

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 525

Can A Muslim Be A Good American?

This is something I've wondered about for some time now: How and why do the Muslims hate us and everyone else so much? Doesn't their God teach them to love? Can a good Muslim be a good American?

I sent that question to a friend who worked in Saudi Arabia for 20 years.

The following is his reply:

Theologically — No. Because his allegiance is to Allah, the moon god of Arabia.

Religiously — No. Because no other religion is accepted by his Allah except Islam (Quran, 2:256).

Scripturally — No. Because his allegiance is to

the five pillars of Islam and the Quran (Koran).

Geographically — No. Because his allegiance is to Mecca, to which he turns in prayer five times a day.

Socially — No. Because his allegiance to Islam forbids him to make friends with Christians or Jews.

Politically — No. Because he must submit to the mullah (spiritual leaders), who teach annihilation of Israel and Destruction of America, the great Satan.

Domestically — No. Because he is instructed to marry four women and beat and scourge his wife when

(See **MUSLIM** on page 5)

[These messages were preached on the radio, Monday through Friday.]

In our message of yesterday we said that Jesus Christ was God, God manifest in the flesh. As the messages continue we expect to develop many lines of thought, each proving the deity of the Lord Jesus. There will be five messages in the series. Each message while based in part upon the preceding messages will be separate and distinct. We hope and trust that you will be able to hear all of the messages.

The Deity of the Lord Jesus — #4

By M. L. Moser, Sr.

Today we take up several statements in the Bible, each stating in so many words the deity of Jesus Christ.

First, Jesus Christ says

so. "I and my Father are one" (Jn. 10:30). "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9). These statements can mean nothing less than identity

Our Computer Crashed

We are late getting the September issue of **The Baptist Challenge** on line due to the fact that our Computer "crashed." The motherboard had to be replaced, along with some

other parts of the hardware, so that it took over two weeks for it to be sent off and then returned to us. We hope to get back on schedule with the October issue.

with the Father. Remember that while there is but one God there are three distinct persons in the Godhead and Jesus Christ is the second member of the Godhead family. There are other statements made by the Lord Jesus that we could give but these two are sufficient.

Second, God the Father says so. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:17). Also "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (Mt.

(See **MOSER** on page 2)

Quiz The Pastor -- #6**Information Given About The Virgin Birth of Jesus**

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: I'm interested in the birth of Jesus. I want some information about the Virgin Birth.

Answer: Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a young lady who lived in the town of Nazareth. She was "A virgin" (Lk. 1:27). She had plans to marry a man who lived in the same town named Joseph to whom she was engaged.

It was at this time that the angel Gabriel appeared to her, and declared she was to conceive in her womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus" (Lk. 1:31), and this was to be done in a miraculous way without sexual contact with any man (Lk. 1:34-35). Her betrothal to Joseph was good in that she could be married, and thus protect her good name when the baby Jesus would be born.

Now, when Joseph

discovered his future wife was with child, he sought to privately put her away (Mt. 1:19), but an angel appeared to him in a dream, and told him to go ahead and marry her for her pregnancy was a fulfilled prophecy found in Isaiah 7:14 where we read, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign (miracle): Behold a (*the*) virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name, Immanuel."

Joseph then took Mary as his wife, but though they lived together, they did not live together sexually, as husband and wife, until after Jesus was born (Mt. 1:25). The Holy Spirit takes special care to insert this verse with this intimate detail to show us that the unborn Savior could not possibly be sinfully infected by a human father. His Father was God the Father.

He was "the Son of the highest" (Lk. 1:32). "His only begotten son" (Jn. 3:16).

Since the sin of Adam (Gen. 3), all humans born thereafter, without exception, inherit a sin nature from their parents. Like begets like (Rom. 5:12; Psa. 51:5; 58:3; Eph. 2:3). Since the Word of God teaches our Lord Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:15), then in some way He must be apart from sinners, that is, He must be born without a sin nature. He must escape the corruptible taint of the sin nature that contaminates the whole human race.

If Jesus was born with a sin nature, He then was no different than any other sinner. He therefore would have died because of His own sin, and He Himself would have been in need of a Savior. However, the Wisdom of God resolves this dilemma. The problem is solved by the Virgin conception and birth of our Lord. Through the Virgin Birth, He will by-pass the normal means of transference of the sin nature.

Obviously, the answer lies in the fact that the sin nature is passed from the father to the child, and not from the mother to the child. Jesus did not have a human father because God was His father. Mary was the mother of His body, but did not transmit her sin nature to her infant Son. Mankind needs a Savior that is of such infinite worth

as to provide salvation for all. Only God Himself can meet this need.

Yet, He must die (Rom. 6:23). Can God die? No! God, who is "Spirit" (Jn. 4:24), can clothe Himself in a human body that can die (Heb. 10:5; Jn. 1:14), but it must be a body that is without a sin nature, and thus live sinlessly. Thus, the necessity of the Virgin Birth. Our Lord was sinless, immaculate and impeccable, for "in him was no sin" (1 Jn. 3:5). "He knew no sin" (2 Cor. 5:21), and in this way He was divinely qualified to "taste death for every man (Heb. 2:9), and to believe in Him as our Savior gives us assurance we shall be saved (Acts 16:30-31). □

MOSER . . .

(Continued from page 1)

17:5). In these two passages of Scripture God affirms that Jesus is His son.

But some will say "Are not Christians also called the sons of God?" Yes, but there is a great distinction. God has many sons. In the Old Testament angels are called the sons of God, sons of Elohim, God in His creative power. Angels are not born sons but created sons. They occupy the place of sons by appointment.

Again Christians are called the sons of God in many places. We become

(See **MOSER** on page 23)**THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE**

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The Book of Revelation -- Message #12**The Seven Churches of Asia**

By M. L. Moser, Editor

“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches. Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write: These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks” (Rev. 1:20-2:1).

By way of review, last Sunday evening we talked to you about the subject of the church. Here we are reading about churches. It says “the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.” For us to understand what the Lord is talking about, we must know the meaning of the word church, and we pointed out to you that it comes from a Greek word *ecclesia* which comes from two Greek words, the word *ek* and the word *kaleo*. *Ek* means “out of,” *kaleo* means “to call” and combined means “to call out” and “to call together.” We see then that the word *ecclesia* or church means “an assembly” or “congre-

gation”. It was used by the Greeks to denote their assemblies of free citizens who convened for the purposes of conducting the public affairs of their city similar to what our city council or our state legislature would be in which you have a House of Representatives and a Senate.

Unless they are assembled you do not have a House of Representatives. Unless they are assembled you do not have a Senate. They must be assembled in order for them to function. In fact, I read this week in the paper about some action the City Directors took relative to Cable TV, and it was ruled that legally they could not take action because they were not all assembled together. There was supposed to be a quorum out of the seven and there weren't, and therefore they said that any action they took was an invalid action.

It is the same with the church. There must be an assembly. Unless you have an assembly you do not have a church. The word church is used in just two senses. One is the institutional sense in which the word is used in a generic or general sense, and the other in its concrete sense.

We pointed out to you that in Ephesians 5 that the Lord compared the church with a husband and wife. He said, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 5:23).

Now there are those who attempt to use the word church in Ephesians 5 as though it was a universal, invisible body, called the universal, invisible church. But we pointed out that this cannot be true, or else you have a big universal, invisible husband, and a big universal, invisible wife, because they are used in the identical same fashion and the church is analogous or similar to the relationship with her Lord as it is between a wife and her husband. What we find then is that there is no such universal, invisible church taught in the Word of God. The universal, invisible church idea is a derivation and corruption of the universal, visible church of the Roman Catholic church. It was invented by Protestantism in order that they might find some way to call themselves a church, since they had come out of what they had previously taught was the church.

When you find the word church in the Bible, it always refers to a local, visible assembly. It may be, using it in the generic sense as we find in Ephesians 5, where the word “church” does not refer to any particular church. The word church always refers to a

local assembly.

In this passage we find that there are “churches” in Asia. You note that He does not say “the church in Asia.” The church is not composed of, or the sum of, *all* the churches, but *each* church is a separate, distinct and independent body, “and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”

These seven churches are roughly arranged in a circle. These are not all of the churches in existence, but seven that were selected because of their being types or representatives of all churches. In other words, as we read these letters to these seven churches in chapters two and three, we find that there are churches today like the church at Ephesus, and there are some churches today that are like the church of Laodicea. You will find some churches like each of these seven churches. So they are representatives of seven different types of churches. Also, you will note that Christ is in the center or in the midst of His churches, showing that He is equally near each of His churches.

Now these churches have a fourfold significance. There was first of all, a local application applying to each of the churches addressed. For instance, in these first few verses of chapter two we find this letter written to the

(See **REV** on page 12)



McDonald's Pays 56 Employees To Attend Meeting Promoting the Gay Agenda

In January, McDonald's paid for travel and accommodations for 56 employees to attend the "Pioneer Summit" in San Diego. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a plan to promote the gay agenda within the company. Those attending were thrilled that McDonald's

showed such support for their agenda.

"It was truly inspiring to see McDonald's Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender members come together to share heartfelt, personal stories about their journeys, challenges and personal reflections. Better under-

standing these journeys ... will **help us better grow our people** in the restaurants and across the company," said Brian Unger, senior vice president.

AFA has asked McDonald's to remain neutral in the culture battle – to neither oppose

nor support the gay agenda. McDonald's has refused, choosing to support those groups and individuals promoting the gay agenda — **including homosexual marriage**. A McDonald's official (Bill Whitman) went so far as to say that those who oppose the gay agenda are motivated by hate. □

When Did Christ Build His Church?

By Louis Entzinger

The Church was built before Pentecost because:

1. Jesus said He would build it. Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church." The Holy Spirit "filled" it — He couldn't fill what didn't exist, Acts 2:1-4.

2. He had a large group of disciples long before Pentecost, (John 1:33-51).

3. He chose the twelve Apostles before Pentecost, (Luke 6:12-16; Mark 3:18-19). They had a treasurer, which shows at least a simple form of organization. Though he proved a traitor that doesn't change the fact.

4. He taught them and trained them for three years, beginning with Matt.

5, 6, and 7. See also Luke 24:27.

