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Perfectionists

By Charles H. Spurgeon

In striking contrast to those apologists for sin. I met in my first pastorate, as I have often done since, a number of persons who professed to be perfect, and who said that they had lived so many months or years without sinning against God. One man, who told me that he was perfect, was humped-back; and when I remarked that I thought, if he were a perfect man, he ought to have a perfect body, he became so angry that I said to him, "Well, my friend, if you are perfect, there are a great many more as near perfection as you."

"Oh!" he exclaimed, "I shall feel it for having been betrayed into anger." He said that he had not been angry for many years; I had brought him back to his old state of infirmity, and painful as it might be for him, I have no doubt that it did him good to see himself as he really was.

When a man thinks that he is a full-grown Christian, he reminds me of a poor boy whom I used to see. He had such a splendid head for his body that he had often to lay it on a pillow, for it was too weighty for his shoulders to carry, and his mother told me

that, when he tried to stand up, he often tumbled down, overbalanced by his heavy head. There are some people who appear to grow very fast, but they have water on the brain, and are out of due proportion; but he who truly grows in grace does not say, "Dear me! I can feel that I am growing; blessed be the Lord! Let's sing a hymn, 'I'm a growing! I'm a growing!'"

I have often felt that I was growing smaller; I think that is very probable, and a good thing, too. If we are very great in our own estimation, it is because we have a number of cancers, or foul gatherings, that need to be lanced, so as to let out the bad matter that causes us to boast of our bigness.

Our Wesleyan brethren have a notion that they are going to be perfect here on earth. I should be very glad to see them when they are perfect, and if any of them happen to be in the position of servants, wanting situations, I would be happy to give them any amount of wages I could spare, for I should feel myself highly honored and greatly blessed in having perfect servants;

and what is more, if any of them are masters, and need servants, I would undertake to come and serve them without any wages at all if I could but find a perfect master.

I have had one perfect Master ever since I first knew the Lord, and if I could be sure that there is another perfect master, I should be greatly pleased to have him as an undermaster, while the great Supreme must ever be chief of all.

One man, who said he was perfect, called upon me once, and asked me to go and see him, for I should receive valuable instruction from him if I did. I said, "I have no doubt it would be so; but I should not like to go to your house, I think I should hardly be able to get into one of your rooms."?

"How is that?" he inquired.

"Well," I replied, "I suppose that your house would be so full of angels that there would be no room for me." He did not like that remark; and when I made one or two other playful observations, he went into a towering rage. "Well, friend,"

I said to him. "I think, after all, I am as perfect as you are; but do *perfect* men ever get angry?"

He denied that he was angry, although there was a peculiar redness about his cheeks, and a fiery flash in his eyes, that is very common to persons when they are in a passion. At any rate, I think I rather spoiled his perfection, for he evidently went home much less satisfied with himself than when he came out.

I met another man who considered himself perfect, but he was thoroughly mad; and I do not believe that any of the pretenders to perfection are better than good maniacs, a superior kind of Bedlamites; for, while a man has got a spark of reason left in him, he cannot, unless he is the most impudent of impostors, talk about being perfect. He who imagines such a thing must be insane; for any man who examines himself for five minutes, in the light of God's Word, will find enough in his own heart to drive from him any shadow of a thought about being perfect in this

(See **PERFECT** on page 16)

Editorial**A Revival of Wisdom**

**By D. M. Ferrell, Pastor
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The ones who are really hurting the Baptists are the Baptists who do nothing but criticize other Baptists.

“And the Lord said, Where unto then shall I liken the men of this generation? And to what are they like? they are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept. For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil. The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners! But wisdom is justified of all her children” (Lk. 7:31-35).

A true child of God has been forgiven and justified by the grace of God, but as far as his Adamic nature is

concerned, he can be as mean as a devil.

I believe strongly in contending for the faith. The extent of any fellowship is logically determined by the amount of truth agreed upon. It is not biblical to sacrifice truth on the altar of compromise in order to have fellowship. Doctrine must first be pure then peaceable.

Much of the Great Commission involves teaching all the things that the Lord commanded us. (Of course, you can teach some Christians too much, too soon.) In these “Last Days” we can expect to see more falling away from biblical truth. Therefore we must continue to expose the hidden things of darkness and continue to buy the truth and sell it not!

Along with contending there is the importance of Compassion. Is it possible for a church/Christian to be sound in doctrine (orthodox) and yet

be lacking in love toward God and fallen man? The Ephesian church was orthodox and successful in sniffing out false apostles — yet they were in danger of losing their candlestick, because they loved doctrinal truth more than they did the Lord Jesus Christ! A church or Christian could possess much in the way of truth, and gifts of the Spirit; yet they have accomplished nothing if they lack charity (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

True compassion causes action: Jesus had compassion and the people were fed, healed and saved! God had compassion on us — and He gave His only begotten Son. The Good Samaritan had compassion and helped the wounded and half-dead. Listen brother! Faith without works is dead!

No action — no compassion! (Jas. 2:15-16).

The smallest package in the world is a person wrapped up in himself! Too many Baptists are so negative and of a critical spirit that the only one they can have compassion on is a clone of themselves!

I personally know what it is like to have a self-righteous attitude. “I’m a sovereign grace big ‘B’ Baptist!” I have come to learn that God was never too impressed. In order to have an attitude of superiority, one must belittle others, especially those who seem to be doing something for God. What we need is a Revival of Wisdom and Tolerance!

Along with compassion comes Character. To contend for the faith and yet be compassionate is wisdom. But to consistently practice this is character!

In Numbers 11:27-29 Eldad

and Medad prophesied in the camp, and Joshua was upset. Moses said to Joshua “Enviest thou for my sake? Would God that all the LORD’S people were prophets, and that the ‘LORD would put his spirit upon them!” A similar situation happened with the apostles; and the Savior said “Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part” (Mk. 9:29-40).

Paul was of the same opinion as the Lord (Phil. 1:14-18).

Just because a man uses buses or vans does not make him a Jesuit Priest — he is on our side! A certain pastor may not believe in passing the plate — he is okay, he is on our side!

If a man is a Baptist and believes in major truth — lets not make him a dirty rotten, low down, vile Arminian just because he uses puppets during Vacation Bible School!

There is a difference between tolerance and compromise. Receiving alien immersion is sinful compromise! Fellowship with a brother even though he is against all Bible Colleges is tolerance!

Some Christians and preachers have the kind of disposition that is often looking for something shady. If a teaching or a method goes against biblical commands, or even the basic message of the scriptures — then we should avoid it. If the teaching or method does not violate the scriptures then it is anyone’s opinion! We have got enough Baptists that major on

(See **REVIVAL** on page 12)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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The Handout and the Chain

By Tom Anderson

Many years ago a drove of wild hogs lived in a big bend of the Ocmulgee River in Georgia. They had survived floods, freezes, hunters and droughts. Hunters bragged when their dogs fought the hogs and returned alive. Finally a one-gallused man came by the country store on the river road and asked how he could find the wild hogs. All he had with him was a one-horse wagon, an ax, a lantern, some quilts, some corn and a single-barrel shotgun.

Several months later the hog-hunting stranger came back to the same store and asked for help to bring out the wild hogs. He said he had them all over in a pen in the swamp. People came from miles around to see the captive hogs which all the natives knew couldn't be captured.

"It's all very simple," droned the one-gallused stranger. "First I put out some corn. For three weeks they wouldn't eat it. Then some of the young'uns grabbed an ear here and there and scampered to the underbrush. Soon they were all eating it. (If one didn't, he knew the others would.) So then I began building a pen around the corn, a little higher each day, 'Fore long I noticed they were all waiting for me to bring the corn and had stopped grubbing for acorns and roots. I built the trap door. Naturally, they 'raised cain' when they seen I had'em but I can pen any animal on the face of the earth if I can first get him to depend on me for a free

handout."

Throughout history it has been the same — the right to handle their own affairs to the government, for handouts. Federal Aid is federal control.

Bit by bit the planners take more and more control and taxes. The police state measures must be applied to the people, and the totalitarian dictatorship takes over everything.

Socialism and Communism arrive at the same ends, though not at the same time nor the same way. Socialism is creeping revolution. It's Communism with a slow-burning fuse. But in the end, both result in dictatorship, in domination of the individual by the state, in the destruction of representative government. Whether we call it Communism, Socialism or Welfarism, it leads to the same thing: ruinism.

Millions of Americans are preaching, practicing and voting for Socialism, but they call it something else.

Norman Thomas ran for President on the Socialist ticket six times. In 1928 he got 267,420 votes. In 1948, he got just a little over half that many. Because Socialism had lost its appeal? Because Norman Thomas was a poor nominee? No! Because the New and Fair Deals took over most of his platform. And because Americans just won't vote for Socialism if it's called Socialism.

Middle-of-the-roader Norman Thomas has stated: "The American people will never knowingly adopt Socialism, but under the name

Earmarks Of A Cult

By George Faull

Since the People's Temple cult made headlines with its shocking murders and mass suicides, many have become aware of the danger of the cult. The question has arisen over and over again in the past few months, "What is a cult?" This article will strive to answer that question with more than a flip answer. I will strive to give the earmarks of a cult.

