

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 542

Authority of Scripture

By M. L. Moser, Editor

Psalm 19:7-10; 119:160

There is much confusion as to the Bible today. Some make it a book of fairy tales claiming that stories such as Noah and the Ark, the Garden of Eden, Jonah and the Whale, Daniel in the Lion's Den, and then coupled with it the Virgin Birth, Bodily Resurrection and the Second Coming.

**As Preached November 1, 2009,
Mt. Zion Baptist Church,
St. Clair, Missouri**

Others say it is a human book with much truth and a high standard of morals and ethics. Some place it on a par with the ancient historian Hammurabi and other historians. Many say it is a book half-divine and half-human. But there are still those who make it all

God's Word. What should we believe?

The Bible makes no effort to prove God. Animals have instincts, man has intelligence. The one who denies God fails to use his intelligence. The proof of God is seen in Psalm 19:1-6:

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In

(See **MOSER** on page 11)

Christian Morality

Someone inquires, "What is morality, anyway?" Simply stated, morality is the customary action of the people. If the average person is dishonest, then dishonesty becomes the moral standard of the group. If the average person is honest, then honesty becomes the standard of the group. Morality tends to fix the

(See **MORALITY** on page 7)

Read the Bible Through In 2010

A medical missionary was traveling to a distant outpost to provide help for the sick. As he neared the village, a package containing various medicines and pills fell from one of the carriers and broke open. Pills were scattered all over the ground. Some were salvaged, but most of them had fallen in the mud and dirt, and the medical missionary went on his way, leaving them there.

Soon, however, one of the quack native doctors heard about what happened and quickly scurried off to the spot to gather up the remaining pills. He placed them all in a jar and later labeled it, "Assorted Pills."

Some weeks afterwards, someone asked him about the jar of "Assorted Pills," noticing the various sizes and colors.

(See **BIBLE** on page 23)

Christian Ethics

The Bible is the Text Book of Christianity.

Our Bible teaches a perfect system of Christian Ethics. No moral philosopher has equaled the moral precepts taught in our Bible.

There is unity and harmony in the teachings of our Bible. The Ten Commandments were used by our Lord as a text for His sermon on the Mount. Six

(See **ETHICS** on page 7)

Quiz The Pastor

Church Deacons

By Austin Fields
Arabia, Ohio

Question: We have a church that has never had a deacon. Is a church complete when it has no deacons? And does a vacancy exist?

Answer: Yes, a church is a complete church even though she does not have deacons. It is a definite fact that the first church was a complete church when the Lord founded her, but she did not have deacons until after the day of Pentecost. The first church had a rather large membership before the appointment of deacons, and to me, it would be absurd to contend that this church was not a complete church because she had no deacons.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

Would it not be foolish to declare the 3,000 were added to the church, but yet the church was not complete?

The office of deacon came about as a result of an emergency which arose in the church. *"And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration"* (Acts 6:1).

This murmuring created a problem with the Apostles, so they suggested to the church that they appoint seven men to take care of this problem *"And the saying pleased the whole multitude"* (Acts 6:5).

Accordingly, the church selected seven men to look after the widows, and thus

the problem was solved. We have no right to contend that a church is not a complete church, when problems arise in the church (such as was in the first church) for it is no indication that the church is not a complete church. To me the church at Jerusalem was as much complete before the deacons were appointed as she was after they were appointed. And so it would be true in the twentieth century, though the church has no deacons she would still be a complete church.

Perhaps there are churches where the problem of feeding the poor is nonexistent; if so, then there is no need of the deacons, for this office was created to assist in the feeding of the poor among the membership of the church, and thus assist the pastor that he might spend more time in the study of God's Word. If the deacons of your church are such as I have just described, you do not need them, for they make a mockery out of the democracy of the church. In fact, the church would be much more complete without them than she would be with them.

Now as to the question: Is there a vacancy if there are no deacons? May I

Holy Ghost Baptism

Holy Ghost baptism is Holy Ghost baptism. Actually the only Holy Ghost baptism of the Scriptures is the baptism of the First Church of Jerusalem by the Holy Spirit in person (Acts 2:1-2). The First Church of Jerusalem was largely a Jewish body.

Holy Ghost filling and Holy Ghost pouring cannot be a Holy Ghost baptism. These roles were spiritual inducements of the Holy Spirit for the church and the Lord's workers — See Acts 2:4; 5:8; 6:31; 10:34-45.

Holy Ghost filling and pouring, as indicated above, are not Holy Ghost baptism. Baptism is covering from without the entire body while filling is making one full within. □

once more point you to the first church and say that before Acts 6 there were no deacons and there was no vacancy. The deacons were appointed to take care of the poor, and to be the pastor's assistant, but if there is no poor within the church, then it would seem to me that there could not be a vacancy since there would be no reason for the office. □

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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**Motherhood Is a Partnership
With God!**

How The Russians Look at the United States

(From Pravda, The Russian Newspaper)

It must be said, that like the breaking of a great dam, the American descent into Marxism is happening with breath taking speed, against the back drop of a passive, hapless sheeple, excuse me dear reader, I meant people.

True, the situation has been well prepared on and off for the past century, especially the past twenty years. The initial testing grounds was conducted upon our Holy Russia and a bloody test it was. But we Russians would not just roll over and give up our freedoms and our souls, no matter how much money Wall Street poured into the fists of the Marxists. Those lessons were taken and used to properly prepare the American populace for the surrender of their freedoms and souls, to the whims of their elites and betters.

First, the population was dumbed down through a politicized and sub-standard education system based on pop culture, rather than the classics. Americans know more about their favorite TV dramas than the drama in DC that directly affects their lives. They care more for their "right" to choke down a McDonalds burger or a Burger King burger than for their constitutional rights. Then they turn around and lecture

American Capitalism Gone With A Whimper

By Stanislav Mishin

us about our rights and about our "democracy". Pride blind the foolish.

Then their faith in God was destroyed, until their churches, all tens of thousands of different "branches and denominations" were for the most part little more than Sunday circuses and their televangelists and top protestant mega preachers were more than happy to sell out their souls and flocks to be on the "winning" side of one pseudo Marxist politician or another.

Their flocks may complain, but when explained that they would be on the "winning" side, their flocks were ever so quick to reject Christ in hopes for earthly power. Even our Holy Orthodox churches are scandalously liberalized in America.

The final collapse has come with the election of Barack Obama. His speed in the past three months has been truly impressive. His spending and money printing has been a record setting, not just in America's short history but in the world. If this keeps up for more than another year, and there is no sign that it

will not, America at best will resemble the Weimar Republic and at worst Zimbabwe.

These past two weeks have been the most breath taking of all. First came the announcement of a planned redesign of the American Byzantine tax system, by the very thieves who used it to bankroll their thefts, losses, and swindles of hundreds of billions of dollars. These make our Russian oligarchs look little more than ordinary street thugs, in comparison. Yes, the Americans have beat our own thieves in the shear volumes. Should we congratulate them?

These men, of course, are not an elected panel but made up of appointees picked from the very financial oligarchs and their henchmen who are now gorging themselves on trillions of American dollars, in one bailout after another. They are also usurping the rights, duties, and powers of the American congress (parliament). Again, congress has put up little more than a whimper to their masters.

Then came Barack Obama's command that

GM's (General Motors) president step down from leadership of his company. That is correct, dear reader, in the land of "pure" free markets, the American president now has the power, the self-given power, to fire CEOs and we can assume other employees of private companies, at will. Come hither, go dither, the centurion commands his minions. So it should be no surprise, that the American president has followed this up with a "bold" move of declaring that he and another group of unelected, chosen stooges will now redesign the entire automotive industry and will even be the guarantee of automobile policies. I am sure that if given the chance, they would happily try and redesign it for the whole of the world, too.

Prime Minister Putin, less than two months ago, warned Obama and UK's Blair, not to follow the path to Marxism, it only leads to disaster. Apparently, even though we suffered 70 years of this Western sponsored horror show, we know nothing, as foolish, drunken Russians, so let our "wise" Anglo-Saxon fools find out the folly of their own pride.

Again, the American

(See **PRAVDA** on page 22)

Daily Bible Reading — 2010

JANUARY

1 Genesis	1-3	13 Numbers	3-4	29 1 Samuel	1-3	10 1 Chronicles	5-6
2 Genesis	4-7	14 Numbers	5-6	30 1 Samuel	4-7	11 1 Chronicles	7-9
3 Genesis	8-11	15 Numbers	7	31 1 Samuel	8-10	12 1 Chronicles	10-12
4 Genesis	12-15	16 Numbers	8-10	APRIL		13 1 Chronicles	13-16
5 Genesis	16-18	17 Numbers	11-13	1 1 Samuel	11-13	14 1 Chronicles	17-19
6 Genesis	19-20	18 Numbers	14-15	2 1 Samuel	14-15	15 1 Chronicles	20-23
7 Genesis	21-23	19 Numbers	16-18	3 1 Samuel	16-17	16 1 Chronicles	24-26
8 Genesis	24-25	20 Numbers	19-21	4 1 Samuel	18-20	17 1 Chronicles	27-29
9 Genesis	26-28	21 Numbers	22-24	5 1 Samuel	21-24	18 2 Chronicles	1-4
10 Genesis	29-30	22 Numbers	25-26	6 1 Samuel	25-27	19 2 Chronicles	5-7
11 Genesis	31-32	23 Numbers	27-29	7 1 Samuel	28-31	20 2 Chronicles	8-10
12 Genesis	33-35	24 Numbers	30-31	8 2 Samuel	1-3	21 2 Chronicles	11-14
13 Genesis	36-38	25 Numbers	32-33	9 2 Samuel	4-7	22 2 Chronicles	15-18
14 Genesis	39-41	26 Numbers	34-36	10 2 Samuel	8-11	23 2 Chronicles	19-22
15 Genesis	42-44	27 Deuteronomy	1-2	11 2 Samuel	12-13	24 2 Chronicles	23-25
16 Genesis	45-47	28 Deuteronomy	3-4	12 2 Samuel	14-15	25 2 Chronicles	26-28
17 Genesis	48-50	MARCH		13 2 Samuel	16-17	26 2 Chronicles	29-30
18 Exodus	1-3	1 Deuteronomy	5-7	14 2 Samuel	18-19	27 2 Chronicles	31-33
19 Exodus	4-6	2 Deuteronomy	8-10	15 2 Samuel	20-22	28 2 Chronicles	34-35
20 Exodus	7-9	3 Deuteronomy	11-13	16 2 Samuel	23-24	29 2 Chronicles	36 &
21 Exodus	10-12	4 Deuteronomy	14-17	17 1 Kings	1	Ezra	1-2
22 Exodus	13-15	5 Deuteronomy	18-20	18 1 Kings	2-3	30 Ezra	3-5
23 Exodus	16-18	6 Deuteronomy	21-23	19 1 Kings	4-6	31 Ezra	6-8
24 Exodus	19-21	7 Deuteronomy	24-26	20 1 Kings	7	JUNE	
25 Exodus	22-24	8 Deuteronomy	27-28	21 1 Kings	8	1 Ezra	9-10
26 Exodus	25-27	9 Deuteronomy	29-31	22 1 Kings	9-10	2 Nehemiah	1-3
27 Exodus	28-29	10 Deuteronomy	32-34	23 1 Kings	11-12	3 Nehemiah	4-6
28 Exodus	30-32	11 Joshua	1-4	24 1 Kings	13-14	4 Nehemiah	7-8
29 Exodus	33-35	12 Joshua	5-7	25 1 Kings	15-17	5 Nehemiah	9-10
30 Exodus	36-38	13 Joshua	8-9	26 1 Kings	18-19	6 Nehemiah	11-13
31 Exodus	39-40	14 Joshua	10-11	27 1 Kings	20-21	7 Esther	1-3
FEBRUARY		15 Joshua	12-14	28 1 Kings	22 &	8 Esther	4-7
1 Leviticus	1-4	16 Joshua	15-17	2 Kings	1	9 Esther	8-10
2 Leviticus	5-7	17 Joshua	18-20	29 2 Kings	2-4	10 Job	1-5
3 Leviticus	8-9	18 Joshua	21-22	30 2 Kings	5-7	11 Job	6-10
4 Leviticus	10-12	19 Joshua	23-24	MAY		12 Job	11-15
5 Leviticus	13	20 Judges	1-3	1 2 Kings	8-9	13 Job	16-21
6 Leviticus	14-15	21 Judges	4-6	2 2 Kings	10-12	14 Job	22-28
7 Leviticus	16-18	22 Judges	7-8	3 2 Kings	13-14	15 Job	29-33
8 Leviticus	19-21	23 Judges	9-10	4 2 Kings	15-16	16 Job	34-37
9 Leviticus	22-23	24 Judges	11-13	5 2 Kings	17-18	17 Job	38-42
10 Leviticus	24-25	25 Judges	14-16	6 2 Kings	19-21	18 Psalms	1-9
11 Leviticus	26-27	26 Judges	17-19	7 2 Kings	22-25	19 Psalms	10-17
12 Numbers	1-2	27 Judges	20-21	8 1 Chronicles	1	20 Psalms	18-22
		28 Ruth	1-4	9 1 Chronicles	2-4	21 Psalms	23-31

