

# the Baptist CHALLENGE

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WHOLE NO. 410

## Are Bible Miracles To Be Performed By the People of God Today? -- Part One

*By Louis Entzinger*

From time to time throughout the history of Christianity there have been waves of the "divine healing" heresy, and always it has borne the same characteristic marks.

For the past eight years my work has been right in the midst of it. I believe beyond question that in the heresy it teaches and its method of deluding and deceiving hundreds of thousands of good, sincere, Christian people, and the inroads it is making on Bible-believing people, there is no heresy today doing greater injury to the cause of Christ.

It has so much in it that is sound and scriptural until as a heresy it is worse than if it were more like Christian Science or Unity or Theosophy, or some other of the modern "isms."

We have been forced to make a thorough study of the matter and desire to give to our readers the benefit of whatever we have found to expose this delusion and to give Christian people who believe the Word of God a good, solid foundation upon which to stand.

### **The History of Bible Miracles**

I believe all the Bible. I be-

lieve what it teaches about miracles and the Holy Spirit and I am seeking by the aid of the Holy Spirit, who is the author of it, to present it honestly and fairly in preaching this series of sermons. It is not my purpose to attack anybody's Christianity. There are a great many sincere, earnest people who love God and want to do the right things; but they are being greatly deceived today about this matter. Some of them are preachers.

I would not say anything derogatory to their faith, but I do know this divine healing matter has been turned into a mockery and racket, that in many places many leaders are doing nothing in the world but deceiving people and grafting on the hearts and pocketbooks of honest people; and I believe this church and pastor is fore-ordained and predestinated to tell this city about it. Not only are we going to tell the truth from this pulpit, but we are going to put it into print.

Now I believe in miracles and before this series is over you will have no doubt about the miracles God works today.

It is a significant fact that for the first 2500 years plus of

recorded Scriptural history, no man performed a single miracle. Not one.

The first miracle recorded in the Bible is the translation of Enoch, who walked with God and was not for God took him. The second was the judgment of the flood. The third was the judgment of God upon the tower of Babel. The fourth was the plagues on Pharaoh because of Sarah, where Abraham and Sarah like to have gotten

into trouble; but God's grace took care of it.

Then the smoking furnace was a miracle, in a way, the prophecy of the suffering of the seed of Abraham (Gen. 15).

The next miracle is the judgment on Sodom.

Next the healing of Abimelech, when Abraham told the same lie to this heathen king, and it almost got him into the

See **MIRACLES** on page 20)

## **41st Annual Bible Conference In Little Rock October 23-25, 1995**

We hope you are planning to attend our 41st annual Bible Conference. This is an exciting year for us since we will be meeting in our new building. We will have been in our facility for 4 months by conference time, and my how God has blessed us! We hope you are able to attend.

Conference services will begin October 23 at 7:00 and continue through the Wednesday night service. Our day services will begin at 9:00. We will be serving three meals a day for

our guests starting with supper Monday night at 5:00.

This year we have invited Missionary Roy Dearmore, MD to speak four times during this conference. He will be speaking on the Bible and medical ethics. There will be a number of other fine men of God speaking on important Biblical subjects. I'm sure you will be challenged in your service for God.

The closest motel is the  
(See **ANNUAL** on page 14)

The Book of Revelation -- Message #32

## The Rapture

By M. L. Moser, Editor

[This message on "The Rapture" was preached Sunday morning, July 8, 1979, and is printed "as preached." It is one of a series of 113 messages on the Book of Revelation preached at the Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas over a period of two years, 1979-1981. It is our hope to complete transcribing all of them and to print them in the form of a verse-by-verse commentary. For those who might be interested, tapes of these messages are available from the editor.]

This morning our subject will be "The Rapture." This evening, the Lord willing, our message will deal with the first eleven verses of this chapter as we look at the Vision of the Throne, the vision that John had of the throne in heaven.

We only want to read one verse now and that is verse one of chapter 4. "*After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter*" (Rev. 4:1).

Here we find a door mentioned in this first verse, and this is one of three doors we find mentioned in the Book of Revelation. You will notice in chapter three and verse 8 we have an open door mentioned. "*I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name*" (Rev. 3:8).

When we were studying

the Church of Philadelphia we remarked about the fact that this open door represented and signified the door of opportunity for great missionary activity., and that the church of Philadelphia represented the period of the most active missionary work in the history of the New Testament church. We also learned that only the Lord can open, and only the Lord can shut this door.

Then we found a second door in this third chapter, this one in verse 20. "*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me*" (Rev. 3:20).

This is a picture showing the Lord Jesus Christ on the outside of His church knocking and asking entrance into His church. We showed you that this church of Laodicea is representative of the churches of the last days immediately preceding the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the majority of churches of the last days are going to be like this church of Laodicea, rich and increased with goods, having need of nothing, as far as material things are concerned, but spiritually poverty-stricken, naked, blind and really with nothing at all. A name but nothing more, and the Lord, having been pushed to the outside as the world was admitted to the inside. This church of the last days is much like a true church of the Lord that has reached that state to where the Lord has simply been pushed to the outside, and now He is on the outside knocking and seeking admittance into His own church.

The third door that we find is here in this first verse of the fourth chapter. This is the open door of heaven. This represents the Rapture. The Rapture, or this open door, is seen by the words "come up hither." The Rapture is something that I be-

lieve more people are aware of today than ever before. They are beginning to think about it more so. More books are being written about the Second Coming of the Lord.

May I warn you that you be careful of what book you read about this, because some may be good, but some may be bad. Some may have a little truth in them, but have much error within them to go along with the little truth. Therefore, it behooves you to be very careful of what books you read and particularly as we think about these books that are so prevalent today relative to the Second Coming of the Lord.

Now the Rapture. I want to look at it for just a moment. If you go to Webster's Dictionary to get a definition, Webster defines the word "to transport with joy; the act of seizing and carrying away; carrying away to sublime happiness." This is usually what we think of when we think about the Rapture. We talk about an experience as being a "rapturous experience." By that we mean that experience simply just filled our hearts with joy. The Rapture then is a time of great rejoicing. It is a time when believers, those who are saved, are to be caught up off of this earth to be carried into heaven itself, and this is why it is referred to as "the Rapture." It is all of these things that Webster says. There is the act of seizing and carrying away; that is Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth, He is going to seize or capture and carry away all of those that are saved; all of those that belong to Him.

It also involves "to transport with joy," because for that believer, that moment in time when Jesus comes to this earth and catches away those who are saved, it will be a time of great joy for the child of God, for it means that he will be leaving

(See **RAPTURE** on page 16)

### THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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# Prophecies of Messiah

By Henry A. Benach

Many observant Jews believe in a coming Messiah. However, a good question to ponder is, "How would one recognize Him if He were to come today?" The answer is found only in the pages of the Scriptures, where many prophecies were given about the coming of the Messiah.

God can use these verses to touch Jewish hearts. I am sure that many of you know that it was through the study of prophecies and their fulfillment that our late founder, Dr. Jacob Gartenhaus, came to believe in Jesus Christ.

## Messiah Described

Centuries before He was to be born, Christ's birth and career, suffering and glory, were all given in detail and outline in the Jewish Bible. Christ is the only person ever seen on planet earth whose ancestry, forerunner, birthplace and birth-manner, infancy, manhood, teachings, character, preaching, reception, rejection, death, burial, resurrection and ascension were all clearly pre-written in very great detail before He was born!

No one knew five hundred years ago that Shakespeare was going to be born, nor 250 years ago that Napoleon was to be born. "Yet in the Jewish Bible we have a most striking and unmistakable likeness of a Man portrayed, not by just one, but by twenty or twenty-five artists, none of whom had ever seen the Man they all were painting," wrote Canon Dyson Hague.

Who were the Jewish prophets writing about? They were all talking about the coming Messiah, Jesus. We can lead a

Jewish friend to recognize Him by using Old Testament prophecies and the New Testament fulfillments.

## Prophecies Fulfilled

Below is a helpful list. The first verses are from the Jewish Scriptures, and then the fulfillment in the New Covenant is given.

1. He would be the seed of the woman, not man. (Gen. 3:15; Gal.4:4)
2. He would be the seed of Abraham. (Gen. 22:18; Heb. 2:16)
3. He was the Star of Jacob. (Num. 24:17; Rev. 22:16)
4. From the tribe of Judah. (Gen. 49:10; Lk. 3:33)
5. Heir to David's throne. (Isa. 9:7; Lk. 1:32-33)
6. Born in Bethlehem. (Mic. 5:2; Lk. 2:4-5, 7)
7. Time of His birth. (Dan. 9:25; Lk. 2:1-2)
8. Born of a virgin. (Isa. 7:14; Lk. 1:26-27, 30-31)
9. Called out of Egypt. (Hos. 11:1; Mt. 2:15)
10. Given a special Name. (Isa. 7:14; Mt. 1:22-23)
11. When He would appear. (Dan. 9:25; Gal. 4:4)
12. His forerunner. (Isa. 40:3; Mt. 3:3)
13. His family. (Psm. 132:11; Acts 11:22-23)
14. Willingness of His service. (Psm. 40:6, 8; Isa. 50:5; Heb. 10:7-9)
15. His absolute poverty. (Isa. 53:2; Lk. 9:58)
16. Character of His ministry. (Isa. 61:1-2; Lk. 4:18-19)
17. Ministry beginning in Galilee. (Isa. 9:12; Mt. 4:12-16)
18. His meekness. (Isa. 42:2; Mt. 12:15-16, 19)

19. His tenderness and compassion. (Isa. 40:11; Mt. 12:15, 20)

20. His steadfast purpose. (Isa. 50:7; Lk. 9:51)

21. His intensity and zeal. (Psm. 69:9; Jn. 2:17)

22. His miracles. (Psm. 35:5; Mt. 11:4-6)

23. His anointing by the Spirit. (Isa. 11:2; Acts 10:38)

24. His betrayal for thirty pieces of silver. (Zech. 11:13; Mt. 26:15)

25. Riding into Jerusalem on an ass. (Zech. 9:9; Lk. 19:35)

26. Scattering of His disciples at His crucifixion. (Zech. 13:7; Mt. 26:31)

27. His rejection. (Isa. 53:3; Mt. 26:67)

28. His sorrows. (Isa. 53:3; Mt. 26:37)

29. Marring of His visage. (Isa. 52:14; Jn. 19:1)

30. His back scarred. (Isa. 50:6; Jn. 19:1)

31. His being spit upon in the face. (Isa. 50:6; Mk. 14:65)

32. Hands and feet being nailed. (Psm. 22:16; Jn. 19:34-35)

33. His face smitten. (Mic. 5:1; Mt. 27:30)

34. Side pierced. (Zech. 12:10; Jn. 19:36)

35. Bones preserved. (Psm. 34:20; Jn. 19:36)

36. From David's house. (2 Sam. 7:12-13; Gal. 3:16)

37. Was to be a shepherd. (Isa. 40:11; Jn. 10:11-16)

38. Was to be a King. (Zech. 9:9; Jn. 18:33, 37)

39. Rejected by His people. (Psm. 69:8; Jn. 1:11)

40. Hated by His people. (Isa. 49:7; Jn. 15:24-25)

41. His sufferings. (Isa. 50:6; Mt. 26:67)

42. Substitutionary death.

(Isa. 53:5; 1 Pet. 2:24-25)

43. Died with transgressors. (Isa. 53:9; Mk. 15:28)

44. God's punitive act in His death. (Isa. 53:10; 2 Cor. 5:21)

45. Words He spoke on the cross. (Psm. 22:1; Mt. 27:46)

46. Shepherd dying. (Zech. 13:7; Mt. 26:46)

47. Parting of His garments. (Psm. 22:18; Jn. 19:23)

48. Lots cast for His vesture. (Psm. 22:18; Jn. 19:23)

49. His utter helplessness. (Psm. 22:14-15; 2 Cor. 13:4)

50. Taunt of His enemies. (Psm. 22:8; Lk. 23:35)

51. Intensity of His death. ((Psm. 69:21; Jn. 19:28)

52. He was given vinegar. (Psm. 69:21; Jn. 19:29)

53. His prophetic office. (Dt. 18:15; Acts 3:22)

54. His bodily resurrection. (Psm. 16:9-11; Acts 2:27-31)

55. His intercession for the others. (Isa. 53:12; Lk. 23:34)

56. His ascension. (Psm. 68:18; Acts 1:9)

57. Internment with rich. (Isa. 53:9; Mt. 27:57)

58. A Priest after the order of Melchizedek. (Psm. 110:4; Heb. 5:5-6)

59. Healer of broken hearted. (Isa. 61:1-2; Lk. 4:18-19)

60. His triumphal entry. (Zech. 9; Mk. 11:7-11)

61. Betrayal by a friend. (Psm. 41:9; Lk. 22:47-48)

62. Messiah of Israel. (Isa. 11:10; Rev. 19:11-16)

63. Glory as Messiah. (Isa. 63:1; Rev. 19:11-16)

64. Messiah as King. (Psm. 2:6-9; Rev. 19:15)

65. Submission of nations to Him. (Isa. 2:4; Rev. 12:4)

66. The Gentiles will seek Israel's Messiah. (Isa. 11:10; Rom. 11:25).

If accepted, these will help your Jewish friend to begin to see that the only One who fulfills all of these is Yeshua Ha Maschiah, Jesus the Messiah. —*The Everlasting Nation.* ■

# “Christian, Whom Should You Marry?”

By H. Frank Fort

Before we begin the discussion of this subject, let me say that I fully realize that there is nothing in the least pretty about this message. In fact, I shall be rather blunt and straight to the point, and the language employed will be such that you cannot fail to understand exactly what is meant. God being my witness, no effort whatever shall be made to please anyone but God Himself.

