

# The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

VOL. LI, No. 1

January 2009

WHOLE NO. 530

## *The Eternal Security of the Believer*

*Or 100 Reasons □ □ 100 Scriptures □ □ Proving Eternal Security*

*By M. L. Moser, Sr.*

“Eternal Security of the Believer,” “Final Perseverance of the Saints,” and “Salvation by Grace,” are but different methods of expressing the same doctrine. However, because of a general misunderstanding on the part of many concerning the doctrine, it is thought best, before

giving the reasons why we believe in Eternal Security, to state some things that are not connected with the doctrine.

### THINGS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE DOCTRINE

**1. That all church members are saved.** We recognize that there are many church members today who have never been born again. Only those who have definitely trusted or believed on the Lord Jesus Christ are saved.

*“For we are made*

*partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end” (Heb. 3:14).*

*“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out,*

*(See ETERNAL on page 16)*

### Bees For Believers

**Be Kind** -- “Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32).

**Be Thankful** — “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise; Be thankful unto him and bless his name” (Psa. 100:4).

**Be Doers** — “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only (Jas. 1:22).

**Be Merciful** — Be ye

(See **BEES** on page 23)

### The Vagaries of Atheism

**By Roy Mason**

Atheism is the denial of God. The atheist claims that there is no need for God as an explanation of things. It is probably true that there have been atheists all along down through the centuries. Certainly there were such back in Bible times for we have the atheist characterized in Psalm 14:1. God there characterizes the atheist as a fool, and says that back behind this atheism is a wicked life.

There is a definite organization of atheists in America — “The American Association For The Advancement Of Atheism.” Atheists circulated around our church building one Sunday evening, throwing their circulars in cars, and leaving a blasphemous book on the church steps for the pastor.

**Communism Is Atheistic**

(See **MASON** on page 12)

### Hypocritical Singing

The singing of a hymn should be a great experience for us — it can be a prayer, a testimony, a praise, an invitation to others. Some interesting comparisons have been written on the hymns we sing:

We sing “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” and content ourselves with ten or fifteen minutes a day (if that much).

We sing “Onward Christian Soldiers,” and

(See **SINGING** on page 23)

## Quiz The Pastor

### Where Did Cain Find His Wife?

By the late Nick Michalinos

**Question:** Could you tell me where Cain got his wife? Where did he find her?

**Answer:** The question you raise is certainly one of the most ancient of all questions raised by Bible critics. Cain was the first son of Adam and Eve (Gen. 4:1) and Abel the second (Gen. 4:2). Cain murdered his brother Abel (Gen. 4:8), and God punished Cain by sending him away from his home forever. While a way, it is stated he “knew” his wife (Gen. 4:17), and that he built a city (Gen. 4:17-24).

The misunderstanding about Cain’s wife is brought up by the misuse of the word “knew” (Gen. 4:17). This word does not mean that Cain first met his wife or got acquainted with her after he went into the land of Nod (Gen. 4:16-17). I want you to notice the

same word “knew” as used in Genesis 4:1, 25, and there you will see that *it* is used of Adam and even before the births of Cain and Seth. Please also notice in Matthew 1:24-25, where the same word “knew” is used in the same sense. It simply means the natural union of husband and wife as to mating.

There are several scriptures which make it certain that Cain’s wife was descended from Adam and Eve, even as Cain was. Either *she* was his sister, or she might have been the daughter of one of his brothers and one of his sisters. In Genesis 3:20 we are told that Eve was “the mother of *all* living,” so it is certain she was the mother or ancestress of Cain’s wife. Adam was the “first man (1 Cor. 15:45) and Eve the “first woman,” and since Eve is the

“mother of *all* living,” then all humans find their commencement in her (See Matt. 19:4).

Adam and Eve had both “sons and daughters” (Gen. 5:4) during the 930 years of Adam’s lifetime. At least one son and one daughter of Adam and Eve had to marry each other in the first generation in order for the human race to get started at all. In later generations, brother-sister marriages would come to be recognized as genetically dangerous, and thus prohibited by both the Bible and most legal codes for at least this reason alone. Of course, other serious problems enter in also in the marriage of close relatives.

However, these genetic difficulties were not present in Adam and Eve, as they were created *directly* from the hand of God (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7, 21-22). Thus, no genetic harm could have come had Cain or some other son of Adam married his sister. In the course of time, enough genetic mutations could have accumulated in the human race to make such marriages of close relatives genetically harmful. But not so in the beginning.

Thus — Cain married or took as his wife one of his own relatives, a sister or a niece, and while in Nod, he “knew” her, and as a result, she conceived and bore Enoch (Gen. 4:16-17). This is the Bible truth, simply put.

Many times, the real reason for this criticism concerning Cain’s wife is merely the evolutionary presupposition that such critics hold. They are unwilling to believe that God started the human race by *special creation of one man* and of *one woman*, preferring instead to believe that man came as a slowly evolving population of primates which eventually acquired what we consider human characteristics about one or two million years ago. *But* our Lord Jesus Christ Himself gives this foolish theory a death blow! Our Lord was man’s creator (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16-17), and He said: “Have you not read that *he* which made *them* at the *beginning* made them *male* and *female*...” (Mt. 19:4)? “He (Lord) made *them* ... *male* ... *female*,” and it was done “*at the beginning*” (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:2, 22). □

### Bible’s Influence

A man in Ireland, who came in contact with a Bible colporteur, at first repulsed him. Finally he was persuaded to take a Bible and later he said: “I read a wee bit out of the New Testament every day, and I pray to God every night and morning.”

When asked if it helped him to read God’s Word and to pray, he answered: “Indade it does. When I go to do anything wrong, I just say to myself, ‘Pat, you’ll be talking to God tonight.’ That keeps me from doing it!” □ □

## THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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## Creating A Battleground

By Stephen and Candice McGarvey

In 1976 three years after the U. S. Supreme Court passed *Roe vs. Wade*, Francis Schaeffer predicted where the acceptance of abortion would take American society. More importantly he knew the root of the problem.

In his book *How Should We Then Live*, the 20th Century's foremost Christian philosopher explained that when America's legal system rejected the idea of moral absolutes, arbitrary consensus became the new basis of law. This being the case, it's not hard to see that law is embracing many heinous things, including not only the removal of legal protection from the unborn, said Schaeffer, but also euthanasia, infanticide and harvesting body parts from those who are brain dead.

Now that America is 30 years down the road from the *Roe vs. Wade* decision, we can better see how Schaeffer was right. Abortion's negative impact on American culture is obvious.

### Abortion Since 1973

In 30 years, over 40

million infants have lost their lives at the behest of their mothers. Abortion's high tide was reached in 1980 and 1981 when the rate was 29.3 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44. According to a survey released recently by Planned Parenthood's Alan Guttmacher Institute, the rate of abortion has now reached its lowest point in 29 years. In 2000, the number of women who had abortions was 21.3 for every 1,000 women.

While the slowing trend is good news to the pro-life community, the cumulative number of abortions since 1973 weighs heavily. In 14 metropolitan areas of the United States, there are more babies aborted than there are live births. The National Right to Life Committee reports that partial birth abortions have tripled since 1996 to at least 2,200 performed in 2000.

### Abortion, Feminism and Roe

The Supreme Court passed *Roe vs. Wade* during the culmination of a rising influence of the women's rights movement

and the abandoning of moral absolutes in American law. Surprisingly, however, the support for abortion at the time was not widespread. Hadley Arkes, professor of Jurisprudence and American Institutions at Amherst College says, "In the early days after *Roe vs. Wade* ... we never expected it would last as long as it has. With the sentiment in Congress and the (public's) reaction at the time, we really expected that this thing would be overturned with a constitutional amendment.

It wasn't. Now this fatal choice is considered a right, indeed an "entitlement." Feminists would have society believe that this ultimate act of selfishness is actually part of the Constitution. In the book, *Feminism: Mystique or Mistake*, author Diane Passno says, "The secular feminist agenda thrives in a postmodern culture, since the movement is basically selfish or self-centered in nature. It's all about women and what they want, and has nothing to do with what is healthy for all members of the culture ..."

The feminist ideology that backed the push for legalized abortion has indoctrinated our society with the image of women as powerful. And yet, the exact opposite is true in the case of a woman who wants abortion. Passno writes, "If feminists want women to be perceived as masters of their own

destiny, why are irresponsibility and lack of self-control the reasons behind most elective abortions?" In pregnancy (except for the minuscule number of pregnancies caused by rape), a woman has contributed to her predicament by accepting a sexual proposition. Society is expected to pity her because her recreation resulted in an ironic twist of feminism.

*Roe* gave women a rallying point to claim equality with men on issues related to childbirth. For thousands of years a man could physically walk away from a pregnancy with little outside consequence. Now for the first time women could seemingly walk away from that unwanted pregnancy as well.

### Abortion's Effect On Men

In an interview on KUED-TV in Salt Lake City, women's rights activist Gloria Steinem articulated the feminist view of utopia for our society, "We've had a lot of people in this country who have had the courage to raise their daughters more like their sons, which is great because it means they're more equal. But there are many fewer people who have had the courage to raise their sons more like their daughters. And that's what needs to

(See **ROE** on page 4)

**ROE . . .**

(Continued from page 3)

be done.”

Today’s man lives in a world of confusion over what is expected of him. Rosemary Bottcher, author of *Feminism: Bewitched by Abortion* sums up the double standard saying, “A man is expected to be mature when he fathers a child; he is expected to endure inconvenience and hardship ... But the woman, according to feminists, is so selfish, immature, irrational and hysterical that she cannot stand the fact of nine months of the inconvenience in order to bring life to another person ... or to some other family who might adopt that child.”

The feminist movement made sure that our entire society condones a woman’s killing of an unborn child. If a man is caught running away from the responsibility of a child, he is chastised. But a woman has the “right” to escape the consequences of a carefree lifestyle.

**Hope for the Future**

In the three full decades since the *Roe* decision, technological advances have carried our debate over life issues to new levels. Just as Francis Schaffer predicted, issues like euthanasia (doctor-assisted suicide), stem cell research and cloning are now dominating headlines.