22	Psalms	32-37	10	Jeremiah	10-12	29	Zechariah	1-6	17	Acts	14-16		
23	Psalms	38-44	11	Jeremiah	13-15	30	Zechariah	7-10	18	Acts	17-18		
24	Psalms	45-51	12	Jeremiah	16-18	OCTOBER					19	Acts	19-20
25	Psalms	52-59	13	Jeremiah	19-22	1	Zechariah	11-14	20	Acts	21-22		
26	Psalms	60-67	14	Jeremiah	23 --25:16	2	Malachi	1-4	21	Acts	23-25		
27	Psalms	68-71	15	Jeremiah	25:17 -- 27	3	Matthew	1-4	22	Acts	26-28		
28	Psalms	72-77	16	Jeremiah	28-30	4	Matthew	5-6	23	Romans	1-3		
29	Psalms	78-81	17	Jeremiah	31-32	5	Matthew	7-9	24	Romans	4-7		
30	Psalms	82-89	18	Jeremiah	33-35	6	Matthew	10-12	25	Romans	8-10		
JULY				19	Jeremiah	36-38	7	Matthew	13-14	26	Romans	11-14	
1	Psalms	90-97	20	Jeremiah	39-41	8	Matthew	15-17	27	Romans	15-16		
2	Psalms	98-104	21	Jeremiah	42-44	9	Matthew	18-20	28	1 Corinthians	1-4		
3	Psalms	105-107	22	Jeremiah	45-48	10	Matthew	21-22	29	1 Corinthians	5-8		
4	Psalms	108-116	23	Jeremiah	49-50	11	Matthew	23-24	30	1 Corinthians	9-11		
5	Psalms	117-119:72	24	Jeremiah	51-52	12	Matthew	25-26	DECEMBER				
6	Psalms	119:73-176	25	Lamentations	1-2	13	Matthew	27-28	1	1 Corinthians	12-14		
7	Psalms	120-135	26	Lamentations	3-5	14	Mark	1-3	2	1 Corinthians	15-16		
8	Psalms	136-142	27	Ezekiel	1-4	15	Mark	4-5	3	2 Corinthians	1-4		
9	Psalms	143-150	28	Ezekiel	5-8	16	Mark	6-7	4	2 Corinthians	5-8		
10	Proverbs	1-4	29	Ezekiel	9-12	17	Mark	8-9	5	2 Corinthians	9-13		
11	Proverbs	5-8	30	Ezekiel	13-15	18	Mark	10-11	6	Galatians	1-4		
12	Proverbs	9-13	31	Ezekiel	16	19	Mark	12-13	7	Galatians &	5-6		
13	Proverbs	14-17	SEPTEMBER			20	Mark	14-16	Ephesians		1-2		
14	Proverbs	18-21	1	Ezekiel	17-19	21	Luke	1	8	Ephesians	3-6		
15	Proverbs	22-24	2	Ezekiel	20-21	22	Luke	2-3	9	Philippians	1-4		
16	Proverbs	25-28	3	Ezekiel	22-23	23	Luke	4-5	10	Colossians	1-4		
17	Proverbs	29-31	4	Ezekiel	24-26	24	Luke	6-7	11	1 Thessalonians	1-4		
18	Ecclesiastes	1-6	5	Ezekiel	27-28	25	Luke	8	12	1 Thessalonians &	5		
19	Ecclesiastes	8-12	6	Ezekiel	29-31	26	Luke	9	2 Thessalonians		1-3		
20	Song of Solomon	1-8	7	Ezekiel	32-33	27	Luke	10-11	13	1 Timothy	1-4		
21	Isaiah	1-4	8	Ezekiel	34-36	28	Luke	12-13	14	1 Timothy	5-6		
22	Isaiah	5-8	9	Ezekiel	37-38	29	Luke	14-16	15	2 Timothy	1-4		
23	Isaiah	9-12	10	Ezekiel	39-40	30	Luke	17-18	16	Titus &	1-3		
24	Isaiah	13-16	11	Ezekiel	41-43	31	Luke	19-20	Philemon		1		
25	Isaiah	17-21	12	Ezekiel	44-45	NOVEMBER					17	Hebrews	1-5
26	Isaiah	22-25	13	Ezekiel	46-48	1	Luke	21-22	18	Hebrews	6-9		
27	Isaiah	26-28	14	Daniel	1-2	2	Luke	23-24	19	Hebrews	10-11		
28	Isaiah	29-31	15	Daniel	3-4	3	John	1-3	20	Hebrews	12-13		
29	Isaiah	32-35	16	Daniel	5-6	4	John	4-5	21	James	1-5		
30	Isaiah	36-38	17	Daniel	7-8	5	John	6-7	22	1 Peter	1-4		
31	Isaiah	39-42	18	Daniel	9-10	6	John	8-9	23	1 Peter &	5		
AUGUST				19	Daniel	11-12	7	John	10-11	2 Peter		1-3	
1	Isaiah	43-47	20	Hosea	1-6	8	John	12-13	24	1 John	1-5		
2	Isaiah	48-51	21	Hosea	7-12	9	John	14-16	25 2 John, 3 John, Jude				
3	Isaiah	52-56	22	Hosea	13:14 -- Joel	10	John	17-18	26	Revelation	1-3		
4	Isaiah	57-59	23	Amos	1-5	11	John	19-21	27	Revelation	4-8		
5	Isaiah	60-63	24	Amos	6-9, Obadiah	12	Acts	1-3	28	Revelation	9-12		
6	Isaiah	64-66	25	Jonah	1-4, Micah 1-2	13	Acts	4-6	29	Revelation	13-16		
7	Jeremiah	1-3	26	Micah	3-7	14	Acts	7-8	30	Revelation	17-19		
8	Jeremiah	4-6	27	Nahum	& Habakkuk	15	Acts	9-10	31	Revelation	20-22		
9	Jeremiah	7-9	28	Zephaniah	& Haggai	16	Acts	11-13					

Satan, The Inventive Impostor

Religiously speaking, every “ism” excepting “theism” is an invention of Satan. By these inventions, he aims to defeat the ministry of the Lord among the sons of men. All of his inventions are naturalistic. In the field of occultism—all worship not in the name of Christ—he deceives and damns the souls of men. In the field of cults—false worship in the name of Christ—he adds to, or subtracts from, the Word and thus deceives and damns the souls of men. In both occultism and cultism, he maintains his spiritual lines of deception, and effects much spiritual havoc in the world. To illustrate his inventions:

1. He turns *the natural law of development* into *evolution* and makes evolution to be God. Thus he deceives.

2. He turns *heroism* into *hero-theism* and makes gods out of national leaders. Thus he deceives.

3. He turns *nature's forms and forces* into *pantheism* and makes nature God. Thus he deceives.

4. He turns *divine law* into legalism and makes

doing the deeds of the law the means of salvation. Thus he deceives.

5. He turns *meditation* into *asceticism* and makes seclusion from the world a means of salvation. Thus he deceives.

6. He turns *egoism* into *cultism* and makes private interpretation of the Scriptures into a religion. Thus he deceives.

7. He turns the spirit of *wise-acres* into *gnosticism* and makes rationalism into religion. Thus he deceives.

By these Satanic inventions Satan deceives the souls of men, keeps them in spiritual darkness, and makes them more susceptible to present-day political “isms.”

Politically speaking, Satan has invented but one “ism” in principle to run the world, and that “ism” is **Socialism**. Socialistic principles and forms of government range all the way from autocracy to anarchy. A government in which its operation is centralized, its business and industries regimented, its administration bureaucratized, and its economy planned is a Socialistic government. □

Tennessee Football

I find it interesting that a high school principal can see the problem but our society cannot.

This is a statement that was read over the PA system at the football game at Roane County High School, Kingston, Tennessee, by school Principal, Jody McLeod

“It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games, to say a prayer and play the National Anthem, to honor God and Country.

“Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a Prayer is a violation of Federal Case Law. As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it “an alternate life style” and if someone is offended, that’s OK.

“I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity, by dispensing condoms and calling it, “safe sex”. If someone is offended, that’s OK.

“I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a “viable” means of birth control”. If someone is offended, no problem.

“I can designate a school day as “Earth Day” and involve students in activities to worship religiously and praise the

goddess “Mother Earth” and call it “ecology”.

“I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depicts people with strong, traditional Christian convictions as “simple minded” and “ignorant” and call it “enlightenment”.

“However, if anyone uses this facility to honor **GOD** and to ask **HIM** to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, then Federal Case Law is violated.

“This appears to be inconsistent at best, and at worst, diabolical Tennessee Football. Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and anyone, except **GOD** and **HIS** Commandments.

“Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules with which they do not necessarily agree ... For me to do otherwise would be inconsistent at best, and at worst, hypocritical ... I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression.

