

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 531

Church Government

By R. J. Anderson

I am persuaded that it is mighty easy to talk one way and act another. I had a letter from a very dear friend just recently asking me some question about church government. I do not know the man she was writing about, but the story as she gave it to me was of this nature: Their pastor was trying to formulate by-laws that would put all

power in his hands. Preachers do that sometimes. Sometimes they don't do it just that way, but they try to be a dictator of a church. I answered and said this, "To preach democracy and practice autocracy is to rule by hypocrisy," and I think that is right. I think more of an individual who is practicing autocracy if he will admit

it. If he will say he is a dictator, I can at least respect him for being honest, but to talk "democracy," and then to practice something else is certainly a hypocritical way of carrying on a work.

We need to fix this in our mind. The Holy Spirit is the real administrator of all church affairs, or vice gerent, if you like the term

better.

We find in Acts 1:4-5 that the early Christians are warned not to go forward in any type of work until the Holy Spirit had taken charge to lead on. Jesus Christ had gone back to glory and had promised that another of like order would come to take up the ad-

(See **CHURCH** on page 18)

The Atheists Are Right

**By Donald Grey
Barnhouse**

A society for the propagation of atheism in the United States has issued many booklets and tracts against God and the Bible. One of the most interesting of their tracts is amazingly true.

The atheists present a leaflet with a half dozen portrait sketches of old men

(See **ATHEIST** on page 24)

Satan's Perversions Concerning Himself

By Roy Mason

A criminal doesn't want his picture published abroad. For this to happen is for people to be forewarned concerning him, and for him to be liable to apprehension. Now Satan is the biggest criminal that this world shall ever know. He is the father of all criminals, without which there would be no crime. Satan, like smaller criminals doesn't

like for people to get a true picture of what he is like. If he can succeed in giving people a wrong picture of himself, they will be deceived and he can more easily slip up on them. So, he has promoted a number of false notions concerning himself in a deliberate effort to deceive. Let us

(See **SATAN** on page 2)

The Importance of Christian Training

Max Jukes lived in the state of New York. He did not believe in Christian training such as the Sunday School affords. He married a girl of like character.

From this union they have studied 1,026 descendants. 300 of them died pre-maturely. 100 were sent to the penitentiary

(See **TRAINING** on page 12)

Quiz The Pastor

What Is The Meaning of “Strange Flesh”

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: I know the meaning of flesh as mentioned in the Bible, but what does Jude mean by “strange flesh” (Jude 7)?

Answer: Let me quote Jude 7: “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

First of all we see that not only Sodom and Gomorrha were involved in “fornication and going after strange flesh,” but also “the cities about them.” Some claim that the “strange flesh” were the two angels who appeared in Sodom as men and stayed in Lot’s home overnight, just before the fire came down from heaven and destroyed the

city (Gen. 19:1-3). The perverted men of Sodom, they say, went after these two angels (Gen. 19:5, 9), thus the reference of going after “strange flesh,” the “strange flesh” being that of the two angels embodied in human flesh. I don’t believe this to be a right interpretation of or meaning of “strange flesh.” I want to show first that the words “strange flesh” do not refer to the flesh of angels, and secondly, what “strange flesh” really means.

First, the angels only went to the city of Sodom, and yet Jude 7 reads that “Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them ... (went) after strange flesh.” All the cities were guilty and committed this sin, so we can see that since the angels only went to Sodom, the “strange

flesh” sin could not refer to the flesh of the angels because the angels did not visit other cities. The other cities did not go after the angels, yet it is said all of them did go after “strange flesh.” Also, God had intended to destroy all those cities, Sodom included, even *before* the angels went to Sodom (Gen. 18:23-32). The sin of “going after strange flesh” was being committed before the angels appeared in Sodom. This sin was one of the reasons God had intended to destroy the cities.

Let’s now see what the words “strange flesh” mean. History and the Bible tells us that the main sins of these cities were those of unlawful and unnatural indulgences. “Strange flesh” speaks of that which is unnaturally committed by those of like sex. We’re speaking of homosexuality. The words, “giving themselves over” speaks of giving themselves completely over to this lust of perversion. The sin of “fornication” committed by them shows that male and females were indulging together in illicit sex acts, while “strange flesh” shows that “men burned in their lusts one toward another; *men with men* working (performing)_ that which is unseemly (shameful)” (Rom. 1:26-27). We have the word “sodomy” in today’s vocabulary which shows us one of the main sins of the city of Sodom. This is the “strange flesh”

of Jude 7. God forbids this abomination to take place (Lev. 18:22) and hung the sentence of death over the guilty persons (Lev. 20:13). God’s displeasure was revealed in actual “fire” from heaven (Gen. 19:24), that destroyed those cities and the inhabitants and even that which grew on the ground (Gen. 19:25). It is said to be an “example” of what God will do in the future in judging sin (Rev. 20:11-15). □ □

SATAN . . .

(Continued from page 1)

take a look at some of the false notions that he has sponsored.

1. The Red Flannel Devil. A very popular conception of Satan is that he is clad in a red flannel suit — that he has horns, hoofs and a barbed tail, and that he carries a pitchfork. This is the conception that is made use of by virtually all cartoonists who have occasion to depict the Devil. The whole conception is a falsehood from start to finish. The Scriptures do not warrant the red flannel suit, the hoofs, horns, or the pitchfork. Satan is pleased to have this picture popularized, for it deceives people as to his true character.

2. The Devil As All-powerful. Many have the idea that the Devil is clothed with the same attributes as God — that he is all knowing, all

(See **SATAN** on page 16)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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God's Masterpiece**Amazing Body Cells**

By Arthur I. Brown

Continuing our study of the Human Body we are thinking today of the cells which make up the body — thirty million million of them performing most amazing operations as an ordered and skilled army. If we think of the body as a machine — and this is partly true, it must be understood that the most elaborate of machines is a mere toy compared with this. I prefer to think of the body as a city or even a kingdom, all the innumerable inhabitants working harmoniously, with never a thought of going on strike, or disobeying the commands which are constantly being issued from General Headquarters. This remarkable “GHQ” will occupy our thought and study again, and while we can never understand the mechanism, we shall see some of the work that is done.

These cells, again, are often called “bricks” in the body building, and while this is true, in a sense, we must remember there is a vast difference between the bricks which form parts of a building, and these microscopic and living bits of protoplasm which constitute the body. These cells have their birth, and,

without teaching, immediately begin their life-work. They labor according to certain definite laws laid down for them. Some seem to govern others, and others are instantly obeyed. What a family!

There are carpenters, masons, plasterers, and plumbers, electricians, ordinary laborers, scavengers, gardeners, cooks; servants, policemen, soldiers, sailors, lawyers, merchants, and doctors. They work independently and yet each group is dependent in a very real way on other groups. If one group of cells ceases its work, all other groups would die. There is no jealousy, no schism, no division. If an enemy strikes at one part, the whole army of fighters is organized to defeat the invader. They always present a united front. This is exactly what we read about in the 12th chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. I wonder how Paul was so well informed? This is what he writes:

“For the body is not one member but many. If the foot shall say, because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it not therefore not of the body. And if the ear shall say, because I am

not the eye, I am not of the body; is it not therefore not of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now *hath God set the members each one of them in the body*, even as it pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now, there are many members, but one body ... those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary: and those parts of the body which we think to be less honorable, upon them we bestow more abundant honor ... God tempered the body together ... that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffereth, all the members suffer with it; or one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

What an unexpected explanation of the unity of the body parts and their beautifully coordinated activities! I shall not take time to draw attention to all the points that should be noticed, but there are a few that I cannot overlook.

First — God is the Designer and Controller, — “God hath set the members each one of them in the body, even as it pleased him.” This is mentioned to explain to us the complete absence of jealousy between the various parts. They know their Creator

and are glad to obey. “He hath set them.”

Have you thought of the location of the different members? It is interesting. How is it that the head is on top and not where the feet are — or in the middle of the body facing backwards, or some other absurd position? An Intelligence is at work, and so places the eyes in the look-out position where they function most efficiently. The arms and hands, the limbs and the ears — the mouth and nose, — all just where they ought to be. Of course they are. “God hath set them.” No chance here.

Then, the great importance of the inner portions of the body — the parts we might consider “less honorable.” And the mysterious cooperation, the pulling together, you might call it, of every tissue and organ. This is an astonishing modern concept which I shall discuss at a later time. And when you know the changes which take place in one organ because of something which has gone wrong in another organ, — the united effort which is instantly made when the call for help goes out, surely Paul did not get this from his own mind. God gave it to him.

This is perhaps the first and most fundamental fact about the human body; its life is not a single thing. It is made up of an immense number of individual units,

(See **BODY** on page 16)

The Eternal Security of the Believer — Part 2

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

By M. L. Moser, Sr.

1. The believer has eternal life.

John 10:28: “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

2. The believer has everlasting life.

John 5:24: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

3. The believer cannot perish.

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

4. The believer is kept by the power of God.

1 Peter 1:5: “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

5. The believer is born of God.

John 1:12-13: “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

6. The believer has been passed from death unto life.

John 5:24: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

7. The man who believes shall be saved.

Acts 16:31: “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

8. The believer has been saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.

9. The believer is hid by God in Christ.

Colossians 3:3: “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” Can the devil find that which God hides?

10. The believer will follow Christ.

John 10:27: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know

them, and they follow me.” Following Christ can one be lost? Have we any right to add to God’s Word by inserting “if” to the passage?

11. The believer is God’s sheep.

John 10:2-4: “But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.”

12. The believer will not follow a stranger.

John 10:5: “And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.” If the sheep follow Christ and will *not* follow a stranger, how can they become lost?

13. The believer will not listen to the voice of a stranger.

John 10:5: “And a stranger they will not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.”

