

the Baptist CHALLENGE

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WHOLE NO. 398

Six Things God Hates - No Make It Seven

By Charles W. Turner

It comes as a surprise to many people to read in the Bible the words, "God hates." After all, we have been told He is a God of love and there is no sin in Him. This is correct, but the problem arises with our human acquaintance with hate. Our experience and definition of hate is all negative and wrong. We express very little righteous dislike for things which are harmful to good and right. A God who is righteous and sinless must be in opposition to that which is wrong and sinful. God must hate sin or He cannot be perfect and holy.

When we understand hate to mean "a strong aversion" or "to dislike exceedingly," we can understand why God hates sin. God's hate is not mixed with malice and enmity as is that of the fallen human race. Jesus, for example, disliked what He found in the Temple, and His righteous aversion to such conditions brought forth strong reactions in His perfect nature. He responded to the situation with immediate resistance and this was all within the limits of His perfect being.

Now what is God averse to

and what does He hate with a righteous cause? The writer of the Book of Proverbs gives us some insight into actions in humans which God hates. The eyes, tongue, hands, heart and feet are used in acts to run contrary to the will of God. If you will compare the passage we are studying with Romans, chapter 3, you will find a striking parallel. Time and space will permit us to hit only the high spots of this area of study. Nevertheless, you will become aware that the things which God hates are very common practices of humanity. They are not far removed nor uncommon to any of us. The happy encouraging thought is that though God hates sin, His grace is sufficient to forgive the repentant sinner.

I. A Look That Is Proud (Prov. 6: 17).

There is a good reason to start the list of abominations to God with "a proud look." This sin forms the foundation for unrighteousness in the Scriptures. It was probably the very first sin in the universe and was committed by one of the angels

of God — Lucifer. Isaiah gives us the account of the rebellion and disobedience of one who wanted to "be like the most High [God]" (Isa. 14:12-18). In fact, He wanted to be worshiped and to have the very place and position which God held. "I will" is repeated again and again. Pride is the elevation of self to a level that is neither justified nor deserved by a person. It is the basis for the list of things that God hates. Pride will prompt a person to go to all lengths to get things he desires. An angel became a devil when he permitted pride to govern his unholy desires. And today the supremacy of pride continues to destroy the lives of people in every walk of life.

Satan used the trap of pride on Adam and Eve. Eve heard the appeal of pride from the serpent in the Garden (cf. Gen. 3:4-6). He told her she would be wise and "ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." This was indeed an appeal to the first lady, and she responded. She sinned when she disobeyed God's clear command. But the channel the devil used to reach her was by tempting her with the

prospect of being something that she was not. No wonder this worked so well — for Eve would certainly desire to be like God. A once beautiful angel had coveted status and he now used similar bait to bring about the entrance of sin into the human race;

Is it a surprise that on the list of things God hates we find pride receives number one place? Sin entered the universe by pride and the sin was committed by Eve. She yielded to the temptation which was based on pride. It is still very much with us and it continues to be harmful to many Christians. It also keeps many unbelievers away from God. They seemingly cannot give up their pride and admit they are sinners, even though this is a fundamental necessity. The admission of guilt must be followed by faith in the work of Christ on the cross.

II. A Tongue That Lies (Prov. 6:17).

Number two on God's "hate

(See **HATE** on page 15)

The Book of Revelation -- Message #21**The New Testament Jezebel**

By M. L. Moser, Editor

“And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” — Rev. 2:18-29.

Last Sunday we spoke to you concerning the background of this passage of Scripture as it dealt with this woman named Jezebel. We looked in the Old

Testament in the books of Kings and we talked about Jezebel, and all the things that she did. Then we pointed out to you how this Jezebel is typical of the Roman Catholic Church and her practices of inserting into so-called Christendom many of the false, heathen, pagan practices that are commonly practiced in the Catholic Church today, and many of which are even in Protestant churches today.

At this time I want to review of few of these things. All of these are things that were practiced in the ancient Babylonian Baal religion, and brought into Roman Catholicism, sometime after 325 A.D., most of them after 606 A.D. Constantine married Church and State in 325 A.D. and became head of both the Church and the State. Gregory VI became the first Pope with power in 606 A.D., not the first one that carried the title Pope, but the first one that possessed the authority and the power of the Pope. Later on, around 1860's, the doctrine of Papal infallibility became doctrine, and from that time on, the doctrine of Papal infallibility became a requirement for every Roman Catholic to believe. By that, it means that they must believe that when the Pope speaks *ex cathedra*, as they say, that he is infallible, incapable of any error.

Some of these things that were practiced in the Babylonian religion and have been brought into Catholicism, have also been brought into Protestantism, and regretfully, some have also been brought into the Baptist denomination. Let me just mention these and then we will hurry on with our message. We have priestly rites, the separation of clergy and laity, the orders of the clergy, “sisters” and nuns, monasteries, celibacy of the priests, robes, candles, incense, idolatry, the worshiping of images, pictures and relics, and the money-basis of religion —

you pay for what you get. No money, no Mass. Others are: the infallibility of the Pope, the voice of God, and the titles of the Pope. Then we have religious holidays such as Halloween, Lent, Easter, Christmas, all of which are pagan holidays with pagan practices brought into Catholicism, and many of them have been brought into Protestant churches as well.

Now I want to look at this woman Jezebel that lived during the time of the Church at Thyatira. As previously stated, each of these churches are literal churches and the letter written to each church had a specific application to that church. These churches are also representative of periods of time in history, and the Church at Thyatira is representative of the churches or Christendom as a whole that exists between the year of 606 A.D. and the year of 1500 or the Protestant Reformation. What we find then concerning this woman in Thyatira is something that was actually going on then, but it also has a prophetic application referring to the churches or Christendom during this period of time between 606 A.D. and 1500.

You will note that this woman Jezebel is living at that very time and is guilty of certain things. In verse 20 the Lord has just finished commending the church but now He says there are some things He does not like. Verse 20 says, *“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.”*

No doubt this woman Jezebel was a member of the sect called the Nicolaitanes. If you will notice in the letter to the church at

(See **CHURCH** on page 6)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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40th Annual Bible Conference In Little Rock October 24-26, 1994

Bro. Larry Jones, Pastor of the Central Baptist Church invites you to come to the 40th Annual Bible Conference of the Central Baptist Church in Little Rock which will be held October 24-26, starting at 7:00 p.m. Monday night, October 24 and closing with the evening services on Wednesday evening, October 26.

Ground-breaking has already taken place for construction of the new building for the church, and as the building will not be ready until middle 1995, the conference will be meeting in the Little Rock Expo Center located at Mile Marker #126 on Interstate 30 between Little Rock and Benton. The church will provide all meals which will include a continental breakfast and both the noon and evening meals which will be catered and served at the Expo Center Tuesday and Wednesday.

Some of the speakers and their subjects have already been chosen. They are as follows: Charles & Ron Thomas, "Missions"; Al & Jerry Locke, "The Church"; M. L. & Maurice Moser, "Salvation by Grace"; E. L. Bynum & Dean Robinson, "The Bible"; Kris Menifee, "The Deity of Christ"; David Pitman, "Justification by Faith"; Forrest Keener, "The Gospel"; Tom Bragdon, "Sin"; Dan Ferrell; "Personal Evangelism"; Mark Cox, "Heaven"; and Nick Michalinos, "Practical Sanctification". Other speakers will be selected from those who attend.

There are a few places available in the homes of our members on a first come, first served basis. If you desire to stay in one of our homes, please let us know as soon as possible. Also, if you are planning to

attend the Conference, please call 1-800-594-4876 and press 4 when the system answers. Your call will allow us to meet your needs more effectively, and make all the necessary preparations.

For those who would like to stay in a motel (at your expense, of course), The Ramada Inn (501) 776-1900 in Benton, located on Interstate 30 at Mile Marker #117 has made special rates for the Conference. Their rates are as follows:

- 1-2 -- one bed \$30.00 + tax
- 2-4 -- two beds \$38.70 + tax

La Quinta Inn (501) 455-2300 on Interstate 30 at Mile Marker #128 quotes the following prices:

- 1-4 -- Queen \$41.00 + tax
- 1-4 -- 2 beds \$39.00 + tax

When checking in, please advise them you are with the Central Baptist Church.

Please advise us if you are coming as soon as possible. Thanks.

Witchcraft Priest Starts Church In Arkansas

A new "church" whose leader calls himself a high priest of witchcraft has established itself in a residential neighborhood in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Terry Riley of Lake City said that he has registered with the state as a minister ordained by the Aquarian Tabernacle Church in Seattle. He said his church is a non-profit organiza-

(See **WITCH** on page 5)

Halloween: Is It Harmless Or Pagan Ritual?