“For this reason, I shall “Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s,” and refrain from praying at this time.

”However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank **GOD** and ask **HIM**, in the name of **JESUS**, to bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I

(See **BALL** on page 22)

**Character Is What You Are
In the Dark**



Men of Science Men of God

Isaac Newton (1642 - 1727)

Isaac Newton is famous for, among other things, his discovery of the law of universal gravitation, the formulation of the three laws of motion which make possible the discipline of dynamics and all its subdivisions, and his development of the calculus into a comprehensive branch of mathematics, now a basic tool in every science. He anticipated the great law of energy conservation, developed the particle theory of light propagation, and as an astronomer constructed the first reflecting telescope.

This man of gigantic intellect was also a genuine believer in Christ as his Savior and in the Bible as God's Word. He wrote many books on biblical subjects, especially prophecy.

MORALITY . . .

(Continued from page 1)

plane upon which human behavior falls.

If the average person of a community is full of vice, then immorality obtains. If the average person is clean and upright, then high morality obtains. The morality of any community is determined by the character of the ideals

This was not a senile aberration, as some have alleged, as he was a committed believer from his youth. He even wrote a book defending the Usher Chronology against those who would try to push back the date of creation.

He wrote strong papers refuting atheism and defending creation and defending the Bible. He believed that the worldwide Flood of the Bible accounted for most of the geological phenomena, and he believed in the literal six-day creation record.

Finally, he said: "We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever." □

actuating its conduct.

In every community, there is a stratum of society which moves below the general average. This group makes up what is known as the underworld. Such are characteristically immoral. These live by peddling vices, by fostering rackets, by shielding crooks, and by making suckers out of the public. □

When Preachers Abuse Their Calling

Preachers abuse their calling (assuming they are Holy Spirit called — and not all preachers are called by the Lord) **when they conform to this world** (Rom. 12:2). Thus doing, they hide their lamp under a bushel and their messages become blaringly empty, and their pews embarrassingly vacant. Conforming to this world, they cannot condemn sin, and as a consequence, worldliness conquers their

churches and souls go along unfed.

Preachers abuse their calling by sidetracking their job. Some are beguiled into heading up humanitarian organizations and into giving themselves over to charity and to other labors of serving the flesh. By divine appointment, the preacher's primary business is spiritual, requiring him to study, to pray, and to preach. 'Tis the business of the lay group to care for human bodies, and 'tis the business of preachers to care for human souls.

Preachers abuse their calling when they preach to please their flock. Imagine the hurt that

must be in the Lord's heart when He sees a preacher put his ear to the ground to catch the ground-swell of sentiment among his members before he prepares his message. The preacher's business is to build sentiment by and for the Lord and to reflect the sentiment of his flock. When preachers preach to please their flocks, they become time servers and demonstrate themselves to be nothing more than spineless, back-boneless, non-entities, given to periodic brain spasms, therein demonstrating themselves to be genuine examples of brainless

ETHICS . . .

(Continued from page 1)

of the original Ten Commandments deal with our relations to each other, while only four deal with our relations to God.

Indeed, the world judges us to be children of God if we treat each other right; but doubts our Christianity when we treat each other wrong.

Love is the heart of Christianity; and "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor." When one child of God wrongs another, the Ethics of Christianity are violated, and our Lord's cause is hindered.

Romans 12:10 says: "Be ye kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another." And that is the Ethics of Christianity. □

(See **ABUSE** on page 18)

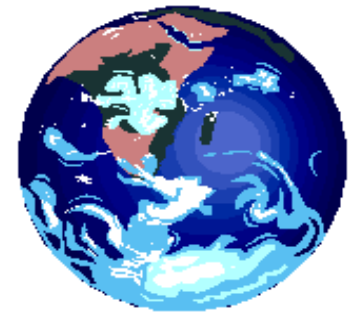


Obama Signs “Hate Crimes” Bill — Christian Broadcasters Concerned — The “hate crimes” bill approved recently by Congress could be a problem for broadcasters — most importantly, Christian broadcasters — now that it has been signed into law. President Barack Obama has signed into law a measure that adds to the list of federal hate crimes attacks on people based on their sexual orientation. Congress approved the legislation last week as part of the \$680-billion FY 2010 Defense Authorization bill. Appended to the hate crimes amendment was a statement ensuring that a religious leader or any other person cannot be prosecuted on the bases of his or her speech, beliefs, or association. But Craig Parshall, chief counsel for National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), discounts that statement, pointing out that such laws in other countries have been used to silence people of faith. He believes the law approved by Congress is potentially dangerous as it relates to comments made about homosexuality or

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another religion. “Under the criminal law of incitement, if something is said in a broadcast that another person uses as a motivation to go out and commit an act of what they call ‘bodily injury’ in the statute, then a broadcaster could be held criminally liable,” he explains. Or an outspoken broadcaster could be held to be co-conspirator, adds Parshall. He says the supposed bodily injury could be something as insignificant as someone being jostled during a rally or shoved in a protest march. Parshall acknowledges the amendment that was passed to provide some degree of protection for Christians, but points out that interpretations of such statements are ultimately left up to the court. “And that’s always a problem,” he laments. “We have a court system that has been notorious for getting it wrong when it pits the power of government on one hand and the free exercise of religious rights of individuals on the other.” According to the NRB attorney, there could also be repercussions in agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission and the Internal Revenue Service. Parshall says the FCC, for example, could develop rules on what broadcasters can and cannot say about homo-

sexuality, possibly jeopardizing their licenses. “Public school curriculum could be built entirely on the idea of what is illegal hate in our culture,” says the attorney. “And our children could be indoctrinated [to believe that] if you criticize another religion or mention Jesus as being the only way, that’s hateful— [or] if you say that homosexuality is a sin, that’s hateful.” And then there is the IRS, which Parshall says could apply the hate crimes law as a national policy on homosexuality and other world religions.” And [they] could start taking a look at Christian non-profit ministries and [telling them if they] want to be tax exempt, [they] can’t speak hatefully about other groups,” he suggests. “That would be defined as not criticizing Islam or not being critical of the homosexual lifestyle. Those are just a few of the ripple-out effects. “Parshall contends that an examination of the motive behind the hate crimes law reveals it is not about hate — and will have no effect on stopping crime, because that is already outlawed in all 50 states. In his opinion, it is designed to shut up the opposition — Christians specifically — and close down any debate against the homosexual lifestyle. The NRB spokesman does expect lawsuits



to be filed against the hate crimes law after it is signed.

* * *

More Threats To Christians. — The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), comprised of 57 Muslim nations, has intensified its efforts — vigorously pushing the U.N. to vote *yet again* on a cleverly worded ‘tolerance’ resolution, which would criminalize the proclamation of the Gospel! This threat is so real, and so dangerous, that I have already charged a team of ACLJ lawyers with leading the counter-offensive — to protect your freedom ... and possibly your life. It’s painfully clear — the radical Islam movement is dedicated to the destruction of Christianity ... and Christians. We are seeing worldwide persecution of Christians as part of the radical Muslim mission to “take the world for Islam” by purging Christianity from the face of the earth. Not just in faraway countries. Worldwide. Christians are being burned alive, tortured

(See **WNR** on page 16)

La Voz Del Desierto

¿Fue Pedro El Primer Papa?

Pedro no fue ni es nada de lo que la Iglesia Católica pretende que él es. Ni tampoco es algo que el papa pretende ser. Veremos la verdad de esto en las siguientes declaraciones. Comparemos a Pedro con los papas y veremos concretamente de que Pedro nunca fue papa.

1. Pedro era anciano o pastor entre los ancianos, y no sobre ellos (1 Pedro 5:1). Exhortó a los ancianos a no tener señorío sobre las herencias del Señor, sino que sean ejemplo para la grey (1 Pedro 5:2-3). El papa pretende tener señorío sobre todos los ancianos, sobre la grey y sobre todo lo temporal y espiritual.

2. Pedro era casado. El hecho de que Pedro era casado no armoniza con la posición católica romana, de que el Papa debe ser soltero. Las Escrituras nos dicen que la suegra de Pedro fue sanada de una fiebre (Marcos 1:30; Mateo 8:14). Naturalmente que Pedro no podía tener suegra, si no tuviera esposa.

Sin embargo, los católicos tratan de explicar esta discrepancia diciendo que Pedro cesó de vivir con su esposa o que su esposa había muerto (cosa que no

dice la Biblia). Pero la Biblia indica claramente que Pedro no había abandonado a su esposa, ni que tampoco era viudo, pues veinticinco años después, el apóstol Pablo menciona que los diferentes apóstoles tenían esposas, incluyendo Cefas (1 Corintios 9:5). Cefas era el nombre en arameo de Pedro (Juan 1:42).

¡Qué negras están muchas páginas de la historia católica por causa de tal prohibición, que arruina moral y espiritualmente a los sacerdotes y papas!

3. Pedro no permitía que un hombre se le arrodillara a sus pies (Hechos 10:25-26). Esto difiere mucho de lo que hubiera hecho y dicho un papa. Los papas no sólo se complacen en que los hombres se le arrodillen, sino que muchos hasta han demandado que besen sus pies cuando le visiten. Cristo nunca demandó tal humillación de sus seguidores.

4. Pedro no fue papa ni portó corona alguna. Pedro mismo explicó que el pueblo de Dios no debía usar coronas en esta vida, pero *"Y cuando aparezca el Príncipe de los pas-*

tores, vosotros recibiréis la corona incorruptible de gloria" (1 Pedro 3:4). Hasta entonces, no hemos de portar corona alguna. Y dado que Cristo no ha regresado, la corona que el papa usa, no ha sido dada por Él.

5. Pedro enseñó que todos los creyentes forman un sacerdocio real (1 Pedro 2:5, 9). Pero el papa ha creado una casta sacerdotal que pretende estar sobre los laicos; y en la misa tal casta pretende ofrecer a Cristo en sacrificio tal como fue ofrecido en la crucifixión en el Calvario. En la misa el verdugo es un sacerdote o el papa.

6. Pedro rehusó recibir dinero de Simón el mago que quiso comprar los dones espirituales que el apóstol tenía (Hechos 8:20). El papa vende su religión; tanto por el bautismo, tanto por la confirmación, tanto por la misa, tanto por las indulgencias, etc., etc.

7. Pedro dijo a Simón el mago que orara a Dios para el perdón de sus pecados (Hechos 8:22). El papa estableció la confesión auricular, y pretende que los sacerdotes tienen poder

para perdonar pecados. " ... ¿Quién puede perdonar pecados, sino sólo Dios?" (Marcos 2:7).

8. Pedro enseña que somos salvos por medio de la fe (Hechos 4:12; 15:9-12). El papa enseña que la salvación es por medio de ceremonias, ritos y buenas obras.