14. The believer will flee from a stranger.

John 10:5: “And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.” Who is the *stranger* in this passage? Is the *stranger* not *Satan*?

15. The believer is known of God.

John 10:14: “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.” Compare “I never knew you” of Matthew 7:23 spoken to the lost. “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” To the believer Christ says, “I know my sheep,” to the lost, “I never knew you.”

16. The believer listens to the voice of the shepherd.

John 10:27: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

17. The believer is in Christ’s hand.

John 10:28: “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

18. The believer cannot be plucked out of Christ’s hand.

John 10:28: "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

19. The believer is in the Father's hand.

John 10:29: "My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

20. The believer cannot be plucked out of the Father's hand.

John 10:29: "My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

21. The Father is greater than all.

John 10:29: "My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." The reference here is certainly to the keeping power of the Father.

22. The shepherd is charged with the responsibility of the sheep.

John 10:11-14: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."

Some argue that no one can separate the believer (the sheep) from the shepherd, but that the sheep can wander away. What about the wandering lamb of Matthew 18:10-14, "Take heed that ye despise not

one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of Man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? If a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." What kind of shepherd would *let* his sheep wander off? Is not the shepherd there for one purpose and one only — *to keep the sheep?*

23. The believer is not condemned.

John 3:18: "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

24. The believer shall not come into condemnation.

John 5:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

25. There is now therefore no condemnation for the believer.

Romans 8:1: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

[Continued next month.]

The Four Corners of the Earth

"And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth" (Isa. 11:1).

For many years atheists and agnostics have sought to discredit the Bible because of certain phrases that appear in the Bible. One of these phrases is used in this passage from the book of Isaiah, in which

Isaiah speaks of "the four corners of the earth." These infidels have ridiculed the phrase, based on the fact that the earth is round and therefore cannot have corners.

However, in a syndicated column by Hy Gardner that appeared in the *Arkansas Gazette* of June 5, 1973 in which a question was raised and then answered. The question and answer is as follows:

"Q: KNOWING THE EARTH is round, how come they still use the expression 'the four corners of the earth?' And where are they located? — Barbara Wennerholm, New York City.

"A: Generally speaking, they're the uttermost ends, the remotest parts of the earth. In 1965 members of the Johns Hopkins applied physics laboratory named the four corners of the earth as being in Ireland,

southeast of the Cape of Good Hope, west of the Peruvian coast, and somewhere between New Guinea and Japan. Where the gravitational pull is measurably greater than elsewhere."

So the earth does have four corners and the Bible has been proven correct once again by science, this time by Johns Hopkins University, one of the world's greatest universities. □ □

Jesus Died On Wednesday

Tradition Says Friday, but the Bible Clearly Indicates That Jesus Was Crucified on a Wednesday Afternoon

By Bill Rice

Tradition says the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on Friday. In fact, every year near Easter we have literally hundreds of Good Friday services all over America.

But this is tradition, pure and simple. The idea definitely did not come from a careful study of the Scriptures.

Actually, as we see in the Scriptures, Jesus Christ was crucified late on Wednesday afternoon.

There are a number of sound scriptural reasons for knowing this.

Friday Could Not Have Been the Day on Which Christ Was Crucified

In the first place, if Jesus had been crucified late Friday afternoon, He could not possibly have spent three days and three nights in the grave and still have been resurrected early Sunday morning.

At the present time our day begins at midnight and ends at midnight. But in the days of our Lord, the Jewish day began at sundown and ended at sundown.

If Jesus had been

crucified Friday afternoon and put in the grave a few minutes before sundown, then sundown on Saturday would have been one day or one night and one day. When He arose on Sunday morning, He would have been in the grave, at most, a few minutes of Friday, Friday night, Saturday, Saturday night and perhaps a few minutes of the day on Sunday. This would have totaled one night, one day, one night, and a few minutes Friday afternoon and a few minutes more on Sunday morning. There is no way to get three full days and three full nights out of this.

And the Bible does stress the fact that Jesus was to be in the grave *three days and three nights*.

Some writers have believed that "*three days*" was simply an idiomatic expression peculiar to the Hebrew language and that it did not necessarily indicate three full days or seventy-two hours.

But there is no way that "*three days and three nights*" could classify as idiomatic expression. So much stress is laid upon the time Jesus spent in the

grave that nothing short of three full days and three full nights (seventy-two hours) will do.

Jesus could have been in the grave, perhaps, for a longer time than three full days, but He could not have spent a lesser time in the grave and still fulfill the Scriptures.

Notice the following four Scriptures in the Book of Matthew:

"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Mt. 12:40).

"This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days" (Mt. 26:61).

"Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Mt. 27:40).

"Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again" (Mt. 27:63).

There are also five references in the Book of Mark that mention three days.

"And he began to

teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mk. 8:31). Mark 9:31, Mark 10:34, Mark 14:58 and Mark 15:29 all refer to the same thing.

In Luke 24:21 the disciples with whom Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus said, "... and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done." In other words, three days had passed, which indicates that the crucifixion was on Wednesday and Jesus was put in the grave at sundown.

Three days could not possibly have passed had Jesus been put in the grave at the beginning of Saturday (sundown on Friday).

In the Gospel of John there is another reference to the three days — John 2:19, 20).

Wednesday Was the Day

So, we understand that Jesus could not have been in the grave three days and three nights had He been

(See **EASTER** on page 7)

EASTER . . .

(Continued from page 6)

crucified on Friday. But had He been crucified on Wednesday, everything would fit perfectly.

Remember that He died late Wednesday afternoon. So late, in fact, they did not even have time to prepare His body properly for burial because the next day was a sabbath and He had to be in the grave before sundown. By hurrying, they managed to get His body in the grave, evidently, at sundown. Now notice:

From sundown Wednesday to sundown Thursday was one night and day.

From sundown Thursday to sundown Friday was a second night and day.

From sundown Friday to sundown Saturday was a third night and day.

Jesus arose from the dead early on Sunday which would have been anytime after sundown on Saturday since that marked the end of Saturday and the beginning of Sunday.

There Were Other Sabbaths In Addition to the Weekly Sabbath

Another scriptural reason for believing that Jesus was crucified on Wednesday is found in Mark 15:42. This verse says, "And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath...."

Notice that Jesus was crucified on the "*pre-*

paration," that is, the day before the Passover. Many people have misunderstood this verse because of the word *sabbath*. If He was crucified on the day before the "sabbath," many suppose this means He was crucified on Friday before Saturday. But there were more Jewish sabbaths than just the sabbaths that came on Saturday!

The Jewish Passover lasted for a week, and the first and last days were sabbaths, regardless of whether they fell on a Saturday or any other day of the week.

The first mention of the Passover is in Exodus 12:16. Notice what it says: "And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them." The first and seventh days were to be sabbath days — no work was to be done. Incidentally, notice also that the Passover lamb was to be slain on the *fourteenth* day of the month (vs. 6).

In Leviticus 23:7 we read, "In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein." Again, notice it was to be a *sabbath* in which no work was to be done. It would be the same date each year, but not necessarily on the same day of the week.

Now read Numbers 28:16-18. Notice that a lamb

was to be slain on the fourteenth day — and eaten on the fifteenth day. Notice, too, that the first day was to be a sabbath day when no work was to be done.

What Day Was Nisan 14, A.D. 30?

Remember, now, that John 19:14 plainly says that Jesus was crucified on the afternoon that was the "preparation of the passover." So, if we knew what day the Passover was on the year Jesus died, we would know on which day He was crucified. Most Bible scholars agree that Jesus was crucified in the year A.D. 30. The preparation for the Passover was always on the fourteenth day of the month, and the fourteenth day of the month (Nisan) in the year A.D. 30 was on Wednesday, according to the writings of Dr. R. A. Torrey.

More than that, the Bible says in John 12:1 that "Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany." He had been in Jericho, and He made the trip to Bethany six days before the Passover.

But if Jesus died on Friday and you count back six days, this journey would have been on Saturday, the Sabbath. And Jesus would not have made the journey from Jericho to Bethany on the Sabbath because the distance is far more than a Sabbath day's journey!

To believe that Jesus

was crucified on Friday, one must believe that on the previous Saturday (Sabbath), Jesus deliberately, unnecessarily, inexcusably broke the Jewish law of the Sabbath by traveling from Jericho to Bethany.

The Passover Lamb a Type of Christ

An additional scriptural reason for believing that Jesus was crucified on Wednesday is that the Passover lamb was a type or picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. But this could be true only if Jesus died on Wednesday!

The story of the Passover is found in Exodus 12. I believe you will be interested in noticing that the Passover lamb was to be one just the right size for those who ate of it, just as Jesus Christ is sufficient for everyone who needs Him. The lamb was, like Christ, to be a male, without blemish; and it was to be chosen on the tenth day of the month. It was to be kept up "until the fourteenth day of the same month" and then killed that evening.

If we realize that Jesus was crucified the day before the Passover Sabbath — was crucified on Wednesday — we also realize that Jesus fulfilled this picture in every particular. He was marked for death on the *tenth* day which was the day He rode into Jerusalem. We some-

(See **EASTER** on page 15)



Unborn Victims Law Used To Prosecute Double Murder.

— “Members of Congress approved the federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act in 2004 and a case out of New Mexico may be the first to invoke a prosecution under the law,” said a LifeNews report. “The law makes it so criminals are held accountable for killing both mother and child in an attack on the pregnant mother. Previously, federal prosecutors were unable to charge the assailant with killing injuring the unborn child — which failed to provide both victims with protection and adequate justice. The New Mexico case involves Frederick Beach, 37, who is charged with the deaths of Verlinda Kinsel, 29, and her unborn child, who Beach allegedly fathered. Beach reportedly killed both Kinsel and her baby in September and he has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder and child abuse charges and a charge of murder related to the baby ... a study found that the other cases had been prosecuted under the federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act. Some 35

World News Roundup

states have similar laws on the books and most murders or assaults are prosecuted under those laws. The federal law is invoked when those acts take place within the context of a federal crime or in a federal jurisdiction such as a military base, national park, or, in this case, an Indian reservation.” — Lifenews.

