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WHOLE NO. 397

Cremation! What Does God Think?

By Missionary David Cloud

*[Within the last two months I have received two letters asking about an article on Cremation that was previously printed in **The Baptist Challenge**. I have also noticed articles on the same subject in several other Baptist papers. Since this subject seems to be of interest once again, we are reprinting this article which last appeared in The March 1989 issue of **The Baptist Challenge**.]*

* * *

In a book recently published on the subject of Christian funerals, a writer gives the following advice regarding cremation: "Personally the minister may or may not approve of such proceedings. Privately, he is free to hold any opinion that he will. But officially he should keep an open mind. In the Christian religion there is nothing that frowns upon cremation or requires burial."

This is wrong and evil counsel. We feel it is also a very strange statement, being made as it is by a pastor who professedly studies and believes the Bible. The sad fact is that the practice of cremation is quickly on the rise in the so-called "Christian" nations of the West. Until recently burial

prevailed almost universally as the common method for disposal of the dead in Western nations, and cremation was looked upon as something practiced only by atheists or those totally ignorant of the Bible. The turn back to cremation can be seen in direct connection with the rapidly increasing apostasy from the Word of God in those nations where Christianity is the dominant faith.

In my home state, Florida, a popular retirement area for the elderly due to its tropical climate, ads are taken out in local newspapers inviting people to join "clubs" for quite inexpensive fees, the membership of which allows one the "benefit" of discounts on cremation expenses.

All of this is against the Bible, though. Cremation is a heathen custom, meaning a practice of people who do not have the Bible, or else have rejected its authority. And it is frightening to see Americans who in recent years commonly considered cremation wrong, now accept the abominable practice even with the blessing of their church leaders.

By now many are surely thinking, "How can this man be so certain cremation is wrong? Is it really important whether or not a dead body is burned or

buried?" If the Bible did not speak clearly on this issue and give such clear example, it would indeed not matter. But when God has spoken, when He has shown the way, we dare not ignore His counsel for the popular thinking of modern man — or modern preachers!

As proof of our contention that cremation is unchristian and unbiblical, we offer the following eight reasons. The basic outline for the following is from James Fraser's excellent book, **Cremation — Is It Christian?**, published by Loizeaux Brothers, Neptune, New Jersey. But let me also say that we had come to see that cremation is wrong — yea, evil — long before we read Brother Fraser's book. Our experiences as missionaries in Nepal and India and a study of God's Word had taught us this.

Cremation Has A Heathen Origin and Purpose, Whereas God's People Have Always Practiced Burial

At the outset let me answer an objection sometimes made at this point. The objection is, "Yes, God's people in the Bible practiced burial. The example is clearly there. But are we bound to follow these examples, as

they are not direct commands?" The answer is given in no uncertain terms in Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning..." And again in 1 Corinthians 10:11 we read, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." God is saying in these passages, "Yes, you are to follow the Bible's examples as well as its direct instructions."

A Heathen Origin

Cremation as practiced today in the more technically advanced nations no longer has the physical ghastliness associated with cremations performed in the poorer parts of the world. The modern method incorporates the use of an exceedingly hot incinerator which reduces the body to ashes in a matter of minutes completely out of the view of loved ones and the public.

Not so in India, Nepal, and other parts of South Asia, the area of our missionary ministry. I am convinced that if Christians in America and Europe

(See **CLOUD** on page 14)

The Book of Revelation -- Message #20**The Woman 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).

This morning, we looked at the first part of this letter to the

church at Thyatira, particularly concerning those things which the Lord complimented; the things whereof He was able to tell them that there were things that were admirable within that church. I want us to look this evening at a complaint that the Lord has against this church. He says, beginning in verse 20, “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” (Rev. 2:20-21).

Now in the beginning of our studies we pointed out the fact that these seven different churches correspond to the seven feasts in the Book of Leviticus and to the seven parables in the 13th chapter of the Book of Matthew. Each of these churches represents, besides a specific letter to a specific church, also periods of time that are to come to pass.

For instance, this church, the church of Thyatira, is representative of that time between 606 A.D. and 1500 A.D. or about the time of what is called the Reformation Period. As we look at these things concerning these seven churches, we find that the things mentioned about each church correspond with the things that took place during this period of history. Here we read concerning this woman Jezebel, concerning the things that she was allowed to do within that church.

Now we turn back for a few moments to the 13th chapter of the Book of Matthew, and look at the parable that corresponds with this same church. Notice in verse 33 of Matthew 13 that it talks about a woman as well. Verse 33 reads: “Another parable spake he unto them; The

kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world” (Mt. 13:33-35).

Here in this parable it also speaks about a woman. I want us to look tonight at some of the things that this woman has done. We read verse 33 again, “The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.” This corresponds with this church in the Book of Revelation in that both of them have a woman that is involved in the introduction of false doctrine into Christianity or into Christendom. Now that is contrary to the general interpretation of this parable. The general interpretation of this parable is that the meal is the world, something bad that needs a new transforming principal put into it. If you were to hear the average preacher preach today, and he were to preach upon this parable of the woman and the leaven, this is what he would tell you. He would tell you that the meal is the world, that the world is bad, and therefore there must be something good injected into it.

This then brings you to the leaven, and the average interpretation is that the leaven is the gospel; that it must be hid within it before it can affect any change. So, they say, that the gospel, the leaven, is brought secretly into the world whereby it gradually permeates the world.

(See JEZEBEL on page 5)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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No Bible Verse Speaks of Being "Slain In The Spirit"

By Nick Michalinos, Pastor
Austin Avenue Baptist Church, Pasadena, Texas

Question: Where is the verse in the Bible that speaks of being "slain in the Spirit?"

Answer: Search if you will, but you'll not find a verse in the Bible that speaks of being "slain in the Spirit." It's one of those things that folks have repeated so many times as a Bible Truth, that some folks without investigating, are convinced it is Bible Truth. Like the old saying, "cleanliness is next to godliness."

I was sincere at one time in believing there was such a statement to be found in the Bible, but I was sincerely wrong. There are sincere people who are convinced that being "slain in the Spirit" is a Biblical Truth, a scriptural experience, but they are deceived by their instructors who are pastors of evangelists. They demonstrate their "slayings" on TV often.

The demonstration that supposedly teaches this "doctrine of men" is when a preacher who feels an anointing come on him will either touch or blow his breath on someone, and they will then fall backward into the arms of a waiting attendant. Somehow, they always fall backward, never forward or sideways. It's always backward, and conveniently, there is always someone there to catch them to seemingly keep them from being injured.

Once a person who was supposedly slain in the Spirit fell on an elderly woman, and this injury resulted in her death. The elderly woman had come forward to be healed.

From my observation, these so-called "slayings" usu-

ally take place in church services or evangelistic meetings, after congregational emotions have reached their highest pitch. The "slain" ones are said to be benefited spiritually by the experience.

I once heard a preacher use Isa. 66:16 to prove this "slain in the Spirit" doctrine. Would you please read this verse, and see if it even remotely resembles what we are seeing today? "*For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many.*" There is absolutely no connection at all.

Christ was once confronted by a small army of His enemies in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of His betrayal, and He asked them, "Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he ... they went backward, and fell to the ground" (Jn. 18:4-6). His boldness caused them to retreat backward, and they then fell to the ground. A careful reading of these verses will show there was no miraculous "slaying" that knocked His enemies off their feet, and into unconsciousness.