9. Pedro, como Pablo, enseña que Cristo es cabeza de la iglesia y su único legislador (Hechos 4:11; Efesios 1:22). El papa pretende ser cabeza de la iglesia y aun el legislador de ella. Lo cierto es que Pedro nunca actuó, ni habló como papa. El pueblo jamás se dirigió a él como tal, y las glorias y los poderes que los papas han disfrutado, no están ni siquiera remotamente relacionadas con la vida de pureza y pobreza de Pedro. Este pescador-apóstol dijo: "Plata y oro no tengo" (Hechos 3:6).

Que Cristo haya transferido a Pedro semejante pompa y lujo, que ninguno de ellos conoció, es algo verdaderamente absurdo y blasfemo (Mateo 7:15, 20).

— Por Hno. Félix M. González Bulgalá Redactor.

Lo Que El Hombre Quiere Hacer de Santa Claus

Una breve comparación es suficiente para que nos demos cuenta de que Santa Claus es un engaño, con el cual los hombres tratan de hacer un reemplazo del Señor Jesucristo. Más de treinta y siete verdades bíblicas referentes a la persona, obra y cualidades de nuestro Salvador Jesucristo, han sido aplicadas a la figura de Santa Claus. Creo que son demasiadas para ser una mera coincidencia. No podemos ir atrás y arreglar el pasado, pero podemos aprender a hacer lo correcto y no repetir los mismos errores en el presente (Santiago 4:17).

Veamos algunas cualidades de Jesucristo según la Biblia y de cómo los hombres las han aplicado al personaje de Santa Claus:

1. A Jesucristo se presenta con *"cabellos blancos como la lana"* (Apocalipsis 1:14). Al personaje ficticio de Santa Claus los hombres lo presentan con *"cabellos blancos como lana."*

2. A Jesucristo se presenta con *"barba"* (Isaías 50:6). Al personaje ficticio de Santa Claus los hombres lo presentan también con *"barba."*

3. A Jesucristo se presenta que viene con *"ropas rojas"* (Isaías 63:1-2). Al personaje ficticio de Santa

Claus los hombres lo presentan también con *"ropas rojas."*

4. La hora de la segunda venida de Jesucristo (su llegada), nadie la sabe, es un *"misterio"* (Lucas 12:40; Marcos 13:32-33). Los hombres también presentan la hora de la llegada del personaje ficticio de Santa Claus, a los hogares, como un *"misterio."*

5. A Jesucristo se presenta que viene *"como ladrón en la noche"* (Mateo 24:43-44). El personaje ficticio de Santa Claus, lo presentan entrando en las casas *"como ladrón en la noche"*, por las chimeneas.

6. A Jesucristo se presenta como *"Omnipotente"* (todo poderoso), (Apocalipsis 1:8; 19:6). Al personaje ficticio de Santa Claus lo presentan como *"Omnipotente"*, *"puede entregar todos los juguetes del mundo en una sola noche."*

7. A Jesucristo se presenta como *"Omnisciente"* (lo sabe todo), (Hebreos 4:13; 1ra Juan 3:20). Al personaje ficticio de Santa Claus lo presentan como *"Omnisciente"*, *"sabe si usted se ha portado bien o mal durante todo el año."*

8. A Jesucristo se presenta como *"Omni-*

presente" (está en todas partes al mismo tiempo), (Salmos 139:7; Efesios 4:6; Juan 3:13). Al personaje ficticio de Santa Claus también lo presentan como *"Omnipresente"*, *"ve cuando usted se levanta o se acuesta"*. Para que esto ocurra necesita estar en todas partes.

9. Jesucristo *"vive"* en los hogares que creen en Él (1ra Corintios 3:16; 2da Corintios 6:16-17). Los hombres, a través de la mentira, han hecho *"vivir"* el personaje ficticio de Santa Claus en el corazón de los niños.

10. Jesucristo *"da dones"* a los hogares (Efesios 4:8). Al personaje ficticio de Santa Claus los hogares lo presentan *"dando regalos."*

11. Jesucristo se sienta sobre *"un trono"* (Hebreos 1:8; Apocalipsis 5:1). Al personaje ficticio de Santa Claus los hogares lo sientan en un *"trono."*

12. El Señor Jesucristo dice que debemos *"ir confiadamente"* al trono de la gracia para satisfacer nuestras necesidades (Hebreos 4:16). Los hogares le dicen a los niños que *"vayan"* al personaje ficticio de Santa Claus, y le pidan o le escriban para que les traiga los juguetes.

13. El Señor quiere que los niños pequeños *"vengan*

a Él" (Marcos 10:14). El personaje ficticio de Santa Claus invita a los niños a *"venir a él."*

14. Jesucristo *"juzga"* (Romanos 14:10; Apocalipsis 20:2). Al personaje ficticio de Santa Claus los hogares lo presentan *"juzgando,"* si los niños fueron buenos o malos, para regalarles o no.

15. El Señor se presenta como el *"Príncipe de Paz"*, la imagen de Dios (Hebreos 1:3; Isaías 9:6). Al personaje ficticio de Santa Claus los hogares lo presentan como *"símbolo de la paz mundial,"* imagen de la temporada navideña.

Cuando comparamos el mito de Santa Claus con la realidad bíblica e historia de Jesucristo, nos encontramos con la estremecedora realidad, de que Santa Claus ha estado sustituyendo completamente a Jesucristo en la vida de muchos niños. La verdad de esta comparación es que una es completamente cierta, la de Jesucristo y la otra es completamente falsa, la de Santa Claus, hecha por el hombre.

Si quieres aceptar un regalo gratis y valioso, puedes hacerlo, acepta a Jesucristo como único y exclusivo Salvador, y obtendrás la salvación de tu alma (Efesios 2:4-9). □

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them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."

People worship many gods today. Nature proves there is a God and much can be learned about God from nature: His power, His intelligence, His benevolence toward all men. God says the man is a fool who does not use his intelligence to see God in nature. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psa. 14:1).

Let's look at man's conception of God without revelation. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Rom. 1:20-21).

Here we see that man has many gods. Some are like man, others animals, some heavenly bodies, even trees. I remember when I was visiting the mission field in Nepal you could see

many people walking down the streets of Katmandu, stopping by a tree and placing either paint (or blood, I'm not sure which) on the tree and then offering a prayer to the tree. This is all in fulfillment of God's Word.

God has wanted to communicate with man and man has always wanted to communicate with God. It is reasonable for God to want to communicate with us, and God has done so through a book — the Bible. The Bible is a unique book. The Bible could not have been written by man if he would and it would not have been written if he could. Moses would have used more than 31 verses in Genesis 1 to describe the creation, but it was sufficient for the Holy Spirit. Let us look at some examples.

Historians know the Jewish nation left Egypt, but they don't know how. They know the Jews crossed the Red Sea, but they don't know how. They know they came through the wilderness, but they don't know how. How did they conquer the land? A miracle was needed to discipline, organize, feed and clothe such a multitude. Only a fool would deny this. All men believe this, even atheists and agnostics, but they have no explanation as to how.

Behind a result there must be a cause, and God is the only answer. Faith is based upon evidence, and

we have the evidence.

This brings us to the question of the Bible where we learn all of this. Can God produce a perfect book? He could write it Himself or He could cause man to write it. If men wrote it, could it be a perfect book? Can God produce a book, written by men, yet still be a perfect book, even though written by imperfect men? Why not? God says He did. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). It is a totally inspired record. All Scripture means all Scripture.

Now let us look at reasons to believe the Bible is true. The Bible is true because of its source. They were "holy men" who wrote the Bible, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

It claims to be the Word of God, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word" (Psa. 119:9); "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11); "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psa. 119:89);

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psa. 119:105); "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it" (Psa. 119:140).

Furthermore, we see that the Bible is true from the very first word of Genesis. "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Lk. 24:25-27).

John also makes the same claim: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18-19).

The Bible was not only true then, but it will remain true forever: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Mt. 24:35). The Psalmist says: "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psa. 119:89).

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From this we learn that the Bible is true forever. It is historically true, scientifically true, morally true, prophetically true, and spiritually true.

The Bible is also true because it is inspired and infallible. It is infallible in its scientific statements. Though written before modern science, yet does not contradict one single known proven fact of science. It's historical statements are true. Its moral statements are true. It is infallible in the physical, moral and spiritual realms. It speaks the truth on every subject it touches. Infallible in the whole and therefore in every part.

Therefore the first among our books should be the Bible because the Bible is the most precious book in the world, "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (Psa. 19:10). Here are three reasons why the Bible is the most precious book in the world.

(1) Because the Bible is the all-sufficient book "Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them ... And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Lk. 16:29, 31).

(2) Because the Bible

was written for our instructions: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4).

(3) Because the Bible is able to cleanse the Christian's path, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word" (Psa. 119:9).

What is the Word? "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). It is evident that he is referring to the whole Bible. Some questions:

What kind of book is this Bible? What relationship is there between this Book which we are to study, teach, and preach, and the Lord Jesus Christ? This book lays claim to being the Word of God. Every writer declares he is writing the Words of God. The simplicity of verbal inspiration is set forth in Jeremiah:

"Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee,

and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, behold, I have put my words in thy mouth" (Jer. 1:4-9).

We read also, "Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the Lord, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book" ... "Then Baruch answered them, He pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote them with ink in the book" (Jer. 36:4, 18).

But there is a man who claims to be the Word of God. This man is Jesus of Nazareth who also claims to be the Word of God "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:1, 14). This Book claims to be the Word of God. Must we make a choice between them? If the claim of the Book is substantiated, must we reject the Man? Or vice versa? Or is it that they are not competitors but that the claim of both is correct?

These are not two different words from two different Gods. Neither are

they two different words from the same God. This Book is Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ is this Book. You turn back the cover of this Book and you find the written Word of God. You turn back the sinless humanity of Jesus Christ and you find the living Word of God. No matter which is speaking to me, in either case or in both cases, it is the Word of God speaking to me. The only difference between these two is not in what they are, but in what they look like. Here the Word of God looks like a Book. There the Word of God looks like a Man. Here the Word of God is given to us on paper and ink printed on pages of white and bound in leather. There the Word is given to us in sinless humanity.

Both of the Words come to us by an identical process. The Holy Spirit came upon a virgin by the name of Mary. He took her humanity into such union with Himself and such control by Himself that there was produced in this world an absolutely sinless Man, the living Word of God.

How did we get the Bible? The same way with one minor variation. The same Holy Spirit who came upon one virgin and produced the living Word of God came upon some 40 men, took their humanity into such union and such control by Himself that

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when they had finished, there was produced in this world an absolutely errorless written Word of God. This Word has been preserved for us by God Himself: "The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever" (Psa. 12:6-7). We got both of them by the same process. This is the point of battle among Christendom today. That battle has to do with the authority of the Word of God in written form.

The question of authority is shown to be very important. How many churches and preachers today believe in verbal inspiration? Some believe in no inspiration. Others believe in partial inspiration.

Many believe in the *dynamic* theory or thought inspiration. Dynamic inspiration says that God gave to men the thoughts, not words, and then left it up to the men to supply the words, meaning that the men were not able to write a perfect book since they were human and fallible, but that the "main thoughts" are okay but not to be considered as verbally inspired.