First, I want to read three verses of Scripture that clearly set forth the responsibility which rests on the head of the house, and which show beyond any shadow of a doubt who is the head of the house according to God's Word. Turn with me to 1 Samuel 3:11-13:

“And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. For I have told him that *I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.*”

Here we see a man who was responsible for his house, but who went on his way giving no heed to the instructions of God as to how to conduct his house; and when “his sons made themselves vile, he restrained them not.” God says for this reason I'll do a thing that will make the ears of all that hear it tingle. For “I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth.” My! what a responsibility rests upon every husband and upon every fa-

ther. God has promised that “whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal. 6:7), and we can be certain of this one thing — whatever God has said on any subject, it will be exactly as He said. That being true, then according to the seed you are sowing, what will your harvest be?

And now to our message itself — “Christian, whom shall you marry?” Hebrews 13:4 tells us that “Marriage is honourable in all.” The first institution placed on this earth by God Himself after He created man was the home. He ordained that it should be so, and He has promised His blessings on any home conducted according to the pattern set forth in His Word. Furthermore, the Word of God says that “what therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder” (Mt. 19:6).

We have some people today who are so piously religious that they forbid the ministry to marry, but God's Word says “marriage is honourable in all.” Concerning this crowd the Word of God foretold that that very thing would be true in the last days. Turn to 1 Timothy 4:1-3: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall *depart from the faith ... forbidding to marry.*” Now if “forbidding to marry” is a departure from the faith, then we can know of a surety that true faith sanctions marriage. God says “marriage is honourable in all,” and I believe it.

Now let us note a few things necessary to a happy marriage and one that God will bless.

## I. Compatibility of the Union:

1 Corinthians 7:2 says, “Let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.” But the Word of God also says, “Can two walk together except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3). Again in 2 Corinthians 6:14, “Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”

How can you expect to be happy together if one is a child of God and knows the Truth, but the other has no concern whatever for the things of the Lord? You know exactly what the result will be before you marry him — why not take heed and save yourselves the disaster of a broken home and broken hearts?

## II. The Man the Head of the House:

Genesis 18:17, 19: “And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do: For I know him *that he will command his children and his household after him ....*” It has always been the purpose of God down through the ages that the man should be the head of the house and that the responsibility for bringing that house up in the way of the Lord should rest entirely upon the man. Oh, what a responsibility — and how most of the things calling themselves “men” are shunning it! You say, “Oh, the wife does all the church going.” You turn everything over to your wife. Any religious instruction that your children may happen to get, your wife takes care of that. Yes, the wife does your church going — but there is one thing that your wife won't do for you. You'll go to hell for yourself —

she won't go there for you.

A. The two-fold responsibility of the father:

1. Genesis 9:7: “Be ye fruitful and multiply.” But that isn't all.

2. Ephesians 6:4 says, “and, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

B. The relationship of the husband to the wife:

Ephesians 5:23, 25: “For the husband is the head of the wife... husbands, love your wives.” God here commands every husband to love his wife. Some of you would come around though and say that you just can't love her any more — you thought you did love her when you married her, but you just can't love her now. That's just a lie — God commands every husband to love his wife, and God never did command a person to do something he couldn't do. The trouble in about nine cases out of every ten is that you would rather love some other man's wife than your own.

God has placed you head over your wife, but instead of that meaning that you are to browbeat her and serve as a tyrant, He says that you are to “love” her. You did love her before you got her to marry you and you saw to it that she knew that you loved her, but what about now? Had you manifested your love for her then as you do now, do you suppose you would have ever won her?

C The relationship of the husband to his children.

1 Timothy 3:4: “...having his children in subjection with all gravity.” Do you have your children in subjection with all gravity, or have they “grown up” and gotten completely out of your hand? When they were small and at the age that their

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thinking could be molded, did you bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, or did you let them go until now you can't do anything with them? My! how I'd hate to be in the shoes of some of the fathers of our land. I come back again with the Word of the Eternal God to say that "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Do you let your wife and your girls run around half naked? Why, it has actually gotten to the place where a decent man can seldom go to a house without being embarrassed by some half-naked woman coming to the door. Oh yes, yes, you jump back behind the door when you see it is your minister and you try to act as though you are embarrassed — oh, yes, I know you wouldn't think of being seen on the street in your shorts, you just clean house in them because they are so nice and cool. The only thing about that is that it's a lie. You do let yourself be seen. Husbands, why don't you exert your God-given right and put some clothes on your wife and on your daughters? I just don't mind telling you that if you husbands and fathers that are members of the Berean Baptist Church don't do under God what you ought to do in this respect, if the deacons don't see that you are excluded, I'll personally make the motion.

Why, not a one of you were not absolutely horrified here only three or four weeks ago when that sex maniac took those four little girls right over here in Stude Park. Don't misunderstand me, I'm in no way upholding the man in what he did, but you parents allow your little girls to parade around practically naked on the beach and in the parks and swimming pools. In the name of high heaven,

what do you expect? You put a half-nude girl or woman before an unconverted reprobate and it will just naturally bring out the brute that is in him.

Do you want your children to grow up in the steps of some old harlot? Well then, why do you let them watch the old hags on the screen — why do you take them to see such stuff? Do you think for one minute that I want little Frankie Lee to grow up to admire and act like some hag that has been married a dozen times? Do you think that I want her to watch them as they drink their highballs and rotten-gut liquors, as they smoke their cigarettes, as they show nothing but hate and contempt for the Lord and Savior I love and worship? I tell you no!! But here is what I do want — I'd have her grow up like the godly mother she has, and I don't care who knows it. As long as Frankie Lee is in my house, I intend to discharge the responsibility that God has given me as a father. What are you doing about yours?

III. Now let us see what the Word of God has to say about the wife:

A. Ephesians 5:3: "...and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

B. 1 Peter 3:1: "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands."

C. Titus 2:4-5: "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands."

When God spoke to Jacob in Genesis 35:1-3 and told him to "Arise and go up to Bethel," did Jacob understand Him to mean for him to go alone? The record says that "God said unto Jacob," but what did Jacob understand the Lord to mean? Let us read the next two verses and see: "Then Jacob said *unto his*

*household, and to all that were with him,* Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God."

Again, Exodus 10:8-9 when Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to "go, serve the Lord your God," what was their reply? "And Moses said, "We will go with *our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters.*"

Again, in Ezra 8:21 we see a man of God as he assumes the responsibility of a father and as the head of his house. Ezra says, "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, *that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.*" What about you fathers? Do you say to your wife and children, "let us arise, and go up to Bethel?" or do you simply send them — if they go at all? Are you not concerned about the fact that your sons and daughters may be on their way to hell? Then, what are you doing about it? Oh, may God help us to see and to assume our responsibility as husbands and wives, and as fathers and mothers.

Young lady and young man, you certainly intend to marry some day, it is only natural that you should. God has so constructed us that we should desire the love and companionship of another and that we should anticipate the joy and blessings of a home together, but what about the one whom you select as your mate? Young girl, is that young man you intend to marry one who is capable and willing to assume the place God has ordained that he should? There is so much involved in marriage; not only the couple are involved, but there will be children, for God purposed that there should be. But

what about that young man? Is he a Christian boy who loves the Lord and who will instruct your children in the way of righteousness? Is he one that will so live before your children that his very life will point them to "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world?" Or is he one that will leave all the Christianity to you? Don't fool yourself into believing that you'll be able to win him after you are married, for if you aren't able to cause him to see his need of a Savior while he is wooing and courting you, you can just put it down that you'll certainly not be able to win him after he gets you. You'll have only unhappiness and heart-break in store for you.

Young man, what about that girl you expect to take as your bride, to be the mother of your children? Is she one who will take the queenly place God has prepared for her according to Titus 2:4-5? Oh that you'll earnestly take heed to God's Word in selecting your mate; otherwise, you can expect nothing short of a broken home and broken hearts. God has promised His blessings on the home founded on His Son and conducted according to His Word — but upon none other. What kind of a home do you want? ■

### Recipe For Child Raising

1 cup Proverbs 22:6  
2 Tablespoons Proverbs 19:18  
Dash Proverbs 23:13  
Pinch Ephesians 6:4  
1 teaspoon Proverbs 3:5  
1/2 cup Titus 2:3-7

Mix all the ingredients, add a pound of persistence, one cup of love, and whip until right consistency.

This recipe is recommended by the Creator of mankind.

## Battered Pastors

(From Baptist Record)

Thom S. Rainer, in **Giant Awakenings**, calls it a "scandal of the American church." You can fight secularism and communism, but how do you fight with your own people? You expect persecution from the world but persecution can come today from those in your own house.

Recently I read a letter from a pastor in another state. He said, "I resigned today. About three weeks ago I encouraged one of our leading members to be more faithful to teaching his Sunday School class. Deer hunting, fishing trips, etc., kept him out often. I could tell he didn't like it. A week later I was informed by the personnel committee to seek another place."

One pastor took a survey on what his deacons expected of the pastor. To satisfy the group he needed to spend 14 hours a week in prayer, 18 hours in sermon preparation, 10 hours in outreach visitation, 10 hours in counseling, 15 hours in hospital and home visitation, five hours in church meetings, 10 hours in worship services/preaching, and four hours in other activities — for a total of 114 hours per week.

Attitudes toward the pastor vary from "after all, that's what we pay him for" to those who view their pastor as an equipper. He is not some spiritual superman but a fellow believer — forgiven, and called into this ministry. He is not the CEO who is to manage a business, but the undershepherd of the flock.

An estimated 10% of all pastors are said to be suffering some persecution by fellow church members. It may be because church members fail to understand the role of the pastor of a personality conflict. There are biblical principles to guide us

in settling conflicts and misunderstandings. We need to seek these principles ere the gentle wind becomes a gale.

A case could also be stated for "battered churches" but that is another story. "Feed the flock" not "fleece the flock" is the biblical admonition. In your church, who prays for the pastor?