5. He sent them out to the work, Matt. 10:1-16, etc.

6. Dr. C. I. Scofield who claims the Pentecost theory says of Matthew 18:20, "The simplest form of a local church," and Jesus had at least 12 and maybe more He sent forth to preach "the Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." Seventy ("other seventy") in Luke 10:1, in addition to the twelve apostles. This makes 82 preachers, a very good-sized church, at least 25 times as large as Dr. Scofield's "simplest form of a church."

7. All the above were baptized by John the Baptist or Jesus' disciples. (Acts 1:22 and John 4:1-2), and John's baptism was from heaven, (Matt. 21:25). Jesus and the twelve had no other.

8. He instituted the Lord's Supper which every protestant denomination, as well as Baptists and Catholics, claim is a church ordinance, (Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20).

9. He gave them the great commission before Pentecost, (Matt. 28:18-20) and this includes "make disciples and baptize them." This was to continue until the end of the age ac-

cording to His promise to be with them.

10. This church met together on the first Lord's day and received the Holy Spirit as the Comforter (John 20:19-23). This was fifty days before Pentecost.

11. They were assembled together (Acts 1:4), and received other commandments (Acts 1:8), and saw Him ascend (Acts 10:11), and continued in prayer (v. 14), and there were about 120 of them (v. 15). This was before Pentecost.

12. They held a business meeting and elected a successor to Judas (v. 15-

(See **ENTZ** on page 22)

Saudis to Christians: Get out!

Those Accused of Worshipping in Homes Ordered Deported

More than a dozen Christians in Saudi Arabia who were accused by government officials of worshipping in their homes have been ordered deported.

According to a report from [International Christian Concern](#), the Christians will be expelled tomorrow for their part in a home worship service in Taif in April.

The deportation conflicts with the message stated just weeks earlier by Saudi King Abdullah, who called for interfaith dialogue and held a summit in Spain with a representatives from several major religions.

“Deporting Christians for worshipping in their private homes shows that King Abdullah’s speech is mere rhetoric and his country is deceiving the international community about their desire for change and reconciliation,” said Jeff King, the president of ICC.

The report from the Washington-based human rights group said 15 Christians will be deported. Sixteen had been arrested April 25 when a dozen Saudi Arabian police officers raided a home during a prayer [meeting](#).

“The first officer to enter the house after breaking down the main gate pointed a pistol at the

Christians and ordered them to hand over their resident permits and mobile phones,” the report said. “The other 11 police followed quickly and started searching the entire house. The confiscated an electronic drum set, an offering box with 500 Saudi Riyal in it (\$130), 20 Bibles, and a few Christian books.”

The worshippers initially faced accusations of preaching and singing. “They later changed the charge to holding a ‘dance party’ and collecting money to support terrorism,” the ICC said.

“During the raid, the police mocked, questioned and harassed the Christians for four hours,” ICC said. “Then they took them to a police station where the head of the station interrogated them. The head of the police then wrote down their ‘statements’ in Arabic and forced the Christians, who are immigrants and not able to read or write Arabic, to sign the statements.”

They were released three days later, and one Christian immediately left the country. The others returned to their work but soon got letters ordering their departures tomorrow, ICC said.

“Three weeks ago, Saudi Arabia hosted an

interfaith conference in Madrid, Spain. During the conference that took place from July 16-19, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia called for reconciliation among various religions,” ICC said.

According to an International Herald Tribune report, King Abdullah’s meeting drew about 200 representatives of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Taoism and other religions.

The reporter noted that the meetings had to be held outside of Saudi Arabia, because “the mere fact that rabbis would be openly invited to the kingdom, a country where in principle Jews are not permitted to visit, would have constituted a turning point.” □

MUSLIM . . .

(Continued from page 1)

she disobeys him (Quran 4:34).

Intellectually — No. Because he cannot accept the American Constitution since it is based on Biblical principles and he believes the Bible to be corrupt.

Philosophically — No. Because Islam, Mohammed, and the Quran do not allow freedom of religion and expression. Democracy and Islam cannot co-exist. Every Muslim government is either dictatorial or autocratic.

Spiritually — No. Because when we declare “one nation under God,” the

Christian’s God is loving and kind, while Allah is *never* referred to as heavenly father, nor is he ever called love in the Quran’s 99 excellent names. Therefore after much study and deliberation ... perhaps we should be very suspicious of *all Muslims* in this country. They obviously cannot be both “good” Muslims and good Americans. Call it what you wish ... it’s still the truth.

If you find yourself intellectually in agreement with the above statements, perhaps you will share this with your friends. The more who understand this, the better it will be for our country and our future. Pass it on, Fellow Americans.

This war is *much* bigger than most Americans know or can understand. Why do we keep allowing them to come to America? How many Germans and Japanese did we allow in during WW II? Probably Zero. Something is wrong with our government because they are either stupid, incompetent or just don’t care!!!!

(Copied from the Internet.)

It seems that our modern churches are full of willing people; some are willing to work, and others are willing to let them.



Obama Pledges ‘Total Equality’ for Same-Sex Families. — Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), who has studiously avoided coming out in full support of same-sex marriage, may have finally tipped his hand on how he really feels. In recent letters written to homosexual activist groups, the Democratic nominee said he supports homosexual couples adopt-ing babies. Further, he said, he wants to repeal the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defines marriage as being between one man and one woman — and forbids states from being forced to accept any other definition of marriage under the U.S. Constitution’s Full Faith and Credit Clause. In an Aug. 1 letter to a Boston-based homosexual rights group, the Family Equality Council, Obama specifically pledged to use the presidency to overturn DOMA — and pledged his support for homosexual “families” and efforts to totally redefine marriage. He wrote: “... (We also have to do more to support and strengthen LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered) families. Because equality

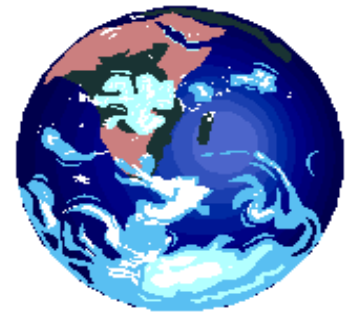
World News Roundup

in relationship, family, and adoption rights is not some abstract principle; it’s about whether millions of LGBT Americans can finally live lives marked by dignity and freedom. That’s why we have to repeal laws like the Defense of Marriage Act. That’s why we have to eliminate discrimination against LGBT families. And that’s why we have to extend equal treatment in our family and adoption laws,” Obama wrote. “I’ll be a president that stands up for American families — all of them,” he added.

* * *

ACLU Vying To Stop Naval Prayer. — Do Americans want a military free of all religious influence? That is the question being posed in response to a letter from the ACLU to the United States Naval Academy demanding that midshipmen not be allowed to pray before their noon meal. For decades, lunch at the U.S. Naval Academy has been preceded by a brief, voluntary prayer. But earlier this year, the American Civil Liberties Union wrote the Academy demanding that the prayers cease. The ACLU claims the prayers violate the so-called “separation of church and state.” But Joel Oster,

senior counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund, says the real intent of the letter is clear. “The ACLU wants to rid the U.S. government from anything religious. And this is just another example of them trying to get involved and trying to strip America from its religious heritage and its religious practices, and it must be stopped,” Oster contends. He says the ACLU and other anti-religious groups are seemingly even more aggressive in their opposition to all things godly than they have been in the past. “I think they’re ramping up their attacks. While in the past, maybe they’ve said, ‘We’re not really going after all prayer, just overtly sectarian prayer’,” he points out. “Now, the gloves are off and it’s clear they’re going after any and all prayers,” Oster explains. Oster says that ADF tries to avoid the distinction between sectarian and non-sectarian prayers because government should not be in the business of scrutinizing the content of anyone’s prayers. He argues that the military should be able to determine how to best prepare its men and women for combat, including acknowledging that there is a spiritual dimension to military service. ADF has offered to defend the Naval



Academy free of charge if the ACLU sues. — OON

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Obama Denies Protection For Infants of Botched Abortions. — A pro-life activist in Illinois says Barack Obama has repeatedly mischaracterized his opposition to the Illinois Born Alive Infants Protection Act while he was a state senator. The Federal Born Alive Infants Protection Act was signed into law in 2002 after receiving unanimous support from the U.S. Senate. The measure that forces hospitals to give medical care to abortion survivors — if warranted — even received the backing of liberal senators Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), Barbara Boxer (D-California), and Hillary Clinton (D-New York). Obama now says he did not support the Illinois measure because it “lacked the Federal language clarifying the act would not be used to undermine Roe vs. Wade.” Pro-life blogger [Jill Stanek](#) recently wrote a column for WorldNet-Daily.com titled “Obama’s

(See **WNR** on page 7)

Bill Cosby On Rev. Wright

Wall Street Journal

Rev. Wright epitomizes the thoughts and actions that have prevented and continue to prevent black America from moving ahead and achieving their potential as a people. He suggests that this United States of America, made up of sons and daughters of immigrants (I'm talking of the millions of 1st, 2nd, 3rd generation immigrants in this country) of every race, creed, color and religion each and everyone of them who had nothing to do with slavery, somehow owe something to a group of people who have never been slaved.

It's amazing. It seems everyone is to blame for the shambles black society is in with its violence, drugs, high school drop out rates, misogyny, and a host of other real and virulent problems, except for the very people who engage in such behavior.

Enough. As a society, culture or people, they should look within themselves and fix their problems.

When did this man become the spokesman for the "black church"? And of course his church is different, but that doesn't mean his message and philosophy is acceptable, or productive or non-offensive or non-racist or indicative of our greater cultural

behaviors, values and norms as Americans.

And yes, the link between this man and Obama really does matter. At a very minimum, it provides insight into the political and philosophical strain that Obama adheres to. □

God's Purpose

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a

paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.

It is given you in life, will be open in the judgment, and will be remembered forever.

It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents. □

Which Are You?

Are you an active member — the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the services and mingle with the throng,

And take an active part to help the Lord's work along?

Or are you satisfied to be the kind that *just belongs*?

Do you ever go to visit a member who is sick?

Do you leave the work to just a few and talk about a clique?

We have quite a program schedule I'm sure you've heard about;

And we'll be glad if you will come along and help us out.

Come to meetings often and help with hand and heart,

And don't be just a member, but take an active part.

This applies to all of us — we all know right from wrong!

