

# The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 534

## *How To Kill A Church*

*By Davis W. Huckabee*

New Testament churches do not naturally die; they are so constituted that they cannot die a natural death. They may, however, be killed, but even in this, they can hardly be killed by outsiders except by the annihilation of the entire membership. Churches are most often killed from the inside; their own members kill them. A church is not

just an organization; it is also an organism — a living thing, and as such, it has the potential of either growing and thriving, or of languishing and dying. The Lord promised that His church, considered as an institution, would not die (Mt. 16:18), but this only means that there will be a continuity of churches like the Jerusalem church until

His return; it does not guarantee the continued existence of any individual church. How then may a church be killed?

### I BY STAYING AWAY FROM IT

The Scriptures liken church members to the members of a physical

body (1 Cor. 12:12ff), and just as certain organs of the human body cannot be removed without death coming to the body, so it is with the church, the body of Christ. When the members of the church start staying away from it, this soon leads to its death.

This is generally a gra-

(See **CHURCH** on page 21)

### Two Questions

A skeptic once derided a Christian by asking him, "Say, George, what would you say if when you die you found there wasn't such a place as heaven after all?"

With a smile the believer replied: "I should say — well, I've had a fine time getting there anyway."

Then the Christian sent a boomerang back to the skeptic not quite so easy to answer.

"I say, Fred," he asked, "what would you say if, when you die, you found there was such a place as hell after all?"

### Was Your Grandmother An Ape?

*By Roy Mason*

Evolution is taught as a *fact* in most schools of this day. Students are taught evolution in the grades, then in high school, and on through college and university. The teaching of biology, botany and geology is *based on* evolution. Many of our denominational colleges teach evolution. The teaching of evolution is significant religiously because it is incompatible with the

teachings of the Bible. It has had wide-spread practical effects on the moral life of the human race, for as some one has said, "Monkey men make monkey morals." Young people leave college believing that they are but highly developed brutes, and they go out into the world to live and act like brutes.

Evolution has been

(See **APE** on page 5)

### A Strange Thing

It is strange how many people, should you approach them about the matter of having their names erased from the church roll, would cry in thundering tones, "NO," and yet many of these people refuse either to attend or support the church of which they are members.

For instance, I know of a man right now whom the deacons went to see about being absent from the

(See **STRANGE** on page 7)

**Quiz The Pastor****True Baptists Can Trace Their Origins Back To the New Testament****By the late Nick Michalinos**

**Question:** In a recent article, you made it appear that Baptists can trace their history back to the New Testament. Many Baptists do not agree with this position.

**Answer:** True Baptists, as individuals and as churches, do not have a single voice or hierarchy to speak for them in matters of doctrine and practice as do some religious groups. Therefore, I cannot speak for all Baptists. I can only speak for myself, and the church to which I am privileged to pastor, and for many true Baptists who agree with my position that the people known today as Baptists can trace their origin and existence “back to the New Testament.”

Woe be unto the church that cannot trace its

existence, doctrines and practices back to the New Testament, thereby admitting that their church is not a true New Testament church. I believe Baptists can trace their origin back to Christ as their Founder and Head.

In Matthew 16:18, Christ stated that He would “build his church” and that “the gates of hell would not prevail against it.” I take this to mean that His church would always be in existence and is in the world today. His enemies, His foes, described here as “the gates of hell,” would “not prevail against it” (His church).

Therefore, down through the centuries, there have always been New Testament churches. Either Christ meant what He said,

or He didn’t mean it. There is no middle ground. Bible believers believe He meant what He said. His promise has not failed. He that promised is able to perform. New Testament churches have not passed off the scene, and then later reappeared or rediscovered at various times under the supposed inspired leadership of some men or women who lived hundreds of years too late to be the founder of New Testament churches.

It so happened, and is a matter of divine record that Christ founded His own church during His personal ministry, and as Head, He promised that “the gates of hell would not prevail against it,” and that He would be with it “until the end of the age” (Mt. 28:20).

There have been many Johnny-come-lately denominations and cults that have sprung up the last few hundred years all claiming to be New Testament churches whose human founders can be identified as well as the very year and place their denominations and organizations began.

Within our limited space, I want us to now see what historians and men of non-Baptist faith have to say about Baptist church origin.

(1) Cardinal Hosius, the president of the Council of Trent, dates the history of Baptists back to at least 354 A.D. He wrote this in 1554 A.D.

(2) Mosheim, noted great Lutheran historian, places Baptists before the rise of Luther and Calvin.

(3) Zwingli, the Swiss reformer and co-worker with Luther and Calvin in 1525, admits the existence of Baptist back to the year 225 A.D.

(4) Robert Barclay, Quaker, places “small hidden Christian societies, who have held many of the opinions of the Anabaptists, have existed from the time of the Apostles.”

(5) John Clark Ridpath, Methodist, says, “I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist church as far back as A.D. 100, though without doubt there were Baptists then, as all Christians were then Baptists.”

(6) Alexander Campbell, founder of the “Christian” church says, “From the apostolic age to the present time, the sentiments of Baptists have had a continued chain of advocates, and public monuments of their existence in every century can be produced.” There are others, but these must suffice for now.

We do not seek to establish our claims as to our first century origin by the Baptist name. Churches of those early days were simply called “churches” for they were all of one faith, and thus needed no distinguishing name, except to identify a church at a certain place, for example,

(See **ORIGINS** on page 5)

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God's Masterpiece --Man's Body**The Human Embryo**By **Arthur I. Brown**

In the preceding article we discussed the little embryonic man. At that time he was just a few weeks old — a cute little fellow not very handsome, we must admit, but he's coming on! Towards the end of the first month of development, he is a small creature about one-sixth of an inch long, with head abnormally large, the other extremity being the termination of the spinal column, and improperly called a tail. He has no arms or legs, and his face and neck have not yet formed, but his tiny heart has been beating for a few days and lies close to his brain.

Young as he is, he has started to form lungs, what is to be the liver is just beginning to make its appearance, and he is "planning" to produce a pair of kidneys. By the end of the month he is about one fourth of an inch long, having made good process. As this second month progresses, many changes occur, some of which have already been noted. The wide mouth is narrowing, the cheeks are forming, and the broad nose is beginning to make its appearance. We noted that he looked like a brainy fellow from the

appearance of the bulging forehead and large head.

Those curious limb buds are getting longer, the free end flattening out to resemble a paddle. Then five parallel ridges appear at the end of the paddle, with shallow grooves in between. Gradually these grooves cut clear through and he now has his five fingers and five toes. Concurrently with this we see constrictions forming across each limb to mark off elbow and wrist, knee and ankle. It is altogether a surprising process.

During this second month the sexual organs develop and by the end of the month the sex is clearly evident in the internal parts, and usually also, externally. And here is a surprising feature. The first formed sex organs are identical in male and female. Even milk glands begin to form in both sexes near the end of the second month. Presently however, the sex chromosome exerts its authority, and the embryo is changed definitely into either male or female. As this eighth week closes the embryo begins to look more human and as he comes to the third month, he gets a new name. No more shall we call him an embryo — now

he is a fetus.

Early in this period, the teeth carpenters are very busy gathering their materials, enamel, dentine, and cement, laying down buds for the twenty temporary teeth which will not begin to appear until about six months after baby is born. But there is no dallying here — everything must be on time. Also, the teeth sockets are arising in the jaw bones which are getting firm and hard.

It will be six months yet before that first wonderful cry will be heard, but now in this third month the vocal cords whose vibrations produce the voice sounds, begin to appear; they are not yet perfect, of course, but they take their place in the line of formation.

During all these nine months of growth, it must be remembered that baby is surrounded by water, a marvelous contrivance to prevent shock to his delicate organism. Being in water, of course, he is unable to breathe — if he did he would simply drown in the amniotic fluid.

Are you wondering where he gets his food? You might well do so and it's a remarkable story. When the first cell found itself inside mother's body, we can imagine that it looked around and said, "Well, where shall I take up my abode — where can I find some food and water and oxygen?" So, it digs a little spot for itself in the lining of the uterine cavity,

through the action of what is known as the trophoblast, which forms on the outer edge of the little ball of cells, and literally eats its way into this portion of mother's body. As these tissues are digested by the trophoblast, the uterus begins to take part in the process, cooperatively, and forms a protective wall, known as the placenta which henceforth lies between baby and mother, and is the amazing "go-between" bringing from mother all the food that baby requires, its oxygen, and its water. This is made possible by the formation of pipes running both ways — really arteries and veins. The fetus takes the food, burns it up in its own digestive mechanism, and then sends back the ashes or garbage for mother to handle. The cord that contains these arteries and veins running between mother and child, is called the umbilical cord, passing from baby's navel into the placenta, where all the mixture takes place.

It must be clearly understood that there is no direct mixing of mother's blood and the child's. But the babe does get all its nourishment from mother by the process of osmosis, that is, absorption from the maternal blood, through very thin membrane in the placenta. The child manufactures its own blood but gets all the necessary

(See **BODY** on page 18)

# Eternal Security of the Believer — Part 4

## 100 REASONS AND 100 SCRIPTURES PROVING THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

By M. L. Moser, Sr.

### 51. The believer shall never hunger.

John 6:35: "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

### 52. The believer will in no wise be cast out (Not under any circumstance).

John 6:37: "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

### 53. Christ will not lose a single believer.

John 6:39: "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

### 54. The believer is more than conqueror through Christ.

Romans 8:37: "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

### 55. Christ will raise up the believer at the last day.

John 6:38-40: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

### 56. Whosoever eats the bread of life shall never die.

John 6:51: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

### 57. The believer justified by faith, to be saved from wrath.

Romans 5:9: "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

### 58. Nothing can separate the believer from Christ.

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor

depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

There is nothing in death that can.

There is nothing in life that can.

There is not an angel that can.

Good angels would not, bad angels cannot.

Principalities cannot. Satan is head of principalities of darkness.

Powers cannot. Satan is Prince of the powers of the air.

Things present cannot separate.

Things to come cannot.