Yet the technology many use to further a culture of death in America may become a double-edged sword.

General Electric, perhaps inadvertently, is teaching people that wombs hold much more than “tissue.” There during the primetime hours of network television, many of us got our first glimpse of what resides in a womb, and it looked like a child. As General Electric ran ads for their new 4-D Ultra-sound technology, viewers were greeted by an active pre-born baby with distinct features. Singers set the mood with a voice-over of “*The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face*.”

Kellyanne Conway, president and CEO of the Polling Group, points out, “Did you ever notice that even the people in Hollywood name their babies in the fourth month of pregnancy.”

A pre-born baby that is wanted by its mother is a “baby,” and any other pre-born is a fetus. The test for what is alive becomes, “Is it wanted by someone?”

As we see the couple in the GE commercial marveling at their baby’s first photo, taken several months before the child’s birth, it becomes harder to deny that baby’s humanness. It becomes apparent that the pre-born baby in the womb is alive, regardless of the mindset of its mother — Religion Today

## It is Growing So Dark, And I Am Afraid!

By Emerson M. Whitten

My loved ones and friends around me are weeping;  
What has happened to plans I so carefully made?  
If only I knew I could live one more hour —  
It is growing so dark, and I am afraid!

Why do I have terror and specters to haunt me?  
I have tried all my life to live pure and good,  
It be sweet and patient, and cultivate kindness  
And have the sweet grace that a young woman should.

But I have no anchor — no fortress to lean on,  
There seems to be no one to come to my aid.  
I feel unprepared and my fate is uncertain,  
And darkness is gathering, and I’m so afraid!

I really had meant to put faith in Jesus,  
My pastor oft’ preached that we should not delay;  
He also has told us that we must surrender,  
But I allowed pleasure to stand in my way.

I see awful creatures appearing before me,  
If only my hope on Jesus were staid;  
I feel myself going — oh how fearful the darkness!  
I’m dying alone, and I’m so afraid.

So crushed are the hopes of a lovely young maiden,  
She has entered the place where never is light.  
She had beauty and grace and had lived a life moral,  
She had virtue and charm, but she died without Christ.

Oh the horror when souls have gone into darkness!  
The weeping and wailing — the unceasing fears;  
The groaning in spirit, and hearts that are broken,  
The gnashing of teeth, and the sorrow and tears.

Oh, eternity is long and earth’s time is fleeting,  
It is now that decisions must be finally made;  
’Tis now we must trust and have faith in Jesus,  
Or go into darkness forever — afraid.

God's Masterpiece — Man's Body

# Our Body Machine

By Arthur I. Brown

Most of us know more about our automobile than about our body. This ought not to be. It is not given to everyone to be an anatomist or a physiologist, but it is possible to know a great many facts accurately which will be very helpful in the process of living.

You will want to know about the bones, muscles, organs and tissues, about nerves and blood-vessels; about the greatest pump in the world, — how all these fit into the general scheme, why each part occupies its own special place and how all are co-ordinated for one great purpose, this will be anatomy.

We shall learn how each part does its work, how the transportation system operates, how the garbage is removed daily and hourly, how the billions of little cell people are fed and warmed, — yes, and clothed, how they defend us from all kinds of attacks, how they are born and work and die. This includes physiology.

I shall try to tell you how power is generated, how light and sound are operated and captured by the body, how electric currents are distributed. This is physics. You will ask me about the chemical

reactions, — about acids and alkalis, about the manufacture of strange and marvelous compounds, and the changes brought about by various combinations. This is chemistry.

You will desire to know why the body gets out of repair, — why it grows old, how diseases affect it and what happens in the various organs when they begin to fail. This is pathology.

As I have sat numberless times beside the dissecting table, with scalpel and forceps in my hands, following out nerves and vessels to their destination; as I have seen the astonishing structure and arrangement everywhere, I have asked myself: "Is this chance, or is it God?" No more do I ask the question. I know it is GOD!

And if you happen to forget much of what I shall tell you, you will never forget the vision of the Creator that must come to us as we survey the evidences of His divine skill. You will then agree with the declaration of Romans 1:20, if you have not already done so: "the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood (perceived)

through the things which are made, even his everlasting power and deity." And I believe we shall reach the place where we shall exclaim exultantly with David of old as he wrote in the 139th Psalm: "I will give thanks unto thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: wonderful are thy works, and my soul knoweth right well."

Our bodies have been likened to machines and there are many resemblances. I like to think of the body as a huge city — a fairy city it seems to be — with more than thirty million million inhabitants. These inhabitants operate machinery of all kinds with meticulous care and accuracy. These tiny people that do all the miraculous things which we shall witness are called CELLS. These cells are too small to be seen with the naked eye, in fact, on the average, each cell is about one-eighth thousandth of an inch long, that is, 8,000 cells could be put side by side along one edge of a cubic inch, while it would take more than 64,000,000 cells to fill the space within this cubic inch.

How these infinitely tiny blobs of protoplasm can possibly carry on from the moment of birth to the moment of death as they do, can be explained only by believing that God's hand has touched them. What are they like? They are certainly highly complex

organisms, but if you take a hen's egg out of the refrigerator or pantry, you have in your hands a model of a cell magnified approximately a million times. While all cells conform to a similar likeness, it must be remembered, there are great differences in their operations.

I shall have something to say about these different kinds of cells or workmen, but just now let us take the egg in our hands, and gently break the shell. What do you see inside? I hear you say: — "Why — there's the yolk shining through the white." A cell presents the same picture on a much reduced scale. It is filled with protoplasm, resembling the white of the egg, and in the center floats a sphere, the cell nucleus. The protoplasm surrounding the cell nucleus — this protoplasm called the cytoplasm — is not a simple chemical compound, nor simply a mixture of various substances, but the infinitely small spaces within this cytoplasm are filled with fluids, protein, sugar, and salts of various kinds. The walls of these alveolar spaces consist of firmer substances, such as sticky proteins, gluey starches, and viscid fats.

How do the proteins, fats, etc., get into these small cells? These materials come from the food you eat, and that is the reason why there is a process of

(See **BODY** on page 23)

# “The Darwin Adventure”

By Bolton Davidheiser

A moving picture has been produced on the life of Charles Darwin, called “*The Darwin Adventure*.” The premiere showing was held in the courthouse in Dayton, Tennessee, where the famous Scopes trial was held in 1925. There obviously was a reason for the choice of this location. Some have said that there could be no real opposition to the theory of evolution after the Scopes trial. Much can be said about the way this trial has been misrepresented to the public, but here we will merely state that although Scopes is still represented as an ideal crusader who boldly went before his class and taught evolution in defiance of the law in order to uphold academic free-dom, he said repeatedly that to the best of his knowledge he never did teach evolution at all. At the local drug-store, against his will he was talked into allowing himself to be the guinea pig for the court trial desired by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The film dramatically portrays another incident which has been called an important turning point in the history of the acceptance of evolutionary theory. This was the famous confrontation between Thomas Henry Huxley and Bishop

Wilberforce. The bishop asked Huxley the stupid question: Were you descended from an ape on your grandfather’s or grandmother’s side? To this Huxley replied that he would prefer to be descended from a miserable ape (in the film he says “poor ape”) than from a man like the bishop. Men cheered, a woman fainted, and the meeting was broken up ... This had absolutely nothing to do with the truth or falsity of evolution, but it is regarded by some as the first great triumph in the cause of evolution!

It is commonly said that Darwin got his inspiration for evolution at the Galapagos Islands. The finches (birds now called “Darwin finches”) and the large land tortoises are different on the different islands. The theory is that long ago a storm blew some finches to these islands from the mainland of South America, some 650 miles away. Over a long period of time the birds began to vary and became different on the different islands because they were isolated there. Although a storm supposedly blew them the long distance from South America, no subsequent storm blew them from one island to another, although the islands are within sight

of each other. In the film Captain Fitz Roy, the Christian master of the ship, is allowed to ask the embarrassing question of how the great land tortoises got there. The answer given is that they came on rafts of matted jungle growth!

Moreover, in *Scientific American*, April, 1963, David Lack points out that Darwin did not mention the finches in his diary and refers to them only briefly in his book about the voyage. Professor Lack contends that Darwin did not attach significance to these birds until a systematist named John Gould pointed out their peculiarities. But in the film the character who plays the part of Charles Darwin says in accord with what the public has been told, that it was here that he received his inspiration for evolution.

Also emphasis is given to the view now being presented to the public, that evolutionists do not believe man evolved from apes and/or monkeys, but instead had a common ancestor with apes and monkeys. This is supposed to make a difference. The difference it makes is in the minds of people who do not like the idea of having apes and monkeys for ancestors. But the evolutionary literature is full of statements by evolutionists saying we came from apes and/or monkeys. Contrary to claims that Charles Darwin never said this, he did say

twice very plainly in the sixth chapter of his *Descent of Man* that we evolved from monkeys. The famous evolutionist George Gaylord Simpson says that anyone who makes the claim that evolutionists do not believe man evolved from monkeys and/or apes is either uninformed or pusillanimous (cowardly).

Charles Darwin probably did more than any other one person to alienate the civilized world from the Bible, but in the film he says concerning the origin of living things, “I hope the answers will bring me closer to God.” □ □

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## Looking Unto Jesus

The cost of discipleship very often lies in turning the eye from the better to the best. Dr. Henry Jewett once described how, at the coronation of Edward VII, he sat in Westminster Abbey and watched the honorable assembling of princes, princesses, earls, dukes, and so on.

He said: “There was much bowing and respect shown as these people of high degree entered, but when the king arrived all eyes left the people of lesser rank and were fastened on the king.”

“So,” said Dr. Jewett, “literature, music, art and science hold our respectful attention, but when Jesus Christ comes into our heart and life, He must be KING, and all lesser subjects must take a lesser place!” □ □



## National ID Card Next?

A national identification card, complete with biometric identifiers, such as fingerprints or retinal scans, is coming. Only it is not being called that. House Resolution 4633 — the Driver's License Modernization Act of 2002 — would effectively create a national ID if passed. The bill would require each state to adopt a uniform standard for driver's licenses and link their motor vehicle databases to a central computer registry. H.R. 4633 would "amend title 23, United States Code, to establish standards for state programs for the issuance of driver's licenses and identification cards, and for other purposes." It would make use of "encoded biometric data matching the holder of the license or card." In other words, American citizens who have never committed any crime would be subject to fingerprinting (or something similar, such as a retinal scan) and compelled to carry a card with an embedded computer chip containing reams of personal information.