Arkansas Legislator’s Bill To Promote Abortions.

— “An Arkansas legislator plans to bring back the ERA bill that pro-life advocates narrowly defeated last year because it would promote abortion,” according to LifeNews. “Though pro-life advocates don’t oppose equal rights for women, Arkansas’ approving the federal Rights Amendment (ERA) would promote abortion. A vote could also make it a federal right to force taxpayers across the nation to pay for abortions using public funds. Last February, an Arkansas state legislative committee defeated a resolution to approve the ERA. A state House panel voted down a ratification resolution (HJR 1002) after 20 co-sponsors abandoned it following the concerted pro-life lobbying effort. Rep. Lindsley Smith, a Democrat from Fayetteville, says she plans to bring it back during the 2009

session of the legislature.” — Lifenews.

Lesbian Couple Wins Suit Against Camp In New Jersey.

— “The Methodist Church has lost a round over homosexual unions,” said Charlie Butts in a OneNewsNow report. “In March 2007 the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association refused to permit two lesbians (Harriet Bernstein, 67, and Luisa Paster, 61) to stage a civil union ceremony at the church-owned Boardwalk Pavilion, and returned their check for \$250. Subsequently, says Mat Staver of Liberty Counsel, the lesbians filed a legal complaint against the group. However, Association officials countered that the decision was based on their religious beliefs.” “That didn’t matter to the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights,” said Staver. “They said there’s no First Amendment defense here and in fact the church violated the public accommodation law in New Jersey,” the attorney noted. After New Jersey adopted the same-sex civil union law, no longer could the church allow its facility to be used in ministry to the public because to do so would open them up to these same-sex civil unions ... The church lost a federal



court decision dealing with the same matter, and that case is on appeal. “The Camp Meeting Association is represented by the Alliance Defense Fund, which has argued that a Christian organization has a constitutional right to use its facilities in a manner consistent with its beliefs. Founded in 1869, the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association is affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

PepsiCo Gives \$1 Million to Help Promote the Gay Agenda.

— PepsiCo has refused a request by AFA to remain neutral in the culture war. The company indicates that it will continue major financial support of homosexual organizations. AFA wrote PepsiCo two times requesting a meeting to discuss PepsiCo’s neutrality in the culture war. On November 17, AFA received a condescending letter (dated Nov. 7) from Paul Boykas, Director of public policy, in which he

(See WNR on page 12)

La Voz Del Desierto

El Nuevo Avivamiento de Señales Y Prodigios

En estos últimos días donde hay tanta apostacía a nuestro alrededor, podemos ver como las personas son llevadas por todo viento de doctrina siendo engañadas e influenciadas por las “señales y prodigios” que ocurren principalmente dentro del movimiento carismático. Estas iglesias declaran que han tenido experiencias sobrenaturales con el Señor y que esto prueba que Dios se esta moviendo en sus vidas y en sus congre-

gaciones, pero nosotros los bautistas sabemos que no todo milagro viene de Dios. Jesús dijo: *“Entonces, si alguno os dijere: Mirad, aquí está el Cristo, o mirad, allí está, no lo creáis. Porque se levantarán falsos Cristos, y falsos profetas, harán grandes señales y prodigios, de tal manera que engañarán, si fuere posible, aun a los escogidos”* (Mateo 24:23-24). Ahora, ¿qué clase de señales y prodigios están

teniendo los carismáticos en sus iglesias? ¿A qué milagros ellos se refieren? Se refieren a unas extrañas manifestaciones como por ejemplo: gritos, llantos, sacudimiento corporal, caídas en trances, temblar, calor intenso en sus cuerpos, risa involuntaria y descontrolada, cosquillas y hasta una variedad de sonidos de animales. Todas estas manifestaciones se las aplican al Espíritu Santo diciendo que a través de ellas reciben bendiciones, santificación o la unción del Espíritu de Dios.

Sin embargo ninguna de estas experiencias se encuentran en la Biblia por lo

cual nos lleva a la pregunta: ¿de dónde vinieron estas manifestaciones espirituales? ¿Cuál es el verdadero origen de este llamado “nuevo avivamiento de señales y prodigios?”

De acuerdo a la historia, estas manifestaciones también se veían en los cultos paganos de la antigua religión griega, al igual que el de la India y el budismo. El movimiento de la Nueva Era, las tribus africanas, los indios americanos y las personas que hipnotizan también hacen esto. Tampoco tene-

(Vea **SEÑALES** en la pág. 10)

Colaboradores De Dios

Las herramientas del carpintero tuvieron una conferencia. El hermano martillo ejercía la presidencia. La asamblea le notificó que tenía que renunciar, porque hacía demasiado ruido, pero él les dijo: “Si yo tengo que salir de esta carpintería, la hermana barrena tendrá que hacer lo mismo; ella es insignificante y hace muy poca tarea.”

Se puso de pie la hermana barrena, y declaró: “De acuerdo, pero el hermano tornillo tiene que salir también. Uno tiene que darle vueltas y vueltas antes

de que sirva para algo.” Luego dijo el hermano tornillo: “Si ustedes lo ordenan, me voy, pero que salga el hermano cepillo también. Todo su trabajo es en la superficie. No tiene profundidad.”

A esto replicó el hermano cepillo: “Conforme, siempre que también se vaya la hermana regla. Siempre esta midiendo a los demás con su medida, como si fuera la única recta.” Entonces la hermana regla se quejó contra el hermano papel de lija, diciendo: “¿Y qué de él? Es demasiado tosco, y siempre

tiene fricciones con los demás.”

En medio de la discusión entró el carpintero. Había venido a trabajar. Se puso su delantal y fue al banco para hacer un púlpito desde el cual se iba a predicar el evangelio. En su trabajo utilizó el tornillo, la barrena, el papel de lija, el serrucho, el martillo, el cepillo y todas las demás herramientas. Después de terminado el día de su trabajo, cuando el púlpito estaba ya listo, se levantó el hermano serrucho y dijo: “Hermanos, ahora comprendo que todos somos

colaboradores con Dios” (1 Cor. 3:9).

¡Ah, cuantos creyentes somos exactamente como aquellas herramientas, siempre quejosos contra nuestros hermanos porque no hacen las cosas según nuestro parecer! Todas las acusaciones contra las herramientas eran ciertas, sin embargo, el carpintero hizo uso de todas ellas. En cada lugar donde él utilizó una herramienta, ninguna de las demás podía haber servido. ¡Oh, cuánto cuidado debemos tener antes

(Vea **COLA** en la pág. 10)

SEÑALES . . .

(Viene de la pág. 9)

mos que imos tan lejos, el espiritismo, la santería y la brujería también producen estos tipos de manifestaciones. De esta manera vemos que este llamado nuevo avivamiento no vino del cielo, no lo empezó el Espíritu Santo, sino que más bien viene del ocultismo del mundo pagano y que ha sido introducido dentro de estas iglesias carismáticas disfrazadas de cristianismo.

Algunos tratan de justificar esto diciendo que Satanás es un imitador. Con esto tratan de decir que la iglesia cristiana tuvo estas manifestaciones primero y que Satanás lo está imitando. Sin embargo, de acuerdo a la Biblia y la historia estas manifestaciones nunca fueron practicadas, ni aceptadas por la iglesia primitiva, por lo tanto el que está haciendo estas cosas primero es Satanás y Dios no se va copiar de algo que le pertenece a Satanás, como tampoco quiere que nosotros imitemos las prácticas del mundo pagano. Queda pues comprobado que lo que esta gente llaman “un gran avivamiento” es en realidad una gran apostacía de estos últimos tiempos.

Hay que recordar que Satanás y sus demonios son

espíritus engañosos que se disfrazan como ángeles de luz con el propósito de confundir y engañar a la gente, por eso la Biblia nos advierte en 1ra Juan 4:1: “*Amados, no creáis a todo espíritu, sino probad los espíritus si son de Dios; porque muchos falsos profetas han salido por el mundo.*” Y ¿cómo probamos los espíritus? Toda experiencia espiritual debe ser probada a la luz de las Sagradas Escrituras para saber si vienen del espíritu de verdad o del espíritu del error, no de acuerdo a nuestras emociones o experiencias personales.

En conclusión nosotros los bautistas no aceptamos este llamado “nuevo avivamiento de señales y prodigios” por las siguientes razones:

1. Estas manifestaciones no se encuentran en la Biblia como algo del Espíritu Santo, como tampoco se encuentran como parte de la historia de la Iglesia cristiana. Dios dice en su Palabra que “*no pensemos en más de lo que está escrito*” (1ra Corintios 4:6). Por lo tanto si viene un hombre o un ángel del cielo trayéndonos una nueva enseñanza o doctrina sin capítulo y sin versículo, ¿qué se supone que hagamos? **Rechazarlo** (2da Corintios 11:4, 13-15;

1ra Timoteo 1:3 y 6:3-5).

2. Estas manifestaciones contradicen la Palabra de Dios. Han habido personas que salen corriendo de estas iglesias cuando ven que estas manifestaciones parecen de verdad efectos de gente alcohólica, endrogada o endemoniada, convirtiéndose así en un obstáculo para que las personas sean salvas por el Señor. Por lo tanto estas manifestaciones no pueden ser de Dios, porque Pablo nos recuerda que Dios es un Dios de orden y de paz, no un Dios de desorden y de confusión (1ra Corintios 14:23, 33, 40).