By Jim Goodroe

"There is no place for Halloween on a Christian's calendar! We bristle at such an attack on a tradition we have innocently enjoyed since childhood. Self justification is triggered, and our defensiveness soon goes on the offensive.

Since you are mature enough to make your own decision, do just that! If you are too open-minded to scratch Halloween just because a religious fanatic says it is wrong, then you certainly would not endorse it just because the world says it's okay. Hear the facts, then decide for yourself.

"Halloween" is short for Allhallow Even, the eve preceding All-hallows' Day or All Saints' Day. The Feast of All Saints was established by the Catholic Church to honor all the "saints" (people canonized by the Catholic Church, officially recognized as having lived an exceptionally holy life, considered capable of interceding for sinners). In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III established the feast date of Nov. 1, making "Halloween" Oct. 31.

However, the customs now associated with Halloween were in practice on Oct. 31, long before Christianity, originating with the Druids, an order of Celtic priests, in ancient Gaul and Britain. The Catholic Church adopted the eve and the day following and renamed them, as they did with many other established observances, in an attempt to "Christianize" them.

The Druids taught religion, philosophy, and the power of the gods, and they performed sacrifices, which included human victims. They were also adept as astrologers, magicians, and

sorcerers. They believed in the mysterious powers of certain animals and plants, and used the entrails of sacrificed animals and the flight of birds to ascertain the unknown, especially the future.

Not only do Druidic practices parallel those of modern and historical witchcraft, but anthropology also pronounces the connection. Halloween is the most important festival of witchcraft cults. The Druid witches started it, and witches down through the centuries have celebrated it as their grand witch Sabbat. When we take part in Halloween customs, we are actually participating in a witchcraft celebration. In fact, many of our Halloween traditions find their origin and meaning within the witchcraft cult begun by the Druids or in superstitious reaction to it. For example, bobbing for apples originated as a means of divination, especially for girls in predicting their future husbands.

Why should Christians not participate (albeit naively) in the celebration of Halloween? Consider these references:

Jesus said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Mt. 7:16, 20). The main fruits of Halloween are gluttony and greed for children and vandalism for teenagers.

"Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Is it God who is glorified on Halloween, or is it the devil?

"Prove all things, hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearances of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21-22). When Halloween is weighted in the

(See **HALLOW** on page 6)

As Yourself --

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The Baptist Challenge

at no additional cost to me, and in most cases save myself a little money, would I try it for 90 days?

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5) 1+Dialing Convenience! Because LifeLine utilizes the services of major long distance carriers, there are no access codes to dial (Equal Access Areas Only).

6) Free Travel Card! 100% digital fiber optic network. Easy to use, with lower surcharges and 4% given back to **The Baptist Challenge**.

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Questions and Answers:

Q: "How does the LifeLine Long Distance program work?"

A.: It's simple, following the breakup of Ma Bell and AT&T, the major long distance companies began offering usage of their networks to companies such as AmeriVision Communications, Inc. (LifeLine). By purchasing long distance time wholesale, they can sell the long distance service to customers like yourself at a large discount. LifeLine simply passes 10% of this discount to the participating organization and still offers you a significant discount of 4-8% off standard AT&T rates depending on the time of day and distance of your calls.

Q: "Will my phone service or the way my phone bill is paid change when I'm placed on the LifeLine Long Distance service?"

A: No, the only difference you will notice is a slightly lower long distance phone bill and the name of LifeLine's billing company will appear on the long distance portion of your local phone bill. Otherwise, you will notice no difference.

Q: "Will there be any change when I dial the operator (0) or information (411)?"

A: No, your local Bell company will still handle those calls like before.

Q: "Do I have any special access codes to dial?"

A: NO! Because Lifeline services are handled by a major carrier, long distance dialing is convenient, 1 + the phone number, just as before.

Q: "Will I be charged a 'switching fee' by my phone company?"

A: In some circumstances it is possible that a carrier switching fee will appear on your Bell bill of approximately \$5. If a switching fee does appear on your bill, simply send a copy of the bill to LifeLine for a prompt refund.

Q: "Is there a fee to sign up?"

A: There is no charge for becoming a LifeLine customer.

Q: "Can I support more than one organization with my LifeLine payments?"

A: Not at this time.

Q: "Who do I contact if I have any questions?"

A: Contact LifeLine Customer Service at 1-800-800-7550

Q: "Can someone who does less than \$5 a month sign up?"

A: Yes. There is no minimum.

Q: "Can a business sign up?"

A: Absolutely, the commercial service called LifeLine Priorities is extremely competitive and yet flexible enough to meet the needs of almost every commercial business, whether large or small. Simply send a copy of your last months commercial bill and we will clearly show you how to save money and give 10% of your bill to **The Baptist Challenge**.

Q: "I use my calling card a lot, does LifeLine offer one?"

A: Yes. In fact, our LifeLine Travel Card allows you to access our Fiber Optic Network from almost every location in America. You save money with every call you make, (up to 20%) over the major long distance carriers.

Q: "How do I know I'll like the program, and what if I'm unhappy once I've joined?"

A: LifeLine guarantees your satisfaction, simply try the service for 90 days, and if not completely satisfied, we will switch you back to the carrier of your choice.

FELLOWSHIPS

and

CONFERENCES
SIoux FALLS, SD

October 3-5, 1994, Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S. Hawthorne Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Ron Tottingham, Pastor.

FORT WORTH, TX

October 3-5, 1994, Lake Worth Baptist Church, 4445 Hodgkins Rd., Fort Worth, TX 76135, Jerry Locke, Pastor.

ROSEVILLE, CA

October 13-16, 1994, Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, 7150 Wildwood Pl., Roseville, CA 95746, Rick Perdue, Pastor.

ELGIN, IL

October 10-12, 1994, First Missionary Baptist Church, 385 Silver St., Elgin, IL 60123, Terry Wilson, Pastor.

LITTLE ROCK, AR

October 24-26, 1994, Central Baptist Church, P. O. Box 25848, Little Rock, AR 72221, B. Lawrence Jones, Pastor.

CINCINNATI, OH

November 8-10, 1994, Central Baptist Church, 7645 Winton Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45224, James W. Love, Pastor

AMARILLO, TX

November 9-11, 1994, Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, 1600 N. Bivins St., Amarillo, TX 79107, Ron Pollan, Pastor.

ALEXANDRIA, KY

December 30-31, 1994, First Baptist Church, 104 Washington St., Alexandria, KY 41001, Carl Morton, Pastor.

WESTCLIFFE, CO

January 24-27, 1995, "Retreat In the Rockies", Wetmore Baptist Church, P. O. Box 84, Wetmore, CO 81253, (719) 284-4197, Brian Withrow, Pastor.

LUDLOW, KY

March 27-30, 1995, Bethlehem Baptist Temple, 316 Adela Ave., Ludlow, KY 41016, Bill Miller, Pastor.

BIG SPRING, TX

April 4-7, 1995, Birdwell Lane Baptist Church, 1512 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, Lewis McGarity, Pastor.

HALLOW...

(Continued from page 3)

balances, it is found wanting.

Halloween Alternatives

1. Now that you know the real meaning of Halloween, share it with others. Speak the truth in love, to educate rather than condemn, because their participation in Halloween is probably as naive as yours was.

2. Do not avoid or squelch the subject in conversations with your children. When the subject comes up, use the opportunity to teach them what Halloween is all about. "Halloween is really the devil's holiday, and we don't want to celebrate with the devil, do we?"

3. Refrain from supporting Halloween commercially through the purchase of Halloween paraphernalia.

4. Work to reduce the Halloween emphasis in the school. Especially make your child's teacher and principal aware of your convictions and request that they honor them as much as possible.

5. Christians (and church groups) can use the Halloween season to hold Bible studies about the supernatural and prayer meetings against the forces of evil.

6. Provide substitute activities for your children. Having an alternative activity helps a child save face with his peers, and sharing a more constructive experience shows them there are better things in life. As parents share themselves with their children, worldly substitutes will have less and less appeal.

7. What about "trick-or-treaters" who come to your door? If you are out on a family activity, this solves the problem. If you are home, do not be a bad witness, such as sending the children away

with condemnation instead of candy. You may wish to give them a tract explaining the meaning of Halloween and the message of Jesus (available at Christian book stores) in addition to the candy, not instead of it. As you give the candy, you may wish to say, "I don't believe in Halloween, but I want to give you this because Jesus loves you."

WITCH...

(Continued from page 3)

tion chartered under the Seattle church.

Riley said his Southern Delta Church of Wicca ATC has no building, but "an open-air sanctuary" with a stone altar in the middle of a residential lot. The "church" has held two rituals and an all-day celebration on May 1.

Riley said the church is not noisy and presents no threat to the neighborhood.