What the legislation calls for is, in fact, a

national ID card that every adult American would effectively be forced to carry. The only way to opt out would be to give up one's driver's license — something that is not practical in an era when, outside of major cities, being able to drive is a necessity without which one cannot secure or maintain employment. And like the now ubiquitous Social Security number, which recall was "never to be used for identification purposes," but which is now almost impossible to conduct any business without, the coming national ID/driver's license will almost certainly become an item without which one cannot open a bank account, obtain a credit card, purchase a car or home, and so on.

As Eric Skrum of the National Motorists Association put it recently: "Ultimately, anybody in any state with a card reader would be able to look up your personal driving record, credit rating, Social Security number, health information, personal address, and anything else the government would force

## Gospel Hymns We Love

### "Jesus Loves Me"

By Fran Essary

During the middle years of the 18th century, on an island in the Hudson River, two sisters spent their time at the happy task of writing songs and stories for children.

One of the sisters, Anna Warner, taught a class of West Point cadets each Sunday. A small boat made the trip across the river channel especially to bring her to the chapel, where an attentive class of uniformed boys awaited the lesson she had prepared.

you to divulge in order to 'voluntarily' obtain a driver's license."

They can call it whatever they want, but the end result is the same. This bill should be rejected as being incompatible with a free society. □

One day the sisters saw a small boat coming towards their pier, bringing one of the cadets to their door. Anna found herself greeting one of her Sunday School pupils; one of the boys who had been with her for a long time. He had just graduated from West Point the previous day and was about to be sent to an American outpost in China as a chaplain.

"I just wanted you to know that I will always remember the thought you gave me one day when I told you I couldn't remember Bible verses. You said I need only remember that Jesus loves me and that the Bible tells me so. This is a truth I can carry with me every-

(See **HYMN** on page 13)

### And God Said ...

God is sitting in heaven when a scientist prays to Him.

"God, we don't need you anymore.

"Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing in other words, we can now do what you did in the beginning."

"Oh, is that so? Tell Me..." replies God.

"Well," says the

scientist, "we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of you and breath life into it, thus creating man."

"Well, that's very interesting ... show Me."

So the scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the soil into the shape of a man.

"No, no, no!" interrupts God.

"Get your own dirt."



### Resolution Protects Islam, Omits Other Religions.

— According to a recent report, the United Nations General Assembly is considering passage of a resolution called “Combating Defamation of Religion.” Angela Wu of The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty notes the resolution mentions only the protection of Islam — and that is one of several concerns for her. “Because it’s protecting defamation against religion (an idea) rather than defamation against a person, it essentially controls what people can say about religion, which we think is ultimately quite dangerous to have the state moderate what people can and can’t peacefully say about religious ideas,” she contends. Christianity and Judaism, according to Wu, are not specifically protected by the resolution, nor is any religion other than Islam. “And even if Jews and Christians were protected under the resolution, the question is: do you really want the state telling you how to discuss Christianity or how to discuss Judaism?” she asked. While the resolution is expected to

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pass in the General Assembly, Wu believes it will not be the last word on the issue. — ONN

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### Planned Parenthood Offers Gift Certificates.

— “A state affiliate of Planned Parenthood is offering a new service to Christmas shoppers — gift certificates that can be redeemed for the killing of unborn children,” said Tom Strode in a Baptist Press report. “Planned Parenthood of Indiana, which has 35 centers across the state, is providing certificates during the Christmas season for the first time for what it calls the ‘gift of health.’ The gift certificates, which come in \$25 increments, can be used for services, such as annual examinations for women and contraceptives, according to the organization’s website. The certificates also can be redeemed to help pay for abortions, the Associated Press reported, though a Planned Parenthood spokeswoman doubted certificates would be given for such a reason. ‘I certainly don’t think anyone would consider giving it for that purpose.’ Kate Shepherd said, according to AP. That assertion from Planned Parenthood was neither reassuring nor comforting for pro-life advocates ... Planned Pa-

renthood of Indiana’s 2007 report showed its clinics performed 5,160 abortions in its most recent statistical year, more than 3,900 by surgery and the rest using drugs such as the RU 486 regimen.” — BP

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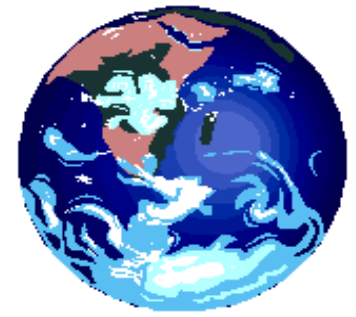
### Military Divorce Rate Up.

— Figures obtained by the Associated Press show that the divorce rate among active duty soldiers in Fiscal 2008 was 3.5% — up from 3.3% the year before. Among Marines, 3.7% of all marriages failed, up from 3.3%. In terms of numbers, that was almost 13,300 military divorces. An Army spokesman says frequent deployments and relocations test intimate relationships. Some veteran and family groups question whether Pentagon figures are too low. They say the figures don’t take into account many who divorce after leaving the service. A member of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America says the figures also don’t reflect the marriages that are strained, but holding together.

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### Newsweek Trashes The Bible In Support of Homosexual Marriage.

— An AFA Action Alert was released that said:



“*Newsweek* magazine has published a lengthy article stating that the Bible supports homosexual marriage. The article was written by Lisa Miller, *Newsweek* religion editor. Miller’s article is one of the most biased and distorted pieces concerning homosexual marriage ever published by any major news organization ... Dr. Albert Mohler has offered a response to the *Newsweek* article. I suggest you read Mohler’s article at [www.albertMohler.com](http://www.albertMohler.com). then read Miller’s *Newsweek* article at [www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com).” Mohler made a significant point in his response. “The national news media are collectively embarrassed by the passage of Proposition 8 in California. Gay rights activists are publicly calling on the mainstream media to offer support for gay marriage, arguing that the media let them down in November. It appears that *Newsweek* intends to do its part to press for same-sex marriage. Many observers believe that the main obstacle to this agenda is a resolute opposition grounded

(See **WNR** on page 24)

# La Voz Del Desierto

## El Misterio de la Santísima Trinidad

Por Felix M. Gonzalez Bulgala, Redactor

La doctrina de la Trinidad no es fácil de comprender, pero es un tema apasionante. Ha fascinado a sabios y a santos a través de los siglos, ha sido un tema de estudio y debate en concilios históricos y sigue siendo discutida en todo el mundo. Muchos han afirmado que es una doctrina absurda-irreverente e ilógica y que como dogma humano es piedra de tropiezo a la razón; otros la defiende con fervor. Al acercarnos a la doctrina de la Trinidad reconocemos que es un misterio. Pero un misterio

no es un absurdo. Es una verdad que está más allá del alcance de nuestra razón, mientras que un absurdo está en pugna con la razón (1 Tim. 3:16; Col. 2:2).

El término "Trinidad" proviene de la palabra latina *trinitas* o de la palabra *trinitus*, que significa "tres en uno" o "triple." Esta palabra expresa la clara enseñanza de la Iglesia cristiana desde los primeros tiempos en la siguiente forma: Dios es uno en esencia, pero subsiste en tres personas: el Padre, el Hijo y el Espíritu Santo. Algunos críticos y teólogos

han sostenido que la doctrina de la Trinidad era desconocida hasta el Concilio de Nicea en el año 325 D.C., en el que argumentan fue inventada por los padres de la Iglesia Católica como Tertuliano y Teófilo. Pero los escritos históricos de la Iglesia primitiva revelan que esta doctrina de la Trinidad fue enseñada por Jesucristo, sus discípulos y los apóstoles (como el de Justino Mártir (150 D.C.) y Luciano Philopatris (160 D.C.).

Consideremos ahora el Universo físico que debería

reflejar a su Creador, como es lógico, de una manera muy íntima, y descubriremos que toda la naturaleza parece haber sido diseñada para revelarnos la Trinidad (Rom. 1:20). Notemos que no todo lo que llamamos UNO en número, es estrictamente singular en su naturaleza:

1. Un triángulo tiene tres lados y tres ángulos; si se le quita un lado, deja de ser triángulo. 2. El agua es una, pero a la vez se le conoce en tres formas o estados: líquida, sólida y

(Vea **TRIN** en la pág. 10)

### Noticias Alrededor Del Mundo

**Compilador De Identificación En Los Humanos.** — El "Veri-chip" pronto estará disponible para ser implantado bajo la piel de los humanos. Programable y como del tamaño de un grano de arroz, el compilador (chip) emite una señal de radio cuando es pasado sobre un escaner especial (5/6 New Am.). Soluciones Aplicadas Digitales (Applied Digital Solutions), está trabajando en otro aparato de implante, que podrá rastrear vía

satélite todo tipo de movimiento de una persona. En este momento es usado voluntariamente en el ambiente médico, pero pronto podría ser mandatorio. Un abogado privado advierte de los abusos potenciales: Es lo que llamamos función "espeluznante." Al principio el aparato será usado para aplicaciones que todos estaremos de acuerdo, pero luego, lentamente será usado para más de lo que fue inventado.

**Saquen a los Niños de Las Escuelas Públicas de California.** — La mayoría de las escuelas públicas hoy en día se han convertido en centros de adoctrinamiento. Recientemente, James Dodson, alertó a los padres a no enviar sus hijos a las escuelas públicas de California por miedo a que éstos sean influenciados negativamente por la agenda homosexual. Su organización "Foco en la Familia" (Focus on the Family) señaló el año pasado 10 "medidas

radicales" las cuales requieren que los maestros le digan a sus hijos que la homosexualidad es normal y que cualquiera que se oponga es una persona odiosa (5/02 *Baptist Banner*). La Doctora Laura apoyó al Dr. Dodson y dijo: "Saquen a sus hijos de las escuelas públicas." Pat Buchanan dijo (3/28): "Cualquiera que enseña a un niño que la homosexualidad es un estilo de vida moral, natural o saludable esta mintiéndole a ese niños." □

**TRIN . . .**

(Viene de la pág. 9)

evaporada.