Who is qualified to determine what part is inspired and what part is not inspired? There is no agreement among them as

to what part or portion is inspired. If the Bible is not *all* inspired, who is to determine what part is inspired? If the Bible is not *all* inspired, how do we know that *any* of it is inspired? Our view on inspiration is foundational to every doctrine of the Bible. If verbal inspiration is destroyed — our foundation is destroyed. "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Mt. 5:18); "the scripture cannot be broken" (Jn. 10:35); "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Mt. 24:35). The Word has been preserved for us by God Himself (Psa. 12:6-7).

There are two methods which God employs in the instruction of mankind. The works of creation (Psa. 19:1-6) and the Holy Scriptures (Psa. 19:7-10). The second method might not have been necessary had there not been the fall. The Psalmist talks of the divine perfection in the works of creation, but then makes a sudden transition at verse 7. This shows the insufficiency of the instruction by nature and the need of a written revelation. It is true that our God is invisible, yet not unknown.

The Written Word of God. Three different words need to be understood. (1) **Revelation** — the direct communication of a truth from God to which man

could not attain by his unaided powers. (2) **Illumination** — the quickening of man's cognitive powers to understand the truth already revealed in the inspired Word of God. (3) **Inspiration** — that influence of the Spirit of God upon the minds of the Scripture writers which made their writings the record of a progressive divine revelation sufficient, when taken together and interpreted by the same Spirit who inspired them, to lead every honest inquirer to Christ and salvation. The Bible then, under this definition, is the only inspired book in the world, an inspired record of the sayings of God, angels, demons and man.

The Bible claims to be inspired. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). All Scripture means *all* Scripture. The Bible claims inspiration over 3,500 times. The *unity* of the Book supports inspiration. The *preservation* of the Book proves inspiration. The *prophecies* of the Book proclaim inspiration.

Note the excellent properties of the Scriptures (Psa. 19:7-9). As a law it is perfect "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." It is complete and entire. Nature may have

been suitable in the state of innocence, but cannot show the way of pardon or offer any hope for the future.

As a testimony, the Word of God is sure. This is God's testimony to all those truths which concern man's salvation. These are like solid ground on which to place your feet. We may have doubts concerning the writings of men, but we should have none concerning the writings of the Holy Spirit.

The statutes of the Lord are right. They are right, true, clean and righteous. Their equity and holiness equal their completeness and certainty. We may not be able to understand in all parts, but "shall not the Judge of all the earth do right" (Gen. 18:25). God's statutes were conceived in eternal wisdom, founded on eternal truths and strictly harmonizing with unchangeable principles of good and evil and they are precisely in every respect what they ought to be.

As a commandment, it is pure. Like the sun, it is brilliant without any mixture of darkness. It's pure doctrines have no need of elaborate proofs, reasonings, or studies. It enters the mind through the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is spoken of as eternal. The Laws of men are mutable or changeable. Even the ceremonial law

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was abolished when Christ appeared. The sword of God abideth forever. The life seen through the gospel and the redemption which it reveals are eternal.

Jesus and the Scriptures (Jn. 17:1-26). Jesus here authenticates the Scriptures. He asserted their accuracy and their divine authority. He quoted no other authority and silenced His opponents by referring to it. He confirmed its histories and recognized its typical and prophetic value. "*It is written*" was to Him an end to settle all things.

Notice our Lord's attitudes toward the Scriptures. As to their nature:

They are true, not merely true, but truth. Jn. 17:17

They proceeded from the mouth of God. Mt. 4:4

They are therefore food for the soul. It is through the Scriptures that we feed upon Christ the living bread. Jn. 6:67

They are one and indivisible. This means they are unassailable as to their truth and accuracy. Jn. 10:35

They are eternal. Mt. 5:18

They are living. Lk. 8:11; Jn. 6:63

They are holy and sanctifying in power. Jn. 17:17

They bring blessing. Lk. 11:28

He confirmed its histories: He spoke of

Adam and Eve. Mt. 19:4; Mk. 10:6; Abel. Mt. 23:35; Abraham. Jn. 8:56-58; Lot. Lk. 17:28-29; Lot's wife. Lk. 17:32; Moses. Jn. 5:46; The Israelites. Mt. 10:6; Lk. 22:30; Manna. Jn. 6:49; Brazen serpent. Jn. 3:14; Giving of the Law. Jn. 7:19; David. Lk. 20:42; Solomon. Lk. 11:31; Zacharias. Mt. 23:35; Jonah. Mt. 12:41; Daniel. Mt. 24:13; Many others. He appealed to the authority of the Scriptures (Mk. 12:10; Mt. 22:29).

No less than 20 times He is quoted as saying "It is written" showing that He regarded the fact of it being written as sufficiently establishing a truth and settling the question. Note the following quotations which are introduced with the words "It is written."

At His temptation He quenched all the fiery darts of the Wicked One with these words "It is written." "Man shall not live by bread alone (Mt. 4:4). "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (Mt. 4:7). "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God" (Mt. 4:10). "My house shall be called a house of prayer" (Mt. 21:13). "The Son of man goeth as it is written of him" (Mt. 25:25). "This people honoureth me with their lips" (Mk. 7:6). "The Son of Man must suffer" (Mk. 9:12). "Have done as it is written" (Mk. 9:13). "He was reckoned with the transgressors" (Lk. 22:37). "He gave them bread from heaven to eat" (Jn. 6:31). "Ye shall all be taught of God" (Jn. 6:45).

"The testimony of three men is true" (Jn. 8:17).

Now let us look at Satan's attitude toward the Bible. The Written Word reveals the Living Word — in the Scripture we find the full-length portrait of the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Word is powerful (Heb. 4:12; Jer. 23:29). Therefore, Satan hates the Word of God.

Let us look at Satan's tactics with the Word of God. He tries to cast doubt about the authenticity of the Word (Gen. 3:1). In years past he has sought to destroy the Word of God by burning of Bibles. Bibles are no longer burned today. Satan today simply eliminates whole passages, changes words, waters down the Word of God and in general, attacks the Person, Deity and Nature of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Satan uses men to accomplish the work for him. The Bible speaks of men like that. Deceitfully handling the Word of God (2 Cor. 4:2). Corrupting the Word of God (2 Cor. 2:17). Wresting the Scriptures (2 Pet. 3:16). Then on a text-by-text analysis of the King James Version and the modern versions, it is found that it is always the Person, Deity and Nature of the Lord Jesus Christ that is attacked.

"Hath God said" is on the lips of the lost man.

Satan's purpose is to get man to question the reliability of the Word of God. We must be prepared to give the answer "yes" to all of it. Equivalent translations are now being distributed on all mission fields. It is to make the work much more difficult for the missionary. This shows the extent to which Satan will go in deceiving people in order to send their souls to hell.

In closing, I want to ask ourselves seven questions concerning the Bible:

1. What is the Word of God? A human book or divine?

2. Where did it come from. 2 Pet. 1:21

3. Why was it written. 1 Jn. 5:13; Jn. 20:31

4. Who was it written for? Isa. 55:1

5. How can I understand the Word? Jn. 14:26; 7:17

6. When can I accept the Bible? 2 Cor. 6:2

7. What effect does the Word of God have on me? 2 Cor. 5:17

Conclusion: The Bible is a message from God to man. A message of salvation to the believer, a message of doom to those who ignore it, reject it, or neglect it.

There are two sides on a coin (2 Cor. 2:15). Has Satan caused you to cast doubt on the Word of God? He's out for your soul. Don't be deceived. ■

Clear Your Mind of Can't
Philippians 4:13

“Religious Liberty” — It’s Cost in Blood and Tears of our Baptist Fathers

By J. W. Porter

It has been said that there are two things in the world worth contending for—religion and liberty. Certainly these constitute a priceless heritage, and Baptists as a people may thank God that they have been permitted to preserve the one in its purity, and to procure the other at the greatest price that was ever paid by human hearts and hands. Indeed, the mightiest and most tragic struggle of the ages has been the one ceaselessly waged for the freedom of the soul. It is entirely safe to say that no battle known to history has cost so much in tears and blood, and brought such blessings, alike to the victor and the vanquished.

Probably the earliest recorded plea in behalf of religious liberty was made by Tertullian, who lived in the third and fourth centuries of the Christian Era. This Christian hero, in his splendid advocacy of the Baptist principles of religious liberty, said:

“It is easily seen to be unjust to compel free people against their will to offer sacrifice, for in the acts of religious services a willing mind is required. It should be counted quite absurd for one man to compel another to do honor to the gods.”

From the days of Constantine, when Christianity became a state religion, till this good day and hour, there has never been a time when there were not those who were ready to suffer, and, if need be to die, for the imperishable principles of soul liberty. As early as the fourth century, the Donatists, who were Baptists in theory and practice if not in name, earnestly contended that the conscience should not be coerced, and that the state and the churches were separate and distinct institutions. In spite of persecution, and death to many of their numbers, they resisted the right of the state to dictate in religious matters, and by their sufferings and lives sanctified the struggle for religious freedom. Speaking of these people, Neander says: “For the first time the ideas which Christianity, as opposed to the pagan religion of the state, had first made men distinctly conscience of, became an object of contention within the state itself—the ideas concerning universal, inalienable human rights, concerning liberty of conscience, concerning the rights of free religious conviction.” The Donatists

as declared by Neander, and generally conceded by church historians, were afterwards merged with the Waldenses, who for centuries continued to contend for the rights of conscience, and its corollary, separation of Church and state.

Other denominations sought to establish themselves by alliances with the state, and too frequently by becoming the persecutors of their brethren. The Mennonites, who sprang out of the Waldenses in 1536 (Mosheim, Cent. XVI., Sec. 3, part 2) contended for perfect liberty of conscience, and that the magistrates had no right to interfere with religious convictions. This opinion is founded on the “one principle” which as Mosheim justly remarks, is at the basis of all their peculiarities; i.e., “the Kingdom which Christ has established on earth is a visible society or company, in which no place for any but holy or pious persons. In this they have always persevered, and when, about the year 1820, on the publication of the proofs of their ancient origin, by Professor Upeij and Dr. Dermont, they were offered government support by the

King of the Netherlands, and recognition as a state religion, they declined the bounty on the ground that it was contrary to their oldest and most settled principles.” In this report by Professor Upeij and Dr. Dermont, the Baptists were declared to be the oldest of all the denominations, and that their origin dated back to the earliest Christian times.

It is a fact, that can not be denied, that all the great Reformers held that the state had a right to coerce in matters of religion. Martin Luther preached and practiced the right to force men to hold a certain faith. He says: “I am averse to the shedding of blood. It is sufficient that they should be banished.” Of the Jews he said: “Their Synagogues should be leveled with the ground, and their houses burned, and their book even to the Old Testament, taken from them.” Several of the Baptists were put to death by the Lutherans, “for propagating their errors, contrary to the judgment of the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel” (Struggles and Triumphs of Religious Liberty, p. 87). In vain have the friends and fol-

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lowers of John Calvin tried to acquit him of the death of Servitus. Calvin claimed that "it was by my persecution that he was imprisoned," though he did express the hope that "they might condemn him to death, though not by the terrible one of being burned." In 1618 the Synod of Dort declared that the state should punish heresy, and as a result many were imprisoned or banished (Cumberland's Introduction to Limburch's "History of the Inquisition").