It is difficult to give a description of a cult in one sentence. If I were to do so, I would describe it as an organized heresy that deviates from traditional Christianity and follows the interpretation of a contemporary Messiah that allegedly has further revelation from God." Now let us observe more closely the sixteen earmarks of a cult.

1. A Cult Is Usually Built Upon the Personality of a Modern Prophet. Some of the contemporary messiahs of recent years are Joseph Smith, Ellen G. White, Herbert W. Armstrong, Charles Taze Russell and Mary Baker Eddy of Liberalism, they will adopt every fragment of the Socialist program until America will one day be a Socialist nation without knowing how it happened."

I have never known a person who admitted to being a Socialist, and yet Socialism is a bigger menace to America than Communism. Socialism is our number one enemy, because we won't go Communist until we've already gone Socialist. ☐

[We can add the "Moonies" as well — MLM]. These have pawned off their particular brand of heresy on the world. The interpretation of Scriptures of these persons becomes law to those in the cult. Their adherents expound the alleged virtues of the founders and seek to cover the founder's sins and wickedness. The advocates of these cults enshrine the founder's birth place and dedicate buildings on the sites where the prophet or prophetess did some monumental feat. Cultism could not survive without a call back to the teachings of the personality that began the cult. Truth would win out over their heresy, if the teachings of the prophet would be laid aside. Men are more apt to follow another human with charisma than they are a particular doctrine. This truth behooves us to beware of any doctrine which has a particular man or woman as its chief advocate.

2. In Addition to a Contemporary Messiah, Cultism is Usually Built Upon Some Additional Revelations. These revelations may be complete books such as **The Book of Mormon**, or **Science and Health With the Key of the Scriptures**. Magazines such as **Watch Tower**, **Awake** or **The Plain Truth** become official organs of the cults. Cultism seeks to place these additional writings on a par with Scriptures. Indeed, these writings are allowed to explain Scriptures and all other explanations are considered false, because these writings are allegedly from God's latest spokesmen. These writings are considered as valid as that of the apostles and more

(See **CULTS** on page 12)

At Year's End, It's Inventory Time . . .

Do You Know Your Spiritual Net Worth?

By Russell J. Asvitt

Two important documents used by businesses to give a picture of their condition monetarily are the *Balance Sheet* and the *Profit and Loss Statement*. The Balance Sheet consists of a list of the assets and the liabilities of the business. The assets minus the liabilities of the business. The assets minus the liabilities then equal the Net Worth of the company.

As stewards of God in His service, wouldn't it be important for us to be aware of our assets and our liabilities, and to evaluate the growth in our spiritual lives?

Perhaps as the year 1992 ends it would be helpful for you to draw up some records of your own.

Listed below are some assets that are unique among Christians:

ASSETS

Peace. Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Sometimes we forget the advantage we have over those who do not know the Lord. Isaiah 57:20-21 says, "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."

As a result of this restlessness, millions suffer

from sleepless nights, ulcers, headaches, and other ailments. Are you taking full advantage of this asset of peace? Are you increasing it? We have this promise of God that we can continue in it. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee" (Isa. 26:3).

Wisdom. Another asset available to the Christian is wisdom. This is not to be confused with knowledge, which is plentiful in the world. Wisdom is the proper use of knowledge. Wisdom is promised to believers in James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not and it shall be given him."

This wisdom is accumulated as we read God's Word, and apply it to our lives. This is far from the wisdom that is in the world, "for the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, he taketh the wise in their own craftiness" (1 Cor. 3:19).

Strangely enough, knowledge has increased in astronomical proportions, as Daniel had prophesied in Daniel 12:4, while at the same time the world's wisdom is diminishing. This does not need any elaboration. Just look at man's inability to solve the problems of crime, war, feeding millions of starving people, and the pollution of

the environment to name a few. These remain unsolved because men do not seek God's wisdom.

Joy. We have the assurance in Psalm 16:11 that in God's presence there is fullness of joy. Joy is one of the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit, and is not dependent upon our circumstances. Jesus told us, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full (Jn. 15:11). Only sin can take this joy from us. But it need only be temporary. Like David, we can pray, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit" (Psa. 51:12).

Prepaid Insurance. David wrote in Psalm 37:25, "I have been young and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." God promises an ample supply for the one who trusts in Him. And God's provision does not apply only to food, for Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these (necessary) things shall be added unto you (Mt. 6:33).

Courage. There are a number of promises in God's Word that He will give us courage and strength to meet all obstacles. "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday" (Psa. 91:5-6). The contrast is given in Proverbs 28:1, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion."

This boldness comes as a result of our relationship with

Christ, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:).

Truth. While many people search in vain all their lives for the truth, the Christian has an unlimited source in God's Word. Jesus said to Pontius Pilate, "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (Jn. 18:37). What an opportunity Pilate had to hear more of the truth from Jesus' own lips. But like many people today, he shrugged it off with "What is truth?" and turned his back on the One who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn. 14:6).

These are but a few assets that are readily available to the Christian. Many more can be discovered as you read your Bible. They can all be claimed by faith.

LIABILITIES

Here are some liabilities that occur in the lives of Christians:

Disobedience. "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience" (Eph. 5:6).

Conformity to this world. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind ..." (Rom. 12:1-2).

Unbelief. "And he did not

(See **WORTH** on page 14)

The Law of Entropy

By Philip Marquart, M.D.

We have seen how the inspired Word of Truth revises and corrects and even rejects the laws which man find in nature. The Uniformitarian Doctrine and its corollary of natural selection are false. The Law of Conservation of Matter has to be revised, for matter has been found to be but one form of energy. We could have known this long ago, if we had been ready to listen to what the scriptures say.

There is another Law of science which has to be taken with reservations. This is the Law of Conservation of Energy, otherwise known as the First Law of Thermodynamics. This Law, the Scripture supports with reservations. We may admit that energy may be changed from one form to another, and that none of it is being destroyed for the present, because God upholds all energy, according to His own good pleasure. But if He should render it non-existent at the time when earth and heavens shall be burned up, His own people will still be safe (2 Pet. 3:10).

Now we are ready to consider the issues of Entropy. Now Entropy is otherwise known as the Second Law of Thermodynamics, because it has been so thoroughly proved that men think that it will stand forever. It is also a subject upon which the Lord has said much in His Word. Hence, we have more basis for correcting it, according to the Word of God. In general we can say, that this Second Law is in error as to its geneses and its eschatology.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that the universe is in the process of running down, wasting away, decaying, corrupting, growing old and dying. Some of this energy is being dissipated out into space

and some of it is being transformed to heat and can no longer be used for the productive works of the world, but none of it is lost to the point of non-existence. Everything changes however, and the change is in the direction of wearing out and fading away. The whole of creation is now in the bondage of corruption.

The two Laws of Thermodynamics, however, are not inconsistent with each other. No energy is truly lost, as it now stands. Some of it is merely drained away from any further usefulness. Our bodies wear out and finally die. But new bodies form from the process of reproduction, with new supplies of previously existing energy. Our clothes wear out. Moses led the children of Israel forty years through the wilderness, without wearing out their shoes. This was not because the children of Israel were morally or spiritually better than other people, but merely that the Lord might prove to men that He had control of Entropy. In fact, He promises to abolish this Law when the right time comes. However, this is a matter which the scientists of the world cannot understand, for it is foolishness unto them. There is much that can be learned about Entropy from the Scriptures that could not possibly be discovered through scientific investigation alone.

Since death is involved in this Second Law, we suspect that this Law was not in effect from the beginning (Gen. 1:1). It was evidently promulgated when Adam sinned in Genesis 3. If we turn to Genesis 3:17-24, we see the origin of Entropy. The ground is cursed, hard labor is enforced with sorrows, thorns, thistles, and sweat. Clothes have to be worn, and also worn out. The body returns to the dust.

They were banished from their perfect environment. Animals became ferocious, for their own protection, since man was now blood-thirsty. "And now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away" (Heb. 8:13).

There are certain rather obvious results or corollaries that derive from this Second Law of Thermodynamics, which the Lord set up for the punishment and discipline of wayward man, and which is still being enforced upon all of Adam's children, even down to the present moment.

First, let us note that there could have been no animal death, nor any fossils until the Fall. "Wherefore, as by *one man* sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12). Then there could have been no death, not even the death of a tree, lily, nor an amoebae before Adam sinned in the Garden. If you doubt that the Fall of man ruined also the whole of nature, then how do you explain Romans 8:19-23, where it says that the whole of creation awaits the manifestation of the sons of God, for the creation was not created subject to vanity (entropy) ... for the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now, being itself in the bondage of corruption (entropy). But 1 Peter. 1:2-3 says only the Word of God is the incorruptible Seed.

Another manifestation of Entropy is to be found in the sum total of our physiology which is known as Metabolism, the working of our various life processes.