3. El universo consiste de masa, espacio y tiempo.

4. El tiempo se divide así: pasado, presente y futuro.

5. El espacio tiene altura, anchura y longitud. La mente humana dice que matemáticamente esta doctrina es irreconciliable y que no puede ser verdad:  $1+1+1=3$ . Pero si multiplicamos en vez de sumar es fácil obtener el resultado que buscamos:  $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$ . Se ha señalado que todo haz de luz tiene tres rayos: el actínico o químico, el luminoso y el calorífico. Donde están estos tres, hay luz; donde hay luz, tenemos estos tres. Recordemos que "Dios es luz" (1 Juan 1:5).

El hombre es uno, no obstante lo cual posee naturaleza triple, pues consiste en cuerpo, alma y espíritu (1 Tes. 5:23). El gobierno es uno, y sin embargo está compuesto de tres poderes: ejecutivo, legislativo y judicial. La Biblia nos enseña que Dios es amor (1 Juan 4:8). Siempre ha existido y siempre ha tenido esta naturaleza. Es invariable. Ahora bien, el amor no puede existir sin que haya alguien o algo a quien amar. Tiene que haber algún objeto del amor de Dios que haya sido co-existente y co-eterno con Él, es decir, su Hijo. El eterno Amante y el eterno Amado. Y el eterno Vinculo

y expresión de ese amor es el Espíritu Santo. Por lo tanto, Dios nunca estuvo solo.

Es cierto que la palabra "Trinidad" no aparece en los textos sagrados. Pero usaremos la palabra para referirnos a una doctrina que sí está en la Biblia. Las palabras omnisciente y omnipotente tampoco se hallan en la Biblia, sin embargo nadie se incomoda al usarlas o duda que la Biblia enseña que son atributos de Dios.

Veamos lo que dice Génesis 1:26-27: "... Hagamos al hombre a nuestra imagen." ¿A quién se dirigía Dios al decir "hagamos"? ¿A quién si no a su Hijo y al Espíritu Santo, iguales a Él en sustancia, podría Dios hablar en términos tan familiares (Juan 1:1-3, 10; Gén. 1:2; Job 33:4; 26:13)? Sin embargo, la Biblia no había de tres Creadores, sino de un solo Creador, lo que prueba que el Padre, el Hijo y el Espíritu Santo son el mismo y único Jehová Dios y Creador (Isa.44:24).

Un texto favorito de los que rechazan la doctrina de la Trinidad es *Deuteronomio 6:4*: "Oye Israel: *Jehová nuestro Dios, Jehová uno es.*" Sin embargo, la enseñanza cristiana de la Trinidad no contradice en ninguna manera este texto. Nosotros no creemos en "tres dioses en uno," sino en tres personas en un solo Dios. Y estas mismas palabras, leídas en hebreo, constituyen toda una revelación

a favor de la doctrina cristiana de la Trinidad. La palabra "uno" puede tener dos significados en el hebreo. Por ejemplo la palabra hebrea que se usa en Génesis 11:6: "He aquí el pueblo es uno" es el término "*ehad*" que significa una unidad compuesta como también sucede en (Gén. 2:24; 2 Sam. 2:25; Jueces 20:8). En el hebreo hay otra palabra que significa uno solo "*yahid*" (Jueces 11:34), que se emplea para designar una unidad absoluta, sin embargo el Espíritu Santo no la utilizó en Deuteronomio 6:4, sino que la palabra hebrea que se usa para "*Jehová uno es*" es el té "*ehad*" que significa una unidad compuesta; lo cual es un argumento a favor de la Deidad trina. Como bien escribió el apóstol Juan: "*Porque tres son los que dan testimonio en el cielo: el Padre, el Verbo y Espíritu Santo; y estos tres son uno ... Este es el verdadero Dios*" (1 Juan 5:7, 20).

Además los cristianos tenemos un Padre que es llamado Dios (Rom. 1:7; Ef. 4:6). Un Hijo que es llamado Dios (Isaías 9:6; Juan 1:1, 14; Rom. 9:5). Un Espíritu Santo que es llamado Dios (Hechos 5:3-4; 28:25-27 comparado con Isaías 6:8-10). Pero no hay tres Dioses sino que las Escrituras enseñan que Dios es uno, y que fuero de Él no hay Dios (Deut. 32:39; Isaías 44:6, 8; Gál. 3:20) por tanto, si "el Padre, el Hijo y el Espíritu Santo"

son llamados Dios, es porque los tres son el mismo y único Dios verdadero (Mat. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).

Sin duda, quienes amamos a Dios con todo nuestro corazón y hemos dedicado nuestra vida a su servicio, debemos llegar a tener una comprensión cabal y madura de las grandes verdades referentes a la naturaleza de Dios. Pero si queremos conocer a Dios debemos acercarnos a Él con humildad, reconociendo nuestra incapacidad de comprender lo infinito, y buscando ser enseñados por Él. Sólo podremos aprender lo que Él nos quiera enseñar, pues no podemos analizar a Dios en un laboratorio, ni reducir lo infinito a una fórmula. El intelecto no puede descubrir a Dios ya que "*Dios es un Espíritu*" y por lo tanto, sólo puede ser conocido espiritualmente (1 Cor. 2:14).

En conclusión, la Santísima Trinidad es más que un dogma teológico, es parte vital de la vida nueva que Dios nos ha dado y tal vez, sólo el estudio de esta doctrina, nos ayudará a comprender las riquezas de nuestra experiencia cristiana. Decimos con Pablo: "¡Oh profundidad de las riquezas de la sabiduría y de la ciencia de Dios! ¡Cuán insondables son sus juicios, y inescrutables sus caminos! ... A él sea la gloria por los siglos. Amén" (Rom. 11:33-36). □



*“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:3-4).*

Note — It has come to our attention that some teachers, even in fundamental Baptist schools are teaching that this passage refers to spirit-baptism and not water baptism.

“This passage in Romans is taken to mean ‘water baptism’ by Bengel, Calvin, Tholuck, Ruckert, Lightfoot, Lange, Meyer, Barnes, Stuart, Shedd, Schaff, Conybeare and Howson, Webster and Wilkinson, Hodge, Ellicott, Alford, Stier, Dwight, Riddle, Godet, and Moule in his recent volume, Marvin R. Vincent in his ‘Word Studies’, and all others consulted.” W.E. Bierderwolf (**A Help to the Study of the Holy Spirit**, p. 79).

1. Here is a reference to the historical facts of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. These redemptive facts are the

## Water Baptism A Symbol of the Resurrection

By Chester E. Tulga

ground of our salvation. These acts are accepted, believed and relied upon for salvation by the immersed believer. Those who trust in these facts as the basis of their salvation renounce all works of righteousness as a ground of hope and accept the substitutionary atonement of the Son of God on their behalf. Baptism is a preaching ordinance, preaching in symbol the redemptive facts: the death, burial and resurrection of Christ for the believer.

2. Baptism is the symbolical reproduction of these facts. The reason why this symbol is important is that it is a faithful reproduction of the redemptive facts. Discard immersion and the symbolism is without meaning. To interpret the symbolism in a mystical sense only, is to separate it from its illustration in life — the ordinance of baptism.

3. Baptism is also the outward illustration of the believer’s mystical identification with Christ in His atoning death and resurrection. Baptism here means the re-enactment of what happened to Christ, and what has happened to the believer who by faith is in Christ. To attempt to interpret this passage as simply baptism is to lose the

richness of meaning here. To interpret this passage as mystical, apart from visible baptism, is to miss its plain teaching.

The immersed believer symbolically puts the grave between himself and the sinful life with which he had been in harmony, and a new life in Christ to which he is symbolically resurrected. The immersed believer leaves the world by the gate of watery death and through a symbolical resurrection he enters upon the resurrected life of the believer.

4. The appeal is to dead and buried believers to renounce sin. The appeal is: How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? How can we sin when we have died to sin with Christ? How can we sin when we are dead to things of this world? We have been buried with Christ to live a new life? How can we who died to sin still live in it?

E. J. Forrester (**A Righteousness of God for Unrighteous Men**, pp. 132-133) says on this passage, “Why, says the Apostle, your baptism sets forth the true view. If you understand the meaning of your baptism, you could never make the mistake of supposing that the doctrine of grace abounding in

justification by faith, gives license to continue in sin. In that baptism you were buried.

“Now, when do you bury people? It is when they are dead. Very well; you were buried in baptism because in your profession of faith you really professed to have died; and sin was the thing to which you died. Your burial in baptism was intended, therefore, to declare that you had died to sin.

“And there was another side to your baptism. You were buried to be raised again. And your burial meant that you had died to sin, so your resurrection from the grave of baptism meant that you were to walk in newness of life. Christ died for sin, and was buried. When he rose again it was not to the former life in the body of flesh which He had lived among His disciples; but to a new, glorified life. So when you rose from your tomb in the baptismal water your resurrection meant that you were henceforth to live, not the old life of sin, but a new life of holiness. You have become identified with Christ in His death and in His life.”

The mode of baptism is important but the meaning of baptism must not be abandoned. □

**MASON . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

Back years ago, when the French Revolution occurred, France became officially atheistic, and the streets of Paris ran red with blood. More recently communism has triumphed in Russia such that Russia is atheistic. Communism labels religion “the opiate of the people” and is the deadly foe of religion. Communism itself might be thought of as a form of religion, in which the state — or rather the “party” is worshiped. They have on a world-wide evangelistic campaign to convert people to communism today. Should communism gain complete sway over the world, Christianity would be “liquidated” and along with it all who refuse to renounce it.

### It Is Hard To Be An Atheist

There are several good reasons as to why it is hard for a person to be an atheist:

**1. Because God did not make men with natural atheistic tendencies.** Human beings are naturally religious. There is an old saying that “man is incurably religious.” Human beings have a natural tendency to worship something. This is seen illustrated in all branches of the human family, for there are “gods many and lords many.”