Heights cannot. There is nothing above that can separate us.

Depth cannot. There is nothing below that can separate us.

Nor any other creature. NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

### 59. Christ will complete salvation until the end.

Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

### 60. The believer to be preserved spirit, soul, and body.

1 Thessalonians 5:23: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

### 61. God cannot lie.

Titus 1:2: "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."

### 62. Jesus is able to save unto the uttermost.

Hebrews 7:25: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

### 63. The believer is born of incorruptible seed.

1 Peter 1:23: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Can the devil corrupt that which God says is incorruptible?

### 64. The believer is to be like Christ.

1 John 3:2: “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

**65. The believer is perfected forever.**

Hebrews 10:14: “For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.”

**66. The believer believes unto the saving of his soul.**

Hebrews 10:38-39: “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”

**67. The believer made righteous through Christ’s obedience.**

Romans 5:18-19: “Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

**68. Because all things work together for good to the believer.**

Romans 8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

**69. Because the believer is so helpless that he cannot place his sins upon Christ. God must do it for him. Therefore salvation is by grace.**

Isaiah 53:6: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

**70. Because Christ did not come to help us, but to save us.**

Luke 19:10: “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

**71. Because the Holy Spirit abides in the believer forever.**

John 14:16-17: “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

**72. Because God, not being a man, cannot lie.**

Numbers 23:19: “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”

[To Be Continued Next Month]

**ORIGINS . . .**

(Continued from page 2)

“the church at Ephesus,”  
“the church at Corinth,”  
etc.

But as time went by, false organizations sprang up calling themselves churches, and it became necessary to use distinguishing names. As for Baptists, they have been called by different names down through the centuries like Montanists, Waldenses, etc. but all were called by one name, Ana-Baptists (“*Re-Baptisers*” of those that came from unscriptural organizations, or who were not scripturally baptized.) These names were usually given by their enemies. The “*Ana*” in the name “Ana-Baptists” was dropped in the days of Martin Luther, and the name Baptist was retained unto this day.

In closing, let me briefly state two things. First, Baptists are not Protestants. These folks called Protestants began with Martin Luther who was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, but “protested” against its teachings and came out of that church, hence the name “Protestant.” Baptists were *never* in the Roman Catholic church.

Secondly, Baptists believe that every accountable sinner who sincerely repents toward God, and has faith in Christ as Savior is saved, whether he be a member of a Baptist church or not. Salvation

is in *Christ*, not in a denominational tag. “*Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (Jn. 3:16). □

**APE . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

defined as “Continuous progressive change, according to certain laws, by *means of resident forces*.” No God is necessary — change is by *resident forces*.

**Theistic Evolution**

Modernistic preachers have tried to reconcile the Bible and religion with evolution by saying that evolution is just the way that “God works.” The truth is, the Bible and Christianity cannot be reconciled to evolution. Genesis teaches beyond question that man was made as a *special creation* — not by age long process (Gen. 1:26-27). It teaches that various species were made “after their kind” (Gen. 1:24-25). Had man come into existence through evolutionary process he would have had a mate. But the first man had no mate, and one was *made outright* for him (Gen. 2:21-22). Evolution and special creation can’t be reconciled. If evolution is so — the Bible is not so. If the Bible is so, then evolution is a big lie!

(See APE on page 24)

## What Is Baptist Faith and Order?

By Chester E. Tulga

Faith and order are inseparables in the Bible. A sound faith must have the expression of a sound order for its implementation. The whole Bible rings with exhortations to sound faith, warnings against compromise and apostasy and exhortations to sound doctrine. Unsound doctrine, heresy and apostasy are clearly condemned and the Christian warned against risking contamination with them.

The whole Bible emphasizes proper order. The universe in which we live is the greatest example of order. The creation is an example of order and order is seen in the Genesis account of creation. Creation is an example of order, while evolution is a philosophy of chance.

The Old Testament is very definite on order in worship. God intends to be approached and worshiped in His way, not man's way. There is an order of approach to God in the Old Testament. There are certain sacrifices which are carefully specified and their presentation meticulously outlined. The Book of Numbers is remarkable for the order of the host which is carefully set forth.

The Old Testament abounds in instances where God refused to accept those who violated divine order.

Cain's sacrifice was rejected. Nadab died for he offered strange fire before the Lord (Num. 26:61). Those who presumed to carry the ark of God in a new cart fell under God's judgment (1 Chr. 13:9). The prophets thundered against wrong ways to pray, wrong ways to worship, wrong ways to offer sacrifices and especially that violation of faith and order which combines faith and idolatry.

Christ gave a church order. It is no accident that there were twelve apostles. There were two ordinances given. A great commission was given to the church. The great redemptive facts were accomplished as a basis of Christian doctrine.

There is an order of the ministry. "And God hath set some in the church, first, apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (1 Cor. 12:28). Note "set", "first", "secondarily", "thirdly",

"after that", "then." Here is an example of God's regard for order.

There is order in the Great Commission — disciple, baptize, teach. Here is the New Testament order. It is not to be abbreviated or changed in order, for to do so alters the faith.

There is order in evangelism: repentance, faith, baptism, church. There is order in the ordinances: first baptism, then the Lord's Supper. They are not to be sepa-

(See TULGA on page 7)

## The Family Pew

By David Henry Deen

I am your Family Pew:

I came across the ocean with your forefathers.

I have followed the march of peoples wherever they have gone.

I was hewed out of the trees of the forest.

I was warmed by the presence of those who would worship the living God.

I am more than a board—I am an institution.

I have extended my comfort to saint and sinner;

I have felt the heart-throbs of those who sought the presence of God.

I have had a place in rude hut or log church;

I have been made beautiful in the majesty of the sanctuary.

I have seen the bloodstains of those who fought for liberty.

I have made my contribution to the welfare of those who stood for truth and righteousness.

I have been taken to the depths of the cave and into the bomb cellar.

I cannot be destroyed as long as men worship—I am eternal.

I am a connecting link between the home and the world around; I am the first line of defense.

I bring comfort to the lonely.

Often I have been deserted by men who sought softer seats;

Men turn from me at their own peril; if they forget me they may lose their own souls.

I bear my mute testimony when the pastor exhorts.

I am your Family Pew—I can be useful only as I am occupied!

**A New Danger For America**

**Muslims Groom Candidates  
For 2004**

A leading Islamic lobby group is on a nationwide tour to introduce Muslims to American politics. Building an influential voting bloc for the 2004 elections and eventually seeing Muslim candidates on ballots for everything from city council to congressional seats are two aims of the Virginia-based Muslim American Society (MAS), the St. Paul Pioneer press reported.

The MAS also wants to increase campaign donations for politicians who have represented Muslim interests, including civil-rights protections and immigrant issues.

On Saturday (May 24) MAS will lead a civil rights march and rally in Washington, D.C. it touts as the largest gathering of Muslims ever in the nation's capital.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, American Muslims, who traditionally focused on foreign policy, increasingly have made domestic policy their biggest concern, the St. Paul paper said. At a day-long workshop in Inver Grove Heights, Minn., participants discussed issues such as mosque expansions, Islamic slaughterhouses and racial profiling. The workshop turned 60 eager participants

into lobbyists and, possibly, potential candidates, the Pioneer Press said.

"It's not just talking about issues that affect Muslims," workshop organizer Jessi Frenzel told the paper. "It's our duty as American residents to speak up on a lot of issues. To be a good citizen is to be a good Muslim." Frenzel said he is considering a future in politics.

About 700 Muslims ran for public office in 2000, and 153 were elected, the St. Paul paper reported.

Rahma Farah, 18, who participated in the workshop, said the experience made her optimistic about the future of Islam and U.S. politics. One day, she told the St. Paul daily, there may even be a Muslim president of the United States. "Who knows?" Farah said. "Maybe in 2020." —CNS

[Editor's comment: According to news reports, the aim of the Muslims is to see the United States become a Muslim nation.]

**STRANGE . . .**

(Continued from page /1)

church services for a long period of time, asking him if, since he had not attended for so long, he didn't desire that his name be erased?

He pleaded with them

not to erase his name, saying, "I wouldn't want to die and not be a member of the church."

Since that time, several months ago, I have observed this man's presence at church only one time.

Strange, isn't it? □

**TULGA . . .**

(Continued from page 6)

rated or reversed.

There is order in polity. The local church is the only organization recognized in the New Testament. It must not be subordinated to human societies not of divine appointment. All organizations are to be a part of it, subservient to it and not separated from it. The multitude of free-lance organizations today who have no responsibility to the churches and whose only interest is to live off the churches, have no basis in

the Word of God. The local church ordains the ministry. It may consult sister churches, but it is not bound by their decisions. The local church is the sole judge of the qualifications for membership in its body, the sole judge of the validity of every baptism presented for its approval and the sole judge of the ordination of any candidate for its pulpit who may be presented. This is New Testament order.

Much lip service is paid in these days to the independence of the local church, but there is a refusal to recognize the total sovereignty of a local church under God. Baptists believe in the independence of the local church, but many of them dislike a church that takes its independence seriously. There is Baptist faith and order and the two are inseparables. □

**Christlikeness**

Oh, that my tongue might so possess  
The accent of His tenderness  
That every word I breathe would bless.  
To those who mourn, a word of cheer;  
A word of hope to those who fear,  
And love to all men far and near;  
Oh, that it might be said of me,  
"Surely thy speech betrayeth thee  
As a friend of Christ of Galilee."



