," not because He was tired, but because He had finished the creation of all things. Moses makes this very clear in Exodus 20:8-11 when he wrote that "in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is" and rested on the seventh day. He wrote both inspired accounts in Genesis and Exodus and used the same Hebrew word "Yom" (day). It is evident the Holy Spirit chose to do so because the same 24-hour day was intended.

If the Sabbath day was a 24-hour day, then God's day of creation is a literal day, and that means the six days of creation were literal.

By the way, God wrote the Sabbath commandment (4th commandment) with His own finger on two tables of stone (Ex. 31:18; 32:16; Dt. 10:4). If anyone should want to know how

long the days were, they should ask the Creator Himself. Imagine Jonah being in the whale's belly not for three days and three nights (Mt. 12:40) but for three ages or three periods of time!

In conclusion, there is no argument that "six days" means mean "six ages." Six days means six days.

## The Saboteur

He has been a member of the church for years, and always a generous contributor. He is in his place in the house of worship regularly, and lives a life of unquestioned moral quality. He can always be relied upon to be at a meeting of the board, and in matters of doctrine and belief he is altogether orthodox. He will lead in public prayer when called upon to do so, and no man surpasses him in private helpfulness to the widow and the orphan. He puts his church ahead of his lodge, his committee duties ahead of his own personal business, and his missionary pledge ahead of his club dues.

But he is guilty of sabotage!

Among his business friends who are not churchmen, he complains about "the way the church is run" — and thus alienates them further. He criticizes the preacher and the Sunday School teacher

(See **SABOTEUR** on page 24)

### THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Creation Vs. Evolution, Part V

# Test-tube Babies, Cloning and Genetics

By Kenneth Mathis

Man, today, has done some amazing things as his understanding and knowledge of genetics has increased. He is beginning to understand that genetic defects in certain genes may produce certain diseases. Conception of babies can now be done in a test tube and some claim to have cloned certain animals. Also, I have read news reports that claim that the sex of a baby can now be controlled by genetic manipulation. Some knowledge of cell reproduction and human reproduction by conception are necessary to understand the issues involved in all of this.

The process of cell reproduction is amazing. Man, in recent years, has gained much knowledge of this process but much concerning the actual mechanism of this process is still a mystery. When a cell divides, the original cell gives rise to two daughter cells, each with a complete compliment of genetic material (DNA) identical to that in the original cell (46 chromosomes or 23 pairs). But when reproduction takes place in humans, the reproduction cell (which ultimately produces sperm and egg cells) divides and

produces cells which possess 23 chromosomes (half of the 46 chromosomes of the original cell). When conception takes place the fertilized egg then has the 46 chromosomes necessary for the human species to be perpetuated from generation to generation. Otherwise, the new individual would have 92 chromosomes (46 from each parent) and reproduction would result in drastic changes. But God decreed in Genesis 1:11-28 that each species would reproduce after their kind. The new individual now has a new DNA code that is a result of the 23 chromosomes from each parent (totaling 46). Also, even though every cell in a human embryo carries the same set of genetic information, the cells become different types of cells such as nerve cells, muscle cells and various other kinds of cells. To do this, some genetic information must be suppressed. This mechanism, not clearly understood, is the source of much research today. Cells are truly amazing.

Consider now the process involved in test-tube babies. Both true science and the Bible recognizes

that life produces life. Today, medical professionals can take the sperm from a man and the egg from a woman and, in the test-tube, conceive a baby. But note carefully that it takes human life, the sperm and the egg, and a woman to carry that fertilized egg to term to produce that baby. God has permitted this but man, as his genetic knowledge increases, is going further and further. I'm not sure where God will draw the line.

Now consider the controlling of the sex of the baby. Again, genetic research has revealed that the male determines the sex of the baby. In the division of the reproduction cell, the male produces a pair of cells that are different. If we call one cell of that pair X and the other cell Y, we can give a simple illustration of the process. The female also produces a pair of cells and we might call each one of these cells X. These cells originate from the division of the reproduction cell and have only 23 chromosomes each. When the male X cell combines, through conception, with one of the female X cells, the result is ultimately a girl. When the male Y cell

combines, through conception, with the female X cell, the result is ultimately a boy. Thus, if it can be done or has ever been done, it will be through this genetic manipulation of the male cells. In this process, man is changing the basic identity of that individual. The question is how much will God permit?

The final item mentioned above is that of cloning. News reports claim that scientists have now cloned several animals. Although our government, fearing the consequences of this research, has stopped federal funds from being used in this research of human cloning, I'm sure private research will continue.

An article appeared in the Hot Springs (Ark.) **Sentinel Record** on Friday, August 8, 1997 that stated that scientists have now cloned several calves. This follows a previous report of the cloning of a sheep. The sheep, according to the article, was cloned from an udder cell but the cell used to clone the calf came from a 30 day-old fetus. The scientists state "We can make an

(See **MATHIS** on page 23)

# How I Ascertain the Will of God

By George Mueller

**1. Surrender Your Own Will.** I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter.

Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

**2. Do Not Depend on Feelings.** Having done this, I do not leave the result of feeling or simple impression. If I do so, I make myself liable to great delusions.

**3. Seek the Spirit's Will Through God's Word.** I seek the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God.

The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word, I lay myself open

There are two kinds of people: Those who are good for nothing and those who are good for something. I prefer the latter. That is why God can use some people who are very imperfect to greater advantage than some who are much more perfect!

to great delusions also. If the Holy Ghost guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.

**4. Note Providential Circumstances.** Next I take into account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God's will in connection with His Word and Spirit.

**5. Pray.** I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me aright.

**6. Wait.** Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge, and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly.

In trivial matter, and in transactions involving most important issues, I have found this method always effective.

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength" (Isa. 40:28-29).

## It's Not the Church It Is You!

If you want to work in the kind of a church  
Like the kind of a church you like,  
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip  
And start on a long, long hike.

You need not run to a far-away church,  
With your mind and feelings all ajar;  
Just yield your will to His grace and power, and  
Enjoy true fellowship where you are.

You'll only find what you left behind,  
For there's nothing that's really new;  
It's a knock at yourself, when you knock  
your church,  
It isn't your church — it's YOU!

Real churches aren't made by folks afraid,  
Nor by those who refuse to be led;  
When everybody works, and nobody shirks,  
You can raise a church from the dead.

But your church fellowship, the kind you like,  
If you have the Master's view,  
You can find in the church where now you live;  
It isn't your church — it's YOU!

It isn't your church or your pastor, friend,  
That's obstructing your clearer view;  
But the secret sin deep down in your heart,  
That's really hurting YOU!

If you'll yield your will, and your grouch let go;  
Enthroning your Savior anew,  
The church you've sought through the long,  
long years  
Will suddenly rise to view.

(Continued on page 5)



# The Untrodden Path

By Octavius Winslow

*“Ye have not passed this way heretofore”* — Joshua 3:4.

How solemn is the reflection that when a new cycle of time commences, with each traveler to Zion, there is a new and untrodden path. New events in his history will transpire — new scenes in the panorama of life will unfold — new phases of character will develop — new temptations will assail — new duties will devolve — new trials will be experienced — new sorrows will be felt — new friendships will be

formed — and new mercies will be bestowed.

How truly may it be said of the pilgrim, journeying through the wilderness to his eternal home, as he stands upon the threshold of this untried period of his existence, pondering the unknown and uncertain future. *“Ye have not passed this way heretofore.”*

But there is another thought inexpressibly soothing. Untried, untrodden, and unknown as that new path may be, it is each step mapped and arranged, and provided for in the

everlasting and unchangeable covenant of God. To Him who leads us, who accepts us in the Son of His love, who knows the end from the beginning, it is no new, or uncertain, or hidden way. We thank Him that, whilst He wisely and kindly veils all the future from our ken, all that future — its minutest event — is as transparent and visible to Him as the past.

## He Knows the Way

Our Shepherd knows the windings along which He skillfully, gently, and safely leads His flock. He has traveled that way Himself, and has left the traces of His presence on the road. As each follower advances — the new path unfolding at each step — he can exultantly exclaim, “I see the footprint of my Lord: here went my Master, my Leader, my Captain, ‘leaving me an example, that I should follow his step’.” Oh! it is a thought replete with strong consolation, and well calculated to gird us for the coming year — the Lord knows and has ordained each step of the untrodden path upon which I am about to enter.

Another reflection: The infinite forethought, wisdom,

and goodness which have marked each line of our new path have also provided for its every necessity. Each exigence in the plan of the new year has been anticipated. Each want will bring its appropriate and adequate supply — each perplexity will have its guidance — each sorrow its comfort — each temptation its shield — each cloud its light. Each affliction will suggest its lesson — each correction will impart its teaching — each mercy will convey its message of love. The promise will be fulfilled to the letter — *“As thy day so shall thy strength be.”*

## His Provision

And how blessed to know that all the provision for the untrodden path is in Jesus. *“It pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.”* All wisdom to guide, all power to uphold, all love to soothe, all grace to succour, all tenderness to sympathize, dwells in Christ.

Let us, then, gird ourselves to a fresh taking hold of Christ. We must walk through this year not by sight, but by faith, and that

(Continued from page 4)

Surrender your selfishness, love of self,  
And follow His footsteps true,  
You’ll find the kind of a church you like;  
It isn’t your church — it’s YOU!