"These Independents, when they were compelled to leave their own country, formed in the Netherlands and in America, but they were still firmly rooted in England, where the Puritans under continual persecutions became daily more violent and gloomy, and gradually a dangerous and powerful party. In their morals and manners they were eminently pious; they looked upon all earthly pleasures as sinful; their own fancies were regarded as divine inspirations, and they thought that the state itself should be subject to their democratic hierarchy. Their rejection of infant baptism, in consistency with the Protestant doctrine of faith, and on account of its want of Scriptural authority, together with their consequent repetition of their baptism of adult believers, became the distinctive

badge of their party. These Anabaptists, who made their first appearance at Zwickau and Wittenberg (1521), were nearly all put to death in the Peasant War, but in almost every part of the country, a class of enthusiasts resembling them, but very unlike each other in moral and religious character, became the pioneers and freebooters of the Reformation" (Dr. Hase: History of Christian Church). The last executions for heresy in England by burning alive took place at Lichfield, April 11, 1612. At this time, Edward Whitman, a Baptist, was burnt alive.

It may be well, just here, to give more than passing mention to the attitude of Martin Luther to the Anabaptists, since, in these latter days, some have arisen who claim that Luther never persecuted any one on account of their religious beliefs. We, of course, do not claim that Martin Luther was responsible for all the persecutions of Anabaptists, for many of these he probably could not have prevented even had he so desired.

We know of no better authority or clearer light on this subject than the "Life of Luther", by Dr. Sears. Certainly his biographer did all within his power to put Luther in the best possible light on this question.

Dr. Sears says: "Luther has been accused of inhumanity toward the Anabaptists, and when we

compare him with the wild Brentz, who opposed putting them to death for their sentiments, and with religious men of modern times, we must, in part at least, admit the charges."

A letter written by Luther in 1530 to Menius and Myconius is as follows: "I am pleased that you intend to publish a book against the Anabaptists as soon as possible. Since they are not only blasphemous, but also seditious men, let the sword exercise its right over them, for this is the will of God, that he shall have judgment who resisteth the power. Let us not, therefore, think better of these men than God Himself and all the saints have done." The genuineness of this letter has never been, and can never be, successfully called in question.

"The first edict against the Anabaptists was published in Zurich in 1522, in which there was a penalty of a silver mark set upon all such as should offer themselves to be rebaptized, or should withhold baptism from their children." This decree proving insufficient to check the alarming growth of the Anabaptists and immersion, the senate decreed that all persons who professed Anabaptism, or harbored the professors of the doctrine, should be punished with death by drowning. In defiance of this law, the Baptists persevered in their regular discipline; and some of their ministers of learned cele-

bry realized the severity of the sentence. Many Baptists were drowned and burnt.

It would be indeed difficult for the friends of Luther to free him from complicity in these persecutions. His power at this time was well-nigh great enough to make his will law, if not gospel.

J. W. Porter, Pastor
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Lexington, Kentucky

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homes looted ... churches destroyed ... shootings, bombings ... it's outrageous. And to think that the U.N. could fan the anti-Christian flames by voting in favor of the OIC's resolution *criminalizing* the proclamation of the Gospel ... that's unimaginable. — ACLJ

* * *

St. Louis Pays \$80,000 For Censoring Christians. — The following is excerpted from WorldNetDaily, Oct. 23, 2009: "The city of St. Louis has agreed to pay \$80,000 for censoring the speech of Christians during a 'gay' pride festival on city property, according to the Alliance Defense Fund. The law organization represented the plaintiffs in a case brought over the

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ensorship, and it announced yesterday it had voluntarily sought dismissal of the lawsuit after the city's offending policy had been struck down and the city agreed to pay damages and costs of the case. 'Christian groups shouldn't be banned from public areas for expressing their beliefs,' said Rick Nelson of the American Liberties Institute, who served as lead counsel in the case and is allied with the ADF. 'We are pleased that the city of St. Louis now recognizes the First Amendment rights of ministries who wish to share their viewpoint on important social and moral issues at events taking place at public locations,' he said. The city policy had been used to prohibit members of a Christian ministry from distributing literature and speaking about their religious viewpoint at an annual 'PrideFest' celebrating homosexual behavior. ... The ADF said the order protects the ministry's distribution of literature at all public parks, public squares and other public locations in St. Louis, including public sidewalks."

* * *

CNN Last Place Among U.S. Cable News Networks. — According to newly-released prime time viewing ratings

(between 7 and 11 p.m.), CNN came in dead last among cable news networks. CNN averaged 202,000 viewers between the ages of 25 and 54, while Fox News averaged 689,000, MSNBC averaged 250,000, and HLN (formerly Headline News) averaged 221,000. In spite of CNN's lack of popularity in U.S. homes, it is typically the network playing 24 hours a day on airport consoles and available in hotels in other parts of the world, whereas America's favorite cable news network, Fox, is rarely seen in these venues. The reason is not difficult to fathom. Fox News is more conservative, somewhat less a voice for big government, and more patriotic than CNN (which is not saying much). That said, Fox News is no friend of the truth, and its objective is more to entertain and make money than it is to provide substantive news. — FBIS

* * *

An Attempted Islamic Honor Killing In America.

— According to police in Peoria, Arizona, Faleh Hassan Almaleki allegedly ran over his daughter on October 20 because she was becoming too "westernized" ("Police: Strict Iraqi Father Ran Daughter Down," myfoxphoenix.com, Oct. 22, 2009). The twenty-year-old woman, Noor, was hos-

pitalized with life-threatening injuries. This appears to be an attempted "honor killing," which the Human Rights Watch defines as "acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male family members against female family members, who are held to have brought dishonor upon the family." These are very common in the Middle East and Turkey. According to the United Nations, 5,000 females are murdered every year ("Murder in the Family," Fox News, July 26, 2008). The perpetrators usually get off scot free or with a light sentence. Islamic apologists pretend that honor killings are "cultural" rather than a product of Islam, but Jihad Watch reports that in 2003 the Jordanian Parliament voted down ON ISLAMIC GROUNDS a provision designed to stiffen penalties for honor killings, and Al-Jazeera reported that "Islamists and conservatives said the laws violated religious traditions and would destroy families and values" ("Muslim Ran Down Daughter," Jihad Watch, Oct. 22, 2009). Honor killings are on the rise in the United States. The first documented case was in November 1989, when Zein Isa, a Palestinian terrorist living in St. Louis, murdered his 16-year-old daughter, Tina, for having a boyfriend, going to a school dance, and applying to work at Wendy's restaurant. Her mother held

her down while her father plunged a 9-inch knife into her chest 13 times, the mother shouting "Shut up!" in response to the girl's pleas for help (Ellen Harris, *Guarding the Secrets: Palestinian Terrorism and a Father's Murder of His Too-American Daughter*, 1995). In April 2004, Ismail Peltek of Rochester, Minnesota, murdered his wife and fractured the skulls of his daughters because he was "concerned that my family's honor was taken" (Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, April 24, 2004). In January 2008, when teenage sisters Amina and Sarah Said were shot to death in Irving, Texas, by their father, Yaser Abdel Said, their great aunt Gail Gartrell told reporters, "This was an honor killing" ("Honor Killing in Texas," Human Events, Jan. 8, 2008). In July 2008, Chaudhry Rashid strangled his daughter to death in Jonesboro, Georgia, "to restore the family's honor" after she wanted to end her arranged marriage. That same month, in upper state New York, 22-year-old Waheed Mohammad attempted to murder his sister for wearing western clothing. He explained the stabbing by saying that she was "a bad Muslim girl" ("An American Honor Killing," New York Post, July 23, 2008). In February 2009, Muzzammil Hassan beheaded his wife, Aasiya,

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wonders.

Preachers abuse their calling when they dance to the ditties of the "Big Boys" To jump when headquarters speaks, and to hop when "smelling salts petticoats" and, condemn preachers and show them up as "weak sisters." May God give us courage in the pulpit, backbones like that attributed in Alexander A. Stephens — 'Twas said of him, "Stephens weighed 100 pounds and 98 pounds of that was backbone." — by W. Lee Rector

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in upstate New York after she filed for divorce. Phyllis Chesler, author of "Are Honor Killings Simply Domestic Violence," said, "The fierce and gruesome nature of this murder signals it's an honor killing" ("Beheading Appears to Be Honor Killing, Experts Say," Fox News, Feb. 17, 2009). Recently a judge in Florida ordered 17-year-old Fathima Rifga Bary to be returned to Ohio in spite of her statement that her father has threatened to kill her because she converted to Christianity. — FBIS

* * *

Victim of Islamic Honor Killing In Arizona Dies. — Noor Faleh

Almaleki, who was run over by her father in Arizona two weeks ago, died on November 2. After fleeing to England, her father was arrested and brought back to America to face trial. County prosecutor Stephanie Low told the media, "By his own admission, this was an intentional act and the reason was that his daughter had brought shame on him and his family. This was an attempt at an honor killing" ("Westernized Woman Allegedly Hit by Dad's Car Dies," AP, Nov. 3, 2009). The Human Rights Watch defines honor killings as "acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male family members against female family members, who are held to have brought dishonor upon the family." These are very common in the Middle East and Turkey. According to the United Nations, 5,000 females are murdered every year ("Murder in the Family," Fox News, July 26, 2008). The perpetrators usually get off scot free or with a light sentence. Islamic apologists pretend that honor killings are "cultural" rather than a product of Islam, but Jihad Watch reports that in 2003 the Jordanian Parliament voted down **on Islamic grounds** a provision designed to stiffen penalties for honor killings, and Al-Jazeera reported that "Islamists and conserva-

tives said the laws violated religious traditions and would destroy families and values" ("Muslim Ran Down Daughter," Jihad Watch, Oct. 22, 2009). As we documented in last week's Friday Church News Notes, honor killings are increasing in the United States. — FBIS

* * *

Christian Man Fired For Stating His Belief In Traditional Marriage. —

In August, Peter Vadala was fired by the Brookstone Corporation for telling a lesbian co-worker that his Christian faith did not accept same-sex marriage. This occurred at his job as deputy manager of the Brookstone store at Boston's Logan Airport, after he had been badgered by the co-worker throughout the day. She was flaunting the fact that she was getting "married." The lesbian contacted the Human Resources department, and two days later Vadala's job was terminated ("Massachusetts man Fired from Corporation over Christian Belief in Traditional Marriage," MassResistance.org, Oct. 30, 2009). The company told Peter that "in the State of Massachusetts, same-sex marriage is legal" and his actions were deemed to be "inappropriate" and "harassment. He was even accused of "imposing his beliefs upon others." So much for homosexual

tolerance. — FBIS

* * *

Latter-day Saints (Mormons) Back 'Gay rights' Ordinance. —

The Salt Lake City Council has passed a non-discrimination ordinance making it illegal to fire or evict somebody because of their sexual orientation. The measure was approved unanimously, and even had the support of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). The LDS issued a statement backing the ordinance, saying they were against discrimination against anyone, but that they supported traditional marriage. Church spokesman Michael Otterson said, "The church supports these ordinances because they are fair and reasonable and do not do violence to the institution of marriage." Reaction to the decree was swift from conservative groups such as the **Sutherland Institute**, an independent, conservative public policy organization based in Salt Lake City. Stan Rasmussen, public affairs manager with the Institute, says the Mormon Church's support of the ordinance is problematic. "We do not support, abide, encourage or tolerate discrimination that is inappropriate. We think there are ways, [in fact] we know there are ways to address those concerns

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The Blood — It's Power and It's Work

The power and ministry of the blood is variously indicated in the Holy Scriptures. A brief summary of some of its attributes and functions are herein set forth.