Are you an active member, or do you *just belong*? □

WNR . . .

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biggest lie about supporting infanticide." She points out Obama actively opposed the Born Alive Infants Protection Act for three years in the Illinois senate. "He voted against it. He was the sole senator speaking against it on the [Illinois] senate floor [for] two years. And the third year, he held the bill from being considered altogether in committee and killed the bill," Stanek contends. She says Obama's explanation for opposing the Illinois bill does not pass the straight-face test because, as a committee chairman, he blocked the measure's sponsor from adding the federal language protecting *Roe vs. Wade*. That federal provision says the bill does not deny or add rights to the species *Homo Sapiens* before birth. Stanek fought to stop "live-birth abortion" after holding a live aborted baby at a Chicago-area hospital where she worked as a registered nurse." Barack Obama is now saying that, had that provision been in the Illinois bill he would have voted for it, which is absolutely false — because in 2003, the senate sponsor tried to add that provision and Barack Obama, as the chairman of the committee where the bill was being held, disallowed him from adding that provision, disallowed me

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WNR . . .

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from testifying, disallowed the committee from even voting on it. So, it sat in committee for 22 months,” Stanek explains. She reveals it was not until Obama left the Illinois Senate that the Illinois Born Alive Infants Protection Act passed in August of 2005. — OON

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Financial Profiting of Planned Parenthood.

— According to the April 2008 Annual Report of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America their total income was \$1.02 billion with profits reported at \$115 million. U.S. Taxpayers make up more than \$336 million of that in government grants and contracts at both state and federal levels. One third of PPFaA’s budget is from taxpayer funds, which includes support from those against PPFoA’s pro-abortion agenda. What was returned for this one-third incentive? Over a quarter of a million abortions, some of those now in court due to alleged botching and permanent infertility. — Washington Times.

* * *

The Global Warming Hoax.

— A mere 600 scientists and 2,500 assisting people are claimed by the United Nations to be

involved in the global warming science, while a much larger 22,000 scientists alone have signed a petition concluding that there is no danger of global warming. Dr. Arthur Robinson professor of chemistry and Co-founder of the Obregon Institute of Science and Medicine says the UN scientists are out “... *to try to determine something that isn’t knowable with current data and techniques, and produce a report ...*” He says further of the U.S. scientists, “... *that they often unethically omit that part of the data that does not agree with their hypothesis. They pick the parts of the data that favor their conclusions and discard the rest.*” — The New American

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Poll On Retaining “Under God.”

— NBC had a poll on the question of retaining “Under God” in our U.S. Pledge of Allegiance. They had the highest number of responses that they have ever had for one of their polls, and the percentages were: 85% to keep the words UNDER GOD in the Pledge of Allegiance and a mere 15% against keeping it.

* * *

Weather Channel Founder Ridicules Global Warming. — Founder

of The Weather Channel, John Coleman, ridiculed those so-called “climate experts” as pushing “*harmful public policies based on quack science.*” This blast at global warming came as government officials, journalists and representatives of environmental non-government organizations world-wide met in Indonesia on December 3, 2007 for a 12-day United Nations-sponsored conference on global climate change. Coleman, who has long-time meteorological experience, accused these “climate experts” of fear-mongering and proposing “*the greatest scam in history.*” He also accused them of having political motives of steering large grants their way, and to do so, are manipulating the long-term scientific data to create an illusion of rapid global warming. — The New America.

* * *

Tax Paid Sex Change.

— The IRS has determined that having a sex change was a medical necessity and called it “cosmetic surgery.” — AP

* * *

ACLU Opposes Prayer Again.

— They’re at it again. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is once again targeting the constitutionality of prayer — This time, they are leveling their

misguided threats at one of the most revered branches of our military ... the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland. For more than 160 years, there’s been a mealtime prayer at noon at the U.S. Naval Academy ... a time-honored tradition of voluntary prayer that is now under attack. The ACLU is demanding that the Naval Academy stop this long-standing tradition — or face a federal lawsuit. This is an outrage! Congress and Supreme Court precedent support voluntary prayer. But, the ACLU is trying to shut down prayer — claiming voluntary prayer somehow violates the U.S. Constitution. . . . The ACLU is dead wrong. The Naval Academy’s long-standing tradition of having a chaplain offer a brief word of prayer before lunch does not violate the First Amendment, nor does it endorse a particular religious viewpoint. The fact is the lunch time prayer at the Naval Academy is voluntary — and voluntary public acknowledgment of God is uniquely compatible with military service. We’ve sent the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy a detailed letter outlining the legal reasons why this prayer tradition — believed to date back to the school’s founding in 1845 — is not only proper but constitutional as well. We’ve launched this na-

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La Voz Del Desierto

¿Es Bíblica la Pena de Muerte? — #1

La pena capital fue abolida en Puerto Rico en 1929. Aunque hay crímenes federales que pueden ser castigados con la muerte, la Constitución del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, prohíbe la pena de muerte. Varias iglesias y organizaciones tales como la American Civil Liberties Union, el Colegio de Trabajadores Sociales, el Colegio de Tecnólogos Médicos, la Asociación de Sicología, la Coalición Puertorriqueña contra la Pena de Muerte y el Colegio de Abogados, son conocidos por su protesta contra la pena de muerte. Pero, ¿quién dijo que en Puerto Rico no existe una pena de muerte? En Puerto Rico existe una pena de muerte, de forma ilegal, que se aplica al inocente y no al criminal. El ciudadano decente tiene que estar confinado tras las rejas de su casa porque teme salir a caminar de noche, porque los criminales se creen dueños de la calle. De hecho, Puerto Rico es uno de los países más violentos del mundo (**El Nuevo Día**, 21 de abril de 2006).

Muchos sugieren que para proteger a la sociedad de los criminales, no es

necesaria la pena de muerte porque hay otros medios eficaces para conseguir esa defensa. Pero, ¿cuáles? Unos recomiendan la activación de la Guardia Nacional. Pero otros se oponen como el mismo superintendente de la policía, Pedro Toledo, diciendo que es costoso e innecesario. Otros recomiendan sentenciar a la persona a cadena perpetua. Pero, ¿y qué hay de los que están dentro de las cárceles? No sólo me refiero a los confinados sino también a los guardias penales. Los podrán encerrar para siempre pero eso no significa que no van seguir matando tanto dentro como fuera de la cárcel. Como fue el caso de Clarence Ray Alien, un hombre condenado en el Estado de California por ordenar el asesinato de tres personas cuando estaba preso por otro asesinato.

Por último, otro medio que sugieren es la incrementación de policías. Sin embargo, *“Puerto Rico tiene de la tasas de policías más altas del mundo y todavía hay gente diciendo que necesitamos más policías. Eso sería convertir esto en un*

estado policiaco”, dijo Salvador Santiago Negrón, presidente de Coprevi. Por lo tanto, parece que nada de lo que sugieren los opositores de la pena de muerte funciona.

Así que, ¿cuál es la verdadera solución y la respuesta para acabar con la violencia nuestra de cada día? *“El que derramare sangre de hombre, por el hombre su sangre será derramada; porque a imagen de Dios es hecho el hombre”* (Génesis 9:6). Dios no sólo aprueba la ejecución oficial del que ha sido culpable por un crimen capital, sino que también promete bendecir a la nación que obedece Su mandamiento diciendo: *“y te irá bien”* (Deuteronomio 19:11-13). La implicación también aquí es que la nación o el estado que no obedece Su mandamiento *“no le irá bien”* (Proverbios 21:7). Sin embargo, según el presidente del Colegio de Abogados, Julio Fontanet, la pena de muerte no va a reducir la incidencia criminal en Puerto Rico: *Todo lo contrario, en países donde existe la pena de muerte existe una mayor incidencia criminal que*

en aquellos países en donde no existe.” Sin embargo, es interesante notar que cuando los sentimentalistas del 1960 y 1970 quitaron la pena capital en Estados Unidos, fue precisamente en esos años que el asesinato en América literalmente se triplicó. Mientras más las ejecuciones disminuyen en esa nación, más son los homicidios. Mientras que en nuestra pequeña Isla desde que fue abolida la pena de muerte en 1929, tampoco le ha ido muy bien. De hecho, está siendo asediada por una ola de violencia que ha cobrado 42 vidas en los primeros 12 días del 2007. Este número de asesinatos es tres veces mayor que el de civiles que han perdido sus vidas en las calles de Irak en ese mismo período.

Si se puede probar que el asesinato de una vida inocente ha sido prevenido por un criminal entonces por supuesto que la pena de muerte podría reducir la incidencia criminal en nuestro país. Citamos un caso que demuestra que la pena de muerte si es un intimidatorio y disuasorio contra el crimen. En el

(Vea **PENA** en la pág. 10)

PENA . . .

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Oakland Tribune del 7 de mayo del 1967, apareció una carta escrita para el gobernador Ronald Reagan, de la Sra. Wanda Kuczynski, fechada el 16 de abril de 1967. Ella escribió lo siguiente:

“... usted salvó la vida de mi esposo el pasado domingo cuando un bandido lo derribó al suelo, se sentó sobre él y alzando su cuchillo a lo alto dijo: ‘Te voy a matar.’ Mi esposo, mientras luchaba para detener su mano le respondió: ‘Me podrás matar, pero si lo haces vas a ir a la cámara de gas letal?’ ¿Te gusaría ir a la cámara de gas letal?’ Mi esposo dijo que debido a estas palabras le mano que sujetaba la cuchilla tembló y aunque la lucha continuó por el revolver y el dinero, la cuchilla fue puesta abajo. Luego llego la policía y arres-

taron al hombre y a sus acompañantes. Cuando mi esposo se levanto otra vez me dijo: ‘el gobernador Reagan salvó mi vida.’ Es la vida de un hombre bueno y honesto que trabaja duro para vivir. Una vida que vale la pena salvar. Lo mejor que nos ha ocurrido es cuando usted se convirtió en nuestro gobernador. Le doy gracias con todo mi corazón y oro para que el Señor lo bendiga.”

Por lo tanto, la ejecución es necesaria porque sirve de escarmiento y freno a futuros criminales. Si una persona sabe que pondrá en peligro su vida si mata a alguien, habrá mucho menos violencia porque entonces lo pensará dos veces antes de privar la vida de un ser humano. De hecho, detiene permanentemente a la persona que es ejecutada pues nunca más volverá a quitar la vida a una persona inocente. En fin, el que diga que la pena capital no reduce la incidencia cri-

¿Qué Es El Libro de Mormón?