There are two phases of metabolism, a building up process known as *Anabolism* and a tearing down process which is called *Catabolism*. In good health these two phases must balance. If the corrupting process overbalances the anabolism, then we are ill. Ultimately, catabolism overpowers the organism and we die. Psalm 88:15 states these processes distinctly: "I am afflicted and ready to die from

my youth up: while I suffer thy terrors, I am distracted." "Thy terrors" implies that the Lord promulgated the Law of Entropy, thus giving to us the fear of death. Hebrews 2:15 tells us that we are all our life time subject to the fear of bondage due to the fear of death — but we shall be delivered. Paul also states the physiology of metabolism in 2 Corinthians 6:9: "As dying, and behold we live." In Genesis 2:17, the Lord says to Adam: "Thou shalt surely die." The original language would imply "dying thou shalt die." Thus we see that it was the Lord who set out these twofold phases of metabolism in our bodies.

However, there is Good News for the human race. In fact, it is part of that Good News that we call the gospel. The Law of Entropy, the Second Law of Thermodynamics is going to be repealed. The whole of nature is to be removed from its curse. This, of course, is part of that Blessed Hope, the Millennial Kingdom. "They shall not hurt, nor destroy in all my holy mountain" (Isa. 11:9). The context tells of the wolf dwelling with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and young lion, the cow and the bear shall feed ... the lion shall eat straw like the ox. This is good news to the denizens of nature, but how about ourselves? Indeed "creation itself shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, into the glorious liberty of the children of God ... and not only they, but *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. 8:21-23). Thus we are given the "date" of this change, so to speak: that undatable event, the Rapture and the Resurrection. In Romans 8:19, it is called the "manifestation of the sons of God."

By way of summary, let us quote from Man and Energy,

(See **ENTROPY** on page 6)

ENTROPY...

(Continued from page 5)

1955, page 149, by a scientist, A.B. Ubbelohde: "In all energy transformation, there is a tendency for some energy to be transformed into non-reversible heat energy." Henry Morris in **The Twilight of Evolution**, page 323 speaks of this non-reversible change as the occasion for a "qualitative deterioration." Here is indicated the occasion for decay everywhere, according to the Law of Entropy. It is locked up, limited, but not lost. "The grass withereth the flower fadeth" (Isa. 40:7) the same verse indicates that this item of Entropy is the work of the Spirit of the Lord.

"As for man, his days are as grass: as the flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it and it is gone: and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him" (Psa. 103:15-17).


The heavens and the earth are described as "the work of thy hands. they shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea all of them shall wax old, like a garment, as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed" (Psa. 102: 25-26)

"The heavens shall vanish away like smoke ... wax old ... they that dwell therein shall die" (Isa. 51:6). "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Mt. 24:35). "All are dust and all turn to dust again (Eccl. 3:20).

With all this array of the very words which the Lord has spoken about Entropy, can we doubt that the Lord Himself has set up this Law for our correction and that He will in turn, change it again for our eternal welfare, in accordance with His promise?

In the one thousand year reign of Christ upon earth, we do not yet know what we shall be like, but we now know that we shall be like Him in our personalities (1 Jn. 3:2) and in

our bodies (1 Cor. 15:51-53). Even now we have received power to become the sons of God, even as children are similar to their fathers (Jn. 1:12). In that day, "His glory shall be revealed" and we shall be glad also with exceeding joy (1 Pet. 4:13). "And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

And why shall all this happen to us and to all nature? Because the Lord is here promising to repeal the Law of Entropy which He imposed upon all the earth after the Fall. Entropy shall be lovingly liquidated "far as the curse is found." 

New Tax Laws On Giving

After the newest changes in the U.S. tax laws, charity still has its rewards.

But to the extent that Uncle Same defines them, they have been significantly revised — increased in some ways, crimped in others.

The differences merit the attention of anyone who contributes money to a worthy cause or causes, and figures on taking a deduction at tax time.

One rule that has been tightened, for instance, covers the evidence necessary to support any deduction for a charitable contribution of \$250 or more.

The new law specifies that a canceled check, one of the most commonly used forms of substantiation, isn't good enough. Instead, the person who claims the deduction must get from the charity a receipt of some sort that details the amount or value of the contribution.

While it is important to follow this rule, it should not present any problem in most cases beyond an extra bit of record keeping requirements. Many charities already routinely issue receipts that appear to meet the requirements.

For anyone who wants to find a way around the rule, there appears to be a handy route.

"Separate payments generally will be treated as separate contributions, and will not be aggregated for purposes of the \$250 threshold," says the accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand.

"Thus, an individual who contributes \$200 to a charity in March and \$150 to the same charity in September will not be required to secure substantiation of either contribution."

In addition, if you make a payment exceeding \$75 for something like a fund-raising dinner that represents part contribution, part purchase of goods and services, the recipient is supposed to issue what part of the payment represents a deductible contribution, and what part is simply a purchase in exchange for value received — in other words, the dinner and entertainment.

The idea is prevent tax write-offs for expenses that aren't contributions after all.

If you make enough money to be pushed into a higher marginal tax bracket by the new law, the value you derive from all charitable deductions goes up proportionately.

That blanket principle comes with one big caveat, however. Upper-income individuals and families also may encounter rules that curtail the itemized deductions they can take.

Not all the changes mandated by President Clinton's package are complications. One notable move toward simplicity comes in a provision that removes gifts of appreciated long-term assets to charity from the realm of the alternative minimum tax, or AMT.


This means you can enjoy the special benefits of donating a stock, bond or other asset that has increased in value since you bought it, without worrying that doing so will make you subject to the AMT.

"This can be a very smart move," says the newsletter

Personal Finance in Alexandria, Va.

"A donation of assets that you've held for over a year and that have appreciated in value provides you with two benefits.

"You get to write off the current market value of the assets as a tax-deductible charitable contribution. You avoid any capital gains tax on the appreciation."

Under the former rules, that appreciation could trigger the AMT. "Now," notes the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche, "the full market value of contributed property will be deductible for both regular tax and AMT purposes." — *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, 8/29/93. 

Human Effort Spells Failure

The world's longest stairway leads to the summit of Taishan, a sacred mountain in China. The stairway is fourteen miles long, consists of some 6,500 plus steps, and towers 5,000 feet into the air. Nearly ten hours are required by some to climb it. Some days as many as 10,000 pilgrims journey up this stairway, to pay allegiance to the supreme deity of Taoism in the temple of the Jade Emperor.

Perhaps those Oriental pilgrims have the right idea, but they have the wrong method. Man does need a way up, but he cannot build it himself. Just as the tower of Babel failed, so will any other human effort fail which would lead man higher than his own righteousness. That's where the Lord Jesus Christ comes in. "I am the way, the truth, and the life," He said, "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (Jn. 14:6). He alone provides a way up from the murky depths of a world of sin!

God will accept a broken heart, but He must have all the pieces.

Polls Say: Hold Onto The Panama Canal

By G. Russell Evans, Captain USCG (Ret.)

At times, politicians like to say they listen to the people in order to respond to what the people want. Nonetheless, the usual rule is political expediency. Will the politicians and statesmen in Washington pay attention to a recent survey of voters who have indicated in strong terms that they favor holding onto the Panama Canal and United States bases in Panama?

Such a survey was done last June by the Marketing Research Institute (MRI) of Pensacola, Florida in a scientific sampling of 600 registered Arizona voters. Howard Phillips, Chairman of The Conservative Caucus of Vienna, Virginia, instigated this survey in his continuing program to alert Americans to the dangers of losing the Panama Canal.

Canal Surrender Due in 1999

As most Americans realize by now, the American-built and American-operated Panama Canal is due to be surrendered to the unstable Republic of Panama on December 31, 1999 under terms of the Panama Canal Treaties, negotiated by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian Dictator Omar Torrijos in 1977.

These Treaties, however, were done unconstitutionally, and this fact was made known to the voters in the marketing survey by MRI. Six major changes added by the U.S. Senate were never approved by the Panamanians, and one major change added by the Panamanians was never approved by the U.S. Senate. Consequently, both nations' constitutions were violated, as well as the International Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969.

Marketing Research Survey of Voters

A few words on the accuracy of this MRI marketing survey are in order: The sample population was scientifically selected to meet rigid criteria of selection and geographic location, a standard requirement for high quality surveys. The survey is based on actual telephone interviews by trained and experienced officials. Senior Analyst Dr. Verne R. Kennedy of the Marketing Research Institute guarantees accuracy to plus or minus 4.1 percent.

Voters in this sampling survey were almost evenly divided as to Republican and Democrat with about 15% calling themselves "Independent." 49.2% were men, and 50.8% were women. The mean age was 43 years, meaning that most of these voters were 27 years old at the time of the Treaties debate in 1977-1978. Ethnic backgrounds of the surveyed voters were as follows: 77.5% white, 13.3% Hispanic, 5.0% Native American, and 4.2% African-American.

In answer to the question as to whether the United States should keep the Canal or surrender it to Panama, given the fact that the Treaties were not legally ratified, a strong majority of the voters, by a two to one margin, wanted the United States to maintain ownership and control of the Canal.

Very similar results obtained in regard to the question of continuing to maintain bases in Panama; i.e., by a ratio of two to one, the Arizona voters favored maintaining U.S. bases in Panama after 1999. The vote was 60.5% for maintaining U.S. bases, 31.3% against, and 8.2% undecided.