**Is This the Change We Wanted?** — “My friends, we live in the greatest nation in the history of the world. I hope you’ll join with me as we try to change it.” — Barack Obama

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**Persecution Report.** — In Burma, authorities are clamping down on churches in the capital city and surrounding areas. In January, the government ordered churches meeting in unauthorized facilities to close, even though it has not issued permits for new churches since the late 1990s. In China, an elderly preacher who is near death was denied a final meeting with his imprisoned Christian wife (Worthy News, Jan. 29, 2009). In Bangladesh, a pastors wife was gang raped by a group of eight Muslims. There have been several other violent incidents of persecution in Bangladesh in recent weeks. In Minsk, the capital of Belarus (bordering Russia), authorities have ordered New Life Church to vacate its building. Baptists running street libraries have reportedly

## World News Roundup

had literature confiscated and received court warnings for singing songs of a Christian nature without permission. In Eritrea, three Christians have died in military confinement camps since October. All three were tortured (Mission Network News, Jan. 30, 2009). In Saudi Arabia, 28-year-old Hamoud Bin Saleh was arrested after he posted the testimony of his conversion from Christ to Islam on a blog. The Saudi government also blocked Hamouds blog, which is hosted by Googles Blogger (Voice of the Martyrs, Jan. 30, 2009). In Sudan, the U.S. aid group *Thirst No More*, which drills and repairs water wells, was ordered to leave the country after officials found thousands of Arabic-language Bibles stacked in its office.

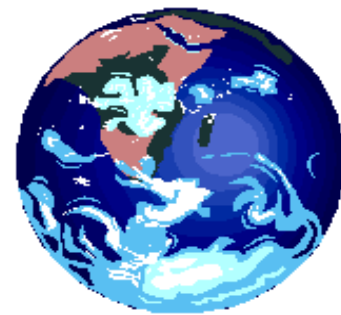
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**United Methodists Trying to Increase Presence of Women in Pulpits of Largest Churches.** —The United Methodist Church has always ordained female pastors, but it is concerned that only a tiny percentage of women pastor the denominations largest churches. Roughly 25% of its 44,000 clergy are females, but only 85 women lead churches with more than 1,000 members, as opposed

to 1,082 men in such positions. The liberal denomination has launched a program called Lead Women Pastor Project in an attempt to correct this (Methodist Women Seek to Pastor Large Churches, Christian Post, Jan. 21, 2009). Feminists and their male disciples are destined to be perpetually frustrated, because they refuse to acknowledge that the differences between men and women are divinely-ordained and innately ingrained in mankind and no amount of social engineering and handwringing can change this. As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths (Isaiah 3:12).

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**Former Australian Prime Minister Says Global Government The Only Way Out of Crisis.** — In a recent interview, former Australian prime minister and treasurer Paul Keating said that a one-world government is the only way out of the present financial crisis. He said: Its way worse than it appears. The top 200 financial institutions in the world have suffered an average loss of value of 74%. What we need is a completely



new global political and economic settlement. ... If this goes on for a couple of years, there will be the serious question of an American default, a default by the United States treasury. This is what we are dealing with. ... Until we get to a representative world structure of power that is a global political power and global financial power, thats the only way, I think, that confidence will return (Paul Keating Joins Dateline, Australian Broad-casting Corporation, Feb. 2, 2009). Our friend Hughie Seaborn comments: If I didn’t know better I would say he must have learned his ideas straight from the pages of the Book of Revelation. Although he didn’t recommend a one world religious system, he certainly did recommend that a one world money system and a one world government was needed to fix the problem.

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**Rapper Violence.** — Earlier this month four men were stabbed at a nightclub in New York during the

(See **WNR** on page 12)

# La Voz Del Desierto

## Los Bautistas Y El Fundamentalismo Bíblico

La palabra *fundamento* en el castellano es generalmente la traducción de alguna forma del hebreo “*yásad*” y el griego “*katabolé*” y *themelios*”. Es sinónimo de *cimiento*. Su uso puede resumirse como sigue:

### I. De forma literal –

Es esa parte de una estructura que sostiene al resto. Lo sostenido puede ser **1)** Una montaña (Deuteronomio 32:22). **2)** Un templo (1ra Reyes 6:37). **3)** Muros (Esdras 4:12).

**II. En sentido figurado** – Los usos siguientes se pueden citar como ilustrativos: **1)** La fundación o principio del mundo (Efesios 1:4; Apocalipsis 17:8). **2)** CRISTO como el fundamento de la Iglesia (1ra Corintios 3:11). **3)** Los profetas y apóstoles como fundamento de la Iglesia, con Cristo como principal piedra del ángulo (Efesios 2:20). **4)** Nuestra labor y ministerio (Romanos 15:20; 1ra Corintios 3:10).

Además de estos usos que hemos citados, la palabra fundamento se usa

frecuentemente con diferentes connotaciones en la literatura teológica. “*Estudios fundacionales*” (esto es, Apologética, parte de la teología que expone las pruebas y fundamento de la fe cristiana); a veces de “*pasajes fundacionales*” (esto es, los pasajes de los evangelios que son aceptados por la crítica moderna, como absolutamente dignos de confianza); y en muchas otras formas.

Propiamente dicho, la palabra fundamentalismo, denota un movimiento teológico en las décadas más recientes, que tiene el designio de conservar los principios que forman la base del sistema cristiano, y resistir lo que se consideran tendencias teológicas peligrosas, en el movimiento que se llama así mismo Modernismo. Sus dogmas no son los distintivos de alguna denominación, sino que comprenden las verdades esenciales del evangelio de Cristo, en la forma heredada de la Iglesia Primitiva (la Iglesia Bautista que Jesús edificó en Jerusalén).

En un principio cuando se empezó a utilizar el término “fundamentalista”, era principalmente para describir a los que se afirmaban en los fundamentos de la fe. Pero hay que reconocer que los tiempos han cambiado. Hoy día hay muchos bautistas y algunos otros que se dicen fundamentalistas, pero con sus hechos y las doctrinas que predicán, lo niegan.

He podido observar que hay muchas Iglesias Bautistas, llamadas fundamentales, que no están sobre el fundamento de Cristo y los apóstoles. Cristo es el fundamento que Dios el Padre puso para que la Iglesia fuera edificada en Jerusalén (Isaías 28:16). Esto nos ayuda a entender la respuesta que le dio el Señor a Pedro en Mateo 16:15-18. La Iglesia Bautista está edificada sobre el fundamento que Dios el Padre había puesto, que era Jesucristo mismo; y sobre ese fundamento, Él edificaría Su Iglesia.

Nosotros, al igual que los apóstoles lo hicieron, tenemos que edificar sobre Cristo como fundamento

(1ra Corintios 3:10-11; Efesios 2:20-22). Jesucristo es la principal piedra del ángulo sobre la cual está edificada la Iglesia; Su Iglesia. Si no edificamos sobre la verdad de Cristo, expresada en la Biblia, somos fundamentalistas sin fundamento (solamente de nombre).

Todo nuestro ministerio tiene que estar edificado sobre Cristo y el fundamento de los apóstoles, que es la doctrina que el Señor dejó para Su Iglesia, y que está expresada en la Biblia. Debemos ser imitadores de la Iglesia Primitiva y seguir su ejemplo (1ra Corintios 11:1; 1ra Tesalonicenses 1:6-7; 2:14). Si no edificamos sobre Cristo, tendremos pérdida, nuestras obras se quemarán (1ra Corintios 3:11-15). Tenemos que contender ardentemente por ese fundamento doctrinal que Jesús nos dejó. Veamos: Judas 3.

Hay iglesias que dicen que son fundamentalistas, pero por lo que predicán, dan a entender como si

(Vea CURET en la pág. 10)

# Maneras de Ser Semejantes a Cristo

Jesús era amoroso y puso Su vida por nosotros, así nosotros debemos poner nuestras vidas por los hermanos. *“En esto hemos conocido el amor, en que él puso su vida por nosotros; también nosotros debemos poner nuestras vidas por los hermanos”* (1ra Juan 3:16).

Jesús era humilde, a pesar de ser igual a Dios, y en Su condición de hombre, se humilló a sí mismo hasta la muerte. *“Y estando en la condición de hombre, se humilló a sí mismo, haciéndose obediente hasta la muerte, y muerte de cruz”* (Filipenses 2:8). Jesús era fiel, nunca dudo quién era, y cuál era Su propósito en la tierra (Juan 14:6). Jesús era generoso, pues dio ejemplo, para enseñar a unos pocos hombres, para que muchas vidas pudieran ser tocadas (Juan 13:14,15).

Jesús era Santo y vino a influir en nosotros, pues aunque estaba separado del mundo, cambió el mundo que le rodeaba. Jesús era obediente, una de las cosas más maravillosas de Jesús, es que siendo el Señor mismo, nos enseñó a orar, a ser discípulos y a ser

sumisos al Padre (1ra Juan 3:6).

Por lo tanto, hermanos, pidámosle a Dios que nos haga semejantes a Cristo, quien es nuestro supremo ejemplo a seguir; para que cuando las personas inconversas nos vean, vean la imagen de Cristo y quieran conocerle mejor y obtener la salvación, que sólo Él puede dar (Romanos 8:29).

— Por Hna. Jemar Montes, Redactora. □ □ □

## CURET . . .

(Viene de la pág. 9)

existiera otro evangelio. Predican que la salvación se pierde, la salvación por obras, no creen en el castigo eterno, no creen en el infierno, etc. Estas personas o iglesias no pueden ser fundamentalistas, predicando un evangelio diferente al que nos dejó nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

No existe otro evangelio aparte del que nos dejó Jesucristo. Estas personas que predicar un evangelio diferente, se convierten en maldición para ellos mismos. Veamos:

Gálatas 1:6-10. Cuando pervertimos el evangelio de Cristo y lo cambiamos, para agradar a los hombres, dejamos de ser siervos de Cristo (vs. 10).

Hermanos, no debemos olvidar que nuestro trabajo y fidelidad al Señor no es en vano, y que algún día tendremos la recompensa (1ra Corintios 15:58). El traje de la Iglesia, como novia, en las bodas del Cordero, estará representado por las acciones justas de los santos (Apocalipsis 19:7-8). Acciones u obras justas, son las que están hechas sobre el fundamento, que como hemos visto, es Cristo, la principal piedra del ángulo (1ra Pedro 2:6-8).

La Iglesia Bautista es la casa de Dios, columna y baluarte de la verdad, como dice en 1ra Timoteo 3:15. Esto lo que implica es, que tiene que sostener, hacer sobresalir, y ser fiel al fundamento; que es Cristo y Su Palabra.