El Libro de Mormón es la máxima autoridad de fe y conducta para la iglesia que José Smith fundó. La iglesia mormona dice que El Libro de Mormón es tan palabra de Dios como la Biblia. Afirma ser la historia de los pobladores del hemisferio occidental. Dice que el Edén, donde Dios puso a Adán, estaba en Estados Unidos, en lo que ahora es el estado de Missouri.

Según la iglesia mormona, a su fundador, José Smith, se le presentó un ángel llamado Moroni y que el padre de éste, llamado Mormón, había esculpido en planchas de oro la historia de su pueblo la cual estaba a punto de ser exterminado por sus enemigos. Moroni había enterrado esas planchas de oro en un cerro cerca de lo que es ahora Palmyra, Nueva York.

El Libro de Mormón contradice las claras declaraciones del mismo Dios (Deuteronomio 19:19-20; Eclesiastés 8:11). Nuestro fracaso en administrar la pena de muerte ha motivado a individuos a cometer crímenes mayores. Más patrullas, más chalecos antibalas, más vigilancia es lo que se ha venido haciendo, y obviamente, no ha dado resultados.

Por Hno. Félix M. González Bulgalá Redactor.
[Continúa en la próxima mes.] □

Ahora se le aparecería a José para indicarle dónde se hallaban y le prestó unas piedras milagrosas con aspectos de lentes, que llamó “Utím” y “Turim” y con ellas podría leer la historia en las planchas en un lenguaje que Smith llamaba “egipto reformado.” Pero, ¿por qué José Smith no le enseñó a nadie las planchas de oro y los lentes milagrosos para confirmar su testimonio?

Debemos recordar que Satanás aún se disfraza como ángel de luz (2da Corintios 11:14), para confundir y engañar a la gente. Además, ¿pueden los ángeles de alguna manera proclamar otro evangelio que vaya más allá de la enseñanza bíblica? Veamos lo que dice Gálatas 1:8-9.

El Libro de Mormón, es un evangelio diferente a la Palabra de Dios. El Señor también nos advierte que no se debe añadir a las Sagradas Escrituras (Proverbios 30:5,6; Apocalipsis 22:18). Además, la Biblia ha sido usada y confirmada por la arqueología, sin embargo el Libro de Mormón no ha sido usado, como tampoco tiene mapas porque no hay ni una parte de evidencia arqueológica para apoyarlo.

[Resumen del Estudio Original Presentado a la Iglesia por Hno. Juan B. Félix Torres, Recurso. □

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

WNR . . .

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tionwide campaign so you can join your voice with ours in this debate! Urge the Academy to uphold this tradition of military prayer. I'm grateful for the dedicated service of those at the Naval Academy who have committed their lives to defending the freedoms of Americans at home and abroad. It's time for you and me to return the favor. Stand on behalf of the U.S. Naval Academy and in defense of their time-honored, constitutionally-protected traditions. — ACLJ

* * *

Lutherans To Apologize For Anabaptist Persecution. — The Lutheran World Federation is preparing a statement asking forgiveness from Anabaptists for 16th century persecution, which including torture and killings. The decision to prepare the statement was made by the LWF council, the world body's main governing agency, which met in Arusha, Tanzania, June 24-30. Anabaptists, which means "re-baptizers," were the radical wing of the Protestant Reformation and were persecuted by both Lutherans and Catholics. They stressed "believers," or adult, baptism, even for those baptized as infants, as well as the strict separation of church and state. ... The

Need Padded Pews?

Our church, Salem Baptist Church in Willow Hill, IL needs to get rid of about 15 padded pews, 14-17ft. long. We need to move them soon. If interested, call pastor Phillip Thomas, 618-554-5344. We may have a bonfire if no one wants them, & would hate to do that.

statement seeking forgiveness is expected to be ready for the WF's Assembly, in July 2010. — RNS

* * *

Somali Christian Martyred Charlie Butts

— A Somali Christian has paid the ultimate price for his faith. Hussein, the 28-year-old victim, had converted from the Muslim faith to Christianity. Jonathan Racho of [International Christian Concern](#) says he was confronted by Islamic extremists who demanded to know if he faces Mecca when he prays, which is required of Muslims." Hussein says he doesn't face Mecca when he prays because his God is omnipresent and he can face anywhere to pray," Racho recounts the incident. The extremists were very much enraged by his comments, and they killed him." Upon learning that her husband had been shot to death, Hussein's wife went into premature labor and delivered a stillborn baby. Hussein had been working as a teacher and was

described as extremely successful in evangelizing the community. — ONN

* * *

Montana Baptist Church in Court On Political Conviction.

— A hearing before a federal appeals court is scheduled today in a case involving a Montana church that was accused of breaking state campaign laws. Canyon Ferry Road Baptist Church of East Helena is appealing a 2006 decision by federal Judge Donald Molloy, who ruled against the church's challenge of a decision by the state commissioner of political practices. Commissioner Gordon Higgins found that the church violated state law by not reporting its in-kind support of a 2004 constitutional initiative defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Higgins said the church was required to file disclosure forms because it held meetings, distributed petitions, and got involved in political activities. The church countered that Higgins' ruling violated its constitutional rights to

freedom of speech and religion. It filed suit against the commissioner in 2004, but Judge Molloy ruled against the church. — AP

* * *

More Hindu Persecution Against Christians In India.

— More instances of persecution have been reported out of India. In Kerala the 15,000-member Heavenly Feast Church of Kottayam has been targeted by radical Hindus who are seeking to shut it down (Mission Network News, July 23, 2008). They partially destroyed a tent in which the church operates a ministry to feed the poor, abused churchgoers with foul language, and threw stones at them, injuring 25 people. Because of the agitation the local government has stopped the church's meetings until the issue can be resolved. In West Bengal 14 members of a church were beaten, threatened with death, and forced to leave their homes. In Karnataka a Pastor Abraham was assaulted by 20 Hindus in the presence of his family and congregation. The mob also destroyed all of the church's Christian literature and Bibles ("Pastor Assaulted," Voice of the Martyrs Persecution Blog, July 22, 2008). This was the third attack on Christians in that area in two months. —FBIS

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REVELATION . . .

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church of Ephesus and as he writes this, it applies to that particular church in the city of Ephesus. He is writing about specific conditions in the church in Ephesus.

Secondly, it is a representative or it has a representative application to all churches every where. What He teaches, what He instructs the church in Ephesus is going to be true of every church that finds themselves within the same set of circumstances, within the same situations.

Thirdly, there is a

testing application to all churches — tests whereby each church might determine their spiritual position before God. As we study these seven churches, we of Central Baptist Church ought to compare ourselves and test ourselves by each of these churches. How much are we like the church of Ephesus? Maybe her good points, maybe her bad points. Can we find these same things within our own church? As we get to the church of Thyatira, are we very similar to that church? What things can we find within our church that will pattern or be very similar to what they are in

that particular church? If there are, then we need to take the same kind of correction that was needed by that church.

Then there is a fourth, and that is a prophetic application in that they disclose a complete history of the church age, culminating with the rapture at the close of the church age. Again, we cannot go into that in depth, but each of these churches represents a period of time beginning with the church of Jerusalem and ending with the Rapture.

These seven churches represent seven periods of time. In history, we find

that the first three of these churches resulted in Roman Catholicism. The last four churches resulted in Protestantism. Both of these resulted in things that were wholly unsatisfactory and disappointing unto the Lord. The Lord is not the founder and does not approve of Roman Catholicism and it is equally true, that the Lord is not the founder and does not approve of Protestantism. The Lord started His church in the city of Jerusalem and He is not the founder of all these various denominations.

In these seven churches of Asia, we see that they are representative of periods of time. We see that as these churches began to leave the truth, they began to set up false churches. The first was the Roman Catholic church which began under Constantine around 325 A.D. finally developing a Pope, Gregory VI around 606 A.D. Protestantism is an outgrowth of Catholicism in that they left the Roman Catholic church and in the 16th and 17th centuries we find the beginnings of Protestantism.

Baptists have never been a part of Roman Catholicism nor have Baptists ever been a part of Protestantism. Baptists have a history that is separate and apart from all of Protestantism or Catholicism. In reality, Baptists

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Mind What Your Mamma Says

By Chas. H. Gabriel

Once a little mousie lived Just beneath the pantry floor.
Where his mother had a nest, close beside the fam'ly store;
Oft the mother mouse had said, To this little mousie gay,
“Dear you must be very careful where you run about and play.”

Though his mother had forbade him to go beyond their nest,
“Yet,” said he, “I think I know what for me is right and best.”
So, one day this foolish mouse ‘thought that he himself would please,
For he had up in the pantry, Spied a dainty bit of cheese.

Slyly then he crept a long with a chuckle of delight,
And from off that bit of cheese, took a nibble, then a bite.
Dear me! I am very sure you can guess what happened then,
For the little mother mousie never saw her child again.

Mind what your mamma says! She knows just what is best;
She’s older and wiser, so do not despise her by daring to disobey.
Mind what your mamma says! She knows just what is best;
Then always believe her, and try not to grieve her,
By action, in work, or in play.

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are not Protestants in the sense that we were a part of the Protestant Reformation. As far as being a “protester” certainly we have protested, but we never were a part of Protestantism. If you want to trace the history of Baptists, you have to trace them through the enemies of Baptists, and the enemies of Baptists have given them various names in various periods of time. These were called heretics and sects, and during the Dark Ages, were either driven under ground, killed, boiled in oil, turned loose to the lions, drawn and quartered, burned alive at the stake, etc. These were our Baptists forefathers!

Now I do not mean that every one of them was a Baptist, but the majority of

Get Ahead of Ourselves

Our business life is not to get ahead of other people, but to get ahead of ourselves. To break our own record, to outstrip our yesterdays by todays, to bear our trials more beautifully than we ever dreamed we could, to whip the temper inside and out as we never whipped him before, to give as we never have given, to do our work with more force and a finer finish than ever — this is the true idea — to get ahead of ourselves. □

them were Baptists. They were originally called by the name of some particular founder, or some particular region of Europe where they were located. For instance, you’ve heard of the Waldenses. They were named after a man by the name of Peter Waldo. Then you have the Petrobrusians and the Cathori. Now the Cathori came from a region of France and Petrobrussians came from Peter of Bruys, and you will find the Bogomils, you have the Albigenes who came from a town called Albige in an area of the mountains. These were names commonly given them by their enemies as a mark of reproach.