Voters Oppose Surrender

The conclusion here is that, given the fact of unconstitutional Treaties, the great majority of Americans oppose surrendering the Canal and U.S. bases of which there are ten. Actually, according to the Spanish newspaper *El Siglo* of Panama City (July 6, 1993), the United States has proposed to Panama the retention of four U.S. military installations, namely, Howard Air Force Base, Rodman Naval Base, Fort Sherman, and the Altos del Diablo antenna infrastructure at Cerro Ancon.

Other questions were asked in the Marketing Research Institute survey, e.g., "In an election for the U.S. Senate, would you be more likely to vote for or against a Senator who voted for the Panama Canal Treaties, which in effect gave the Canal to Panama?" 51% of the voters were *against* a Senator who voted for the Treaties, with 23% *for* and 26% *undecided*.

Strong opinions were expressed by the voters on this electability issue, predominantly older voters, Republicans and Hispanics, with 62.5% of Hispanics strongly opposed to a U.S. Senator who would vote to give away the Panama Canal.

Voters Favor U.S. Bases

Another election question inquired into the electability of a candidate who favored keeping U.S. bases in Panama after 1999. The results were even more dramatic than those about holding onto the Canal. 59.3% would support a candidate who favored U.S. bases, 21.0% would not, and 19.5% were undecided.

Therefore, a great majority of voters in this MRI poll favor keeping U.S. bases in Panama after 1999, with Republicans stronger than Democrats on this issue. Interestingly, 71.9% of older Americans favored retaining U.S. bases.

It should be noted at this point that several recent polls of Panamanian citizens disclosed that almost 70% favored a U.S. military presence after 1999 —

quite a shift from the pre-Treaties sentiment of "Yanqui, go home." It is now "Yanqui, stay here" in apparent anticipation of the annual \$350 million U.S. input to Panama's economy and almost 12,000 jobs that could be lost because of a complete U.S. withdrawal in 1999. Moreover, on the American side, the Craig Amendment to the 1993 U.S. defense budget bill urged the President to negotiate with Panama for the continuance of U.S. bases after 1999.

Canal Is Significant Issue

As to the importance of the Panama Canal issue when compared to other issues, a significant number of voters in this MRI poll (21.1%) felt that it was "more important." This is interesting, considering the grave issues facing the Clinton Administration today.

In answer to the question, "Do you consider the Panama Canal issue one that will influence your vote decisively, a great deal, to some degree, or not at all?", 70.5% of the surveyed voters would definitely be influence, 14.5% significantly.

The following conclusion may be drawn from this marketing survey of representative voters, when they are informed of the unconstitutional aspects of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties:

— A majority of Americans want to hold onto the Panama Canal.

— A majority insist on continuing U.S. bases in Panama after 1999.

— A majority would oppose election of a U.S. Senator who favored surrender of the Panama Canal.

— A majority support a senatorial candidate who favors U.S. bases, and

—The MRI survey makes clear the continuing impact of the Panama Canal issue on contemporary political contests.

(See **CANAL** on page 14)

World News Roundup

Porno 101: Why Johnny's A Pervert. At the University of California at Santa Barbara, 70 students received credits for watching pornographic films such as *Deep Throat* (9/93 *Reader's Digest*). Prof. Constance Penley, whose class viewed all kinds of pornography ("straight, gay, lesbian, feminist and even amateur"), said "We're trying to understand porn by studying the history of its contents and its stylistic forms." She plans to offer the course again for the winter 1995 term, and said she wants to demystify pornography and get over the misconceptions of what porno films are. — CC

Man Gets \$6,000 In Religious Sign Case. A man well known to baseball fans recently received a \$6,000 settlement in his suit against the Cincinnati Reds, the city of Cincinnati and Burns International Security Services over the display of a religious banner during a major league baseball game. The settlement followed a ruling that the Reds' policy barring religious banners was unconstitutional. The ruling was handed down in February by Judge S. Arthur Spiegel of the U.S. District Court in Cincinnati. The winner, the Rev. Guy Aubrey, said in a news release, "This victory will encourage Christians nationwide to go into stadiums without fear of proclaiming God's love." Three years ago, Aubrey attempted to display a "John 3:16" banner during the second game of the 1990 World Series between the Reds and the Oakland Athletics at Riverfront Stadium. Security

officers told Aubrey that the policy of the Reds and of major league baseball prohibited the display of his sign. Following a separate lawsuit filed by Aubrey in April, the Reds instituted a policy banning all noncommercial signs and banners during home games.

Test Question. Four high school boys, not yet into the spirit of the new school year, skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to their teacher that their car had a flat tire. Much to their relief, she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test this morning, take seats apart from one another and get out your notebooks." When they had settled down, she said, "First question: which tire was flat?"

Church Expelled For Ordaining Woman Deacon. The First Baptist Church of West Jefferson, North Carolina was expelled from the Ashe Baptist Association recently for its actions contrary to biblical teachings, in that it ordained a woman to serve as deacon of the church. Theresa Early Curd, a mathematics professor at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina (and has attended the church for about 13 years) was ordained a deacon, in clear violation of scripture (1 Tim. 2:11-12; 3:8-13). The Ashe Baptist Association, made up of about 50 mountain churches, took action to expel the First Baptist Church, upon the motion of Rev. Lloyd Day, on the grounds that her ordination was a violation of the

Scriptures. Curd says that members of her church have been supportive of her since the association excluded First Baptist Church and said she plans to continue to serve as a deacon.

What the ACLU is For and Again. American Civil Liberties Union founder Roger Baldwin said: "I am for Socialism, disarmament, and ultimately for abolishing the state itself as an instrument of violence and compulsion. I see social ownership of property ... Communism is the goal." Today, the ACLU supports, legalization of child pornography, drugs, polygamy, and prostitution; abortion on demand, busing, mandatory sex education, and tax exemption for satanists. It opposes: Church tax exemption, home schooling and vouchers, parental consent laws, voluntary school prayer, prison terms for criminals, and public religious displays (D.J. Kennedy flyer). Supreme Court Justice Ruth Ginsburg was a women's rights attorney for the radical pro-abortion, pro-homosexual ACLU in the 1970s. — CC

Elders' Radical Social Agenda. The Senate recently confirmed Joycelyn Elders as Surgeon General. She has been outspokenly in favor of taxpayer-funded abortions, federally mandated sex education in public schools for grades K-12, school-based clinics that distribute contraceptives. Under her "leadership", Arkansas went from having the fourth highest teen

birthrate in the U.S. to the second highest. Under her, Arkansas's teen pregnancy rate rose 15% and sexually transmitted diseases rose dramatically. — CC

"Lite" Bible Planned. Mega-publisher Simon and Shuster hopes to case in on the "lite" products craze in America by publishing a condensed version of the Bible that the company says will provide easier reading and faster-moving action. The trimmed-down Old and New Testaments will have no genealogies and are being designed as "living literature." As an example of the editorial license being used for the revision, Simon and Shuster editor Lodowick Allison says the book of Leviticus in the Old Testament has been pared to two and a half pages because "the Levite legal codes ... are not only impenetrable but unimportant to today's reader." The book was scheduled for release in November.

Clinton's Gay Appointees Even Come Out For Camera. The 17 people lined up for a group photo didn't look as if they were making history. But in a way they were, by attending an unprecedented public gathering of gay presidential appointees. There have always been homosexuals in high federal posts. But in the past they have felt constrained to be silent about it. "For the first time in the history of mankind a pre-

(See WNR on page 9)

World News Roundup

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

sident has sought to break this barrier, this taboo," assistant commerce secretary Bruce Lehman said at a breakfast reception sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. "For that Bill Clinton is going to go down in history." A number of gay groups, including the Victory Fund, joined forces last year to find and promote gay people qualified for various government posts. The goal of Coalition '93 was five openly gay political appointees. Already there are 22 and more are expected as the White House continues to fill slots. Lehman and assistant housing secretary Roberta Achtenberg are the two highest-ranking openly gay members of the administration. Achtenberg survived a bitter, personal Senate confirmation challenge mounted by conservatives and the religious right. "President Clinton said more than once that in his America we don't have a person to waste. By virtue of the kinds of people he has included in this administration, he has observed that truth again and again," Achtenberg said. Hanging over the festivities was the big pledge Clinton hasn't kept — his campaign vow to end the ban on homosexuals in the military. But even those disappointed by Clinton's retreat on that front said he deserves credit for his personnel policies.

Boycott Called for Against S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc. Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLear-TV) has once again called for a one-year product

boycott of an advertiser based upon sponsorship of sex, violence, profanity, and anti-Christian messages in television. The company which drew the short straw by sponsoring sixteen incidents of sex, violence, and profanity with every thirty-second commercial they bought was the S.C. Johnson and Son Corporation. The makers of **Johnson Wax**, **Agree** shampoo, **Edge** shaving cream, **Fisher Price** bath products, **Off** insect repellent, and **Soft Sense** lotion have pursued an "arrogant" response to CLear-TV over the past two years it has been asking Johnson to clean up its act. Johnson exerts have defended their advertising policies as "very responsible" and reflecting "high ethical standards." CLear-TV's chairman, Billy Melvin, indicated that Johnson has been saying one thing while doing another and called for a boycott of all Johnson products by all concerned viewers. Let Johnson know you're weary of TV sleaze and the companies which underwrite it. Contact: S.C. John & Son, Inc., Chrm. Samuel C. Johnson, 1525 Howe St., Racine, WI 53403, Phone (414) 631-2000, Fax (414) 631-2133.