Riley said the coven has about 17 people. He said the church is "open to all pagans of all denominations," and members believe a divine spirit manifests itself through a god and goddess. The group doesn't believe in Satan or engage in devil worship, he said.

Riley recently lost a lawsuit against four area ministers, who he claimed discriminated against him because of his religious beliefs.

Even criminals are having it rough with increased inflation. A burglar's wife was constantly nagging him for more money. He finally snapped, "Okay, okay! Get off my back and I'll get some as soon as the bank closes.

-o-

The twins, five years old, had knelt for bed-time prayers. Little Clara prayed first, concluding: "Amen. Goodnight, God. And now stay tuned for Clarence.

CHURCH...

(Continued from page 1)

Pergamos we find in verse 14 that the Lord mentions things that are connected with the church or with the Nicolaitanes, and one of the things about them He says in the latter part of that verse is that they taught *"the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication."* So this woman was guilty of the very teaching that was carried on by the Nicolaitanes. She encouraged immoral conduct but under the guise of religion.

Now because of her influence within the church, no doubt she was a woman of prominence. At least she was a woman of influence within the church itself. Now then, typical of what this shows is what her prophetic application is. This woman assumed the authority of God, authority which God did not give. She called herself a prophetess. Now God has never called a woman to preach. God has never called a woman to pastor a church or to become a prophet within a church yet this is exactly what she called herself. This is exactly what the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church has done. He claims to be the voice of God. He claims to have the authority of God. He claims to be able to promulgate dogmas or bulls, as they are termed, and therefore he claims to be infallible, so that whatever he says in the area of religion and morals, they say that he is infallible.

Not only that, but he declares that all of his doctrines are of God, just as this woman Jezebel did. Now the Catholic Church, as we pointed out to you last Sunday, when they can not sustain a doctrine from the Bible itself, they claim tradition as the source of their authority, and they consider tradition superior to revelation as far as the Bible is concerned. Any time a

tradition of the church contradicts the Bible, they say, since the tradition has come later and has come to us from the Pope, therefore it supersedes what you find in divine revelation and is therefore superior to the Bible and is to be practiced and believed, even though it may contradict the Bible. We find here that this woman allowed herself, not only to teach, but to *"seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."* Now the shame of this church was that she was allowed to do this. The church did nothing about it. She was allowed to teach; she was allowed to seduce the Lord's servants; to commit fornication and to eat things offered unto idols.

Now that word seduce is a strong word. It never means simply error but a fundamental departure from the truth. Fornication that is mentioned here is not simply physical fornication but it is spiritual fornication, which means a mingling of the world, and a mingling of false religions with the practices of what we might term true Christianity. It is a merging, a blending together of the false pagan religions of the world into Christianity so that you have a marriage of paganism and Christianity, a marriage of heathenism and Christianity. This is called spiritual fornication. Though you and I think of physical fornication as morally about the worst thing that there is in the moral realm, God considers spiritual fornication to be much greater in its severity and greater in its degree of sinfulness. Spiritual fornication is where those who are believers, those who carry the name of believers, have fellowship and participate in combining themselves with heathen religions. This is what we find today in the ecumenical movement.

The ecumenical movement is the bringing together of all

denominations into one great big ecumenical church. They may not have a common organization yet; they may not have a common head yet, but the enticements are there. The steps are being taken in which all the denominations, not only Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish, but also including the heathen religions, such as Mohammedanism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Hinduism. All the pagan religions frequently meet in dialogue, as they say, with the purposes of merging and joining forces. This is spiritual adultery. This is what God says is the greatest sin that Israel committed and caused Israel to be taken captive into foreign lands because she allowed the heathen pagan religions to influence her and thus she combined and merged with them.

This is exactly what we see taking place today. Regretfully, even Baptists are participating in such movements as this. I hate to mention his name, because he has been a great man in past generations, a man who believes, I believe, in the fundamentals of the faith, the verbal inspiration of the Word of God, and a man that has been admired by Baptists for many, many years, but a man such as Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention, himself has been seduced by this ecumenical movement, and at the present time is carrying on a dialogue in which he has gone over to Jewish synagogues and spoken in the Jewish Synagogues and has even invited Jewish rabbis to come over and speak in his own First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas.

At one time, as I pointed out to you last Sunday, he was in either San Francisco or Los Angeles, and went to a Catholic Mass in a Catholic cathedral, and while the Roman Catholic

priest or bishop was observing the "sacrifice of the mass" as they term it, he says that he never felt the Spirit of God any greater than he did while that priest was carrying on the sacrifice of the Mass. That is nothing but pure pagan Babylonian religion being carried on in the name of Christianity. I would not doubt he felt the spirit there, but it was certainly not the Holy Spirit of God, it must have been the spirit of Antichrist, because it is not of God. This is spiritual adultery.

The pastor of First Baptist Church here in Little Rock has done the same thing. When Christ Episcopal Church had their Lenten services at 5th and Scott Streets he was there to speak in their Lenten services. This is nothing but spiritual adultery. Somebody says, "I don't think you ought to call names like that." Well I tell you what, when the Lord was speaking concerning that church at Thyatira He named that old woman by her name. Her name was Jezebel. Then you read Paul, and when Paul writes he says "Alexander the copper-smith did me much evil" (2 Tim. 4:14). He calls men by their names, such as Diotrephes. He mentions them by name. The Lord also intends for us to do so else how can we warn people against the evils and the dangers that are confronting us today and spiritual fornication is that which is being promoted today in Christendom, mostly through the National Council and World Council of Churches.

May I point out to you also that the Southern Baptist Convention is vitally involved in all of this. They are having dialogue themselves with Catholics and others. At Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, they meet there with the Jews on a regular basis. They have already

(See **CHURCH** on page 7)

CHURCH...

(Continued from page 6)

set up a schedule for that. They have membership in the Baptist World Alliance which is also part of the World Council of Churches. I have forgotten now what the exact figure is, but at one time they were contributing over \$50,000 a year to the agency of the National Council of Churches just for the privilege of using their Sunday School system in their quarterlies. E. S. James who is the editor of the **Texas Baptist Standard**, the Texas Baptist Convention paper acknowledged (I have it in my files) and admitted that the Southern Baptist Convention was paying an agency of the National Council of Churches over \$50,000 per year just to be able to use the same set of lessons, the outline of chapter and verses in their quarterlies. Now that was some years ago, and I am sure they pay more today since prices have increased.

Now, the manner of life of this woman Jezebel as she conducted herself with Ahab, is typically set forth in the manner of life of this same Jezebel that was in Thyatira, and the church was responsible for her actions. He says: "*Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel.*" They permitted this to occur within the church and did nothing about it. They permitted the false teaching of this prophetess who openly advocated apostasy, fornication and idol worship, and yet the church did nothing about it.

Church, let me remind you of this. It may cause a disruption; it may cause a difficulty; but if at any time we have even a man, much less a woman, who teaches false doctrine in this church, not only is your pastor accountable, but you as a church are accountable. God

does not intend for you to ever allow false doctrine to be taught in this church, even for the sake of harmony. If it has to disrupt, God says you take that false doctrine and you cut it out, just as you'd take a bad infected appendix and cut it out. He says you are to do that, and if you don't do it, then God holds this church responsible and accountable.

Now the pastor has the first job. He is responsible for all teaching that goes on within the church. He is to make certain that false doctrine is not taught within the church, but if he does nothing about it, that does not relieve you of your responsibility, and therefore you as a church are responsible. Now if your pastor doesn't take care of it, then you better take care of not only that one teaching, but the pastor as well. The pastor's main responsibility is to "take heed" and to make certain that these false sheep, these wolves in sheep's clothing that may come in, that they are not allowed to seduce the flock, or to tear up or to destroy a church. *But if the pastor does not do it, then you as a church are required to do it.* If this church ever has a pastor that won't do it, then you'd better get rid of that pastor. I don't care what his name is or who it is. And that is especially true if it should be the pastor that is teaching false doctrine. The church should remove him.

Now I don't think I will ever allow that. But, if for some reason I ever did, you should get rid of me. For false doctrine, the Lord says, is the worst thing that can occur within a New Testament church. It is a fact that we've had Baptist preachers down through the years that have stood firm for the truth, even at the sake of forsaking their own lives. It is for that reason that you and I have the truth today, because Satan has been busy down through these years

trying to infiltrate New Testament churches with false doctrine, either by means of prophetesses (women) or by means of prophets (men), false teachers, who would seduce men and women within churches to commit fornication, spiritual fornication, that is, to follow false doctrine.