Notice the next verse, verse 7. "Then asked he them again, Whom see ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth." This verse shows they were still conscious, and spoke with Him again. Our Lord's affirmation of His deity by using the words "I Am" stunned and shocked His adversaries into an unplanned momentary retreat, and "they went backward, and fell to the ground" (Jn. 18:6). But even this does not hint of being "slain in

Wrenching Courtroom Testimony

Iranian Martyr Dibaji Makes What Becomes Final Plea for Faith, Life

Mehdi Dibaj, a Christian living in Iran, was arrested by his government and accused of apostasy. He was found guilty and sentenced to die. There was an international outcry, and many Christians in the U.S. wrote letters of protest. After 10 years in prison Dibaj, was released and later found murdered in a park in western Tehran. The following is the full text of Dibaj's testimony in Iranian court, Dec. 3, 1993.

In the holy name of God who is our life and existence.

With all humility I express my gratitude to the Judge of all heaven and earth for this precious opportunity, and with brokenness I wait upon the Lord to deliver me from this court trial according to his promises. I also beg the honored members of the court present to listen with patience to my defense and with respect for the name of the Lord.

I am a Christian, a sinner who believes Jesus has died for my sins on the cross and who by his resurrection and victory over death, has made me righteous in the presence of the holy God. The true God speaks about this fact in His holy Word, the gospel.

the Spirit."

Let me again say that the Bible nowhere teaches this doctrine. Religion is famous for inventing new teachings outside the realm of the Bible. Sad to say, there doesn't seem to be any difficulty in finding followers for these man-made teachings. "*If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them*" (Isa. 8:20).

Jesus means Savior, "because he will save his people from their sins." Jesus paid the penalty of our sins by His own blood and gave us a new life so that we can live for the glory of God by the help of the Holy Spirit and be like a dam against corruption, be a channel of blessing and healing, and be protected by the love of God.

In response to this kindness, He had asked me to deny myself and be His fully surrendered follower, and not fear people even if they kill my body, but rather rely on the Creator of life who has crowned me with the crown of mercy and compassion, and who is the great Protector of His beloved ones and their great reward.

I have been charged with "apostasy!" The invisible God who knows our hearts has given assurance to us Christians that we are not among the apostates who will perish but among the believers so that we may save our lives.

In Islamic law an apostate is one who does not believe in God, the prophets, or the resurrection of the dead. We Christians believe in all three!

They say, "You were a Muslim and you have become a Christian." No, for many years I had no religion. After searching and studying I accepted God's call and I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ in order to receive eternal life. People choose their religion but a Christian is chosen by Christ. He says, "You have not chosen me but I have chosen you." From when? Before the foundation of the world. — *Baptist Record*.

FELLOWSHIPS

and

CONFERENCES
LIBERAL, KS

September 19-21, 1994, Fellowship Baptist Church, 216 W. Wilson, Liberal, KS 67901, L. K. Landis, Pastor.

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., Ft. 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.

WESTCLIFFE, CO

January 24-27, 1995, "Re-treat 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 Ln., Big Spring, TX 79720, Lewis McGarity, Pastor.

We shall be happy to list the dates of fellowship meetings of independent Baptist churches throughout the country. Please send the dates far enough in advance.

Change of Address

Please notify us of any change of address as the post office charges us .35 for each notification. Sometimes we get two notifications as the next month goes out before we receive the first notification. That means a cost of .70. We would appreciate your help.

Debtors Can Gamble But Not Tithe

The Clinton administration has provoked an outcry from a religious group by arguing that parishioners who are in debt and heading for bankruptcy cannot contribute money to their church.

Supporters of a 6-month-old law designed to protect worshippers from government interference say the view taken by the Justice Department in a Minnesota bankruptcy case undermines the new statute.

"The department's position is a slap in the face to our religious community, and it should not stand," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, the new law's co-author.

At issue is an attempt by creditors to collect the \$13,500 that Bruce and Nancy Young gave to the Crystal Evangelical Free Church of New Hope, Minn., in the year before they filed for bankruptcy.

The church is appealing a federal judge's ruling that the money must be turned over to the creditors. The Justice Department sided with the creditors, arguing that the case could open a loophole for criminals to hide their assets.

The Youngs observed the practice of tithing, giving the church each week 10% of the gross earnings from their electrical contracting business.

"There is no instruction in the Scriptures (where) God says you only give to me in the good times," said the Rev. Stephen Goold, the church's pastor. "The government is saying we will now tell you how you practice your biblical faith."

A judge held in 1993 that because the Youngs got nothing of value for the church donations, the offerings amounted

to a fraudulent transfer of their assets.

Before filing for bankruptcy, debtors can spend their money on anything as long as they get something of value for it. To prevent people from hiding their assets, the bankruptcy code allows creditors to seize any money that debtors have given away.

"The debtor is free to spend his money however he wants, even on frivolous consumption ... traveling, booze, gambling and prostitution, as long as he isn't giving it away," said Douglas Laycock, a First Amendment scholar at the University of Texas.

"If he can gamble it away, he ought to be able to give it to his church."

The church appealed to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, claiming that the Youngs' offerings were protected under the new Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The law says government must have a "compelling interest" to interfere with religious practices, a test used by the Supreme Court until 1990.

Clinton, who signed the measure into law with great fanfare last fall, said it would hold the government "to a very high level of proof."

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JEZEBEL...

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What we have then is a woman that is the preacher. The woman is the one who hides the leaven in the meal or in the world, making it a woman that is the preacher, the one that hides the gospel in the hearts of men. The result is we find the whole is leavened. According to them, it tells us in the 13th chapter of Matthew that the world is to be permeated with the spirit of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, resulting in a converted world. This ultimately leads to what is called Post-millennialism.

Post-millennialism teaches that the world is going to get better and better and better; that the gospel is to be infiltrated, underhandedly, secretly in the world, until ultimately the entire world is to be converted to Christ. When you have the whole world converted, then the Lord comes back at the end of the millennium. What it amounts to is that the churches make the world ultimately so perfect that they bring in the millennium here upon the earth, and at the close of the millennium Jesus comes back. This is referred to as Post-millennialism. Post-millennial meaning that the Lord comes back after the millennium. May I point out to you some reasons why that interpretation is wrong, why it is not right.

The first reason is that it changes the scriptural use of the meal and the leaven. Their interpretation makes the meal bad and the leaven good which is exactly the reverse of what we find in the Bible. In your Bible you find that the meal is always good and the leaven is *always* bad. The meal is not considered to be evil but the leaven is evil.

In this parable they say the meal is very favorable to the leaven, but we do not find the world favorable to the gospel. In reality, we find that the world

is opposed to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The world never has been favorable to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second thing, the hiding of it suggests secretness and underhandedness. Again, this is never thought of as far as the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is concerned. The Lord does not work secretly or underhandedly, but the Lord always works openly. But who is it that does his work secretly? You notice in the parable in Matthew 13:24-25 it shows us who it is that works secretly and underhandedly. It says: "*Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*" This is Satan. Verse 39 says, "*The enemy that sowed them is the devil.*" So we find then that this woman that is secretly hiding the leaven within the meal, is actually doing the very work of Satan and using the very tactics of Satan. This is his method.

Again, the manner of the work here is more suggestive of sin than it is of grace. What you find with leaven is that it mixes with the meal and then it gradually operates. This is not the way salvation works. Salvation is not a gradual process. Salvation is not something in which the sinner *gradually* becomes a Christian, but salvation is instantaneous. Sinners are not converted by *gradually* being converted by the gospel. God is not a "mixer" but a "separator." God never has mixed sin and the gospel together so that *gradually* the gospel gains victory over it. You do not find any evidence of this any where in the world at all.

If this is the way the gospel were to operate; if it operates by a leavening process, surely

in 2,000 years, we should be able to find at least one city, some where, that has been totally converted unto the Lord. Surely we should be able to find some town, some country, even in 2,000 years, that has gradually been leavened with the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that they would be totally converted unto the Lord.