Girl Scouts Allow Alternative For "God." Girl Scouts will be allowed to pledge service to "God," "Allah," "The creator" or to anyone else they please, under a measure adopted Saturday at the organization's national convention. The measure, which takes effect immediately, keeps the Girl Scout promise's official wording intact, but allows individual Girl Scouts

to substitute for "God" another word or words that they consider more appropriate to their spiritual beliefs. It was adopted by a 1,560-375 vote. The Girl Scout promise states: "On my honor I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law."

Romanians Protest Election. Romanian Baptists boycotted a recent European Baptist Federation meeting to protest the election of a woman as president of the federation. Birgit Karlsson, an ordained minister in the Swedish Baptist Union, was installed as president during the Sept. 18-26 meeting of the 100-member council of the European Baptist Federation. She has served as general secretary of the Swedish union for 10 years. A letter from Romanian Baptist leaders explained they consider the ordination of women as pastors to be "unbiblical." Both parties said they do not want the dispute to effect the relationship between Romanian Baptists and the EBF. That relationship has endured other strains in the past. At last year's council meeting, the Romanians cast the only dissenting vote to a partnership agreement between the EBF and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which last year began sending missionaries to Europe.

SBC CP Gifts Down. For the third consecutive year, gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program have dropped below

the previous year's total. The SBC Executive Committee closed its book on the 1992-93 fiscal year Sept. 30. Total Cooperative Program gifts for the period showed a decrease of 1.2% from the previous year. The Cooperative Program apparently grew each year since its beginning in 1925 until 1990, when it began a slide that has continued for three years.

U.S. House Rejects Parochial Aid. The U.S. House of Representatives soundly defeated a measure Oct. 13 that would have allowed public tax dollars to go to private and religious schools. By a vote of 130-300, the House rejected a school-choice amendment to the Goals 2000 — Educate America Acts (H.R. 1804). The amendment, offered by Rep. Dick Arney, R-Texas, required 25% of \$400 million in the bill be used for so-called "choice" programs in public or private schools.

Graham Regrets Calling AIDS God's Judgment. Dr. Billy Graham at New York's Central Park (9/91) said: "God loves New York and He has not given up on this city, because He does not give up on people." God, indeed, is long-suffering. But He is also Holy and at times gives up on a sinful people, and, in wrath, gives them over to judgment. Dr. Billy Graham in his final 9/26 sermon of his Columbus crusade, asked: "Is AIDS a judgment from God? I cannot say for sure, but I think so."

(See **WNR** on page 10)

WNR...

(Continued from page 9)

Two weeks later he said he didn't mean it. He said: "To say God has judged people with AIDS would be very wrong and very cruel," and I would like to say that I am very sorry what I said." Wonder what he would have said the day after God judged Sodom? — CC

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Major News Organizations Recruit Gay Journalists. More than 15 of the nation's most powerful and prestigious news organizations — from National Public Radio to the Washington Post — made history recently by recruiting openly gay journalists at a job fair in New York sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA). Major media corporations also reportedly contributed about \$40,000 to the annual convention, held at the swank grand Hyatt Hotel. Among the financial backers of the gay journalists' convention were the New York Times, USA Today, NBC News, ABC News, the Washington Post, Knight-Ridder and Time Inc. Tee-shirts on sale at the affair featured the slogan: "We're Here. We're Queer. We're on Deadline."

* * *

Black Featured On Front Cover of Focus On the Family. Kay James is vice-president of the Family Research Council and was featured on the front cover of the October, 1993 Focus on the Family. A story on her begins: "Kay Coles James loves to turn the tables on those who don't think it's possible to be middle-class, conservative, educated, speak standard English, and still be *truly* black. Once during an abortion debate, a woman in the audience angrily told Mrs.

James she was so obviously middle-class she didn't have a clue about real African-American life. 'If you understood what these women were going through, you would realize that abortion is their only choice.' Mrs. James then asked the woman to consider a poor black mother on welfare. She already has four children and an alcoholic husband who has all but abandoned the family. Now she discovers another child is on the way. 'How would you counsel that woman?' asked Mrs. James. 'I would say that the most compassionate thing she could do for herself and the children she already has is to have an abortion,' the woman responded. 'If she brought that child into this world, it would have a very poor quality of life.' 'I have a vested interest in your answer,' said Mrs. James. 'The woman I described was my mother. I was the fifth of six children born into poverty. And in case you're interested, the quality of my life is just fine'

* * *

Baptist Firestorm In Alabama. "Baptist damnations stir cries of bigotry — A report saying half of Alabamans won't see heaven starts a religious war of words" a report in the Washington Times, says that "Southern Baptists have created a mini-firestorm in Alabama with research estimating that nearly half the people in that state are 'lost' and will go to hell if they aren't saved before they die." People just do not like to hear that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven and that Christianity is the only saving faith. Surveys have shown that even the majority of church members believe they are going to get to heaven by their good works. Christianity teaches that only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation are going to heaven. Many Southern Baptists are among those who

intend to work, at least in part, their own way to heaven. Hundreds of thousands of Southern Baptists are masons, including hundreds of Southern Baptists pastors. Masons teach salvation by works and maintain that the Trinity is not the only true God. They deny the deity of Christ. — *Chr. News.*

* * *

KJV Still Tops, Losing Steam. The King James Version of the Bible remains the most popular translation in America, but its strong influence could die out within the near future as adults who are now over age 65 pass on. That's the finding of a new nationwide poll on Bible-reading habits of Americans by the Barna Research Group of Glendale, Calif. Nearly one-third of American adults claim they still prefer the King James translation, which was authorized by King James of England and published in 1611. The only other translation preferred by more than 5% of the population is the modern New International Version (NIV). According to the Barna study, use of the King James peaks with adults over 65, with 45% of that age group reading the KJV. The popularity of the KJV declines precipitously among "baby busters" — adults 18-27 years old — with only 18% preferring the KJV. Other findings from the poll: More women than men regularly read the Bible (54% to 36%). Bible reading declines as income levels increase, from 54% of those earning less than \$20,000 annually to 30% of those earning more than \$60,000. Only 15% of Americans who do not attend church read the Bible once or more per week, compared with 54% of regular churchgoers.

* * *

Christmas Celebrations.

Celebrations of Christmas were suppressed in 17th-century England and in the New England colonies by Puritans who regarded Yule festivities as a vulgar Papist and Anglican Church custom. In Massachusetts, schools, stores and business offices were kept open on Christmas Day as late as the 1870s. The first states to legalize Christmas as a holiday were Alabama, in 1836, and Louisiana and Arkansas, both in 1838, and the last one was Oklahoma, where it was not declared a day of rest until 1890.

* * *

James Dobson and Romanism. James Dobson has a close and uncritical relationship with Roman Catholicism. The November 1989 issue of Focus on the Family's *Clubhouse* magazine featured Roman Catholic Mother Teresa. A smiling Mother Teresa was on the cover, and the lead article was entitled "Teresa of Calcutta: Little Woman with a Big Heart." The readers of this magazine were made to think that Mother Teresa is a genuine New Testament Christian and that she is doing a great work for God through her Sisters of Charities mission. This is a great deception. Mother of Teresa preaches the false sacramental gospel of Rome and has given multitudes of people a false comfort by encouraging them to place their hopes in such vanities as the Roman Catholic mass and the Roman Catholic Mary. It is an abomination before God for Dobson to feature this woman in his magazine. Dobson's ecumenical flirtations have not gone unrewarded. The Catholic Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, bestowed an honorary doctorate upon him as a statement of their support for Focus on the Family

(See WNR on page 11)

WNR...

(Continued from page 10)

(Evangelical Catholics, p. 200). The September 1990, issue of New Covenant, a Catholic charismatic magazine, featured Dobson and a very positive report on Focus on the Family. Dobson's photo appeared on the cover. This illustrates the great error of new-evangelical philosophy. There is no doubt that Dobson is a kind man who has helped people. There is no doubt that his focus on the family has done some good, yet doing good is no excuse for ignoring the Word of God. — O Timothy

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SBC Bars Churches Affirming, Endorsing Homosexuals. For the second year, Southern Baptist Convention messengers approved a constitutional amendment declaring churches which act to "affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior" as "not in cooperation" with the SBC and, therefore, not eligible to send messengers to annual convention meetings. The amendment was first considered by messengers at the 1992 SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis and was recommended again this year by the SBC Executive Committee since changes in the constitution require approval during two consecutive annual meetings.

* * *

High School Reverses Decision. A high school in Detroit, MI recently allowed students to form a Christian club that it had previously denied, after Rutherford Institute attorneys intervened on behalf of students who wanted to start the club. "The school already had the policy and practice of allowing non-

curricular clubs to meet on school grounds during non-curriculum times. Cass Technical High School's denial of the proposed Christian club was discriminatory," said Rutherford Institute Attorney David Melton. "The Rutherford Institute stood ready to file a lawsuit if necessary on behalf of students who wanted to organize the Christian club. It's unfortunate that an ultimatum had to be issued to persuade school officials to allow this club which was entirely within the law," said Melton.