When you’ve died to self, your vision free;  
The church which long you’ve wished to see,  
You’ll find in the church where now you be;  
And it’s just the church for you and me.

So when you’ve made your surrender true,  
You’ll influence others the same to do;  
And your church will be what you really like,  
Without your taking a long, long hike:  
For it isn’t your church — it’s YOU!

(See **PATH** on page 6)

PATH . . .  
(Continued from page 5)

faith must deal simply and directly with Jesus. “*Without me ye can do nothing.*” But with His strength made perfect in our weakness we can do all things. Oh, be this our course and our posture — “coming up from the wilderness leaning on our Beloved.”

Living in a world of imperfection and change, we must expect nothing perfect, nothing stable, in what we are, in what we do, or what we enjoy. But amid the dissolving views of the world that “passeth away,” let us take firm hold of the unchangeableness of God. The wheels may resolve, but the axletree on which they turn is immovable. Such is our covenant God. Events may vary — providences may change — friends may die — feelings may fluctuate — but God in Christ will know “*no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*” “*Having loved his own that were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*”

And will it not be blessed to receive each new event of our remaining future lives as directly under the government and appointment of God? He that sat upon the throne said, *Behold, I make all things new.*” That new thing, be it what it may, which will transpire in your coming days, He will have

created for your greatest good and His highest glory.

### For You, Believer

Reader! if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus, you will enter upon a new stage of your journey by a renewed surrender of yourself to the Lord. You will make the Cross the starting-point of a fresh setting out in the heavenly race. Oh, commence this year with a renewed application to the “blood of sprinkling.” There is vitality in that Blood; and its fresh sprinkling on your conscience will be as a new impartation of spiritual life to your soul.

Oh, to begin the year with a broken heart for sin beneath the Cross of Immanuel! — looking through that Cross to the heart of a loving, forgiving Father! Be not anxious about the future — all that future God has provided for. “*All my times are in thy hands.*” “*Casting all your care upon him for he careth for you.*” “*Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.*”

Let it be a year of more spiritual advance. “*Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward*” — forward in the path of duty — forward in the path of suffering — forward in the path of conflict — forward in the path of labor — forward in the path to eternal rest and glory. Soon will that rest be reached and that glory appear.

This new year may be the jubilant year of your release. Oh, spirit-stirring, ecstatic thought — this year I may be in Heaven! This year I may be with Jesus, leaning my head upon His breast — my conflict, my sin, my sorrow all over! This year all the glorious wonders of the upper world may burst upon my view, and I may mingle with apostles, and prophets, and martyrs — the “*general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven.*” What manner of persons, then, ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness? “*Now is our salvation*

*nearer than when we believed.*”

### Think of Eternity

Reader! if you are not a believer in the Lord Jesus, oh, that your New Year’s Gift may be a new heart, a renewed mind, the second birth, introducing you to a life for God. The Lord Jesus has solemnly, irrevocably affirmed, that unless you are born again of the Holy Spirit you shall not see the kingdom of God. Let not this new year be another year spent for self. Think of eternity — think of your solemn ac-

(See **PATH** on page 24)

## How Readest Thou?

It’s one thing to read the Bible through,  
Another thing to read and do,  
Some read it with design to learn to read,  
But to the subject pay little heed.

Some read it as their duty once a week,  
But no instruction from the Bible seek;  
While others read it with but little care,  
With no regard to how they read nor where.

Some read to bring themselves into repute,  
By showing others how they can dispute;  
While others read because their neighbors do,  
To see how long ‘twill take to read it through.

Some read it for the wonders that are there,  
How David killed a lion and a bear,  
While others read it with uncommon care,  
Hoping to find some contradiction there.

When I was small, I was taught to make shadow-graphs on the house wall with my hands and fingers. I derived much amusement from this diversion, imagining that the shadows were cast by real rabbits, cats and many other animals and birds.

Very soon in life, I learned that the shadows were really nothing more than shades cast by my hands and fingers blocking off the rays of light from the kerosene lamp.

Many years prior to the coming of Christ, the requirements of God's law cast numerous shadows of Christ and His atoning work. In the book of Hebrews, the author dis-

# Shadows

By C. O. Baker



tinguishes clearly between the real or "true" things and the "shadows" or examples of heavenly things. Among other things the writer of Hebrews mentions the "True Tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Heb. 5:2). He also says that It was therefore

necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens, should be purified with these (animal sacrifices), but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these; "the blood of bulls and goats."

If the Lord pitched a true Tabernacle and if the Tabernacle and its furnishings were "patterns of things in the heavens," then what were these things in heaven? God cautioned Moses to be careful to make the Tabernacle and its furniture according to the pattern showed him in the holy mount. The Tabernacle, as practically everyone knows, was a rectangular shaped building or tent three times as long as it was wide and high, standing in the center of a space enclosed with a fence made of movable stakes and linen; the stakes guyed in place with ropes and pegs. Immediately inside the front entrance of the court stood the brass altar where whole burnt offerings and other sacrifices were made. This altar and its offerings were undoubtedly the shadow of Christ's death for sinners.

Paul says that "It is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins" (Heb. 10:4). But the offering of Christ's body did and does take away sins, every penitent sinner's sins. Near the entrance to the sanctuary proper stood a laver of water. The priests cleansed themselves here before

entering the sanctuary to officiate before God. This laver represents the cleansing of the soul without which no one can enter heaven.

On the right hand inside of the sanctuary, stood the table of shewbread. This bread reminded the priests that Christ would come who was the bread of life. On the left stood the seven-branched lamps and the lights which burned night and day. The small tongues of flame representing the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth and, of course, these same flames of light portrayed the ever living Christ!

In the center of the room and in front of the veil or curtain stood the golden altar, the altar of incense, upon which the officiating priests burned incense representing the prayers of our Savior's humble subjects to Him. It has been said on good authority that

(See SHADOWS on page 24)



## When You Know the Author, You Can, and Will, Enjoy His Book

Dr. Howard W. Pope tells a story of a young lady who read a book, and having completed it remarked that it was the dullest book she had read in many a day.

Not long after this experience she met a young man, and in the course of time their friendship ripened into love and they became engaged.

During a visit in the home of his fiancé one evening, she said to him,

"I have a book in my library which was written by a man whose name and even initials are precisely the same as yours.

"Is not that a singular coincidence?"

"I do not think so," he replied.

"Why not, I pray?"

"For the simple reason that I wrote the book."

Dr. Pope concludes the story by remarking that the young lady sat up until the early morning hours to read the book again, and when it was completed it seem to her the most interesting book she had ever read. It wasn't dull at all. She found it fascinating. The secret? She knew and loved the author!

You will enjoy the greatest of all books, the Bible, God's Word, if you love the Author.

"We love him because he first loved us." □



**Another Canadian Charged With “Hate Crimes” Against Homosexuals.** — Ron Gray, of the Christian Heritage Party, must face the charge of exercising “hate and defamation” because of articles against homosexuality that he posted on the Internet and distributed to party members. Under Canadian law any citizen can level a complaint before the Canadian Human Rights Commission, and homosexual activists are using the law in an attempt to quench the free speech of those who oppose their lifestyle. The Human Rights Commission is not required to exercise the rules of evidence that protect those who are tried in regular courts. One article that Gray posted was “Pedophilia More Common among ‘Gays,’” first published by WorldNetDaily in April 2002. It cited a study that found that child molestation and pedophilia occur far more commonly among homosexuals.

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**“Buy At Wal-Mart Not At Target.”** — The American Family Asso-

## World News Roundup

ciation reports: “The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation’s largest homosexual organization, has issued a challenge to pro-traditional marriage supporters, saying in essence: ‘Put up or shut up.’ They have called for a boycott of Wal-Mart while urging their supporters to buy from Target. The reason? Wal-Mart refuses to offer ‘domestic benefits’ (benefits given to married couples) to homosexual partners. The homosexual organization also urged individuals to buy from Target, saying ‘consumers should make every effort to support’ Target because Target offers ‘marriage’ benefits to homosexual partners. (Target is also the company which no longer allows the Salvation Army to solicit Christmas donations in front of their stores.)” — AFA

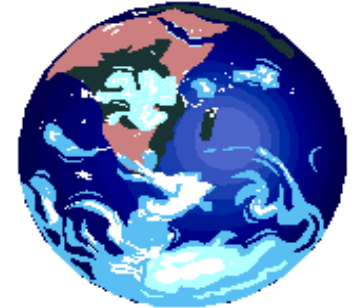
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**West Ignoring ‘Systematic Persecution’ of Palestinian Christians.** — If Western governments do not address the Muslim persecution and economic plight of Palestinian Arab Christians, there won’t be many Christians left in the Holy Land within 15 years, an Israeli scholar said here. Loss of employment, land seizures, attacks on

churches, intimidation, torture, beatings, kidnappings, forced marriage and sexual harassment of Christian women are clear human rights violations that have contributed to the exodus of Christians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said Justus Reid Weiner, who spoke at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs on Monday. — CNS