But the one name that characterized all of them was the name *Anabaptists*. It didn’t matter if they were the Waldensens, or the Albigenes, or the Bogomils, or whatever, they were all called “Anabaptists” meaning “rebaptizers.” The reason they were given that name was because when somebody came to their church and requested membership, they repudiated the baptism of the Roman Catholic church, even though in those days it was by immersion. They declared it to be invalid, not scriptural, and required that they be baptized in the Baptist church rather than be received on their Roman Catholic immersion.

The same thing was true of Protestants. The Baptists [Anabaptists]

would not receive baptism of the Protestants as it was mostly by sprinkling. Baptists would not receive sprinkling, yet some of the Protestants also immersed, and they would not receive immersions from the Protestants, saying their baptism was invalid, or not scriptural baptism since the churches that practiced it had come out of an apostate church, the Roman Catholic church. So they were called “Ana-baptists.”

We will get into these seven periods of church history a little later, but not now. Ephesus represents the “Period of Doctrinal Purity” that extended from about 70 A.D. to about 170 A.D., the first few years immediately after Christ had ascended into heaven. The church in Smyrna represents the “Period of Severe Persecution” around 170 A.D. to around 315 A.D. The church in Pergamos represented the church that was allied or married with the State. This is about 315 A.D. to around 606 A.D. The church in Thyratira represents the age of the Romish corruption, around 606 A.D. to about 1500 A.D. Sardis is the age of the Reformation around 1500 to 1750. Philadelphia represents the age of evangelistic fervor and missionary zeal, from 1750 to about 1900. The last one, the church in Laodicea extends from 1900 until the time of the rapture, and that is the age of indifference and the age

of the apostate church. This is the period of time in which we are living today.

You will note that I said that the Laodicean Period extends from about 1900 to the time of the Rapture. Now the Rapture takes place between chapters 3 and 4, but you will also notice that I did not say “the rapture of the church.” The phrase “rapture of the church” is a phrase commonly used in all literature today; books, magazines, newspaper articles, all kinds of Sunday school literature, and in many churches. The phrase “rapture of the church” is a phrase that is neither Biblical nor Scriptural because there is no such thing as “the rapture of the church.”

The phrase “rapture of the church” implies a universal, invisible church composed of all believers. But the word church does not mean a universal, invisible church. All believers are not members of the church. They are members of the family of God. Every saved person, regardless of whether they are a Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Nazarene, etc., if they have received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, are saved. They are members of the family of God, having been born into the family of God. But you are not born into the church. Nowhere do you find the phrase used in the

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Bible of being “born” into the church. You are born into the family of God.

Those who become members of the church must meet the requirements for membership. There are scriptural requirements for membership. These requirements are: First, one must be born again or saved, and secondly, one must have scriptural baptism. Those who have not been scripturally baptized are not members of a New Testament church. They may be a member of the family of God, they’re saved, they’re going to heaven, but they are not a member of a New Testament church unless they have been scripturally baptized.

Now these seven churches are extremely important. These were not the most prominent churches of that day and time as there were other churches that were more prominent. Churches such as the churches at Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria, Corinth, or at Rome, were more prominent churches, so it is evident that these churches fitted a certain pattern, and the Lord had a certain reason why He wanted to select these seven churches. Evidently these seven churches possessed certain distinct characteristics, and each message embodies an admonition that is suitable, not

only to that particular church, but for all other churches as well. This is why we need to study and read these letters to these churches.

To show you their importance, about one-eighth of the Book of Revelation is taken up with these seven letters. That shows that the Lord considered that these letters to the churches were important because He dedicated one-eighth of this book to these seven churches, a letter to each one.

One thing that is unique about man is that there is always a tendency in the human heart to become occupied with the dispensation in which we are not, the one in which we do not live. It is for this reason that most people, in studying the Book of Revelation, begin with chapter four which is future. That’s at the close of the church age or dispensation, and most people when they begin a study of the Book of Revelation completely forget chapters one through three. They begin with chapter four, which speaks of future events, such as the Tribulation Period, the Millennium, etc., and that’s what they are interested in, while the Lord says we are to be interested in the things that apply to you and me now.

Certainly it’s of interest to know what’s going to happen. It’s of interest to know something about the

future, but we need to remember that these letters apply to this church dispensation in which we live right now. Therefore, they are more important to us today than what chapters 4 through 22 would be, because these letters apply to you and me right now.

Not only that, but these seven letters consist exclusively of the words of Christ Himself, as the Lord writes and directs these messages that were seven real messages, to seven real churches. Therefore, we need to pay heed to what the Lord has to say. Incidentally, these are the very last words that we have that have come to us directly from the Lord.

Now these letters have a character of their own.

Their full meaning cannot be understood apart from the whole book. They must be understood within the context and the light of the entire book. Not only is each individual letter an integral part of the entire book, but each individual letter also belongs to the other six, so that these become really circular letters. Though this letter was written to the church in Ephesus, that letter was to be distributed among the other churches as well. Now they have been compiled together in the Book of Revelation so that we are the custodians of not only the seven letters, but of the entire book itself. In that sense, they can be

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Refuge

By Hazel Hartwell Simon

Lean hard upon the arm designed for thee,
No earthly refuge reassures so well;
There is a consolation, heavenly,
For every sorrow grieving lips can tell
For every grief that lies too deep for words,
There is a tender ear that never tires;
To listen there is always One who bends
To soothe the aching heart; the deep desires
To understand, and satisfy, and keep
Uplifted; and the door is open wide.
Oh, run along the pathway to His arms,
And nestle in the shelter of His side;
Find refuge from the storms that oft oppress,
Find healing in the comfort of His wing;
Find sweet companionship for lonely hours,
And for thy sadness, find a song to sing!

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considered as letters addressed to all of the churches.

These letters then are not so much messages from an absent Lord as sentences of a present Judge who is engaged in a solemn act of inspection and decision. The Lord is there as a judge over each one of these churches. He looks within each church. He then makes a determination as to what the good points are and to what the bad points are and then He gives them instructions as to how to correct those bad points and what will occur to them if they do not make these changes.

These seven church letters to these seven churches, representatives of all New Testament churches, are Christ's judgments of churches throughout the church age. When we get into the study of these letters, we are to compare Central Baptist Church with each letter, with each church. We are to look and see what our points are that could be complimented, and also to look and determine what things within our church the Lord would criticize. Then we should make whatever changes are needed in order to conform or to bring ourselves into line with the place where God would have us to be.

The next thing I want us to look at, as He writes these letters we note that

He writes the letter to the angel of the church. Notice in Eph. 2:1 "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write." Although this letter is to be given to the church of Ephesus, the letter itself was written to the "angel of the church of Ephesus."

Notice these verses. "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna" (2:8); "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos" (2:12); "And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira" (2:18); "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis" (3:1); "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia" (3:7); and finally "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans" (3:14).

Now John is commanded to write these letters to the "angel" of each individual church. What kind of an angel is this? Is this a heavenly angel? Well, what does the word "angel" mean? The word "angel" means "one sent."

To determine whether these are heavenly angels or not, there are three questions that we need to ask and to answer. First, would John be commanded to write a letter to a heavenly being, that is, an angel that was a heavenly being? Secondly, would the heavenly being then deliver the message to the churches? Thirdly, does God communicate with His churches by means of heavenly angels? The Lord commanded John to write "unto the angel" of the church. So whatever is

written, John is writing it to this angel of the church.

Now notice one other thing. In 2:4 we find that this angel is guilty of neglect or sin, for it says "Nevertheless I have somewhat against *thee*," so the word "thee" indicates that the message is directed to the angel who is the messenger or the pastor of the church. The pastor is the under-shepherd placed over the church by the Lord. He is not a "lord" but he is a servant. He is not to be commanded by man, but he is to be commanded by God.

We find here that John is commanded to write this letter unto this angel or the pastor of the church. The pastor is responsible to hear, to receive and to answer for the church that is placed under his care. As we previously pointed out, the pastor is to receive the message from the Lord, and he in turn is to present it faithfully unto the church,

and then he is to use his influence to have it accepted, observed, and obeyed. That's your pastor's job. That's the job of every pastor. If he has been called of God, then God is to direct him. A pastor is not to receive his orders from the congregation. A pastor is not to receive his orders from a group of deacons. A pastor is not to receive his orders from a W.M.U. (which we don't have) a group of women), but he is to receive his message from the Lord. When he receives that message from the Lord, then it is his responsibility and his duty, to deliver that message to the church. He then is to urge them with everything within his power to receive it as a message from God, then to observe that message, and to obey.

Now whenever a pastor gets his message from the Lord, you will find that

(See **REV** on page 16)

Would you please and honor Jesus?
Follow Him in all you do;
Would you win His love and favor?
Be His servant, faith, true.

Would you have a friend in Jesus,
To support you in your way?
Own Him as your Lord and Master,
Him receive, love and obey.

Do you long to be with Jesus
And crown of life secure?
Be thou patient in His service,
Meekly to the end endure.

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he can prove it from the Word of God. It can be documented right here. Now if his message cannot be proven by the word of God, then you might check and find out whether that preacher is a real God-called preacher or not. If the pastor does not preach the things that are here in the Word of God, then you better be very careful about listening to him or following him. But as long as that pastor, as long as his message is founded in the Word of God, as long as he is faithfully proclaiming to you what God says in this book, then you are obligated to receive it, to accept it, to observe it, and to obey it. Not because it is the word of the pastor, but because it is the Word of God. This is what the Lord wants you as a church to do.

You will notice here in this chapter and in these verses, that when the Lord writes the church, He writes to the pastor and you can see that the Lord holds a pastor responsible for all the error and the misconduct that is within that church. When the Lord is going to criticize that church at Ephesus, he criticizes the pastor because he has allowed such error to creep into that church.

God holds the pastor accountable and responsible for all error and all misconduct within the church.