* * *

Push-ups Called Corporal Punishment. Using push-ups to discipline unruly public school students is a form of corporal punishment, according to an attorney general's opinion in Arkansas. In the opinion, Deputy Attorney General Elena Willis found push-ups are included under the legal definition of corporal punishment. While no case specifically addresses the issue, "the practice would appear to fall within the broad definition, in the sense that it is a punishment inflicted on the body," Willis wrote in the opinion. She added that no state law forbids the use of push-ups or other forms of corporal punishment. The opinion was requested after a Dunbar Junior High School student's parents complained their child had to perform push-ups. The school is in Little Rock. In 1988, the Little Rock School District banned corporal punishment. That policy defines corporal punishment as "the intentional use of physical force or physical contact upon a student for any alleged offense or behavior, or the use of physical force in an attempt to modify the behavior, thoughts or attitudes of students." The Little Rock policy also says that corporal punishment "in


any form will not be used as a disciplinary measure ... by any teacher, administrator or other school personnel." Jeff Cowell, a teacher and coach at the junior high, said he gave students who misbehaved an option: either remain in a push-up position for two to three minutes or have a disciplinary notice placed in their file. Cowell said he had been using push-ups as a form of punishment for about five years. But he said he was told to stop doing so after the parents complained. "My whole philosophy is if they are not in class, they cannot learn. Kids are kids. They are going to make mistakes, but we can learn from our mistakes," Cowell said. — Arkansas-Democrat Gazette.

* * *

Changing Owners. In accusing the insurance industry of bringing the nation's health care system to the brink of bankruptcy to protect its selfish interest, Hillary Clinton said that it's time for Americans to say, "Enough is enough. We want our health care system back." Hillary is not suggesting, of course, that the people get the health care system back to keep. She is suggesting that we take it away from the health insurance industry so we can give it to the government. If we give it to the government, we may rest assured that we'll never get it back.

* * *


Russian Lawmakers Decide Not To Limit Missionaries. Lawmakers backed down from efforts to restrict the activities of foreign missionaries after provoking an outcry from world religious and political leaders. The Supreme Soviet legislature voted to adopt amendments to Russia's Law on Freedom of Religion suggested by President Boris

Yeltsin, who removed provisions that would have banned foreigners from proselytizing in Russia. Some lawmakers had wanted to require foreign religious groups to become affiliated with Russian churches or organizations, or obtain state accreditation. The proposal had been strongly backed by the Russian Orthodox Church, which claims more than 60 million believers in the former Soviet Union. The church has complained about the influx of foreigners seeking Russian converts. 

An Infallible Bible Or No Bible At All

Once admit the principle that the writers of the Bible could make mistakes, and were not, in all things, guided by the Spirit, and I know not where I am. I see nothing certain, nothing solid, not trustworthy in the foundations of my faith. A fog has descended on the Book of God, and enveloped every chapter in uncertainty!

Who shall decide when the writers of scripture made mistakes, and when they did not? How am I to know where inspiration ends, and where it begins? What I think inspired, another may think uninspired! The texts that I rest upon may possibly, have been put in by a slip of the pen! The words and phrases that I love to feed on may, possibly, be weak, earthly expressions, in writing which the author was left by to his own private uninspired mind!

The glory is departed from my Bible at this rate! A cold feeling of suspicion and doubt creeps over me as I read it. I am almost tempted to lay it down in flat despair. A partially inspired Bible is little better than no Bible at all. Give me the "plenary, inerrant, verbal theory," with all its difficulties, rather than this. I accept the difficulties of that theory, and humbly wait for their solution; but while I wait, I feel I am standing on a rock. 

CULTS...

(Continued from page 3)

relevant because they are given in these end times. Again, we should beware of any doctrine that is perpetuated solely in the writings of a recent pretended prophet.

3. Again another earmark of a cult is a stress of the lack of dependability of the English Bible. Cults stress that the Bible has been translated over and over again, and so is unreliable and untrustworthy. This makes the need for their added revelation and professed translation more palatable. We should beware of those who try to call in question God's ability to preserve His word so it may remain a reliable revelation of His will.

4. Another earmark of cultism is doctrinal ambiguity. What does the cult teach? Is it clearly taught in their papers, or in the media? Most cults hide some doctrine except from their followers. Mormons are not quick to teach that God was a man, who has now become a God. Herbert W. Armstrong's doctrine, that we will become gods, is not known to many of his radio listeners. Jehovah Witnesses do not quickly announce that Jesus has returned already, in 1914. Many doctrines that astound our thinking are repulsive to finer minds, but are taught to the initiates of the cult. Other seekers are left with questions and in the darkness. Cultists first brainwash their followers before the ambiguous doctrines are suggested. We need to beware of any doctrine that is held back from the seeker of truth. Ambiguous teachings are almost always false doctrine or at least con-

tributory to doctrinal confusion.

5. Still another earmark of a cult is their exclusivity. The founders of the cults and their followers are almost always at odds with the rest of the religious world. They are usually aggressive in their attack of other religions. All other teachers are termed dishonest, deceitful, and deluded. Cultists are told that the preachers of evangelical churches are in it for the money. Barriers and prejudices are intentionally built up in the minds of the cults' new converts against so-called clergy. This is to protect them from learning the truth of the cult. Persecution is welcomed and even gloried in, for cults thrive on its followers believing they are being persecuted for righteousness sake. We need to beware of thinking we are of the truth, merely because men persecute us. It is obvious, persecution by men should not be criteria to judge the truth. At some time in history, all of the cults have suffered great persecution. However, many of the cults have not been persecuted saints, but rather prosecuted sinners.

6. The next earmark of the cult is the person of Jesus. The cults will almost always have poor Christology. The Witnesses take away His deity and humanize Him. Adventists advocate that He is Michael the Archangel. Christian Scientists deny that He came in the flesh. Mormons actually deny the virgin birth, for they make Him the literal Son of God and Mary by natural procreation. Armstrongism denies His unique Sonship. We need to beware of anyone who does not admit the deity of our

Lord.

7. Another earmark of the cult is its use of proof texts of difficult passages. Just leave it to the cults to build doctrines on the texts that evangelical Christianity has admitted they are at a loss to confidently explain. Mormons use the baptism of the dead passage. Jehovah Witnesses build a whole doctrine on the 144,000. Armstrongism takes the so-called 10 lost tribes and gave his British-Israelism explanation. Adventists came up and made a doctrine on the cleansing of the sanctuary. The cults are masters at finding dark and ambiguous passages of Scripture and presenting their pet theories. They dogmatically assert their theory, without batting an eye at the difficulty their inter-pretations present. By proof-texting, they are able to defend polygamy, soul-sleeping, sabbath-keeping, annihilationism, baptism for the dead, eternity of matter, degradation of Negroes, baptism of the Holy Spirit, celestial marriage and dozens of other false doctrines. We ought to beware of any doctrine advocated by the cults and not allow the twisting of Bible texts. A text out of context is a pretext.

8. Another earmark is their misunderstanding of the nature of man. The cults, for the most part, do not see man as an immortal being. They have him as an animal without a soul, or, on the other hand, as a being which is being perfected or adopted into the family of God to the point of becoming gods. They do not see man as a spirit, clothed in a body of flesh awaiting the redemption of body and soul.

9. Another earmark of

the cult is date setting. The cults like to pretend they know all about God's timetable. They use the passages of Daniel concerning the end of the Gentiles or of the 2,300 years or other passages dealing with time to predict the end time. Adventists had Jesus coming in 1844 and then when He failed to appear, they made His coming a spiritual one. Witnesses had the end of the Gentiles in 1914, where His coming was a glorious spirit-creature. Armstrongism has set dates repeatedly, only to have them fail. Since the Lord has told us that even the angels in Heaven are ignorant of the end time, we need to be suspicious of any group which sets dates relative to the end of the world.

10. The next earmark to consider is the cults' attempt to keep the people believing in a continual revelation. This revelation may be to its presidency, as in Mormonism, or on the other hand, it may be in the leaders of the society, such as Watch Tower. Yet again, revelations may come to the successor of the prophet. Revelation comes at convenient times too. When the United States outlawed polygamy, God revealed to Mormons that it was to cease. He also revealed, after civil rights advocates publicized Mormons' anti-Negro attitudes, that Negroes could be priests. Almost all the cultist wait for further revelation on some controversial subject. We should however, beware of a religion that conveniently changes its doctrine according to the whim of people.

11. Another earmark of

(See **CULTS** on page 13)

CULTS...

(Continued from page 12)

a cult is the deceptiveness of the use of plagiarism. The basis of the Book of Mormon was Solomon Spaulding's supposed history of the Jews' trip to America. The Book of Abraham is a perversion of the Book of the Dead. Mary Baker Eddy's work is a plagiarism of Phineas P. Quimby's Science of Man, and Dr. Francis Lubar's work The Medical Physical Religion of Hegal. Herbert W. Armstrong's plagiarism of Judah's Scepter and Joseph's Birthright, by J. H. Allen; Ellen G. White's plagiarism of Life and Epistles of the Apostles by Cornbeare and Howson and J.A. Wyulee's History of the Waldenses and D'aubynes' History of the Reformation, are well known. These pretended prophets are obviously fake, to have to use the same language as the literature of the world to reveal their pretended new truths. We should beware of any pretended revelation that uses the same ideas and wording as secular authors.