One must become an atheist, for the natural tendency, even of fallen creatures is to worship.

**2. Because one must reverse the regular processes of reason in order to become an atheist.** The human mind demands a cause for an effect. Atheists behold created things and deny they have any creator. A little child looked down into Grand Canyon with wonderment and exclaimed, “Who did it?” This is the natural cry of a human being who beholds the wonders of creation. The atheist answers, “No one!”

**3. Because one must go against the realities of human experience in order to become an atheist.** Observation and experiences tells us that things don’t happen without an adequate cause. Napoleon’s unanswerable argument to his atheistic field marshal, was to point to the starry heavens and say, “Who made all those things up there?” In this connection read Romans 1:2-23.

**4. Because atheism sees design but denies a Designer.** The universe is most intricately designed — the human body is a marvel of design — and the laws that govern things are exact. It requires nothing less than mental assassination for one to be an atheist in view of all this.

**5. Because atheism is completely unscientific.** Scientific men

observe certain phenomena and seek to ascertain the cause. Atheism denies all cause. Some of the greatest of all scientists have been devout Christians. No one should be a more earnest believer in God than the scientist who studies his laws.

**6. Because atheism denies any ultimate purpose for anything.** The world, according to atheism, is like a rudderless ship in un-charted seas, just floundering around. If atheism were true, there would be no reason for our being here, and we would be traveling nowhere. No chart, no compass, no guide, no destination!

**7. Because atheism denies the truth of the Bible,** which has been proven to be true in human experience, and through fulfilled prophecy.

There can be no truthful denial concerning the fulfillment of prophecy. Just one indisputable fulfillment of one prophecy gives the lie to atheism. Likewise just one, indisputable answer to prayer, proves the existence of God.

It is interesting to note that the Bible does not argue for God’s existence — it *assumes it*. His existence is too clearly shown in this world, for intelligent denial. □

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## Church

A reading church is an informed church.

An informed church is an interested church.

An interested church is an active church.

An active church is a serving church.

A serving church is God’s Church.

## One Thing

One thing I have on earth which I  
Can never have in Heaven,  
A rare and blessed privilege  
Which He to me has given:

A chance to preach His wondrous Word,  
To save a soul from dying.  
(Hark, far off in the dark and cold  
The little lambs are crying!)

A chance to win a starry crown,  
Not for my own adorning—  
A gift to lay at His dear feet  
Some bright eternal morning!

## Nigeria: Six Pastors Killed, 40 Churches Razed in Jos Violence

Compass Direct News has reported that the murderous rioting sparked Muslim attacks on Christians and their property on November 28-29 leaving six pastors dead, at least 50 people killed and 40 churches destroyed, according to church leaders.

More than 25,000 persons have been displaced in the two days of violence, according to the Emergency Management Agency (BEMA)

“What began as outrage over suspected vote fraud in local elections quickly hit the religious faiths that quakes from time to time in this city located between the Islamic north and Christian south. Many angry Muslims took aim at Christian sites rather than at political targets,” said the Compass Direct News story. “Police and troops reportedly killed about 400 rampaging Muslims in an effort to quell unrest, and Islamists shot, slashed or stabbed to death most of more than 100 Christians.

“Among Christians killed was Joseph Yari of the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA), A Clinic, Tudun-Wada in Jos. On November 28, his wife Mary Yari told Compass, he had returned from his work place along Ibrahim Taiwo Road saying he was going to a Baptist church that Muslims were setting

on fire.” Mary Yari was reported by Compass Direct as saying, “Shortly after my husband left, I heard several anguished cries, only to be told that my husband has been shot dead on the premises of the church. Her grief notwithstanding, she said she had forgiven the killers, as “they were ignorant of the crime they have committed because they do not know Jesus Christ.”

The story went on to say that the Rev. Emmanuel Kyari, pastor of Christ Baptist Church, Tudun Wada, told Compass that Joseph Yari died helping other Christians who repelled Muslim fanatics intent on burning down his church building.

“Yari was standing beside my wife when he was shot by Muslims,” Rev. Kyari said. “In addition to others who were killed, there were also three other Christians who were shot, and two died instantly. Among the six slain pastors was the Rev. Ephraim Masok, pastor of the ECWA Church in the same area of Jos, who had moved his family out of harm’s way and was returning to the church property when Muslim fanatics attacked and killed him. Rev. Masok was buried on Saturday (December 6).

Compass Direct then

reported that a Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) leader in the Chawly area identified only as Pastor James was killed in the rioting that left Jos skies covered in smoke, and the Rev. Bulus Tsetu of an Assemblies of God church. Names of the other three slain clergymen and Baptist and Deeper Life Bible churches were not readily available, but their deaths were confirmed, according to church leaders.

Among the 40 destroyed churches in Jos, they said, was the ECWA Church, Rikkos; Kaunar Bible Church, Rikkos; Christ Baptist Church, Tudun-Wada, Nasarawa Baptist Church, Adebayo Street Baptist Church; Sarkin Mangu COCIN Church, ECWA Church Kunga, Victory Baptist Church, Deeper Life Bible Church, Ungwar Rimi; and Emmanuel Baptist Church.

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### HYMN . . .

(Continued from page 7

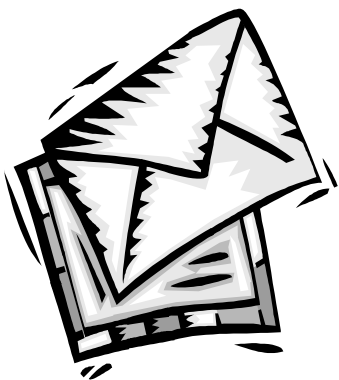
where,” he smiled. “I have thanked you in my heart so many times that, before I

go away, I want to thank you in words.” He had brought her as a gift a gold pin made in the form of a small Bible. The whole experience touched her deeply and that evening, sitting on her doorstep she wrote a song of four verses and a chorus which she sent to the composer William Bradbury who had already set to music many of her verses.

Not long afterward the song appeared in print. Anna Warner had expected this, but was unprepared for the great enthusiasm with which every one received it. Within a very few years, the song “Jesus Loves Me” had traveled to the furthest corners of the earth. Today, as we sing it in our Sunday Schools, it is being sung in China, India, Iceland, Africa, and in countless other places in countless other languages.

As a beautiful ending to the life story of Anne Warner, we think of the magnificent tribute given her at her death by the cadets of West Point. Upon their wish, she was given a burial service with full military honors — this woman who had lived so quietly and so simply with her books and her prayers. The world’s tribute to her is reverence for “Jesus Loves Me” — the best-loved children’s hymn ever written. □ □

**What we send forth in the lives of others comes back into our own**



## The Post Office Box

I'm a mailbox in a distant land. My owner is an American — a Missionary. He was just here and with great expectations opened me up only to find an empty box. I felt sorry for him when he walked away empty handed. I hope I have a letter awaiting him tomorrow.

Friends, if you only knew what a letter meant to someone living far away. It is a something you can't really explain, I guess. It is something you have to experience.

A letter is a means of communication. For a missionary it's the only means. There is no picking up the telephone and saying, "Hi, how are you?"

It is also an encouragement. It lets the missionary know that people are thinking about and praying for him.

The letter need not be long and please don't make it formal. Missionaries are just people too. Make it about you and how the Lord's blessed you this day. Did you wash the car, bake a cake, watch a flower bloom, or watch Johnny take his first step.

In Proverbs it says, "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." *Help me* in my job as a mailbox. I want to see a smile on my owner's face. Write *today* — a missionary that you know. You'll be blessed for it.

—Signed: A Post Office Box

### 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 do Thy will.

## A New Heaven

By C. O. Baker

*"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness"* — 2 Pet. 3:10.

*"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away"* — Rev. 21:1.

Why did Peter and other early Christians look for new heavens? What is wrong with heaven that God finds it necessary to make a new one?

Most of us poor mortals feel that heaven as it is today will be all that we can desire of bliss and eternal happiness. Those who are already in heaven and others who will inhabit that fair land will probably not be able to see anything wrong with heaven, but undoubtedly it bears marks and memories of the Devil's rebellion against God which may be visible to no one except God and His obedient angels, but which are an abomination and offense to His holiness.

The Devil was first called Lucifer, the son of the morning (Isa. 14:12).

In Ezekiel the 28th chapter, the Devil is described as the city of Tyre. The sinful, wicked city of Tyre was so rebellious against God that

probably He used it to represent the Devil, since it was such a striking parallel.

"Thus saith the Lord god; thou sealest up the sun, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty ... Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou was created, till iniquity was found in thee ... Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness" (Ezk. 28:11-15, 17).

Thus we see that Lucifer, the light bearer from *lux* which means light, and *fero* to bring; he who was perfect in beauty and became corrupt because of it. His heart was lifted up and pride swept him off his feet. He then vows that he will do the five following things:

"I will ascend into heaven" (He had been kicked out of it) — "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God" — "I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation" (that is, in the church). "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14). This must have taken place in heaven, Lucifer, the leading angel, vowed this five-fold rebellion against God.

(See **HEAVEN** on page 15)

**HEAVEN . . .**

(Continued from page 14)

Heaven the home of God, the Paradise mentioned many times in the Bible, the home of the faithful in Christ, was never the same after the old Serpent had to be thrown out along with the other evil angels who revolted with him.

When a sinner becomes penitent God removes his sins as "far from him as the east is from the west"; God buries them in the depths of the sea: He puts them behind His back, and remembers them against him no more forever.

When a sinner persists in rebellion against God, God must put him away from the just and saved and forget him. Undoubtedly the destruction of the heaven where the Devil rebelled and casting him into the lake of fire is a prelude to God's forgetting that old rebel and remembering him no more forever.

Then having put the offense out of His sight, God will create a new heaven. John saw this new heaven in the preview granted him on the isle of Patmos.

We do not have much of a description of the new heaven. But judging by what is written in the Bible about the one that now is, it is not hard to determine a few things about it.

"And he that sat upon the throne said, behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me write: for

these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me it is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Rev. 21:5-7).