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**Astronomer Loses Job over Intelligent Design Views, Advocates Charge.** — An Iowa State University professor was denied tenure last April because he is a well-known advocate of intelligent design (ID), the Discovery Institute, a conservative organization based in Seattle, Wash., claims in its defense of the professor. He also apparently was the target of a secret, organized effort to oust him concocted by fellow faculty members. Intelligent design is a theory that life exhibits signs that it was designed and didn’t just spring into being out of nothing. Dr. Guillermo Gonzalez is being defended by attorneys as well as the Discovery Institute, and they asked the Iowa State University Board of Regents Monday to reconsider the university’s refusal last



summer to grant the assistant professor of astronomy a lifetime appointment on the faculty. The attorneys for the astronomer joined with Discovery to present the regents with evidence they say bears out the charges. — CNS

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**Islamists Jailed for Beheading Girls, But Indonesian Christians Remain Wary.** — Indonesian Christians have welcomed the imprisonment of Islamic militants convicted of attacks, including the beheading of three Christian schoolgirls, but they said the Christian minority in the world’s most populous Muslim nations continues to face difficulties. A court in Jakarta on Monday sentenced six men to prison terms ranging from 10 to 19 years for their roles in attacks on Christians in the eastern province during 2005 and 2006, Indonesian media reported. At the time, the attacks raised fears that Islamists were trying to reignite inter-religious violence in Sulawesi and

(See **WNR** on page 15)

# La Voz Del Desierto

## ¿Por Qué Somos Bautistas Independientes?

Por M. A. Curet

En el diccionario se define la palabra “independiente” como *libre de influencia de control o de dirección de otros, y autónomo; no dependiente, que se gobierna a si mismo.*

Una iglesia local neotestamentaria organizada, es, o debería ser, autosuficiente y no dependiente de una autoridad jerárquica externa.

### I. Lo Que No Significa Ser Una Iglesia Independiente.

1. No significa que debamos ser independientes de las enseñanzas de las Sagradas Escrituras.

2. No significa que debamos ser independientes de Cristo, como cabeza de la iglesia.

3. No significa que debamos ser independientes del liderazgo del Espíritu Santo.

4. No significa que debamos estar en un estado de desorganización.

5. No significa que no debamos tener un plan o un propósito.

6. No significa que debamos estar en un estado de anarquía (falta de go-

bierno), o en un estado de aislamiento.

7. No significa que no podamos tener compañerismo con otras iglesias bautistas de la misma fe y práctica.

8. No significa que no podamos cooperar con otras iglesias bautistas iguales, en el sostén de otros misioneros y proyectos misioneros.

¡Las Iglesias Bautistas independientes no pueden ni deben rendirse o entregar su independencia a cualquier otra iglesia, orga-

nización, convención, o conjunto de pastores!

### II. Razones Bíblicas Por Las Cuales La Iglesia Debe Ser Independiente.

1. **La Cabeza Divina de la Iglesia local es el Señor Jesucristo**, y la iglesia solamente puede tener una cabeza.

“Y sometió todas las cosas bajo sus pies, y lo dio por cabeza sobre todas las cosas a la iglesia” (Efesios 1:22).

“Sino que siguiendo la verdad en amor, crezcamos en todo en aquel que es la cabeza, esto es, Cristo” (Efesios 4:15; 5:23).

La oficina central o centro de operaciones de la iglesia neotestamentaria debe estar donde está la Cabeza, y Él, Jesucristo, está en el cielo. Una iglesia no tiene el derecho de unirse con otra organización, sea asociación, convención, o conjunto. No lo puede hacer, y todavía quedar sometida a Cristo. La Cabeza de la Iglesia nunca mencionó ninguna de las otras organizaciones.

2. **El Arquitecto Divino diseñó la iglesia local.** En ninguna parte de las Escrituras se mencionan las otras organizaciones. Veamos: Efesios 2:19-22; 3:8-11.

3. **El Constructor Divino construyó la iglesia local**, y nunca edificó alguna otra organización, convención, o asociación existentes. “Y yo también te digo, que tú eres Pedro, y sobre esta roca edificaré mi iglesia” (Mateo 16:18).

## Noticias Alrededor Del Mundo

### Mitad de Mezquitas Británicas Son Radicales

Lo que sigue fue extraído del artículo “*Toma Radical de las Mezquitas Británicas Sin Definir*”, del periódico **Times** de Londres, 7 de septiembre de 2007: “Casi la mitad de las mezquitas de Gran Bretaña está bajo control de una secta islámica radical la cual su predicador, principalmente detesta los valores occidentales e invitan a los

musulmanes a derramar sangre por Alá, demostró una investigación realizada por dicho periódico. Riyadh ul Haq, quien apoya el jihad armado y predica odio hacia los judíos, los cristianos y los hindúes, y es quien está en la línea, para ser el líder espiritual de la secta *Deobandi*, en Gran Bretaña.

El movimiento ultraconservador, el cual dio a luz al Talibán en Afganistán, ahora maneja a más de 600 de las 1,350 mez-

(Vea **MUNDO** en la pág.10)

(Vea **CURET** en la pág. 10)

CURET . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

4. **El Comprador Divino sólo ganó la Iglesia y no cualquier otra organización.** “Por tanto, mirad por vosotros, y por todo el rebaño en que el Espíritu Santo os ha puesto por obispos, para apacentar la iglesia del Señor, la cual él ganó por su propia sangre” (Hechos 20:28).

5. **El Maestro Divino instruyó a la iglesia.** “Y Jesús se acercó y les habló diciendo: Toda potestad me es dada en el cielo y en la tierra. Por tanto, id, y haced discípulos ... enseñandoles que guarden todas las cosas que os he mandado ... Amén” (Mateo 28:18-20).

6. **La Trinidad Divina sostiene la iglesia.** En el pasaje que vimos de Mateo 28:19 (bautizándonos en el nombre. “Y sometió todas las cosas bajo sus pies, y lo dio por cabeza sobre todas las cosas a la iglesia, la cual es su cuerpo, la plenitud de Aquel que todo lo llena en todo” (Efesios 1:22-23).

Somos bautistas inde-

pendientes porque una iglesia bautista conforme a las Sagradas Escrituras, debe ser independiente de todo control, manejo y toda influencia exterior; es decir, ser autónoma en su gobierno y sostén, para poder someterse a su única cabeza, el Señor Jesucristo.

Cualquier iglesia que participa en una convención, asociación, conjunto, u otra organización a parte de la iglesia, ha perdido el liderazgo de Jesucristo como su cabeza; y como la Biblia dice: “Ninguno puede servir a dos señores; porque o aborrecerá al uno y amará al otro, o estimará al uno y menospreciará al otro” (Mateo 6:24). □

**MUNDO . . .**

(Vino de la pág. 9)

quitas de Gran Bretaña, según un informe policiaco visto por el **Times**. La investigación del **Times** crea serias dudas sobre declaraciones del gobierno, de que los predicadores extranjeros son culpables por regar el credo Islámico radical, en las mezquitas de Gran Bretaña, y de su política en animar al

reclutamiento de más predicadores de cosecha casera.

El Sr. UL Haq, de 36 años de edad, fue educado y entrenado en un seminario islámico en Gran Bretaña y es parte de una nueva generación de *imanes* británicos que comparten una agenda radical similar. Él apela al desprecio de cualquier musulmán que diga que son orgullosos de ser británicos y discute que la amistad con un judío o un cristiano hace una mofa de la religión de Alá. Diecisiete de los 26 seminarios islámicos de Gran Bretaña son manejados por los *Deobandis*, y producen el 80 por ciento del clérigo musulmán insular.

\* \* \*

### Antiguo Túnel de Escape Encontrado en Jerusalén

A fines de agosto un túnel de escape mencionado por Josefo fue encontrado por arqueólogos judíos que buscaban el camino principal hacia Jerusalén antigua. En “*La Guerra de los Judíos*”, Flavio Josefo, historiador del primer siglo, escribió que muchos judíos tomaron refugio en los conductos de desagüe cuando los ejércitos

romanos destruían la ciudad y el templo judío en el año 70 A.D., y huyeron a Jerusalén a través de su extremo posterior. Las paredes del gran túnel alcanzan una altura de 10 pies en algunos lugares. Hasta el momento, se ha escavado una longitud de 100 yardas, bajo dirección del Reich de Ronny de la Universidad de Haifa, y de Elí Shukron de la Autoridad Israelí de las Antigüedades. Cascos de cerámica, fragmentos de recipientes y monedas del segundo período del Templo fueron descubiertos dentro del canal. El Reich, estima la longitud total del canal en más de media milla, cubriendo desde el Templo en el norte, a la piscina de Shiloah, en el sur de Jerusalén.

En años recientes, la doctrina de la negación del templo, se ha regado rápidamente entre musulmanes en el Oriente Medio. Según esta doctrina descarada, el templo judío nunca existió en Jerusalén, pero el descubrimiento reciente autentiza la versión de Josefo, de la destrucción del templo en el año 70 A.D., y es sólo una de las muchas pruebas históricas de la existencia del templo. Este año un equipo de arqueólogos bajo la dirección de Ehud Netzer encontró la tumba de Herodes el Grande, siguiendo la descripción dada por Josefo. □

#### Iglesia Bautista El Redentor

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

**REV . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

western half of Asia Minor and were all real, actual churches and are representative churches both as to history and as to spiritual state. When we get into the specific letters to each church in chapters two and three, we will find that they are of churches representing a period of time in history, and are representative of the spiritual state of the churches.