1. The Old Testament reveals its power and its glory in various types. Exodus and Leviticus are replete with the same. The blood offerings there are not cleansing, but they point to "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son (which) cleanses from all sin" (Jn. 1:29; 1 Jn. 1:7).

2. All of the Old Testament covenants are under the blood of "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." All of the blood offerings of the Old Testament point to blood redemption in Christ Jesus.

3. The blood propitiates, that is, when the Father sees it, He is satisfied (Isa. 53:11; Rom. 3:25).

4. By the blood, remission of sin comes—"Without the shedding of blood there is no remission" (of sin.) (Rom. 3:25; Heb. 9:22).

5. By the blood, justification comes (Rom. 5:9).

6. By the blood, communion with God comes (1 Cor. 10:16).

7. By the blood, redemption comes (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-20).

8. By the blood, the robes of saints are made

white (Rev. 7:14).

9. By the blood, conquests over sin and Satanic forces are realized (Rev. 12:11).

10. By the blood, iniquity is covered (Ex. 12:13; Rom. 4:6-8).

11. By the blood, hearts are cleansed from sin (1 Jn. 1:7). □

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[which] do not include the incorporating of these phrases into city ordinances," Rasmussen argues. "An example would be a hate crimes bill several years ago which conservatives and liberals collaborated to craft. [It] addressed all concerns without including that vague language of 'sexual orientation' or 'gender identity.'" The Sutherland Institute will encourage state lawmakers to pass laws which seek to reverse Salt Lake City's new ordinances. Tuesday's passage made Salt Lake City the first Utah community to prohibit bias based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Exceptions in the legislation allow churches to maintain, without penalty, religious principles and religion-based codes of conduct or rules. Homosexuals are welcome in the Mormon Church, but must remain

celibate to retain church callings and full membership.

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Rick Warren's Defective Mega Church. — Rick Warren endorses women for all church positions. He is pro-ecumenical. He endorses unreliable Bible translations. His is the largest SBC church in the world. He says: "I'm Southern Baptist, our church is Southern Baptist, and we cooperate in SBC missions." One out of every ten churches in America is said to be a SBC church. Warren revealed his allegiance to the left-wing of the SBC when he told the Baptist Press the SBC's 2004 vote to withdraw from the apostate Baptist World Alliance was a major mistake. — CC

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Liberals Have Long Dominated Schools. — Nearly three-quarters of faculty members of U.S. colleges and universities describe themselves as liberals, and at elite schools, the proportion is 87 percent (7:05 Baptist Watchman). Harvard professor Doris Kearns Goodwin in her biography of LBJ quotes him as saying (pg. 316): "The communists control our three TV networks and the 40 major communication outlets. ... It's all in the FBI reports. They prove everything. Not just

about the reporters but about the professors too." FBI director J. Edgar Hoover had earlier said the liberal press has been infiltrated by communists. *Business Week* in 1982 said over 10,000 Marxist profs were teaching in U.S. colleges and universities. Communism is an evil, anti-God system that Christians must oppose and expose.

* * *

Globalism Governance. — A United Nations that seeks to impose its presumed authority on the American people, without their consent, begs for confrontation. A UN that serves the purpose for which it was designed, would not respect U.S. authority, since the UN was designed to be the framework for a future world government. David Rockefeller recently said: "We are on the verge of a global transformation. All we need is the right major crisis and the nations will accept the New World Order." — CC

* * *

Why Separation? — The Bible presents a number of reasons for separation. Among them are doctrinal deviation and moral decadence. The purpose of separation is purity, both in belief and behavior. It is interesting

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American Democracy at the Crossroads

Debt and Devilry Abounds

Personal and Religious Liberty Now Imperiled

[The following article with minor changes to bring it up to date, was originally published on February 22, 1940 in the Illuminator.]

* * *

Would we know the meaning of American Democracy, we should go to the constitution of the United States to find it. It guarantees us the right of free speech and free press, the right of private property and personal estates, the right to worship God according to the dictates of our own consciences, the right to live out our own lives within the limit of constitutional law, and the right to look to the government to carry out our will—the authority of the state.

No human instrument under the sun is so vital and so valuable to our future as our constitution. Under it, our country has gone forward achieving great strength, great influence, and great power. The large elements of initiative and freedom guaranteed by it to our citizenship explain the unparalleled progress we have made. The annals of history disclose no other nation with such marked benevolent programs.

Our constitution is not

a “*laissez faire*” document, serving only the capitalists, but it is a balanced instrument equitably serving both capital and labor. It contains the yardsticks by which we have measured and secured our progress. Today, we witness the Democracy of this instrument imperiled by drifts away from its character and its moorings.

1. Our Democracy is imperiled by the Socialistic forms now inwrought into our governmental structure. Socialism always **centralizes and regimentizes and bureaucratizes** the countries it dominates. In its operation, it reverses the principles of American Democracy. According to our constitution, the authority is the people and their agents in government are administrators of their will. The ongo of government is from the people and through their own governmental administrators. The constitution is the peoples’ rules by which their representatives work. Accordingly, legislatures, executives, and judiciaries receive orders by the constitution from the people and cannot constitutionally disburse orders to the people beyond the constitutional prerogatives

granted them. The people are sovereign, and the governmental agents are subject. Under Socialism, the authority of government is the state and the people are subjects, thus government administration flows from the central government to the people. Such a government gives the orders and the people obey. Now, we can see our peril today, if we but look. We are now **centralized** in government, **regimentized** in industries and business, and **bureaucratized** in the administration of our nation’s affairs—that’s the way Socialism works.

2. Our Democracy is being imperiled today by Socialistic instruction in certain centers of higher education. Multitudes of our youth are being taught that the state owes them opportunities and livelihood and that all property should be equalized and distributed according to the per capita population of our land. Such instruction does violence to our constitution, does violence to the spirit of Democracy, and tends to destroy individualism and initiative. Historically speaking, our education has encouraged a determined, never-give-up, do or die spirit. But Socialistic in-

struction takes the “dare to win” out of living; honeycombs the very foundation of our government by emasculating individual initiative and freedom; and posits Socialistic standards of control for the state. Democracy now stands ready to crumble upon its own foundation, being undermined by its own cultural system. The self-centered instruction of our schools can but destroy us in the end.

3. Our Democracy is imperiled by the surrender of constitutional prerogatives of the Supreme Court and of Congress to the Chief Executive of our land. For six years, Congress has been in a role of surrendering the constitutional powers to the President, thus enlarging his administration and executive powers. Likewise during this time, through death and resignation of Supreme Court officials, this judicial body has become subservient to the executive department. Many believe it is no longer an impartial judiciary, but a willing instrument in the hands of left-wing liberals to socialize our constitution by partisan interpretations.

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DEBT . . .

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4. Democracy is being imperiled by national debt. We should remember in this connection, that our government is a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Accordingly, Congress is but a servant of the people, and not their master. Notwithstanding this fact, **Congress has abused its constitutional authority to tax the people** by levying tax tributes upon generations unborn. This it has done by voting and pyramiding debts without present-day vote sanction of the people. Our debt now averages \$50,000 for every individual in the United States. Laying silver dollars side by side, our 4 trillion dollar debt would belt the earth 4,000 times at the equator.

Ye editor’s blood is made to boil every time we think of the crime being committed at Washington against our unearning youth in the name of “humanitarianism” — as applied at Washington, “humanitarianism” is all but a synonym for Socialism.

The government’s unsanctioned spending sprees laid, and being laid, upon our undeserving youth, without their will or their consent, is such an affront against justice and right that all people should rebel against it. Their future is being mortgaged to care for our adult financial de-

linquencies today. **Congress has laid tribute upon salaries and earnings of our youth before they come to earn.** The youth of this hour finds a tax burden levied upon them the which they will be paying fifty years hence, if the debt is ever paid. **Now if we adults of this generation are so witless and so shiftless that we cannot meet the economic responsibility devolving upon us then let us suffer.** If we can’t pay our current bills, how can we expect our youth tomorrow to carry on the government, pay its current bills, and retire our unpaid bills? We repeat, we have no right today to lay the burden of our economic deficiencies upon our youth and the generations of tomorrow.

Because of this treatise, we shall be accused of being against Washington. We are not opposed to many things done in Washington — many helpful things have been done — but we are unalterably opposed to the liberal political philosophy of **centralization, regimentation, bureaucratization, and “planned economy.”** We are not against relief—we are for it—but we are against the abuses, misdirections, and the corruption attending the administration of relief. We are not against taxes, but we are against the abuse Congressmen have made of their authority to tax the

people. They have no moral right, nor any emergency mandate, to endanger our inalienable rights by spending us into bankruptcy.

5. American Democracy is imperiled by a lack of faith in our own self-sufficiency. The growth of the spirit of dependence, attended by the growth of a desire to get without giving, to live without doing, and to subsist without serving, is indeed a peril. Such tends to build up a class of parasites, a do-nothing group, lolling on the other fellow’s pocket books. Enlarging groups, assuming that the state owes them a living, imperil Democracy when they organize to compel such support by their votes. Actually, the state owes no one a living, but everyone owes the state an honest, industrious, and patriotic life.

6. American Democracy is imperiled by the corruption of the courts. In our county and district courts, the underworld usually gets away with most contested cases. Courts lean on technicalities, and thus dodge the spirit of the law. By so doing they play the masses into the hands of the underworld. In our Federal Courts, partisan opinions tend to supplant the basic laws of our land. Such abuses of justice go far toward undermining all confidence in our judiciaries. Such is a peril, indeed.

7. American Democracy is imperiled by political corruption. The patronage racket has become both a state and national scandal. When officials raffle the salaries of employees to pay campaign expenses; when officials link up with alien forces for the sake of votes; and when tax payer’s money is poured into states to carry elections to maintain partisan and party lines, we witness depths of corruption and depravity that is all but unbelievable. The ways of Tammany have been appropriated by many national leaders, and have also been borrowed by smaller cities all over the land. According to practice, it has become a virtue to buy elections. Such corruption surely imperils the foundation of our national state, since the state rests upon morals as its foundation.