12. Yet another earmark of the cult is the common bond of the cult's advocacy of the doctrines of pre-millennialism. Admittedly, a doctrine should not be rejected merely because a cult teaches it. A broken watch is right twice a day. However, a doctrine should be suspect when it has the backing of all the cults. The reason that all the cults accept this doctrine is because most cults thrive on the doctrine of the earthly reign of the cult upon the earth. Cults are interested in living on the earth and ruling over those not of their cult. Theirs is an earthly kingdom

and so their concepts are on an earthly Zion. We should hold any doctrine at arm's length that does not look for a Heavenly City, whose Builder and Maker is God.

13. Another earmark we should consider of the cults is the perversion of the doctrine of the need for atonement. There is always a deficiency in the cults' understanding of the atoning work of Christ. Christian Scientists deny the need of salvation, for all are without sin, since all is mind. Witnesses deny that Christ exists now as a man, or that He arose from the dead bodily. Adventists have their doctrine of investigative judgment and salvation by works of the law. Mormons teach that Christ's atonement was for Adam's sin and redemption for personal sin is worked out by one's own good works. Armstrongism teaches that Christ removed past sins, but salvation is now earned by observing the Ten Commandments. We should stand aghast at the gospel that denies the facts of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, or the need of His doing so for our personal salvation.


14. The next earmark of the cultist is the misunderstanding of the person of the Holy Spirit. To Christian Scientists, it is "the divine science." Witnesses and Armstrongism, it is "but the power of God," rather than a divine personality. To Mormons, the Holy Spirit is the highest order of matter or substance. Such blasphemies of the Holy Spirit are to be guarded against.

15. Another earmark of the cultist is the misunderstanding of life after death

and retribution. The Mormons teach that the righteous shall be gods, or, if evil, lessor beings. They teach that almost all men shall be saved and few shall actually go to Hell. Witnesses believe that the second death is extinction. Seventh Day Adventists believe in soul sleeping and annihilationism. Armstrong denies the existence of Hell. Christian Scientists deny either the reality or the need for a day of judgment. We should beware of anyone who calls in question the reality of the existence of a place which Jesus told us, awaited the unrighteous.

16. The cults usually have distinguishing "prohibitions" that cement the followers of the cult. It is ironic that the Lord's people are so afraid of strict preaching against sin. The cult leaders know that strictness in some, outward form is the seal of keeping their members faithful. The Mormons forbid coffee and tea. Jehovah Witnesses forbid birthday celebrations and blood transfusions.

Christian Scientists frown on their members going to doctors. Armstrongism forbids involvement in politics, scouts, P.T.A. and the eating of certain meats. Adventists forbid the eating of pork. The prohibition of these things distinguishes the cult members and serves as a separation from so-called "Gentiles." We should beware of anyone who legislates against practices when God has not spoken.

Conclusion: These earmarks are brief and to the point. It is our prayer that these words of warning about the earmarks will keep you from being involved with the cults. 

REVIVAL...

(Continued from page 2)

minors, and anathematize other Baptists because they hold different opinions on non-biblical matters.

Experience reveals that those who major on minors — minor on majors! Those who have time to murmur and find fault with others, do very little themselves, just as those juvenile brats in Luke 7:31-35. They were critical of Jesus Christ because He ate and drank, and then criticized John because he abstained. It is impossible to please these kind of people!

Wisdom is justified of all her children. And if ever there was needed a Revival of Wisdom among Baptists, it is today! We as independent Baptists do not have to forsake our convictions or even our opinions in order to fellowship and cooperate with one another. Allow someone to be different and accountable to the One on the Bema Seat — which is not *you* and *me!*

Printing presses, buses, children's services, VBS, invitations, youth rallies, and Sunday Schools are methods — just like P.A. systems, church buildings, church bulletins, revival meetings, and visitation programs.

If you do not like a certain method — fine, do not use it! It has nothing to do with the Bible, rather what you allow and what you won't allow.

We need a Revival of Wisdom! We need to be busy concerning the Great Commission. Are you preaching, witnessing and trying to win souls? Are you baptizing

(See **REVIVAL** on page 16)

Legalized Gambling Will Lead To Moral And Social Turmoil

By Haven Bradford Gow

Mrs. C. Barrett, a devoted family person and Christian in Buffalo Grove, Ill., observes: "Supporters of legalized casino gambling say they can reduce unemployment and obtain much needed tax revenue for worthy objectives through the legalization of gambling; but the ends do not justify the means. Legalized casino gambling and state lotteries appeal to the greed and selfish side of human beings; this is not the right way for the government to go."

A news story in the October 14, 1993 Greenville (Miss) **Delta Democrat Times** pointed out that the residents of Greenville and surrounding areas are preparing for the opening of two gambling facilities: "There is so much gambling related activity in downtown Greenville these days that even close observers are having a hard time keeping up with it. But one thing is known for certain. The furious work being done by two casinos will ensure that if a background check of either is completed in the next month and a half, Greenville will finally see a casino open in Lake Ferguson."

According to veteran journalist Jack Mabley, the state lottery is no different (morally speaking) from the profitable criminal enterprise known as the "numbers game," which was operated by organized crime and made millions of dollars. Mr. Mabley tells us that, ironically, "The numbers game has been taken over by the state of Illinois and renamed The Illinois Lottery. It is pure and simple a computerized version of the numbers game, with a layer of bureaucracy added to dilute the payoff. The cops don't bother it because what was illegal is now legal."

Today the government also is involved with the es-

tablishment of riverboat gambling. As Mr. Mabley observes, "Instead of the state taking the profits as it does in the lottery, the state is giving away licenses to very rich corporations and individuals who want to become much richer (through riverboat gambling). If the state is in the gambling business with the lottery, it doesn't make any sense to give away (for a token payment) the licenses to make billions on the riverboat scheme."

However, Chicago attorney Chester Blair points out that there are harmful personal, social and moral consequences that ensure when lotteries and riverboat gambling become legalized. Attorney Blair, who is a past president of the Chicago Bar Association, provides this urgent warning: "Researcher Rachel Volberg, who did (an important) study (on gambling) for the National Institute of Mental Health, says the important thing to remember is that wherever legal gambling is available, more people will have problems. Officials with Gamblers Anonymous say they are trying to cope with increasing demands for their services since the launching of (riverboat gambling in Joliet, Ill.). Significantly, many of the new people seeking help from the organization have never been involved in any form of gambling prior to the riverboat coming to town." Attorney Blair adds: "The urge in addicts is similar to what New Jersey experienced when casinos opened in Atlantic City. In the first three months of this year, the state's gambling received 13,800 calls. In pre-casino 1982, the total for the year was 420."


Mrs. Mary LaMantia, a member of St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church in Chicago and a dedicated and loving family

person, warns us that "Gambling is a sickness. Do we want to see more broken homes and marriages because one of the spouses has become addicted to gambling? Also, the rich will become richer and the poor people will get exploited and become poorer. Organized crime inevitably will get involved. And what kind of message is legalized gambling going to give our young people?"

Robert Stuart, chairman emeritus of the National Can Corp. and past president of the Chicago Crime Commission, also opposes legalized casino gambling; He is concerned that legalized casino gambling will harm the social and moral climate and result in more crime.

Clearly, people with high moral and religious standards rightly insist that legalized state lotteries and casino and riverboat gambling are pernicious evils that offer the false hope of millions of dollars; the problem is that while there may be a few winners, there are millions of losers.

While millions of people across this nation are dying mentally, physically and spiritually from drugs, crime, poverty, hunger, lack of education and quality medical care, millions of other people are playing irresponsible games for money and pleasure and becoming addicted to the deadly vice of gambling. Gambling erodes the work ethic, and gambling's subtle message is one of hedonism and selfishness. It takes from others without giving something of value in return.

Mrs. Gow is a columnist who has published more than 1,000 articles and reviews in 100 magazines and newspapers. 

It takes a strong will, at times, to get rid of extra weight. But the easiest way to get rid of it is to leave it on the table.

WORTH...

(Continued from page 4)

many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Mt. 13:58).

There are more: All of these liabilities can be eliminated, however, by confessing and forsaking our sins. See Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:9.


NET WORTH

Why not sit down sometime soon and take your spiritual inventory. How does it compare with your situation last year? The year before? This is not my idea. God's Word tells us to examine ourselves (1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5). When you have done this, do as all reputable business managers do. Call in the Auditor to see if you have done a good job. This advice is found in Psalm 26:2, "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart."

I hope you will find that you have had a prosperous year, and even better prospects for the next one.

CANAL...

(Continued from page 6)

In connection with these conclusions of the voter survey by the Marketing Research Institute, done under the auspices of The Conservative Caucus, it is entirely possible and plausible that Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.), who strongly favored the Panama Treaties in 1977-1978 and who facilitated their passage with his famous DeConcini Reservation, took note of the sentiment expressed in this MRI poll, and decided for these reasons, and others, not to seek reelection in 1994. 