It is sad to speak about such things when the majority of our churches are in good fellowship with their pastor and with each other. How pleasant it is to see a church where the pastor loves his people and the people love their pastor. The principle of love as expressed in 1 Corinthians 13 can bring a new spirit of service and sacrifice. It is not to be "battered" but "blessed" in our quest for the kingdom. — Editorial in the Mississippi Baptist Record. ■

## The Raising of Godly Children

By Brian Withrow  
Wetmore Baptist Church,  
Wetmore, CO

One of the greatest concerns of godly parents is the raising of godly children. With all of the pressures, influences and temptations that affect children's lives today, this is a monumental task. The Word of God has a lot to say concerning this area of parental responsibility. All Christian parents want to see their children grow into good, responsible, moral adults and by the grace of God at some point become Christians, but this does not always happen. Just because mom and dad are godly does not guarantee that their children will be godly, but there are some Bible principals, that if followed, will bring the child to a place of decision in their lives. The Word of God is very clear as to what parents

need to provide for their children to help them grow in the knowledge of God and mature.

**Training.** Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Children need training. There is a lot involved in training such as, *teaching*. Children need to be taught the Word of God, not just by the pastor or Sunday School teacher but by mom and dad. There should be a time provided in the home, when the family comes together and has devotions from the Bible. Parents need to take the Word of God and apply it to their children's lives.

Training also involves *time*. Spiritual training takes quality time. Parents make time for television, books, newspaper, job, hobbies, clubs and friends but forget about their children. One of the highest priorities in a parents schedule should be to spend time with their child and time in spiritual training.

**Tough Discipline** also needs to be provided by mom and dad. Proverbs 23:13-14 says, "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." Children must be taught right from wrong and have boundaries set in their lives. They need to understand that if they go beyond those set boundaries there are consequences for their actions. The Bible says the main consequence is a spanking (Read Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 22:15). The Bible doesn't talk about grounding or taking away their television or telephone. It does not mention time-outs or setting a child in the corner as a form of discipline. A parent may use some of these various methods from time to time but the Bible is very clear that if a parent loves their child, they will confront their disobedience and spank

them. Discipline is so important in the home, because before a child can be saved they must realize they are a sinner and that there is a consequence for sin.

**Tender Love.** Parents not only need to provide tough discipline but also tender love. Psalms 127:3 says that children are a *heritage, a reward* from God. Paul says in Ephesians 6:4 they are to be *nurtured* and *admonished* and all of this spells love. Children need to be shown they are loved and told they are loved by mom and dad.

**A True Testimony** needs to be set before a child. Children don't need to see hypocrites in the home. They need to see a Christian mom and dad who live what they say they believe. They need to see real faith in God and real devotion to God lived out in the home. They need to see that Christianity is not just a Sunday thing but a conviction that is lived every day in their parents lives. Children will do what mom and dad do, not what they say.

**Thorough Prayer.** Parents also need to provide thorough prayer for their children. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 reads "Pray without ceasing." God invites each Christian to come boldly to His throne to obtain mercy and to find grace in time of need. Certainly parents need God's help and God's grace to raise their children right and to provide a proper home for them.

**Tremendous Faith.** Finally a parent needs tremendous faith to raise a family. Romans 14:23 says, "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Parents need to provide the training, the tough discipline, the tender love, the testimony, and the thorough prayer and have faith that God will do the rest. Parents must place their children in the hands of God. Simply turning them over to Him. Trusting that He will work in their lives. God always does what is good and what is right. ■

# Why I Left The Methodists

By George R. Reynolds

I cite your attention to two passages of Scripture, namely: "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" (Rom. 14:5) and "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15).

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

As the subject indicates, I left the Methodists. The first ten years of my converted life, and the first seven years of my ministry were spent among these lovely people. And they are a likable and lovely folk. I might add that I am still grateful to God for many warm and choice friends among these people with whom I was formerly numbered. Therefore, in this article, I desire to heed the Word of God by "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). For "the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient; in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

In one brief essay, it would be impossible for me to name, much less discuss, all of the doctrinal reasons that prompted me to go from the Methodists to the Baptists. Therefore, I will be

constrained to limit myself to the major doctrinal differences between these two religious groups.

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

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

The greatest Apostle said: "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Gal. 5:17). *This shows why people do not live above sin.* "Ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to-wit, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:23). "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28). "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Phil. 3:20-21).

*The saved people are not urged to sin, and yet, if they do sin, then they have an Advocate with the Father.* "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. *And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*" (1 Jn. 2:1). "If we would

judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, *that we should not be condemned with the world*" (1 Cor. 11:31-32). "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9).

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

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

Jesus said: "Verily verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (Jn. 5:24). Paul said: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). Notice the promise of the Savior: "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish" (Jn. 10:28). Could language be stronger? The Apostle Peter said that we: "Are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:5). Jude thinks that God is able to keep the saved. Listen to his words: "Now unto him that is

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

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

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

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

*The New Testament teaches believers baptism, and no other.* Jesus, in the Great Commission, said: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Mt. 28:19-20). Our Christian beliefs and practices must be in harmony with, and find support in the Great Commission of our Lord. This commission is also stated in Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21-23. According to Matthew, the followers of Christ are to:

1. Go.
2. Teach all nations.

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3. Baptize the taught, or believers.

4. Teach the baptized to observe all things commanded.

Matthew's "teach all nations" is given in the margin "make disciples, or Christians of all nations." Scofield has it "disciple all nations." The R.V. renders this passage, "make disciples of all the nations." The idea is "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations."

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

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

The Baptist position on New Testament baptism harmonizes with the ideas contained in the Great Commission.

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

Baptism presents several great truths: First — Historical Christianity; the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord; Second — Experimental Christianity; the individual experience of the believer, once dead in

sin, but now alive through faith in Jesus Christ, and rising from the waters of baptism to walk as a new creature in Christ; Third — Prophetic Christianity; the Christian's hope of the resurrection of his body from the grave.

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

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

New Testament baptism has four essential elements. These are:

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

2. A Scriptural act — immersion in water.

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

4. A Scriptural administrator — a New Testament church.

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

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

*Baptists hold views about the church that are not advo-*

*cated by any other religious group.* In Matthew 16:18, Jesus Christ said: "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:28, "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles." In Luke 6:12-13, we read: "And it came to pass in those days that he went out into a mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles." *Thus Christ organized His church in the days of His flesh, or in the days of His earthly ministry.*

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

The prophet Isaiah enlightens us as to who the **BRANCH** is, "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a **BRANCH** shall grow out of his roots: And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him" (Isa. 11:1-2). These two prophecies refer to Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Him; Luke 4:18 and John 1:29-34 prove this to be true. The statements of Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 and 3:16-17 show that the church is the temple of the Lord. The Apostle Peter addresses the saved as being "A *spiritual house*" in 1 Peter 2:5; and Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 3:15, that the church is the house. The first six verses of the third chapter of the Book of Hebrews clearly reveal that Christ built His own House or church!

Listen to Psalms 127:1 — "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

*In Matthew 16:18, Jesus Christ said: "I will build my church." Did He build His church?* In Matthew 18:15-17, we find the Savior instructing His disciples to tell a personal grievance against a brother to the church. *Question, how could they "tell it to the church," if there was no church to tell it to?* Furthermore, the great Book of Hebrews speaks of Christ in these words: "Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee" (Heb. 2:12). *The only place in the New Testament where our Lord ever sang was at the close of the Last Supper with His disciples* (See Mt. 26:30). *Therefore our Lord established His church before His crucifixion; before He went away from this earth.*

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

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

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

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

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

*Examine this study of the church:*

1. The *Builder* was Christ (Mt. 16:13).

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

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

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

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

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

c. *Only the baptized at the Lord's table* (Acts 2:14-42).

d. *Congregational government* (Acts 6:5).

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

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

Sixth, since the Methodist church came out of the Church of England, and since the Church of England came out of

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

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

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

*Who founded the Baptist churches? And what was the date?*

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

I am going to list several quotations from outstanding

church historians:

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The institution of the Anabaptists is no novelty, but for thirteen hundred years have caused great trouble to the church (Catholic) — Zwingli.

"Of the Baptists it may be said that they are not reformers. These people comprising bodies of Christian believers, known

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

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

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

"There are also reasons for believing that on the continent of Europe small hidden societies, who have the opinions of the Anabaptists, have existed from the time of the Apostles" — Barclay.

"The church at Jerusalem was a Baptist church, and the church at Samaria was a Baptist church" — Alexander Campbell (*founder of the Disciples, or Christian, or Church of Christ*).

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

"In the year 1300, and for several centuries before, all the citizens of Germany, France,

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Spain, England, and Ireland, with the exceptions of a few Baptists, were initiated into what was then called the church (Catholic), as soon as the parents have the rite (Infant Baptism) performed" — Alexander Campbell.

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

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

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

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

"We have now seen that the Baptists who were formerly called Anabaptists, and in later times Mennonites, were the original Waldenses, and who have long in the history of the church received the honor of that origin. *On this account the Baptists may be considered as the only Christian community which has stood since the days of the Apostles, and as a Christian society which has preserved pure the doctrines of the gospel through all ages.* The perfectly correct external and internal economy of the Baptist denomination tends to confirm the truth, disputed by the Romish

Church, that the Reformation brought about in the sixteenth century was in the highest degree necessary, and at the same time goes to refute the erroneous notion of the Catholics that their denomination is the most ancient" — Dr. Ypeig, Dutch Reformed Church.

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

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

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

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

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Challenge Press Books Helps  
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## Hints On Entertaining A Preacher

"The preacher is going home with us today," she said; won't you go along and help us entertain him?" What will he think? What will he say? It is tragic that many good Christian people, through misunderstanding make the entertainment of a preacher a task accompanied with uneasiness and worry rather than the joyful occasion it should be.

Surely the preacher himself should be allowed to speak on the subject. In the following lines I purpose to set forth some suggestions that I sincerely hope will help those people who love the preacher but hate to entertain him.

First of all, he is a *man* and should be treated as such. He is a member of Adam's fallen race — a sinner saved by the marvelous grace of God. Your minister is to be respected and honored but not worshiped. Keep in mind that he is only a man and it will help you to feel at ease while he is in your home.

Second, since the preacher is a man he needs food. Therefore, buy and borrow all the food you can — load the table to capacity and insist that the preacher eat some of every dish you have fixed. Then if he does not readily respond to your every urge to "Have some of this" conclude that he is "finicky" and displeased with your cooking. No, a thousand times no! Prepare a meal of wholesome food and let him eat what he wants, no more. Under the plan if he eats too much you will in no wise be responsible for it.

Third, there is a limit to any physical endurance. He gets tired just like you do. Almost every preacher appreciates an opportunity to rest and relax a short while. Especially is this true when he is engaged in revivals. Give him a chance to rest and if he is

tired he will take it. Many times this writer has refused to lie down and rest because he wanted to do other things, but on the other hand, he has sat and talked for hours when he had much rather have a chance to rest and meditate upon his subject for the coming service. Please do not misunderstand. Every preacher likes to talk, but he will not feel neglected if the conversation lags as much as five seconds! Good entertainment does not require your talking every minute the preacher is in your home. Too much talk and too much attention is unnatural.

Be yourself. You can't fool the preacher. As a rule he is a good judge of human nature. You might as well relax and have a good visit with your pastor or evangelist, knowing that he is human like you — "a chip off the old block." Yes, he is *human*, but the God he represents is *divine*. ■

## The "Tater" Family

Practically every church has some interesting families in the membership. Others have some rather outstanding families in them. Still other churches number among their constituency families which are both interesting and outstanding. The latter is especially true of the Tater family. This family includes: Dic-Tater, Hesi-Tater, Imi-Tater, Agi-Tater and Spec-Tater.

Uncle Dic-Tater has some very lovable characteristics, and is usually easy to get along with, especially if he is allowed to have his own way. The truth of the matter is that he is going to have his way or else. His policy seems to be that of "rule or ruin," and he usually ruins.

Aunt Hesi-Tater is the amiable wife of Uncle Dic-Tater. She, too, has some very lovable

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**FELLOWSHIPS  
AND  
CONFERENCES**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR**

October 23-25, 1995, Central Baptist Church, 15601 Taylor Loop Rd., Little Rock, AR 72221, B. Lawrence Jones, Pastor.