In reality, we find the very reverse is true. In fact we find the city that had the most gospel preached in it, the city of Jerusalem, is further from the truth today than they were during the days of the New Testament. We do not find this true any where. So we see that the leaven cannot represent the gospel, for the gospel does not operate nor work in that fashion.

Now if the leaven does not represent the gospel operating within the meal, which they say is the world and is good, then just what does this parable represent? How does it apply to our message that we are studying concerning the church at Thyatira?

First of all, let's establish the fact that leaven is false doctrine. In your Bible leaven is always used in a sense of that which is evil and bad. In Matthew 16:6 we read, "*Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.*" The Lord here is warning His disciples by telling them to "take heed," that is to be on guard, and what are you to guard against? You are to guard against the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. This has reference to false doctrine.

Notice also in the Book of Galatians chapter 5 and verse 9. The apostle Paul, writing to the churches of Galatia, writes about leaven. He says the result of this, (and he is talking about being saved by works; he's talking about false doctrine), "A little leaven leaveneth the whole

lump." We can't go into all of it tonight, but go back into the Old Testament and you find that the Jews, when they celebrated the Passover, one thing they could not have was leaven. In fact they had to make a clean sweep down "fore and aft" throughout their whole house in order to make sure that there was no leaven any where at all within the house. This was every where.

Now you will find, that those who make the leaven the gospel concede that in every case in the Bible, leaven is always representative of false doctrine and that which is sin and bad, except in this one case. What you would find then, if in this chapter of Matthew leaven referred to the gospel, it would be the only exception to the rule that says that leaven is always representative and typical of that which is sin and of that which is false doctrine.

Now the meal is representative of the world or Christianity that has been corrupted by false doctrine. This is exactly what occurred during the time of the church of Thyatira. It began around 606 A.D., when Gregory VI ascended the throne and became the first real Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, and continued to the period of the Reformation. It is the time when the most leaven or false doctrine was brought in and inserted into so-called Christianity. The meal then represents Christianity that has been corrupted by false doctrine. The woman represents false churches and we find this true here in the Book of Revelation. When we get to chapters 17 and 18, we will see that this harlot woman, the Great Whore, is the bride of the Antichrist of the last days, and is referred to as the City of Seven Hills or mountains, the city of Rome. We don't have time to go into

(See **JEZEBEL** on page 7)

An Update On Far East Russian Missions

By Nils Degerlund, Missionary In Russia

Missionaries Tim Chace and Nils Degerlund, of Two Rivers Baptist Church would like to give this update on their ministry in the city of Magadan, located in Far East Russia.

In February of 1992, **The Baptist Challenge** carried an article by Bro. Gene Seay about this ministry which introduced the work to many churches. In the December, 1992 issue of **The Baptist Challenge**, Pastor Wayne Shea wrote an update on this mission work. At that time, missionaries Tim Chace and Nils Degerlund were busily preparing to move with their families to Russia. There was a small group of people meeting three times a week for Bible studies but they were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the missionaries.

On January 1, 1993, the Two Rivers Baptist Church ordained brother Tim and me to the gospel ministry and sent us forth to the work that God had called us to do. Shortly thereafter, the two of us quit our jobs with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and on February 23, 1993, we left our beloved Alaska and moved to Magadan, Russia. At that time, each of us had almost \$1,000 per month support which we thought to be adequate. We felt that it was time to go and that the Lord would supply our needs. He has.

We have been in Magadan for over a year now, preaching the word. God has been good to us. He has sustained us through 2,500% inflation, a diphtheria epidemic, drought, and electricity and heat shortages. He has protected us in a land where the Mafia is in control of almost every business, and aspect of the government. He has

allowed us to continue despite attempts by the Russian Orthodox Church to limit foreign missionaries and to blame us for all their economic and political woes. Furthermore, God has blessed us with three members to our mission. They are truly a blessing.

Of course, every missionary's desire is to preach the Word of God. We were blessed in that we had a place to hold services so we began preaching the first Sunday that we were in Magadan. By the second week we were holding services every Sunday morning, Tuesday evening, and Thursday evening. For the first 14 months, we held services in a rented apartment. However, after our lease expired, we rented a room at the local "Sports Palace" where we continue to meet. We usually have about 20 to 30 in attendance, including our families. The rented space at the Sports Palace has some problems and we desire to find a more convenient and yet affordable place to meet. I'm sure that the Lord has such a place for us, but we just haven't found it yet.

When we first arrived, we had Visas which were good for only six months. After six months, our visas expired and we were illegal aliens for awhile. This was a bit unnerving for us Americans. Finally, we were granted 5-year, multiple entry visas. We know of no other missionaries with such a visa. All others are allowed to renew once but then they must return to America and reapply. We count it a blessing of God that we have our 5-year visas. We have been freed from a lot of red-tape. This is one of those

doors of opportunity.

The way in which we got our visas is rather interesting. Our friend is starting an insurance company in Magadan and it is through his company that we got our visas. He worded our documents to say that we are "life assurance agents"! We preach the assurance of eternal life through Jesus Christ and thus fulfill our official obligations for being in Russia. God works in marvelous ways, doesn't he!

Please continue to pray that there would be more missionaries dedicated to church planting in Russia. We do not know how much time we will have to plant a church or churches there, but we hope to make the most of what time we do have.

Living in Russia is not easy. This past year, Russians struggled through a 2,500% inflation rate! When we first arrived, a loaf of bread cost 20 rubles. Now a loaf costs 1,200 rubles. The impact is not as severe on us Americans as it is on the Russians but, we did notice that our own cost of living nearly tripled last year.

This summer, Brother Tim and sister Annette held a Vacation Bible School. Two of the mission members helped with the teaching. They had 56 children attend! Who knows what the far reaching outcome will be of those 56 kids hearing the gospel.

We do not know how much longer we will be allowed to stay in Russia. For the present time, the government is very open to our being there. However, there are other forces at work which could present some very real obstacles to organizing a church there in Magadan. The Russian Orthodox church is very opposed to us. They are actively lobbying for a law which would restrict the presence of foreign missionaries and this would have particularly restrictive af-

fects on independent Baptists.

Another very real threat to our being in Russia is the economic situation. The people are becoming so fed up with hyperinflation, lack of services, and just a general degradation of their standard of living that they seem to be willing to vote for anyone that would promise a better way of life; even if that person has some very strange political ideas. Some of you may have read of Vladimir Zhirinovsky in the July 11, 1994 edition of **TIME** magazine. This is the man that has made comments such as "I may have to shoot 100,000 people, but the other 300 million will live peacefully". His rhetoric and actions remind people of Hitler and pre-World War II Germany. Despite all of his wild ideas, Mr. Zhirinovsky won the majority of the vote in the most recent elections. If he should come to power, there may be real chaos which might force us to leave.

Despite the looming clouds, we have a bright hope for church planting in Far-East Russia. The Lord continues to open doors for us. There are two nearby towns in which people have invited us to come and preach to them. With this open door, the Lord supplied a van that we can use to get to these places and others. We are excited about going and preaching in these places as well as other places within driving distance from Magadan that are still relatively untouched by missionaries.

We are also still very active in our translation work. The people in Magadan are avid readers and will read whatever they get their hands on. We see both a need and an opportunity to give them good, sound, independent Baptist literature which will instruct them properly on things such as church

(See **RUSSIA** on page 16)

JEZEBEL...

(Continued from page 5)

that tonight. but we will study that later on. It is this woman that hides the leaven within the meal. Now preachers that follow this pattern are those preachers that hide things contrary to what the Lord Jesus Christ wants, and while pretending to be servants of the Lord. This is how false doctrine gets in.