The following verses convey the truth that there shall be no fearful, unbelieving or abominable in heaven. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life shall be there. There will be no temple there. "The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." Also God and the Lamb are the light of the New Jerusalem or heaven. There will be no night and the new heaven will have no protecting gates for the Devil and his angels shall be in the lake of fire!

The glory and honor of nations and kings shall be brought into the new heaven. Kings who accepted Christ and who favored and sheltered ministers and missionaries will have a peculiar glory which began here on earth, to demonstrate in that heavenly place. Nations which have exalted Christ will have a glory all their own which shall blaze with heavenly splendor in that fair clime. They shall hear the Son says:

"Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you

from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: naked and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison and ye came unto me" (Mt. 25:34-36).

God will not be overshadowed by the memory of a revolt. There are now and ever shall be true, good angels who fought the rebellion and who refused to join the Devil's gang; who remember those bitter days when Lucifer (Light bearer) became a fallen angel and his angel followers were bound in chains of darkness awaiting the judgment of the great day. The new heaven shall forever erase these troublesome memories from their minds.

The great refrain of heaven's songs shall be:

"Thou are worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests" (Rev. 5:9).

The only thing that will give you entrance into that heavenly place will be your acceptance of Christ as your Savior, believing that He can and does save you separate and apart from works of any sort. Does He save you now? If not, why not? □ □

## The Many-Sideness of Jesus

Jesus challenges the world with his many-sidedness. He meets the needs of all classes and conditions of men. As deep answereth unto deep, so does He respond to the movings of each soul of man. Call the roll of the world's workers and ask, "What think ye of Christ?" Their answers amaze us.

To the artist He is "The One Altogether Lovely"; to the architect He is "The Chief Cornerstone"; to the astronomer He is "The Sun of Righteousness"; to the biologist, He is "The Life"; to the builder He is the "One Sure Foundation"; to the carpenter He is "The Door"; to the doctor He is "The Great Physician"; to the educator He is "The Great Teacher"; to the florist He is "The Rose of Sharon"; to the geologist He is "The Rock of Ages"; to the philanthropist He is "The Unspeakable Gift"; to the baker He is "The living Bread"; to the farmer He is "The Great Sower"; to the servant He is "The Good Master."

What is He to you? □ □

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Spurgeon said that defending the Bible was like proposing to defend a lion. If you just let him out he would defend himself.

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What we send forth into the lives of others comes back into our own lives.

**ETERNAL . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (1 Jn. 2:19).

**2. That all who are engaged in church work are saved.** There were false apostles, deceitful workers even in New Testament times and today there are many religious workers that are not saved, and therefore not secure.

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Mt. 7:22-23).

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an anti-christ. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is

partaker of his evil deeds" (2 Jn. 7-11).

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not" (2 Pet. 2:1-3).

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Tim. 4:3).

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (2 Tim. 4:3).

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Tim. 4:1-2).

**3. That saints should not be tempted.** Even the Lord Jesus Christ was

tempted.

"Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil" (Mt. 4:1).

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (2 Pet. 2:9).

"For in that he himself hath suffered being

tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted" (Heb. 2:18).

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).

**4. That saints may not fall.** Saints can and do fall many times, but they cannot so fall as to be

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## The Bible Is . . .

- Accurate** in its assessment and **absolute** in its authority.
- Binding** in its concepts and **beautiful** in its pronouncements.
- Confrontational** in its style and **comforting** in its security.
- Direct** in its approach and **demanding** in its acceptance.
- Edifying** in its message and **educational** in its method.
- Faithful** in its resolve and **fruitful** in its results.
- Great** in its power and **good** in its purpose.
- High** in its demands, and **holy** in its reasoning.
- Inspired** in its doctrine and **infinite** in its duration.
- Joyful** in its music and **just** in its mandates.
- Keen** in its calculation and **kind** in its contents.
- Loud** in its announcements and **lovely** in its arrangement.
- Magnificent** in its beauty and **marvelous** in its bounty.
- Noble** in its claims and **notable** in its cause.
- Opulent** in its value and **optimum** in its victory.
- Powerful** in its testimony and **proficient** in its teachings.
- Questionless** in its veracity and **qualitative** in its veneration.
- Rational** in its judgment and **righteous** in its jurisdiction.
- Sacred** in its authorship and **satisfying** in its application.
- Transcendent** in its glory and **timeless** in its truths.
- Universal** in its scope and **unique** in its message.
- Vibrant** in its animation and **victorious** in its accomplishments.
- Wise** in its truth and **worthy** in its appraisal.
- Yeomanly** in its advice and **youthful** in its action and
- Zealous** in its vision and **zestful** in its vibrancy.

# No Room For Broad-mindedness

The preacher is sometimes accused of being narrow-minded because he insists upon the Christian's forsaking all to follow Christ.

But all of life is narrow, and success is to be found only by passing through the narrow gate and down the straight way.

There is no room for broad-mindedness in the chemical laboratory. Water is composed of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. The slightest deviation from that formula is forbidden.

There is no room for broad-mindedness in music. There can be only eight notes in an octave. The skilled director will not permit his first violin to play even so much as one-half of a note off the written note, chord, and key.

There is no room for broad-mindedness in the mathematics classroom. Neither geometry, calculus, nor trigonometry allows any variation from exact accuracy, even for old times sake. The solution of the problem is either right or it is wrong — no tolerance there.

There is no room for broad-mindedness in bio-

Faith makes a promise — faith believes it, hope anticipates it, patience quietly awaits it.

logy. One varying result out of a thousand experiments will invalidate an entire theory.

There is no room for broad-mindedness on the athletic field. The game is played according to the rules, with no favors shown for charity's sake.

There is no room for broad-mindedness in the garage. The mechanic there says that the piston rings must fit the cylinder walls within one-thousandth part of an inch. Even between friends there cannot be any variation if the motor is to run smoothly.

How then shall we expect that broad-mindedness shall rule in the realm of religion and morals? □

## ETERNAL . . .

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eternally lost. That saints can fall is taught in several passages.

*"Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me"* (Mic. 7:8).

*"For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief"* (Prov. 24:16).

*"Though he fall, he*

*shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread"* (Psa. 37:24-25).

*"Thou hast thrust sore at me that I might fall: but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation"* (Psa. 118:13-14).

*"All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down"* (Psa. 145:10-14).

**5. That saints persevere alone.** Just as no believer can save himself, so no believer can keep himself. Our enabling is of God. The keeping power is not self but God.

*"But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him"* (Psa. 37:39-40).

*"But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God"* (Psa. 40:17).

*"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us"* (Rom. 8:31)?

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

*"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"* (2 Tim. 1:12).

*"For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off"* (Psa. 37:28).

*"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy"* (Jude 24).

*"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"* (1 Pet. 1:5). □ □

**If the church  
Neglects the children  
It is certain the  
Children will neglect  
the church**



# Why I Left The Methodists

By George R. Reynolds

I cite your attention to two passages of Scripture, namely:

*“Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind”* (Rom. 14:5).

*“Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”* (1 Pet. 3:15).

Let us notice my subject, especially the word *left*. This word is past tense of *leave*, and means to take leave of, or to withdraw oneself from; to go away or depart from; to desert; to forsake; hence, to give up, or to cease from; thus, the word *leave* signifies an act of departure.

As the subject indicates, I left the Methodists. The first ten years of my converted life, and the first seven years of my ministry were spent among these lovely people. And they are a likable and lovely folk. I might add that I am still grateful to God for many warm and choice friends among these people with whom I was formerly numbered. Therefore, in this article, I desire to heed the Word of God by “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15). For “the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient; in meekness instructing those

that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

In one brief essay, it would be impossible for me to name, much less discuss, all of the doctrinal reasons that prompted me to go from the Methodists to the Baptists. Therefore, I will be constrained to limit myself to the major doctrinal differences between these two religious groups.

First, many Methodists believe that it is possible for a child of God to be entirely sanctified in this life, and live above or without sin upon this earth.

Baptists teach that the saved person has two natures. The presence of the two natures explain why a converted individual may sin.

The greatest Apostle said: “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” (Gal. 5:17). This shows why people do not live above sin. “Ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we

ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to-wit, the redemption of our body” (Rom. 8:23). “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Heb. 9:28). “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself” (Phil. 3:20-21).

The saved people are not urged to sin, and yet, if they do sin, then they have an Advocate with the Father. “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous (1 Jn. 2:1). “If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world” (1 Cor. 11:31-32). “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn. 1:9).

Second, most Methodists believe that after a person has been saved by the grace of God, that it is possible for this individual to so apostatize from God as to finally be lost in hell.

Baptists believe in the eternal security of the saved soul, or in “Once Saved, Always Saved.” They do not think that a child of God can ever be lost. No person saved by grace will ever go to hell. This great soul-comforting doctrine is abundantly taught in the Word of God. In fact, there is so much Scripture on this subject, that I hardly know where to start with this study.

Jesus said: “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” (Jn. 5:24). Paul said: “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1). Notice the promise of the Savior: “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish” (Jn. 10:28). Could language be stronger? The Apostle Peter said that we: “Are kept by the power of God

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through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:5). Jude thinks that God is able to keep the saved. Listen to his words: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24).

The Psalmist said: "The Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever" (Psa. 37:28). The Apostle said: "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom" (2 Tim. 4:18). "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him" (2 Tim. 1:12).

Third, most members of the Methodist congregations believe in and practice the baptism of infant children.

Baptists do not baptize any one except a penitent, trusting believer in Christ. This explains why they do not endorse, nor practice the baptism of infants.

The New Testament teaches Believers Baptism, and no other. Jesus, in the Great Commission, said: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am

with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Mt. 28:19-20). Our Christian beliefs and practices must be in harmony with, and find support in the Great Commission of our Lord. This Commission is also stated in Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21-23. According to Matthew the followers of Christ are to:

1. Go.
2. Teach all nations.
3. Baptize the taught or believers.
4. Teach the baptized to observe all things commanded.

Matthew's "teach all nations" is given in the margin "make disciples" or Christians of all nations. The idea is "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations."

There is no support for infant baptism in the New Testament Scriptures. This practice rests upon inference; is therefore non-Scriptural, and destroys the voluntary element in religion.