\*\*\*

**HARRISBURG, IL**

November 6-8, 1995, Bible Baptist Church, 606 W. Church St., Harrisburg, IL 62946, Art Donley, Pastor.

\*\*\*

**CINCINNATI, OH**

November 7-9, 1995, Central Baptist Church, 7645 Winton Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45224, James W. Love, Pastor

\*\*\*

**MATTOON, IL**

November 27-30, 1995, Bible Baptist Church, 34th & Marion Sts., Mattoon, IL 61938, Tom Pullen, Pastor.

\*\*\*

**HUMBLE, TX**

January 11-12, 1996, Northway Baptist Church, 5939 Bender Rd., Humble, TX 77396, David Stone, Pastor.

\*\*\*

**WESTCLIFFE, CO**

January 23-26, 1996, "The Retreat In the Rockies." Wetmore Baptist Church, P. O. Box 84, Wetmore, CO 81253, Brian Withrow, Pastor.

**The Dangerous  
Ecumenical Promise  
Keepers**

By Allen P. Dickerson

A men's movement called "Promise Keepers" is sweeping across America like a prairie fire, encompassing hundreds of thousands of men from many denominations and diversified doctrinal backgrounds and Persuasions offers "seven solid promises that will change a man's life forever." They are as follows:

**Promise One** — a man and his God: A Promise Keeper is committed to honoring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Promise Two** — a man and his mentor: A Promise Keeper is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.

**Promise Three** — a man and his integrity: A Promise Keeper is committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical and sexual purity.

**Promise Four** — a man and his family: A Promise Keeper is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection and Biblical values.

**Promise Five** — a man and his church: A Promise Keeper is committed to supporting the mission of the church by honoring and praying for his pastor and by actively giving of his time and resources.

**Promise Six** — a man and his brothers: A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of Biblical unity.

**Promise Seven** — a man and his world: A Promise Keeper is committed to influencing his

world, being obedient to the Great Commandment (see Mark 12:30,31) and the Great Commission (see Matthew 28:19,20).

In a book published in 1994 by *Focus on the Family*, which is key to understanding what Promise Keepers is trying to do, there are real eye opening statements for true Bible believers to examine. For instance, charismatic leader Dr. Jack Hayford in writing about "Redeeming Worship" on pg. 19 writes, "Redeeming worship centers on the Lord's Table. Whether your tradition celebrates it as Communion, Eucharist, the Mass, or the Lord's Supper, we are all called to this centerpiece of Christian worship." To equate the Lord's Supper with the blasphemy of the Roman Catholic Mass is a blatant violation of the Word of God.

In Promise Two, it is erroneous to teach that a man needs his fellowman to lean on in order to keep promises of God. We are told in Jeremiah 17:5, "Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." God has made every provision for His saints to live a victorious life without the help of man.

Promise Keepers is a vast amalgamation of denominational diversity, and thus dangerous doctrinal differences are overlooked as being trivial, and are overlooked in the name of love, but we must remember, love that is not based upon Biblical truth is absolutely not spiritual love. John said in 2 John 1, "The elder unto the elect lady and her children, *whom I love in the truth*, and not I only, but unto all they *that have known the truth*."

In a book by Robert Hicks titled **The Masculine Journey**, is what forms the basis for the Promise Keepers men's small group manual. In this book

Hicks says, "I believe Jesus was phallic with all the inherent phallic passions we experience as men. But it was never recorded that Jesus had sexual relations with a woman. He may have thought about it as the movie, 'The Last Temptation of Christ' portrays, but even in this movie He did not give in to temptation and remained true to His Messianic course. If temptation means anything, it means Christ was tempted in every way as we are. That would mean not only heterosexual temptation, but also homosexual temptation! I have found this insight to be very helpful for gay men struggling with their sexuality" (*The Masculine Journey*, pg. 181).

I resent that statement by Hicks, which I believe to be blasphemy of the worst stripe. In 1 John 3:5 the Word of God says about Jesus, "In him was no sin," there was no fallen nature in Him to respond to sin. Make no mistake about it, Promise Keepers is dangerous! It is a very useful tool of Satan to further the cause of ecumenical compromise, and to promote an atmosphere conducive to the establishment of the Harlot Church mentioned in Revelation 17:5. It is a false para-church movement which will ultimately run roughshod over the authority of the local church, which is God's institution for this church age.—The Maranatha ■

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### Generous Old Lady, or

**Reverse Racist?** is the title of an editorial written by Michael Kinsley in the August 28, 1995 issue of *Time Magazine*. We quote only a portion of his editorial: "There was a wonderful story in the newspapers this about an 87-year-old black woman in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, named Oseola McCarty. Working all her life as a laundress, never marrying, living, very plainly, McCarty managed to save an astounding \$150,000. Facing life's end, she has decided to give the money to a scholarship fund for black students to attend the University of Southern Mississippi. Inspired by example, Hattiesburg business leaders have pitched in an additional \$150,000. The first beneficiary of McCarty's largesse has 'adopted' her, and vows to help the heroine through her frail and lonely old age. But wait a moment. Is this story inspiring? Or dismaying? For what McCarty is practicing, after all, is reverse discrimination, sometimes even called reverse racism. Indeed, McCarty has even set up a quota — a 100% quota. No whites need apply for one of her scholarships. It is closed to them because of the color of their skin. . . . In fact, even McCarty's modest private effort implicates the government in overt racial discrimination in several ways. It will be administered by a state university. The business contributions presumably will be tax-deductible. Above all, the Oseola McCarty Scholarship Fund — and indeed all private, so-called voluntary

affirmative action — causes the government to be racially biased in its policy toward private discrimination. The government would quickly step in to stop even a sweet old lady from setting up a whites-only scholarship fund. That would clearly violate about 18 laws, including the 1964 Civil Rights Act. So those who insist that the 1964 act — and civil rights principles generally — ought to be interpreted as race-neutral are left with a dilemma. Either they must modify their principles and accept that the world is a bit more complicated than they pretend, or they must haul Oseola McCarty into court for breaking the civil rights laws. I dare them."

\* \* \*

### More Dead Sea Scrolls?

Four undisturbed, man-made caves have been found in the chalky hills of Qumran, raising hopes that the caverns will hold treasures like the ancient Dead Sea Scrolls discovered nearby. Arab shepherds found the first Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient manuscripts that include poetry, legal texts and the earliest known sections of the Bible. Archaeologists, who announced the discovery Friday, are racing against time before the Qumran area of the West Bank is handed over to Palestinian control. Excavation is set to begin in November. — AP

\* \* \*

### Death of Mickey Mantle.

Mickey Mantle, one of the greatest baseball players of all time, now is a vivid reminder of "the finished product of the

brewer's art." In his last days he exhorted kids, "Don't be like me" and throw your life away.

\* \* \*

### Baptist Wins Suit Against

**Wal-Mart.** Scott Hamby hopes his victory in a lawsuit against the nation's largest retailer will encourage Christians to stand up for their beliefs in all aspects of life. In recent years, the 23-year-old said, Christians "have kind of become known as push-overs." Because Hamby acted on his convictions, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is under a court order to train the managers of its 2,200 stores to avoid religious discrimination against employees. **The Wall Street Journal** predicted the outcome of the Hamby case "could have far-reaching implications for other companies with weekend staffing needs that conflict with workers' religious practices." In spring 1993, Hamby was working part-time in the electronics department of the Bolivar Wal-Mart when the county's repeal of Missouri's "blue laws" allowed the store to open for business on Sundays. Although he told his supervisors he did not want to work on Sundays for religious reasons, Hamby recounted, he was put on the schedule to work the first Sunday the store opened. Hamby said his supervisor later showed him a written document from a district manager stating every employee must be available to work Sundays, with no exceptions. "At that time, I didn't know the legal ramifications of what was being put in front of me," Hamby said. "I just knew it was wrong." By

then, Hamby said, he had worked several Sundays and was feeling troubled about it. "That's when the stresses really set in. I knew that I was going to have to choose God and my convictions, or choose my job." Hamby's next step was to offer — "against my convictions" — to work one Sunday a month to keep his job. He said his supervisor verbally agreed to the arrangement, but then he was scheduled a second Sunday the same month. The person doing the scheduling told him she was unaware of any such agreement, Hamby said, and she later testified the manager had told her, "Schedule Scott on Sunday until he quits." In November 1993 Hamby filed suit against Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. His lawyer, Jay Kirksey of Bolivar, Missouri, asked for \$5 million in damages. At the time, Hamby said, he didn't realize any punitive damages were involved. "All I wanted to do was stop Wal-Mart. The settlement Hamby reached with Wal-Mart Stores July 28 called for the company to pay Hamby an undisclosed amount for damages. Both parties in the settlement agreed to keep the settlement confidential. Kirksey believes the settlement will have far-reaching impact. Title VII of the federal civil rights laws deals with discrimination on the basis of race, sex or religion, he pointed out, but religious discrimination has received less attention than the other two types. "It looks like this will be the case that will catapult religious discrimination into the public awareness." — BP

**NEA's Days May be Numbered.** The House in July approved a bill to abolish funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by October 1997. The NEA has awarded millions of taxpayer dollars to fund homosexual film festivals and vile and blasphemous "art," such as: child pornography, graphic homosexuality, sexual violence, public nudity, and vicious attacks on Christ. A 4/89 *Washington Times* editorial said the NEA has become a feeding trough and a public latrine for a pack of pornographers who can't even make a living peddling honest smut and who flourish because the only art they understand is how to rape the imprisoned taxpayers." — CC

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**Public Schools: Children At Risk.** David and Sharon Williams once viewed their children as Christian missionaries to their public-school system. But in 1982, Sharon, herself a former public-school teacher, re-evaluated that stance in light of her children's three hours daily on a school bus, inadequate instruction, harmful peer influence, and, in one case, a sexually explicit film in a French class. Public school teachers are heavy users of private schools. Discerning ones see that the public schools around them are not suitable for their own children. Some are fairly content with suburban schools but in 71 of the largest 100 districts, they choose private schools more than parents at large. The 8/5 *World* says the trend holds true in all parts of the country. "In Miami, 31% of

public school teachers enrolled their children in private schools, while 13% of the general public did. In Detroit, it's 33% to 17%; in Cleveland, 40% to 25%." In Los Angeles, it's about 33% to 19%. In Jersey City, it's over 50% to 34%. Fathers/parents have a biblical responsibility for the who/what/where of their children's education — CC

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**Stanley's Problems Worsen.** Dr. Charles Stanley's wife says their marriage of 40 years cannot be salvaged. They have lived separately since 1992 and she filed for divorce in 1993, amended it to separate maintenance, but re-filed last March. Stanley stepped down from all administrative duties of First Baptist, Atlanta, in an emotional-charged four-hour August 13 meeting, but retained preaching responsibilities. He will resign completely if the divorce becomes final. Anna Stanley's divorce filing asks for a jury trial and seeks alimony, division of assets and possession of their home. A seven-member committee was approved at the August 13 meeting to assume administrative duties and to recommend a policy within 90 days concerning the feasibility of constituting the northside satellite congregation (established in 1988) into a separate church. Stanley's son Andy resigned August 2 as pastor of this group and feels his father should step down as leader of First Baptist Church. Stanley was Southern Baptist Convention president in 1984 and 1985. — CC

**Falwell Paper Promotes Jewish Rabbi.** Orthodox Jewish Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein has lectured in new-evangelical schools and has been praised by Pat Robertson, Paul Crouch, and Jerry Falwell for his ministry of building bridges between evangelicals and Jews. It seems incredible that evangelical leaders would promote this Jewish rabbi who defends the ancient Pharisees who Jesus said were of their father the devil. But Eckstein says Jesus never said those words recorded in John 8:44. In 1994 Eckstein plainly said: "But I'm not a Christian, I'm a Jew ... I'm still a rabbi ..." Falwell's 9/95 *National Liberty Journal* features a guest editorial by Eckstein entitled: "Building Bridges Between Christians and Jews." — CC

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**Not Time Enough.** The seductively dressed young blonde narrowly escaped death in an accident. A newspaper reporter was interviewing her. "When the elevator cable snapped and you started to fall, I guess all the sins of your past flashed before your eyes." "Not really," she answered. "We only fell eight stories."