Now we have this happening in so-called evangelical circles today. I don't know how many of you are aware or acquainted with the phrase "Neo-orthodoxers," or "neo-orthodoxy." This is exactly what is happening among so-called fundamental churches today. *Neo* means new, *orthodoxy* means doctrinal soundness. What the "Neo-orthoxers" have done is take the same phraseology, the same words that we commonly use, but apply to them a different meaning, so that they will declare that they believe in the inspiration of the Bible when they do not. Some of them will even go so far as to say that they believe that the Bible is all God's Word, but when you pin them down to it, they are miles apart from what historically Christians have meant.

When we say that we believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, we mean that God Himself inspired the writings of the *words* of God in this Bible, so that these *words* are without error — an infallible book with no contradictions, no mistakes, no errors whatsoever. It is the perfect Word of God. But they don't mean that! They don't want you to pin them down to it. It is the same with the doctrine of the resurrection and other major doctrines. They say "Sure we believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ" but when you pin them down to it, they do not believe in the *bodily* resurrection of Jesus

Christ. They believe that the "spirit" of Jesus lives on; that His teachings live on, but they do not believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. They say that they believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. They say "Why sure, every woman is a virgin at the time she brings forth her first born child," but that is not true. That mother ceased to be a virgin about nine months before the birth of that baby. This is Neo-orthodoxy. Our books, literature, magazines, radio, cassette tapes, television, etc. are filled with this kind of teaching, those who say one thing and you understand one thing by it, but they mean something entirely different. They are using it as a means to undercut and to undermine the faith of young people and those who are yet babes in Christ.

Let me use Southern Baptist Quarterlies as an example of how this is being done. Quarterlies are made for Adults, then they have Quarterlies for Young People, Intermediates, and the Juniors. I don't know what all labels they have on them, but they have them for different groups. In many of the major denominations today, they will have a lesson for the Adults in which there won't be anything wrong in it at all. It will be fine. But, if you were to get the Young People's Quarterly, and were to read the lesson that is in there, you'd find that in the Young People's Quarterly they inject false doctrine. Now they don't do it to the Adults. That would upset the adults. Perhaps most of the adults are pretty well doctrinally straight. But they will insert their false doctrine in the Young People's Quarterlies as well as in the younger ones, and by doing so, they corrupt the minds of the younger ones. By the time they reach adulthood they have already been corrupted, and it has been done underhandedly and secretly by

not putting it in the Adult Quarterlies where the older ones would know different, and know better and would raise cain about it.

I think I told you just last week, or maybe two weeks ago, about the fact that the Southern Baptist Convention got in trouble over one of their Quarterlies. I don't know who the writer of the material was. I don't have a copy of the Quarterly. It was put out by the Religious News Service and the Evangelical Press Service. The writer of this Quarterly made the statement that all Christians are out for the same thing. Among those he mentioned as Christians were the Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Moonies (the followers of the Unification Church). He also mentioned the Roman Catholics, the Christian Scientists, and the Unitarian Church. None of these are Christians, and yet there it was right there in the Quarterly. But somebody found out about it and raised cain, so they issued an apology and said "we goofed." But see, the doctrine was there; it had already been taught. It was taught to these Young People. This is the way false doctrine is brought in. It is done underhandedly and secretly by preachers that come out of the seminaries. When I was in the seminary in New Orleans, most of those preachers that came out were modernistic and liberal, but the churches they went to were still fundamental and believed in the truths. So they had to do what they were doing secretly and underhanded.

Again, we find that this parable puts the woman in the place of preaching. God has never called a woman to preach. The Lord has laid down the requirements for the preacher, and two of the requirements for the preacher eliminate a woman right off the bat. It says, first of all that the one who is going to be the preacher must be the "husband of one wife" (1 Tim.

3:2). There's no way a woman can become "the husband of one wife."

Secondly, it says that he must be the ruler within his own home (1 Tim. 3:4), and God has placed the husband and the father as the one who is the head of the home and responsible for the training and the raising of those children within the home. There's no way that a woman can meet those qualifications.

Thirdly, the Lord has said that the woman is to keep silent in the church. Several places the Apostle Paul writes about that in the Books of Timothy. It talks about the fact that the woman is not to usurp authority over the man (1 Tim. 2:11-13). This is Bible. This is Scripture. Regardless of what the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) says, this is what the Bible teaches. To believe that this woman in the 13th chapter in the Book of Matthew is a preacher who is going to permeate the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, contradicts the very place that God has given for women. One of the messages that I'm going to preach relative to this church at Thyatira, is going to be the place of women within the church. Before I get through, we're going to talk about the women's place in the church and show you how God has a great place for women within the church. There have been great women of the past, and you read about them in your Bible, but they were not preachers, because God never has called a woman to preach.

In spite of that, this is a very controversial subject among denominations today, including Baptists. There are churches today that have split over this issue. Many churches have left their denomination over the fact of the ordination of

(See **JEZEBEL** on page 11)

AT&T Calls On Employees To Help Change Laws Making Homosexual Marriages Legal.

At a recent LEAGUE (Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay United Employees at AT&T) conference in Boston, Jerre Stead, chairman and CEO of AT&T Global Information Solutions, called upon AT&T employees to help devise a legal definition of marriage so the company can work on extending domestic partner benefits to employees in states that do not recognize marriages between same-gender partners. Stead's comments were reported in *Diversity Digest*, a publication of AT&T's Information Research Center. Another AT&T spokesman, John Mellor, recently said that "Anyone with that kind of attitude (objection to the homosexual lifestyle) has to lose it." The conference was hosted by LEAGUE's Boston chapter and attended by more than 360 employees. Other speakers at the conference included homosexual Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Brian McNaught, a homosexual activist and writer. "It does not surprise us that AT&T has called upon its employees to help make homosexual marriages legal," said Donald E. Wildmon, president of American Family Association. "The company has been aggressively promoting the homosexual lifestyle among their employees for years. They have observed Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week and presented 'homophobia workshops' to their corporate managers in an effort to make homosexuality acceptable." AT&T was a major finan-

cial backer of the Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival in New York in June; helped sponsor the homosexual musical "Falsettos;" used McNaught's video "On Being Gay" to indoctrinate AT&T employees; and promoted "comprehensive" sex education programs advocating homo-sexuality. [Editor's Comments: We have already discontinued our long distance service with AT&T. A new long-distance service called "LifeLine" operates primarily among Christians and donates 10% of all long distance charges to non-profit organizations. **The Baptist Challenge** has now made arrangements with this company to use their service, and we urge our readers to consider changing their service to LifeLine. Your rates will be cheaper and it will also help **The Baptist Challenge**. Please read the full-page announcement on page 10, and to switch your service to LifeLine call **1-800-800-7550**. Please mention that you want 10% of your long distance charges to go to **The Baptist Challenge**.

* * *

Little Rock Bible Conference. The 40th Annual Bible Conference of the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock will be October 24-26. The church presently has new facilities under construction and so the conference will be held in the Little Rock Expo Center located on Interstate 30 around mile marker #127 between Little Rock and Benton. We hope to be able to print more details and a complete schedule in the October issue of TBC.

Editor Completes 45 Years In The Ministry. It was on August 29, 1949 that I was ordained to the ministry by the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas. This is the only church that I have been a member of and the only church that I have worked full-time with. I worked with the Mid-City Baptist Church of New Orleans while I was a student in the seminary, though I did not move my membership from the church in Little Rock. I began attending the church when I was about 5 1/2 years old, moving to Little Rock on July 15, 1931. I was a missionary in Mexico for 13 years, and became pastor of the church in October 1965. I began publishing **The Baptist Challenge** in January, 1961 and have continued throughout these years. I ask each of our readers to continue to remember us in prayer that we may continue editing **The Baptist Challenge** until the Lord comes. Thanks to our many readers who have remembered us in prayers through these many years.