Dios se complace en que seamos verdaderos bautistas fundamentales, en todo el sentido de la palabra; que usamos la Biblia como regla de fe y práctica. Bautistas fieles al Señor, que basamos nuestra fe en las verdades esenciales del Evangelio de Cristo, heredadas de la Iglesia Primitiva (la Iglesia Bautista que Jesús edificó en Jerusalén).

No podemos ser bautistas fundamentales verdaderos, aunque digamos que lo somos, si cambiamos la doctrina de Dios por

doctrina de hombres. Si cambiamos la adoración a Dios, de un culto racional, a uno emocional (Romanos 12:1-2). Si cambiamos la alabanza a Dios, de los himnos espirituales tradicionales (Efesios 5:19); Colosenses 3:16), a la música contemporánea (boleros, salsa, merengue, rock, reggaetón, rap, etc.). A Dios hay que alabar en la hermosura de la santidad (Salmo 29:2). Nuestro Dios es un Dios de paz y de orden, no de confusión (1ra Corintios 14:33,40).

Hermanos, recordemos que ninguno que milita como soldado de Jesucristo, se enreda en los negocios de la vida, a fin de agradarlo a Él en todo. Y también el que lucha como atleta, no es coronado si no lucha legítimamente. En desobediencia a la doctrina que el Señor dejó para Su Iglesia, **NO** podemos ser fundamentalistas (2da Timoteo 2:1-7). — Por M. A. Curet, Pastor. □ □

“Por tanto, id, y enseñad a todas las naciones, bautizándoles en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo; enseñándoles que guarden todas las cosas que os he mandado, y he aquí yo estoy con vosotros todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo. Amén” — Marcos 16:19-20

**Iglesia Bautista El Redentor**  
**Central Lafayette #17, Arroyo, PR 00714**  
**(787) 839-3669 y (787) 839-5792**  
**Marcos A. Curet, Pastor**

## The Danger of Drifting

By H. B. Speights

“Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip (or drift away from them)” (Heb. 2:1)

The chief danger for all of us is drifting. This scripture warns us of that danger. The first word of this verse points backward to a list of characters of great faith and integrity. Though they be dead, yet by example, they tell us that to avoid drifting we must have a close walk with God. The Bible is filled with such admonitions. “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.” Then, to be a little more personal, the Bible rings this call, “Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.”

**1. People drift because it is easy.** No effort is required to go with the tide, and it is very easy going. But the current never goes upstream. That would be contrary to the laws of nature. Life is a fight, and to go against the current means an upward go. It is at this point the Bible gives warning to all, “Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion.” One does not have to do anything to drift. We all know more than we act upon but so many know and do nothing

about it.

**2. People drift when they fail to attend church services.** After a few Sundays of negligence and indifference and “Forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” people wake up and find themselves in trouble. What is the reason? No church, no spiritual growth. The Bible tells us that this is one thing we had better not forsake. No effort is required to stay home or not go to church because it is going with the tide. “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” is the Bible’s warning at this point.

**3. People will naturally drift and lose their spiritual power when they neglect their prayer life.** There is no substitute for prayer in Christian living. The church and the Christian alike will find their strength declining when they cease to pray. Either is powerless without prayer. Yielding to temptation is sin, and Jesus gives us a way out — “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.” “Ye have not because ye ask not” is simple enough to show that when we do not pray we drift.

**4. Daily neglect of Bible reading will cause people to drift.** One’s life is habituated by the things he practices. To ignore the right practices and habits in the spiritual realm results in declining spiritual strength. “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a

workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” is the Bible’s exhortation, and will keep Christians from drifting. “That I may know” was Paul’s prayer for knowledge, and it kept him up with God’s plan for his life. One day when so many went away from Jesus to talk with him no more, He said to His disciples, “Will ye also go away?”

“Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.” □

## God Is Back Of Everything

Dr. Beattle of Aberdeen, in the corner of a little garden wrote with his finger the initials of his son’s name; then he sowed garden cress in the furrows, covered the seed and smoothed the ground.

Ten days later the boy, with astonishment told his father that his name was growing in the garden.

“Yes,” the father said, carelessly, “I see it, but what is there in that worth noticing? Is it not mere chance?”

“No, something must have made me.”

Then the father told him anew of the great God of the universe. □

It will cost you your sins if you come to Jesus, but it will cost you your soul if you do not!

## The Third Verse of Any Song

I am the third verse. I have two older brothers and one younger brother. We all go to church. My brothers are recognized, respected and so well thought of that they are often asked to take part in the service. I am neglected, ignored and from all appearances considered good for nothing.

One time, long ago, a minister spoke kindly of me. In fact, he said I was the most attractive one of my family. He said I was beautiful, and good, and the congregation agreed. That was the best day of my life. My heart went out to that man.

I like to go to a certain church whose people seem to think well of the whole family. They treat us all alike, and sometimes if there is a cousin or two that goes along they receive equal attention also. I like those people for that. There is something harmonious about including all the members of the family.

I have felt so bad at times that I did not think that life was worth while, but I have hopes that in the next world, when the leader of the celestial chorus raises his star-studded baton, in the paean of praise which shall ascend to the throne of God, the poor third verse will not be omitted. □ □

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official after-party of the film premiere of Notorious about rapper Notorious B.I.G. One 21-year-old was stabbed numerous times and was in critical condition. Notorious B.I.G. (a.k.a. Biggie Smalls; real name Christopher Wallace) was shot to death in 1997 at age 24, only three years after the release of his debut album Ready to Die. Filled with cursing, violence, and immorality, the album featured a cut entitled Suicidal Thoughts, in which the rapper sang, When I die, — I wanna go to hell. Other rappers that died violently and/or young in the last 20 years include Scot La Rock, King Tubby, The Mac, MC Rock, Trouble T-Roy, Brandon Mitchell, Michael Robinson, Charizma, Deah Dame, Eazy-E, Mr. Cee, Hitman, Stretch, 2Pac, Yaki Kadafi, Seagram Miller, Rappin Ron, JoJo White, DJ Caravan, Dion Stewart, Fat Pat, Crazy Rak, Papo Deschamps, Malcolm Howard, MC Big L, MC Ant, Bugz, Freaky Tah, Matthew Roberts, Q-Don, Yusef Afloat, Big Pun, Johnny Burns, Chip Banks, DJ Screw, Eclipse, Hussein Fatal, Mooseman Roberts, Prince Ital Joe, Tonnie Sheppard, Coughnut, Left Eye Lopes, Jam Master Jay, Sabotage, Camouflage, Speedy Loc, B Brazy, Double D, Lil Bo, Soulja Slim, Freako, Holy Quran,

Russell Jones, Dr. Dre, Fat Tone, Proof, Big Hawk, Stack Bundles, Skee 64, Woodie, G Spider, Big Moe, Pimp C, Karizma, Plan B, Black Cee, Black C, DJ Co V C of Funxsouljaz, 4-1-So-Sicc-Ass-Rell of Cold World Hustlers, Lil Bo, and Billboard of Black Wall

Street. Rap music has done incalculable moral and spiritual harm to the black community as well as to society at large, and its influence is worldwide. Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners (1 Cor. 15:33). My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. ...

## Pastor Needed

Dear Church & Pastor:

If you have someone in your church or know of someone that would be interested in this church, would you please pass this information on to them.

**Grace Baptist Church of Prineville, Oregon** is seeking the leadership of the Lord concerning a pastor. We are a newly organized independent Baptist church in a growing city of 10,000 population, located about 20 miles from the geographical center of the State of Oregon.

In May 2008, we became a mission out of the Prairie Vista Baptist church of Godley, Texas, Bro. Lonnie Collier Pastor. On June 22, 2008 we were organized into an independent Baptist church, led by our pastor, Bro. Lonnie Collier. We organized with 23 charter members, and have grown to 45 members. Our attendance ranges between 50-65 per Sunday.

We are in a rented fully-furnished church building that will seat about 100. We will not be able to pay a full salary yet, but believe we will grow into it very soon. We have no debts, other than the utilities and \$500 monthly rent on our building. Our people are well grounded in the independent Baptist doctrine, and are dedicated to establishment of this church. We have musicians, singers, teachers, and workers. We have already purchased a 1994 15 passenger bus, and have about 25 King's Kids on Wednesday evening.

Our pastor must be a true independent Baptist, King James Bible, closed communion (pure grape juice) and dedicated to preaching the true Word of God.

If interested contact or send Email your resumé to: Bro. Jack Collier (retired) Interium pastor, 240 SW 2nd St., Prineville, OR 97754. Home Phone: (541) 447-5588; Cell phone: (541) 788-3582 or gloriaandjackcollier@msn.com

My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood (Proverbs 1:10, 15, 16).

\* \* \*

**Ant Genius.** — The following is excerpted from Creation Moments. Picture this: The setting was the scientists weekend cottage. The scientist had placed a saucer of chocolate on a wooden stool inside a bowl partially filled with water because ants hate water. And to further hinder the ants, the scientist painted the outside of the bowl with a coat of very slow drying glue. He was sure that when he returned to his cottage the next weekend, the chocolate would be untouched. When he returned, six days later, ants were swarming all over the chocolate. How did they do it? Well, the ants had crossed the glue because of the sacrifices of some of their heroes. It seems that a few ants had given their lives to form a single-file bridge of their bodies across the glue. Then they used pieces of grass and tiny pieces of wood to build a floating bridge to a leg of the stool, where it was an easy climb to the chocolate. The scientist also noticed that other daredevil ants were crossing the ceiling, stopping over the saucer of chocolate, and then drop-

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ping right into their prize! Proverbs 6:6 and 30:25 mention ants as examples of wisdom suggesting that those who are wise will learn from them. Wisdom is a gift of our Creator. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom while Jesus Christ is the depth of His wisdom!