Now, notice that the Lord, in spite of who she was, in spite of all that she had done, the Lord does still give her time for repentance. Verse 21: "*And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.*" As wicked as this Jezebel was, she was still given opportunity for repentance. Now I don't know how long she was given. God does not tell us, but she was given a space to repent, but "*she repented not.*"

The Lord also gives us space to repent, but if we do not, then we can know that the judgment of the Lord is soon going to fall. If we will not repent, then we are going to be condemned by the Lord, and God's judgment will fall upon us. Now her judgment is told us in verses 20-23. Notice in verse 22, He says,

"*Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.*" Now He's talking about this Tribulation Period that's going to come in the future. This is a prophetic letter that not only applied to that woman that was living at the time that this letter was written to the church at Thyatira, but it is a prophetic letter that is also talking about the future and this woman that is typical of the Roman Catholic Church, and He says that she is going to come into great tribulation, unless she repents of her deeds.

Verse 23: "*And I will kill her children with death.*" Now who are the children? Chapter 17 and 18 identify this woman for us very clearly. We'll get into that

when we get further along but there's no doubt that this woman is the Roman Catholic Church.

I'll tell you a funny story that happened. My dad was pastor of the Ohio Street Baptist Church (now Second Baptist Church) in Pine Bluff at the time. The pastor of a Methodist church advertised in the newspaper that he was going to preach a message on this scarlet colored woman, the great whore, the harlot woman of chapter 17 and 18 of the Book of Revelation, but it was going to be on a Sunday night, and of course, my dad couldn't go, as he had to be in his own pulpit on Sunday night. But he was very curious as to what this Methodist preacher was going to say. Having a lady in the church that was a court reporter who could write shorthand and was very quick, he asked her to go to the church and transcribe his message so that he could know what the message was all about. She she said she would although she hated to miss church. So she did.

That next week, my Dad having already read the message, happened to see this Methodist preacher walking down the street there in Pine Bluff. Dad stopped him and talked to him a minute, and said "Bro. So-and-so, I want to tell you that I really enjoyed your message last Sunday night, and I want you to know that I agree with everything you said." And the Methodist preacher said, "Preacher what are you talking about. You weren't even there." "No, but," he said, "I saw what the title of your message was in the paper and I was just real curious as to what you would say. I didn't want to be underhanded, but I just wanted to know just what you said, and I had a lady of my church go over there, and transcribe your message so that I could read it, and I want you to

(See **CHURCH** on page 12)

Apes Equal To Human Beings. The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights soon could be joined by a new ruling—the U.N. Declaration on Great Apes. Scientists have begun a global campaign to have gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans declared equal to human beings. If it succeeds, it will be the first time the rights of any species other than humans have been accepted by the United Nations. The Human Rights Declaration, adopted in 1948, is based on the principle that all people are born free and equal. A declaration on great apes—man's closest relatives—would guarantee their right to life, protection of individual liberty and freedom from torture. — London Observer Service.

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Apology To Our Readers.

We have received much correspondence in the last few months, and though we have tried to answer all of it, I am afraid that we have missed some. Presently, Challenge Press is located in temporary quarters without regular offices, and it is difficult to keep up with everything, so if you have written us a letter or sent us a book order and did not receive a response we apologize. Also, we have a new address, and some of our mail may have gone astray, so we are asking each of our readers to take note of our new addresses. All correspondence for **The Challenge Press, Central Baptist**

Church, or Latin American Baptist Missions should be sent to:

**P. O. Box 25848,
Little Rock, AR
72221-5848
Church (501) 868-7703
Chal. Press: (501) 868-7622
Fax: 1-501-594-7622**

All personal correspondence for the editor M. L. Moser should be sent to:

**805 Winding Creek Trail
Red Oak, TX 75154-3968
(214) 755-7777
mlmoser1@juno.com**

Again, we apologize if we have failed to get out any of the book orders on time or answer your letters, but we will try to become more efficient. I am sure things will improve as soon as we get into our new facilities. — The Editor.

* * *

Billy Graham Praises Bill Clinton. Evangelist Billy Graham was quoted in the press as being extremely pleased with the performance in office of his friend, Bill Clinton. "Bill Clinton would make a great evangelist," Graham glowingly assured the national press corps. Earlier, as a guest on CNN's The Larry King Show, the famed evangelist commented that even though he had been a close, personal friend of Bill Clinton for many years, he had never in the past—nor would he ever in the future—

bring up to the President the issues of homosexuality and abortion. "If I did that," Graham explained, "I would not be invited back to the White House." — *The Sword of the Lord.*

* * *

Freedom of Choice. The same administration that loudly shouts "freedom of choice" for women to destroy their own babes in the womb does not want us to have choice about our doctors and health care. Thomas Sowell well reminds us that even the so-called "moderate" Republican bills use the word "require" dozens of times and the Clinton bill uses it 901 times. Terms like "ban," "enforce," "penalty," "prison," etc., occur nearly 1,500 times in the Clinton bill. Sowell asks, "Where in the Constitution does it say that the federal government has the power to tell people what medical treatments they shall have or not have?" He says we're selling our freedom for political rhetoric. Shall we pray? — Hugh Pyle in *The Sword of the Lord.*

* * *

United Way Insanity. Christian Action network recently reported that "the United Way" is funding a homosexual hotline, which contributors finance, and that it receives calls every day from children and young teens! The youngsters are not told on this hotline that

sodomy is an abomination nor warned about the terrible risk of AIDS. They are told that homosexuals are "born that way." Remember this when United Way calls! — Hugh Pyle in *The Sword of the Lord.*

* * *

Pastor Resigns From Committee. All conventions, associations, Bible fellowships, mission boards, etc., tend to exercise authority over the churches in them. Before me is a letter from Pastor Burton Herring of the Rigby Street Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala. He has served for some time on the Advisory Committee (of the Missionary Committee of the Baptist Missionary Association of America), and he has now resigned. He writes: "I, along with others, was shocked when the committee was asked to authorize the re-designation of several thousand dollars that had been (specifically) designated for missionaries' salaries. ... I was also quite shocked to be told BMAA churches are not independent and that a church loses certain rights and privileges when it becomes a part of the BMAA. I have never been aware that the officers or employees of the association had any control over the rights of the local church. I would be very interested in knowing what rights our churches have given up and who, specifically, is in charge of those rights at the present time." — Baptist Trumpet, State BMAA

paper for the State of Arkansas.

* * *

Senate Says Remove Religion From Its Guidelines.

While the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission continues to ponder the future of its proposed religious harassment guidelines, Congress keeps sending signals — and most recently, a command — about its desires. The Senate approved an amendment ordering the EEOC to delete the category of religion from guidelines on harassment in the workplace. Critics have charged the inclusion of religion in the proposed guidelines will result in a ban on religious expression on the job, largely because of employers' fear of lawsuits. The amendment, which was passed without opposition by voice vote July 22, must survive a conference committee of members from both the Senate and House of Representatives. The House already had passed the same spending bill with an EEOC amendment, but its measure prohibits the use of funds for implementation of the guidelines if they are not changed. The House approved the amendment 366-37.

* * *

AFA Lists Top TV Sponsors of Pro-homosexual Programs. Procter & Gamble is the leading sponsor of pro-homosexual programs on television,

according to American Family Association. AFA said that based on programs monitored during the first six months of 1994, there was not a single program which depicted homosexuality in a negative manner. Other companies listed in the top ten include PepsiCo, Philip Morris, McDonald's, AT&T, Nestle, Unilever, General Motors, Ford, and Walt Disney. "There has been a proliferation of programs presenting homosexuality as a normal, acceptable, alternative lifestyle," said AFA president Donald E. Wildmon. "The companies identified in the report have agreed with the movers and shakers in Hollywood and at the networks that the public's attitude toward homosexuality must be reshaped. One could accurately say that the radical homosexual community now has total control of Hollywood and the networks on this issue," Wildmon said. [Upon learning of this we here at Challenge Press switched to MCI, and then just one week later we learned that MCI Communications is also listed among the top sponsors of sex, violence and profanity according to the AFA. After being on MCI just one week, I switched to LifeLine. I hope that each of our readers will note the special arrangements we have made with *LifeLine*, a long distance company operating primarily with non-profit organizations. For all of those who sign up, 10% of their long distance bill will be sent to **The Baptist Challenge**. I have already switched to *LifeLine* as well as the Central Baptist Church. This is one way

you can help **The Baptist Challenge** by using *LifeLine*. Please read the announcement on page 4 of this issue.

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Gregory Enters Second Marriage.

Joel Gregory, former pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, and Sherry Elaine Lemon were married July 30, according to a news release. The private ceremony marked the second marriage for Gregory, 46, and Lemon, 41, the new release stated. Gregory, who was divorced from his wife of 26 years, Linda, last December, abruptly resigned at First Baptist church in Dallas in 1992.

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Is CBF A New Denomination?