* * *

NY Times: AFA Successful Against "NYPD" Blue. The *New York Times* has reported that the efforts of American Family Association to keep advertisers and ABC affiliates away from ABC's soft core porn television series NYPD Blue has caused networks to clean up their act. According to the newspaper, there will be no NYPD Blue imitators this fall. "The reason is clear," wrote Elizabeth Kolbert for the *Times*. "While Bochco's police drama was a ratings success, consistently among the top 25 shows on the air, advertisers stayed away from it in droves."

As a result, the show was able to "command only about \$115,000 for a 30-second commercial, about half of what series with similar audience demographics were able to get," according to the article.

Fifty-seven ABC affiliates refused to carry the program's first episode last September. ABC executives will not discuss how much potential ad revenue the network lost on NYPD Blue. AFA estimates losses of \$15-20,000,000. — AFA Journal.

* * *

You Can Bet Your Paycheck On it! It's a standard argument against legalized gambling, so standard that a sensitive editor would hesitate to use it for fear of falling into cliché: Don't let the gamblers declare open season on Arkansas — or they'll take who knows how many poor suckers' paychecks! Corny, exaggerated, scare propaganda, right? Nope! There's a reason some things become clichés. It's because they're all too true. Sure enough, right there in the Weekend section the other day, there was an ad for a Greenville casino that included this attractive offer: "*Double your paycheck anytime! Cash your Paycheck at the Cotton Club Casino. Spin our Double-Your-Paycheck Wheel. You could win up to \$500 maximum payoff every time!*" Maybe it's not the same without the red type for the key words, but you get the message: these people really do invite folks to bet their paychecks. It's no exaggeration. The casino also offers free lessons Monday to Friday — 11 a.m. for craps, 1 p.m. for roulette, and 3 p.m. for blackjack. No need

to go into detail: The ad doesn't mention that folks can also lose their pay. — *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Aug. 1, 1994.*

* * *

Landlady Has Right To Decline Renter. A landlady who refused to rent an apartment to an unmarried couple because of her belief that sex outside marriage is a sin has been vindicated in a California appeals court. The ruling overturned a 1989 finding by the state's Fair Employment and Housing Commission that Evelyn Smith of Chico, a 61-year-old Presbyterian, was guilty of violating anti-discrimination laws. She was ordered to post a statement in her rental units saying she would not discriminate against unmarried couples and to pay a \$954 fine. The three-judge panel of the Third District Court of Appeals said that protecting unmarried couples against housing discrimination is not a "compelling state interest," and state law must give way to the "exercise of her fundamental rights."

* * *

Homosexual Television Network Opens This Month. The Triangle Network, the first national cable network featuring programming for homosexuals, had a sneak preview in June, with a scheduled launch in September. Co-Media, Inc., will beam the Triangle Network via satellite 24 hours each day, with programming consisting of news, talk shows, live shows, movies, sitcoms and game shows. The signal will also be sent to cable systems nationwide for local distribution.

Big Bucks For Benny Hinn? "Retired" boxer Evander Holyfield hopes to return to the ring after evangelist Benny Hinn prayed for his heart problem healing. Holyfield attended a Hinn crusade in June in Philadelphia, reportedly "fell under the power of the Holy Spirit" for over an hour, and donated over \$250,000 to Hinn's ministry. Hinn prayed that Holyfield would earn \$200 million in his comeback attempt. Hinn is a flamboyant charismatic whose bad theology has brought charges of "heresy." Many teachings in his popular books are false and dangerous. — CC

* * *

Charismatics Call It Holy Laughter. Charismatics say laughter is a new demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit. People break out in raucous laughter during South African evangelist Rodney Howard-Browne's "laughing revivals." They roll on the floor and laugh hysterically. Some lie on the floor giggling uncontrollably for hours. Some "speak in tongues" when thus "slain in the Spirit." At Oral Roberts University at a recent Howard-Browne meeting, ORU President Richard Roberts "ended up on the floor laughing." His father, Oral Roberts, said Howard-Browne's ministry signaled the arrival of another level in the Holy Spirit. The 8/94 *Charisma* said "no one doubts that having vast numbers of listeners convulsed in laughter can make whatever is being said from the pulpit irrelevant." Howard-Browne said: "One night I was preaching on hell, and [laughter] just hit the whole place. The more I told people what hell was like, the more they laughed. Hell is

no joke. Demonism may be involved here. There is no biblical support for such mass swoonings. — CC

* * *

Moody's Bad Advice On Rock Music. The July-August *Moody Monthly* said secular rock stars such as Bruce Springsteen, Michael Jackson, and Billy Joel "frequently record uplifting, if not spiritually insightful, songs" (p54). It favorably reviewed a country rock "gospel" album by Charlie Daniels, and said he "could certainly use our prayers as he embarks on an adventure of attracting his secular listeners to these new lyrics" (p36). An interview with Daniels in the 7/31 *Huntsville Times* quoted him using profanity. But Moody says: "For Christians to flatly dismiss musicians because they use four-letter words or sexual references, diminishes the likelihood that people will ever hear our message. ... We have to understand the world's view before we can effectively communicate our view; we have to relate to the people before we can preach to them" (p47). — CC

* * *

Are We Trying To Save, Or Destroy, Haiti? The Congressional Black Caucus wants us to invade Haiti, and Pres. Clinton needs their votes to pass Health Care. But the man they want back in power is Rev. Jean Bertrand Aristide, a Marxist Roman Catholic Priest who teaches liberation theology and was moving to run all of the missionaries out of Haiti when he was ousted, *Reader's Digest*

(8/94) said Aristide's Catholic order expelled him, and that he brought neither peace nor democracy to Haiti. It said his movement murdered political opponents and burned religious buildings, that he seemed to favor "necklacing" opponents with gasoline-soaked tires and igniting them. — CC

* * *

143 Die At "Healing" Service. A cloudburst erupted as about 2,000 people were leaving a church in Brazzaville, Congo, triggering a stampede for shelter that killed 143 people, according to the official news agency. More than 50 children were among those trampled to death or suffocated in the surging crowd at Saint Pierre Claver Roman Catholic Church in Brazzaville's Bacongo neighborhood, state radio reported. The church's capacity is 1,000 people, but an overflow crowd of 2,000 attended the special "healing" service. As they were leaving, the cloudburst erupted, causing the crowd to surge back into the church.

* * *

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. 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

Ask Yourself --

If I could give 10% of my long distance telephone billing to 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?

You can have 10% of your long distance billing given to The Baptist Challenge — it doesn't cost you any more, and in most cases you actually pay less for your long distance service.

LifeLine Long Distance

By AmeriVision Communications, Inc.

You will be able to use the phone just like always, dial one and then the number! The benefits of LifeLine Long Distance include:

1) Payments to **The Baptist Challenge** 10% of your domestic net paid long distance billing will be paid every month. You will be actively helping their worthy cause each and every time you make a long distance call.

2) Discount! In most cases you will receive an average discount of between 4% and 8% off standard AT&T tariffed rates through a carrier providing quality fiber optic service. In some cases, you will receive as high as a 15% discount. With LifeLine there are no monthly service fees.

3) Quality Service! LifeLine utilizes the services of major long distance carriers so you are assured of quality phone service.

4) Bell System Billing! You will receive one phone bill for both local and long distance services through Bell or your present local telephone company.

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**.

Call 1-800-493-2002 to switch to LifeLine

Please mention that you want 10% of your long distance charges to go to the **Baptist Challenge**.

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.

JEZEBEL...

(Continued from page 7)

women preachers within them. There was even a big division right here in Little Rock in the Episcopal Church as to whether they could ordain a woman to be an Episcopal priest. Well they did it. But so have Baptists.