3. A Dios no le agrada las mezclas. Podríamos mencionar varios ejemplos en la Biblia donde Dios no acepta, ni bendice un culto que es una mezcla sino que requiere una adoración pura y genuina. Así que si Dios no acepta, ni quiere que le añadamos nada a su culto podemos estar seguros que tampoco aceptaría estos tipos de cultos carismáticos donde se mezcla el paganismo con el cristianismo, aunque sea para la gloria de Cristo (Deuteronomio 18:9-14; 1ra Corintios 10:20-22; 3ra Juan 2). Así que, mientras todas estas personas buscan a Dios en lugares equivocados, nosotros sabemos que el único lugar donde podemos encontrar una verdadera experiencia con el Señor es a través de la Biblia. — Por Félix M. González Bulgalá, Redactor

Noticias Del Mundo**Otorgados \$80,000 A Víctima por Heridas Sufridas en un Servicio.**

— Una mujer que se rompió un brazo luego de haber sido “asesinada en el espíritu,” durante un servicio carismático, fue compensada con \$80,000 por la Iglesia de Long Island donde recibió las heridas (2/21 Ala. Baptist). El ministro colocó sus manos sobre su frente causándole que cayera hacia atrás. Ella alegó que la iglesia debió haber colocado a alguien para capturarla. Mejor aún, ¿por qué no sanarla?

* * *

Dios Islámico Versus el Dios Cristiano. — “El Islam es una religión en la cual su dios requiere enviar a sus hijos a morir por él. El Cristianismo es una fe en la cual su Dios envió a Su Hijo a morir por usted.”

COLA . . .

(Viene de la pág. 9)

de menospreciar a nuestros hermanos, una de las herramientas de Dios!

“Antes bien los miembros del cuerpo que parecen más débiles, son los más necesarios” (I Cor. 12:22). — Del libro “501 Ilustraciones Nuevas.” □

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

An Article For Kids To Read

By Travis Plumlee

Do your brother or sister drive you crazy? Do your parents make you mad sometimes? I know it is rough. You have this time off from school and your parents are still asking you to do some chores around the house. If that is not bad enough, they are actually insisting that you go visit relatives over the holidays and you really don't want to.

Stop griping! So your parents are making you read this stupid article out of this church newspaper; things could be worse. Keep reading this article, because I am going to tell you exactly what to do to get your brother or sister to change their attitude toward you.

First, I want to address your attitude over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Your attitude will change for the better, and your life will go smoother when you stop fighting with your family and realize that, deep down, they are a blessing to you. God has blessed you with a family. No they are not perfect; neither are you. So, let's make the best of what we have been given by God to enjoy.

You may be saying, "Wow, but he doesn't know

the family I live in." No, I don't, but I do know God. None of us have a perfect family. None of us get everything we want in life. But our life is not about us. It is about God. You will grow up and be a mature person when you realize that life does not revolve around you. Our lives should revolve around Jesus and sharing the love that was given to us on Christmas morning when Jesus was born in a manger.

See, God is love. And God so loved all of us in this world that He sent His only Son into the world so that we would be able to live in Heaven forever. Jesus died for us on the cross because He was perfect and none of us are. That is what we celebrate at Easter. The greatest gift you will ever receive in the gift of love from God given to us at Christmas in the birth of His Son in Bethlehem. Now, and for the rest of your life, you are supposed to share the love God gives us with those people God has given you to love — your family.

• **My parents are making me go to my grandparents house and I don't want to go.** You may be saying, "These

people don't understand me. They don't know how to play video games. They look kind of funny and smell funny. But the worst thing of all is that there isn't anything to do. It is boring!"

I know you want to be in your own bedroom and have all your toys or games to play. But isn't that selfish? Can't you think about others sometimes? I know you can. I know deep down you really do love these people. Think about others rather than yourself in the future, you are going to have such a wonderful family of your own — if you think about others rather than always thinking about yourself. You can find something to do. Go outside. Walk. Just listen to them talk; you might learn something.

• **You might have to go to an aunt's or uncle's house. You might have to go to a home where there are lots of people.** Did you know that family should always come first? Do you realize that these are the people that love you the most and will help you more than any of your friends ever will? Friends are great. But if you get sick someday and wind up in the hospital, it will be your family that is there for you. Your family will be the ones who will give you money and food if you run into a bad time when you get out on your own someday.

These people are the ones who love you the most

and will miss you the most when you aren't around. And someday when you grow older, you will learn how much you really love your grandparents. You will miss them terribly someday when they go home to Heaven. You will have all these memories of the food, the laughter and the crazy little things that happened at their house. Right now you think it is lame, but someday you will cling to these memories. Your grandparents love you so much. Love them back, and cherish your time with them. Life is short. They won't always be around.

• **Now about those brothers and sisters.** Yes, they were put on earth to drive you crazy, but they are also your family. When you are an adult, it is your brothers and sisters who will come to the hospital to see you. They will pray for you when one of your kids is sick. Your brother or sister will come over late at night to cry with you when you have some big problem some day.

Try not to fight so much. If you would be kind to them, they might change. But even if they don't — you change! Being nice to someone always gets people to treat you differently. Work on understanding

When my kids were little, they used to fuss and argue. But I always reminded them to love each other. Now that they are

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

refused to address Pepsi-Co's support of the homosexual agenda. In the last two years, Pepsi has given \$500,000 to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and \$500,000 to the Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). The \$1 million to be used to help promote homosexuality in the workplace. Pepsi refuses to give money to another pro-family organization that opposes the homosexual agenda. Plus, every homosexual organization we know of is overwhelmingly pro-abortion. Both HRC and PFLAG supported efforts in California to defeat Proposition 8 which defined marriage as being between a man and a woman. HRC, the homosexual group financially supported by Pepsi, gave

\$2.3 million to defeat Prop 8. — AFA

* * *

Hate Crimes Bill — A Threat To Biblical Teaching. — A Christian pastor and political activist warns that unless enough Americans “stir up a major stink” about the newly introduced federal hate crimes legislation, the measure is likely to pass in the first 100 days of the 111th Congress. Bishop Harry Jackson, Jr., of the High Impact Leadership Coalition was among a group of black pastors who, two years ago, took out a full-page ad in **USA Today** titled “Don’t Muzzle Our Pulpits.” The ad, which was widely received, argued that the hate crimes bill before Congress threatened the free-speech rights of pastors. Jackson believes such legislation elevates the

homosexual community to a protected class. “It puts their claim that they’re discriminated against into a real civil rights argument,” Jackson contends. “And ultimately in every place around the world where this kind of legislation has been passed, we find that people have taken out lawsuits against preachers for preaching what the Bible says about sexuality and morality. And it is grounds for a kind of harassment that, I believe, will bring a cooling of our biblically-based message.” Jackson says under an Obama administration there is a danger that legislation will pass and stick, so he’s issued a challenge to Christians. “Now is not the time to be silent,” he says. “Now is the time to lift our voice.” □

KIDS . . .

(Continued from page 11)

young adults, they can’t wait to see each other. They want to spend every holiday together. See — that is what family is about. It is about love. Other people will come and go in your life. But your family is your family forever. Ask Jesus to give you the love He has so you can share it with your family.

If you learn that these are the most important people you will ever have in your life, you won’t fight with them so much. And if your parents tell you that

you are going somewhere as a family for the holidays — deal with it. You may not get to lay around and goof off playing games all the time, but that’s okay. Just say to yourself, “Thank you, God, that I have a family. Help me, oh Lord, to see all that I have been given by you.”

Either way, you are going to have to deal with this. You might as well have a good attitude about it, and it will go better for you. And look at the bright side — if you don’t like spending holidays with family, then get excited — school will soon be back in session! □

TRAINING . . .

(Continued from page 1)

for an average of 13 years each. 190 were public prostitutes. There were 100 drunkards. The family cost the state \$1,200,000. They made no contribution to society.

Jonathan Edwards lived in the same state. He believed in Christian training. He married a girl of like character.

From this union they have studied 729 descendants. Out of this family have come 300 preachers, 65 college professors, 13 university presidents, 60 authors of good books, three United States congressmen, and one vice president of the United States; and outside of

(See **TRAINING** on page 13)

Let us not say, Every man is the architect of his own fortune; but let us say, Every man is the architect of his own character.

“... till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.”

Job 27:5-6

Hummingbirds and Evolution

By Eugene Halonen

During the week of February 12, 1989, public television channels presented a beautiful documentary on hummingbirds. The material included spectacular and unchallengeable proofs of creation that the narrator repeatedly described as adaptations due to evolution. He stated that in the tropical rain forest there are species of flowers, which, because of their peculiar design, can be pollinated only by hummingbirds with bills of matching design.

One flower is curved, preventing insect pollination. *Only* one particular species of hummingbird with a matching curved bill can penetrate to the stigma and can thus pollinate the flower. The other is a large flower, 6 to 8 inches long, which can be pollinated only by the Sword Bill Hummingbird whose bill is longer than its body length.

Each of these flowers is dependent for its very existence, therefore, on the hummingbird that pollinates it. And each hummingbird, as well, is dependent for its existence on the flower that it pollinates — the bird must have the flowers' nectar to sustain its life.

Since the flowers have no perches, the tiny birds

must hover at the flower's opening with wings beating 1200 times per minute, and heart beating 398 times per minute. The hummingbird uses such an enormous amount of energy while hovering, that it *must feed every 3 to 5 seconds*.

Evolution (transmutation) requires millions of years (and hundreds of thousands of transitional fossils for each transmutation according to Darwin) to progress from a simple amoebae to a creature as amazingly complex as a hummingbird. Consider, too, the astronomical odds against a specific species of flower and a specific species of bird, from two totally different kingdoms, appearing on the scene at the very same instant. But the stark reality is that if both flowers and hummingbirds were not there, *together, fully developed and fully functioning, at the very same moment in time*, both species would quickly die!! The hummingbird without the flowers' nectar would falter and fall to its death within 10 seconds or so; and the flowers would wilt and die shortly thereafter, having no pollinator to keep them alive.