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**Dala Lama's Visit To Baptist School Draws Fire.** In his first stop on a 10-day tour of five U.S. cities, the exiled leader of the country of Tibet began his trek in the heart of the Carolinas, speaking at Wingate University Sept. 5. The Dalai Lama, who is revered as God-king by more than 6 million Tibetan Buddhists, was accompanied to

Wingate, as university affiliated with the North Carolina Convention, by U.S. Senator Jesse Helms. Phil Roberts, director of the Home Mission Board Interfaith Witness Department was not pleased with the religious leaders' visit to Wingate. "My concern," he said, "is that we are not just having a religious leader as such, but a man who claims the incarnation of deity and who as well claims re-incarnation of previous Dalai Lamas." — *Baptist Record*

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**The Proctor and Gamble Rumor.** Proctor and Gamble is suing a prominent Amway distributor for spreading a rumor that has been denied repeatedly by P&G. The rumor, which has frequently shown up in church bulletins across the country, purports the company's trademark is a satanic symbol and that the company president discussed satanism on the Phil Donahue Show. The rumor is false and should be squashed if you hear it. — RNS

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**Three-way Contest For Power In New World Order.** Catholic author Malachi Martin in his *The Keys of This Blood* book reveals the "Struggle for World Domination Between Pope John Paul II and Mikhail Gorbachev. In three other books he has traced the steps by

(See **WNR** on page 14)

## WNR...

(Continued from page 13)

which the Church of Rome has been infiltrated by Marxism over the past 65 years. Martin shows how Communism now controls the Vatican and is ready to present it as the religious wing of its World Order; and how Marxism, through the Vatican, is involved in multiple pressure tactics to bring Israel "into global line." Wilson Ewin (our source for the above), after Israel's plea to Pope John Paul II and the Vatican for help in solving the Middle East crisis, has written a manuscript to warn Jewish people. Martin's book also reveals the Vatican's role in the collapse of the Iron Curtain, and Pope John Paul II's far-reaching assessment of the three-way struggle now unfolding among the global powers — the Soviets, the West, and the Pope's universal Roman Church — a winner-take-all race to control the first one-world government. — CC

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**10,000 Priests Homosexuals?** Various surveys show that some 10,000 Roman Catholic priests in the U.S. may be homosexuals (Chr. News). Some bishops say that 40% of U.S. priests may be homosexually active. Up to 3,000 may be pedophiles. There are about 57,000 priests in the U.S. A 25-year study estimated that up to half do not uphold their vows of celibacy. — CC

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**Catholic Charismatics.** Missions researcher David Barrett says the Pentecostal/charismatic movement adds 54,800 adherents a day. It comprises 25% of the world's Christians, 460 million people, includ-

ing 100 million Catholic charismatics (Berean Call). About half of the participants at the recent Congress on the Holy Spirit and World Evangelization in Orlando were Catholics. Speakers included a Catholic priest, Benny Hinn, Jack Hayford, Pat Robertson and Paul Crouch. Hayford said relationships can form without a "meltdown of ideologies," and that the Holy Spirit can blend and bond without sacrificing uniqueness and individuality. The charismatic movement is an ecumenical vehicle for building the anti-Christ one-world church. — CC.

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**Modern "Churches."** The North Heartland Community Church in Platte Woods, MO "is ... for people who think they don't like church. [It has] no hymns, no Scripture readings and no chance this would be mistaken for a traditional Sunday Service." ... Donald G. Barnhouse's Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia now pastored by James M. Boice, is using disarming ads "to attract professionals." One ad said: "Jesus Hated Church, Too. It's boring. The people are phony. The politics are less than righteous. Jesus hated the same things. But he never used it as an excuse not to worship. Maybe he knew something you don't. Find out this Sunday." Ephesians 5:25 says Jesus *loved* the church and died for it. How can a so-called evangelical church use such irreverent nonsense, even if with good intentions? — CC

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**An Amazing Tooth.** It is amazing what scientists can learn from just one tooth. A recent Associated Press article

says: "He is 6 feet tall, robust and loves nothing better than a juicy rhinoceros steak. Oh, and he's more than *500,000 years old*. Archeologists on Thursday displayed a prehistoric tooth they said comes from the imposing, carnivorous humans who roamed Britain *half a million years ago*. They say the tooth, discovered Aug. 24 by an archeology student on a perfectly preserved prehistoric site near the village of Boxgrove, is the oldest human fossil found in Britain. 'It is vitally important to our understanding of the *evolution of the human species*,' Geoffrey Wainwright, chief archeologist of the historical society English Heritage, told a news conference. Scientists had previously discovered a 500,000-year-old tibia at the same excavation site on a farm near Boxgrove, 65 miles southwest of London. The earliest Englishmen, or woman, is a late-comer by international standards. Remains of *early humans* found in Africa go back *2.5 million years*."

## ANNUAL...

(Continued from page 1)

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Food Store which will be on your left. Turn left on Taylor Loop Road and go approximately two miles. The church will be on your left. Ya'll come! ■

## But For A Moment

Dr. Harry A. Ironside used to tell the story of an old Negro who loved the Lord and the Word of God very much. He could not read very well, and often he was not able to grasp the real meaning of the Scriptures, but he read them none the less.

In a prayer meeting one night the people in the audience were asked to give in turn a passage of Scripture that had blessed them. When the old man got to his feet, he said: "De words in de Bible dat means mos' to me are dese — 'An it came to pass'."

The minister asked him to explain. "Well," the old man replied, "when troubles come and I don't know whether to run dis way or dat, when I jus' don' know what to do, I 'members dese words: 'An it came to pass' — and I knows that day ain't here to stay."

Great faith, that! — and how true it is that whatever our affliction may be, it is light and but for a moment, and it "worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17). ■

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# Halloween: Is It Harmless Tradition or Pagan Ritual?

By Jim Goodroe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Halloween Alternatives

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

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

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

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

5. Christians (and church groups) can use the Halloween

season to hold Bible studies about the supernatural and prayer meetings against the forces of evil.

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

7. What about "trick-or-treaters" who come to your door? If you are out on a family activity, this solves the problem. If you are home, do not be a bad witness, such as sending the children away with condemnation instead of candy. You may wish to give them a tract explaining the meaning of Halloween and the message of Jesus (available at Christian book stores) in addition to the candy, not instead of it. As you give the candy, you may wish to say, "I don't believe in Halloween, but I want to give you this because Jesus loves you." ■

## Conventionism

### A Leech Upon Baptist Mission Work

By M. L. Moser, Sr.

Some who have been independent Baptists for many years have all of a sudden moved to churches affiliated with one of the organized groups among Baptists, seemingly forgetting why they were independent Baptists to start with.

This book points out with clear evidence that the Southern Baptist Convention is saturated with infidelity and modernism in all of their schools and seminaries, and for one to join a church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention is to become a supporter of such modernism and infidelity which the Bible very severely condemns.

There is a real need to inform our brethren as to the corruption within the ranks of the Southern Baptist Convention. This book very aptly does this. Order from:

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**RAPTURE...**

(Continued from page 2)

behind all of his suffering, all of his misery, all of his heartaches, all of his drudgery, all of the things that makes life miserable here upon this earth, all of these things will be left behind, and so it will be the transporting of those to heaven with great joy.

Then it says "carrying away to sublime happiness." No one can even contemplate what great joys and happiness that there will be for the believer after he leaves this earth. The Bible talks about things in heaven, but these things do not even touch the surface. These things do not even describe in reality all that heaven really is, because it is so great that our human mind cannot comprehend, and human language cannot even express it at all. So it is to be a place of sublime happiness. No wonder then that for the child of God, the Rapture is a time of great joy for the believer.

Now in connection with this phrase, Rapture, there is a phrase that is used called "the rapture of the church." This is not a scriptural phrase, yet I hear it used many times even by Baptists who do not believe in the universal/invisible church, yet they will use the phrase "rapture of the church."

Now the phrase "rapture of the church" nowhere appears in the Bible. It is not a biblical phrase at all. In fact, it is an unscriptural phrase because it teaches a false doctrine. The problem is a confusion between the definition of what the New Testament church is and what the family of God is. These are not identical; these are not synonymous.

There is a difference between the New Testament church and the family of God. The family of God is composed of every saved person all over this world, of both past

generations, present generations and even includes those of future generations. This is the family of God. It includes every one who has received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, regardless of what their church affiliation may be. You do not have to be a Baptist in order to be saved. Sometimes we Baptists are falsely accused of this because of our belief concerning the doctrine of the church, but Baptists do not teach, and Baptists do not believe that only Baptists are saved, and that only Baptists will go to heaven. We believe that the family of God is composed of all saved people. That may include Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, it might include this denomination or that denomination. In other words, church affiliation has nothing to do with whether you are saved or not, as to whether you are in the family of God or not. That which determines whether you are a member of the family of God is whether you have by faith received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.

Now, it is more difficult to be saved in some denominations than in other denominations. There are some denominations that have so little truth within them, particularly concerning the subject of salvation, that if one were to be saved while they were a member of that denomination, you would wonder how in the world they ever arrived at the truth.

For example, a church that teaches baptismal regeneration, a church that teaches that you must be baptized in order to be saved, their members are depending, either in whole or in part, upon their baptism for salvation, and if you are depending on any thing other than the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation, then you are not saved. Salvation is

where you put your faith and your trust solely in the Lord Jesus Christ and His work that He accomplished upon the cross of Calvary, and if you are depending in part or in whole on anything else, then you do not have all of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That means you're not saved. And so, how people within a denomination that teaches that you must be baptized in order to be saved, how somebody could be saved within that denomination would be very hard to understand if they believe what that denomination teaches, because they would be depending, at least to a degree or in part, upon baptism for their salvation.

The same thing is true concerning works. For those who believe that you must do certain things in order to be saved, and then after you have been saved, you must continue to do certain things, or else you lose your salvation, it is very difficult for me to understand how those people can really be saved and become Christians in that particular denomination because they are depending, not wholly upon the grace of God for salvation, but they are depending partly upon their works for salvation. Salvation is not by works. It is wholly by the grace of God as a free gift. Paul says this: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

So I would not say that a person that is a member of one of these other denominations *could not* be saved, but I will say that it would be very difficult for them to be saved because they are being taught a false plan of salvation, as Paul says in Galatians one, it is called "another gospel," which he says is not another gospel. So that if anybody would be saved in one of these other denominations, it

would be *in spite* of what is being taught there, rather than *because of* what is being taught there.

But anybody, regardless of their denomination, anybody, whether they are a member of a church or not, anybody that has recognized and seen themselves as a lost, hell-bound sinner, and have seen that they are hopeless and helpless in saving themselves, that there is nothing they can do, or anybody else can do, and then they see that God provided salvation for them by what Jesus Christ did upon the cross of Calvary, and when they turn in confession of their sins and they repent and they receive Jesus Christ by faith and trust Him as their Lord and their Savior, then they are saved that very moment regardless of what church they may be a member of.

Now, if a person has not done that, then they are not in the family of God, and they are not saved. It doesn't matter even if they are a member of a Baptist church. If a Baptist has not trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, then that Baptist is on his road to hell, because salvation is not to be confused with being a member of the Lord's church. Salvation is by trusting Jesus Christ and receiving Him as personal Lord and Savior. Now when you do that, you are born into the family of God, and every saved person, Old Testament, New Testament, our time, future time, every person who has by faith and receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, they are born into the family of God, and they at that moment become children of God, and they are saved.

Now the rapture is coming for all of those who are saved, not just the New Testament

(See **RAPTURE** on page 17)

**RAPTURE...**

(Continued from page 16)

church.

Now the New Testament church is not composed of all saved people. Those of the Old Testament certainly were not members of the church because the New Testament church is a New Testament institution. Jesus Christ Himself began the church. Matthew 16:18 He says, "Upon this rock I will build my church." There was no church before the days of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now part of the family of God existed before the days of Jesus Christ, but not the church.