The question stirs debate and strong emotion at times despite how simply it's phrased. The issue may not be settled as yet, but there are several indicators that the *Cooperative Baptist Fellowship* is at least well on its way to denominational status, according to Tom N Bettles of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School near Chicago. "Whether or not they perceive themselves as a denomination, they certainly are going to have the option very soon of engaging in all the different things a denomination sees itself as doing," said Nettles, chairman of the Church History Department and former Southwestern Seminary professor. "It's up to them

to define whether they want to become a denomination," Nettles said. "It's still up in the air whether they want to."

* * *

Pastor Needed. The Pas Baptist Church is extending a call for a Pastor. We are an independent, mission minded church located in Northern Manitoba, Canada. We would like to encourage you to circulate this letter among Baptist churches. Those pastors led by the Lord to this work can contact us at (204) 623-2181 and leave a message on our answering machine and we will return their call. — The Pas Baptist Church

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Clinton's Pastor Thumbs Down Falwell. Jerry Falwell has been invited to be the closing speaker of the Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference which meets in October, according to conference president Wallace Edgar. The state convention begins the following day at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock. Edgar, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Texarkana, extended the invitation for Falwell to speak at the conference, noting that "several people" had requested that Falwell be invited to

(See WNR on page 10)

WNR...

(Continued from page 9)

speak. Following a meeting this summer with Little Rock's Immanuel Baptist Church pastor Rex Horne, [the church of which President Bill Clinton is a member] state convention executive director Don Moore and convention president Ronnie Rogers, Edgar sent a letter to Arkansas Baptist pastors announcing that he had "been asked by some of our state leadership that (Falwell) not be permitted to come." He added that Falwell "said he understood and would honor their request." Horne, said he would personally "accept any blame" for asking that Falwell not speak at Immanuel. Following the statewide mailout to pastors, Edgar said he was "flooded with letters," most of which favored Falwell speaking at the conference. In response, Edgar contacted Bill Elliff, pastor of First Baptist Church, Little Rock, about moving the pastors' conference to Elliff's church. "It wasn't going to work out for Dr. Falwell to come if it was at Immanuel," Edgar acknowledged. "Having it at First Baptist will take the attention away from the controversial issue of having it at Immanuel." It has been rumored recently in several national magazines and papers that Falwell is on the verge of leading his church to become a member of the Southern Baptist Convention, and he is a frequent speaker at many of their programs.

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Planned Parenthood's Big Bucks From Abortion. Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion factory in America, has launched a \$10-million campaign to persuade Congress to pass legislation to give abortion mandatory coverage in any national health

reform plan. It wants to force taxpayers to fund the cost of unrestricted abortions to any female. PP already operates the biggest abortion clinic network in the U.S. Its over 100 clinics perform 132,000 abortions a year. Of its \$446 million 1992 budget, \$142.3 million came from taxpayer grants (\$124 million in 1991).—CC

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Is Clinton A Liberal? The 7/17 *Parade* answered thusly: "In his heart, William Jefferson Clinton, our 42nd President, is a liberal activist in the New Deal-Great Society tradition of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson. Clinton believes that government programs can help cure America's ills through smart social engineering. However, his advisers repeatedly have warned the President that if he strays too far to the left, he risks losing the support of the American public, which is overwhelmingly in the center of the political spectrum. Though personally a liberal activist, Clinton politically is capable of supporting conservative causes when it's pragmatic."—CC

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Guns & Black Criminals. The 8/15 *Christianity Today* said: "In our time gun violence is an almost uniquely American problem, placing the U.S. in a league of its own. In 1990, handguns killed only 22 people in Great Britain, 68 in Canada, and 87 in Japan; in the U.S., 10,567." In the 5/16 *National Review*, author Jared Taylor says statistics which create the impression that Americans are more violent than Europeans are excessively skewed by the extremely high rates of violent crimes committed by black Americans ("eight times as high as whites for mur-

der and more than ten times for robbery"). The 7/25 *New American* cites 1992 FBI figures showing a U.S. murder rate of 9.3, and a robbery rate of 263, per 100,000 population. But the murder rate for U.S. whites was 5.1 per 100,000, while for American blacks it was 43.4 (robbery: 126 vs. 1,343). Taylor concludes that "gun-control advocates propose to disarm all Americans because of violent crimes committed by blacks" and that America "has a high rate of violent crime because it has a large number of violent black criminals." *U.S. News* quotes a sad statistic that should concern us ALL: "... 23 per cent of all black men ages 20 to 29 are either in jail, on probation or parole or awaiting trial."—CC

* * *

U.S. Troops Under U.N. Command? President Clinton last spring signed a secret order asserting his authority "to place U.S. forces under the operational control of a foreign commander" (6/19 *Washington Times*). A "Combat Arms Survey" administered to Marines at the Twentynine Palms Marine base (CA) asked Marines who had participated in the Panama invasion, Gulf War, or UN action in Somalia if they would be willing to swear allegiance to the UN and fire on Americans who resist federal gun confiscation (8/22 *New Amer.*). Two pertinent quotes from Dr. Dennis Cuddy's new 52-page booklet on the New World order: "We have been and are being internationalized into a New World Order." "The American people will never knowingly adopt Socialism, but under the name of Liberalism they will adopt every fragment of the Socialist program until one day America will be a Socialist nation without knowing how it happened."—CC

Government Education A Disaster. America's education system is in shambles. More money will not save it. Education spending accounted for 29% of the combined state and local government expenditures in the 1991 fiscal year (8/1 *New Amer.*). It was by far the largest area of spending, at \$309 billion (welfare \$130 billion, health care \$81 billion). Yet, thousands of public schools are virtual prisons, with metal detectors, police, etc. A militant campaign to de-Christianize public schools has converted them almost totally into temples of humanism and new Age paganism. Condoms are now distributed, homosexuality is presented as a natural/preferable life style, school based clinics promote abortion — and outcome-based education (OBE) is the proffered cure-all.—CC

* * *

KJV Too Tough? Almost half of U.S. adults over age 25 cannot effectively read the King James Version, according to a report to the recent North American Conference for Itinerant Evangelists by pollster George Barna. Barna said the church needs to change some of its practices to garner a fuller harvest of souls, and illustrated his conclusion with his finding that the KJV requires twelfth-grade reading skills, while 49% of adults cannot read at an eight-grade level. A million high school graduates last year lacked a second-grade reading ability, he added.—*Pulpit Helps*

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The Unmentioned Issue. Americans may be changing their minds about abortion — or at least about who should pay

(See WNR on page 11)

WNR...

(Continued from page 10)

for it. A recent *Time-CNN* poll found 52% of respondents opposed a national health care plan that would pay for abortions. In a similar survey in May, 1993, only 44% were opposed to "guaranteed abortions." Meanwhile, most Americans would never know the health care plans being considered in Congress would allow payment for abortions, if they depended on TV newscasters. — *Pulpit Helps*.

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Crime Bill Has Wrong

Focus. Both the liberals and the conservatives have missed the mark on solving crime in this country. The liberals see criminals as victims, and the conservatives want more jail cells and longer sentences; but neither social programs nor building programs have helped thus far. The fact is that over the two decades between 1973 and 1992, the prison population in America grew from 210,000 to 884,000. We built more prisons than at any other time in our history — but still they are drastically over-crowded. The number of criminals is increasing faster than we can build cells to house them. Crime is the result of a moral breakdown, and until this country restores faith in God, strong families, and individual accountability, we can't see a solution — *Pulpit Helps*

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Singapore Vindicated!

Remember the American teen brat in Singapore who was given four licks for vandalism? He has left his mother and step-father there and returned to his dad in the U.S. And, all the bleeding-heart liberal radio and TV talk-show people have been parading him as an innocent

little lamb who was falsely accused and unjustly punished in a horribly cruel way. Even before he was punished, certain American companies were negotiating with him for movie and book rights for his story, making him rich! If there was any question about Michael Fay's guilt in Singapore, his conduct here has removed all doubt. Recently he returned home late one night drunk and his dad grounded him. According to the police report the 19-year-old threw down his cigarette and attacked his pop. But his daddy held him down until police took him to jail. The poor boy needs more licks! Now even left-wing radicals admit that anyone who will assault his parents will do anything! If America would come back to the Bible and our forefathers using the public whipping post, then crime, juvenile delinquency, and vandalism would stop. Next to abortion, the worst form of child abuse in America is the refusal to correct wicked children. Even God says, "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth (spank lightly), and scourgeth (spank hard) every son whom he receiveth" (Heb. 12:6). "He that spareth his rod *hateth* his son..." (Prov. 13:24). — *The Missionary Challenge*.