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#### What Is a Trillion? —

The following is excerpted from Numb and Number: Is Trillion the New Billion? In that strange intersection of economics and politics, there is a new fashion: Trillion is the new billion. One trillion \$1 bills stacked one on top of the other would reach nearly 68,000 miles (about 109,400 kilometers) into the sky, or about a third of the way from the earth to the moon. A billion is a thousand million, and a trillion is a thousand billion. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said this week that Americans have become desensitized to just how much money that is. To put a trillion dollars in context, if you spend a million dollars every day since Jesus was born, you still wouldn't have spent a trillion, McConnell said. . . . says, A million seconds is about 11.5 days. A billion seconds is about 32 years, and a trillion seconds is 32,000 years. People tend

to lump them together, perhaps because they rhyme, but if you think of it in terms of a jail sentence, do you want to go to jail for 11.5 days or 32 years or maybe 32,000 years? So, they're vastly different, and people generally don't really have a real visceral grasp of the differences among them.

\* \* \*

#### Young Woman Booted From Team for Being Straight. —

Central Michigan University is being sued after one of their women's basketball players said she was kicked off the team due to her heterosexuality. Brooke Heike was a high school basketball star who was aggressively sought after by several colleges that wanted the league MVP from Washington Township, Michigan, to continue her record-breaking rebounding and shot-blocking skills on their campus. After leading her team to its first conference title in 18 years as a high school senior, the 6-foot-2 forward decided to attend Central Michigan University, which offered her a full scholarship. But Heike says she fell out of favor in 2007 with CMU's new women's basketball head coach, Sue Guevara, and was eventually kicked off the team. She claims the coach, who is allegedly lesbian, took issue with her heterosexuality. Cindy Rhodes Victor of the Victor

Firm, PLLC is representing Heike. "She was not only kicked off the team, but her scholarship was taken away because the coach kept telling her that she wasn't her 'type,'" Victor explains. "And when Brooke would ask what was that, [Guevara] would say 'I don't want you to wear makeup, you have a boyfriend, I don't want you to have a boyfriend...you're too girly girl' — that type of thing." Victor says Heike was an excellent basketball player. She adds that her teammates liked her, but still Heike's coach refused to help her out. Heike ended up hiring independent trainers to help her. According to Heike's attorney, cancellation of elementary education major's scholarship came as a surprise."She wasn't even told ever that her scholarship was in jeopardy or that her position was in jeopardy," says Victor. "Out of the blue she gets a letter from the financial aid office that says your scholarship's gone." A teammate then told the 20-year-old that "the coach announced yesterday that you were off the team because you're not happy." CMU representatives refused a request for an interview, but instead emailed OneNewsNow a statement saying they are familiar with the allegations and that they will defend their position in court. According to the case file, the coach in question was

fired from a coaching job at another school in 2003. Team members at that school accused Sue Guevara of similar actions.

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#### Hindus To Launch Cow Urine Soft Drink. —

The same Hindu organization that is behind the persecution of Christians in India is preparing to launch a new soft drink made from cow urine. Called Gau Jal (Sanskrit for cow water), the drink is undergoing laboratory tests by the Cow Protection Department of the RSS, Indians biggest Hindu nationalist group. It will be launched very soon, maybe by the end of this year (India to Launch Cow Urine, London Times, Feb. 11, 2009). Om Prakash, head of the department, says, Don't worry, it wont smell like urine and will be tasty, too. The Times observes that the drink is the latest attempt by the RSS — which was founded in 1925 and now claims eight million members — to cleanse India of foreign influence and promote its ideology of Hindutva, or Hinduness. Many Christians were slaughtered by Hindus in Orissa and other Indian states last year, and hundreds of homes and churches were destroyed. The new cow water will be mixed with Ayurvedic herbs. Ayurvedic is an al-

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ternative health care practice based on the Hindu scriptures that is becoming popular in North America. We have written about it extensively in the book *The New Age Tower of Babel*, available from Way of Life Literature. — FBIS

\* \* \*

### Stimulus Bill Creates Government Database of Medical Records.

— The following is excerpted from Final Stimulus Bill, CNSNews.com, Feb. 12, 2009: The final version of the stimulus bill, negotiated by the Democratic leaders of the House and Senate, includes a provision creating a federal database that will hold the personal medical records of every American, Katie Grant, spokeswoman for House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) told CNSNews.com Thursday. ... the bills that passed both the House and Senate created an Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and called for the coordinator to create a national database and a plan for the utilization of an electronic health record (EHR) for each person in the United States by 2014.

\* \* \*

### Company Combines Promotion of Pepsi and Homosexual Lifestyle.

Pepsi has produced another TV ad not only promoting Pepsi but also promoting the gay lifestyle. The ads serve two purposes for Pepsi: to sell Pepsi and to promote the homosexual lifestyle. AFA asked Pepsi to remain neutral in the culture war, but the company refused - choosing to support the homosexual activists. Pepsi has made no effort to hide their support for the homosexual agenda: Pepsi gave a total of \$1,000,000 to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) to promote the homosexual lifestyle in the workplace. Both HRC and PFLAG supported efforts in California to defeat Proposition 8 which defined marriage as being between a man and a woman. HRC, which received \$500,000 from Pepsi, gave \$2.3 million to defeat Proposition 8 forces employees to attend sexual orientation and gender diversity training where the employees are taught to accept homosexuality. Pepsi is a member of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

\* \* \*

### Second Baptist Pastor Convicted on Trumped-up Charges in Azerbaijan.

— The following is excerpted from the Associated Baptist Press, Feb. 20, 2009: “A Baptist pastor in the South Caucasus country of

Azerbaijan has been found guilty of what supporters say are bogus weapons charges and given ‘a two-year corrective labor sentence,’ according to a worldwide Baptist group. The Virginia-based Baptist World Alliance announced February 20 that Hamid Shabanov, who pastors a house church of approximately 60 members in the town of Aliabad, had been convicted. He was arrested on June 20, 2008, after police claimed to have found an illegal weapon in his home after a raid. Denying the allegations against Shabanov, and claiming that the weapon was planted by the police, Baptist Union of Azerbaijan General Secretary Elnur Jabiyev said the arrest ‘was a provocation by the police’ and that it was ‘a deliberately targeted action,’ according to a BWA press release. Jabiyev claimed ‘the police’s aim is to halt Baptist activity and close the church in Aliabad.’ ... Shabanov is the second Baptist pastor in Aliabad to be convicted of a crime. Zaur Balaev was arrested in May 2007 and given a two-year sentence after being convicted in August of that year for beating up five policemen and damaging a police car door. Members of Balaev’s church and residents in the town also disputed the charges against Balaev, who was released in March 2008 after protests from officials of the BWA, the

European Baptist Federation and former United States President Jimmy Carter.”

\* \* \*

### Former Astronaut Scoffs At Global Warming.

— The following is excerpted from *The New Mexican*, Santa Fe, Feb. 14, 2009: “Harrison ‘Jack’ Schmitt, one of the last men to walk on the moon and a former U.S. senator from New Mexico, doesn’t buy the idea that humans are causing global warming. ‘I don’t think the human effect is significant compared to the natural effect,’ he said. ... Scientists who disagree with this scenario ‘are being intimidated,’ Schmitt said. ‘They’ve seen too many of their colleagues lose grant funding when they haven’t gone along with the so-called political consensus that we’re in a human-caused global warming.’ The 74-year-old geologist recently resigned from The Planetary Society, a non-profit dedicated to space exploration, after the group blamed global warming on human activity. ... ‘As a geologist, I love Earth observations,’ he wrote in his Nov. 14 resignation letter. ‘But, it is ridiculous to tie this objective to a “consensus” that humans are causing global warming when human experience, geologic data and history,

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and current cooling can argue otherwise. “Consensus,” as many have said, merely represents the absence of definitive science. You know as well as I, the global warming scare is being used as a political tool to increase government control over American lives, incomes and decision making. It has no place in the Society’s activities.’ ... Schmitt grew up in Silver City, graduated with a science degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1957, studied geology at the University of Oslo in Norway and took a doctorate in geology from Harvard University in 1964. In 1965, he joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a member of the first group of scientist-astronauts and the only geologist among them. In 1972, he flew to the moon on the last lunar mission, Apollo 17.”

\* \* \*

**Pastor Sentenced to Jail For Peaceful Protest Against Abortion.** — The following is excerpted from OneNewsNow.com, Feb. 20, 2009: “California pro-life counselor and pastor Walter Hoye has received a jail term for peaceful work outside an abortion clinic to try to save the lives of unborn babies. Hoye was found guilty of violating a local ordinance that

dictates that he must stay at least eight feet away from anyone entering the clinic. He was found guilty, even though video demonstrated that he did not violate the law. Dana Cody of Life Legal Defense Foundation says Hoye was ordered to jail for 30 days, fined \$1,130, and placed on probation for three years. ... Hoye next appears before the judge in March. Cody is challenging the ordinance in federal court. ... His approach was simply to carry a sign that said ‘Jesus Loves You; Can We Help?’ and offering those who wanted it some information about alternatives to abortion.”

\* \* \*

**Pepsi, FOX Team Up To Push Sickening Trash Into America’s Homes.** — Pepsi sponsors perverted sickness on “Family Guy”. Pepsi gave the gay lifestyle a major push on the March 8th episode of FOX network’s *Family Guy*. Pepsi and FOX network joined hands to bring a perverted and sickening episode of TV’s *Family Guy* into the homes of millions of Americans. This episode was rated TV-14 DLSV by FOX, meaning that in the network’s opinion it was appropriate for 14-year olds, *an opinion obviously shared by Pepsi*. It aired during prime-time. Here is what Pepsi helped sponsor. WARNING: Very offensive

content! Bestiality. Glory holes. Circuit parties. Gay orgies. Eating horse sperm. This is the kind of sickness Pepsi thinks is worth promoting. — AFA

\* \* \*

**Micro Marvels of the Human Eye.** — The following is excerpted from *Creation Moments*, “The tiny computer chip — the basis of modern computers — is a thin wafer of silicon only about 7 millimeters across — about one fourth of an inch. This tiny chip might have the equivalent of 100,000 transistors built into it. Despite its size, hundreds of connections might be attached to it. The design of the computer chip is a marvel surpassed only by the amazing technology that can build it. If you were to find a silicon chip lying in the silicon sand at the beach, you would never be able to convince even one engineer that the chip had formed through the chance movements of all that silicon based sand! Now consider the human eye. The retina at the back of the eye is a very thin membrane, much thinner than even the clingiest food wrap. This retina contains not transistors but much more sophisticated photo receptors, each of which is a high gain amplifier. The retina doesn’t have 100,000 of these, but rather it has 200,000 for each square millimeter of retina! But the greatest wonder of all is

how any scientist can say that your miraculous eye is the result of unguided genetic mistakes that, just by chance, resulted in the eye. Indeed, God’s fingerprints are all over the creation, just as our human work is seen in the computer chip. How can one who can design only the computer chip dare question the One who can design the eye — and so much more!” — FBIS

\* \* \*

**Obama Backs Health Benefits for Same-Sex Partners of Federal Employees.** The recently passed \$676-billion omnibus spending bill includes language urging the federal government’s Office of Personnel Management to “consider” federal health benefits for same-sex domestic partners of federal employees. On Friday, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs

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### 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.