So we see that God has placed upon the pastor (it is his duty and responsibility placed there by the Lord), to root out all error, eliminate all misconduct and to maintain doctrinal purity within the church. If you find that, as a pastor, it is necessary for someone to be dealt with for their misconduct, it is because God has placed that responsibility there in the church, and it is the pastor's job to see that it is done.

If there is teaching within this church that is contrary to the Word of God, it is the pastor's job to take care of that matter. There have been times in the past (and I am not the only one), when we have had some man teaching things that I felt were contrary to the teachings of the Word of God, contrary to the things that I teach from this pulpit, and it has been necessary for me to call that man into my office and attempt to reason with him, to show him his error, in order that he might get straight on that particular doctrine, and that there not be a teaching contrary to what the pastor believes is the teaching of the Word of God. You cannot have various doctrines being taught within a church without having your church just being split up into every kind of faction that there is.

Can you imagine what would happen if you had somebody teaching that immersion was not baptism

but that sprinkling was just as good, and somebody over here saying that I think it needs to be pouring, and somebody else teaching that we do not even have water baptism today, we have Holy Spirit baptism, and somebody else says, yes and the sign of the Holy Spirit baptism is speaking in tongues, and if you don't speak in tongues you haven't really been baptized in the Holy Spirit. Somebody else yes, and furthermore if you haven't been baptized by the Holy Spirit, you haven't even been saved. You're lost!

And here I am in the pulpit, and I'm trying to teach that baptism, according to the Word of God, is of a saved person who has already given a public profession of his faith and he is being baptized by immersion in obedience to the command of the Lord Jesus Christ, not in order to be saved, but because he has already been saved. And yet somebody else is teaching something entirely contrary. The first thing you know you're going to have a church mixed up on everything in the word.

Now God holds a pastor responsible for all the teaching that goes on within that church. Whatever errors there may be of a doctrinal nature, of a conduct nature, or whatever they may be, it is the pastor's responsibility to make certain that these things are rooted out; that they are not allowed to corrupt the

church, or to divide the church.

In fact, the Bible has several verses that we can't go into right now, but the Bible says to "mark them that cause divisions." That's means to set them aside, mark them, and if they will not straighten out, then the Bible's admonition is to exclude or expel them from the church. That's God's command. So that whoever teaches a false doctrine and does not correct their doctrine, does not straighten out, then it is the pastor's job to bring it before a group of the men of the church, a committee to prove it, and if it is justified, to bring it before the church and the church will have to take the action. But the pastor is accountable to the Lord for all the conduct that goes on within that church.

So this is the way the Lord operates. The Lord did it this way. He has called the pastor. He has called the pastor through the church, and when a man accepts a pastorate

(See **REV** on page 17)

Love Answers All

Where there is love
There must be faith,
And where there's faith
There's peace indeed.

Where there is peace
There must be God—
And where there's God
There is no need.

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 16)

of a church, the church by doing such, is voting that they believe that this is the man that God has called to be their pastor. And when the pastor accepts that position in the church, he is stating that he believes that this is where God wants him to be. And you will always find an agreement between church and pastor

if God is in it. Now if you find that the church and the pastor are contrary to each other, you better find out what is the matter. Something is wrong.

But God is the one who has spoken to these pastors through these letters. And you will note, that when he addresses these judgments, His rebukes, and the directions for them, it comes through their pastor.

I want to show you one

verse in Luke 10. You will note that the Lord is sending out His disciples. He says, "After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, wither he himself would come" (Lk. 10:1). This is not just the Apostles. There were only twelve apostles. Here we find the Lord sends out seventy, thirty-five pairs. Now verse 16, "He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me" (Lk 10:16). In other words, this is the place that the pastor occupies in the work of the Lord. He is being sent by the Lord. It is his job to determine through his own prayer and study what the message is that God desires for that church. Then it is his job to faithfully proclaim that message to that church and to urge them to receive it, to accept it, and to observe and obey it. And then the Lord says:

"He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me, and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me" (Lk. 10:16).

Now I am not trying to make the office of pastor any more than what God has made it. God did not say that the pastor was going to be a perfect man, a perfect individual. You will find that there are going to be sins, failures, shortcomings in his life. That's

because none of us are perfect, and the pastor is the same clay as you are. But the office of a pastor is a unique job. God has called men to become pastors. He has put them as the pastor or the undershepherd of His churches. Central Baptist Church belongs to the Lord; it is a church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Shepherd of this church. But in His absence, the Lord has put an Undershepherd here in the church. And the Undershepherd works directly under the authority of the Shepherd. And his job is to faithfully listen to that Shepherd. Where does he hear Him? He hears Him right out of the Word of God. He doesn't have any divine revelation apart from the Bible. No preacher, no pastor has visions, dreams, or any other way to hear God's Word, except right here out of the Bible.

Now God, somehow, speaks to a preacher; and tells him what his message is to be. Sometimes it is difficult for a pastor to know for sure what God's message really is. Sometimes you come into the pulpit, and you're still not really certain what God's message is, but the time has come, you've got to preach, you do your best. Other times you can come into the pulpit and you don't question. You know what God wants you to preach. But when God gives a

(See **REV** on page 18)

Gracious Living!

By Alfred Grant Walton

What marks the man of cultured birth?

Gracious living!

What gives a home its noblest worth?

Gracious living!

The times are tense; to ease the strain,

To lift the burden, heal the pain,

Mankind must seek the lost domain

Of gracious living!

The soul must break its prison bars,

Gracious living!

Must laugh and sing and look at stars;

Gracious living!

There must be time for books and trees,

For thought and that unhurried ease

That nurtures life's amenities,

Gracious living!

Love must live and find release,

Gracious living!

There must be quietness and peace,

Gracious living!

Only when men have found their poise

And learned what needless haste destroys

Shall earth reclaim the long-lost joys

Of gracious living!

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 17)

message to the pastor, his job is to give it to you. Your job is to evaluate it; listen to it; check it with the Word of God; find out if it conforms with this Word right here. If it does, then it's for you to obey. Not because the pastor says it, but because this is a message from God to you.

Thus the Lord directs this message to the church at Ephesus, he says, "Unto the angel of the church in Ephesus write." God intended for them to hear because He says in the later part of each letter, He has a little phrase that He ties on to the end of each one of them and it says in verse seven "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." That's what you are to do: listen.

When you come to the Lord's house on Sunday morning, what do you do? What you should do is come with your ear and with your heart tuned in to listen to the message from God to you. Determine what God's message is for you, and then obey it. If you do, God will then be pleased with you. And it is as a church obeys the Lord, that the church obeys the Lord in every thing. The members must do it because it's not the church, but the membership of the church that obeys the Lord.

I hope that you will listen to the Word of God.

As we go on through this Book. As we look at chapter two, the letter to the church in Ephesus, God has a message for you and for me. It is a message for all of us. Let's come with the attitude to listen to God. See what He says, and let's obey it. If we find we fall short, if there are failures, if there are places that need to be corrected, let's straighten them out. Let's correct them.

If there are places that we feel the Lord is pleased with, let's say Thank God for God did it through us. Let's do more. Let's stand for a closing word of prayer. □

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 11)

31,000 Scientists Repudiate Global Warming Theory. — The following is excerpted from "U.N. 'Scaring Planet Earth' into Global Tax," "A scientist whose reservations about 'global warming' have been officially endorsed by tens of thousands of other scientists is accusing the U.N. of using 'mob rule' to generate fear-mongering climate change reports intended to scare national leaders into submitting to its worldwide taxation schemes. 'Science has always progressed on the basis of observations, experiments, and thoughts published by individual scientists and sometimes pairs or small groups of

scientific coworkers,' Art Robinson, a research professor of chemistry and co-founder of the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, said in a recent column in Human Events. Except at the U.N. he said. Robinson's concern over the political manipulation of science earlier led him to launch the Petition Project, a compilation of more than 31,000 scientists [including 9,000 Ph.D.s]—with more names arriving daily—who have voluntarily signed their names to the following statement: 'There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other green-house gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth.' "

* * *

Tyson Foods Drops Labor Day For Muslim Holiday. — In their new five-year contract, and in order to accommodate Muslim workers, employees of Tyson Foods poultry processing plant in Shelbyville, Tenn. have lost their Labor Day holiday and the paid day off has been replaced by the Muslim

holiday Eid al-Fitr which marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting. This year it falls on October 1. "Union leaders say implementing the holiday was important for the nearly 700 Muslims, many of them Somalis, who work at the plant that employs a total of 1,200 people," said the report. Two "prayer rooms" have also been set up at the plant to "allow workers to pray twice a day and return to work without leaving the plant." — ONN

* * *

Settlements Reached In Clergy Abuse Cases.

— The Archdiocese of Chicago said it had agreed to pay more than \$12.6 million to settle lawsuits by 16 people who accused priests of sexual abuse, and it made public a candid deposition in the case by Cardinal Francis George. "My hope is that these settlements will help the survivors and their families begin to heal and move forward," George said in a separate statement in which he also apologized for the abuse. ... The archdiocese has now paid \$65 million to settle approximately 250 claims during the past 30 years, said its chancellor, Jimmy Lago. — AP

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Church Rejects Do-

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WNR . . .

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nation From Lottery Winner. — After Robert Powell hit the Florida Lottery jackpot last month and took home more than \$6 million, he thought of his church. And he offered to drop his tithe, around \$600,000, in the collection plate of First Baptist Orange Park. But the church and Pastor David Tarkington politely declined and told Powell they will not accept the lottery winnings. Many churches do not approve of the lottery and gambling but on the other hand Pastor Dr. Lorenzo Hall of the El-Beth-El Divine Holiness Church says \$600,000 can do a lot of good. “I’m against the lottery, but if one of my members won the lottery, I wish and I hope he would give 10% to the church, we could do a lot of things with that money,” says Hall. First Baptist Orange Park Pastor David Tarkington would not say exactly why the church refused the money, saying only he didn’t want to talk about members’ gifts.