You might well ask,

“What does the hummingbird do at nightfall when the flowers close?” Would you believe that evolution, in its omniscience and mercy, has provided the hummingbird with the ability to perch firmly on a branch, then slow its heart rate to 36 beats per minute, and then reduce itself to a state of torpor where energy consumption is almost nil?

Isn't evolution amazing? Without a mind of its own, evolution has somehow managed (thru the evolutionary magic of “natural selection,” “survival of the fittest,” and “millions of years”) to bring together two marvelously complex species, a flower from the Plant Kingdom and a Hummingbird from the Animal Kingdom, and, in its eternal wisdom and goodness, evolution miraculously brought them forth (after millions of years) in the same split second in time, fully developed, perfectly compatible, ready to serve each other, and to live happily together for all time. Although mindless, evolution is clearly a kind and caring father!

The Lord Jesus had some fitting words applicable to those who would promote such *science*, “falsely so-called,” Mat-

thew 23:24, they are “blind guides who strain at a gnat and swallow a camel,” and Matthew 15:14, “... they are blind leaders of the blind.”

And finally, please understand, if evolution cannot explain the origin of the universe (and it cannot) and of all life therein (and it cannot), then there is only one possible alternative, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:10, and “Adam called his wife's name Eve [Eve means “life-giver” in Hebrew] because she was the mother of *all living*.” — Christian News, March 27, 1989 □ □

TRAINING . . .

(Continued from page 12)

questionable character, the family has not cost the state a single dollar. The difference in the two families: Christian training in youth and heart conversions to Jesus Christ. □

You can fool all the people some of the time, and you can fool some of the people all the time — but you can't fool God any of the time.

“It’s like this: I’m a woman and a mother before I’m a soldier.” — Spec. 4 Robin Williams, 360th Transportation Company, U.S. Army, at a military base somewhere in Saudi Arabia.

Specialist Williams, mother of two, couldn’t hold back the sobs as she talked about her family back home in the States.

“Out here I think more about my family than my job. And, yes, that could affect my performance if things got intense here,” she told a reporter for the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph.

She talked about the lack of privacy; how the female soldiers never quite get used to changing their clothes in front of the men in the co-ed tents. Still, it’s better than dressing in a foul latrine.

“I’m used to it,” she says. “Most of the men know me and don’t pay much attention. But my husband wouldn’t like it if he knew.”

Women in the men’s latrine? Husband wouldn’t like it? Children are miserable? A soldier weeps?

Is Spec. 4 Williams a whiner, or what? Has feminist rhetoric outrun female reality?

We’ve all heard about the military service as equal opportunity employer. But that means teaching men and women together how to work a computer, see

Life In the Co-ed Tents

Washington Times, December 13, 1990

the world or refuel an airplane. What’s going on?

Feminism isn’t thriving in the desert, where mothers who want to be home suckling their babies have only an intimate life in a tent with Willie and Joe, which brings out the sexual frustrations of everyone. The only other women are veiled and forbidden, constant reminders of hidden sexuality.

Women of the 360th, noting that the Army furnishes condoms along with the rations and ask nervously: “Who do they think those guys are going to use them with — the ladies in veils?”

Rumors fly that certain female soldiers are selling their sexual favors, and one female reporter describes how the couples wrapped in each other’s arms deep in the dunes give new meaning to armed services.

Feminists have got what they said they wanted — equal rights for male and female to be deployed together. But the cost of those equal rights for the parents often has to be borne — equally, presumably — by their abandoned male and female children.

A soldier who gives birth enjoys six weeks of maternity leave, and then she’s told to be ready to

ship out just like a man. A soldier of a different sex could cry discrimination.

“I have to say it because it doesn’t fit with the whole scheme of the women’s movement, but I think we have to reconsider what we’re doing,” Lori Moore, a former sergeant, told the New York Times. She was a “gung-ho careerist? until she recognized the suffering that would befall her three children — ages 3 years, 2 years, and 9 months — if she were to leave them. She settled for a general (less than honorable) discharge.

“I’m afraid the children are the unsung victims of Operation Desert Shield,” she says. “There’s no question that women can do this. The question is whether we should.”

At least four of the 22 women scheduled to leave with the 360th were found to be pregnant, all for less than six days, when their regiment was called up.

“I can’t say whether they did it on purpose to get out of this, but they knew we were going for more than a month,” says Capt. Steve Fraunfelder, commander of the 360th. So “equal rights” comes with an asterisk, too.

Women, of course, are not authorized to engage in

combat, but if war breaks out in the desert that may be a distinction without a difference, since the women who supply the front will be as vulnerable to Saddam Hussein’s gas and bugs as the men.

Rep. Patricia Schroeder, the Colorado Democrat who is so eager for other women to fight that she introduced legislation enabling them to serve in combat units, says the problem lies not in women’s capabilities, but in the failure of the military to provide “family care plans.” She warns against “Mommy tracking” in the military.

We could, of course, assign battalions of baby sitters (the Nanny Corps?) to provide day care in the desert. Moms could nurse between maneuvers. The children of combat (the Baby Bombers?) could build Saudi Arabian sand castles. Everybody would be happy until the bombs begin to fall. For this, we go to war?

[Though this article was written in 1990, do you think that conditions and circumstances are better or worse than they were then? I am sure that if anything, they are worse — Editor]

What Will This War Cost?

A friend of mine raised the question, what will this war cost? He was talking about pure dollars, not lives, and my reply that was that neither peace nor war is cheap. Freedom, however, is priceless

Life

What is life?

Life means everything. Life is what one makes it; nothing more, and nothing else.

Let us dissect the word “life” and see what it may mean.

1. Take the “I” out of life and you have no life. Most people seek to have a life without assuming personal responsibilities of life itself.

2. To re-spell the word “life” and you can spell “file” with the same letters — just a jumbling of the word. That is what most people do with life, just jumble it. Too, “file” suggests a mere routine course. That is the process of many a life.

3. “If” is at the center of “life.” Most people treat life as to make it a continuous “if” from the cradle to the grave. Everything would have been different “if.” “If” is

an unfortunate word when applied to life.

4. Three letters of “life” can be made to spell “lie.” A lie is a falsehood, a term describing dishonesty. A lot of people think that this is the whole of “life,” when as a matter of fact it is just an accidental part of the word “life.” The person who looks at life in this manner is never a dependable factor in human life as a whole, and in the end will prove a disappointment to self. To forfeit a right to one’s fullest confidence is a serious trait of life. Indeed:

“The truth is not believed
From one who often has
deceived.”

5. “Life” is a word complete, suggesting that every life should be lived in complete accord with the will of God, our Creator. Such a life will be to live, which is merely substituting “v” for “f.”

Life is a responsibility,
a privilege. □ □

Pro-Life Vs. Pro-Death

The Pro-Death people who like to call themselves Pro-Choice, which is a misnomer, are celebrating 30 years of Roe vs. Wade, that when legalized, allowed the murder of the unborn.

Their celebration arises out of the fact that they have been able to legally murder 42 million unborn human beings. What a terrible holocaust this has been. The number of babies slaughtered is just about equivalent to one-seventh of the total population for this nation of ours.

What has happened to the conscience of America? Without a tinge of human compassion, the Pro-Death people celebrate the merciless killing of innocent unborn babies, while many of them at the same time lobby, protest and demand the death penalty be abolished as cruel and unusual punishment and that it be declared illegal as a means in punishing capital crimes.

Millions of young adults who should be in the work force today — in our military, in various professions, paying social security, income taxes and being a solid segment of our society, never get a chance to make their contribution. They were murdered before they got

out of the womb.

Truly Roe vs. Wade has made our nation, a nation with bloody hands, a nation who must one day have a day of reckoning with God, who is Holy and the giver of life.

The only consolation we can draw from this horrible situation is that these millions of unborn souls are in heaven and those who terminated their lives, with the approval of the Supreme Court, if they do not repent and receive Christ as their Savior, will stand before the Great White Throne and hear it said, “Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” □ □

EASTER . . .

(Continued from page 7)

times call this His “triumphant entry.”

Incidentally, this day was on Saturday, and He had come from Bethany which was, we are told, “a sabbath day’s journey” (Read Luke 24:50, then Acts 1:12).

Just as the Passover lamb was going to be observed from the tenth day until the fourteenth and then slain in the evening, so Jesus was watched from His entry into Jerusalem until He was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane (on Tuesday night), and He was put to death Wednesday afternoon.

(See **EASTER** on page 23)

Do You Want To Know How To Carry On Church Services?

You know the age-old saying, “If you want to know how to raise children, ask some old maid.” If you want to know exactly how to carry on the work of the church, ask someone who never attends.

There are old moss-back drunkards and dope-heads that know more in a minute about how the

church should be “run” than members with 40 years of experience. There are members that do not average giving a dollar a year to the work that can tell more about the financial affairs than deacons with 50 years of experience in church affairs.

Smart! Boy those fellows know it. □ □

SATAN . . .

(Continued from page 2)

powerful, and ubiquitous — that is, he is everywhere at the same time. These things are not true. Satan is not all powerful, although he is more powerful than mortal beings. He is not all knowing, and he is not omnipresent. With a host of demons under his control, he does pretty well patrol this world, but he is not everywhere in the sense that God is everywhere.

3. The Devil As A Myth. Satan would like for people to think that he is not a real person — that he is like Santa Claus, a mere myth. Modernists would have us believe that Satan is a product of the superstitious minds of an ignorant past, and that educated people don't any more believe in his reality.