# The Lord Will Square The Score

By R. Nelson Colyar

“Babylon the Great” is now in the making—an apostate world-church supporting the anti-Christ world-kingdom, “drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” Beware, ye saints! Her doom is sealed. Be not deceived. Don’t be taken in by false claims in the name of Jesus Christ.

John heard the voice of an angel come down from heaven, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies” (Rev. 18:1-3).

This is the description of an apostate world-church, of a pseudo-Christendom, “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” It is a paganized federation of churches which has perverted the gospel of Christ to their own destruction, and to the destruction of millions of souls which look to her for

guidance. Notice how this “habitation of demons and hold of every foul spirit” has played politics with the kings of the earth (spiritual fornication), and how it has made commerce rich with “the power of her luxury” (margin). Beware, ye saints, of church federations and denominational organizations: they have the power to deceive you and to drag your children into the paw of the Beast.

Then John says: “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins are reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her; for she saith in her heart, *I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.* Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her” (Rev. 18:4-8). This is pro-

phcy written 1913 years ago, which is now nearing the time of fulfillment. The day of judgment upon a pseudo-Christendom is near at hand. Her sins are now reaching up to heaven. Anti-Christian church federations are boastful now. Many Protestant and some so-called Baptist denominations have already been drawn into her orbit of power. A world federation of churches is now forming. This movement takes in believer and unbeliever alike. It moves to dominate the “Christian” world by its power over the pulpit. This pagan, pseudo-Christian movement is the “hold of every foul spirit.” She “saith in her heart, I sit a *queen*, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” Supported by national governments, she sits a Queen. Married to the Anti-Christ, she is no *widow*. Drunken on the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus, she boasts she will see no sorrow. But her utter destruction shall come as a devastating fire — “she shall be utterly burned with fire.”

The true prophet of God must cry out: “Get out of her now, ye saints, ye people of God, the sheep of His pasture! What are you doing grazing in the Devil’s pasture? Why are you caged with ‘every unclean and hateful bird’? Could it be that you are more interested in her luxuries than you are in the continuance of the gospel unto your children and to your

children’s children? Despiseth thou the church of the living God, and helpst thou them that hate the Lord? This harlot world-church, with her name written right out upon her forehead, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH, shall receive her reward from Him whose holy name she blasphemes. Come out of her, quickly, beloved people of God. If not, you are partaker of her sins. Either repent of your allegiance with her, or share in her plagues.”

Yes, the Lord will even the score with a paganistic, modernistic, communistic churchdom that perverts the gospel and blasphemes the name of Jesus Christ. The time has come to call true, Spirit-born saints out of the churches of apostate Christendom and unto the truth. I make no apologies for advocating it. I believe that the Lord says to every God-called prophet of today, as He said to His prophet Jeremiah: “If thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them (the mockers) return unto thee, but return not thou unto them” (Jer. 15:19). The preacher has his choice, either to go with the mockers and scoffers, or to go with the Lord and His people. It is high time

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## Temptations

By James A. Hulse

Do saved people — Christians — have temptations? Yes, Jesus was tempted, and He was God's Son. We don't know what temptations He may have endured during the forty days and forty nights while He fasted, but afterward He was hungry, and the devil said: "If thou be the Son of God, command these stones to be made bread."

Jesus was the Son of God, but was in a body of flesh that became hungry. The devil knew that He was God's Son, yet the devil tried to get Jesus to prove it by turning stones into bread, that he might satisfy His hunger.

The same devil lives in the world today, and he says to the young Christian, who is also a son, in that he or she has been saved by faith in Christ: "If you were really a Christian, you wouldn't have done so and so — if you were actually saved you wouldn't want to go to such and such a place."

This same body of ours that this born-again, renewed and quickened spirit dwells within, enjoyed those worldly things before, and hungers for them again.

It wouldn't be a temptation if we had no desire to do those things, or partake of those former things. It would be only a suggestion on the part of

Satan, unless the desire is within this human body to do that — then it becomes a temptation.

I thank the Lord that when temptations do come that God gives us grace that is sufficient to overcome all of them. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry" (1 Cor. 10:13-14).

Many a young Christian's testimony is lost, I fear, because they fail to see that the born-again spirit — the new man — that dwells within this body of flesh has a battle — a warfare, to keep this body in subjection, and not let it become a servant again under Satan.

The victory has been won in Jesus. He paid the price. We believe in Him, and by that faith we are eternally saved. Now to possess the land and enter into rest in this life we must fight the good fight of faith. Having faith, we must now keep this body under subjection.

When we are tempted we should answer Satan with Scripture as Jesus did. You answer him with the Word of God a few times and he will leave you, and the Lord will comfort you with the Holy Spirit.

We don't mean that Satan will not come back, for he will, and again and again. He watches for your weak spots, and there he strikes. Didn't he strike at Jesus when He was hungry? He left too, but did he stay away? No! He even troubled Him in the garden and tried to take His life before he went to the cross to pay man's redemptive price.

He will likewise come to you in your weakness, but God's grace is sufficient, and with each victory you will receive more strength for the next battle.

Yes, it's hard for the young Christian because you haven't the knowledge of God's word, and you are inexperienced in the use of the armour of God that is described in Ephesians 6:11-18. That is why Paul told young Timothy to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Those who are older in the Lord, and know more of His word, have less temptations, because they are more experienced in meeting Satan.

We admonish you as Paul did the Corinthians (1 Cor. 10:5-12), don't do these worldly things, for the saved person will pay in this life for the sins of the body. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." You may think you can get by, and you may

for a time — and then receive your punishment all at once and it be more than you expected — almost more than you will be able to bear.

O, how the Lord loved us, to save us. Now, why not live for Him? We will if we love Him. □

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### COLYAR . . .

(Continued from page 16)

for them that are in the churches which deny the gospel of Jesus Christ, to make up their minds which way they are going. Paul, the Apostle, wrote by inspiration of God: "From such turn away." The choice has to be made, and the sooner made the better.

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### WNR . . .

(Continued from page 15)

was asked about that recommendation, something the Obama administration supports, he indicated. Gibbs said President Obama's position on benefits for same-sex couples "remains the same" as it was during the campaign. "The president would work with Congress in order to ... institute what he promised he'd do in the campaign," Gibbs said at the Friday press briefing. During the presidential campaign, Obama said that while he does not support same-sex marriage, he does support repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman in federal law.□□□

## God Needs Young People

The dear Lord needs and very much desires our young people! Let's notice two quotations from His blessed Word:

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy *youth*, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Eccl. 12:1). Then, "Let no man despise thy *youth*; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in *purity*" (1 Tim. 4:12).

These two great Scriptures show that the dear Heavenly Father has a deep interest in young lives! Young people, you have your youth and almost everyone admires youth. But in your youth, you do need God! Do not try to launch your life without Christ. He is a great Savior to young people

How many young people that chance to read this article have heard it stated, "Old people are good patterns for the young people to copy after?" I dare say that most of you have. But, dear young people, the Bible does not say thus! Look at the second Scripture at the top of this article. What does it say? It teaches that young people are to be examples (that is patterns) of the believers (that is Christians); and young people are to be examples in six different realms of living! My! what a startling thought!

Frankly, young people, you are to take the lead — you are to set the example. And how badly some of our older people need someone to show them how to live God honoring and Christ-centered lives. Many of those who are older have

gone astray. God would have you young people to show them the Christ manner of living.

Dear Young Reader, are you a Christian — are you saved? If not, then won't you trust Christ as your Savior. He needs you and He has a plan for your life. You need Him! If you are not a Christian young person, then talk to your pastor or your Sunday school teacher about how to become a Christian. Once you have taken this step, you will never regret it. Living in a world that is maladjusted and groaning because of excessive wickedness, you should not think of launching your life without God! Do not even think of it.

The crying need of most our churches in America is for young leadership. Give your heart and life to Jesus and then invest your talents and abilities in the extension of the dear Savior's Kingdom! There is only one thing that can save our old world from ruin and rescue our tottering civilization from utter disaster and that is Spirit-filled young Christians who are willing to lay their lives on the altars of Christian service. Young people like to be challenged! Will you become one of these young people? Think on this question seriously and decide it in the fear of the Lord. For the sake of a world in awful peril, make your answer a big Yes

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**BODY . . .**

(Continued from page 3)

materials from mother, and in a very real sense is dependent on the parent for everything.

No doubt, our Lord experienced the same dependency, humanly speaking, during the nine months of development inside the body of His mother.

I am able, obviously, to give you only an outline of these miraculous changes, but it is not necessary that you should be troubled with the small details. I am trying to show you a few of the steps through which we all pass before we are born.