* * *

Designed By “Nature.” — Secular media reporters, who believe in evolution, frequently use the term “design” in reference to nature. For example, a report on a new camera begins, “Borrowing one of nature’s best designs, U.S.

scientists have built an eye-shaped camera using standard sensor materials...” (“Eye Spy,” Reuters, Aug. 6, 2008). Evolutionists unconsciously speak in these terms because of the obvious design that we find on every hand. The eye is such an amazing and complex instrument that man, even in these vaunted days of technological advance, cannot even begin to replicate it. But for an evolutionist to speak of “nature’s design” is a strange and impossible statement. Nature itself has no ability to design anything, unless Nature is a synonym for God. If Darwinian evolution is true there can be no design. Lacking an intelligent Director, how could evolution be anything but blind chance? The majority of evolutionists vehemently deny that evolution is the product of an intelligent designer. Thus, they must stop using terms like “nature’s design.” If the eye was “designed” then there is a Designer; and that could only be Almighty God, because it would have to be Someone with incredible intelligence and mind-boggling power after the fashion of the God described in the Bible. And if there is an Almighty God capable of designing and producing such an amazing universe, that is powerful evidence that the Bible is true and man is a fallen sinner and salvation is only through faith in Jesus

Christ. Either the universe was designed, or it wasn’t. There can be no half-way position. — FBIS

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Malaysian Court Denies Woman’s Appeal to Leave Islam. — A civil court on Aug. 5 denied a woman’s appeal to renounce Islam in favor of Christianity, highlighting the jurisdictional disputes in Malaysia’s dual legal system. Lim Yoke Khoo had filed a suit in her original ethnic Chinese name to renounce Islam and embrace Christianity. In a 2-1 majority ruling, the Shah Alam Court of Appeal denied her case on a technicality.

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Hallmark Pushes Same-sex Marriage. — Hallmark Greeting Cards has announced it will begin selling same-sex wedding cards, even though same-sex marriage is legal in only two states. The purpose, they say, is to satisfy consumer demand. It appears that their purpose is also to push same-sex marriage. Last year Hallmark began offering “coming out” cards - as in “coming out of the closet” — a euphemism for announcing homosexuality. We’ve all given or received Hallmark Cards — remember their slogan — “when you care enough to send the very best.” But promoting same-sex marriage for

profit is not the very best for families or our nation. Hallmark is a private company obviously driven by greed. Let them know you do not appreciate Hallmark promoting a lifestyle which is illegal in 48 states. American Greeting Cards, Hallmark’s competitor, does not offer same-sex marriage cards.

* * *

Calif. Court: Homosexual Rights Trump Religious Freedom. — The same California Supreme Court that created a “right” to homosexual “marriage” earlier this year has now ruled that the state may force health care professionals to provide services that support an immoral and physically dangerous lifestyle. California’s highest court was unanimous in its decision on Monday that Christian doctors may not refuse to perform artificial insemination for homosexual patients. Attorney Brad Dacus, president of the [Pacific Justice Institute](#) (PJI), reacts to the ruling. “This is a clear violation of the fundamental rights of individuals to live and practice their faith,” he states bluntly. “Forcing doctors to have to choose between being a doctor and being a Christian in the State of California is an outrageous violation of the fundamental rights of every

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American to be able to practice their faith and not to have to leave their occupation because of it.” In the case in question, the Christian doctors refused to perform artificial insemination on a lesbian patient, but did refer her to another doctor who would perform the elective treatment. Dacus says that proves this suit was not about guaranteeing “healthcare” for homosexuals, but instead about punishing Christians for obeying God’s Word. “This is not about denying people services,” the attorney argues. “This is, instead, about the ‘thought police’ attempting to censor Christian beliefs and Christian perspectives that don’t agree with homosexuality. We’re talking ... about individuals being able to force doctors or other professionals to violate their faith in order to keep their job.” And that, he adds, is a clear violation of the rights of individuals to be able to practice their expertise and, at the same time, not to have to deny their faith. The PJI president says the ruling is quite broad and will apply to almost every profession in the state, meaning that Christian professionals and service providers — child-care providers, for instance — will be forced to provide services to homosexuals that support their immoral lifestyle and clearly violate

biblical standards. “For example, lawyers who are engaging in marriage and family law can now be forced to [execute] documents for homosexuals adopting children ... Dacus offers. “And individual with a wedding service, despite their Christian faith to the contrary, can now be forced to conduct wedding services and wedding preparations for lesbian or homosexual male couples.” Dacus says the case is certain to be appealed. “This just goes to show how critically important it is for us in the United States to have a Supreme Court that is not against those who practice the Christian faith but, instead, understands what the Constitution is about and [do] not engage in outrageous judicial activism,” he says.

* * *

Son of Hamas Leader Follows Jesus Christ. — Mosab Hassan Yousef, the son of one of the main leaders of the terrorist Islamic organization Hamas, put his faith in Jesus Christ a few years ago and currently is seeking asylum in the United States. He is 30 years old and attends an evangelical church in California. The following is excerpted from a Fox News interview dated August 12, 2008: “There are two facts that Muslims don’t understand. I’d say about more than 95 percent of Muslims don’t under-

stand their own religion. ... Second, they don’t understand anything about other religions. ... Muslims don’t recognize that they stabbed Christianity (in) its heart when they said that Jesus wasn’t killed on the cross. They think that they honor him in this way. ... they don’t understand that this is the most important part of Christianity: the cross! So, they are ignorant, they don’t know what they are doing and it explains what an evil idea it is behind this Islam. ... When I studied the Bible carefully verse by verse, I made sure that that was the book of God, the word of God for sure, so I started to see things in a different way, which was difficult for me, to say Islam is wrong. ... I left everything behind me, not only family. ... You’re saying good-bye to culture, civilization, traditions, society, family, religion, God — what you thought was God for so many years! So it’s not easy. It’s very complicated. ... That was the most difficult decision in my life and I didn’t do it for fun. I didn’t do it for anything from this world. I did it only for one reason: I believed in it. People are suffering every day because of wrong ideas. I can help them get out of this endless circle, the track the devil (laid) for them. ... There is no chance [for peace between Israel and Hamas]. Is there any chance for fire to co-exist with the

water? There is no chance. ... It’s not about Israel, it’s not about Hamas: it’s about both ideologies. There is no chance. ... There will be a 100-percent peace when Jesus comes back, when he judges everybody. His kingdom’s going to be 1,000 years and it’s going to be completely peaceful and it’s going to be the kingdom of God.” — FBIS

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Muslim Father Burns Daughter To Death For Her Faith In Christ. — The following is excerpted from “Muslim Father Kills Daughter for Converting to Christianity,” International Christian Concern, Aug. 13, 2008: “A Saudi Arabian man cut out the tongue of his daughter and burnt her to death after finding out that she had converted to Christianity. The girl came to know about Jesus Christ through the Internet, according to Gulf News. Her father found about her conversion and killed her ‘following a heated debate on religion,’ the source indicated. The man is currently in custody. There is no indication as to the killer’s identity or the date of the crime except that ‘the killing happened recently.’ The killer works for the mutaween (Commission for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice), an arm of the government that enforces

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religious purity and is the government's face of persecution to Christians in Saudi Arabia. ... The Saudi Arabian officials are using their huge oil wealth to export Wahabbism (the most intolerant version of Islam) to other countries, including the United States. In its recent press release regarding the Saudi government school in Northern Virginia, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom indicated that, according to text books at the school, 'It is permissible for a Muslim to kill an apostate (a convert from Islam).' From Ethiopia to Indonesia, Saudi Arabia's oil money is fueling the killings of Christians and destruction of their property." "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." — FBIS

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Yet Another Catholic Diocese Pays For Its Immoral Priests. — The Catholic diocese of Kansas City has agreed to pay \$10 million to settle 47 sexual abuse claims against priests, including retired

Wyoming bishop Joseph Hart. The diocese has already paid out more than a \$1 million to settle separate cases. In 2007 alone the Catholic Church in America paid \$615 million to settle abuse cases. The total far exceeds a billion dollars. The Bishop Accountability organization says that more than 4,000 priests have been accused of abusing children ("US Church to Pay 12.6 Million," AFP, Aug. 11, 2008). That represents roughly 10% of the Catholic priests in America, and the statistics include only those that have been formally accused. A conservative Catholic organization documented this wretched business in the fall/winter 2002 issue of the magazine *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, observing: "... the overwhelming majority of sexual abuse cases in the Catholic Church—about 90% — involve homosexual priests preying on teenage boys. The major media and the U.S. culture at large want to deny or spin the homosexual factor out of the scandal." — FBIS

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Behold I Come Quickly. — The expression "Behold, I come quickly" is repeated four times in Revelation (3:11; 22:7, 11, 20). It refers, first of all, to His coming in God's perspective. It must be interpreted by God's clock, not ours. See 2 Peter

3:8. Elsewhere in the New Testament Christ's coming is described as soon (Lk. 18:8; Rom. 16:20). To God a thousand years is as a day or even less than a day. In Isaiah 54:8 He told Israel, "In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for *a moment*; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer." Though He has forsaken Israel for at least 2,000 years, to God that is but a moment because He measures things by eternity. The quick coming of the Lord also refers to the imminency of His coming, meaning that it is not preceded by specific signs and could happen at any time (Matt. 24:42, 44; 25:13; Phil. 4:5; 1 Th. 1:9-10; Tit. 2:12-13; Jas. 5:8-9). It will begin with the Rapture of church-age saints (1 Thess. 4:3-18), and from then until the return of Christ to establish His kingdom as described in Revelation 19-20 only seven brief years elapse. If a father leaves his teenage son in charge of his younger siblings and the household affairs and tells him, "I have to go away on some business, but I will come quickly," what will that teenage son do if he is wise? He will be ready at every moment for the return of his father! The church-age believer is not looking for the Antichrist but for Christ. The events described in Revelation 6-18 are "the day of the

Lord," and it will come "as a thief in the night" and as "sudden destruction" (1 Thess. 5:2-3). The New Testament believer is "not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (1 Thess. 5:4). God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:5).