I'm not sure what the numbers are right now, but at one time I had a count of over 30 women preachers that had been ordained in Southern Baptist Convention churches and some of them were in positions where they were being paid out of Co-operative Program funds. [It has now reached several hundred since this was preached.] And yet the Bible never has approved the ordination of women preachers.

The result in this parable is that the whole was leavened. Now this does not mean that the world is going to be permeated by the gospel of Jesus Christ and become converted. It means the very opposite. When you read through this Book of Revelation you find that the world is going to be in universal corruption and that Christendom is to be taken over by the Anti-christ so that the churches of the last days are to be combined into an apostate church, a church that is unfaithful, a church that is unfit for the Lord, and this is the work of this woman Jezebel.

In verse 20 of this second chapter of the book of Revelation we read, "*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.*" Here is the result of what false doctrine has done. It has caused the seduction of the Lord's servants to commit fornication. That is not only talking about physical adultery or fornication,

but it is talking about spiritual fornication. Spiritual fornication is the following after false doctrine, "to eat things sacrificed unto idols."

Now I want us to go back into the Old Testament for just a few moments, and I want you to turn with me to the Book of First Kings. I want to notice some things about the woman Jezebel in the Old Testament. Now I doubt seriously if that woman in Thyatira was literally named Jezebel, but she had the same characteristics of this Jezebel of the Old Testament.

Isn't it odd, that you never hear anybody named Jezebel today. If you had a daughter you wouldn't name her Jezebel would you? Why? Because you know what she was characterized by. She was King Ahab's queen, a heathen queen. She was not a Jew to begin with. I am talking about the record in the 16th, 17th and 18th chapters of the Book of First Kings. She was not a Jew but a Canaanite. The word Canaanite means "trafficker" or "trader." She was a worshiper of Baal who was the male god, Ashtaroth, being the female god. This is a part of the old Babylonian religion, and the old Babylonian religion is the forerunner of the Roman Catholic Church today. The Babylonian religion consisted of many practices that are now carried on in Roman Catholicism and have also been borrowed by the Protestants and are being carried on in Protestantism as well.

I want to remind you again about a book that we have in our church library that you ought to read. It is called "**The Two Babylons**" written by a man by the name of Hislop. If you have not read it, be sure that you read it. In this book, and others, you will find that there are things practiced today in Catholicism and Protestantism that date back to the old ancient

Babylonian worship of Baal. Let me just give you some things.

Priestly rites, the clergy and the laity. Now these distinctions of "clergy and laity" are nowhere found in the Bible. There is no such thing as a "clergy" appearing on a pedestal and then the "laity" the members of the church being down here in a lower class. The Lord says we are all brothers in Christ Jesus. There is no distinction in the Bible between what they term "clergy and laity" but there is an equality among believers.

Then there are the orders of clergy. Now some have more "orders" than others. In the Catholic Church, of course, they have friars, brothers, priests, bishops, archbishops, cardinals all the way up to the Pope. In Protestant churches they have some titles that are very similar. The idea of having "sisters" or "nuns" all goes back to Babylon and the "nuns" were the religious prostitutes of ancient Babylon worship.

The monasteries where they had certain things set aside; the celibacy of the priests, meaning that the priests were not allowed to marry; robes, candles, incense, all of this was a part of the Babylonian heathen worship of Baal. Idolatry, that is the images and relics, the worshiping and bowing before images, and the bowing down before relics such as the bones of a saint. The bowing down to a piece of cloth with the supposed imprint of Christ on it is a more recent example. Scientists are investigating it today with modern technology to try and determine whether it was really the burial robe of the Lord, etc. The worshiping of all these things and practices were practiced in the ancient Babylon religion.

Another heathen practice is the money basis for religion, that you must pay to have a Mass said. You must pay to have anything done. Finally

they came out with the doctrine of the Infallibility of the Pope. I'm not sure what year that came about, in the 1800's maybe 1862 or 1872, but that's the first time that Roman Catholics had to believe that the Pope was infallible when he spoke. They term it, *ex cathedra*, that is, when he spoke as the spokesman for God. They admit that he's human and that he is subject to error. They admit that he has sins both in his public and private life and that many of the Popes were immoral and corrupt, but they say when he ascends (what they claim is the throne of the Apostle Peter), and speaks as the Apostle or as the Pope, then they say he is infallible. Catholics claim that he cannot say one thing that is sinful, one thing that is wrong when speaking for the church. Now before 1862 (?) you didn't have to believe that, but after 1862 (?) you *must* believe it or else you're going to go to hell. That's Catholic doctrine

It is interesting to note that the priest or bishop who led the opposition to that doctrine was the bishop of the diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1862 (I'm not sure of the exact year), it was the Bishop of Little Rock that went to Rome and lobbied and argued and did everything he could to prevent the Cardinals and the Pope from adopting the doctrine of the Infallibility of the Pope. It was a Little Rock Bishop that led the fight against that doctrine. But he lost. So what did he do? He said okay, then I was wrong, so he came back home and became a good Catholic Bishop again and he accepted the infallibility of the Pope. Today every Roman Catholic is required to believe in the infallibility of the Pope. They do so because they say he is the voice of God; that when he speaks, it is the same as God

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speaking.

Note the titles of the Pope. We talked to you about one of them last week, Pontifex Maximus. It came from the old Babylonian religion and it means "chief bridge builder" and it was the title of the heathen pagan priests of the Babylonian religion that Catholics have brought over into the Catholic religion.

Catholics have brought into so-called Christianity many pagan religious days, such as Halloween, Lent, Easter, Christmas, all of these are pagan days that were observed in the times of the Babylonian religion. Because Catholicism wanted to bring the heathen and pagans into their church, they allowed them to come in and to bring all of these days in with them. They simply christened these days, changed their titles, gave some of them a Christian name and allowed them to continue the worship of these heathen pagan days. Some of them retain their pagan names even to this day.

Now I haven't given you proof of this tonight, but if you want to read about it, get an encyclopedia, any encyclopedia. Get the encyclopedia Britannica, the World Book, Comptons, or Colliers, or any of them. Read any encyclopedia you want and read about Christmas, Easter, Halloween, or any of these "Christian" days, and you will find out that all of these were a part of heathen paganism that were brought over into so-called Christianity by the Roman Catholic Church.

Now let us turn to this Jezebel and notice some of the things about this Jezebel. In 1 Kings 21:25 we find she "ruled the roost." Her husband was subject unto her even though he was the king. Notice in verse 25 "But there was none like

unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up." Now turn back to the 16th chapter of First Kings and we find that it was Jezebel that established idolatry among the children of Israel. It says in verses 31-32, "And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria."

In chapter 18 and verse 19, we see how quickly Baal worship grew. "Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table." Jezebel, then, took it upon herself to support all the Baal worship by having these 450 priests of Baal and the 400 prophets of the groves, making a total of 850 that ate right in the king's house. This is what Jezebel did. She established idolatry throughout the whole kingdom. In addition she tried to exterminate the true prophets of the Lord.

Notice in verse 13 of First Kings chapter 18, "Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid an hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?" Notice in 2 Kings 9:7, "And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel."

Not only that, but we find that Jezebel confiscated the properties of the people. In 1

Kings 21:14-15 we read, "Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead. And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead." Now all of these things are characteristics of the Roman Catholic Church.

Notice again in 1 Kings 21:23 that she was under the curse of God. The prophet says, "And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel." This woman Jezebel was the personification of wickedness in that she led the Israelites into idolatry and to the practice of the immorality connected with the worship of the heathen deities or the heathen idols.

Notice in 2 Kings 9:22, "And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and he witchcrafts are so many." One woman destroyed Israel. One woman because of her conniving was able to bring in Baal worship into Israel's worship. She deceived the children of Israel and took over all religions and her priests became more numerous than the preachers of the Lord, so much so that Elijah was standing by himself against 850 of those who were the priests of Baal.