The digestive system takes on a degree of activity in this third month. The cells lining the stomach begin to secrete mucus — a lubricating substance which assists in the passage of food through the digestive organs and probably protects the stomach lining from the action of hydrochloric acid formed by the glands in the wall of the stomach. The liver begins to secrete bile and empties it into the intestine. The kidneys start to function, secreting urine which gradually seeps out of the fetal bladder into the amniotic fluid surrounding the child. Most of the waste products of the babe's metabolism, however, are still passed through the placenta into the blood of

(See **BODY** on page 19)

### Swallowing Angry Words Before You Say Them Is Better Than Having To Eat Them Afterwards

**"A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth: and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof"**

**Proverbs 18:20-21**

**BODY . . .**

(Continued from page 18)

the mother.

Bones and muscles are steadily growing, giving form, contour, and strength. The face begins to look not quite so wrinkled and wizened although it cannot yet be called beautiful, by any stretch of the imagination. The jaw and cheek bones are developing, and the nasal bones are forming a distinct bridge to the nose. Centers of bone formation are appearing in

the cartilages of hands and feet, although wrists and ankles are still cartilage or gristle.

And now the little fellow at the end of this month, having bones, and muscles and joints, begins to try them out, thus producing spontaneous movements of arms, legs, shoulders, and even fingers. The third and fourth months are the periods of the greatest growth, for he grows from six to eight inches during these eight weeks, and is about one-

half the length he will be at birth. He is still a gnome-like creature, head much too large apparently, body too broad and legs much too short. At two months the head forms almost one-half of the body; from the third to the fifth months it is one third, at birth one fourth, and in the adult about one tenth the height of the body.

But in this fourth month, the head is much more erect, as if showing pride in development where before it hung downward, giving anything but a handsome appearance. The back is becoming straighter, the face is well modeled, eyes wide apart, hands and feet quite well formed. The fingers and toes are a bit too wide yet and are rather tightly flexed. The fingerprints are beginning to appear and also the toeprints.

The skin of the body is generally dark red in color and quite wrinkled; it is red because the skin is still very thin and the blood vessels are very near the surface. There is very little fat in the body of a fetus before the sixth month, and it is fat which removes the wrinkles. We all know what loss of fat will do in a previously well nourished adult. The individual will look very old if many pounds have been lost.

This fourth month is an eventful one for mother. The developing individual is tired of keeping quiet and now begins to assert himself. In fact he knocks

at the door to be let out — at least, that is what it seems like. He stirs, stretches, thrusts out very vigorously arms and legs, and the first energetic movements are perceived by his mother. There can be no doubt there is a living form inside and it gives a real thrill to the expectant parents.

In my next article I may be able to complete this description of the infant's intra-uterine life and growth — certainly a fascinating phenomenon which has no explanation apart from an omniscient Creator. Let us hear again the words of the 139th Psalm: "For thou didst form my inward parts: thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb ... I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... Thine eyes did see mine unformed substance." It's all very remarkable, isn't it? A God who can do all this is surely able to carry out His will in everything. Do you know, I feel that it's worth while to give Him right of way in the life, and I'm not surprised when David goes on to say: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

It requires courage to come into the presence of God and pray like that; to ask Him to search the heart and to examine every

(See **BODY** on page 20)

## The Fountain

There is a fountain on the other side,  
That flows so free from the throne of God.  
Those who partake of the Fountain here,  
Have nothing to lose, nothing to fear.  
Christ has said in His Word—  
Whosoever will let him come.  
I will not cast out but will keep,  
Those that anchor on this street.  
Empty self and let Him take your place,  
For there is a day coming when it won't be grace.  
It will be an awful fate.  
To see those that never partake at the gate.  
There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth,  
Men fighting each other for failure to see  
That the Door of mercy which was so free  
Has been shut and will not hear their plea.  
If you have anchored by this stream,  
All is pleasant and sweet as a dream.  
God is your Father and Christ your brother,  
All there is to do is praise each other.  
Arise and awake, to our sword let's go.  
Tell others of their plight before it's too late.  
Then we shall hear on that great day  
"Come in thou faithful and always stay."

## How To Fill The Pulpit

This is a question that every pastor, I am sure, is interested about. There has been many different reasons offered for the cause of empty pews in the preaching services. We believe the wideawake pastor has something worth while when he comes before his people. This kind of pastor will have little or no trouble in building up and holding a good attendance. The absence of the people from the preaching services is largely due to the absence of strong Bible preaching from the pulpit. Empty preaching will produce empty pews.

A preacher, to grasp and hold the attention of people, must not appeal to their sentiment, but to their conscience and their judgment. Men like to dwell on great themes. The preacher who sets before his hearers the great doctrines of the Second Coming of Christ, The Coming World Ruler,



**“Your and your sudden inspirations for sermons!”**

The Judgment of the Great White Throne, and other great subjects will get the attention of his hearers.

The beautiful little sermonettes that go off like a glass of soda pop certainly do not interest thinking people. This kind of preaching and teaching has done its part in robbing our churches of hearers. The people have been fed milk, skimmed milk at that, until they are milk sick and their poor souls are almost

starved. Preaching which does not have beneath it some principle as eternal as the God from whence it came, will never grasp and hold the attention of thinking people. So, if we would fill the pews with people and hold them, fill the pulpit with the gospel. The man who preaches the gospel in its fullness and entirety, its purity and the power, with earnestness, will have appreciative and responsive hearers! – Copied from Hudson Avenue Baptist Church Bulletin. □

**BODY . . .**

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thought, and find out if there is any sinful or wicked way inside anywhere. Dare you do that? Dare I? I could not if it were not for one thing. Whatever my sin may be, I know the Bible says, “The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from *all*

sin” (1 Jn. 1:7). I surely do believe that, and so when I go to God — and I go frequently, — I always tell Him that I’m His child through faith in Jesus Christ, and I know, whatever my sin may be, it has been covered and blotted out by Christ’s sacrificial death on the cross. You say you cannot understand how that could be? Well, I do not really *understand* it, but I believe it, and that is all that’s required. Will you try it?

When I think of how the Lord humbled Himself to become one of us it is the most wonderful revelation ever given to mankind; He grew just as we did — He spent those nine months coming to the perfect development of a little baby boy. He was quite dependent on His mother’s care. He got hungry and she satisfied His hunger. As Paul puts it in Philippians 2:7: “But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men ... He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

What are you going to do about it? You *must* do something — and there is just one of two roads to take — either the one which leads to Christ and heaven, or the other which leads to death and the judgment.

Will you not get acquainted with this Savior? HE’S WONDERFUL! □□

### The greatest act of faith is when man decides he is not God

“Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”

Psalm 100:3

**CHURCH . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

dual thing, starting first with the neglect of the business meetings because “it doesn’t matter whether I am there or not. The others are going to run things to please themselves.”

The night services are really the acid test of a church member’s love for the Lord, for many people come to church for the morning services simply because there is nothing else to do except stay home. Of course, there are many professed Christians who will even forsake the House of God Sunday morning in order to sleep in; these are the very most unfaithful kind. But of those who attend the Sunday morning services regularly, many could not be gotten out for evening services for anything. But the same excuses that are thought valid for staying away from church services, will not do when one is invited to a party, or when money is to be made by being in a certain place, etc. But the Lord will one day settle up the accounts. “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits” (Prov. 16:2).

Some church members permanently forsake the church, never more to return; but if we consider the connections between the two verses in Hebrews 10:25-26, we find that this is an indication that the

individual was only a false Christian. The same is true in 1 John 2:19: “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

## II STARVING IT

A church lives and grows only by conversions and the additions of those converts to its number, and therefore if it is not nourished by conversions as a result of preaching and praying, it will soon die off from lack of additions. Souls being saved are a blood transfusion to any church. “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47). God does the adding to the church, yet He does it through the prayers and the preaching and the witnessing of His people.

A church may be killed by starving it of spirituality. We must remember that the degenerate Church of Rome was once a New Testament church until it lost its spirituality. Heresy in doctrine is first preceded by heresy in practice; i.e., by a carnal life. How may this be prevented? By its members living a sanctified (dedicated) life from day to day (not week by week, nor month by month). But dedication requires self-

denial, and all too many professed Christians are unwilling to do this.

Then it is possible to starve a church to death by not supporting it with one’s prayers and finances. A church is a business — the grandest, most worthwhile business in the world, and therefore it must have money to operate. Because it is a heavenly business, it needs, in addition to money, the prayers of the Lord’s people. Some professed believers are much more diligent in running down the church, the pastor, and those who are faithfully working in the church, than they are in praying for these and helping them. The same thing is true of Christians as it is of mules: *They can’t pull while they are kicking, and they can’t kick while they are pulling.*

As to the failure of God’s people to support the church financially, Malachi 3:8-10 is still in the Bible, and it calls the withholder of the tithes and offerings just what he is — a thief. Nor will it do to say “But that’s in the Old Testament.” The division of the Bible in the Old and the New Testament is strictly a man-made division; the Scriptures themselves know nothing of this. But in any case, 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 obligates believers to support the church in precisely the same way that the Tabernacle was supported — by tithes and offerings (See especially

Vs. 14).

## III BY STRIFE IN IT

Strife has probably killed almost as many churches as any other one thing. When two people are in disagreement, and both are utterly selfish, it will cause a strife which will grow until it consumes the whole church, unless the church takes steps to end the strife. Strife is a mark of spiritual immaturity and carnality: “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. ... For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal; and walk as men” (1 Cor. 3:1, 3)?

Strife generally has its roots in pride, for where there is strife, both parties proudly assume that they are right, and will not admit even the possibility of being wrong. At the same time, neither will try to see the other’s point of view, nor will either admit that the other could be right in the least degree. It is a fortunate church which does not have such an undercurrent of strife.

Strife is also promoted by self-righteousness in that one looks down upon others, while exalting self in his own mind. He takes the attitude of the Pharisee in Luke 18:9ff. Pride stands

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in the way of humility, which is always the first step toward repentance.

One of the most tragic forms of church strife is when a member, or group of members, get their feelings hurt by the preaching (which is very common when the preacher is faithful to preach against sin, and to declare the members' duty). Often the dissident members will mount a campaign to run the preacher off, and the most common excuse used is that he is a "dictator." Now I have no sympathy with a genuine dictator in the pulpit, but ere a man of God is stigmatized as a dictator, men had best consider what the preacher is commissioned and commanded to do: he is to "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (1 Tim. 5:20). "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee" (Tit. 2:15).