You see, the church is God's house of witness in our dispensation. In the Old Testament, the Lord had two other houses of witness. He had, first of all, the tabernacle which was built during the times of Moses, and was used by the Israelites for many years. That subsequently was followed by the temple, and that then became God's house of witness, and the tabernacle passed from the scene and no longer was God's accepted place of worship. The temple now has passed from the scene, and the Lord has built His New Testa-

ment church and the New Testament church is now God's house of witness today. Not the building, for we know that is not the church, for the New Testament church is composed of those who make up the membership of that church.

Now, there is a requirement to become a member of the family of God. The requirement is you must be born into the family. How are you born into the family? John tells us "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (Jn. 1:11-12). This shows us how we get into the family of God. We are born into God's family, for we are born of God as He tells in the next verse.

But how do you get into a New Testament church? Nowhere do you find anything in the Scripture using such a phrase as being "born into the church." You are not. But you get into a New Testament church by being baptized. You have to be saved to begin with. That's first. Then secondly, you must be scripturally baptized.

Now, there are many saved people who have never been scripturally baptized. They are members of the family of God, but they are not members of the

church of God. They are saved and therefore they have been born into the family of God, but they have never studied their New Testament to the extent that they are willing to see what the Lord teaches concerning baptism and membership in a New Testament church, and so there are many people who are saved, and yet who have never become members of a New Testament church. Therefore it would be an error, it would be wrong, to use the phrase "rapture of the church," because when you say "rapture of the church" then you are eliminating all of those who have never been scripturally baptized, and say they're going to have to be left behind. That's what the phrase "rapture of the church" means, in spite of the fact that you'll find Methodists, and Lutherans and Presbyterians and Episcopalians and others that may use the phrase "rapture of the church," but they don't know what they are saying. Of course, they don't believe in the doctrine of the church like Baptists believe it, or like the Bible teaches it, because they believe in a universal/invisible church and they make that synonymous or identical with the family of God which the Bible does not do.

So when we look at the subject of the Rapture, we're not talking about the rapture of the church. We're talking about the rapture of the family of God in which every saved person upon this earth, regardless of where in this world they are, whether they be here in Little Rock or in Argentina, Brazil, China, Europe, Africa, Australia, Russia, or wherever they may be, every saved person is going to be raptured or caught up from this earth. And that is what we read about right here in chapter four and verse one, "After this I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first

voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter" (Rev. 4:1). So then there are many saved who have never been scripturally baptized, therefore not members of the Lord's church but all saved people, whether they are members of the Lord's church or not, all saved people, both baptized and unbaptized are to be raptured at the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when does the rapture take place? I have mentioned this off and on as we have been discussing these first three chapters of the Book, but there are three viewpoints concerning the time of the Rapture as to when the Rapture will take place. One word that you need to be familiar with (you will be if you continue to come for our messages), and that is the subject of the Tribulation Period. The Rapture has three different viewpoints in relation to this Tribulation Period. We will get into the study of the Tribulation Period when begin in chapter six and continuing. But the three viewpoints can be expressed by three prefixes — Pre, Mid, and Post. That is, Pre-tribulation, Mid-tribulation, and Post Tribulation.

Now the question arises, must believers, must those who are saved, must those who have been born again, must these believers go through the Tribulation Period? What evidences do we have in the Bible for a Pre-tribulation rapture, that is, an "any moment" rapture, the teaching that Jesus Christ could come at any moment, right now. Those who believe in the Pre-tribulation viewpoint believe that Jesus Christ could come back at any moment, in the very next second, and when He does, the rapture will take place, and

(See **RAPTURE** on page 18)

## Study Guide To The Book of Isaiah

By M. L. Moser, Jr.

This is an outline study of the Book of Isaiah made for the use of the officers and teachers of Central Baptist Church to aid them in preparation of the Sunday School lessons. It would be helpful to anyone who is interested in making a study of this book. Order from:

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**RAPTURE...**

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all saved people will be taken off the earth and therefore it would be before the Tribulation Period. That is called Pre-tribulation rapture.

Then there is a viewpoint termed "Mid-tribulation." The Mid-tribulationists believe that the Lord will allow the saved people to go halfway or partway through the Tribulation Period. Now the Tribulation Period is divided into two halves. The first three and one-half years, and the second three and one-half years, to a total of seven years. The first three and one-half years is to be a period of tribulation, but it is not to be as severe as the last three and one-half years, that's the worst half. Those who believe in the Mid-tribulation period, teach that the saved people are going to have to endure the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation Period, and that in the middle of the Tribulation Period, Jesus comes back again and catches up all the saved from the earth, the Rapture of the saints. That is Mid-tribulation.

The third viewpoint is called Post-tribulation, and by post, it means after the Tribulation Period, and what they teach is that the believers, the saved people must go all the way through the Tribulation Period, and that all believers are going to have to endure and suffer all the plagues of the Tribulation Period which God Himself is going to pour out upon this earth. So they teach that Jesus cannot come back until the end of the Tribulation Period, and that the believers are going to have to suffer and endure, and many die, during the Tribulation Period, but the Lord pours out all of these judgments upon the earth during the Tribulation Period.

Now, which one is right? Well, I'll tell you to begin with

that in my judgment the Bible teaches what is referred to as a Pre-tribulation period, a Pre-tribulation rapture, that Jesus Christ could come at any moment. He could come even today.

Now, one thing that you must conclude if you were to believe in what is referred to as a Mid-tribulation rapture, is the fact that you could not stand in a pulpit as I am today and tell unsaved people, or even believers, anybody, that Jesus could even come back today. Why He's at least three and one-half years off. If it were to be a Mid-tribulation rapture, then I would not be in a position to tell saved people that you need to be busy because the Lord might come today, and you certainly would not want to be in a place where you ought not to be, for the Lord might come and you would be in the wrong place.

I certainly could not tell an unbeliever, now you need to be saved today because the Lord might come back this very day and if the Lord comes, and He catches all His saints away, you will be left behind with no hope of salvation. I couldn't tell an unsaved person that. Why you'd have at least three and one-half years if the Lord's rapture is not going to take place until the middle of the Tribulation Period.

And then, if you were to believe in the Post-tribulation rapture, then it would be seven years off. This would conflict with the Lord's teaching when He says, no man knoweth the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man cometh., but you see, if the Tribulation Period were to come either Mid or Post, we would know when the Lord would come. If it were Mid-tribulation we'd know the Lord wasn't going to come for three and one-half years. If it was Post-tribulation, we'd know the Lord wasn't going to come for at least seven years. But we don't

know when the Lord is going to come, and the Bible does not tell us when the Lord is going to come, but the Lord tells us that we are to be live in an air of expectancy as though Jesus could come at any moment. He could come even today. I don't know that He's not going to come today.

Let me ask you a question, and I want you to be honest with it, how many of you expect the Lord to come back today? Let me see your hands. Raise your hand. Let me put it this way. How many of you do not believe the Lord is going to come today. Let me see your hands, you do not believe the Lord is going to come today. Well, I got a couple of hands, and my hand is up. I don't believe He's going to come today. If I did, I wouldn't be planning to go to Youth Camp tomorrow, and if you believe the Lord was going to come today, you wouldn't be planning to go to work tomorrow. You don't believe He's going to come today, because you are planning your day or this afternoon, and tonight, and tomorrow, and next week, and next month, and next year. You don't believe the Lord is going to come today. But that's exactly when the Lord is going to come, because the Lord says, in the hour that ye think not the Son of Man cometh. You see, the idea is that the Lord leaves you and me in a period whereas we do not know when the Lord is going to come. It could be today, so then it cannot be a Post-tribulation or a Mid-tribulation rapture, but it must be a Pre-tribulation rapture, and that's exactly what we find right here in the beginning of chapter four and verse one, because this rapture, this "come up hither," takes place before the beginning of the Tribulation Period.

But somebody says, but we've undergone a lot of perse-

cution, and how do we know that the persecution that people are undergoing today, particularly in China, and in Russia, and in the communist countries, and some of these other areas of the world, why is it that this is not an evidence that we're already in the Tribulation Period?

Well let us remember there is a difference between persecution and tribulation. God's people have always suffered persecution at the hands of their enemies. In fact, God tells us that every person who lives for God will suffer persecution, because persecution is inflicted by man, and that's what we have going on today. But tribulation comes from and is inflicted by God, and the Tribulation Period is when God's wrath is to be visited on mankind, and God does not pour out His wrath upon His people. We may have persecution, but that will not come from God, but it will come from our enemies. But saved people are not to go under the wrath of God.

Notice in Revelation 6:16. This Tribulation Period is the wrath of God. Notice where it talks about the beginning of the Tribulation Period and it is described in verse 16 where the people who are to undergo the tribulation, it says they say to the mountains and the rocks, "*Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.*"

Do you believe that God is going to allow the wrath of the Lamb to be poured out upon those that He loves, that He has bought with His own blood, and that He has saved? Do you think that they will undergo the wrath of the Lamb of God? What have they been saved from? Turn with me to First Thessalonians chapter five. We read in verse nine, "*For God hath*

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*not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.*" God hath not appointed us unto wrath. Saved people will not have to undergo and endure the wrath of God.

Romans chapter eight, verse one, "*There is therefore now no condemnation.*" That word "condemnation" means judgment. "*There is therefore now no condemnation (or judgment) to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit*" (Rom. 8:1). So these who would teach that the saved are either going to have to go halfway through the Tribulation Period or all the way through the Tribulation Period, are teaching that believers are going to have to suffer under the outpouring of the Lamb of God upon this earth, along with all of the unbelievers. Do you think God would violate His own word where He says that we have been saved from His wrath? They teach that believers will have to undergo the wrath that God pours out upon this world of unbelievers, are going to have to undergo the same kind of judgment upon this earth that unbelievers are going to have to go through? Those who teach either Mid- or Post-tribulation teach this.

I remember an illustration that has been used. You know, the church is called the Bride of Christ. In Ephesians 5 we find in verse 25 and 26 that the Lord loved the church. He says, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." Now the church, being the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, He loves that church; He died for that church; He gave Himself for that church. Now loving the church as He does, what kind of a groom, what kind of a husband, what kind of a fiancée

who had the power and the ability to protect his bride, would allow his bride to be dragged through tribulation, where she was to be beaten, and mauled, bruised, and persecuted, and undergo wrath like this? What kind of a God would allow that to happen?

Now the Lord loves His children, and when the judgments are poured out upon the earth during the Tribulation Period, the Lord is not going to allow His Bride to be drug through the Tribulation Period and help bring persecution upon her. That's the wrath of the Lamb we find in Revelation chapter six.

Now the Lord loves the church. Do you think He's going to allow the wrath of the Lamb then to beat the church and maul the church and to pour out all the bowls and the other things that are going to take place that we read about in the Tribulation Period? What kind of a Bride would He have when He got through with all of that wrath? No! The Lord does not allow His Bride to go through the Tribulation Period. The saved people are not going to have to go through the Tribulation Period. "*After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter*" (Rev. 4:1).

Now these first seven churches that we talked about in the first two chapters give us a complete history of the New Testament church from its organization by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself during His personal ministry and it carries us right up to the point of the Rapture. The Laodicean Period is that period immediately preceding the Rapture, and I don't think there's any doubt that we are living now at the close of

that period of time, the Laodicean church age.

The next event is going to be the opening of the door to heaven, the voice of the trumpet saying "*Come up hither.*" This is going to take place at the unexpected hour, for in Matthew 24:44 He says, "*Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*"

The Rapture. What takes place then at the time of the Rapture? For the believer, the fulfillment of God's promises for them. Everything God has promised is now just a promise. We're not in heaven yet. We don't have our new body yet. We have not been removed from this body of sin. We do not have our inheritance as yet. But when the Rapture takes place, all of the things that God has promised for believers will take place right then.