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Crosses Must Go. The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to overturn lower court rulings that forced three California local governments to cease maintenance and use of large crosses that have become landmarks. The court did not review appeals of a March 1993 ruling by the Ninth U.S. Circuit of Appeals that the use of the crosses violates the California constitution's guarantee of "free exercise and enjoyment of religion without

discrimination or preference." One of the crosses was built in the 1920's on Mt. Helix in San Diego County, while the other was built as a tribute to war veterans in 1954 on Mount Soledad inside the city of San Diego. In the third case, the nearby city of La Mesa was ordered to remove the Mt. Helix cross from the city's insignia. The appeals court had ruled that while the city of La Mesa had a legitimate secular purpose in using the well-known local landmark to make the city's personnel and property more identifiable, such a purpose did not lessen the constitutionally-prohibited "preference" the insignia showed for a particular religion.

* * *

Beer, Band And Candlelight At McDonald's. It was Friday evening, the end of a long work week. Nivaldo Aburque and his friends at the state transportation department in downtown Rio de Janeiro were in the mood for a happening Happy Hour. So they cleared their desks, locked the office and headed for the one place they knew where for two hours the beer would be flowing, a live band would be playing and there was plenty of food to be had. They went to McDonald's. Welcome to the Golden Arches, Brazilian-style, where a Big Mac can be washed down with a cold beer, patrons can gobble their Quarter Pounder and fries to the sounds of live samba and, on certain nights, meals are served under candlelight by waiters bearing champagne. A burger and beer are not unique to Brazilian McDonald's. The U.S. chain's outlets in Germany, Britain and France also serve beer and wine. McDonald's gave its Rio restaurants permission to pour

after franchisees and managers of company-owned restaurants insisted. "We started getting calls from restaurants who said they wanted to serve beer and have music," said Peter Rodenbeck, a top executive in McDonald's eighth-largest market. "We investigated and gave them permission to do it. It's a cultural thing."

* * *

Teacher Fails Silence Test.

The teacher who refused to open the school day with a state-mandated moment of silence has been fired. The school board fired Brian Bown. The social studies teacher at South Gwinnett High School in suburban Atlanta, GA has called the silence an unconstitutional attempt to return prayer to public schools. Bown was suspended with pay on Aug. 23 after he lectured through the moment of silence on the first day of school and told the principal he would never comply with the law. The law, which took effect July 1, requires public school teachers to hold a daily "brief period of quiet reflection."

Editor's Schedule

October 9, 1994, Liberty Baptist Church, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

October 12-16, 1994, Southside Baptist Church, Paducah, Kentucky.

October 24-26, 1994, Bible Conference, Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas.

November 4-6, 1994, Northside Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

CHURCH...

(Continued from page 7)

know that I agree with everything you said, that the 17th and 18th chapters of the Book of Revelation that talks about that whore, the fallen woman, the harlot woman, I believe that she really is the Roman Catholic Church, and I agree with you."

He said, "I'm glad to see you do, but I don't see what it's all about." My Dad then said, "I just want to ask you a question, if the Roman Catholic Church is that harlot woman, the whore, that fallen woman, I want to know who are her children, and who are they today?" It made him so mad, he never would speak to my Dad again, because you see, the Methodist church is a church that came out of the Roman Catholic Church, and that makes the Methodist Church illegitimate, and of course, the Methodist pastor got the point and never did speak to my Dad again.

But now listen, that's exactly what this says right here, and "I will kill her children." Well who are the children of this fallen woman? Who are the children of the Roman Catholic Church? They are the churches that have come out of the Protestant Reformation.

Somebody says, well that includes Baptists too. No! You see, Baptists are not Protestants. Baptists have never affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. Baptists have a history separate and apart from the Roman Catholic Church. Baptist history goes all the way back to the time of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and Baptists have never been a part of Roman Catholicism. In fact, Baptists were the ones that were killed and slaughtered by the Roman Catholics during the Medieval Age or the Dark Ages, the period of the Inquisition. Who was the inquisition against? Well, if you

read your history books they tell you that it was against the "sects," the "heretics," the Anabaptists, our Baptist forefathers.

When you read in history of those who the Roman Catholics called heretics, and what these "heretics" believed and practiced, you find that most of those "heretics" in the eyes of Roman Catholics were our Baptist forefathers who believed, taught and preached the same things that Baptists believe and teach today. When you read in your history books about these Anabaptists, either secular or religious history, you are reading about our Baptist forefathers. Baptists never were a part of Roman Catholicism. We never came out of Rome for we were never "in" Rome. In fact, it's the very reverse. You go back to the first and second centuries and culminating with Constantine, it was Roman Catholics that rebelled against the truth of the Word of God and they came out of the Baptists. When they (the Catholics) got so bad, then Baptists refused to recognize them as a legitimate church, and they would not receive their baptism even though they practiced immersion, and that's where they got the name "Anabaptists," which means "re-baptizers" or "re-immersionists." That's exactly what our Baptist forefathers did. They refused to accept the baptism of the Roman Catholic Church.

Any time somebody came from the Roman Catholic Church, even though they had been immersed, they were required to submit to Baptist baptism, as their previous "baptism" was considered unscriptural or "alien" as it is referred to today. They considered the Roman Catholic Church an apostate church with no authority to administer the ordinances, and they required those coming

from them, if they were really saved, to be scripturally baptized under the authority of a New Testament church. Baptists still preach that today, and Baptists are still persecuted because of that today, but that is Bible doctrine, scriptural doctrine.

Now, this speaks of her judgment. "*Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*" So not only is she going to be judged, but all of those who join with her in sin are going to be punished as well.

Let me tell you now, we better make sure that we stay separated from the apostasy otherwise, we might get caught in judgment. I can't help believing there are some real true saved preachers — I think Bro. Criswell is a saved man. I think he knows the Lord. I've read too many of his sermons. I've read too many of his books. I believe he is a saved man, but, he is not exempt from the judgment of the Lord if he joins in with the apostasy.

This is also true of a church. It can be a scriptural church, a New Testament church, but if it allows these things to take place, they too will be brought under the judgment of God. Now a church can apostatize. A church can go into apostasy and they can actually have their candlestick removed so that they may carry a name but no longer be a true pure legitimate church. Now a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ cannot go into apostasy, they cannot apostatize, but they can so sin that they will lose every bit of their rewards. It is possible for a believer to reach the point that they can have nothing except just "barely"

are saved. The scriptures refers to this in one place as "though as by fire."

Well, let me hurry on or I'm not even going to finish what I wanted to say today. Today, we see this degeneration taking place, even among the Lord's churches. Not just apostate churches, for this is talking about true churches. The church at Thyatira was a true church of the Lord; they were still a scriptural church, but they allowed these things to go on, and there has been a degeneration like this among us today, and God promises judgment to come down upon it.

You see, God is not only a God of mercy, but He is a God of justice as well. Today we have over emphasized the fact that God is a God of mercy. He is, but when we spurn His mercy, rebel against His teaching, and repudiate His doctrine, then God says that judgment is going to fall, and we must expect Him, not only to be a God of mercy, but a God of justice as well.

Now what's the purpose of all this? The purpose is to give a warning to all churches to beware of this same evil. That's why this is here. It's a warning. It's a warning, not only to Central Baptist Church but to every other true church that we not allow these things to take place.

That brings me to the next thing. Today there has developed a laxness of discipline within New Testament churches concerning this matter of separation. It didn't use to be this way, but there has been a degeneration of discipline within churches. You look at this church at Ephesus that we read about in the first verses of this chapter, and in Ephesus it says that they tested out the false claimants and they would have nothing to do with false teachers. In Pergamos, it said they

(See **CHURCH** on page 13)

CHURCH...

(Continued from page 12)

simply had those who were holding the doctrines of Balaam and the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes, but here in Thyatira it is even more pronounced because it says they suffered that woman to teach these doctrines.

What we see has been a progressive deterioration of discipline within the church. The main fault of this church was that the church or the congregation tolerated a woman to teach heresy, and when they allowed such as this, then the true members that are not guilty of the heresy, condone it, and therefore they are going to be guilty. Notice in 1 Timothy 2:12, a verse of scripture that I was talking to you about a while ago, about how God never called a woman to preach. Notice, He says: *"But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."* Now this is God's word for it. The Apostle Paul is inspired by the Holy Spirit of God to write this. Yet, here was this church allowing a woman to teach. In our next message, we are going to discuss the subject of women, and point out you that God does have a great place for women to perform. They can perform great services for the Lord. He has places for them, but it is not as a preacher. It is not as a teacher over men. We'll look at that later on. We'll not try to go into that right now.

This church did not seem to recognize their responsibilities at all towards the evil within that church that seemingly was increasing and rapidly was destroying God's testimony upon the earth. While they as a church seemingly did not encourage it or associate with it, or even have fellowship with it, they did nothing to get rid of it. They simply let her alone and her

wickedness was unchecked and therefore the church itself became guilty of indifference. An indifference to sin in a church's midst makes the church accountable before God for both the sin and the sinner. Now whether it was for sympathy for the evil, or because a lack of moral fiber to resist it, it makes no difference, they were still guilty.