4. The Devil As Already In Hell. Many Bible believing people, but people who know little of

the Bible, think that the Devil is at present in hell. They think that he is the king of Hell. The truth is, the Bible teaches that the Devil is *not* now in Hell. He is spoken of as "*the prince of the power of the air.*" He dwells in the region about this earth, and has access to this earth. No one is in Hell yet, so far as we know. The first persons to be cast into that place, will be the "Beast and False Prophet," at the beginning of the Millennium (Rev. 19:20). Later, after the Millennium, Satan will be cast into the same place (Rev. 20:10). Following the last judgment, the wicked shall be cast into the same place (Rev. 20:15). Satan shall not be the king of Hell — bossing the place. He will be a prisoner there, and shall receive punishment "*and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever*" (Rev. 20:10).

Contrary to popular notion, Satan does not present himself as a repulsive creature. He uses the most attractive instruments possible to deceive and delude people. In the Garden of Eden, he used as his tool the serpent — not then a snake — but the "*most subtle of all the beasts of the field.*"

Paul speaks of him as "*transformed into an angel of light*" (For even Satan is transformed into an angel of light). He doesn't present the old stumble bum drunk to his intended victim, but he helps him to see a

place of bright lights, and gaiety and laughter, where cocktails are served in beautiful glasses. He shows his intended victims a primrose path, but keeps them from seeing the misery at the end of that path.

Satan ever seeks to get, even those who are Christians, to establish friendly relations with the world, which is under Satanic domination. Thus a brewery surrounds itself with a beautiful garden, with birds and animals and costly shrubbery, and says, "Come and visit this beautiful place which we have placed at your disposal." This shrewdly popularizes the brewing business and establishes good will. Consequently a Tampa brewery has a larger group on the brewery grounds at church time Sunday, than any church has.

Multitudes have swallowed the subtle lie that the Devil is able to give one a better good time than the Lord can give. People don't couple the Devil's name with vile epithets. They don't curse the Devil, but they curse God and couple the name of Jesus with every vile expression imaginable. Their attitude is that God is trying to keep people from having a good time while the Devil is making life attractive to people. These poor dupes don't see the miserable end of Satan's followers. Bad health, wrecked lives, ruin and Hell is at the end of every Devil-led life. □ □ □ □

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 3)

microscopic in size, each having a structure of its own, a function of its own, and a life of its own. So small are they and so numerous, that in a drop of blood as large as a small pin-head, there are five million of them.

A whole army of cells is employed for almost every function in the body; and such collections of cells of the same kind are known as tissues. There are muscle cells which act by contracting or shortening, nervous tissues to conduct impulses and carry electric discharges, cartilaginous, and fibrous tissues to bind the body parts together, and so on.

As the population of the country is divided between different towns, and in every town, between different trades, so the body is built up of different organs, each organ contains several kinds of tissues; and, finally, each tissue is formed of individual cells.

But here the comparison between a country and our body ends. In the sphere of human society, individuals and classes and nations trample upon and jostle one another, and by their stupidities and crimes injure if they do not destroy themselves and their fellows. Even in the body, revolution is not un-

(See **BODY** on page 17)**Love Answers All**

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

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

**Why get married?
It often kills a beautiful
friendship.**

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 16)

known. When this happens certain cells of a peculiar type multiply in reckless profusion at the expense of their neighbors who rally to the battle but are overcome. This is *cancer*. This is the exception however, which proves the rule, that nearly always the cells are orderly and do not overstep the bounds laid down for them.

Let us go back to the beginning of a human body — the union of two sex cells, one male and one female. The female sex cell is the largest cell in the body, 200 times the size of the male cell. But even at that it weighs only 1/200,000 gm. It is stored with granules of sugar, starch, and protein for nutrition of the future organism during the early stages of its development.

In its interior are about fourteen chemical elements, mainly in various combinations: Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, Nitrogen, Sulphur, Phosphorus, Chlorine, Potassium, Sodium, Calcium, Magnesium and Iron, with small amounts of Fluorine and Iodine, and infinitesimal amounts of a few others sometimes.

These are the elements found in the earth, and when we read that 139th Psalm and the 15th verse in which mention is made of the body being curiously wrought in the lowest parts

of the earth, we are seized with wonder at this revelation away back in the time of David. Who would ever associate the elements of earth with the beautiful protoplasm, the basis of all life. That, again, is of God.

Here then is the strange picture. Two tiny cells come together, a process known as fertilization, and a new individual begins to form in a manner which is wholly beyond our understanding. It is nothing but a miracle which has happened millions of times through the ages past. This first cell divides and becomes two — two become four, four become eight and so on until there are millions. You would be lost in a maze of technicalities if I attempted to describe in detail the embryological process.

At this moment of fertilization there has been determined not only the existence of a new human being, but also the sex and individuality. By the union of sperm and ovum he has inherited a mixture of the physical traits of both parents, as well as those hereditary traits which he in turn will transmit to his offspring.

During the first thirty days of human life, we grow from an egg so small as to be barely visible, to a young human embryo almost one-fourth of an inch long. It has increased 50 times in size and 8000

times in weight. Thousands of cells, millions of them, have gone about their business, a group collecting in one corner of the tiny individual and constructing a one-chambered heart, very simple at first but able to beat rhythmically and to pump the fluid needed for the nourishment of the body throughout every part; other thousands of cells separate themselves and form arms, legs, organs, tissues, and all the parts which make up the body machine.

How can we explain the exactitude of this complex series of operations? You, tell me it is the Law of Nature. What, then, is Nature? If Nature be the same as God, why not use the latter name? If it is not the same, what is it? And there is no answer in my question. God is more than a law and a principle. He is a Person.

I shall follow this development in the next article and with each succeeding glimpse, the wonder increases. This study will lead us I trust, to an increased appreciation of the value of these bodies. If it does even that, we will have benefited. But, more than that, it will cause us to feel a sense of gratitude to God for His care of us and the infinite wisdom that made us. If we are Christians we have taken into our bodies a notable Guest. How often we forget this. Let me tell you what I mean, or permit the Bible to explain this

mystery.

In 1 Corinthians, chapter six and verse 19, I read: "Know ye not that your body is a temple (sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have from God; for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body."

Ordinarily we do not give much thought to the blessed Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit, remember, is a Person, not a mere principle, and when we come into the family of God this is the first change that takes place. He comes in to live with us. He seeks complete possession in order to utilize every power and every portion of this body for the honor and exaltation of Jesus Christ.

Christian, have you thought much about Him today? Have you conversed with Him? Why neglect this great opportunity and make light of this signal honor that has been conferred upon us? He has come to visit us and to remain as our distinguished Guest. He will guide and direct every life, if we let Him.

But those who have never yet linked up with Christ know nothing of the Holy Spirit's indwelling, of course. He will protect this body if it is a yielded body. That is worth while, do you not think? Why not give Jesus Christ a trial? HE'S WONDERFUL! □

[Next month: "How The Body Begins."]

CHURCH...

(Continued from page 1)

ministrative affairs of church life, and for them to act before the Holy Spirit took His place in the church would certainly have been contrary to the will of God. Acts 13:2 shows us very clearly that the Holy Spirit placed the first missionaries in the church. Acts 20:28 shows us that the Holy Spirit set the overseers or pastors over the church. We could spend the whole time in talking about the ministry of the Holy Spirit as He guides and directs the affairs of church life, and spend it profitably, but the particular phase of church government that we wish to study this evening is the part that the church has in her own government.

We grant that the Holy Spirit should be leading them at all times, and that He is the administrator, but there is that part which appeals to men, the actions that the church takes, the way that the church moves forward, the way their business affairs are conducted.

I think it is commonly agreed that we have three forms of government. This is true in the secular as well as in the religious world. There is the autocratic, the representative, and the democratic, and of course we might have some forms which are something of a mixture of these three. We also find that there are

three phases of government, the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. The church doesn't have one thing to do with the legislative phase of her own government. The legislative branch of government makes the laws. For instance, we realize that the Legislature of this State makes our State laws. The Legislature of the United States makes laws for the United States. And these laws, if they are constitutional, are to be obeyed. So far as law is concerned the church cannot make one law without going contrary to the will of God. I think that it would be folly to even suggest that God would establish a church, that He would promote the affairs of the church, that He would be interested in all of its advancements; and yet have no plans for its government, and yet we have some who seem to believe that God left no plan for governing the church, so they proceed to make laws for the church. Any church that makes laws, to the extent it makes laws for itself is an outlaw to God's laws. God made the laws for the church to operate under. We have no choice in regard to the matter, other than to obey the laws that God has laid down.

Now, if God established an autocratic form of government, then we ought to abide by it. If God established a representative

form of government, then we ought to abide by it. If God established a democratic form of government, then we ought to abide by it. I think that we can establish by God's Word this fact. God's form of government as laid down in the Scripture is a democratic form of government.

While we do not operate in the legislative realm, the church does operate in the executive and judicial realm. It is the function of the executive realm of government to enforce the laws. For instance, your police and your sheriff function in the executive realm of government. A policeman doesn't make the law. He has no right to change it in any way. He can't tell you that you dare not move forward when the traffic light turns green. He can harm you for doing it. But you try to cross when the light is red, and the policeman has a right to arrest you. Why? The law

says that you have no right to cross when the light is red. He is only enforcing the law when he said, "You cannot do that." He can't change the law, he can only enforce the law that is made. If you contend that you were not violating the law, then you can go to the judicial branch, you go before the judge, and your case is laid before him. He listens to the evidence presented for you and against you. He decides whether or not you have violated the law, and if the evidence proves you haven't violated the law, then he says, "You are free." But if the evidence proves you have violated the law, then he passes sentence upon you according to the law you have broken.

The church functions in the department of the executive and the judicial. God gave the laws and it is our duty to see that the laws are enforced.

(See **CHURCH** on page 19)

To Do Thy Will

No service in itself is small;
None great, though earth it fill;
But that is small that seeks its own,
And great that seeks God's will.

Then hold my hand, most gracious God;
Guide all my going still;
And let it be my life's one sin,
To know and to Thy will

CHURCH...