In the light of these perils, what should be done? Since we, the people are the authority of our government, and officials at Washington are the administrators of our will as stipulated in the constitution, we should demand that our will be done.

1. We should demand that Washington honor our constitution as it is; that the sovereignty of the people be preserved; and that our historic forms of Democracy be maintained in the administration of our

(See **DEBT** on page 22)

PRAVDA . . .

(Continued from page 3)

public has taken this with barely a whimper...but a “free man” whimper. So, should it be any surprise to discover that the Democratically controlled Congress of America is working on passing a new regulation that would give the American Treasury department the power to set “fair” maximum salaries, evaluate performance, and control how private companies give out pay raises and bonuses?

Senator Barney Frank, a social pervert basking in his homosexuality [of course, amongst the modern, enlightened American societal norm, as well as that of the general West, homosexuality is not only not a looked down upon life choice, but is often praised as a virtue] and his Marxist enlightenment, has led this effort. He stresses that this only affects companies that receive government monies, but it is retroactive and taken to a logical extreme, this would include any company or industry that has ever received a tax break or incentive.

The Russian owners of American companies and industries should look thoughtfully at this and the option of closing their facilities down and fleeing the land of the Red as fast as possible. In other words, divest while there is still value left.

The proud American

will go down into his slavery without a fight, beating his chest, and proclaiming to the world, how free he really is. The world will only snicker. □

BALL . . .

(Continued from page 6)

know, that’s not against the law—at least not that.”

One by one, the people in the stands bowed their heads, held hands with one another and began to pray.

They prayed in the stands. ... They prayed in the team huddles. They prayed at the concession stand and they prayed in the Announcer’s Box! The only place they didn’t pray was in the Supreme Court of the United States of America—the Seat of “Justice” in the “one nation, under **GOD.**”

Somehow, Kingston, Tennessee remembered what so many have forgotten. We are given the Freedom of Religion, not the Freedom from Religion. Praise **GOD** that *HIS* remnant remains! □

DEBT . . .

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nation’s affairs.

2. We should demand that our Congress move at once to balance our national budget, and then move toward paying our debts. The bond market is none too steady now. A few more billions [now trillions] added to our 48 billion dollar debt could easily be “the

straw that broke the camel’s back.” A bond crash would seal the doom of Democracy for our country.

3. We should demand that all “off color” political teachings be outlawed from our tax supported schools; that all youth be given some cultural iron for their blood; and that all alien subversivists be denied professorships in our colleges.

4. We should demand that Congress enact legislation looking toward unlocking the doors of economic opportunity and livelihood to 6 1/2 million high school and college graduates in our land who are now all but economic outcasts. Congress should not vote them jobs, but legislate to remove barriers now in their way.

5. We should demand that Congress move to correct its error of forcing Socialistic forms upon us; that it help the relief group to get into productive activities; that it prorate the relief funds to the states, entrusting each one with the responsibility of setting up the machinery for the distribution of the same; and that Congress then withdraw all aid from those who have been given a chance to help themselves.

6. We should demand that all Socialistic forces be outlawed; that their organizations be destroyed; and that their “fronts” be eliminated [such as ACORN].

7. We should demand that our courts preserve the constitution by their decisions, and not destroy it by partisan interpretations.

8. We should demand that Congress enact a law requiring all political parties to submit a proposed national budget in their platforms, so as to provide the people an opportunity to sanction the amount of money an incoming administration could spend during its tenure of office.

Along with these demands, we folk back at home should be men. We should cease clamoring for endless congressional appropriations, and busy ourselves solving our own problems.

Democracy is indeed at the crossroads. We must turn to the right; that is, we must restore the constitutional authority of the people, wrested from them by the left-wing forces of the Socialist administration. A failure to do so would mean the vanishing of every semblance of true Americanism — then chaos and death would obtain. □

**The End Must Justify
The Means**

BIBLE . . .

(Continued from page 1)

“Oh these,” he said, “are the most sought-after of any of my drugs. I give them only to the patients whose cases I do not understand.”

While most of us readily recognize the incompetency of such a manner of treatment, at the same time, few of us realize that this is the same way in which many people read the Bible. One day they will read a Psalm or two, the next day perhaps a chapter from Romans, and then the next day maybe a chapter in Genesis, or back to the Psalms, and thus week after week. Their reading is simply a conglomeration of assorted passages.

When we realize that one can read the Bible through in a year simply by reading three chapters a day and five on Sunday, we see that the task is really not too difficult. Thus I would like to recommend that you take the time to read your Bible through in 2010. It will be one of the most profitable things you will do in the New Year.

Let me give you five reasons why we ought to read the Bible through in 2010. First, because of the *Person it presents*. Whether we read in the Old Testament or the New Testament, there is one Person portrayed throughout. In the Old Testament, to a certain extent, He is concealed, while in the

New Testament He is revealed. Who is this Person? Jesus Christ! But whether concealed or revealed, He can be found in both the Old and New Testaments. In fact, He says in Psalm 40:7, “In the volume of the book it is written of me.” All through the Word of God we see Him, for it is written about Him. In speaking of the Scriptures in John 5:39 the Lord Jesus said, “They are they which testify of me.” He is the grand theme, the central object, of the Word of God.

What could be of greater value than really knowing Christ? And how do we get to know Christ? Through His Word! All you and I know about the Lord Jesus has come from the Bible.

Secondly, we ought to read the Bible through in 2010 because of the *conviction it conveys*. With sin so prevalent on every hand, we need to be brought face to face with our own sins each day. The Bible is God’s infallible Word. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we read that “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

His Word is a true mirror. Romans 3:20 tells us that “By the law is the knowledge of sin.” The law of God reveals sin to us and

shows us how sinful we actually are. We will see our desperate need of leaning wholly on Christ as we see ourselves as sinners by looking into the mirror of God’s Word. As the sincere reader studies the Word prayerfully, the spirit of conviction will come upon him, and when he sees himself as God sees him, he will acknowledge his transgressions unto the Lord and claim the wonderful forgiveness God provides.

Thirdly, we ought to read the Bible through in 2010 because of the *guidance it gives*. In that familiar Psalm 119, David declares in verse 105, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” How many times we have found the Word to be just that. When we did not know what to do and we did not know which way to turn, God shed light upon our pathway and from His Word He seemed to say, “This is the way; walk ye in it” (Isa. 3:21). There have been times too innumerable to mention when you were confused and disturbed about the future. But as you spent time with the Word of God, the Lord spoke to your heart, giving comfort, peace, and guidance.

Several years ago I went through a period of four or five months of physical and mental unrest. The doctors felt, after giving repeated tests, that I might possibly have either leukemia or Hodgkin’s

disease. In between visits to the hospital, I was traveling in a Bible-teaching ministry. I recall one particular Saturday afternoon as I sat in a hotel room alone, far away from home, the devil began to tempt me. He was throwing doubts at me from every angle. My future seemed hopeless. In desperation I turned to the Word of God. The Lord directed me to the wonderful Psalm 118 where in verse 17 and 18 I read, “I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord hath chastened me sore: but He hath not given me over unto death.” What peace these words brought to my heart! As I read them, the enemy became a haven of peace. Here was clear-cut guidance for the future.

Fourthly, we should read the Word of God through in 2010 because of the *benefit it bestows*. David said in Psalm 119:72, “The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.” God’s Word is more beneficial to us than thousands upon thousands of dollars. If you have practiced the daily reading of God’s Word, reading it through at least once a year, you have found this to be true. But some people are far more interested in rushing off to their business to make the extra dollar than they are to reap the “thousands” from the study of God’s

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Fellowships And Conferences

LUBBOCK, TX

March 14-17, 2010,
Tabernacle Baptist Church,
1911 34th St., Lubbock, TX
79411, Jeremiah Sargent,
Pastor.

* * *

ST. CLAIR, MO

May 4-6, 2010, Mt. Zion
Baptist Church, 1352
Parkway Dr., St. Clair, MO
63077, Thomas Smith,
Pastor.

* * *

DEARBORN HGTS., MI

June 15-17, 2010, Van
Born Baptist Church, 25866
Van Born Rd., Dearborn
Hgts., MI 48125, Gregory
Albright, Pastor.

BIBLE . . .

(Continued from page 23)

Word. What benefits they miss!

I am sure most of us have insurance policies around the home of one kind or another. But I dare say few of us really know what benefits these policies declare, because we do not take the time to read the fine print.

The same is true of the Bible. Most of us do not know the many benefits God has provided for us in

His Word simply because we do not take time to read and study the Word. Let us not miss all that God has for us in His Word. Enjoy the benefits it bestows!

Fifthly, we should read the Bible through in 2010 because of the *opportunities it offers*. What are its opportunities? They are many, but one stands out above them all. The Word of God tells over and over again of the opportunity to come to Jesus Christ to be saved. It is for this reason that I recommend Bible reading to those of you who have no regard for God or who have doubts about God and eternity, to see for yourselves. Read the Word. Even though you may have doubts, read the Bible through. Let God prove Himself to you. You will find in this book the greatest opportunity that you have found anywhere, that of coming to Christ and being eternally saved.

Salvation may be yours, if at this moment you will turn to the Lord Jesus Christ. Go the Word of God. See for yourself. God will show you if you go with an earnest and seeking heart. He will open your eyes to the truth.

Thus may I urge you to read your Bible through in 2010. — Copied □

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 19)

that James (3:17) in discussing godly wisdom gives the order in this passage as

“first purity, then peace. . .” Peace and unity are important but not at the expense of holiness and purity.

* * *

America’s Declining Affair With Marriage.

— The following is excerpted from The Washington Post, Nov. 9, 2009: “The institution of marriage in the United States has steadily declined in strength over the past four decades, according to a report released last month by a panel of scholars and advocates. The U.S. Marriage Index, the brainchild of David Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values, seeks to quantify the health of marriage in the United States in the same way economists use leading indicators to parse the state of the country’s economy. . . . The index combined five statistics—the percentage of adults between the ages of 20 and 54 who are married, the percentage of adults who reported being ‘very happy’ with their marriages, the percentage of first marriages intact, the

percentage of births to married parents and the percentage of children living with their own married parents — to reach a composite score illustrating the state of America’s nuptial unions. In 1970, that score totaled 76.2; by 2008 it had dropped to 60.3. Almost 90 percent of children were born to married parents in 1970; last year it was 60 percent. Of adults between ages 20 and 54, 78.6 percent were married in 1970, compared with 57.2 percent in 2008. The portion of first marriages that remained intact dropped from 77.4 percent in 1970 to 61.2 percent last year. . . . Blankenhorn points to statistics showing that kids who grow up in homes where their parents are married to each other are, on average, less likely to live in poverty, to have emotional or behavioral problems, to engage in premature sexual activity, to use drugs or commit suicide. ‘Every single pathology or problem or difficulty a child can experience — every single one — growing up outside of a married-couple home elevates the risk,’ he says.”

An Aheist is a man who has no invisible means of support

“The fool hath said in his heart,
There is no God.”

Psalm 53:1