He writes to the remnant now in verse 24. *"But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine..."* In other words there were still those who had maintained themselves separate from this error. He "sorta" gripes at them because they did not do what they should have done to oppose it, but there were still those that did not have this doctrine, and He says, *"and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak."* So you see the Lord distinguishes His own saints who have now become a remnant, but He distinguishes this remnant from the mass of false professors by whom they are now completely surrounded, and He says that this remnant did not possess the teachings of this Jezebel. He also says, they have not known "the depths of Satan."

Now I have tried to determine just what this means "the depths of Satan." The deep things of evil, I think is what that means. These are Satanic acts that are beyond the ability of man to conceive of or understand, and don't think that Satan does not have power. There is such a thing as Satan possession, demon possession today. I think much of this Voodooism that we read about in the West Indies is nothing more than a form of Satanic influence and power within men. We have much of it here in the United States as well. Satan is super-human. That is, he is above humans in both knowledge and power. Don't expect to be able to

understand everything Satan does. He is super-human. Now he does not have the same power that God has. He is limited. He does not have that much power, but he has more power than you or I have.

Now, these false members go beyond the power of human wickedness or ingenuity because they are working under the power of Satan, and it is impossible to understand all of this, and it did not come about by mere human invention. Many of these so-called religious quacks going around our world today claiming to perform miracles, may actually perform miracles, but if so, they are doing so under the power of Satan. Satan is super-human, and he can invest his power within his people here upon earth, and he can actually cause them to do things that are beyond our comprehension or understanding. I've seen pictures of this so-called Voodoo worship where they have a bed of hot coals, and a human being (at least I guess he's human), actually walks across these coals of fire with bare feet, and seemingly is unhurt. I do not understand it. It's beyond my understanding or comprehension, but Satan is able to perform miracles like this.

I have seen some of these so-called divine healers here in the United States that seemingly have been able to heal somebody of a very serious disease, maybe a terminal disease or something. I don't understand it, but I can tell you now that they do not operate under the power of God. That's evident because of their doctrine of salvation, for it is always based upon works and falling from grace, and a true preacher of the gospel does not preach such doctrine.

These are the powers of Satan today. The Lord says that when the Antichrist comes, he is going to deceive the whole

world, and he's going to do it by means of a miracle. It's called "a lying wonder," but it will be a miracle, and the whole world is going to "wonder" after the Antichrist, all because of his ability to perform miracles.

But now notice in verse 25, *"But that which ye have already."* Now He's talking about this remnant within the church. *"But now that which ye have already hold fast till I come."* Now what do they have and what are they to hold fast?

First it refers to the "faith once for all delivered unto the saints." Notice in Jude 3, *"Beloved when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."* The first thing you and I are to "hold fast" and to make certain of are the doctrines of the Word of God. It may not be popular, there may be others who are forsaking these doctrines, but He says for you and me that we are to "hold fast" these doctrines, to "hold fast" this which you have.

Secondly, He refers to their salvation which comes to us through the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now that does not imply that you can lose your salvation. You cannot, but you certainly can lose your testimony and you can certainly lose your influence.

In 1 Corinthians 3:15, and I need to hustle, He says, *"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."* These verses point out the fact that it is possible for you to lose everything that you may have in the way of a spiritual blessing, *except your salvation.* You cannot lose salvation because it is not dependent upon

(See **CHURCH** on page 14)

CHURCH...

(Continued from page 13)

you, it is dependent upon Jesus Christ and what He did for you. If it depended upon you, you'd lose it too. But it's not. Your rewards are dependent upon you, and they are dependent upon your service and your faithfulness and dependability to the Lord, and if you are not, you can lose *all* of your rewards and have nothing except just barely be saved.

There are many of you that when you get to heaven and stand before the Lord's throne where He passes out rewards, you're going to weep and cry. Someone says "I thought there weren't going to be any tears in heaven." No, it didn't say that. It said that God would wipe away all tears. You're liable to be there and just be crying your heart out because you lived your life here on this earth and have nothing in service to show the Lord. You did nothing for the Lord. In fact, you may have been a handicap or a hindrance to the Lord's cause. Paul says there are some people that can live their life so bad, they're saved, but they can be so bad that some actually sleep. By that he means that God took their life because their life reached the point that there was no influence for good, but it was all an influence for bad, and God says you're just worthless here on earth. He's going to take you on home and just prevent your bad influence down here. Saved, yes, but "though as by fire."

Then He says, "*But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.*" Now there's no doctrine more clearly taught anywhere in the Word of God than that of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ. From here on, you'll note that the return of the Lord is emphasized all the way through, for it is going to mark the end of Satan's

conflict with God and Satan's conflict with God's people.

There are to be rewards. We're not going into the question of these rewards, but He says in verse 26, "*And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.*" Who are these overcoming ones? These are the ones that had nothing to do with Jezebel, that had nothing to do with the company of Jezebel. These are the ones that continued faithful in the Lord's work.

There are rewards. There is the reward of participating in the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a quotation from Psalm 2:8-9, and in verse 26 it talks about this, that they will have power over the nations. This is authority over the nations. This is talking about the millennial reign of the Lord. That's when the rewards are going to be given out. This is when our rewards are going to be given to us to use, and the overcomer will be permitted to be a co-ruler of the nations with the Lord during the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice chapter 3 verse 21, "*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*" Matthew also writes about this. We'll not go into that now, but of this ruling, He says, in Matthew 25:27-28, "*And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star.*" It will be a reign in righteousness.

This world doesn't know what a reign in righteousness is. You and I know how unrighteous everything is, how unfair, how you do not have justice. It's injustice that we see in our court system and everything we have. When Jesus reigns,

it will be a rule in righteousness, and in Isaiah 26:9 it talks about the whole world is going to learn righteousness, because He Himself will be the ruler.

The "morning star" is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself as we find in chapter 22 and verse 16, and this corruption that we read about right here began in the time of the church of Thyatira and it has spread like a flood until today.

The Lord is not going to be long in returning. From this point on, everything you read talks about the coming of the Lord, the returning of the Lord. Are you ready for Him when He comes?

Christian, are you ready? Are you going to have any rewards when Jesus comes? Or, are you just going to be barely saved "though as by fire?" It all depends on you as for as rewards are concerned, since rewards come by works. They come because of service, and if you have no service, and you have no works for the Lord, you're going to be ashamed at the coming of the Lord. Just be thankful your salvation was not dependent upon you, otherwise, you'd lose it too. But you'll be saved because it's dependent upon what Jesus did, not what you do.

But if you are unsaved, the Lord's going to come and then what are you going to have? Judgment! It may be you're going to be left behind to go through that Tribulation Period which I think is not far away. If so, then you're going to understand what it means to fall under the judgment of God, ultimately to come before the great White Judgment Throne to be cast into the lake of fire, for ever and ever.

Saved and lost, you need to take heed to the message of the church of Thyatira that you be ready for the coming of the Lord.

Hidden Books

The names of several books of the Bible are hidden in these sentences. For example, "Mother took a basket of eggs to the MARKET." The names may be found in two different words. Can you find the hidden names?

1. We got stuck in a rut half-way home.
2. The bathwater is lukewarm.
3. She was talking so fast I couldn't understand her.
4. My father said the facts were true.
5. Did you find the hen's nest, Herman?
6. We had a most enjoyable picnic.
7. Joe liked his birthday present.
8. Bring the hose across the lawn.
9. The judge spoke to the jury.
10. She brews good coffee.

The Human Heart

The heart, so long as one lives, never misses a beat; it beats seventy-two times a minute, roughly one hundred thousand times a day; thirty-six million times a year, over two billion times during an ordinary lifetime and, so far as we know, it never requires any valve adjustments, or needs to have any carbon burnt out, or any particular lubrication.

The work of the heart is truly astonishing, almost one hundred and fifty thousand foot-pounds of work a day, which is equivalent to raising one ton to the height of seventy-five feet.

Only God could make the heart, and only God can give us a new heart.

HATE...

(Continued from page 1)

list" is the tongue that lies. This "hate" has close kinship with pride due to the purpose governing each of these sins. People lie to cover up their sins, but they also lie to make themselves appear to be better than they really are. Untruthfulness is diametrically opposed to the very nature of God. God is righteous, and there is no untruth in Him; therefore, untruthfulness totally contradicts His nature. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). When we lie we are responding to a situation in the opposite manner in which God would respond. So it is easy to see why He looks upon lying as a sin. Lying has as its intent to deceive and to mislead a person into accepting something that is not true. Call it a white lie or a black one! It all comes to the very same end — it is not truth, thus a lie.