The first thing will be the resurrection of the bodies of all the saved. That will take place in the cemeteries. Secondly, those who are living at the time the same transformation of their bodies takes place so that they will have an incorruptible body just like those who have been resurrected from the grave. Now together this is called "The first resurrection." That's what takes place for the believer.

But what happens for the unbeliever? Well, when the rapture takes place, for the unbeliever, it will be the end of that period of grace, the end of your opportunity for salvation for those who have heard the gospel. If you're not saved when the rapture takes place, you can know that you are forever doomed with no hope, no prospect of being saved. You will go through the Tribulation Period, at least in part. You may be one of those that are killed during the Tribulation Period. You may be one of those that have to undergo all the wrath of

God or the wrath of the Lamb upon the earth, and you still may survive and go through the Tribulation Period, but what a miserable existence it will be. But the vast majority will not make it through the Tribulation Period. They will die. When they die, their body is going to be buried, but their soul is going down into hell (Hades) where that rich man is.

The bodies of the unsaved will not be raptured when Jesus comes back for the believers. Their bodies will stay in the grave, but after the Tribulation Period the Lord is going to have a period of one thousand years in which He is going to reign upon this earth. That is called the millennial reign of the Lord. At the end of that one thousand year period, then is when Jesus comes back for the rapture of the unsaved. That is, the resurrection of the bodies of all of those who are unsaved.

Notice in Revelation chapter twenty, verse five: "*But the rest of the dead,*" that is those that were not resurrected at the time of the rapture when Jesus came back, "*but the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.*" And then notice in verse 11-15. This happens at the close of the Millennial reign, for the Lord comes back then to finally put Satan and all his cohorts in hell forever. It says:

*"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it;*

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*and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"* (Rev. 20:11-15).

The unbelievers then living at the time of the Rapture are going to be left to go through the Tribulation Period. If they die, their soul will go to hell, their body will be buried, or consumed by the vultures or however else men die during the Tribulation Period, but at the end of the Millennial Reign, all the unsaved will be resurrected. Their bodies will be brought up out of the grave, from the sea, wherever they are, their soul will be brought up out of Hades or hell, and united with their bodies. Their bodies will be made indestructible so that they cannot be destroyed by fire. They will then stand before the great white judgment throne of God, and then they will be cast into the lake of fire, which the Bible says, "*whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"* (Rev. 20:15). This is the second death. Forever! That's your eternity! You will be there forever and ever and ever and ever. Just as long as the saved people will be in heaven, you will be in hell. Just as long as the saved people enjoy all of the joys and the glories and the happiness that God has for His saved people in heaven, so you will be suffering all the miseries in hell for just as long a period of time. The words that are used are the words forever and ever or eternal. Those are the same words that are used concerning God. He is the eternal God. In other words, you will in hell just as

long as God exists. How long will God exist? Forever! How long will you endure in hell? Forever!

Now, right now, we're at that period of time when you can be saved. The opportunity is here. You can be saved now, because the rapture has not yet taken place. But it could at any time. When it does, you can know that there will be no more opportunities for you.

I don't know what will be the reaction of some lost people when Jesus comes. It will be possibly that when the Lord comes and catches all the saved people off of this earth, that lost people, knowing that their time has gone, that they may completely just lose their mind and go completely crazy, as they realize that they have lost out with any opportunity of being saved. Can you imagine what a shock that will be. What feelings and emotions will go over them as they realize that they had opportunity after opportunity to be saved, but now Jesus has come and its too late. They may completely lose their mind, for it will be too late.

Why not be saved today? Why not now? While their is opportunity, and while you can be saved, why not now trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior. ■

**MIRACLES...**

(Continued from page 1)

same trouble as before.

There are seven miracles and they during 2500 years of recorded Bible history. Seven only, and up to that time not a single one performed by a human being. Not one.

**The Next Recorded Miracles  
Are Those Performed By  
Moses and Aaron**

First, the rod into a serpent. There was not only the rod into a serpent, but water into blood, frogs filling the whole place,

houses, bed, kitchens, then flies in everything with lice made out of dust; flies — and these Egyptians were a clean people, and it got the best of them. Then the murrain that killed cattle. Then boils. Then thunder, fire, hail, thick darkness, death of the firstborn; parting the waters of the Red Sea, manna from heaven and water from the rock; death of Nadab and Abihu for offering strange fire, bringing fleshly and worldly things into the worship of God; and the consuming fire of the Lord in the uttermost parts of the camp upon those who lagged.

Then the swallowing up of Korah and his family; Aaron's rod that budded; water from the rock (in Numbers); the serpent of brass.

Those performed in connection with Joshua were the conquest of Jericho and the sun standing still. That carries up to

B.C. 1452. There are no miracles recorded after this period for 311 years, and all these I recited ginning with Moses and Aaron were recorded as taking place during a period of 40 years and were over when the Jews from Egypt were placed in the Promised Land.

Then Samson performed a few miracles during the apostasies in the time of the Judges, preceding the kingdom. Samuel led the way for the founding of the kingdom and anointed the first two kings. Samson rent the young lion, slew the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass, and the temple of Dagon was destroyed. Those covered just a few years after a period of 2500 years when no human being performed a miracle. Those performed were by the decree of God Almighty, and without human instrumen-

(See **MIRACLES** on page 21)

## An Apologetic of Premillennialism

By M. L. Moser, Editor

The author delivered a series of four lectures at the 1975 Annual Bible Seminar of the Independent Baptist College, Dallas, Texas. Though not a formal defense of Premillennialism, these lectures nonetheless advocate very strongly the Pre-tribulational and Pre-millennial return of the Lord.

The lectures discuss four of the main objections to a Pre-Trib or an "any moment" rapture. These are: (1) Origin of Premillennialism; (2) Daniel's Seventy Weeks; (3) Revelation 20:1-10; and (4) The Rapture.

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**MIRACLES...**

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tality. Thus it was for forty years, by using Moses and Aaron and Joshua, in connection with the delivering of the Jews and placing them in the Promised Land. Then 300 years without a miracle. Then during the period of apostasy preceding the time God set His hand to guide them in the matter of the establishment of the kingdom, there were four miracles.

During the kingdom period, beginning 1141 and covering the period to 826 B.C., the miracles were, the ark of God becoming a curse to the Philistines; Uzzah slain by putting his hands on the ark; the cruse of oil that did not fail and the meal wasted not. There were a number performed by Elijah and Elisha in connection with the kingdom of Israel, during an approximate period of one hundred years. Jehovah versus Baal; fire from God consuming the king's men sent to fetch Elijah; the dividing of the Jordan by both the mantle of Elijah and Elisha; and the healing of the water with salt. The only man healed in all the Old Testament Scriptures during a period of 4000 years was Naaman!

There is just one case of divine healing unless you include Miriam, who was turned leprous because of envy of Moses' wife, and was healed; and the man who became leprous because of sin, intruding into the priests' office.

Then the miracle in connection with Jonah. From 862 to 580, about three hundred years, only two miracles are recorded and those are the preservation of the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace and Daniel in the lions' den, and these two are the last recorded in the Old Testament.

The next period of miracles began in 27 A.D. and covered a period of 32 years. They were

performed by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, just as the first period of miracles in the Old Testament were performed by God Himself without human instrumentality. They were performed during the three years of His ministry; and then for a few years thereafter by the apostles.

*Notice several things about these miracles.* In the first place, *the time period.* I have just said until Moses there was no miracle performed by man, from 4000-1491, 2500 years plus.

In the Dispensation of Conscience, Enoch was translated.

In the Dispensation of human government, the world was destroyed by water and Noah and his family alone preserved, closing that dispensation and beginning the dispensation of Promise. Every miracle has a dispensational connection. Moses and Aaron, 2500 years after Adam, in the beginning of the Dispensation of Law for 40 years performed miracles, 1491 to 1451, from the time Moses first looked into the face of Pharaoh he was God's servant and God sent him, — from that time until Joshua commanded the sun to stand still, and it stood still, there was not another miracle recorded for 311 years, until the period of the Judges.

Next, during the kingdom period there was the curse of the ark to the Philistines, Uzzah slain by touching the ark, and these two miracles were 100 years apart. Sixty-seven years later we have the cruse of oil and the barrel of meal, providing miraculous supply for the widow. Fifty years later all these miracles of Elijah and Elisha, including Jonah after a period of 125 years.

There were no more miracles until 580, these two recorded in Daniel, leaving a period of 600 years with not a miracle. That was all in the Dispensation of Law and in

connection with the kingdom of Israel. Notice the next period was A.D. 27, Christ Himself. You can count the time yourself and see how far it was from 590 B.C. to 27 A.D., over 600 years.

Yet, you hear people talking about miracles and you would think that is about all God has done since the making of Adam until now. But the actual miracles as recorded are few and far between, and all have a dispensational connection.

**Notice Another Thing, the Character of These Miracles**

Primarily they were *miracles of judgment* and not of beneficence. In the first period there were seven, from Adam to Moses, covering 2500 years and one was the translation of Enoch, already referred to, and five were distinctively miracles of divine judgment, and another was connected with judgment which made six miracles of judgment out of seven.

In the second period, in connection with Moses and Aaron and Joshua, 18 out of 25 miracles were miracles of judgment. Miracles of beneficence were the parting of the Red Sea so the children of Israel could go through, and that brought judgment on Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Without a single exception save water from the rock and manna from the sky they were miracles of judgment.

During the next period, the kingdom, seventeen out of 21 miracles were of divine judgment upon sinful man.

There are a total of 57 miracles, and forty miracles were divine judgment upon man and upon sin. Out of the whole list, the other 17, only three have anything to do with healing. Only one was directly divine healing, and that was Naaman; yet to hear lots of people talk you would think all God does is heal people.

He certainly had fine opportunities all during this time if there is a premium on healing diseases.

The three healings mentioned are Naaman, healed directly by washing seven times in the water of Jordan; Abimelech healed of the disease brought upon him by judgment of God in connection with Abraham and Sarah's lie; and Miriam, who was made leprous because of jealousy, healed of that leprosy. Only one was an outright case of divine healing.

**The Next Thing to Notice Is That Both God and the Devil Performed Miracles**

Don't take my word for it. I will read you some Scriptures. Exodus, in the Old Testament, chapter 7, verses 10-12. Now every reputable Bible scholar I know anything about recognizes the fundamental principal of *first mention*. The first mention of a thing in the Bible in teaching and interpretation will more or less apply throughout the Scriptures on that subject. If you want to know the meaning of a certain thing, find where it is first mentioned and you will get the groundwork for it throughout the Scripture. This is true and recognized. Notice Exodus 7:10-12:

“And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh and they did so as the Lord had commanded; and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents; but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rod.”

The names of two of the magicians Paul told Timothy (See **MIRACLES** on page 22)

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(Continued from page 21)

were Jannes and Jambres. "*They also did, in like manner with their enchantments; for they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents.*" That is what the Book says! These magicians did exactly the same thing as Moses and Aaron, identically the same thing.

Who performed the miracles? What do you think about it? Let us suppose you knew nothing about what was involved and walked up to that group of men and saw Aaron casting his rod down and it becoming a serpent; and then the other men walk up and do the same thing. Which was genuine? Aaron's swallowed their sup, the Bible tells us, which shows the devil has the power to perform miracles, but God's power is greater and His is capable of overcoming and defeating death by swallowing it up in victory.

Notice again "And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded, and he lifted up the rod and smote the waters that were in the river in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he harken unto them; as the Lord had said. And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also. And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink, for they could not drink of the water of the river" (Ex. 7:20-25).

These Egyptian enchanters

did identically the same thing, turned water into blood. Who performed the real miracles, and who palmed off an imitation? They were both miracles. Was there any real difference? God performed one, and the devil performed the other. They were both done through human instrumentality and no man looking on with the natural eye could tell a particle of difference.

If you have a question, speak out, because I haven't anything to go by but the Word of God and I don't mind being interrupted about this. I would not argue. I don't trust my word any more than any other man. My one source of confidence is the Word of God, and I believe it with all my soul. If the Bible teaches I can perform miracles today, God knows I want to get busy on it. There is no use getting mad and snorting about my attacking your religion, because I am teaching what the Word of God teaches.

In the 8th chapter we come to another, "And the Lord spake unto Moses, say unto Aaron, stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt. And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt" (Ex. 8:5-7).

They did identically what God's servant did. What difference? No man with natural eye could tell the difference. "They did so likewise with their enchantments." They brought up frogs.

The next reference, "And the Lord said unto Moses, say unto Aaron, stretch out thy rod and smite the dust of the land what it may become lice through-

out all the land of Egypt. And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and smote the dust of the earth and it became lice in man and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not; so there were lice upon man and upon beast. Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God" (Ex. 8:16-19).

They couldn't do that one. They could do everything but turn dust into lice. Nobody but God can do that, create life.

Now that is what we have in the land today. I call your attention to this situation, How can a man with the natural eye pass judgment on miracles? I challenge any man, no matter how great he is nor where he came from, any divine healer, to pick out reputable physicians in the land and perform a miracle, miraculously heal a disease, and let it stand a scientific test. If it can pass that I will gladly join his church or cult, or whatever it is.

Folks say, "But I have seen these miracles." So did the enchanters of Pharaoh. Some even say, "I myself have been cured by them." People have told me that, even when they were nearly dead. Sister Aimee Semple McPherson spends half her time in the hospital although she "heals" people. She comes out like an angel from heaven, swishing around, and those folks will pull off their rings and practically pluck out their eyes to furnish her with money. How she does it, I don't know.

Since I haven't time to go into all these miracles in the Old Testament, let us come to the New Testament. In the Old Testament we see the *first miracles performed by men*, up to a certain point, were absolutely and *perfectly imitated by the devil*.

Now I will meet any preacher of any sect or ism on this question, anywhere we can have a fair discussion, if he will accept the Word of God for what it really teaches and not what it *seems* to teach. Turn to Acts 8.

Here we have a duplication of what we have seen over in Exodus: "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Phillip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many taken with palsies and that were lame were healed" (Acts 8:5-7).

Notice the kind of miracles he performed — "and there was great joy in that city."

"But there was a certain man, called Simon, which before time in the same city used sorcery and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one; to which they *all* gave heed from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God." (Ex. 8:9-10).

He had performed miracles all over that land, and the whole province of Samaria had turned to him, saying, "This man is the great power of God." But when Philip went down there preaching, he performed miracles that went beyond this fellow.

He, Simon the Sorcerer, looked into the matter, professed conversion, and was baptized when we are sure he was never saved.

Philip healed all manner of diseases — the Bible says that, doesn't it? He preached the gospel, and yet not a single one of his converts received the gift of the Holy Spirit, as the disciples had on the Day of Pentecost and in the house of

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Cornelius. Who did it? *Two apostles*, and there are no more apostles after they passed off the scene, *and there is not a single case of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit by laying on of hands unless an apostle was involved in it.*

In every case where the Holy Spirit was imparted by laying on of hands it was by an apostle or in the case of an apostle, and I defy any man today — I don't care who he is or where he is from — to lay his hands on anybody and impart the Holy Spirit unless he is an apostle. And there were no successors to the apostles, regardless of what the Pope says, and there have been no apostles since the Apostolic days. When folks receive anything by the laying on of any preacher's hands, it is something else. It isn't the Holy Spirit they get.

**Satan is an imitator.** He is the seed of the Serpent. Notice Genesis 3:15. That is where the whole conflict started, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between *thy* seed and *her* seed; it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel."

The Seed of the woman, and the seed of the Serpent. Paul declares in Galatians the Seed of the woman is not plural but singular, and that seed is Jesus Christ; and the seed of the serpent is after the same order, the same word — not seeds but seed, and that person is the seed of the serpent, a man born, begotten by Satan, born a human being in this world; and I think he is walking about today, from the looks of several fellows. Get ready for your Totalitarian State. You business men, just make up your mind to turn your business over to the government, or else do what they say. It doesn't make any difference

who the President is, because it is coming. Finally the world will be ruled by this one man, the most brilliant this world has ever seen. He will do things miraculously. He is wiser than Daniel and no secret is hidden from him. Satan personified. We will have it in this country, and there is a reason outside the Bible saying it will be so.

You can't live among bandits and survive without a gun, or else they will put you out of business.

Great Britain has to have a Totalitarian state, and so has France. How can they get along without it? They must have authority vested in one person who can say what they will do and what they won't do; and we will have to have it in this country. Multiplied thousands of men will tell you what we need is a dictator. That is what we are going to have all right. I tell you Satan is an imitator. He is a good one, too. He is as good as these magicians in Egypt and Samaria. He is the source of their power.

Some of them camped on the trail of the apostles who preached the gospel. There is not just one case, but the land was filled with it.

Notice 2 Corinthians and read this if you have never read it. The misconception we have of Satan is our problem. You can't get people to believe Satan performs miracles. If there is one performed, they just know God did it. But that is not what the Bible says, Notice, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, *transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.* And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an *angel of light.* Therefore it is *no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;* whose end shall be according to their works" (2Cor. 11:13-15).

That is what we have today,

exactly. "Deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." That is what the Book says, isn't it? It is not a theory. It is not imagination. It is a fact of divine inspiration. "Transforming themselves into apostles of Christ."

Judas Iscariot was one for three years. He preached the gospel like all the rest. He was with them night and day. He paid the bills for the group, until Jesus said, "One of you will betray me." The first one to ask him, "Is it I?" was John. Each disciple suspected himself and not one suspected Judas, so perfectly had he put over his deception. He did not let it slip out, except in the case of being greedy for money. He was overzealous about the poor and resented any honor or glory bestowed upon Christ that cost money. It all came out later. Judas performed miracles as did the rest of them.

He put over his deception by virtue of the fact that he actually fulfilled the mission of an apostle of Jesus Christ and he was the last man suspected of betraying the Lord. "And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an *angel of light.*" He is no rawhead and bloody bones. He has intelligence, brilliance, brains. This is the chief characteristic of Satan. he rivals God, and desires to supplant Him.

Now I am reading the Scripture, look at it for yourself, "And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an *angel of light.*" He is no whoremonger, adulterer, reprobate, drunkard. The biggest fool notion in the world is for some fellow who gets drunk to say, "The devil...." The devil I say. It is the devil, in that flesh of yours, that desire to feel good by getting tanked up without a thought as to how rotten you will feel before it is over.

A man runs off and turns

his back on his wife and is too rotten even for hell to treat a woman that way, and says, "It was the devil." Oh, no. It was that fleshly nature you yielded to instead of being a man, like you ought to be. The devil isn't doing that kind of thing. That doesn't advertise his business at all. He has more sense than that.

"And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an *angel of light.*" "Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be *transformed as the ministers of righteousness.*" Did you read that? My friends, let us be sensible about this. If I came to Houston and expected to get a big crowd of folks and had the power and character and training and experience to do it and knew how to get a crowd tuned up to my psychology and put something over on them, I certainly would not come as a drunkard or running with loose women. How far would I get?

I tell you what I would do. I would get the biggest tent I could find, advertise it, good music, organize the people by deceiving them with gospel messages, and then go to healing them and making them think I could do it by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. No one could raise a question. Some would say, "I heard that man, and I have never heard a better sermon on the cross."

There isn't but one way I could deceive decent people and that is by living a clean, honorable life and showing every evidence as Judas Iscariot did that I was a disciple of Jesus Christ. If I didn't, at least I would cover it up so nobody would know it and preach the Truth as far as the gospel is concerned and work and weave in my deceitfulness and get the people in my hands and start them to praying and pleading for power

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**TATER...**

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qualities, but her greatest fault seems to be that of always waiting for someone else to go ahead. This characteristic is probably due in part to the dominant attitude of her husband. She is a rather timid soul, and quite hesitant about advancing her ideas or doing anything without waiting for the advice of someone else, especially her husband.

Cousin Imi-Tater is quite an attractive young lady, and has some qualities which are not seen in any other member of the family. Perhaps her greatest lack is that of originality. She always wants to do what other people do, and that in spite of what God says "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Ex. 23:2).

Cousin Agi-Tater is the other girl in the family, and is quite different from her mother or sister. Although she seems to be possessed of unflagging zeal and unlimited energy, she is constantly stirring up trouble. She is somewhat of a loose-tongued busy-body. Apparently, she has not learned what God means when He says,

"Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people" (Lev. 19:16a).

Cousin Spec-Tater is the only son in the family, and seems to be obsessed with the idea that he is outnumbered by the feminine portion of the family. He is a quiet, humble, unassuming sort of fellow. His worst fault is that he never does anything. He simply sits or stands quietly by and looks on without much comment about what the others do.

Do you belong to the Tater family? If so, which member are you? ■

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power, power, and get them to such a pitch that I could put my hands on them and they would fall over.

That isn't the way Bible miracles were performed, but that is the way it is being done today and in this city.

Why not check up and see if that fellow cured of cancer really had cancer? If you find someone with an imaginary disease and pull off some psychology on him, of course he could be "healed." they can "heal" imaginary diseases; but when it comes to real disease, they are buried in a short while after being "divinely healed" or else put in an insane asylum.

If a man is going to palm himself off as a minister of righteousness, he has to *do righteousness* and *preach righteousness*. How could he do it otherwise? If he transforms himself into a minister of righteousness, he has to do it and preach it or else he can't deceive anybody.

Wherever there is an Abel, there is a Cain somewhere about. Wherever there is a Seth, there is a Lamech. Wherever there is an Abraham, there is a Nimrod. Wherever there is a Melchisedec, there is a Chedolaomer.

Wherever there is a Moses, somewhere around in the same neighborhood there is a Pharaoh. Wherever there is a David, somewhere nearby there is a Saul. Wherever there is a Solomon, somewhere nearby there is an Absalom. Wherever there is a John the Baptist, there is a Herod. Wherever Jesus Christ is, there is a Judas Iscariot. Wherever there are true ministers of Jesus Christ, somewhere around there are ministers of Satan.

They have to be ministers of righteousness and preach it and practice it and teach it, or they could not fool anybody. There is the true and the false. Ministers of Christ and ministers of Satan. There is the Seed of the woman, and the seed of the serpent.

These men who perform miracles, do they still any storms? Let them try their hand on the Gulf of Mexico when she gets rowdy sometime. Jesus did that, the Bible tells us — stilled the waves and the winds. Do any modern miracle workers produce life? I would like to see that. If they do these other miracles, why don't they produce life? Do any of them raise the dead? Simon Peter did, and Paul did, and Christ did, and in the Old Testament a dead man touched the bones of Elijah and he came jumping out of the tomb a live man. If any of these modern "healers" can do this, let them demonstrate their ability and we will gladly acknowledge their claims.

Can they school the fish into the net? If they can, I would like to go fishing with them tomorrow. Can any of them divide the rivers today? Joshua and Moses and Elijah and Elisha did. All these men did unbelievable things. Do you know anyone doing like that today? From Aimee Semple McPherson to every protégé, there isn't one who will submit to a scientific test of their "miracles." When

they heal people, why not get an upright physician to examine the case before it is cured, and then pass on it immediately after it is cured and allow a reasonable length of time to pass and examine them again? I will believe it if they pass a test like that; if not, I don't care what it *seems* to be. Are you folks afraid to say "Amen" around here?

*"Healing" the body and "speaking in tongues" are the only two miracles that are being performed today.* They have been exposed time and time again as fakes, both of them, and yet they do the same thing over and over and delude people. They keep on fooling somebody else.

I make the challenge — will they meet a scientific test? Any honest man will. That is the test that needs to be made. Who is going to say by looking on that a miracle is performed?

I thank God He is performing miracles today. One of the greatest miracles of all was when he transformed me from a lost sinner into a Son of God; that is greater than healing leprosy or creating a universe. The grace of God that can cleanse a sinner and transform him into a joyful new creature in Christ — thank God for the grace of God that can do that! Amazing Grace!

But, if God and any of His people are performing miracles today, then so is the devil and his ministers. That is according to the Scripture! Amen! ■

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