Now to this New Testament Jezebel. This New Testament Jezebel apparently was like this old Jezebel. She stands for, typifies, and represents the same things of the Jezebel of Ahab's day. Now this Jezebel was a member of the Nicolaitan sect, because you read in the 14th and 15th verses where the Lord says, "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to

cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes which thing I hate." John says in verse 20 that this woman Jezebel did that. "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." So what she did then was to encourage immorality, immoral conduct, all under the guise of religion.

Also this woman was a woman of prominence and influence. She even had more influence than the pastor had. She had so wormed herself in among the membership of the church that she had greater influence than even the pastor of the church — a woman in the church with more influence than the pastor. Have we not seen this in some churches today? How sad!

Now what were Jezebel's sins? She assumed authority that God did not give. That's exactly what the Catholic Church has done, Papal authority. They have what they call "Bulls" or "Dogmas" that are issued by the Pope. They are said to be infallible, therefore they are said to be the rules of the church, and Catholics are bound, required, obligated to accept all the "bulls" or the "dogmas" of the church as from God. Now this replaces God. Only God has that kind of authority. Yet we find this is what the Catholic Church has assumed. She declared certain doctrines to be her own, or her own doctrines to be of God, and she made her appeal to tradition rather than the Word of God.

I went to a Catholic church in

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JEZEBEL...

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New Orleans while I was a seminary student. There was a Catholic church right behind us called "The Little Flower of Jesus Church." I went to this church on Monday nights where they had the instructional classes for those who wanted to learn about Catholicism. It was for Catholics who wanted to come to learn more. It was also for those who had married non-Catholics so that they might get the non-Catholic to come so that they could use it as a means of instructing them whereby they might ultimately be converted to Catholicism. It was also there for anybody that wanted to come and learn about Catholicism. Well I went, and I told the priest, the Monsignor who was in charge, who I was, and that I was a student at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary I also told him that I planned to go as a missionary to Mexico, which was a Catholic country, and that I wanted to learn what Catholicism was directly, rather than to get it by hearsay or by what others might say. I didn't use the phrase, but I wanted to get it "directly from the horses mouth" so to speak.

So this is what I did. I have two books in my library that this Monsignor gave me. One is called "**The Sacrifice of the Mass**" which explains the Mass from the Catholic viewpoint, and the other book is called "**Faith of Our Fathers**" written by Cardinal Gibbons which gives the doctrines of the Catholic Church. I was in all these instruction classes. One day he was talking about some things, and some of the Catholics said "Well we don't see that, why are we to believe it? Where is it taught in the Bible?" He pointed out to them that they believe in many things that are not taught in

the Bible, but they are the traditions of the Catholic Church and they are to accept all the traditions of the Catholic Church as though they were Bible. They are to be considered as the same.

I will tell you what brought all this up. He was talking about John the Baptist and Jesus when they were both in their mother's wombs. It mentioned that when Mary came close to Elizabeth that John the Baptist, in the womb, leaped for joy. The Monsignor said that this proved that John the Baptist was born without original sin; that he was converted while he was still in the womb and that's when he leaped for joy because that's when he was converted. Therefore when he was born, he was born without original sin.

A mother in the class, (and she was also expecting), began talking to the priest and she said "Well now, I don't see anything about that that is miraculous. That is pretty common. I've had several children, and I have one now on the way, and it is nothing unusual for a baby to move and for the mother to feel movement," etc. Then she said, "I don't see where this really proves that John the Baptist was born without original sin." He argued with her a few minutes more, and finally, after she reached a point that she still wasn't going to believe it, he said, "Well, this is the tradition of the Catholic Church and therefore we must accept it, and we must believe it." That satisfied her, so she accepted it, and she believed it. So this is what we find. They have raised or elevated tradition up to the same level as though it were the Word of God.

Now this woman Jezebel was allowed to teach and to seduce the Lord's servants to commit fornication and to eat things offered to idols. Now the

word "seduce" never means error, but it means "a fundamental departure from the truth." Fornication is not only physical fornication but it is spiritual fornication, a mingling of the world and false religions, and spiritual fornication is far worse than physical fornication.

We have Baptists today that are committing spiritual fornication, in that they are having dialogue and going to meetings with Catholic priests. One of the preachers considered today as one of the most respected men of our country is Dr. W. A. Criswell the First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas. He himself is doing this. The **Dallas Times Herald** quoted him as being in a Catholic church in San Francisco or Los Angeles. He talked about his being present for the celebration of the Mass in a Catholic church, and how he had never felt the Spirit of the Lord any more than he had when that priest celebrated the mass. Twenty years ago he would have cut his tongue off before he would have ever said anything like that. He was one of the leading opponents of John F. Kennedy running for President because he was a Roman Catholic who believed in the supremacy of the Pope. Today, he is one of the Baptists that are now cooperating and being a part of such practices.

This is typical and representative of how false doctrines are continuing to be brought into Christendom. Today it is sweeping the world in the ecumenical movement as they are trying to bring everybody into it. Who did it all? This woman Jezebel. "*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*" (Rev. 2:20).

Now notice, "*And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not*" (Rev. 2:21). God gives space for repentance, but she did not. There is no hope. She has gone too far. I am afraid there are Baptists that God has given "space to repent" and they "repented not." They've gone too far.

What is true of a church of yesteryear can be true of churches today. We need to make certain that we are not influenced by these false doctrines of "Baal worship" that have been brought into Christianity by a gradual infiltration of false doctrine, whereby we become participants of the false doctrine as well. Many of them were brought into Protestantism from Catholicism, and now they are being brought into Baptist churches from Protestants.

One thing, as an example. Did you know that in the early 1900's any Baptist that celebrated Christmas was excluded from that Baptist church. Now they have brought Christmas right into the church. They have their Santa Claus, they have their Christmas tree, etc. They've got the whole works. Where did they get it? Roman Catholicism! The same thing with all of these other heathen pagan days. We need to be careful that doctrines such as the doctrine of falling from grace, the doctrine of baptismal regeneration; infant baptism; sprinkling for baptism; all of these things came out of Roman Catholicism. We protect ourselves through the church truth that we preach. We do not receive "alien" baptism or baptism from any other denomination, and we practice closed communion, limiting it to the membership of the church observing the Supper. We need to be careful lest we become tainted with some of those same false doctrines as well.

CLOUD...

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could stand with me beside the “holy” River Bagmati in Kathmandu, Nepal, and observe the burning of the body of a Hindu following the performance of the Hindu death rituals, they would cast aside in repulsion every thought of cremation being an acceptable Christian practice. Just five days ago I stood three or so feet from a burning corpse with a missionary pastor from Singapore and his wife who were visiting us. The head was already burnt beyond recognition and the skull split open due to internal expansion from the heat of the fire. The lower legs and feet were unscorched, as they were protruding from the pile of burning wood and stubble upon which the man’s body lay. The professional Hindu burners were poking the body from time to time to keep the members in the fire and adding stubble and wood as needed. The bones were contracting and popping; the bodily organs were frying and the juices sizzling in the intense heat. My wife, a nurse with experience in a leprosy hospital and also in an intensive care ward, stood with another friend observing the ghastly sight from a distance, unwilling to come closer. The air for a hundred yards or more was filled with the unmistakable stench of burning flesh. When the fire had burnt most of the body, the ashes and remaining members were shoved into the river. This is cremation as has been practiced by heathen religions for untold centuries, but without the sanitized, “instant fry” method adopted in technically advanced nations and sanctified by apostate Christians as an “acceptable Christian practice.”