(Continued from page 18)

forced. We wouldn't think much of a policeman that let people drive through the red light just whenever they wanted to, and we don't think much of the policeman that just lets you turn right around in the middle of the block, and says, "Well, I don't want to hurt your feelings, I guess I will just let you go." But that is about the way we treat God's laws. We want to be so nice that we would insult God to please man, and it is actually true that a man can violate a large portion of God's laws in the average church and rest assured that nothing is going to be done about it. We break down on the executive part when we allow this. It is the duty of the church to take violators in hand, and when they take them in hand, to try the case on the basis of God's Word. When it is proven that they have gone contrary to God's Word, the church acting in the judicial

capacity passes sentence upon the individual. Please remember there are three phases of government, and two of them are committed to the church, the executive and the judicial.

Let us note some things in regard to the church in action. I think possibly I better begin with the 18th chapter of the Book of Matthew. There are two things we particularly want you to note. I want somebody to find for me as quickly as you can (you won't get it done tonight, but as soon as you can find it, you tell me where it is), those verses in the Scripture that puts the executive and judicial power into the hands of a committee or a board inside or outside of the local church. Whenever you find it I want it. I have been looking for it a long time and haven't found it yet. I have exactly the same contempt for a group of people inside of a church who think that they are a board or a committee to control the affairs of the church that I have for a

board outside of the church that tries to exercise that power. It doesn't make any difference what man, woman, or a group of men or women think they have the power to govern the church, if they are on the inside or the outside, they are both acting contrary to the Word of God, and they are dangerous to the life of the church.

Now let us note what Jesus has to say on the subject of how church difficulties are to be handled. In Matthew 18:15-18 we read:

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."

Certainly the first thing to do is to try as an individual to settle our difference in such a way that it will not cause further trouble. If that can't be done then we have the privilege of selecting a few people to help us as we try to settle the trouble, but that is not a committee appointed by the church to settle it or act upon it, it is not a committee invented with any authority, it is only an individual trying to find some people who might help him settle the difficulty without making it too much

of a public affair and creating too much disturbance in the church. Everybody should have enough real genuine Christian spirit to want to settle everything in as fine a way as possible with as little trouble as possible. But supposing we can't do it? Now here is where the church actually comes into the picture:

"And if he shall neglect to hear thee, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

He doesn't say "tell it to the pastor" he doesn't say to tell it to the deacons. He is now talking about when it becomes a church matter. "Tell it to the church."

"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

There is no other authority. He would have told them to take it to a higher authority if there was any other authority above a local church, would He not? If you have a case in the Justice of the Peace

(See **CHURCH** on page 20)

The Smile That Shines Through Tears

It is easy enough to be pleasant
When life flows by like a song,
But the man worthwhile is the one who can smile
When everything goes dead wrong;

For the test of the heart is trouble,
And it always comes with the years,
And the smile that is worth the praises of earth
Is the smile that shines through tears.

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 19)

Court, and you are not satisfied with the verdict you will carry it to a higher court, up to the Circuit Court. If you are not satisfied yet, you may carry it all the way through the Supreme Court. When you get to the Supreme Court there's no place further to go, and if there had been anything over and above and beyond a local church to tell it to, He would have told us where to go after the local church had passed judgment. The local church is the only court, it is the Supreme Court, and has full and final authority to pass on any matter placed before it, and there is no appeal from its decision.

For a church to refuse fellowship does not mean they declare the individual disciplined is unsaved, they pass only on his conduct. As an institution administering discipline we simply pass on their fitness to continue as a part of the organization, and we can cut them off. It doesn't mean that we hate.

We find then that the church makes the decision, not a group in the church, not the pastor of the church, not the deacons of the church, not a discipline committee in the church, but the entire church makes the decision.

Turn next, if you will, to Acts 1:26. Here you see the church in the first election that is ever

conducted in church life. We will not give an explanation of this particular portion of Scripture, but there is one point I am noticing just now. How did the church elect an official? Here they are electing someone to take the place of Judas, who has betrayed Christ and gone out and committed suicide. Did the Apostles say, "We hold a special place in the church life, the highest office. We will just select somebody to fill this place" Do you find anything of that kind there? You do not!

"And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles."

The "lot" I think you will find refers to some kind of vote. "And the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles." The point I want you to catch is this, that the whole body acted in the selection. No individual claimed any such authority, and even the apostles as a whole did not claim any such authority, but the body as a whole cast lots and selected this man to fill this place of high responsibility.

Next let us note the sixth chapter of the Book of Acts, and see how business is conducted. The thing that impresses me in this passage is this, when the apostles were told of a need that existed in their midst they said, "We

haven't time to take care of it. We haven't time to serve tables. It is a worthy work and it needs to be done, but we haven't time. We are pressed with two responsibilities, to spend time in prayer and to give ourselves to the ministry of the word." So they said, "Look out among yourselves, seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."

Here is the point I want to get before you. They laid down the qualifications that these men should have, but they did not even so much as suggest one single name, not one. They did not even so much as nominate one single individual, not one. It clearly states the twelve called the multitude together. They were not afraid to trust the church body, and I am not afraid to trust the church body. I would much rather trust the church as a body than any group that a church might select to act as a representative body. I never did get let down very much by trusting the church as a body. So we note they called the whole multitude together.

They told them the type of men who should fill the office, and then they said, "You look out among you." We are told that the multitude was pleased. "And the same pleased the whole multitude."

I will tell you what you have done whenever you

let the multitude of the church think you are trying to count them out, you have already started a fight. And you have invited it. They should oppose minority rule. But when the whole multitude sees that you have confidence in them, that you believe in them, that you will trust in their judgment, they will be pleased. The way to get a church displeased is to keep the rank and file of them from having a voice in what is going on. And the way to have them pleased, if they have any judgment at all, is to let every man, woman, boy and girl know that they have a voice in everything that is being done. It pleased the multitude, and they did not do a bad job of selecting either. These seven men they selected certainly filled the place in a fine way. I believe the Holy Spirit leads a church that will be led, and if He is not leading the church, you are already in trouble. You just have another organization. If a church isn't Spirit led, then it just isn't functioning in church capacity. It's just an organization of people functioning on the basis of human judgment rather than on the basis of divine guidance. The outcome of the way the apostles conducted this election resulted in electing seven men who made a glorious success.

But let us go a little

(See **CHURCH** on page 21)

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 20)

further and see the church in action. We might turn next to the 14th chapter of the Book of Acts and the 23rd verse of the chapter. Here we have the selection of elders, ordaining of elders, if you want to use that term. Speaking here of Paul and his co-worker it says of Paul and Barnabus:

“And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”

Now it says they ordained them elders in every city. That surely sounds like Paul and Barnabas actually did the selecting, but when you make a careful study of the meaning of this word, “ordain,” you will find it means to designate by the uplifted hand or pointing with the hand. How did they then ordain or select them elders in every city? They selected them by pointing to them. That was the ordaining. The thing I want you to note is this. Paul and Barnabas had these men selected, but even these missionaries who had actually been used of God to establish these churches did not believe they had the right to arbitrarily appoint elders. They trusted these new and infant churches to select elders by the vote method,

and apparently here it was either a pointing to or by the uplifted hand. You discover this, the entire church made the selection.

Let us turn next to the 15th chapter of the Book of Acts and the fourth verse of that chapter. It states that trouble occurred out on the foreign mission field. How would you deal with that? I am just big enough fool to believe that we will find how to deal with every question that faces the church if we will study the Scripture. The answer is there. I may fail to find it, but it is there. False teaching occurred on the foreign field, and the teachers who were doing the false teaching had come from the Jerusalem church, so we find that Paul and Barnabas went right back to the church these false teachers went out from. That church was the proper authority to deal with them. Do you know why they didn't go to the board? There just wasn't any board. They went to the church. That is the point I want you to note. It reads, “and when they were come to Jerusalem they were received of the church and of the apostles and of the elders.” They did not say, “we will just call the apostles aside, or we will call the elders aside, and tell them privately,” but they told it to the church. That is where it should be told.

Let us turn next to 1 Corinthians 5:7. You will

find here a case of an immoral man in the church, and the Apostle Paul calls upon the church to take action. He doesn't do it himself. He doesn't say “I will take action on this matter.” Even though this was a church he had established, a church where he had worked, he only told them what should be done, and urged them to do it. They could refuse to do what he urged if they saw fit to do so. However, they would have been wrong if they had refused, nevertheless he instructed the church and left the matter with them.

Then if you will turn to the Second Book of Corinthians, chapter 2, sixth verse, you will find that he is writing about some man that has been disciplined. I suspect that it is the same man, I am not quite sure. He has suffered for the wrong that has done, and suffered rightly. You know, if the church disciplines some people they get huffy about it and condemn the church. By so doing they prove that the church was right. A man that is heart-broken by the situation shows not only that the church is right, but that the discipline has had the proper effect upon him. Now, discipline is for two purposes, to protect the good name of the church and to make the individual realize his wrong doing, and bring about repentance on his part. “Sufficient to such a man is this punishment,

which was afflicted of many.” It was nothing more than a man disciplined by a majority vote of the church. Paul did not do it, the elders did not do it, the majority of the church voted upon the question and administered the discipline.

I hate to talk about preachers, but sometimes they ought to be talked about, and I have known some preachers that talked long and loud about their soundness in doctrine that are downright dictators. Naturally we always like to find some Scripture to justify ourselves with, and most of that group turn to the last chapter of the Book of Hebrews. They have a great deal to say about the word “ruler.” It appears there three times. They say, “Now, there it is; the preacher is the ruler.” Well, he is the ruler. What does a ruler do? A ruler doesn't violate the law; a ruler doesn't make the laws. All in the world that a ruler does is to see that the laws that are written are obeyed. It appears first in the seventh verse:

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”

If you will make a careful study of this verse you will find it has nothing to say about the people then living. He is referring here

(See **CHURCH** on page 22)

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 21)

to those who have already gone on before, and to the teachings they have been given by these leaders who have already gone on to their reward, and urging those people to live true to the teachings.