Lies Told To Native Americans

By Dwayne C. Hodges

Brother Frank Comb's recent visit to Wichita (KS) and Heartland Baptist Church caused me to think of the American Indians and our responsibility to them. Much of what is best in America stems from the Native American culture.

It is this Pastor's belief that many of the most noble men and women who ever lived have been American Indians. Sacajewea, the brave young Indian lady who interpreted and helped guide the Lewis and Clark expedition is an example. So are the many brave warrior chiefs who loved their people and fought for their rights. There is a long list of men like Quanna Parker, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, Cochise, Minavavana, the great Chippewa chief and friend of Pontiac, and others who inspire thoughts of courage, patriotism, and bravery.

Special problems arise when one is dealing with the American Indian. He is told by those who oppose the gospel that salvation through Jesus Christ is the "white man's religion." The simple truth is that Jesus Christ was not a European "white" man. He was a Middle Eastern Jew by race. The Scripture is clear, "Salvation is of the Jews." The Bible teaches that all men are to be saved through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

Another lie that enemies of the gospel like to repeat is that "you cannot be a real Indian unless you live and believe like our ancestors did." We can thank God for the culture of the Native American, including their sensitivity to the environment. However, I have not seen any Native American who lives or believes exactly as their ancestors did.

Most certainly the present so-called "Indian Religion" that involves Peyote has comparatively recent origins.

A third lie told to Native Americans is that "if you are a good Indian you will go to heaven." This is the same lie that people all over the world have been told. Salvation is not gained by good works. The Bible says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). No one can be saved by being good because no one except Christ has ever lived a perfect life.

Pray for all missionaries and especially for the Combs as they labor for the salvation of souls among the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota. □

Don't Alter The Word

Every motive that could move men to alter the Word of God has been fully delineated in various portions of the Bible. It shows that God was aware from the first of the reception that would be given to His truth; and it is instructive to the humble believer as it is humiliating to the modern lover of pen-knife criticism.

1. The tendency to alter the Word of God is *human*. It is manifested in the first religious conversation on record. The divine voice had asserted, "Thou shalt not eat of it;" the human voice added, "neither shall ye touch it." The addition was the precursor of the fall.

2. The desire to alter the Word of God is *dangerous*. In the wilderness God Himself

points this out: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it" (Dt. 4:2). The nations they were advancing to conquer had long cast aside their allegiance to their Maker, and the least tendency to question or alter God's Word might result in the same downfall for Israel. Deuteronomy 12:31-32 distinctly refers to this danger, and re-asserts the warning, "Thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it." That idolatry does result from such daring rebellion is proved by the state of the Roman Catholic community today.

3. The act of altering the Word of God is *sinful*. "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Prov. 30:5-6). "Every word of God is pure;" and he who essays to improve upon it imputes error to the All-wise. Only unholy minds could attempt it.

4. The desire to alter the Word of God is *weakness*. Jeremiah's was a terrible message, and even he might yield to feelings of pity for his race. God saw this, and in words that could not be misunderstood, He said to the prophet, "Diminish not a word" (Jer. 24:2). If God's message is diminished, its power is lessened, and its results are consequently less certain. The authority, the power, the meaning, the terror of God's truth must be preserved in all their fullness for God's purposes are to be carried out.

5. The ambition to alter the Word of God is *Pharasaic*. To break the perfection of the law and teach our own alterations or additions as if they were of God is vile indeed (Mt. 5:19-20). Our Lord reproved this spirit in seathing and unmistakable language. Why is it His words are forgotten? "Ye have made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition," He says. "They teach for doctrines

the commandments of men" (Mt. 23:2-3). The Pharasaic spirit thus renders impossible obedience and loyalty to God as the supreme Teacher.

6. The craving to alter the Word of God is *accursed*. Revelation 22:18-19 should be read with fear and trembling. From Adam and all down the ages God has warned men against this crime. He is a jealous God, and has determined to visit with the direst punishment all who dare to alter His completed and full revelation.

This is the crime of the present day: the Lord preserve us from it! □

In The Presence of God

An old minister of a small church in a country town had one day in his audience a very distinguished statesman. To the surprise of the congregation, the service went on as usual, and the old minister preached with his accustomed earnestness and plainness.

At the close of the service several members of the congregation gathered about him and asked:

"Did you notice that we had a distinguished visitor today? Why, that was a member of the cabinet, but you did not seem to be at all embarrassed."

Thereupon the old man replied:

"I have been preaching in the presence of Almighty God for forty years, and do you think that, with Him as one of my constant hearers, any man can embarrass me by his presence?" □

Satan pays wages, but God gives gifts, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life (Rom. 6:23)


Spurgeon Believed In Baptist Perpetuity

History has hitherto been written by our enemies, who never would have kept a single fact about us upon the record if they could have helped it, and yet it leaks out every now and then that certain poor people called Anabaptists were brought up for condemnation.

From the days of Henry II to those of Elizabeth we hear of certain unhappy heretics who were hated of all men for the truth's sake which was in them. We read of poor men and women, with their garments cut short, turned out into the fields to perish in the cold, and anon of others who were burnt at Newington for the crime of Anabaptism.

Long before your Protestants were known of, these horrible Anabaptists, as they were unjustly called, were protesting for the "one Lord, one faith, and one baptism." No sooner did the visible church begin to depart from the gospel than these men arose to keep fast by the good old way. The priests and monks wished for peace and slumber, but there was always a Baptist or a Lollard tickling men's ears with holy Scriptures, and calling their attention to the errors of the times. They were a poor persecuted tribe. The halter was thought to be too good for them. At times ill-written history would have us think that they died out, so well had the wolf done his work on the sheep. Yet here we are, blessed and multiplied; and Newington sees other scenes from Sunday to Sunday.

As I think of your

numbers and efforts, I can only say in wonder — what a growth! As I think of the multitudes of our brethren in America, I may well say, What hath God wrought! Our history forbids discouragements." — (Spurgeon's Expository Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, pg. 41) 

PERFECT...

(Continued from page 1)

world.

I have little patience with such willfully blind people, and when I hear of some who are said to be perfectly holy, and of others who are utterly foolish, I think the two classes are wonderfully alike. I have met with a few people who seemed to me almost perfect, but they have been the very ones who have groaned most over their own imperfections; while those with whom I have come into contact, who have professed to be holy and without blemish, have been the most imperfect individuals I have ever known.


My own experience is a daily struggle with the evil within. I wish I could find in myself something friendly to grace; but, hitherto, I have searched my nature through, and have found everything in rebellion against God. At one time, there comes the torpor of sloth, when one ought to be active every moment, having so much to do for God, and for the souls of men, and so little time in which to do it. At another time, there comes the quickness of passion; when one should be calm and cool, and play the Christian,

bearing with patience whatever has to be endured, there come the unadvised word and the rash expression.

Anon, I am troubled with conceit, the devilish whisper — I can call it no less — "How well thou hast done! How nobly thou hast played thy part!" Then crawls out distrust — soul and faithless — suggesting that God does not regard the affairs of men, and will not interpose on my behalf. Yet what would I not give if I might but be perfect!

Sometimes, I think that, if God's people mentioned in the Old and New Testaments had all been perfect, I should have despaired; but, because they seem to have had just the kind of faults I grieve over in myself, I do not feel any more lenient toward my faults, but I do rejoice that I also may say with each of them, "The Lord will *perfect* that which concerneth me."

He will assuredly, beyond a doubt, bring to perfection my faith, my love, my hope, and every grace. He will perfect His own purposes; He will perfect His promises, He will perfect my body, and perfect my soul. While I am fully persuaded that perfection is absolutely impossible to any man beneath the sky, I feel equally sure that, to every believer, future perfection is certain beyond a doubt. The day shall come when the Lord shall not only make us better, but shall make us perfectly pure and holy; when He shall not merely subdue our lusts, but when He shall cast the demons out altogether; when He shall make us holy, and unblameable, and unreprouvable in His sight. That day, however, I believe shall not come until we enter into the joy of our Lord, and are glorified together with Christ

in Heaven. Then, but not till then, shall He present us "*faultless*" before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." 


Idiots or Nuts? Best To Behave

A preacher was annoyed by people talking and giggling during a service. He paused, looked at the disturbers and said:

"I am always afraid to expose those who misbehave for this reason. Several years ago, as I was preaching, a young man who sat before me was laughing, talking and making uncouth grimaces. I stopped and administered a severe rebuke.


"After the service a woman said to me, 'Sir, you have made me very sad. That young man you reproved is an idiot.'

"Since then I have been afraid to reprove those who misbehave during the church service lest I should repeat the mistake and reprove another idiot."

During the remainder of the service the order was excellent. 

REVIVAL...

(Continued from page 13)

anyone? And are you discipling any new converts? If Baptists will be involved in the Lord's work, the way we are supposed to be; we will not have time to criticize the eating habits of other preachers like John the Baptist! Wisdom is justified of all her children! 

Why get married? It often kills a beautiful friendship.