* * *

Married Moms and Dads — What A Novel Concept. — A proposal dealing with adoption and foster homes will be on the ballot in Arkansas in November. The [Family Council Action Committee](#) submitted more than 85,000 valid signatures of registered voters; only 62,000 were needed to get the measure on the November ballot. Jerry Cox heads the organization. "What we have here is...an initiated act that says that adoptive or foster care children in Arkansas will not be placed in homes where there is a live-in boyfriend or live-in girlfriend," he explains. Opponents had billed the campaign as anti-homosexual, but not so according to Cox. "The measure doesn't distinguish between homosexuals or heterosexuals," he points out. "It simply says if you're cohabitating with a sexual partner out of wedlock, then you are not allowed to

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adopt a child or be a foster parent in the state of Arkansas.” Cox is reasonably confident of victory in November, given the vote on the Protection of Marriage amendment in that state. “For that measure we were able to garner 75 percent of the vote here in the state of Arkansas to say that marriage is the union of a man and a woman,” he shares. The campaign is a response to a 2006 decision by the Arkansas Supreme Court that struck down a state policy banning homosexual men and women from serving as foster parents. — ONN

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Chinese Pastor Says 2,000 Christians Are In Communist Prisons. — A persecuted house church pastor named Yu Jie says there are 2,000 Christians in prison in communist China. Yu is an elder in the Ark Church in Beijing, and though he has been under house arrest since July and his writings are banned in China, he continues to speak out against oppression. In an article published in a Hong Kong magazine he called Mao Zedong an “assassin” (“China House Church Leader,” Baptist Press, Aug. 29, 2008). Mao was probably the most brutal

mass murderer in human history. His life is documented in Mao: The Unknown Story by Jung Chang and Jon Halliday. The London Daily Mail called this “the most powerful, compelling and revealing political biography of modern times” while Time magazine called it “an atom bomb of a book.” For those who want to understand communism and modern history, it is a must read. — FBIS

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A Cabinet That Prays Together. — It has been a standard at every Bush cabinet meeting: One of the president’s cabinet heads offers a prayer to begin the session. But something that Attorney General Michael Mukasey said at the last meeting wowed President Bush. So much so, say aides, that they have a new project — pull together a book of cabinet prayers. “Attorney General Mukasey gave a wonderful opening prayer that really struck the president, and [Bush] noted that a number of cabinet members over the years have opened these meetings with strong words of faith,” says Bush spokesman Tony Fratto. “He thought it would be a nice idea to try to collect them in some sort of book for everyone to have,” Fratto tells us. Now, public affairs aides in the 19 cabinet-level agencies are on the hunt for those

special words. But it may be easier said than done. It’s unclear if cabinet secretaries spoke off the cuff or wrote their prayers down — and saved them if they did. “That’s typical Bush,” says a former Bushie who worked on the faith-based initiative. “If something inspires him, he wants to share that.” Adds Fratto: “It was a nice idea by the president.” — U.S. News & World Report

ENTZMINGER . . .

(Continued from page 4)

26) before Pentecost.

13. It was to this church about 3,000 were “added unto” after they were saved and then baptized, (Acts 2:41). You couldn’t “add” to something that didn’t already exist.

14. This church Jesus said “I will build” in Matt. 16:18 is already built in Matt 18:17, else how could you “tell” something to a

church not in existence. It was a business body that early. Its actions were final. It was built before Pentecost, or Jesus never did build a church, because He went to heaven and was not here on earth to build a church at Pentecost.

15. In Hebrews 2:12 the Bible speaks of Christ singing in the midst of the church. This literally happened (Mark 14:26).

16. The apostles were the first in the Church (1 Cor. 12:28; Mark 3:13-19).

17. The Tabernacle was built before the cloud and the glory of the Lord filled the house (Ex. 40:34-38). The Temple was built before the Cloud and the glory of the Lord filled the house, (1 Kings 8:10-11). The church was built by the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry (Matt. 16:17-18), before the glory of the Lord in the person of the Holy Spirit filled the church, (Acts 2:1-4). □

God’ Purpose

God is working His purpose out
As year succeeds to year,
God is working His purpose out
And the time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer draws the time,
The time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled
With the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

MOSER . . .

(Continued from page 2)

the sons of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Every single Christian is in a very real sense a son of God and we have the right to call God our Father.

But Jesus is God's *unique* Son. He is called *the only begotten of the father*. Jesus is God's Son in a sense that no other person has ever been or will ever be God's Son. John 3:16, that passage that all of us have been familiar with from childhood reads: "*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.*" The words "only begotten" means the only one of its kind. The *only begotten* of the Father speaks of the deity of Jesus Christ.

One other thing before we pass on. Those who deny the virgin birth of Jesus Christ raise a question concerning the father of Jesus Christ. The Jews in denying the virgin birth of Jesus Christ threw into His teeth the charge of illegitimacy. They accused Him of not knowing the name of His Father. God Himself, knowing that the charge of bastardy would be laid at the feet of Jesus, spoke from heaven acknowledging the paternity of Jesus. Modernists and other infidels denying the virgin birth of Jesus Christ

will have to meet the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ in the judgment and answer for their blasphemous charges. When God acknowledged the fact that Jesus was *His Son*, that should settle the fact for all of us.

Third, the Devil says so. In Matthew 8:29 we find the devils possessing the bodies of the two maniacs. When these two men came into the presence of Jesus the demons possessing them cried out "What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God?" There may be skeptics, modernists, and infidels in the world denying the deity of Jesus Christ but there are no skeptics in hell and there are no skeptics numbered among the demons. They know the truth. It is too late for the lost in hell to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and no salvation was ever provided for demons or devils, but in spite of that fact, the demons leave their testimony on record concerning the deity of the Lord Jesus.

Fourth, Peter speaks of the deity of the Lord Jesus. No greater testimony ever fell from the lips of mortal man than fell from the lips of Peter: "*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*" (Mt. 16:16). In this great testimony Peter sets Jesus Christ separate and apart from all other men. He did not say thou are a Christ, a son, of a living God. The definite article "the" was used, thus

proving that Jesus was God's unique Son. Words cannot be plainer. If Peter had written a book on the doctrine of the deity of the Lord Jesus He might have amassed great lines of proof, but he could not have made his position clearer than he did when he said "Thou art the Christ, the *Son, of the living God.*"

Fifth, Nathanael says so. In John 1:49 Nathanael makes a great statement of his faith in Jesus Christ: "*Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.*"

Sixth, Thomas says so. Thank God for so-called "doubting Thomas". The questions asked by Thomas always brought out a great statement on the part of the Lord Jesus. Thomas was an honest seeker after truth. He was willing to believe on the basis of evidence,

evidence submitted by the Son of God. We today have far more evidence than Thomas had and there is no justification for our doubting today.

In John 20:28 Thomas in the presence of the resurrected Lord, cried out "*My Lord and my God.*" Here is the testimony that cannot be successfully contradicted. Thomas was convinced beyond the shadow of any doubt that he stood in the very presence of his God.

Before we pass on may we call your attention to one fact. Jesus received this testimony and placed His stamp of approval upon it. Jesus received from Thomas worship that could rightfully be given only to God. Why did Jesus not rebuke Thomas? Why did

(See **MOSER** on page 24)

The Dear Ones At Home

By A. J. Showalter

I sit in the twilight at evening
Awaiting the shadows to come,
And see in the fire-light a gleaming
Sweet faces of loved ones at home.

In fancy I see all my loved ones
Around the old hearth-stone at home,
And long for the place which awaits me,
No more from their presence to roam.

We'll all soon be done with life's toiling,
Its sorrows and sin will be o'er;
Then bring us, O Father, to heaven,
Where partings will come never-more.

**FELLOWSHIPS
and
CONFERENCES**

SIOUX FALLS, SD

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

* * *

SANTA FE, NM

April 22-24, 2009,
Temple Baptist Church,
2103 Yucca St., Santa Fe,
NM 87505, Jim Velaquez,
Pastor. (505) 471-1434

MOSER . . .

(Continued from page 23)

not Jesus instantly tell Thomas that Thomas was mistaken, that Thomas must not worship any man, that worship must be given only to God?

Again, I ask why Jesus permitted Thomas to worship Him? For Jesus, if He were just a man, for Jesus if He were not God, to have received this worship would be not only to let Thomas continue on in his mistaken notions but would also involve Jesus in a terrible sin, that of being worshiped as God when He was not God. Do you see the problem? Do you get the point? If Jesus was but a man and not God, then He participated in a terrible sin.

On the other hand if

Jesus is God then those who do not worship Him are guilty of a great sin. May God help you to see what I am talking about.

There are some who say that Jesus was not God, that the disciples were deceived in thinking of Jesus as God, that while Jesus was not God He was a good man, perhaps the best man that ever lived, but still only a man. I say to you frankly and bluntly this morning that Jesus was either what He claimed to be, God's unique Son, God manifest in the flesh, or *He was the world's greatest fraud*. He received worship that could only be given to God. Either He was entitled to that worship or He was not. If He was not entitled to that worship, all who worship Him are guilty of idolatry. If He was entitled to that worship, then all who refuse to worship Him are guilty of a terrible sin of rebellion and unbelief. Thomas said, "My Lord and my God." What do you say?

Seventh, Paul says so. Paul the great lawyer, the man trained to sift evidence. No man ever wrote more clearly or more distinctly than did the Apostle Paul concerning the deity of the Lord Jesus. First Timothy 3:16 reads: "*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.*"

In Titus 2:13 Paul tells us about the deity of the Lord Jesus. "*Looking for*

that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Here Paul speaks of our Savior Jesus Christ and calls Him the "Great God."

My friend, the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Lord Jesus of the New Testament. From Genesis to Revelation there swells the mighty refrain that God in His infinite love and mercy came down to this earth in the person

Jesus Christ to save men from their sins. The chorus falls from the lips of prophets, priests, kings in the Old Testament. From apostles and inspired writers in the New Testament. They all unite in paying homage and worship to Him who gave Himself for our redemption and who today, as the resurrected Lord sits at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Will you too worship and adore Him? □

We are living, we are dwelling,
In a grand and awful time;
In an age on ages telling,
To be living is sublime.

Hark! the waking up of nations;
Gog and Magog to the fray!
Hark! What soundeth? 'Tis creation
Groaning for her latter day.

Will you play then, will you dally,
With your music and your wine?
Up, it is Jehovah's rally—
God's own arm hath need of thine.

Hark! the onset. Will you fold your hands
Clad arms in lazy lock?
Up, thou drowsy sleeper.
Worlds are charging to the shock.

Worlds are charging! Heaven beholding!
Thou hast but one hour to fight;
See, the blazon cross unfolding—
On, right onward for the right.

On! Let all the soul within you
For the truth's sake go abroad;
Strike! let every nerve and sinew
Tell on ages—tell for God.