Then in the 17th verse:

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

“Obey them that have the rule over you,” submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they must give an account.” Now I must give an account to God as a leader; therefore I am going to try hard to do this one thing, see that I accept the principles, the precepts, the commands, and the patterns of God’s Word. All in places of leadership, in that sense, are rulers. We lay before you the teachings of God’s Word on the subject, guiding you, showing you the thing that is right, and the thing that is wrong. We are accountable to God to see that truth is placed clearly before you, so you will understand it; then it becomes your duty to obey it, not my laws, but the truths of God as I give them to you.

Many put a dangerous

interpretation upon that word, “ruler.” They make it mean that the pastor is invested with power that makes him a dictator. This verse does not give any dictatorial powers to any individual. It simply points out the fact that he is to place the truth before the people, and in his executive capacity to see that they are properly disciplined if they refuse to obey the truth. That is the extent of a ruler’s power.

Let us turn to one other portion of God’s Word. In the First Book of Peter, the fifth chapter of the book, you will find he gives some very careful instructions to the elders. God knew we were going to have some preachers in the churches who would try to be dictators; therefore He gave this exhortation:

“The leaders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed. Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.”

Now get this please:

“Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.”

Dictating preachers ought to have that last phrase burned indelibly on

their hearts and minds! “Neither as being lords over God’s heritage.” I don’t know how language could make it any clearer than that. When I find a statement as clear as this one, I am not going to take a statement that might have two possible interpretations and give it an interpretation that is contrary to a clear statement from the Word of God. I don’t know what is going to happen to those preachers who act as lords over God’s heritage, but if they act as they should, here is His promise to them:

“And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

I want you to note just one thing further. John states in 3rd John 9, “I wrote to the church.” We might ask him, “Didn’t you write to some group in the church? Didn’t you write to some sister or brother? Didn’t you write to some deacon?” His answer is, “No. I wrote to the church.” Diotrefes assumed the authority of acting for the church, and it is because he acted for the church that the Holy Spirit has recorded to his everlasting shame that he put himself up as an authority over a church body. It is a shame for any man to do a thing of that kind. He seemed to have somehow gotten such power in the church that he

made them do what he wanted them to do, but that didn’t make it scriptural, and didn’t make his conduct acceptable to God.

In the Book of Revelation in speaking to the Ephesian church, he says in the sixth verse of the second chapter: “But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.”

I am told by Greek scholars the word “Nicolaitanes” means “to lord it over the laity.” Most of them that I have ever read from agree that it has that meaning. A little bit further on in Revelation He says to the church at Pergamos: “So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.”

Here you see a time arriving in the life of the church when there was a sort of priestly group beginning to lord it over the laity, and God says He hates it. If there is any one place in the world that such condition is despicable that is in a Baptist church. Why? Because we say we believe in democracy, and when we practice auto-cruacy we are bigger hypocrites than any group who practice it and admit they practice it, but remember, God hates it regardless of who practices it! Democracy means that the rank and file of the church, the entire body has the right,

(See **CHURCH** on page 23)

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 22)

and should exercise the right of making decisions on all matters that confront the church, and to be scriptural that is the method of government we must use. □ □

EASTER . . .

(Continued from page 15)

It was late in the afternoon when Jesus died — so late, in fact, that the soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves who were crucified with Jesus in order that they would die more quickly.

It was important to the Jews that the men would die early enough to give them time to take the bodies down from the cross before the Sabbath began at sundown. Even so, by the time Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus took the body down from the cross and carried it to the tomb, there was not enough time adequately to prepare the body of Jesus for burial. So they wrapped Him in linen clothes with the aloes and spices and hastily put Him in the tomb.

Jesus, then, was put in the grave at sundown on Wednesday.

He stayed in the grave Wednesday night and Thursday — one day.

Thursday night and Friday — two days.

Friday night and Saturday — three days.

After remaining in the

grave three full days, or three nights and three days, the Lord arose from the dead early on Sunday. Sunday began, remember, at sundown Saturday evening.

“... To day is the third day since these things were done.”

It was Sunday morning, the first day of the week, when Jesus walked with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. In speaking of the crucifixion and other events related to the crucifixion that had taken place, the two said to Jesus, “But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done” (Lk. 24:21).

Now, if Jesus were crucified on Wednesday, would Sunday be the *third* or the *fourth* day “since these things were done”?

Sunday would have been the fourth day.

Remember, Jesus was crucified late Wednesday afternoon. Evidently they began preparing His body for burial just before sundown. They probably finished and put Him in the grave just a few minutes after sundown. If it was *after* sundown, then it would have been the beginning of Thursday. Now notice carefully:

The first day since Thursday was Friday. The second day since Thursday was Saturday, the “third day since” Thursday was Sunday, or the first day of the

week.

When we realize that Jesus was crucified on Wednesday afternoon, we find that there is no

difficulty about three days and three nights and that all of the prophecies concerning the Passover were fulfilled to the letter.

A Little Talk With Jesus

A little talk with Jesus,

How it smoothes the rugged road!

How it seems to help me onward,

When I faint beneath my load;

When my heart is crushed with sorrow,

And my eyes with tears are dim,

There is naught can yield me comfort

Like a little talk with Him.

Ah, this is what I'm wanting—

His lovely face to see;

And, I'm not afraid to say it,

I know He's wanting me.

He gave His life my ransom,

To make me all His own,

And He'll ne'er forget His promise

To me, His purchased one.

I cannot live without Him,—

Nor would I if I could;

He is my daily portion,

My medicine and food.

He's altogether lovely,

None can with Him compare;

Chiefest among ten thousand,

And fairest of the fair.

So I'll wait a little longer,

Till His appointed time,

And along the upward pathway

My pilgrim feet shall climb,

There in my Father's dwelling,

Where many mansions be,

I shall sweetly talk with Jesus,

And He will talk with me.

ATHEIST . . .

(Continued from page 1)

and give to those pictures the names of well known Bible characters. The sketches are ugly, yet carry the names of such great men as Abraham, Jacob, Moses and David.

Underneath these portraits are a few lines of printing relating to the lives of these men and certain Bible statements concerning them. Under the face that is supposed to be Abraham we read that he was a coward who was willing to sacrifice the honor of his wife, Sarah, in order to save his own skin. The Bible reference is given. Then the atheists point out that elsewhere in the Bible Abraham is called a "friend of God." Then they ask what kind of a God is the God of the Bible who has such friends as this dishonorable man? And they are right in saying that a holy God would not remain holy and yet fellowship with sin.

The portrait of Jacob represents a man who is described as a cheat and a liar, with the proper Bible references. Then we learn that God wrestled with Jacob and changed his name to Israel, prince of God. What is the character of a God who could have such a prince, they ask, or who would allow Himself to be called "the God of Jacob"? And they are right. If it can be shown that God chose such men as these

without punishing their sin, then it will go ill with the character of God.

The atheists also present Moses and point out that he was a murderer and a fugitive from justice when the Lord Jehovah appeared unto him and sent him back to Egypt as His own representative, calling him His servant, and setting him up as a leader of a greater people through whom He taught, "Thou shalt not kill." For a murderer to preach "Thou shalt not kill" is hypocrisy. What kind of a God would take a murderer for such a message? Instead of blessing Moses, God should have punished him according to the atheists. And unless we find that God did punish Moses' sin, the atheists are right.

David is also presented. The drawing is particularly repulsive. We read of his adultery and the murder to protect the adultery. We read of his "sore that ran in the night" in the most horrible language, and then we read that David was "a man after God's own heart." The atheists rightly ask what kind of a God was this God of the Bible who had a heart that could find anything to praise David.

The remarkable thing about all this blasphemy is that it is true. God says so Himself. And if we had no New Testament we would not know how to answer. God knew that it was not righteous or just to forgive guilty sinners, yet He went

right on doing it through all the period of the Old Testament. And in the Epistle to the Romans He took the trouble to explain that He was able to pardon men at that time because He knew that He was going to justify Himself even in the eyes of the atheists some day.

The atheists claim that it is not moral to forgive sinners without punishing the sin. God makes the same claim. He will by no means clear the guilty. Every sin that has been committed must be punished. A God, such as the Bible represents Him, must be both love and hate. God is love of the sinner and God is hate of the sin. The atheists are right in reminding us that we must not forget that God is hate of the sinner's sin. That teaching is more needed

today than any other. God is hate. God hates sin. When the atheists found a God who seemingly did not punish sin, they exclaimed that they had found a proof that there could be no such God. A good God must punish sin.

The atheists are right. But God saw a way whereby the sins of the saints could be punished and yet they themselves go free. *That way was found in Jesus Christ.* There at the cross, God took away the sin from the sinners, put it upon His Son and punished Him to the full for those sins. Thus it was proved true that God is just and holy and loving at the same time. That lesson can never be learned except at the cross of Jesus Christ. The atheists stopped with the Old Testament and so missed the point. □ □

For Sale

One cross, nearly new. I cannot carry it and keep up with the world and its crowd.

One talent, new except slightly shelf worn. It has been laid away for years in a napkin.

One five piece set of Armor. All pieces are in good shape, only needs polishing.

One bundle of Christian Opportunities. Contained in this bundle is one of the greatest opportunities in the world, and that is of going to

my church every Sunday. Another one is the opportunity of being a soul winner. I seldom use these opportunities so have decided to let them go with the sale.

One badly used Christian Influence. Buyer may be able to repair this influence if carefully handled.

The above mentioned items are stored in the basement of my home, located on the corner of Careless Ave., and Neglect St. Signed,
A Lota Christians