Infant baptism is contrary to the spirit and wording of the Great Commission. Believers baptism is obligatory upon the followers of Jesus Christ and we are not to suit our own conscience in this sacred rite; but adhere to what our Lord has commanded! The lordship of Jesus requires loyalty to Him in all matters of faith and practice!

The Baptist position on New Testament baptism

harmonizes with the ideas contained in the Great Commission.

We do some things in order to get results; we take medicine in order to recover from an illness. On the other hand, we do some things as a result; we give a receipt in order to show that a debt is paid. Baptists baptize people, not in order to save them or even to help save them; but because they are already saved by faith in Christ!

Baptism presents several great truths: First — Historical Christianity; the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord; Second — Experimental Christianity; the individual experience of the believer, once dead in sin, but now alive through faith in Jesus Christ, and rising from the waters of baptism to walk as a new creature in Christ. Third — Prophetic Christianity; the Christian's hope of the resurrection of His body from the grave.

Fourth, whenever any person desires to be baptized in the Methodist church, he may have his choice of either of three modes of baptism, that is sprinkling, pouring or immersion.

Baptists insist that baptism is by immersion, and by immersion only. New Testament churches have two ordinances, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper. The beauty and simplicity of those two sacred ordinances draw men to Christ.

New Testament baptism has four essential elements. These are:

1. A Scriptural Subject — a penitent believer in Christ.

2. A Scriptural Act — immersion in water.

3. A Scriptural Design or Purpose — the picturing of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord.

4. A Scriptural Administrator — a New Testament church.

Baptism in Apostolic times was always performed by immersion. "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the Eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:38-39).

Fifth, the Methodist people have a vague and indefinite conception about the origin of the church. They confuse it with the Old Testament customs and practices. And some of them go so far as to assert: "The church had its beginning in the days of Abraham, and was perfected in the days of the Wesleys."

Baptists hold views about the church that are not advocated by any other religious group. In Matthew Jesus Christ said: "Upon this rock I will build my

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church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18). Paul tells us “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles” (1 Cor. 12:28). In Luke we read: “And it came to pass in those days that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles” (Lk. 6:12-13). Thus Christ organized His church in the days of His flesh, or in the days of His earthly ministry.

The prophet foretold that our blessed Lord was to build His church. We read: “Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord; even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both” (Zech. 6:12-13).

The prophet Isaiah enlightens us as to who the BRANCH is, “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit

of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord” (Isa. 11:1-2). These two prophecies refer to Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Him; Luke 4:18 and John 1:29-34 prove this to be true. The statements of Paul show that the church is the temple of the Lord (1 Cor. 1:1-2; 3:16-17). The Apostle Peter addresses the saved as being “a spiritual house” in 1 Peter 2:5; and Paul tells us that the church is the House (1 Tim. 3:15). The first six verses of the third chapter of the book of Hebrews clearly reveal that Christ built His own house or church! Listen to Psalms 127:1 — “Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.”

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus Christ said: “I will build my church.” Did He build His church? In Matthew 18:15-17 we find the Savior instructing His disciples to tell a personal grievance against a brother to the church. Question: how could they “tell it to the church,” if there was no church to tell it to? Furthermore, the great book of Hebrews speaks of Christ in these words: “Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee” (Heb. 2:12). The only place in the New Testament where our Lord ever sang was at the close of the Last Supper with His disciples

(Mt. 26:30). Therefore our Lord established His church before His crucifixion: before He went away from this earth.

How do we know that Jesus Christ set up His church during the days of His personal ministry upon the earth? In Matthew 16:18 He stated that this was one of the things that He came to do. Before His departure from this earth, He said that He had finished His work. In John 17:4 our blessed Lord said “I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”

In the second chapter of the book of Acts, we find this church already in existence and functioning. It has already been established!

This we read, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls ... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:41, 47). We add wood to the fire; we add gas to our car; we add to our bank account — “And the Lord added to the church.”

How could this addition have occurred if the church was not here before Pentecost? Furthermore, this church was local and visible, and was located in the city of Jerusalem (Acts 5:11; 8:1, 3).

A scriptural church consists of the regenerate only; and of these, only

after they have been scripturally baptized upon a public profession of their personal faith in Christ. We believe on the Savior; we confess our faith, and are baptized. These last two give us New Testament church membership.

### Examine This Study of the Church

1. The **Builder** was Christ (Mt. 16:18).

2. Its **Beginning** was in the days of the Savior’s earthly ministry (1 Cor. 12:28; Lk. 6:12-16).

3. **Permanence** was promised this church (Mt. 16:18; Eph. 3:21).

4. The **Characteristics** of this church were very marked.

a. A Holy Spirit church (Acts 2:37).

b. Believers baptism only (Acts 18:8).

c. Only the baptized at the Lord’s Table (Acts 2:14-42).

d. Congregational government (Acts 6:5).

The Commission outlines the tremendous task of the churches, and this is nothing less than bringing a lost world back to God.

I believe that the churches of our Lord should be soul-saving institutions and lead the lost to the cross. We must build on that foundation laid at Calvary. We must allow the Holy Spirit to guide the churches. We must maintain our fellowship with God

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through constant prayer.

Sixth, since the Methodist Church came out of the Church of England, and since the Church of England came out of Roman Catholicism, therefore the Methodists trace their line of church succession through the Catholics. Or in other words, they believe that New Testament churches were overcome and ceased to exist during the dark ages.

There are two methods of finding the true church today: one is by the process of historical elimination; and the other is by the doctrinal test.

*To be scriptural, churches must be Apostolic in doctrine and practice.* The churches of today that most perfectly fit the New Testament pattern in doctrine and policy are the true successors and counterparts of the New Testament churches. The important thing of which to be sure, is the Baptists are now in doctrine and practice the successors of the local New Testament churches. Baptists do not believe in any Post-Biblical additions to the churches of our Lord. Furthermore, *any present day church or churches whose history is exhausted before, or by the time we reach the sixteenth century, is too young to be the church founded by our Lord!*

Who founded the

Baptist churches? And what was the date?

It is our sincere claim that there have never ceased to be Baptists since the days of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ down to this present time. When we say this, we are thinking about more than the name Baptist. The followers of our Lord have been called many names. Many of these were given by our enemies in derision. *It is not a name, but a set of principles and practices that the earnest student of church history looks for. And we contend that there have been people adhering to the doctrines and practices of Baptists through the centuries.*

I am going to list several quotations from outstanding church historians:

“I have no question in my own mind that there has been a historical succession of the Baptists from the days of Christ to the present time” — Dr. John T. Christian.

“Baptists do not, as most Protestant denominations, date their origin from the Reformation of 1520. By means of that great movement they were brought out of comparative obscurity into prominent notice. They did not, however, originate with the Reformation; for long before Luther lived, yea, long before the Catholic Church itself was known, Baptists and Baptist churches flourished in

Europe, Asia and Africa” — Duncan.

“If the truth of religion were to be judged by the readiness and cheerfulness which any man or sect has suffered for it, then the opinion of no sect can be surer or truer than the Ana-Baptists, since for years past none have been more cruelly punished than these people? — Cardinal Hosius, Catholic.

“Were it not that Baptists have been grievously tormented and cut off with the knife these twelve hundred years, they would swarm in greater numbers than all the reformers” — Cardinal Hosius, Catholic.

“The first century was a history of the Baptists” — Mosheim, Lutheran.

“Before the rise of Luther and Calvin there lay concealed in almost all countries of Europe, persons who adhere tenaciously to the principles of the Dutch Baptist ... The origin of Baptists is lost in the remote depths of antiquity” — Mosheim, Lutheran.

“The institution of the Ana-Baptists is no novelty, but for thirteen hundred years has caused great trouble to the church (Catholic)” — Zwingly.

“Of the Baptists it may be said that they are not reformers. These people, comprising bodies of Christian believers, known under various names in different countries are entirely independent of and

distinct from the Roman and Greek (Catholic) churches, and have an unbroken continuity of existence from the Apostolic days down through the centuries. Throughout this long period they were bitterly persecuted for heresy; driven from country to country, disfranchised, deprived of their property, imprisoned, tortured and slain by the thousands, yet they swerved not from their New Testament faith, doctrine and adherence” — Edinburg Encyclopedia.

“When Luther blew the trumpet of religious freedom, the Baptists came out of their hiding places to share in the general gladness and take part in the conflict. For years they lay in concealment” — Camp.

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

“There are also reasons for believing that on the continent of Europe small hidden societies, who have the opinions of the Ana-Baptists, have existed from the time of the Apostles” — Barclay.

“The church at Jerusalem was a Baptist church, and the church at Samaria was a Baptist Church” — Alexander

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# The Prince of Peace

By William Jennings Bryan

Reared in the home of a carpenter, never having access to the wisdom of the past, never coming in contact with the sages of other lands, and yet, when only thirty years of age, He gave to the world a code of morality the like of which the world has never seen.

He preached for a few months and gathered around Him a few disciples. Then He was crucified; His disciples scattered and most of

them put to death. And yet from this beginning His religion has spread until hundreds of millions have taken His name with reverence upon their lips and millions have been ready to die rather than surrender the faith He puts in their hearts.

How do you explain this fact in history? It's easier to believe Him Divine than to explain in any other way what He said and did and was. Christ has earned the title of "Prince of Peace."

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Campbell (Founder of the Disciples, or Christian, or Church of Christ).

"From the Apostolic to the present time, the sentiments of Baptists, and their practice of Baptism, have had a continual chain of advocates and public monuments of their existence in every century can be produced" — Alexander Campbell.

"In the year 1300, and for several centuries before, all the citizens of Germany, France, Spain, England, and Ireland with the exceptions of a few Baptists, were initiated into what was then called the church (Catholic), as soon as the parents have the rite (Infant Baptism) performed" — Alexander Campbell.

"Hence it is that the Baptist denomination in all ages and in all countries has been as a body the constant asserters of the rights of man and liberty of conscience" — Alexander Campbell.

"The Baptists can trace their origin to the Apostolic times, and produce unequivocal testimony of their existence in every century down to the present time; and the model of their peculiarities the Scriptures themselves afford" — Alexander Campbell.