Would you treat your loved ones so? Is this an acceptable Christian practice indeed? No

sir, cremation is a heathen practice. It is of heathen origin and serves heathen purposes. There is nothing Christian about cremation. We were standing that day, as I have at other times, observing cremation in the surroundings from which the practice arose—idolatrous, Christless heathenism.

God’s People Have Always Practiced Burial

Following are just a few examples. I challenge you to read the Bible from cover to cover and find one occasion in which one of God’s people was cremated or given anything other than a decent and proper burial (except in a few cases involving God’s anger, as we shall shortly see).

Abraham was buried — “Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people. And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah...” (Gen. 25:8-10).

Sarah was buried — “And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old ... And Sarah died in Kirjatharba ... And Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her. And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying, I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight” (Gen. 23:1-4).

Rachel was buried — “And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath ... And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel’s grave unto this day” (Gen. 35:19-20).

Isaac was buried — “And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him” (Gen. 35:29).

Jacob was buried — “And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people ... And when the days of his mourning were past ... his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him the cave of the field of Machpelah ...” (Gen. 49:33; 50:1-13).

Joseph was buried — “So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt” (Gen. 50:26).

Joshua was buried -- “And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him. (Josh. 24:29-30).

Eleazar was buried — “And Eleazar the son of Aaron died; and they buried him in a hill that pertained to Phinehas his son, which was given him in mount Ephraim” (Josh. 24:33).

Samuel was buried — “And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah ...” (1 Sam. 25:1).

David was buried — “So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David” (1 Ki. 2:10).

John the Baptist was buried — “And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison ... and his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus” (Mt. 14:10-12).

Ananias and Sapphira were buried — “And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him ... Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead,

and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband” (Acts 5:5-10).

Stephen was buried — “And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him” (Acts 8:2).

Even When Burial Was Difficult

Even in difficult circumstances God’s people in olden days practiced burial. For example, Joseph’s body was kept for over 400 years in Egypt and then carried through the 40 years of wilderness wanderings before being buried in Palestine, the promised land.

“And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence” (Gen. 50:24-25).

And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you” (Ex. 13:19).

And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver ...” (Josh. 24:32).

How much simpler it would have been for the Israelites to have cremated Joseph, then carried his ashes with them in a tiny container! But this they refused to do. Joseph, a follower of the one true God, a man who looked forward to the bodily resurrec-

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tion, was given an honorable burial, as was every man of God in the Bible.

Burial Looks Forward To Resurrection

“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” (Rom. 8:22-23).

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1).

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming” (1 Cor. 15:20-23).

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin;

and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:51-57).

The reason God’s people have always been careful to practice burial is not difficult to understand. We believe in a bodily resurrection. Yes, the buried body will decompose in time. Yes, there are occasions in which Christians die in ways which render burial impossible — in the sinking of ships, in house fires, etc. But when at all possible we bury. Why the trouble? Because it is our certain hope that the same individual will be raised in the same body, only changed.

The physical body is called the seed for the resurrection body. When planted, a seed decomposes, and the new plant comes forth. The Bible uses this to illustrate resurrection:

“But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool., that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain; But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him and to every seed his own body ... So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” (1 Cor. 15:35-44).

When we bury a Christian loved one, we are planting the seed for the resurrection body! It is a powerful testimony of our unwavering faith in God’s Word regarding the promise of bodily resurrection.

Contrast heathenism. They have no such knowledge or hope. The Hindus and Bud-

dhists, for example, believe in reincarnation. Yes, they believe in a human soul which is distinct from the body. But they do not believe that the soul, once departed from the body at death, will be resurrected in any relation whatsoever to the first body. Rather they believe the soul will be reincarnated in another entirely unrelated body, or into a non-physical sphere of existence.

God’s people, though, have had some knowledge of a bodily resurrection from the earliest days. The book of Job is considered commonly to be the oldest book in the Bible. There is no mention in the book of Job concerning Israel, or Jerusalem, or Palestine, or the temple, or the Jewish state or kingdom, and it is most likely that Job was a God-fearing man who lived in the days prior to Abraham. Yet consider this ancient man of God’s thorough knowledge of the bodily resurrection.

“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me” (Job. 19:25-27).

God’s people have always buried their dead with this magnificent hope burning in their hearts — “We will see that brother or sister again in that same body, only changed, glorified!” Hallelujah! Only through the death and shed blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can we have this certain hope. He has taken upon Himself on the cross the punishment for our sins, carried our sins into the grave, and rose again in eternal triumph three days later. When an individual thoroughly acknowledges his sinfulness before God, repents

(changes his mind about living a sinful, self-willed life), and receives Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, the sin debt becomes paid, and eternal life and glory is promised from God the Father. Part of our glorious heritage in Christ is the resurrection body.

God Practices Burial

“So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day” (Dt. 34:5-6).

Cremation Is A Sign Of God’s Curse

Throughout the Bible the destruction of a human body or of an object by fire is used as a sign of divine wrath. Consider with me some examples:

The example of Sodom and Gomorrah — “Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven” (Gen. 19:24). “And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly” (2 Pet. 2:6).

The example of Nadab and Abihu — “And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord (Lev. 10:1-2).

The example of the men who rebelled with Korah — “And there came out a fire from

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the Lord, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense" (Num. 16:35).

The example of idols — "And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it" (Ex. 32:20). "The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the Lord thy God" (Dt. 7:25). "And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them" (2 Ki. 10:26). "And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire" (1 Chr. 14:12).

The example of magic books — "And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver" (Acts 19:18-19).

The example of the unsaved cast into the lake of fire for eternal punishment — "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).

**For A Person Not To Have
A Proper Burial Was
Considered Dishonor**

Example of Jezebel — "And of Jezebel also spake the Lord saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat"

(1 Ki. 21:23-24).

Example of the Midianites — "Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth" (Psm. 83:9-10).

**The Christian's Body
Belongs To God: It is Not
Ours To Destroy By Fire Or
Any Other Means**

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's" (Rom. 14:8).

**God Has Plainly Called
Cremation Wickedness**

"Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime" (Amos 2:1).

**The Lord Jesus Was Buried,
And He Is Our Great
Example In All Things**

"And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the

body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand" (Jn. 19:38-42).

In light of the above Bible teaching, the statement, "In the Christian religion there is nothing that frowns upon cremation or requires burial," proves to be untrue. Of course we cannot force people either to bury or not to bury. But the pastor or missionary must patiently share these truths with his people and with those who seek his assistance in the burial of loved ones. In these days of widespread apostasy and doctrinal confusion among professing Christian leaders a clear voice in this matter is urgently needed.

RUSSIA...

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doctrine and Christian living. We have already translated several such works and we are still trying to get them all ready to print.

We are anxious to begin reaching out more within the city of Magadan. As our Russian improves we can go and witness to folks easier. Right now, however, we are only able to pass out tracts and written invitations to services and answer some very basic questions which folks might have.

This summer, my family and I have returned to America to visit supporting churches, do some deputation, visit family, and purchase supplies for the upcoming year. We have greatly enjoyed the fellowship and graciousness of the churches that we have visited but regret that we

cannot visit them all in the short time that we are in the States. There are whole sections of the country which we were not able to visit. Lord willing, in the future we may be able to come to those churches which we did not get to visit this time.

Please pray for the political and economic situations in both America and Russia so that we might continue to work there. Also, please pray that the Lord would continue to provide the needs that we have as our costs of living and working in Magadan are rapidly rising. And, please keep spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ here in America so the others might come to know Him as their Savior and turn their lives over to Him and our nation might continue to be blessed by God as it has in the past.

I praise God for the opportunity to share with you what the Lord is doing in Far-East Russia. We are very thankful for the support and prayers which many of you have offered in our behalf.