The number seven is symbolical of their completeness and indicates that this book was to be written to all churches. It was not just for these seven churches alone, but it is to be for all New Testament churches. It is for the Central Baptist Church in Little Rock. Though we find in chapters two and three a specific letter of six to eight verses written to each of these churches, each letter was a circular letter to be distributed among all the churches. Thus, whatever events were similar, when circumstances were identical, then the message would be identical. All of Paul's letters were considered as circular letters, to be read, discussed and obeyed by all the other churches as well.

We face today a problem that they did not face in that day and time. Today there are those who believe that this church we are reading about is a universal, invisible church. They say

that when John or Paul or others were writing, they were not writing just to specific churches, but to what they term is a universal, invisible church. We will go more into detail about that when we get into chapters two and three, but I do want to look at it for just a moment.

In Ephesians, chapter 5, we find a passage of Scripture that is used by Protestants (and regrettably some Baptists) in an attempt to teach that the church is a universal, invisible body. Many of them teach that all the churches, or all Christians combined, become this one, great, mystical body of Christ. Their teaching is that all churches combined make up the one great big church, and one of the Scriptures they use as proof is this passage we find here in Ephesians, chapter 5.

Notice now, as we begin reading in the middle of this verse, which is what they do. They say "even as Christ is the head of the church and he is the savior of the body." Now they are quick to point out that the word "church" here is in the singular and therefore it means all the saved. It is said that the meaning of the word church means all the saved, all those that have been born again. In an attempt to prove this, they find some passages of scripture, particularly the one in Ephesians, where it says that Christ is the head of the church. But they

usually stop right there and do not read the entire passage. The passage says: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, and he is the savior of the body" (Eph. 5:23).

Now the advocates of the universal, invisible church theory state that Christ is the head of the church. He is not the head of several churches, but the head of the church, thus showing, they say, that the word must mean all the saved, and therefore a universal, invisible church. The one who takes that position does not read the entire passage, for the passage also says that the husband is the head of the wife in exactly the same sense that Christ is the head of the church. Therefore, logic says that if the church is a big universal, invisible church, then you must have a big universal, invisible wife, but nobody believes that. Nobody believes that all the little wives combined make up one great big wife. One should never take the position that all the local, visible churches combined make up one great big universal church any more than all the local, visible wives combined make up one great big universal wife.

Now we see how silly it is to follow their reasoning. To be logical and consistent, if the word "church" in Ephesians 5:23 refers to a universal, invisible church because it is

singular, since the church is as a wife, then the word "wife," also being in the singular, is a universal, invisible wife. We know this is not true. We know that the wife is always local and visible, and we know that the church is always local and visible.

When we remember that the word "church" always means an assembly, always means a congregation, then our minds will be straight and we will think straight concerning the word "church." If you will simply remember that the word "church" always means an assembly, then you can see that it is impossible to have anything such as a universal, invisible assembly, just as you cannot have a universal, invisible wife. Both of them are to be considered as local and visible.

When we say the lion is the king of the beasts, we don't mean all lions put together are the king of the beasts, but we mean that each, individual, separate lion is a king of the beasts. When we say the eagle is the king of birds, we don't mean all eagles combined make up one great big eagle. So when we talk about the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are not talking about a huge monstrosity composed of all the churches or all believers. Just as you say the lion is the king of beasts, when you bring it down to particulars, you mean that

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lion there, or this one here, and the same is true as far as churches are concerned. Each church is an individual, separate body, separate, distinct, and independent from all others.

If we are to use Scriptural nomenclature or language when we talk about all believers, all the saved combined in one body, then we should use the phrase "family of God." We are then Scriptural, because all believers, all saved people, are members of the family of God. We are born into the family of God. Those who are not members of a New Testament church, though they may be saved and in the family of God, are not in the church until they have followed Him in Scriptural baptism and church membership. So the family of God and the church are not identical. They are not synonymous. They are different terms, referring to different people.

There is, of course, overlapping between them, because all of those that are members of the Lord's churches are supposed to be saved. You cannot scripturally be a member of a church unless you are saved. All of those that are members of the church are considered to be in the family of God because they are saved, but all of those in the family of God are not members of the church

until they have been scripturally baptized for these are the two requirements for church membership: you must be saved and you must also be scripturally baptized. So, when John writes these letters, he is writing to seven specific churches, seven particular church bodies that are both visible and local.

The next thing he says is: "*Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come.*" Now grace and peace are two of the great possessions of these churches. Grace and peace always appear in this order. You never find them in the reverse order, and the reason is that grace must precede peace. No one can have the peace of God until they have experienced the grace of God. Now grace is that redemptive, unmerited work that the Lord Jesus Christ performs; it is a work of God that He performs in man's heart. Grace is usually defined as "unmerited favor," but in reality that does not even touch the hem of the garment, so to speak. Grace goes far beyond this. Grace is "unmerited favor" but it is God's unmerited favor. Not toward His friends, nor toward those who love Him, but grace is unmerited favor that God bestows upon those who do not love Him. They are His enemies as Paul tells us (Rom. 5:10), that is, they are

diametrically opposed to God, yet God gives His grace to these kind of individuals, people like you and me.

The grace of God is unmerited favor. By unmerited it means you do not deserve it. You do not earn it. You do not merit it in any degree at all. God freely gives it out of His own free will, even though we don't deserve it. God does give it, and the result of grace is peace, the peace that is beyond human understanding or comprehension (Phil. 4:7), and this peace is the result and the abiding condition that follows the work of grace. This is the peace that puts us at peace with God, so that we are no longer enemies of God. We are no longer at enmity with God. Though outer circumstances may make it appear that we have no peace, yet inwardly, deep down inside, we know we are at peace with God because this peace is the result of the grace of God. This peace is not to be confused with a worldly prosperity that seemingly is peace, but is a peace that the world never sees, and has no knowledge of, nor understands because it is an inward peace that comes as a result of the grace of God.

We now find the Trinity mentioned here. The Unitarians, Jehovah's Witnesses and others that deny the doctrine of the Trinity, just simply do not read their

Bibles very closely, for right here in these verses we have the doctrine of the Trinity. They say that the doctrine of the Trinity is not a Bible doctrine, since nowhere does the word "trinity" appear in the Bible. That just happens to be true, for the word "trinity" does not appear in the Bible. The word "trinity" does not appear, but that does not mean that the doctrine of the Trinity is not a Bible doctrine. We know that God said "this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:17). We also know that the Holy Spirit was sent by the Father to carry on that work which Jesus Christ began upon this earth. We do know that there are three members of the Godhead family. When the time came for the creation of man, the Bible says: "And God said, Let *us* make man in *our* image" (Gen. 1:26). That shows the doctrine of the Trinity by the use of the word "us" — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and here we find first mentioned is God the Father. "Grace be unto you, and peace from Him which is and which was and which is to come." Now this, of course, has reference to God the Father, and shows us His eternity.

When Moses was at the burning bush, he was concerned as to who was

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speaking to him from the bush, and whom he should tell Pharaoh had sent him. The Lord said: "*And God said unto Moses, I AM hath sent me unto you*" (Ex. 3:14). "I AM" shows the eternity of God. He has been before all things. He is today and He will be after all things on this earth have been done away. As it says here: "From him which is and which was and which is to come," so we find that God the Father is mentioned first. He is the one that we might term is the Administrator of this world.

The second we find is the Holy Spirit. It says "*and from the seven spirits which are before his throne.*" Now the Holy Spirit here is referred to by the phrase "the seven spirits." We find in Isaiah that the word "seven" refers to His completeness, to His perfection and to the diversity of His activity. In Isaiah we read: "*And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*" This refers to the kind of activities or the diversity of activities that are carried on by the Holy Spirit of the Lord"

(Isa. 11:1-2).

Thirdly, in verse 5, "*And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth.*" Now Jesus Christ is referred to here as the "faithful witness." When you turn to 1 Timothy chapter 6 and verse 3, we read concerning him: "If any man teach otherwise and consent not to wholesome words, these are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness." Paul tells young Timothy that Jesus Christ is the faithful witness. We are to determine whether a man is true or false, is from God or from Satan, by whether he follows the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. This shows that the Apostle Paul considered the words of our Lord Jesus Christ as being exactly accurate and faithful.

John writes in his Gospel: "The world cannot hate you but me it hateth because I testify of it" (Jn. 7:7). The reason the world hates the Lord Jesus Christ is because of His testimony or His words concerning the world. The reason they don't like it, is that He bares a faithful witness concerning what the world is and therefore, they hate Him. The world does not like to be described as they really are, but Jesus Christ is the faithful witness. Also, it says, "and the first

begotten of the dead."

I want to look at several verses of scripture right now. Turn with me to the 89th Psalm: "*He shall cry unto me thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation*" (Psa. 89:26). This having reference here to the Lord Jesus Christ, talking about the fact that God was His father. "*Also, I will make him my first born, higher than the kings of the earth*" (Psa. 89:27). This refers to the fact that God the Father says that Jesus Christ is to be His first born and to be made higher than the kings of the earth. "*It shall be established forever as the moon and as a faithful witness in heaven*" (Psa. 89:37). So it is to be established in heaven where it cannot be destroyed.

In the Book of Colossians we see that Jesus Christ is the firstborn. "*Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature*" (Col. 1:15). Paul says: "*But every man in his own order, Christ the firstfruits, afterwards they that are Christ's at his appearing*" (1 Cor. 15:23). So He is not only the first born, but He is also the first begotten of the dead. When it refers to the fact that Jesus Christ was the first born, that refers to the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. It refers to the fact that God was His Father; that when Mary conceived, she conceived

of the Holy Spirit of God, and that child that was born of Mary was indeed the virgin born Son of God, God being His Father. Jesus then later on crucified, He died, He was buried, He came forth from the grave, and Paul tells us that He is the firstborn from the dead, or the firstfruits of the dead. So Jesus Christ then is the firstborn.

As we know, and as demonstrated for us by Esau and Jacob, there are privileges that belong to the first born. Jesus Christ is the heir of all the things that God has, and He is the only one that was raised from the dead like this. He is the only one that was the firstborn from the dead. It is true that there were others who were raised from the dead, Lazarus for one, etc. but all of these others that were raised from the dead simply had to die again, but not the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ arose victorious over the grave, He gained the eternal victory over death, and therefore death no longer has any hold upon Him. Therefore, He says that death does not have any hold upon us, that is, those of us who are born into His family. He's the firstfruits, meaning that there are others that are to follow, to come afterwards, and refers to those of us who know Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. We also will be

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victorious over death and the grave, and our victory is assured because of the fact that He was victorious. He conquered death, hell and the grave, assuring that when we know Him as our personal Lord and Savior, we will also have that victory over the grave.

Again He tells us here in the first chapter that He has made Him *“the prince of the kings of the earth.”* The prince means the ruler of all the earth. Now we do not see Him that way today. It does not appear that Jesus Christ is really the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It does not appear that He is really the prince of the kings of the earth, but that is His title. When God’s time is right and when the time arrives, Jesus is going to return to this earth and is going to establish Himself as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. We’ll be reading and studying about it later on in this book. He indeed then will be King in reality, just not in title, but He will be the prince of the kings of the earth.

We find something else that He says in the latter part of verse 5, *“Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”* John says in his Gospel: *“Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this*

*world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end”* (Jn. 13:1). As the scripture says, “We love him because he first loved us,” and that’s why we were saved. We were saved simply because God loved us and as a result of His love, He has washed us.

Now you will notice that the word wash is in the past tense. It refers to an action that has already been accomplished or completed. The word “washed” can also be translated by the word “loosed.” It means not only has He washed us but He has also “loosed” us from our sins. That means that He has taken the sin away by His blood. When He washed us with His blood, it loosed all the sins from us so that we were cleansed from our sins, just as when you put your clothing in a washing machine. When you put detergent in the washing machine, what it does to clean the clothing, is to “loose” all the dirt from the fabric. After the dirt has been “loosed,” it all goes out in the water and it leaves the fabric “loosed” from the dirt that was there. This is what happens when we are washed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Jn. 1:7; Heb. 9:14; Col. 2:14). We are washed or “loosed” from our sins, and they are washed away; they are taken away, as the

scripture says, “As far as the east is from the west.” As deep down as the deepest sea, so that God says I will remember them no more.

When you wash your clothes, you get them dirty again and therefore you have to wash your clothes more than one time. But, what ever God does, He has only to do one time, and when He has washed us from our sins, it is done once and for all, and our soul is never dirtied by sin any longer. That’s what First John means when he writes, “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin” (1 Jn. 3:9). This doesn’t mean your physical body for the natural body will sin, because the natural man has not been born of God. But the new nature that is within you is born of God, and since it is born of God, it cannot sin. It only has to be “washed” one time. “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”

Now we mention that the word “washed” is in the past tense, but the word “love” is in the present tense. It’s not only that He loved us, but that word love there is a continuing love. So that though washing only needs to take place one time, and that ended it, the loving goes on forever (Rom. 8:38-39). The Lord loves us not only in the past, but He loves us now and He will always love us. That is a continuing thing that we are in need of. So

the washing was done once for all, done at Calvary, but the loves goes on. What was it that God used to cleanse us? “Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”

Do you see why Satan hates the blood? Do you see why there is such an effort being made today to take the word blood out of our Bibles? Nearly all of these new modern translations try to eliminate the word blood. They try to substitute the word “death” instead, as if that’s adequate, but it is not. It’s the blood, not the death, but it is the blood that cleanseth us or washes us from all sins. Many of our modern hymnals put out by Protestants (and some Baptists also), are trying to get rid of the word blood in our hymn books. They ridicule and make fun of the “Old Rugged Cross” and “Nothing But the Blood.” Songs like “There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood” are left out. But God loves His Son, and the fact that He shed His blood is that which God loves, because it is by His blood that our sins are washed away. We are cleansed and made righteous in the sight of God by His shed blood. “And from Jesus Christ who is the faithful witness and the first begotten from the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth, unto him that loved us and

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washed us from our sins in his own blood.”

Not only that, it says “And has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father” (1:6; 5:9-10; 1 Pet. 2:9; Ex. 19:6). We have been made kings and priests. You are a priest. We have all the majesty of a prince and all the ministry of a priest. We have both power with men and power with God. As kings we are made to reign; as priests we are to serve. Are you doing your work of a priest? Well, what is the work of a priest? The priest is the one who was a go-between between man and God. That’s your job today. If you are saved, God has given you the work of a priest, and you are to be a go-between between the

unsaved and the Lord. That’s your job. You are to be a witness. You are to go out as the priest so you might find those who have need of a priest; those who have need of cleansing; and bring them to the Great High Priest who is the Lord Jesus Christ. That’s your job. Those who are still in sin and need to be cleansed and washed from sin, that’s your job. Are you doing it? Now He made you one. If you’re saved, He’s made you a priest, and that’s your job that needs to be done.

I wonder if there are some here that have never been saved? You’ve never been cleansed from your sin; you’re still dirty; you’re still in your old rags. You need to have your sins cleansed. What can cleanse your sins? “Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” □

WNR ...

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another Indonesian province, Maluku, in which thousands were killed between 1999 and 2002. Christians and Muslims died in the clashes, which experts attributed to a range of factors, including economic competition and religious differences, among them allegations of Christian missionary activity. Islamist jihadists shipped in from Indonesia’s most populous island, Java, and carried out attacks against Christians. — CNS

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**Biologist Fired for Beliefs, Suit Says Woods Hole States Creationist Stance at Odds With Work** — The battle between science and creationism has reached the prestigious Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where a former researcher is claiming he was fired because he doesn’t believe in evolution. Nathaniel Abraham filed a lawsuit earlier this week in US District Court in Boston saying that the Cape Cod research center dismissed him in 2004 because of his Christian belief that the Bible presents a true account of human creation. Abraham, who is seeking \$500,000 in compensation for a violation of his civil rights, says in the suit that he lost his job as a postdoctoral researcher in

a biology lab shortly after he told his superior that he did not accept evolution as scientific fact. “Woods Hole believes they have the right to insist on a belief in evolution,” said David C. Gibbs III, one of Abraham’s two attorneys and general counsel of the Christian Law Association in Seminole, Fla. Evolution is a fundamental tenet of biology that species emerge because of genetic changes to organisms that, over time, favor their survival. Creationists reject the notion that humans evolved from apes and that life on earth began billions of years ago, but Gibbs said Abraham “truly believes there was no conflict between religion and his job.” Woods Hole officials released a statement saying, “The Institution firmly believes that its actions and those of its employees concerning Dr. Abraham were entirely lawful,” and that the center does not discriminate on the basis of religion.

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**Hospital Defends Plans to Turn Patients’ Beds to Face Mecca.** — A hospital in northern England is playing down media reports saying that nurses have been ordered to stop normal duties five times a day to turn Muslim patients’ beds so that they face Mecca. British tabloid

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## What the Church Needs Today

More tithes and fewer drives.  
 More action and less faction.  
 More workers and fewer shirkers.  
 More backers and fewer slackers.  
 More praying and less straying.  
 More of God’s plans and less of man’s.  
 More divine power and less human “Pow Wow.”  
 More burden bearers and fewer tale bearers.  
 More righting squads and fewer tight wads.  
 More tongues of fire and fewer fiery tongues.  
 More zealous effort, and less jealous thought.  
 More love for the Word and less love for the world.  
 More seeking for grace and less seeking for place.  
 More holiness of life and less bickering and strife.  
 More fasting and praying and less feasting and playing.  
 More religion in politics and less politics in religion.

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newspapers reported Tuesday that at a hospital in West Yorkshire county, “overworked” nurses in the taxpayer-funded National Health Service (NHS) were struggling to cope with the additional duties required for Muslim patients. Apart from moving the beds, the nurses also have to provide bathing water for pre-prayer ablutions, the reports said. The new duties were causing “havoc,” said the *Daily Express*, while the *Daily Star* said they were “creating turmoil” and quoted a doctor at the hospital as saying it was a case of “political correctness gone mad.” Devout Muslims pray five times daily — generally before sunrise, after noon, before sunset, after sunset, and after dark — facing the direction of the Kabaa in Mecca, Islam’s most revered site. — CNS

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### Scores of Chinese Pastors in Detention.

— Up to 150 Chinese pastors are believed to be in police custody, five days after officials raided a Bible study and detained 270 people, a Christian religious freedom monitoring group said Wednesday. The arrests, in the eastern Shandong province, comes amid a growing campaign by human rights and other advocacy groups for inter-

national focus on China ahead of next summer’s Olympic Games in Beijing. The China Aid Association (CAA) cited an eyewitness as saying that up to 50 policemen arrived at the meeting in Linyi City in 12 vehicles last Friday, handcuffed the pastors in pairs and took them away. Those at the meeting reportedly were pastors of “house churches,” Protestant congregations that do not belong to China’s state-sanctioned “patriotic” church movement. CAA spokesman Daniel Burton said from Midland, Tex., Wednesday that as many as 150 were believed to remain in custody. The others were released earlier after being charged an “interrogation fee” of \$40 each. “The humiliation these pastors received by being led away in handcuffs as common criminals — for attending a Bible study — is an unjustifiable act of religious persecution,” the organization said. “Obviously, in light of the Olympics coming up next year, this behavior is unfortunate,” Burton said, adding that the case stood out because of the number of people detained and the high-profile nature of the arrests. He predicted that there would be “increased persecution” in China over the Christmas period and in the lead-up to the Olympics, and he is hoping for stepped-up media interest. “There are so many in-

stances [of religious freedom violations in China] that it fails to stimulate the larger media outlets,” he said. “It is our hope that this will be picked up and followed by larger media outlets as well.” Nexis and Google News searches Thursday found very little mainstream media coverage of the arrests, with the German news agency DPA and Radio Free Asia among the only outlets to have reported

on the case this week. Shandong lies between Beijing and Shanghai. Linyi is its biggest city, with a population of 10 million. Attempts to reach Linyi’s police department for comment were unsuccessful. Radio Free Asia quoted a police official there as saying church members were being detained for illegal assembly.

(See WNR on page 17)

## The New Year

By Martha Snell Nicholson

Dear Lord, as this new year is born  
I give it to Thy hand,  
Content to walk by faith what paths  
I cannot understand.

Whatever coming days may bring  
Of bitter loss, or gain,  
Or every crown of happiness;  
Should sorrow come, or pain.

Or Lord, if all unknown to me  
Thine angel hovers near  
To bear me to that farther shore  
Before another year.

It matters not,—my hand in Thine,  
Thy light upon my face,  
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,  
Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask, loose not my hand,  
Grip fast my soul, and be  
My guiding light upon the path  
Till, blind no more, I see!

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(Continued from page 16)

China's communist authorities do not recognize any churches that are not affiliated with either of two state-controlled bodies, one Catholic, and one Protestant, called the Three Self-Patriotic Movement (TSPM). Official figures give the number of TSPM members as 16-18 million and the Catholic association membership as five million. The true number is believed to be much higher, as millions of believers attend underground churches not sanctioned by the state, worshiping in Protestant "house" church fellowships or in Catholic congregations loyal to the Vatican. The ruling Communist Party of China is atheistic but in official documents available online, the government says religious freedom is upheld in the country and that religious activities are "free from interference." Some Christian observers are skeptical of such claims. "While the regime tries to project itself as progressive, the reality is that China has no intention of abiding by international law or abandoning its hostility to Western religious ideals," said Family Research Council President Tony Perkins in a statement condemning the detention of the pastors. Perkins said the case "could have sweeping repercussions for the massive PR campaign underway to legitimize next

year's Olympic hosts." — CNS

\* \* \*

**Heisman Trophy Winner Could Have Been Aborted.** — University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow became the first sophomore in the history of the NCAA to win the coveted Heisman Trophy as the best football player in the nation. However, Tebow's accomplishments may never have been supported had his mother followed a doctor's recommendation to have an abortion ... Pam Tebow and her husband were Christian missionaries in the Philippines in 1985 and they prayed for "Timmy" before she became pregnant. Unfortunately, as the *Gainesville Sun* reports, Pam entered into a coma after she contracted amoebic dysentery, an infection of the intestine caused by a parasite found in a con-taminated food or drink. The treatment for the medical condition would require strong medications that doctors told Pam had caused irreversible damage to Tim — so they advised her to have an abortion ... (However she) refused the abortion and cited her Christian faith as the reason for her hope that her son would be born without the devastating disabilities physicians predicted. Pam ultimately spent the last two months of her pregnancy in bed and, eventually, gave

birth to a healthy baby boy in August 1987. — Life News

\* \* \*

**Harry Potter Out-sells the Bible.** — A few weeks ago, the final edition of the Harry Potter series sold 8.3 million copies in a single day here in the

United States, and 2.65 million copies were sold in Great Britain over the same 24-hour period. People stood in line all night to purchase the book based on witchcraft and the occult. Customers paid an average of \$34.99 per copy. An estimated 325 million Harry (See WNR on page 18)

## The Coming Year

Throughout the coming year  
Show me Thy way;  
Teach me Thy paths, O Lord,  
From day to day.

The Lord doth go before,  
His Word assures;  
He guards and keeps His child,  
His love endures.

"Ye shall find rest" indeed,  
Thus saith the Lord,  
If walking in His ways  
Shown in His Word.

If we acknowledge Him,  
The faithful Guide,  
He will direct and lead,  
Whate'er betide.

Blest Savior, teach our hearts  
Just to be still;  
To heed Thy guiding Voice,  
To do Thy will.

May Christ our Shepherd be  
Through this New Year,  
For sheltered in His love  
There's naught to fear.

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 17)

Potter books have been sold worldwide. The Potter series is now printed in 65 languages. As a result of the profits from her Harry Potter series, the author, J.K. Rowling, is said to be the richest woman in the world. — CN

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### **Baptists Continue Dialogue With Rome.** —

The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) continued its dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church with a second round of talks at the Vatican this month. The plan is to “examine” issues such as Scripture and tradition, baptism and the sacraments, the role of Mary, and the primacy of the pope. Pope Benedict XVI told the Baptist representatives that “the lack of unity between Christians openly contradicts the will of Christ, provides a stumbling block to the world, and harms the most holy cause of proclaiming the good news to every creature” (“Pope calls Catholics and Baptists to Common Witness,” Dec. 7, 2007, Catholic News Agency). To the contrary, Christ did not pray for any sort of unity between truth and error. His prayer in John 17 was a prayer for God’s blessing on those who keep God’s Word, so it applies neither to the BWA nor to the apostate

Roman Catholic Church. “I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. . . . For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. . . . Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:6, 8, 17). Christ exhorted His people to “beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matthew 7:15). The believer is obligated to preach God’s Word, not dialogue with error. — FBIS

\* \* \*

### **Plan For Creationist Theme Park Draws Fire.** —

A British charity has drawn national attention — and come under attack — over plans to build a theme park, including a television studio, to promote creationism. The AH Trust said in its annual report that it wants to build a \$7 million interactive studio to produce Christian films and television shows, partly to draw British teenagers away from anti-social behavior, including binge drinking. The charity said its members, several of whom are drawn from the media sector, had become dis-

gusted at the sex and violence available on British television, along with the decline in churchgoing in society. In fighting that trend, the planned studio is projected to attract 5,000 people nightly for tapings of Christian-oriented shows, as well as give teenagers a chance to learn TV production skills. The AH Trust also plans to use the studio to promote the account of the creation recorded in the biblical book of Genesis and to combat what it sees as the malign influence on society of Darwin’s theory of evolution. “Evolution has falsely become the foundation of our society,” the report said. “We need the studio to advocate Genesis across this land in order to remove this falsehood which presently is destroying the church foundation.” — CNS

\* \* \*

### **Canadian Man “Banned For Life” From Criticizing Homosexuality.** —

The following is excerpted from “Catholic Activist ‘Banned for Life,’” LifeSiteNews, Dec. 13, 2007) — “The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission’s decision to impose a ‘lifetime’ ban on a local Catholic’s freedom to publicly criticize homosexuality, was upheld this week in its entirety by Saskatchewan Court of Queens Bench. Bill Whatcott, a licensed practical

nurse who lives in Saskatchewan, is a campaigner against the homosexual political movement that is sweeping the Canadian legal system. In 2006, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (SHRC) ordered Whatcott to pay \$17,500 Cn. to four complainants who complained that their ‘feelings’ and ‘self-respect’ were ‘injured’ by Whatcott’s pamphlets denouncing the ‘gay lifestyle’ as immoral and dangerous. Whatcott says he was fined for his pamphlets that used ‘verbatim’ a text from a classified personal advertisement in a local homosexual publication that ran, ‘Man seeking boys. . . . age not so relevant.’ Canadians concerned about what they see as the erosion of basic democratic freedoms are calling for a stop to the extra-judicial powers of the Human Rights Commissions in which the usual rules for due process of law do not apply. Ottawa Citizen columnist David Warren blasted the Human Rights Tribunals, calling them ‘kangaroo courts’ and ‘star chambers’ with ‘quasi-legal powers that should be offensive to the citizens of any free country . . . in which the defendant’s right to due process is withdrawn.’ He says, ‘They reach judgments on the basis of no fixed law,’ and, ‘the process is the punishment for simply by

(See WNR on page 19)

# The Church — It's Institution and It's Witness

By W. Lee Rector

The church of the living God is the body of Christ, a local assembly of baptized believers, covenanting to preach the gospel to every creature throughout the ages, thus honoring the commission of Christ, its head, and actually yielding its life to the personal supervision, enduement, and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The church was founded by Christ Jesus in person, during His personal ministry on earth, and immediately after His return from His wilderness temptation (Mk. 3:13-14; Lk. 6:12-13). He called unto Him His disciples (made by John the Baptist) and organized His body. That the church was organized in the mountain at the time He called the disciples unto Him is seen in the following facts:

A church is a called out body — These were called out. A church is a body of baptized believers — These believers were baptized by John. A church is an organized body — This body was organized by the Lord. The Lord ordained twelve of their number, set them first in the church and then sent them out as evangelists and missionaries from the church (1

Cor. 12:28; Lk. 9:1-10). The church was organized with its official family and upon its institution the Lord delivered to it the beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12).

That the church was organized by the Lord before the Day of Pentecost, following the resurrection of the Master, is proved by the following facts:

1. The Lord organized it in the very beginning of His personal ministry on earth (Mk. 3:13-14; Lk. 6:12-13).

2. The Lord during this ministry affirmed Himself to be its builder and its perpetuator throughout the ages to come (Mt. 16:18).

3. The Lord delegated to His church the authority to act for heaven (Mt. 16:19; 18:18), and this delegation further proved the church's existence before Pentecost, following the resurrection, since Christ had not been crucified at that time.

4. The Lord instituted the Lord's Supper and set it in the church (Mt. 26:26-29), and this was done before His death. All worshipping bodies assume that the church is the custodian of the Lord's Supper. Pseudo-baptists do

this in spite of the fact that the Supper was instituted by the Lord before His death. Paul sets forth the detailed instructions for the administration of the Supper, given by the Lord to His disciples or His church (1 Cor. 11:23-30).

5. The Lord set the ordinance of baptism in the same body before His crucifixion (Mt. 28:19).

6. The Commission was given to His church to evangelize, and to baptize, and to teach (Mt. 28:19-20) and this was done before His death.

7. The Lord assembled Himself with His body, after His resurrection, and before His ascension, and this was before the Pentecost following His resurrection (Acts 1:4).

8. The Lord delivered His body, its Magna Carta while renewing the Commission. He had previously given to it and then He ascended (Acts 1:8-9).

9. The church transacted business in old-fashioned Baptist way and this was before Pentecost dawned (Acts 1:15-26).

10. The Lord added to them (the church) on the Day of Pentecost, about three thousand souls (Acts 2:41). Since something

cannot be added to nothing, then the church had to be in existence for the Lord to have something in which to add the saved.

These ten facts ought to prove to any unbiased mind that the church of the living God was founded by the Lord Jesus Christ in person during His earthly ministry and that it both existed and operated before the Day of Pentecost, following the Lord's resurrection.

The church instituted by the Lord Jesus is God's lone witness on earth. A Convention of Baptists has no authority to witness for Christ — that's His body's business. An Association of Baptists had no authority to witness for Christ — that's His church's business. [An organized Fellowship has no authority to witness for Christ — that's His church's business. — the Editor.] The church's authority to bind, to loose, to witness, to baptize, and to teach is set forth in Matthew (16:19; 18:18; 28:19-20).

We challenge the reader to give us scriptural evidence of any other group ever receiving authority to

(See **RECTOR** on page 22)

**PAUL . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

to do three things according to our Scripture: 1. He was resolved to forget past things; 2. He was resolved to follow present things; and 3. He was resolved to follow primary thing.

Let us observe:

### **I. Paul's Resolution to Forget Past Things.**

This resolution is contained in the words: "*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind*" (Phil. 3:13a).

Dr. Norman B. Harrison comments as follows on Paul's foregoing statement: "He is intent on 'one thing' " 'forgetting the *behind* things' (13b) — they have lost their grip on him, and 'stretching forward' to the '*before* things' (13c) one can see the alert, bent-forward figure of the runner, pressing on under a great urge" (p. 65, **His In Joyous Experience**).

In the context we have an indication of what these "past things" were for Paul lists certain past advantages which he had both natural and acquired and then evaluates them. No doubt many of our readers can identify with Paul in this recital and evaluation.

He enumerates the natural advantages that he had in these words: "*Though I might also have*

*confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh. I more: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews*" (Phil. 3:5b-6). Someone has pointed out that these advantages proceed from the lower to the higher or are "on an ascending scale."

Following this enumeration his natural advantages, Paul now proceeds to enumerate his acquired advantages: "*As touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless*" (Phil. 3:5b, 6). Someone has pointed out that these advantages proceed from the lower to the higher or are "on an ascending scale."

Following this enumeration of natural and acquired advantages, the apostle briefly evaluates both by saying: "*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ*" (Phil. 3:7). These are the things that Paul is forgetting — completely forgetting for they are like opponents in the race for the prize. Someone has aptly said, "We need to forget our successes as well as our failures."

As we move on we note,

### **II. Paul's Resolution To Follow Present Things.**

This particular resolution is made clear by this statement: "*Reaching forth unto those things which are before*" (Phil. 3:13b). Dr. Kenneth Wuest comments helpfully on the words, "reaching forth." "The words 'reaching forth' are from another Greek athletic term which describes the runner whose 'eye outstrips and draws onward the hand and the hand the foot.' The word means 'to stretch forth after'."

Again the context sheds light on Paul's meaning. First, it is to win and be found in Christ; and secondly, it is to know Christ.

In Philippians 3:8-9, Paul elaborates on the first phase of his resolution to follow present things: "*Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.*" Paul refers to this same contrast between the righteousness of the law and of the righteousness which is by the faith of Christ in Romans 3:21-22. Paul's resolve is not only to have this righteousness which is by the faith of

Christ in his standing, but also in his daily walk.

In his resolution to know Christ, Paul in the context suggests four relationships. First, he wants to know Him experientially in the power of His resurrection as we read in Philippians 3:10a: "*That I may know him in the power of his resurrection.*" This overcoming power is described by Paul in his letter to the Ephesians: "*And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come*" (Eph. 1:19-21). Surely, this is all the power that the believer needs.

Then Paul wants to know Christ in the fellowship of His suffering: "*And the fellowship of his suffering*" (Phil. 3:10b). God granted this desire according to Paul's second letter to Timothy: "*Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the sal-*

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**PAUL . . .**

(Continued from page 20)

*vation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: if we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us"* (2 Tim. 23:9-12).

Then Paul wanted to know Christ by being conformed to His death: "*Being made conformable to his death*" (Phil. 3:10c). Surely this would mean reckoning himself as having died with Christ and therefore dead to sin (the old nature) according to Romans 6:1-4). Possibly it also means to be delivered unto death as he writes to the Corinthians: "*For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be manifest in our mortal flesh*" (2 Cor. 4:11).

But Paul also wanted to know Christ in conformity to His resurrection as he says in Philippians 3:11-12: "*If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*" Surely Paul was not uncertain as to his being in the resurrection unto life (see 1 Cor. 15:20-23; 1 Thess. 4:16-18). It seems that his desire is that

he might manifest that victorious life — out from among the things of sin and death — in his present experience through that close fellowship with Christ suggested by his statement to the believers at Galatia: "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me*" (Gal. 2:20).

Many years ago, I met a veteran missionary from China. Alex Saunders. At the close of a service as he took my hand in his, he said, "Archie, the Lord intends everything He brings into your life to help you to know Him better."

Pressing on, we see:

### **III. Paul's Resolution To Follow Primary Things.**

This is evident in his declaration: "*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 3:14).

Here Paul suggests a place or a goal to reach as he refers to the "mark." No doubt he is likening our life to a race and the finish line is at the end. There is also a prize for reaching this mark, or goal.

In the book of Hebrews under a similar figure, we are admonished to "*Lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so*

*easily beset us,*" and to "*run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith*" (Heb. 12:1-2). Then Paul indicates his strict self-discipline in these lines: "*I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it unto subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway (or disapproved)*" (1 Cor. 9:26-27).

Dr. H. A. Ironside comments: "What he says is that there is only one thing

he professes to have apprehended or laid hold of, namely, that the path of blessing is found in forgetting the things that are past and seeking to lay hold practically of his position in Christ from day to day while keeping the goal in view" (pp. 87-88, **Notes on Philippians**).

Paul closes with the exhortation: "*Let us therefore, as many as be perfect (in Christ), be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you*" (Phil. 3:15). Paul thus urges all believers to adopt and keep the resolutions that he made. May we do so. □

## **God's Will For You and Me**

Just to be tender, just to be true,  
Just to be glad the whole day through;  
Just to be merciful, just to be mild,  
Just to be trustful as a little child;

Just to be gentle, kind, and sweet,  
Just to be helpful, with willing feet;  
Just to be cheery when things go wrong,  
Just to drive sadness away with a song;

Whether the hour is dark or bright,  
Just to be loyal to God and right;  
Just to believe that God knows best,  
Just to His promises ever to rest;

Just to let love be our daily key;  
That is God's will for you and me.

## How Shall They Hear?

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? (Rom. 10:13-14).

Are you one of these people that think your duty ends with tithing or by going to church every Sunday morning? If you are, woe be unto you!

How do you expect the lost people of this sin-cursed earth to hear about Christ and His saving power if you don't do something about it besides sitting around in an easy chair twiddling your thumbs and building up treasures on earth? Friend, it just can't be done that way!

Mark 16:15 says, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Who is going to do this if you don't? There are literally millions of people all over the world who are lost and on their

way to hell, and literally millions who have never had a chance to hear the gospel. Do you think it is fair for you to do nothing about it?

What would you do if you had a child and you told that child to go to bed and the child stubbornly refused to do it? I'll tell you what you would do. You would punish the child so it would do what you wanted it to do.

Well, brother, you had better watch out if you are not doing what the Lord wants you to do. Just remember how He brought old Jonah down to his prayer-bones in the fish's belly, and remember what the outcome was. Jonah went to Ninevah and by the grace of God every person in Ninevah was saved, even the vilest of criminals.

If you are fighting the call of God, remember God created the universe, the earth, and breathed the breath of life into man; He can also provide the grace for you to lay everything on the altar if you will only let Him do so.

According to the Bible, we are living the last days and you know as well as I do that Christ might come back at any time. Would you want Him to catch you astride the fence of indecision, or would you want Him to find you gathering in the harvest of souls?

Make your decision now before it is everlastingly too late. Pray about it — Prayer Changes Things! (I know.) — A friend in Christ. □

**WNR . . .**

(Continued from page 18)

agreeing to hear a case, they tie up the defendant in bureaucracy and paperwork, and bleed him for the cost of lawyers, while the person who brings the complaint, however frivolous, stands to lose nothing.' Conservatives in Canada are supporting a petition, addressed to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, to abolish or at least curtail the powers of the Human Rights Commissions. — FBIS

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**Ford Motor Company Offers Sex Change Benefits.** — The December 18 edition of *The Advocate*, a magazine for homosexuals, featured the

transgender issue. A transgender is a person appearing or attempting to be a member of the opposite sex, as a transsexual or habitual cross-dresser. *The Advocate* article showed numerous pictures of people who had sex operations to change from male to female, and vice-versus (I'll spare you the details). *Ford Motor Company placed a full page ad for its Volvo brand in the publication.* Ford offers medical benefits to help pay expenses of those who choose to undergo sex change operations. *Ford pays for mental health counseling, hormone therapy, medical visits, and short-term disability after surgical procedures for employees who desire to change their sex.* — AFA □

**RECTOR . . .**

(Continued from page 19)

speak for heaven, and remember that the execution of this authority is limited to two functions — executive and judicial. All legislative function for the church is denied. We Baptists have long rightly laid the task of truth on the sore backs of Pedo-baptists for practicing legislative function in their so-called church life — And by the way, aren't we Baptists doing some legislation for the Lord when we set up assemblies and boards and grant them authority to act for our churches? □

**“Is it right to support the evils in the Cooperative Program?”  
This is just another way of asking,  
“Is it right to do wrong?”  
The answer is obvious.**

**MATHIS . . .**

(Continued from page 3)

unlimited number of cells, freeze them for any amount of time, then thaw them and make identical animals." The mechanics of this cloning process is not described but assuming that it is true in the full sense of the word, it would seem to indicate the reproduction of a species having the same DNA code as the original animal. This would involve the by-passing of the reproduction process described above. It would be a sexless, laboratory manipulation of living genetic material.

Man has always sought means to eternally perpetuate himself and although the original subject would still die, theoretically, he would be able to reproduce the human body with the same DNA code. That individual would be different based on those factors that mold individuals after birth such as experience, education, etc.

Now the question is, if man successfully accomplishes this, what will he have? The advocates of cloning are again assuming that humans are nothing more than molecules and cells and life nothing more than biological reactions of these components. But the Bible teaches that man is a triune being (thus differing from animals) having a body, soul and spirit. Man has an immortal soul. Will God permit such a process

to produce a man with an immortal soul or will this process merely create an unfeeling monster? I am well aware that God created the whole human race in the first man, Adam. I am also aware that reproduction is according to the natural laws decreed by God. But this process of cloning is by-passing God's laws of reproduction.

Assuming God permits immortal souls (the evolutionist doesn't believe man has an immortal soul) to come into existence by this process, it would be possible to reproduce many bodies with essentially the same DNA code; all from the same original individual. In this process, man is again tampering with the basic identity of the individual and, in essence, playing god. The Bible teaches that Satan is the god of this world and I have little doubt that, unless God intervenes, man will attempt this process.

As Nimrod (a type of the Antichrist) tried to build a tower to heaven, so, I believe, will man attempt to create a genetically perfect human being. But remember this, God intervened at the tower of Babel and I believe He will intervene in this attempt. This research is telling us that the return of Christ is near. God's intervention may well be the return of Christ for His people. At that time, the Holy Spirit, who resists Satan, will be removed

from this world. I have little doubt that the Antichrist will continue this research.

**Summary**

The Bible teaches that God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). He created all things including space, time, energy, matter and all the laws that govern these things. He placed an order in this creation such that atoms act within their sphere according to laws that govern them; molecules in their sphere according to the laws that govern them; cells in their sphere according to the laws that govern them; and on and on. He is the upholder and sustainer of all things.

The evolutionist claims to use the laws of physics to trace the evolution of the universe backwards to its origin but he cannot explain why these laws exist. He explains one law with another law and never reaches the first cause (which we believe is God). The evolutionist well knows that all the components of this universe act according to their own laws within their own sphere but he seeks a unification theory to tie it all together and explain how it all began. Einstein spent the last 30 years of his life seeking such a theory and today hundreds of scientists, of all disciplines, are spending billions of dollars (in manpower and equipment)

in searching for the origin of life and for other life in our universe. The Bible gives an eloquent and simple explanation, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Sanity will not permit any other explanation. The Bible does not explain or defend the existence of God and every man has within the knowledge that there is a God. He may repress this knowledge as a consequence of unsound education and peer pressure, but that knowledge still exists. Many men, who have denied the existence of God all of their lives, have reached the end of their lives with fear of standing before that God after death.

Evolution is a secular religion built around an unproved theory of men who do not want to submit to an omnipotent God. They, nevertheless, will die (this is a reality that none can escape) and stand before God and answer for every individual that they have influence to believe this lie. If you are an evolutionist, recognize that there is a God and that you, as all men, are a sinner and put your trust in Christ as your Savior before it is eternally too late.

*"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto*

(See **MATHIS** on page 24)

**FELLOWSHIPS  
and  
CONFERENCES**

**LUBBOCK, TX**

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

\* \* \*

**ST. CLAIR, MO**

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

\* \* \*

**DEARBORN HGTS., MI**

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

**MATHIS . . .**

(Continued from page 23)

*them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation*" (Hebrews 9:27-28).

*"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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved"* (John 3:16-17). □

**PATH . . .**

(Continued from page 6)

count — think of the coming of the Lord, and prepare to meet Him; *"Awake, thou that sleepest, arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee life."*

Are you wondering if a wretch so vile as you may hope to be saved? Do you feel the serpent's sting? Do you know the plague of your own heart? Then we have joyful news for you. Throw yourself for acceptance and eternal life upon the infinite merits of Jesus, and you shall be saved. No merit but His, no intercessor but Him, no mediator but Christ will avail you. All the saints and angels on earth and in Heaven cannot give you peace here or glory hereafter.

Go to God simply and entirely through Christ, breathing no name but the name of Jesus, and God, for Christ's alone sake, will accept, pardon, and save you. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."*

Dear reader, if Christ is in you, and you are in Christ, and these blessed truths are heartfelt truths in your experience, then may I not wish you joy of the New Year into which the good hand of the Lord has brought you? The year that is passed has brought you nearer home; the year that has commenced may bring you to that home. There

may we, through the everlasting love and sovereign grace of God, at last meet and sing together, *"Worthy the Lamb that was slain."* □

**SABOTEUR . . .**

(Continued from page 2)

in the presence of his children — and thus incites them to rebellion against the church. He stirs up strife and spreads discontent among the people if he can not have his own way at the board meeting — thus sinning against the fellowship. He complains about the apportionments, declaring that, "The overhead is too high." He becomes the center of a little group of malcontents and "fights for a principle" until the life of the entire congregation is disrupted.

His generosity, his dependability and his moral character entitle him to a place of honor in the life of the church.

His spirit of criticism, his disposition to peddle gossip, and his derisive attitude, combine to make him a dangerous saboteur. — Copied □

**SHADOWS . . .**

(Continued from page 7)

just prior to the birth of John the Baptist, eligible priests were so numerous that each offered incense but once in his lifetime. John's father, Zacharias, was offering incense the one and only time in his life's

service as a priest when the angel appeared to announce the coming birth of John.

The veil or curtain that separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy place, represented the body of Christ, broken, torn, for us (Heb. 10:19-20). When Christ was crucified, the veil was torn from the top down to the bottom, thus the uncrucified body of our Savior was crucified, torn, making a new and living way into the Holy of Holies, or heaven for us. Not new in the sense of having never existed before, but new in contrast with the Jewish mistaken and untrue idea of salvation by works; new to every Jew who adhered to the current teachings of the Jewish priests of that day.

Inside the veil, beyond Christ, who stands between us and God, stands the throne of God represented by the ark of the covenant with its mercy seat overlaid with gold and overshadowed by the winged cherubim. Thus, the Tabernacle and its furnishings typified heaven, God's throne and a Savior with wounded hands and feet and side, a gracious offering for all our sins! □ □

**Why?  
is it that children  
can't read a Bible in  
school, but they can  
read one in prison?**