On the basis of these, and the many other similar texts, the preacher has a duty to not only declare the truth, but also to rebuke those members who are living wayward lives, and no one has a right to call him a dictator for only doing his duty. This is not to say that

he may use the pulpit to chide members for personal differences of opinion, nor that he should jump upon and spur every one for every little misstep. The wise pastor will quickly learn to use Christian psychology even in the most serious breaches of Christian ethics, and that "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Prov. 15:1). A belligerent or overbearing preacher will produce only heartache for himself and discouragement for the church.

Strife between the members of a church and the pastor often destroys a church for the simple reason that by rebellion against the pastor, the members are rebelling against the Lord, for though the church may vote to call a man as pastor, yet if they are led of the Lord in doing so, the pastor is made the superintendent or overseer (Grk. "bishop") over the flock (Acts 20:28). Not only so, but the preacher, when he stands to declare the gospel, is an ambassador for Christ, beseeching men in the stead of Christ to be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:18-20). And yet more so, when he preaches Christian responsibility to believers, they are obligated to obey and submit themselves, for the pastor is accountable to God for them, and thus it is a solemn thing to disobey when the pastor is only endeavoring to lead one on to serve the Lord better

and more faithfully. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17).

Some churches degrade the pastoral office to that of a mere figurehead, and treat the pastor with less respect than any layman in the church; sometimes they let their independency and autonomy go to their heads, and they think they can run the preacher off any time they don't like what he says. But it is noteworthy that the Scriptures give not a single example of the dismissal of a pastor from a church, nor of a church even challenging the authority of the pastoral office.

It is to be granted that the church has authority over its members, including the pastor, but it is also true that the pastor is a man specially called of God to his office, and he stands in a special relationship to God, and while on rare occasions it may be necessary to dismiss and exclude a preacher because of immorality or heresy, yet a church should be very slow to take any action against one of the Lord's prophets without good reason. "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses" (1 Tim. 5:19). "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no

harm" (Psa. 105:15).

#### IV BY STUBBORNNESS

In the Scriptures, stubbornness is a sin that is compared to witchcraft and idolatry (1 Sam. 15:22), and yet some people seem to delight in stubbornly resisting all spiritual progress and activity in the church. It is no virtue to be so set in one's ways that one hinders a church from changing for the better. No church was ever so perfect when it started but that it has room to change for the better. Indeed, sanctification is itself a progressive changing for the better of individuals, and if the members daily change for the better, so should the church. The sin of the Sardis Church was that it stubbornly refused to repent of sin (Rev. 3:3), and consequently it slowly died on the vine, all the while refusing to admit its cold and indifferent state. There is such a thing as dead orthodoxy — a doctrinal soundness which is devoid of any real love to Christ.

Some say, "Well, it is my life, and it is my business whether I repent or not," but this is not true, for every person is an example to someone else, and his bad example will lead others astray, perhaps concerning something much worse. Besides, the corruption of a church

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member is a corruption of that much of the church, and “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (1 Cor. 5:6). No one can afford to indulge any sin, because sin in church members is what kills churches.

There are many ways to kill a church, but the important thing to notice is the solemn consequences of tearing down a church of the Living God: “If any man defile (‘destroy’ — the Greek word is the same as that translated ‘destroy’) the temple of God (a church, as the preceding verse shows), him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Cor. 3:17). It matters not what excuses may be given, if an individual or group of individuals so conduct themselves as to cause the death of a church, they had better prepare to shortly face the judgment of God in the loss of their physical lives.

A church is of more importance than the collective rights of all the members, for a church exists, not just for its own present members, but is a witness to many who may never join it, but who may be led to the Lord through its ministry. Not only so, but the rights of future members must also be considered when taking any action that might be detrimental to the

church. Many carnal church members, in their zeal to get their own way, justify their own sins, soothe their own pride and hurt feelings, do not care that they may quench the only faithful lighthouse of the truth in their community. Nor that future generations may not have opportunity to hear the gospel and to be saved because a church was destroyed by the carnality of its members. The attitude of some is “I’m saved, so let the rest of the world go to hell for all I care.” Such an attitude hardly evidences genuine salvation. If it be true that “whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him” (1 Jn. 3:17), how much more so is this true of those who have no concern for the welfare of the souls of others? God pity the man who destroys a church: if he is saved at all, he puts himself under the judgment of physical death for putting his own selfish wants and will above the welfare of a church of the living God.

**V****SELFISHNESS**

All of the foregoing points may be summed up in this one, but we venture to make a few more comments which fall specifically under this heading. We live in the most

affluent society that this world has ever known. Add to this the fact that this generation has greater means to get the gospel to every race, nation and tribe of people than any previous generation. Radio, TV and the Press make evangelism possible as never before. But what happens? Instead of using these means for the glory of God, men become so selfishly involved in them that all of these become definite detriments to the truth.

It has been found that people spend hundreds of times more on pets than on all religious enterprises combined, and Newscaster Paul Harvey reports that for every dollar that is spent on churches, \$12,000 is spent on crime. It should be obvious from this that we are working at the wrong end of the problem.

There are many foreign mission fields on which a native missionary can be supported for only \$25 to \$30 per month — no more than what many people spend per month on cigarettes alone, yet how many individual Christians does one hear of doing this? Often when mission needs are presented to the church by the pastor, someone will counter with the proposition that “We ought to use some of our money on home missions.” Certainly home missions are essential, if they are truly mission projects, but unfortunately all too often

the term is used to excuse the spending of the Lord’s money on something that caters only to the fleshly nature of the church members, such as having the tallest steeple in town, or the most modernistic building design, or the largest organ, or the fanciest choir robes, etc. By “home missions” some only mean, “Let’s spend the money locally on something that we can get the benefit of.” For the money that the Lord’s people have spent foolishly and for mere fleshly gratification in the last hundred years, the world could have been reached with the gospel several times.

What has all this to do with killing a church? Just this: giving to missions is the thermometer which shows the spiritual atmosphere of a church. It is generally the gauge of godliness in the church. Call it home missions or whatever one pleases, but the selfish use of the Lord’s money for the gratification of the members of a church will kill that church as quickly as almost any one thing. May God give us more sound and serviceable churches by stirring up church members to be more dedicated and obedient.

Are you killing your church by your sinfulness, by your selfishness, by your neglect? Then repent before both the church and yourself are destroyed. □ □

**FELLOWSHIPS  
And  
CONFERENCES**

**SANTA FE, NM**

April 22-24, 2009,  
Temple Baptist Church,  
2103 Yucca St., Santa Fe,  
NM 87505. Jim Velazquez,  
Pastor.

\* \* \*

**DEARBORN HTS., MI**

June 16-18, 2009, Van  
Born Baptist Church, 25866  
Van Born Rd., Dearborn  
Hts., MI, Greg Albright,  
Pastor.

\* \* \*

**RICHLAND, WA**

August 10-12, 2009,  
Lighthouse Baptist Church,  
909 Abbot St., Richland,  
WA 99352. Steven S.  
Ragland, Pastor.

**APE . . .**

(Continued from page 5)

**Why Did Men Start The  
Evolution Theory?**

Back behind it was deep-seated antagonism toward God and His Word. The unregenerate heart hates God and wants nothing to do with him.

Unregenerate men will do anything to try to rule God out. Thinking men must find some sort of explanation for the existence of things. The philosophic explanations of the past are absurdities, and men did not want to accept

the Bible explanation, so what sort of an explanation could they devise? Evolution is the answer, "Evolution is man's best *guess* without God."

**Evolution Is Guesswork  
— Not Fact, Nor  
Science**

Science is that which is *known*. It is substantiated fact. Evolution is in the nature of hypothesis. It has not been proven. Modern scholars are *bullied* in being evolutionists. To go against the theory is to go against the popular and accepted thing, and many dare not be so unorthodox as to do this. Nevertheless some of the greatest scientists have denounced evolution. Typical of these (and a number can be named) is Sir W.J. Dawson, the English scientist, who said "It (evolution) is utterly destitute of proof."

**Evolutionists Have Lied  
In Seeking To Prove**

Go into our great museums (like Field Museum, Chicago) and you will see a series of figures molded and carved to show man's ascent from the brute. School children by the thousands are impressed that evolution is true by viewing this "chain." But the whole "chain" is a chain of lies. The whole thing has been concocted out of imagination! One of the "links" in the evolutionary chain is

the famous "Piltdown Man," reconstructed from some bones found in a gravel pit at Sussex, England. This link was recently denounced by scientists themselves as a fake and a fraud. We quote the following from the United Press, November 21, 1953, "Three sleuthing British scientists declared today that the skull of the fabulous 'Piltdown Man' accepted for 40 years ... as a relic of man's earliest history is a phony." The article goes on to show how some of the bones were colored by chemicals to give the appearance of age. This is but a sample of what men have resorted to in

order to try to prove their hypothesis.

**The Mule Stands In  
The Way**

The evolutionary theory requires the belief that one species evolves into another higher up. This is contrary to observation and experience. Creatures of one species *do not* cross the boundary line into another. When attempt is made to cross species the result is a *hybrid*. The common *mule* is a sample. A common old stubborn Missouri mule stands between the evolutionist and the proof of his theory. Long live the mule! □

**Edward Hitchcock** (1793 — 1864) was one of the first American geologists of importance, making important studies on glacial geology and serving many years as a Massachusetts state geologist. He was another man strongly influenced by Timothy Dwight, having studied under Professor Silliman. He was the first, and for twenty years the only teacher of scientific subjects at Amherst College. From 1845 until his death, he was president of Amherst serving also as professor of geology and natural theology. During his later years he also was state geologist for Vermont. He made the first detailed study of the Connecticut River Valley.

As a Christian, he was a strong creationist and a believer in natural theology. He became probably the strongest opponent of Darwinism and evolutionism in America during his later years. He preached vigorously on the theme that belief in evolution led to atheism and the grossest materialism.