"The Baptist bodies of today trace their origin as distinct communities to the Protestant Reformation. It is claimed indeed that the churches of the Apostolic age were in doctrine, polity and ordinances the exact counterpart of Baptist churches today" — Bureau of the Census.

"The Baptists are the only body of known Christians that have never symbolized with Rome" — Newton.

"We have now seen that the Baptists who were formerly called Anabaptists, and in later times Mennonites, were the original Waldenses, and who have long in the history of the church received the honor of that origin. *On this account the Baptists may be considered as the only Christian community which has stood since the days of the Apostles, and as a Christian society which has preserved pure the doctrine of the gospel through all ages.* The perfectly correct external and internal economy of the Baptist denomination tends to confirm the truth, disputed by the Romish Church, that the Reformation brought about in the sixteenth century was in the highest degree necessary, and at the same time goes to refute the erroneous notion of the Catholics that their denomination is the most ancient" — Dr. Ypeig, Dutch Reform Church.

Seventh, in regard to the Lord's Supper, Methodists say that if a person is saved, then that qualifies that individual to come to the Lord's Table. To be sure, the person coming to the Memorial Supper ought to be a Christian, one genuinely converted to God, however, the New Testament sets forth other

prerequisites in regard to coming to our Lord's Table.

Baptists believe in a restricted Lord's Supper. This Memorial Supper was instituted by Jesus as the head of His baptized disciples, His church. According to the New Testament baptism always precedes or comes before the Supper. This Memorial Supper is limited or restricted to the baptized. Christ gave the Supper to His followers, His church. Paul writing to the church at Corinth, said: "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you" (1 Cor. 11:23). Thus, we see that this Supper was committed to the church.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:41-42).

1 Corinthians 11:26 says: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." His coming makes us think of heaven and home. □ □

## "Come unto me"

**C** stands for Children.  
**O** stands for Old people.  
**M** stands for Middle-aged people. **E** stands for Everybody.

## 10 Scriptural Convictions To Build Into the Lives of Every Church Member

By Jack H. Collier

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God and the final authority for my life (Psa. 138:2; Mt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:16).

2. My purpose in life is to seek God with my whole heart and to build my goals around His priorities (Psa. 119:2; Mt. 6:33; Phil. 3:9).

3. My body is the living temple of God and must not be defiled by the lust of the world (Dan. 1:8; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 4:17).

4. My church must teach the foundational truths of the Bible and reinforce my basic convictions (Psa. 29:2; Mt. 7:15-16; 1 Pet. 4:17).

5. My children and grandchildren belong to God, and it is my responsibility to teach them scriptural principles, godly character, and basic convictions (Dt. 6:6-7; Psa. 127:3; Eph. 6:4).

6. My activities must never weaken the scriptural convictions of another Christian (Prov. 28:10; Mt. 18:6; Rom. 14:13).

7. My marriage is a life-long commitment to God and to my marriage partner (Gen. 2:24; Prov. 6:32; Mt. 18:6; Rom. 7:2-3).

8. My money is a trust from God and must be

earned and managed according to scriptural principles (Dt. 8:18; Mal. 4:8; Lk. 16:11; 1 Tim. 6:10).

9. My words must be in harmony with God's Word, especially when reproving and restoring a Christian brother (Prov. 15:28; 18:21; 25:9; Mt. 12:37; 18:15; Gal. 6:1).

10. My affections must be set on things above, not on things of the earth (Job 1:21; Mt. 6:20-21; Col. 3:2; 1 Jn. 2:15-16). □ □

### SINGING . . .

(Continued from page 1)

wait to be drafted into His service.

We sing "O For a Thousand Tongues," and don't use the one we have.

We sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," and let the least little offense sever it.

We sing "Serve the Lord With Gladness," and gripe about all we have to do.

We sing "We're Marching to Zion," but fail to march to Sunday School, prayer meetings, or church.

We sing "I love to Tell the Story," and never mention it all year.

We sing "Cast Thy Burden on the Lord," and worry ourselves into nervous breakdowns.

We sing "The Whole Wide World for Jesus," and never invite our next door neighbor to church!

We sing "Throw Out the Lifeline," and content ourselves with throwing out a fishing line. □

### BEES . . .

(Continued from page 1)

therefore merciful, as your father also is merciful" (Lk. 6:36).

**Be Ready To Give An Answer** — "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15).

**Be Strong** — "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might" (Eph. 6:10).

**Be Fruitful** — "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:10).

**Be Transformed** — "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:2).

**Be An Example** — "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12).

**Be Holy** — "But as he which called you is holy, so be ye holy" (1 Pet. 1:15).

**Be Steadfast** — "Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

**Be Ready** — "Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Mt. 24:44). □ □

### BODY . . .

(Continued from page 5)

digestion, which results in the large food particles being broken down and changed into molecular parts which can pass through the openings into this cell. You may have wondered why you have a stomach, with its digestive juices, why, liver, and pancreas, etc. Here is the reason. The process of digestion will be dealt with later.

I shall not attempt to describe the infinite complexity of a protoplasmic cell. No one yet understands it nor HOW it works. We know some of the operations carried on and some of the necessary conditions and peculiar characteristics, but there is much yet to learn. This substance, protoplasm, excites our curiosity, I'm sure. It is the most miraculous material in the universe, without a doubt. It is the basic substance of all living things, it came from God Himself.

Living matter or protoplasm reveals four phenomena which ought to be remembered. They are not hard to grasp.

1. Irritability, the property of responding in a particular way when a stimulus is applied to it.

2. Metabolism — that is, all the chemical changes produced during its activity. Food materials, for in-

(See **BODY** on page 24)

**FELLOWSHIPS  
and  
CONFERENCES**

**HAMILTON, OH**

February 13-15, 2009.  
Twinbrook Hills Baptist  
Church, 40 Wrenwood Dr.,  
Hamilton, OH 45013,  
Dennis Riddick, Pastor.

\* \* \*

**LUBBOCK, TX**

March 16-18, 2009,  
Tabernacle Baptist Church,  
1911 34th St., Lubbock,  
TX 79411. elbynum@sbc  
global.net

\* \* \*

**SANTA FE, NM**

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

**WNR . . .**

(Continued from page 8)

in Christian conviction.  
Newsweek clearly intends  
to reduce that opposition.”  
— AFA

\* \* \*

**50 Million Pennies  
Mark 50 Million Deaths.**

— Ever wanted to know  
what 50 million pennies  
looks like? A group of pro-  
life advocates in Mississippi  
found out as they collected  
50 million of the coins for  
a unique memorial to mark

the deaths of unborn  
children since Roe v Wade  
allowed unlimited abortions  
in 1973. The Mississippi  
Baptist Convention put  
together this one-of-a-kind  
visual reminder of the  
number of babies who have  
died from abortions. The  
group collected pennies  
from church congregations  
across the state and erected  
a large glass house to store  
all the pennies the size of a  
backyard storage shed.  
Called the Memorail to the  
Missing, the penny-filled  
structure contains a plaque  
that encourages visitors to  
the Baptist convention’s  
headquarters — and the  
legislature across the street  
— to respect life. —  
Lifenews. □

**BODY . . .**

(Continued from page 23)

stance, are built up into  
higher forms — the process  
called anabolism. There is  
at the same time a breaking  
down of complex molecules  
already built up, — called  
katabolism; the products of  
combustion — the garbage  
— are removed by a  
process known as ex-  
cretion. To be exact,  
respiration is nothing more  
than gaseous metabolism.

3. Growth.

4. Reproduction.

Here are four things  
you ought to remember  
about protoplasm —  
Irritability, Metabolism,  
Growth, Reproduction.  
Would you like to know  
how to remember them? As  
a cell of protoplasm what

its chief business is and it  
might reply: “**I Magnify  
God’s Renown.**” That is it  
— I.M.G.R.

I hope you remember  
what I told you about the  
chromatin in the nucleus of  
the cell — that wholly  
miraculous dot in the center  
— where those threads  
divide, and re-divide in  
order to make a new cell  
— one changing into  
thousands and millions. If  
you have forgotten, go back  
to your book and read it  
again. It will repay you,  
because here are the  
chromosomes, and genes  
inside the chromosomes,  
these genes bearing the  
hereditary characters within  
themselves, and passing  
them on from generation to  
generation, from father and  
mother to children. Do not  
ask me how it is done. I do  
not know. Nor does anyone  
else.

We know that these  
genes are geographically  
distributed within the  
chromosome. Just as you  
can look at a map of  
America, and even though  
names are absent, you say,  
this is Florida, this is  
Oregon, this is California,  
and on. So as you examine  
microscopically the com-  
paratively large chromo-  
some of the fruit-fly,  
*Drosophila*, you know that  
the factor for wing-form is  
situated here; there, is the  
lower joint of the front leg,  
and so on. The fruit-fly has  
four large chromosomes in  
each cell, with possibly  
15,000 to 20,000 genes in  
each chromosome. *Human*

egg cells contain 48 very  
small chromosomes, and  
these are thought to contain  
perhaps 10,000 times as  
many genes as the  
corresponding cells of the  
fruit-fly.

We are in the realm of  
infinity when we come to  
think even a little of this  
altogether mysterious ex-  
ample of God’s wisdom and  
work.

I close by letting God  
speak to us through His  
servant David again. This  
is Psalm 139: “My sub-  
stance was not hid from  
thee, when I was made in  
secret and curiously  
wrought in the lowest parts  
of the earth. Thine eyes did  
see my substance, yet being  
incomplete, and in thy book  
all my members were  
written, which in con-  
tinuance were fashioned,  
while as yet there was none  
of them. How precious are  
thy thoughts unto me, O  
God! How great is the sum  
of them! If I should count  
them they are more in  
number than the sand:  
when I awake, I am still  
with thee.”

In this great passage  
are some startling thoughts,  
to which I shall refer in my  
next article as we go on  
with this great subject. Do  
you today catch a glimpse  
of the Lord as He plans the  
body of those who should  
be His children through  
faith in Jesus Christ? I hope  
so. What is your relation to  
this great Savior? If you  
have not yet become  
acquainted, will you not do  
so? *He’s very wonderful!*