While God is truth and is the source of truth, it is not difficult to discover the opposite. Jesus said of the devil, "a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44). It is evident from this statement who is a liar and also who is the chief instigator of lies. Certainly the practice of falsifying does not come from God, but rather from the devil.

Let us look at two passages that dogmatically state God's position in relationship to lies. "It ... [is] impossible for God to lie" (Heb. 6:18), and "in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Tit. 1:2). We have on one hand the father of lies the devil, and on the other hand — truth and God. Here we are in the middle and who are we going to follow? Time after time the Scriptures tell us to abstain from untruth, and the commands are clear. Yet this world is filled with people who con-

stantly practice this sin and many of them are believers. We should learn the injunction of "Let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay." If we go against this principle, we find ourselves in opposition to God.

III. Hands That Shed Innocent Blood (Prov. 6:17).

Again on the list of abominations unto God is the sin of shedding innocent blood. This comes as a surprise to no one. A child in the primary department of the Sunday School who has been exposed to the Ten Commandments is aware of the truth "Thou shalt not kill" (Ex. 20:13). Man is created in the image and the likeness of God Himself. When life is taken in an act of murder, the highest order of God's creation has been sinned against. Murder is one of the most rapidly increasing crimes in America today. This is evident as we observe our larger cities recording hundreds of murders per year. In most cases the murderer is never brought to trial and if he is, seldom is he convicted of his crime. In the Old Testament God placed a very high penalty on the taking of human life and the shedding of innocent blood. Government was granted the permission to take the life of the murderer. Many have declared this to be inhuman and cruel, and capital punishment is not popular in our courts of law today. We too often stress the rights of the guilty and forget the rights of the innocent. Read Genesis 9:6 — this statement seems to be crystal clear in meaning.

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, places a higher teaching on the matter of anger and our attitudes towards others. Matthew 5:21-22 not only speaks on the sin of killing, but also speaks of the sin of having anger in the heart towards others. He further states that

"whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment." This crime against man and sin against God will not go unnoticed. Oftentimes we tend to think that just because our civil system relaxes its standards and changes the laws that things are different. Laws do not change with God, and those who think they have escaped punishment here will have quite a surprise when they stand at the judgment seat of Christ Jesus. God indeed hates murder and the shedding of innocent blood. Government was granted the permission to take the life of the murderer. Many have declared this to be inhuman and cruel, and capital punishment is not popular in our courts of law today. We too often stress the rights of the guilty and forget the rights of the innocent. Read Genesis 9:6 this statement seems to be crystal clear in meaning.

IV. Hearts That Devise Wicked Imaginations (Prov. 6:18).

Throughout the Scriptures there are references to the fact that imaginations of man are evil. The imagination seems to speak of the thoughts and desires of man. These thoughts and desires became the sinful purposes to which man spent his efforts. We will cite only a few of these incidents in the Bible that speak of evil imaginations. The flood of Noah's time was probably one of the most devastating works of judgment in the history of mankind. It compares only to the final judgment and the outpouring of God's wrath that is recorded in the Book of Revelation. Why did God bring a catastrophe on the earth such as the flood? It was because man revealed he was controlled by an evil nature — "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). Again we note

the heart is associated with the imaginations of man — his innermost desires and purposes. The word "heart" is used in the Scripture to designate the center of desires and affections. Our sinful acts begin with sinful desires in the heart. James speaks of this as a man being tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Lust then leads to sin and sin is completed in death (cf. Jas. 1:14-16). So when God looked down on the world of Noah's time, He saw people who had turned from thoughts of God to imaginations that were evil continually. Judgment quickly followed because God hates wicked imaginations.

Paul gives us some specific instruction to help guard against the problem of this sin. He suggests a very positive action: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5). What a beautiful description of capturing our thoughts and imaginations, and not letting them run loose to cause trouble and to sin against God. The casting down of imaginations seems to speak of pulling something down and crushing it or destroying it so that no future use will be made of it. Unfortunately, too many people harbor and protect evil imaginations and nurture them until they become monsters that eventually destroy their victims. Fortunately, hearts that devise evil can be cured by God as we obey the instructions of the Bible.

V. Feet That Are Swift In Running To Mischief (Prov. 6:18).

The feet are described as the
(See **HATE** on page 16)

HATE...

(Continued from page 15)

least comely of our members. Yet they are also pictured in a much more positive light in the area of Christian living. In picturing the depravity of mankind Paul says of sinners, "Their feet are swift to shed blood" (Rom. 3:15). Now we all know feet do not shed blood, but they certainly can be the vehicle to transport someone to a place where the blood can be shed. We live in a society that has always been seeking means to speed up our means of travel. Our feet were not fast enough to get us around, so animals such as horses helped to take us off our feet. Then we turned to boats and trains and then came airplanes — who knows what is next! Daniel says in the end time we will be traveling to and fro on the earth at greater speeds (cf. Dan. 12:4). When the feet are used to convey a person to deeds of evil, it is noted that God is not pleased with this type of action.

However, let us note two positive examples of how the feet can be used for good and the will of God. The bearer of the message of Christ is described in Romans 10:15 as having beautiful feet because they are preaching "the gospel of peace." In Ephesians 6:15 we are encouraged to have our feet "shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." In both passages Paul uses the very same phrase the gospel of peace.

As is true in most cases we can take what we have and make a choice. We can use the members of our body to glorify God and obey Him, or we can break His commandments and sin by using those same members to bring the wrath and judgment of God to our lives.

VI. A False Witness That Speaketh Lies (Prov. 6:19).

Is the writer of Proverbs repeating himself? Has he not just stated that God dislikes a lying tongue? Yes, but I think he is speaking of a more specific case in this statement. Notice it is a witness to whom he is making reference. A witness is a person whose duty and responsibility is to tell the truth. It is his sole purpose. As a witness comes to trial he is to relate what he knows to be true about a given situation. Jesus speaks of witnesses regarding His own person. The Pharisees called Him into account for being His own witness to His deity (Jn. 8:13). His response was that God was also a witness to this fact and in the light of two witnesses and the law it was confirmed (cf. vv. (17-18).

Probably the most despicable of all false witnesses are those found in religious circles. The Old Testament speaks out firmly against them in many of the books of the prophets. For a New Testament reference I would suggest 2 Corinthians 11:13-14. The point remains the same in all illustrations. The person who is called upon to tell the truth as a witness and then lies is a person who is not found in the circle of God's favor.

VII. He That Soweth Discord Among The Brethren (Prov. 6:19).

The list of six things that God hates is interesting in that there is an addition making a final total of seven. I would like to think the writer had not forgotten one, but used this form of writing to bring out a firm emphasis. We have spent some time on the use of the tongue and how it can divide and hurt people. Therefore, we will not dwell on this aspect of discord.

Here I would like to point out the reason the sower of discord is an abomination unto the Lord

. The work of God has been on the behalf of uniting a fallen people. Sin caused the separation between God and man, and this continuing sin leads to all of the abominations we have been dealing with in this passage. The First Epistle of John repeats a common theme — we cannot love God and hate our brothers. This is a completely incompatible action. Restoration to God through the new birth should bring: with it a corresponding love relationship to other people for whom Christ died. We are saved and brought into the family of God, and it takes no great logic to figure out we are not to fight other members of the very same family. The price paid by God to accomplish the work of salvation should be a sufficient clue to the importance He placed upon it. It is an abomination to God to have a sower of discord in the ranks.

Could God hate such a circumstance? If hate means He has a strong aversion to it, the answer is yes! Many Christian people who consider themselves to be a separated people are no such thing. They are pious, religious people who are undoing the work of God, and He does not like what they are doing. Call a sower of discord by any other fancy name, it still comes back to the truth — it is still on God's most disliked list.

Pasteurized Pastimes

Overheard at a house-warming: "All that space around the fireplace and no place for the churn." The place for the churn today is in the museums and flea markets. Ah, but the churn brings back the memories. You can visualize the churn, covered by a linen napkin, to the right or left (depending on your political stance) of the fireplace. The

bright yellow butter... buttermilk with worthy chunks of butter floating around... Mom's ability to churn so much quicker than any of the children... the tough duty of dishwashing when you had the churn, the lid, the dasher, and several butter-coated dishes ... and perhaps worst of all, living with the expression, "And that's when the cat fell in the churn." You knew then a real disaster had taken place. Forget not the butter mold with the engraved eagle and the final product... some delicious Jerry Clower-proclaimed cow-salve butter. This was long before cholesterol had been discovered. The biscuits of that day were well-anointed with the dairy queen delight. Keep in mind you have the wisdom of Solomon on your side in such homogenized elocution of Proverbs 30:33: "Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood; so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife."