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Thy Word Is Truth

By Philip B. Marquart

[The late Dr. Marquart was an honor graduate from both the University of Wisconsin and Harvard University. He was a psychiatrist. He was baptized in the Central Baptist Church in 1942 while stationed at Camp Robinson during World War II.]

When the scientists of the world formulate their laws of nature, they frequently have to revise them because of the intellectual depravity of which they all partake. However, when we find the hid treasure in the Word of God, there is no need to change these laws, for they were Authored by the One who knows what is in man (Jn. 2:24-25). He is the One who searches the heart.

When I was taking a course in Physics in high school, I was taught a time honored principle which was never expected to change. It was the Law of Conservation of Matter. Everyone knew that atoms could not possibly be either destroyed nor changed to something else which was not matter. By definition, an element cannot be pulled apart. We should have known better, because Einstein had already formulated his theory and his famous principle of $E=MC^2$ and if we had be-

lieved it, we would have known that atoms could be split and the result would be energy and not matter. In 1919, some astronomers observing an eclipse, found that Einstein was right in at least one principle, that the universe is curved and that a straight line bends. Thus when I took a course in physics in college, Professor Snow used to say that a straight line bends and curves, and if it goes far enough, and it would go on and on and finally come back again from the opposite direction. Finally, after fifty years, Einstein saw man split his first atom, in Operation Manhattan, in the old Chicago University stadium.

But the Word of God could have told us the same thing, "By him (Christ) *all things* consist (hang together)" (Col. 1:17). The Lord is actually holding all of your atoms together until the time when atoms shall be destroyed. But this means that He can also let them fly apart at any moment He chooses. He is also "upholding *all things* by the Word of his power" (Heb. 1:3). Then His power can cease to hold things together when He chooses. In fact, 2 Peter 3:9 indicates that there will be a time when "the elements shall melt with fervent heat." Every-

thing will blow up in one universal atomic blast, but we will not be in an inflammable condition in that day, but will be secure spectators. Atoms will melt and dissolve away and that is far more than merely splitting atoms. But the Lord has been melting atoms continuously on the sun for eons of time. Here we see that the Word gives more on the subject of matters of science than men of science are able to find out. In fact, we men fail to make scientific discoveries and applications, unless the Lord *reveal* to men from the common revelation of nature.

There is no more a Law of Conservation of Matter, for matter has been proven to be one form of energy. However we still have the Law of Conservation of Energy. They find that no energy has ever been lost in the sense that it ceases to exist. This Law seems to be so well proven that it is now known as the first law of Thermodynamics. This Law is the result of a man-made method, the scientific method. However, it must be true because the Word confirms it, after a fashion. The passages we have given above in Colossians 1 and Hebrews 1 would also be true for all forms of energy, as well as the atoms

of matter. But since all these things are upheld by the Lord, He is able to destroy any part of His own universe, if He please. But for the present the Law of Conservation of Energy holds. Energy may be changed from one form to another or be dissipated out into space, but none of it is ever lost from the universe. In fact, the term Thermodynamics implies a relationship between heat energy and the other forms of energy such as light, sound, magnetism, electronics, chemical energy, mechanical energy, but especially kinetic energy, which is the action of particles in motion. When gasoline is oxidized (burned) in your motor, there is a production of heat and mechanical motion.

Some have cited 2 Corinthians 4:18 to the confusion of logic. The things that are seen (sensed) are here said to be temporary. No one can see energy, but only the results of its action and hence they claim that energy is eternal. Rather God is eternal, but energy, physical things, and any created thing is not referred to here in this text. We should be warned not to press this Law too far, for the

(See **TRUTH** on page 23)

The Work of the Prophets -- Message #7**Mortal, Yet Deathless, A Paradox**

By R. Nelson Colyar

“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord” (Isa. 54:17).

Mortal, yet deathless, does indeed seem paradoxical. That it is appointed unto men once to die (Heb. 9:27), is true. That men are mortal is a fact known to all men. Moreover it is written: “Bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days” (Psa. 55:23). But there is another class of men whom death cannot touch till their work is done. They are the servants of the Lord, including the prophets. Though as mortals it is appointed unto them as unto others, once to die; yet they

are, as touching their mortal state, deathless till their work is done. Doubtless there are many who doubt that their manifestations of life in mortal frame has any assurance above the ordinary expectancy of life, so frail is the flesh and so precarious is their work. Nevertheless it is true that none can touch the life of God’s prophet to take it until his work is done. Concealed behind the curtain of mortal state is the restraining hand of divine preservation. Were it not true, no prophet of God could live on earth, so powerful for destruction is the adversary.

It will be awful to behold the wicked dead of all ages, when they stand up in the resurrection, and the books are opened, and they are judged out of those things written in the books, even according to

their works (Rev. 20:12), how that kings will be called up to give account for their treatment of the prophets which God sent to speak to them, how that kingdoms came to naught for their having rejected the counsel of the prophets, how that ecclesiastical overlords must hear the doomful imperative “Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity” and how that individuals, who with wicked intent scorned the Word of God and mocked the preachers of righteousness, shall together gnash with their teeth at the flames of their punishment, as it is written: “And death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

Therefore let every man hear and heed these words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: “Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, we have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out” (Lk. 13:24-28). Yes, all the prophets of God will be there in the Kingdom of God; but for them who despite the work of the prophets there will be nothing but weeping and gnashing of teeth in the day of their judgment.

No Weapon Formed Against Them Shall Prosper

The Lord Himself declares that no weapon formed against the prophets of the living God shall prosper. If that means anything, it means that the Lord will, by whatever means He may choose, fight for the life of His prophet. No hellish scheme promoted by evil spirits and instrumented by wicked human hands can touch the life of the servant of God, to take it, without God’s permission. This is true because “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them” (Psa. 34:16).

So Heaven intervenes when the life and the work of His servants are under threat of injury and of death. Again and again angry mobs and infuriated ecclesiastical officialdom tried to lay their hands upon Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth. But they never could. At Nazareth they sought to do Him violence, but “he passing through the midst of them went his way.” The chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to fetch Him; but they returned without Him, giving as their reason for not taking Him this word: “Never man spake like this man.” Though His enemies made many attempts upon His life, none of their schemes prospered. *His hour had not yet come.* Finally, Judas the betrayer came with the band of officers to take Him. When He said to them, “**I AM,**” they fell back to the ground as dead men. They could not *take* Him: for His hour, the hour when, by the determinate counsel of God, He should be delivered into the hands of His enemies to be crucified, had not yet come. Therefore,

(See **COLYAR** on page 22)**THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE**

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The Art Of Doublespeak

The Roman Catholic-Promise Keepers Connection

By David W. Cloud

The Promise Keepers movement encourages men to adopt the "Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper." Promise Number six states, "A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any ... denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity." That is ecumenism, and Promise Keepers is proving to be one of the most ecumenically successful movements in history.

When men of God warn about this and expose Promise Keepers' ecumenism, though, two very different types of responses are occurring. First, some Promise Keepers defenders admit the ecumenical aspects of PK and glory in them. Second, other Promise Keepers defenders deny that PK is ecumenical.

A case in point is information available on one of the unofficial Promise Keepers Internet Web sites. Posted on this site is "Promise Keepers Controversy — A Defense of Promise Keepers Ministry" — an extensive defense of PK against the charges which have been made by Fundamental, Bible-believing Christians. Consider an excerpt:

"The doctrinal error that is cited concerning Promise Keepers is its 'ecumenical emphasis.' Indeed one of the stated goals of Promise Keepers is to 'break down denominational barriers' and promote unity among Christians, but by definition a Christian is one who has

'accepted by faith God's gift of salvation which was made possible by Christ's death.' This would not include liberals who deny substitutionary atonement, or Roman Catholics who believe they are saved through the church or the sacraments. This would include all who have come to genuine faith in Christ, without regard to the denominational label they may wear."

The author of this, Pastor Jim Korth, does not claim to be an official voice for Promise Keepers, but he does claim that his information is based on Promise Keepers books, attendance at a Promise Keepers conference, and an interview with Dallas Seminary professor Howard Hendricks, who speaks at PK meetings.

The problem is that Pastor Korth's defense of Promise Keepers denies the facts. He says that the unity sought by Promise Keepers does not include "Roman Catholics who believe they are saved through the church or the sacraments."

Every Catholic who accepts Roman Catholic doctrine believes that the church and the sacraments have a part in salvation. The New Catholic Catechism states: "The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation" (1129). Words could not be plainer.

It is plain that traditional Roman Catholics believe the

sacraments are necessary for salvation. Are traditional Roman Catholics participating in Promise Keepers? Indeed, they are.

PK Founder Bill McCartney said plainly that Roman Catholics are invited to participate in Promise Keepers. He did not specify what kind of Roman Catholics.

Roman Catholic paper *The Tidings* (March 31, 1995) stated that Promise Keepers is "being expanded to include Catholic congregations." Catholics were encouraged to participate in Promise Keepers because "there is no doctrinal issue which should cause concern to the Catholic Church" and "there is no attempt at proselytizing or drawing men away from their [Catholic] faith to another church."

According to the December 1995 issue of the Charismatic Roman Catholic publication *New Covenant*, a Promise Keepers group is being formed in a Catholic parish in Tallahassee, Florida.

Further, the Promise Keepers field representative for the upper Midwest, Steve Jenkins, is a Roman Catholic. He represents Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. He became involved in Promise Keepers after attending the 1992 PK conference in Boulder, Colorado.

The July 23, 1995 issue of *Today's Catholic* contains an article entitled "Promise Keepers Christian crusade draws Catholic men." This paper reported that in July 1995, an official Promise Keepers Leadership Seminar was conducted at the Catholic Franciscan University of Steubenville (Ohio). More than 600 Catholic men participated. The meeting concluded with a Catholic mass led by the school's president, priest Michael Scanlon.

This same priest distributed elements at one of the masses at the North American Congress on the Holy Spirit & World Evangelization in New Orleans, July 1987. He spoke at this Congress as well as the one held in Indianapolis in August 1990. He is a traditional Catholic. He believes the sacraments are necessary for salvation. He believes the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are turned into the very body and blood of Christ. He uses the rosary and prays to Mary. In Indianapolis he told the story of being jailed for participating in ecumenical anti-abortion marches. During his time in jail, he conducted masses and taught the Protestants how to pray the rosary. He considered it a great achievement that some of the Protestant anti-abortion crusaders adopted the rosary into their worship. This Catholic priest will not give up any of his heretical doctrines, but he certainly is not opposed to teaching them to any gullible "Protestants" who will listen. And now he is a participant in Promise Keepers.

Are these Roman Catholics confused about Promise Keepers' doctrines and goals? Have they been misled? Why do they have the idea that Promise Keepers will accept them regardless of their false doctrine? I will tell you why — because Promise Keepers already has accepted them and has made no issue whatsoever of their false doctrine. PK representatives who claim that Promise Keepers promotes unity only among those who follow the true Gospel are ignoring the facts.

The Promise Keepers doctrinal statement is weak enough to allow for many forms of false doctrine. Con-

(See PK on page 24)

FELLOWSHIPS AND CONFERENCES

WASHINGTON, IL

April 1-3, 1996, Beverly Manor Baptist Church, 209 Vohland, Washington, IL 61571, Mike McCoskey, Pastor.

BIG SPRING, TX

April 2-4, 1996, Birdwell Lane Baptist Church, 1512 Birdwell Ln., Big Spring, TX 79720, Lewis R. McGarity, Pastor.

CALVERT CITY, KY

April 24-26, 1996, New Hope Baptist Church, 1661 Griggstown Rd., Calvert City, KY 42029, Edgar Lee Paschall, Pastor.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

July 8-10, 1996, Beth Haven Baptist Church, 12400 S. Western Ave., Okla. City, OK 73189, Ivan G. Casteel, Pastor.

HOMER, MI

July 21-26, 1996, Country-side Baptist Church, 25090 "L" Dr. South, Homer, MI 49245, William W. Holbrook, Pastor.

LIBERAL, KS

September 16-18, 1996, Fellowship Baptist Church, 216 W. Wilson, Liberal, KS 67901, Larry K. Landis, Pastor

SIoux FALLS, SD

September 30 - October 2, 1996, Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S. Hawthorne, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Ron Tottingham, Pastor.

FORT WORTH, TX

October 7-9, 1996, Pastors School, Lake Worth Baptist Church, 4445 Hodgkins Rd., Ft. Worth, TX 76135, Jerry D. Locke, Pastor.

LITTLE ROCK, AR

October 28-30, 1996, Central Baptist Church, 15601 Taylor Loop Rd., Little Rock, AR 72221, B. Lawrence Jones, Pastor.


Things To Know And Avoid

1. We should know that "neglected truth becomes perverted truth" -- Truth must be proclaimed in order to save it.

2. We should know that error unchallenged increases in geometrical progression -- To emphasize the "positive" simply plays us into the hands of the Devil.

3. We should know that the saved are soldiers and as such they should acquit themselves like men -- Manly men are fighting men.

4. We should know that a wrong method will in the end destroy a right message -- Ecclesiastical methods destroy our Baptist message.

5. We should avoid ignoring the tragic consequences which come through neglecting God's truth, through yielding to cowardice, through letting evil go unchallenged, and through using ecclesiastical methods in our Baptist life. 

Sen. McCarthy Was Right

For those of us who were alive during the 1940s and 50s, we remember how Sen. Joe McCarthy was hounded to death (literally) by the ACLU and the liberals of this country for warning the U.S. of the communist infiltration into the United States government and its agencies. The term "McCarthyism" (still in use today) was invented and meant that false accusations were being made against those in government. Though vilified at the time, now, 50 years later, Sen. McCarthy has been proven to have been right.

A Scripts Howard News Service article appearing on the front page of the March 6 **Arkansas Democrat-Gazette** with the headline "Scads of Spies Infiltrated U.S. in 40s, files show" prove McCarthy to have been right and the liberals and the ACLU were wrong. The article says:

"Red-baiters like Sen. Joseph McCarthy weren't too far wrong about the extensive Soviet penetration of U.S. government agencies in the 1940s, documents released Tuesday by the National Security Agency show. Transcripts of cables sent by KGB agents to Moscow in 1944 and 1945 were intercepted by U.S. cryptanalysts and indicate that more than 100 Soviet agents had infiltrated the State Department, Justice Department, War Department, Treasury Department and even the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor of the CIA.

"The documents give

substance to charges made by Elizabeth Bentley, a former KGB agent who went to the FBI in 1945 to detail the extent of Soviet penetration of U.S. government agencies during World War II. Although Bentley was discredited as being unreliable, other KGB officers gave Moscow the same information she gave the FBI.


"Ronald Radosh, a historian who had studied the McCarthy era, said the KGB cables are forcing a reinterpretation of history of the post-war 'Red scares' in the United States.

"Not everyone accused by McCarthy was innocent," Radosh said, noting that the backlash to McCarthy's anti-Communist crusade tended to discredit anyone who sought to expose Soviet activities in the United States.

"The National Security Agency released 500 translations of KGB cables Tuesday as part of a year-long project to declassify and make public the wartime work of U.S. code-breakers who uncovered Soviet spying activities here.

"Previous releases of documents have detailed Soviet efforts to steal nuclear secrets and the involvement of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in wartime spying.

"Among other disclosures is that the U.S. code-breakers knew by late 1947 or early 1948 that British diplomat Donald Maclean was spying for Moscow while working at the British Embassy in Washington.

"The National Security Agency is releasing the documents via the Internet. They can be found at <http://www.nsa.gov:8080>." 

A Tribute

By B. Lawrence Jones
Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas

Two years ago, in her 75th year, Central Baptist Church called me as pastor. Pastoring this great church during this period in her history has been the greatest challenge of my life. I have no regrets and thank my Savior for allowing me to serve Him in this capacity. I love Central Baptist Church.

As is common the life of every church, CBC has experienced the winds of opposition. She has, through the years, been assaulted by the forces of evil from every conceivable side. By God's grace she has weathered every storm. The storm God brought her through recently has been of hurricane force, and in the minds of many threatened her very existence.

It has been my experience that there are always some who stand to weather the storm and rebuild after

the winds die down. I see these people as heroes of faith. ... These are people who love the Savior and His work enough to see beyond the fierceness of the storm. They know the storms last only for a moment, but the work of the Savior is forevermore. These are people of eternal values.

I stand in tribute to the people of Central Baptist Church in years past. The effect of their faithfulness to God is all around us here at CBC. I am not speaking of some superstitious traditionalism, believe me, I know the difference. I am speaking of a people who so singularly committed themselves to the service of their Savior that the effects of their service remain years after they have gone home.

One of the members who left a great legacy is Bro. M.L. Moser, Sr. He became pastor of this great church

on July 15, 1931. I had the privilege of meeting M. L. Moser, Sr. when I was a young preacher. I remember hearing him preach once in the last years of his life. At the time, as a young preacher just starting out, I viewed him with youthful respect and awe. I never imagined that 20 years later I would be pastoring the Church he loved and served for so many years! Today I stand in tribute to the memory of this Pastor and his dear wife.

Since becoming pastor of CBC I have had opportunity to see the path this man walked, and to see first hand the impact he had for his Savior in this city and state. I can say without reservation that my youthful awe has turned to a healthy mature respect for the ministry of M. L. Moser, Sr. The greatest tribute I can give him is the testimony that still remains: he preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and remained faithful till death to the one he preached.

When CBC called me as pastor I knew the church was fractured and hurting. I prayed for her many times while pastoring two hours away in Memphis, Tennessee. CBC sold her buildings and property then moved into a rented community room in the basement of a Shopping Mall just four months before I came as pastor.

When Bro. M. L. Moser, Jr. retired as pastor in 1990 the church was at peace and financially stable. Sadly, after four years they were struggling with division in the congregation and a heavy financial drain caused by a constant monthly deficit. They were being directed headlong into a build-

ing program without a pastor and facing a staggering \$300,000 to \$500,000 debt after the building was completed. Actually they would have never made it to the end. On the course they were heading they would have been out of money halfway through the building process.

During and just before the interim period almost every active officer and teacher resigned and left the church. This also removed income from an already deficit burdened church. These are only a few of the paramount problems faced by CBC when the Jones family moved to Little Rock.

In my first meeting with this church after their call, I told them things might get worse before they get better. I told them this was a time for hard decisions. It was a time to put aside petty issues, and stand strong for the cause of Christ.

I called on them to put the building plans and every ministry of the church on the table to possibly be closed or modified. Nothing could be held back for any reason. I mapped out the steps I believed were necessary to move this church forward for Christ, and I called upon them to vote on each issue before I would respond to their call. After they voted unanimously on every point and I accepted their call we bowed our heads together and pled with God to continue to guide us and bless our efforts. I bow in reverent thanksgiving to God. He answered our prayer by guiding us through the storm and blessing all our efforts. I stand in tribute to the present

(See **TRIBUTE** on page 19)

The Myth Of The Universal Invisible Church Theory Exploded

By Roy Mason

One of the most wide-spread theories of today is the theory that the church that Jesus founded was not a local, visible assembly, but a universal, invisible church to which all believers belong, and of which they were made a part through a mysterious, mystical [mythical] Holy Spirit baptism

The author shows the fallacy of such a theory by a candid discussion of all passages used to support a universal church theory, showing that not one passage of scripture refers to anything other than to a local assembly.

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Homosexual "Marriage" Could Be Legal In All States

The Hawaii Supreme Court is expected to approve the marriage of homosexuals later this year, and when they do, it could make homosexual marriages legal in all 50 states.

Since states must respect the laws of other states, a homosexual couple could be married in Hawaii and the marriage recognized as legal in other states.

"The issue with homosexual marriage is not just joint insurance policies, company benefits or tax advantages, but the complete transformation of society by redefining the institution of marriage and family," said Donald E. Wildmon, president of AFA. "Radical homosexuals are using the issue as their prime propaganda weapon to coerce our society to accept their behavior."

Robert Knight of the Family Research Council agrees. "Gay marriage" is an oxymoron, an ideological invention designed to appropriate the moral capital of marriage and family toward the goal of government-enforced acceptance of homosexuality.

"Once the 'one man, one woman' definition is abandoned, there is no logical reason for limiting it to two people or even to people ... Why not have three partners? Or why not a man and his daughter?"

In May, 1993, Hawaii's Supreme Court ruled 3-1 that the state's exclusion of same-sex couples from marital status may be unconstitutional because it amounts to sex discrimination, unless the state can prove a "compelling interest" to prohibit it. Further proceedings are slated for

this summer.

In December, 1995, a governor's commission recommended that the state grant marital rights to homosexuals. The legislature has not yet changed the law to allow it.

Under the U.S. Constitution's full faith and credit clause, states must accord reciprocity to laws of other states. Thus a homosexual couple could marry in Hawaii, move to another state and demand recognition of their marriage. An exception to this reciprocity occurs when two states' laws conflict, and one state has public policy reasons to favor its own law.

AFA urges citizens to contact their state legislators and get a law prohibiting homosexual marriages passed in their state. The AFA Law Center can provide assistance in drafting such a law. Write AFA Law Center, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803 ☐

Once A Pentecost, Now A Baptist

By G. E. Nethercutt
(A Book Review)

Here is the author's account of his conversion and experience as a member of the Pentecostal church, and his reasons for leaving them and becoming a Baptist. He discusses the five principal doctrines of the Pentecostal group, giving scores of Scriptures that prove that they are false, and says that these doctrines are what led him to leave the Pentecostal and join a Baptist church. These five Pentecostal doctrines are:

(1) A person is not saved until he speaks in other

Billy Graham Says Heathen Saved Through Nature

Evangelist Billy Graham says, "I used to play God, but I can't do that any more."

He makes the comment in an interview in the January, 1978 issue of *McCall's* magazine, during which he reflects on how his views have changed over the years in several areas including religion and politics.

"I used to believe that pagans in far-off countries were lost — were going to hell —

"tongues";

(2) We must be baptized in Jesus' name only;

(3) The way to receive the Holy Ghost is to praise God;

(4) It is a sin to use medicine or to call a doctor;

(5) God's children may fall away and be finally lost in hell.

One of the great values of this book comes from the fact that the author speaks right out of his own experience. He is well informed on the teachings of the Bible, and demolishes each one of these doctrines of the Pentecostals with the Word of God.

Since the Pentecostal group is rapidly growing, and quite a number of members of Baptist churches are being swept into it, it is fortunate to have this excellent book to inform ourselves about this sect, and to place it in the hands of those who are being influenced by the Pentecostals, and those who have already been led astray. I am glad of the opportunity to wholeheartedly endorse this book. (Review by I. W. Rogers).

This book may be purchased for \$2.95 per copy, plus postage & handling. Order from: Challenge Press, P.O. Box 25848, Little Rock, AR 72221.

if they did not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them," Mr. Graham says. "I no longer believe that. I believe that there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God — through nature, for instance — and plenty of other opportunities, therefore, of saying 'yes' to God."

Speaking of people like Jews who do not accept Christ as their Savior, the evangelist comments, "God does the saving. I'm told to preach Christ as the only way to salvation. But it is God who is going to do the judging, not Billy Graham."

Mr. Graham says he is "far more tolerant of other kinds of Christians" than he once was. "My contact with Catholic, Lutheran, and other leaders — people far removed from my own Southern Baptist tradition — has helped me, hopefully, to move in the right direction," he explains.

The evangelist insists that his beliefs "are essentially the same as those of orthodox Roman Catholics," and draws several parallels: "They believe in the Virgin Birth, and so do I. They believe in the blood atonement of the cross, and so do I. They believe in the Resurrection of Jesus and the coming judgment of God, and so do I. We only differ on some matters of later church tradition."

Mr. Graham relates that he was invited to preach in Rome five years ago by the city's Protestant churches, and that Archbishop Igino Cardinale, Apostolic Nuncio to Belgium, has said that the Vatican "would not be opposed" to his holding a crusade there. ☐

God's Way Verses Man's Way

Which Way Are We To Follow -- Conventions, Associations and Fellowships, Or God's Way, The Local Church?

By the late Norman H. Wells
Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio

The eighth chapter of 1 Samuel tells a very familiar story. From the time of their beginning until the time of the event recorded in this chapter, the Israelites had lived under a theocratic type government. The dictionary tells us that a theocracy is a government recognizing the immediate sovereignty of God. This was God's will for Israel. They were continually to look to Him as their King.

In this chapter a strange thing happens. Israel demands a king! Many reasons were advanced for this action. First, Samuel'

two sons, Joel and Abiah, had proved a great disappointment to their father and to the nation. Samuel had made his two sons judges in Israel and they had corrupted the office. The people protested against this and because of the failure of Samuel's sons they wanted to reject God's form of government.

Secondly, the nations bordering on Israel now gave signs of renewed uprisings to threaten Israel. The people were fearful of the situation as it stood and they clamored for a strong king with a strong army. God's way didn't look strong enough for them.

Thirdly, they wanted to be like the nations around them. "That we also may be

like all the nations," was their cry. They coveted the grandeur, pomp, regality and power of the surrounding nations.

These, then, were the excuses Israel gave for demanding a king. Bear them in mind. They claimed God's way had failed, that God's way wouldn't get the job done and it just wasn't fancy enough.

It seems obvious that Christians in general, and Baptists in particular, are still guilty of using the same old excuse for rejecting God's way. Seemingly no effort has been put forth even to invent new excuses.

Jesus Christ established the church and until He comes again God has chosen to accomplish His work on earth through the churches. His program for evangelization, maintenance of the ordinances, teaching, benevolence, etc. were all entrusted to the churches. The New Testament will be searched in vain for any organization other than a local church to accomplish God's program. This, then, is God's way — God's will!

Man has never been satisfied with God's way! They have continually rejected the church and tried to build something better and, as has been said, they still use the same old tired excuses! See if

they don't sound familiar. We will confine our remarks to Baptists.

Few Baptists have ever been satisfied with God's way through individual local churches. It just never seems to measure up to the world's standard of success. Individual local churches scattered all over the world with no organizational ties binding them together would seem, by man's standards, certain to fail. So rather than risk failure with God's way, most Baptists have tried to build something bigger and stronger than local churches. It is reasoned that individual Baptist churches would never get the job done — there must be some powerful, central government holding these churches together. God's plan can't work, it must be improved upon, is the conclusion the majority reaches!

Again, Baptists have reasoned, if we were all bound together in a real organization we would be so much stronger, so much better equipped to oppose the enemy. This excuse for rejecting God's way has been used over and over. It seems to make good sense according to man's reasoning. By organizing all the Baptist churches together, it is argued, a great force is presented, elaborate publications can be sent forth, missionary

boards formed, great schools built, etc. Why, after a while we'll even become a force in politics! All of this sounds fine and the purpose is good, except this is not God's way. Regardless of how good the purpose is, it is a grievous wrong to reject God and His plan. It is a calamity to reject God's plan of salvation and it is also a calamity to reject God's plan for service.

Again, the same bug that bit Israel has bitten Baptists. The majority of Baptists desire the pomp and grandeur of other religions. "That we also may be like all the denominations," is the cry heard today. Prosperity and popularity which the world will accept has become the goal of many. The world's standards are met in order that Baptists might be accepted with the same favor as other denominations.

It is not too difficult to see that the same reasons Israel used for rejecting God's way and demanding a king are the same reasons that Baptists now use for rejecting God's way through local churches and demanding conventions, associations, fellowships and other means of binding Baptist churches together under one central authority. The amazing thing is

(See **WELLS** on page 8)

WELLS...

(Continued from page 7)

that this is so obvious, and yet is so vigorously denied! It would be amusing, if it were not so tragic, to listen to one organized group of Baptists condemn another organized group for being organized!

Is all this important? Does it make any difference how the job is done? Notice the expression in verse 7 where God speaks, "They have rejected me." For Israel to demand a worldly king was to reject God! For local Baptist churches to bind themselves together in unscriptural organizations is to reject God! Christ is the head of each local church, but headquarters are changed in large organizations of churches.

Through Samuel God warned Israel concerning an earthly king. In verses 11 through 18 conditions under such a king are described. The king would ride with great pomp and dignity in a chariot. There would be chariots and horsemen which would ride in great style before the king. The king's organization would be highly organized, captains over thousands and captains over hundreds. The king's organization would be extremely costly with heavy taxes and conscription!

Can anyone fail to see how this picture not only fits what was going to happen to Israel under a king but also what happens to Baptists under organizational rule of denominations, conventions, associations, fellowships, etc.?

Saul, riding in all his pomp and glory, is a fitting picture of the convention, association or fellowship president! The Big Wheel!

"Captains over thousands, and captains over fifties" — state presidents, field secretaries, board chairman, directors,

etc. — The picture is too clear not to fit!

Costly! Is there anything more costly or more demanding upon the churches than the support of the machine? Every year a greater percentage of the money given is needed to run the machine and less gets to the work!

It is well to note that for a while there was great success under Israel's kings. Under David and Solomon the nation reached great heights. It is also well to note that nearly every Baptist organization of churches that has ever existed started out well! Great things are accomplished — for a while! Israel did fine as long as David was on the throne. It continued to do well under Solomon, but when these two passed on the trouble began. So it has ever been with Baptist machines. Strong men with strong personalities will bind Baptists together and flourish for a while, but with their passing, lesser men can only fight over the remains!

After the temporary success in Israel, the decline and decay began. They made treaties and intermarried with the pagan nations around them. Idolatry again reared its ugly head. Compromise and cowardice were on every hand. Israel lost its purpose! They divided and died! Israel has never come back. Her glory will only be restored when she again accepts her rightful King!

Temporary success nearly always comes in the attempt to organize Baptists. Just like Israel of old, however, decay and decline begin almost immediately. When Baptists become successful in their organizations, success itself demands compromise: treaties, compromise and intermingling with all other religions. Compromise becomes a necessity. It produces a complicated method, a compromised message and a

corrupted mission! They lose their purpose. They live and die. They never come back.

Almost without exception every organized group of Baptists will recognize the truth of what has been said thus far. However, most of them will prefer to remain blind to the fact that what has happened to others is also happening to them.

When will we learn that huge, ecclesiastical machines are man's way and glorify man and that the simple organization of a local church is God's way and glorifies God.

As editor of this paper (*The Central Contender*) and author of this article I would like to digress from my usual procedure and interject a personal word or two. For several years now, through this paper and my pulpit, I have been humbly trying to show the error and danger of Baptists organizing themselves into conventions, associations, fellowships, etc. The response in the majority has been favorable. There have been some, well, not so favorable. Not one single time has anyone from any organization even attempted to deny the truth we have published concerning their error. Those who have vigorously protested, however, almost without exception, made the same accusation. They seem to think that machine Baptists with their missionary boards are the only ones getting missionaries on the field and that true, independent Baptist churches are not getting the job done. I submit the following truths:

One of the biggest of these organizations requires over 300 churches to get one missionary on the field. Another organization, new and aggressive though it be, still takes over 100 of the churches to get one missionary on the field. Hundreds of unsung and unheralded, independent Baptist

churches all over this country are easily beating that kind of record and many others would equal it!

Again, over and over, I have heard it stated that it doesn't matter how you do it as long as you get the job done.

God has a plan of salvation and it makes a difference whether we follow that plan.

God had a plan for the ark and Noah was expected to follow.

God's plan for Moses the second time was to speak to the rock and water would be supplied. It made a difference when Moses disobeyed.

It made a difference when Israel did not follow God's plan and possess all of Canaan.

It made a difference in Israel when Achan did not follow God's plan.


The whole book of Leviticus is given to God's plan of worship for Israel to follow. It made a difference how they came.

God gave the plan and method for handling the ark and men lost their lives by failing to follow God's plan. It made a difference.

God gave minute instructions for building the temple and tabernacle. It made a difference.

Jesus Christ carried out in minute detail God's plan of redemption. It made a difference.

Christ established the church to carry out God's plan for this age and it makes a difference whether we follow this plan or substitute another.

Our humble prayer is that God will touch hearts with the kind of conviction that will cause Baptists to return to Bible methods. 

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What Is The Meaning Of Ekklesia?

We want to go patiently into what the New Testament means by the word *ekklesia* or church. We maintain that in all and every place where it is found in the New Testament, whether used of Israel in the wilderness or of the church of the First-born in heaven or the citizens of Ephesus or of a New Testament church, it always and every where refers to an organized assembly. Its two fundamental and essential ideas are organization and assembly. We think we have good and sufficient reasons for maintaining that position. Our readers will have to be the jury to render a verdict as to whether our contention will hold. Here are our reasons for saying so. (If you want to go more fully into this matter get Jesse B. Thomas' book, "The Church And The Kingdom").

1. Our first reason for contending that the word *ekklesia* never means anything but an organized and an assembling church is that the Lord Jesus uses the word *ekklesia* 20 times in Revelation and every time He uses it, He refers to a local organized and assembling church. Seven times He uses it in the singular in naming the seven churches of Asia. Thirteen times He uses it in the plural referring to these seven churches and their successors. Whenever He spoke of a larger group than a local church He always used it in the plural.

2. B. H. Carroll for many years a teacher in Baylor University and later founder of the Southwestern Theological Seminary, in a newspaper controversy with W.J. McGlothlin as to the meaning of the word *ekklesia*, says: "The pro-

posed new sense (of the word *ekklesia*) destroys the essential ideas of the old word, namely, organization and assembly, and would leave Christ without an institution, an official business body on this earth. Our Lord Himself uses the word 23 times — once in Matthew 16; twice in Matthew 18; and 20 times in Revelation. These 23 instances settle the meaning of the word."

3. Back in the days when T.T. Eaton was the editor of the **Western Recorder**, in discussing with the "invisibleists" the meaning of the word *ekklesia* in Matthew 16:18 he gives these seven reasons for saying the church Jesus built was a local church.

(1) That is the meaning of the word "ecclesia."

(2) That is Christ's universal usage of the word.

(3) That is the only meaning that would have been understood by the Apostles.

(4) That is the only kind of church recognized in the New Testament.

(5) That is the only kind of church to which the promise has been fulfilled.

(6) That is the only kind of church adapted to human nature.

(7) That is the only kind that is suited to preach a pure gospel.

4. Prof. H.E. Dana of Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth in his book, "Christ's Ekklesia," page 23 says: "There were in the classical use of this term four elements pertinent to its New Testament meaning: (1) The assembly was local; (2) It was autonomous; (3) It presupposed definite qualifications; (4) It was conducted on democratic principles."

5. Rotherham in his translation of the Scriptures says in his appendix on page 268,

in giving his reasons why he uniformly translates the word *ekklesia* by the word assembly, says: "It is well known that the Greek word for 'Church' is ecclesia, and that ecclesia strictly and fully means 'called out assembly.' " The very fact that Mr. Rotherham uniformly translates the word *ekklesia* "assembly" throughout the New Testament is the very strongest proof possible that he thought the word *ekklesia* meant only an "organized and assembling" body.

6. Ramsey in "St. Paul the Traveler" says on page 124: "The term (*ekklesia*) originally implied the assembled constituted self-governing body like a free city."

7. Harnack in his "History of Dogma" says the Catholic or universal idea of the church sprang up in the third century. Eusebius, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Hiero, Cornelius, and Cyrian all speak of "Holy Churches" and never of the catholic or universal church.

On page 83 of Vol. III Harnack says: "No one thought of the desperate idea of the invisible church: this would probably have brought about a lapse from pure Christianity far more rapidly than the idea of the Holy Catholic Church." Do not forget that, Scofield's idea of the invisible church is a lapse from pure Christianity. It is neither biblical nor scriptural but is a desperate idea born in the brain of a heretic and swallowed by Scofield in our day to decoy Baptists into the camp of the enemies of the only true churches, built and preserved by the Lord Jesus Himself.

8. Prof. Royal of Wake Forest University, when asked if he knew of any passage in classical Greek, where the

word *ekklesia* was ever used of unassembled or unassembling persons, said: "I do not know of any such passage in classic Greek."

9. Joseph Cross in his book, "Coals From the Altar" says this: "We hear much of the invisible church as contradistinguished from the church visible. Of an invisible church in this world I know nothing; the Word of God says nothing; nor can anything of the kind exist, except in the brain of a heretic. The church is a body; but what sort of a body is that which can neither be seen nor identified? A body is an organism, occupying space and having a definite locality. A mere aggregation is not a body: there must be organization as well. A heap of heads, hands, feet and other members would not make a body: they must be united in a system, each in its proper place and pervaded by a common life. So a collection of stones, bricks and timber would not be a house: the material must be built up together, in artistic order, adapted to utility. So a mass of roots, trunks and branches would not be a vine or a tree: the several parts must be developed according to the laws of nature from the same seed and nourished by the same sap."

10. Bishop Hort, one of the publishers of the Wescott and Hort Greek Testament, whose scholarship and ability certainly can not be called in question, confesses the "necessity of finding some other than etymological, grammatical or historical grounds" on which to prove the universal church. That means it can not be proved by the word *ekklesia* nor by the grammatical construction of New Tes-

(See **CHURCH** on page 10)

CHURCH...

(Continued from page 9)

tament Greek nor by the historical use of the word *ekklesia* in New Testament days. Where does Mr. Hort say then that the idea of an universal church came from? He says the idea of an universal church came from away this side of the New Testament from the theology of uninspired men. Note what he says. He says that the idea of universal church is not "the proper origin of *ekklesia*," that it is not traceable to "current usage," that the word *ekklesia* is always limited by Paul himself to a local organization which has a "corresponding unity of its own;" "each is a body of Christ and a sanctuary of God." By each he means each local church. Again he says: "Paul uniformly speaks of the individual church "as a body of Christ" (1 Cor. 12:27), "a virgin (2 Cor. 11:2), "a temple" (1 Cor. 3:16).

In Ephesians 2:2 he refers to the Ephesian church as "a holy temple." In Colossians 3:15 he calls the Colossian church "called in a body." "Christian *Ekklesia*." Mr. Hort's testimony that Paul's use of the word *ekklesia* in Ephesians and Colossians is to the local church at Ephesus and Colosse is especially convincing because Scofield and all the balance of the universal church heretics go to Ephesians and Colossians to substantiate their heretical teachings. Again Mr. Hort argues that in breaking down the wall of partition between Jew and Gentile and alien classes of all sorts, the local church is the chief, if not the only agency through which this change is manifest.

11. Jesse B. Thomas in his book, "Church and Kingdom," calls attention to the fact that in John 2:19-21 Jesus calls His own body a temple. This involved both local and

visible tangibility (2 Pet. 1:16; 1 Jn. 1:1). So building Matthew 16:18. All these allusions, according to Mr. Thomas point irresistibly to a concrete organism. In Ephesians 2:21 the local church is spoken of as "all the building" "fitly framed" refers to the local church as a building and "fitly joined and compacted" as a body. The first in 2:21 and the latter in 4:16.

12. Alexander Campbell said in "Christian Baptism," pg. 214: "*Ekklesia* literally signifies an assembly called out from others and is used among the Greeks, particularly the Athenians, for their popular assemblies, summoned by their chief magistrates and in which none but citizens had a right to sit. By inherent power it may be applied to any body of men called out and assembled in one place. If it ever loses the idea of calling out and assembling, it loses its principal features and its primitive use."


13. David Lipscombe in "Gospel Advocate," Oct. 28, 1926: "there is not the shadow of any universal church in the New Testament, nor is there the representation of a tangible church or of one that may be reached and associated with save the local church." Again in the same article, Mr. Lipscombe says: "Just so, when speaking of things common to all churches, we say the church is the body of Christ, not meaning that all the churches are consolidated to make one body, but that each and every church is the body of Christ in its locality and what is common to all is affirmed of the church as of one body. This style of speech is common. This can be its only meaning. There is no development of the church of Christ in the world save in the local church." Paul uses this same general language of the church

being the body of Christ to the church at Corinth that he does to the Colossians, Ephesians and others: "Ye are the body of Christ and members in particular." The church at Rome, the church at Ephesus, at Colosse, each was just as much "the body of Christ and members in particular" as the church at Corinth. The church at Jerusalem was a complete body of Christ before another church was established. It lost none of its completeness when other churches were planted. And every other church was as complete within itself as was this church at Jerusalem. Each church was in itself a complete body of Christ, without any reference to any other church or churches in existence.

God has given to us the local church as the only manifestation of His body. It is the only body ordained or recognized by God as acceptable to Him. It is the "pillar and ground of the truth." It is "the body of Christ." The body of which He is the head. "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:15-16).

Let us sum up a little.

The word church was used by the Master 23 times and always meant a local church. Mr. Hort of the Westcott-Hort New Testament, admits that Paul never used it of anything but a local church. Scholars testify that *ekklesia* was never used in classic Greek except of an assembled or assembling body. The two essential ideas in the word *ekklesia* are assembly and organization. Every illus-

tration of a church in the New Testament, such as temple or house or body, makes the veriest of nonsense, if it is not assembled and organized. The etymology of the word *ekklesia* makes it of necessity a local church. The grammatical construction of the passages where used can not be twisted to mean anything but a local church. Both Hort and Harnack testify that historically the word *ekklesia* was never used of anything but a local church, until long after the close of the New Testament. So you are on safe ground, when you say that the church, which as the body of Christ, is always a local Baptist Church — Copied 


Things To Know And Avoid

1. We should know that "neglected truth becomes perverted truth" — Truth must be proclaimed in order to save it.

2. We should know that error unchallenged increases in geometrical progression — To emphasize the "positive" simply plays us into the hands of the Devil.

3. We should know that the saved are soldiers and as such they should acquit themselves like men — Manly men are fighting men.

4. We should know that a wrong method will in the end destroy a right message — Ecclesiastical methods destroy our Baptist message.

5. We should avoid ignoring the tragic consequences which come through neglecting God's truth, through yielding to cowardice, through letting evil go unchallenged, and through using ecclesiastical methods in our Baptist life. 

The Touch of the Master's Hand

Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But he held it up with a smile.
"What am I bidden, good folk?" he cried.
"Who'll start the bidding for me?
A dollar—a dollar—then two, only two—
"Going for three"—but no—
From the room far back, a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow,
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loosened strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said, "NOW what am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars—and who'll make it three?"
"Three thousand once—three thousand twice—
"And going—and gone," cried he.
The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not understand.
"What changed its worth?" Quick came the reply,
"The touch of the Master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Its auctioned cheap, to a thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.
A "mess of pottage"—a glass of wine,
A game—and he travels on:
He is going once—and going twice—
He's going—and almost gone!
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.

By Myra Brooks

The Master's hand is the only hand that can transform the soul. This very moment the Lord Jesus Christ is waiting to turn your darkness into day, your sorrow into joy.

Hear His call: "Come now, and let us reason together ... though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isa. 1:18).

Have more wonderful words ever been spoken? God wants to cleanse your life from sin and give you a new life of hope and joy. He does not ask you to change your life yourself. He asks you to come to Him just as you are. His Word promises: "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from *all* sin" (1 Jn. 1:7).

But first you must trust totally upon God's mercy. You cannot

Is Your Church Moving Like A Mighty Army?

Last Sunday our pastor asked Jimmy Mitchell, just back from two years in the Army, if he'd be guest speaker at our church. Jimmy refused at first. Then, with a funny light in his eye, he said he would if the congregation sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" just before he began. So we gave forth with song, and Jimmy waded in. This is what he said:

"You have been singing:

Like a mighty army
Moves the church of God.

"That might have been all right once. The trouble now is that about ten million men know exactly how an army moves and it doesn't move the way a lot of you folk in our church do. Suppose the army accepted the lame excuses that many of you think are good enough to serve as alibis for not attending church.

"Imagine this, if you can. Reveille 7 a.m. Squads on the parade ground. The sergeant barks out 'Count fours. One! Two! Three! Number four missing. Where's Private Smith?'"

"'Oh,' pipes up a chap by the vacant place, 'Smith was out late last night and needs the sleep. He said he would be with you in spirit.'

"'That's fine,' says the sergeant, 'Remember me to him! Where's Brown?'"

"'Oh,' puts in another chap, 'he's playing golf. He gets only one day a week for recreation, you know.'

"'Sure, sure, is the sergeant's cheerful answer. 'Hope he has a good game. Where's Robinson?'"

"'Robinson,' explains a buddy, 'is sorry not to greet you in person, but he is entertaining guests today. Besides, he was at drill last week.'

"'Thank you,' says the sergeant, smiling. 'Tell him he's welcome any time he is able to drop in.'


"Did any conversation like that ever happen in any army? Don't make me laugh. Yet you hear stuff like that every week in the church, and said with a straight face, too.

"Like a mighty army! If our church really moved like a mighty army, a lot of you folks, would be court-martialed!"

—Reader's Digest


Tibids

Time is so fleeting that if we do not remember God in our youth, age may find us incapable of thinking about Him. -- Hans Christian Anderson.

Sign says: "There ain't hardly no business got around here what ain't been went after." How true this is in church work. 

depend on your "good works" to gain entrance into heaven. For before God we are all sinners. "There is none righteous, no, not one ... For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:10, 23).

There is only one way, one door through which we can enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus said: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (Jn. 10:9).

Jesus made the way for you and me by dying on the cross for our sins: "He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isa. 53:5). You can receive the risen, victorious Lord Jesus Christ by faith now. 

An Unprecedented Increase In the Cost of Newsprint.

Newsprint will increase its price once again effective April 1. According to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* this is an unprecedented increase in the price of newsprint which increased to \$720 per ton, up from \$372 per ton in April 1994, more than double in just a two-year period. Newsprint will rise another 6% in April after a year of record increases. This will, of course, affect the cost of printing **The Baptist Challenge** so we ask our readers to pray with us that we will be able to continue publishing **TBC**, probably the oldest magazine that is not sponsored by some organized religious group or denomination, having printed its first issue in January 1961.

Hindu Fundamentalist Vows To "Reconvert" 100,000 Christians.

A Hindu fundamentalist politician has declared war on Christianity, promising to reconvert 100,000 Christians in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh back to Hinduism. According to *Agence de Presse Internationale catholique*, Dilip Singh Judeo, a member of the Indian parliament, has declared 1996 "the year of re-conversion." At a recent re-conversion ceremony in the town of Raipur, he vowed to "bring [more Christians] back to the Hindu fold." The Roman Catholic bishop of

Raipur, Joseph Austine Charana-kunnel, said that the politician was adopting the methods used by the Christian missionaries he criticized.

Jesus Depicted As A "Drag Queen."

A homo-sexuality symposium at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., with keynote speaker Episcopal Church in the USA Bishop John Spong, featured ridicule of the Christmas Nativity story, speculation about Jesus as a "drag queen," praise for homo-sexual marriage and a declaration that the Ten Commandments are "immoral." Foundry's regular Sunday worshipers include President and Mrs. Clinton. The day-long "celebration" at Foundry Church was organized by PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Called "Sharing Our Rainbow of Light," the November 10 symposium's speakers at times surprised even their mostly homo-sexual audience of several hundred persons with their denial of traditional religious beliefs. "If a star led the Wise men to the baby Jesus, then why couldn't King Herod find Him?" Bishop Spong asked a laughing audience, seated in the historic sanctuary where presidents from Lincoln to Clinton have worshiped. The controversial Episcopal leader of Newark, New Jersey, dismissed the Jewish prophecies traditionally seen as foretelling the coming of Christ. "I don't think Isaiah, Jeremiah or

the Psalmist anticipated the life of Jesus of Nazareth," said Spong. "People can't predict future events. It's a magical view of the Bible."

Koreans Prepare To Evangelize North.

The South Korean church is preparing to evangelize North Korea when the communist country opens up. More than 20,000 missionaries and Christian workers are prepared to relocate to North Korea and begin church planting and personal evangelism. Isaac Lee of Seattle-based Cornerstone Ministries predicts that North Korea is on the brink of famine, and will have to open soon. Lee pointed to the cumulative effects of 47 years of communism, plus last summer's devastating floods which ruined crops and left 50,000 families homeless. The underground church is growing rapidly in North Korea. Lee gave partial credit to a new emphasis on strengthening the family which has been instituted by new leader Kim Jong Il.—NIRR

Lot's Wife. "Lot's Wife" regularly makes trips across the Dead Sea. "Lot's Wife" is the name of a ferry which links Kibbutz Ein Gedi on the Israeli shore of the Dead Sea with Zarka Hot Springs on the Jordanian side. — Pulpit Helps.

Ramadan Celebrated By

White House. American Muslims marked a milestone in the growth and acceptance of Islam in the United States with the first presidential reception to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan. "It's only fitting that just as children and families of other faiths come here to celebrate their holy days that (Muslims) come here, too," first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said at the family-oriented event in the Old Executive Office Building next to the White House. The late afternoon reception (Feb. 20) marked the day Muslims call Eid al-Fitr—"the feast of the fastbreaking." It signals the end of Ramadan, a month of self-reflection and self-imposed discipline during which observant Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight hours. Ramadan, according to Muslim tradition, is the month in which Allah (God) began to reveal the Koran — the Muslim scripture — to the Prophet Mohammed in seventh-century Arabia. Mrs. Clinton called the Eid "an American event" and said White House recognition of the holiday was "historic and overdue." She said Muslims — who currently number between 3 million to 5 million in the United States — were the latest immigrant group to enrich America by contributing to its religious heritage.

No More NEA Homo-Erotic Blasphemous Art?

Don't hold your breath, but new guidelines at the National Endowment of the Arts will

end direct grants to individual artists and groups. Grants will instead be given for "broad theme" projects (2/10 World). With a 40% budget cut, to 99 million, and its staff cut from 279 to 148, the NEA is trying to avoid funding the controversial art that most antagonized taxpayers. — CC

Jane Roe Says She Is Pro-Life & Not A Lesbian.

Norma McCorvey ("Jane Roe") at her "conversion" last year sent conflicting signals, saying she still favored first-trimester abortions and was maintaining her lesbian relationship with her housemate. But she is now a pro-life activist and says she opposes abortion on any terms (1/29 Chr. News). She says she no longer lives in a lesbian relationship. — CC

SBC To Avoid Disney.

The Florida Baptist Convention approved a resolution asking Baptists to "prayerfully reconsider their continued purchase and support of Disney products." It said Disney's moral leadership has been eroded by its giving spouse benefits to homosexual partners, and its practice of holding homosexual theme nights at its parks. The resolution, which will be presented to the national SBC in June, also noted that Disney had promoted combination cruise-and-them-park vacations that included drinking and gambling and has distrib-

uted offensive materials through its Miramax Films subsidiary. Disney promotes perversion — its "family friendly" image is gone. — CC

Ex-2 Live Crew Rapper To Promise Keepers Pulpit.

Mike De'Vine left the obscene "savaging women" 2 Live Crew rap group in 1989, sick of the lifestyle. He's now a hip hop artist who thinks he is on the verge of breaking into the big time gospel market. The 1/26 *Rocky Mtn. News* said he is looking to Promise Keepers as a pulpit, and has met with PK founder Bill McCartney. He says McCartney is interested in him coming aboard to rap before stadiums full of men, and a PK official said: "We would certainly be interested in him since he can reach out to youth." — CC

Mexico: Catholics Violent Against Evangelicals.

Evangelical teaching has taken off in Chiapas, Mexico as in no other state. In 1970 there were 900 Presbyterians, today 400,000 Presbyterians and Pentecostals are the two largest evangelical groups and together they comprise over 60% of Chiapas' population, while the national average is over 80% Catholic. Some evangelicals who refuse to attend Catholic Church festivals have reported being arrested and harassed. Six were killed recently in a non-going pattern of violence against Protestants. — CC

Subsidizing Mohammedanism With American Taxpayers' Dollars.

The United States government sent Turkey, an Islamic nation, \$350,000,000.00 in the latest military equipment in the year 1995. There is no freedom of worship in this country and a Christian church is difficult to find in the land which once was Asia Minor where the Apostle Paul took the gospel of Jesus Christ on two missionary journeys and established churches throughout the realm. In fact, the seven churches which are described in the last book of the Bible, The Revelation of Jesus Christ, were all located in what is Turkey today. Only their ruins remain. No Christian missionary work is permitted in this Mohammedan land. Followers of Islam define Christians as "infidels;" yet, the United States in most recent years, has been going to the aid of Mohammedan nations not only with economic help and military equipment but with American soldiers, sailors and airmen. Witness, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Somalia and now Bosnia. Ironically, the Mohammedan religion is the fastest growing one in the United States and 500 mosques have been built within the past several decades. Even an Islamic priest was permitted to give the prayer in the United States Senate! No such reciprocal agreement on the part of the nations which follow the Arab camel-driver! Islam's main success in America has been among the black race and this group constitutes its largest membership. So, do not wonder when you see and hear the Muslim names taken by overly-paid black athletes on the professional baseball, basketball and football

teams who, with their owners, profane the Christian Sabbath by "playing ball" on Sundays! — ED

Sex Ed Is Worse Than Mere Failure.

Mounting evidence indicates that contraceptive-based programs do worse than merely fail. The CDC announced last fall that states that stress abstinence in sex-education classes — or don't require such classes at all — have fewer teen pregnancies. States and districts that mandate contraceptive programs and distribute condoms have the highest rates. Wyoming and North Dakota don't require sex Ed and have a teen pregnancy rate of 53.7 (& 54.2) per 1,000 girls ages 15 through 19, per 1992 figures. By contrast, the District of Columbia mandates sex Ed and availability of condoms and had a teen pregnancy rate of 208.4 per 1,000. Georgia was second with 106.9, Nevada was third with 106. — CC

Puerto Rico Churches.

Puerto Rico is said to have an "African beat and an American rhythm," yet the Puerto Ricans are Latin Americans. The 3.8 million people speak Spanish and have been American citizens since 1917. They cannot vote in U.S. elec-

(See WNR on page 14)

Plumbing the Depths Of Absurdity

By Fred Schwarz, M.D.
Christian Anti-Communism Crusade

The Bible tells us that "There is no new thing under the sun." I am constantly reminded of this as I read my correspondence. Whenever I think I have an original thought, I usually find that someone has considered it long before I have.

Recently, I discussed, in the newsletter, the time that would be required for "natural selection" or "blind chance" to have created the infinite complexity of existing living things. I stated that I do not have sufficient faith to believe that a large tribe of monkeys, jumping about on the keys of a large number of typewriters, would ultimately write Shakespeare's plays, or that a wind of unlimited velocity blowing across the Sahara Desert for a limitless period, would sooner or late erect the Empire State Building.

Dr. Thayer Smith, a friend and colleague of long standing, had previously grappled with the problem of the typewriters and the monkeys. He wrote to a distinguished professor of mathematics to ask how long it would take, according to the theory of probability, for monkeys on typewriters to type the opening paragraph of the novel, "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens. That paragraph is:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was

the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way — in short the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

The mathematics professor made the following assumptions:

1. One billion monkeys at one billion typewriters, randomly striking keys one at a time 100 times per minute, untiringly and incessantly hour after hour, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

2. For simplicity assume 65 possible key strikes only; all letters lower case (26), upper case (26), and 13 additional: space, period, comma, colon, semicolon, quote (same character for both ends), question mark, exclamation, dash, underline, apostrophe, parentheses (2).

THE PROBLEM: With each punch of key having a 1/65 chance of being correct, what is the chance that randomly all 603 characters making up Mr. Dickens' first sentence in proper sequence will come out of one monkey's typewriter?


"How long would it take given the speed postulated?"

Dr. Smith writes:

"The reply I received is


staggering. The mathematical calculation led to the conclusion that, if we assume that the universe had been in existence for 15 billion years, the time required would be 6 followed by 888 zeroes times as long as the universe has been in existence."

The only possible rational conclusion is that evolution, without intelligence, could not possibly have created the present diversity of life.

It is much more reasonable to believe the simple statement of the Bible: "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.:" — Christian News 

WNR...

(Continued from page 13)

tions and they are not subject to paying U.S. income tax. The island, located 1,032 miles from the mainland is 100 miles long, 35 miles wide, with a mountainous center. Most of the people there have a Catholic background. I have been to Puerto Rico several times and we have organized two churches, one in Bayamon (San Juan area) and the other in Arroyo on the southern side of the island. Both of these churches contribute to the support of **The Baptist Challenge**, and the church in Bayamon under the leadership of Bro. Fernando Caballero have translated many of our books from English into the Spanish language. Please continue to pray for these churches as well as the seminary and work in Mexico. 

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The Birthmark Of Apostasy

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affections, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those who are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 3:1-7).

The Holy Spirit here by the apostle Paul most clearly and characteristically describes our day. Apostasy is on. Spiritual blindness rules in high places and in low places. Mighty men are in the grip of the downgrade tendencies of this hour. Being so, they are blind. They clearly show that they are, "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Being blind, they refuse to understand. They heap opprobrium upon the heads of all who differ with them. Apostasy grips their hearts.

Now, because of the apostasy of this hour, shame upon shame is heaped upon the church of the living God. The Founder, Christ, is pushed aside. The Holy Spirit, the Guide, is ignored, and the laws of the church are trampled beneath the feet of those who are "lovers of their

(See **APOSTASY** on page 19)

America's Holocaust (Abortion) Continues Unabated

By Roy McLaughlin

Don't Touch Those Bald Eagle Eggs

Just when you think you have heard everything, something even more shocking comes along. As you already know, the Supreme Court has made it legal to kill babies. You may also know the courts have decided, in personal injury and criminal cases, damage to unborn babies is not considered damage to a person. The unborn baby is not considered a person, so the mother cannot sue for damages. Yet bald eagle eggs are protected by federal law. What a contrast!

Now comes this story from an Illinois newspaper: "Conservative law enforcement officials arrested a man for illegally killing a deer out of season and for killing two fetuses within the slain animal's womb. The defendant pleaded guilty before the judge and was fined \$125 for each deer fetus and \$250 for the doe. Another man pleaded guilty as an accessory and was fined \$210."

The newspaper says the arresting officer researched the arrest and found that prior to this case no one had ever filed charges in Illinois for taking the life of an unborn fawn. Need I draw any conclusions? Are they not abundantly clear?

Judges would allow a little baby who was given the name "Infant Doe" to starve to death because the parents thought their baby was a defective piece of merchandise. Since they couldn't return the

child to the manufacturer, they would just let the warranty expire by simply letting it die!

Judges are supposed to uphold the law (which comes from God). Judges, who are supposed to protect the weak from the strong, care more for the deer fetuses than they do for human babies.

It more than boggles the mind. What kind of country have we become when we tolerate and even promote abortion and infanticide on demand and yet protect the bald eagle and its eggs and the unborn deer? Does "Bambi" deserve more protection than "Little Johnny" or "Baby Susie"? Maybe the problem is that we've seen a movie about Bambi, but the pro-choicers are afraid for Americans to see a movie on abortion on television, so they censor it from any public prime-time viewing.

When is this form of insanity in our society going to be stopped? The answer to that, my friend, is: when the redeemed of God get angry enough to stop it.

Christians Must Speak Up

One preacher hit it on the head when he said, "Christians need to learn what is going on. Christians need to get angry over immorality." It is high time for Christians to stand up, speak up and refuse to shut up until Jesus takes them up! "*Let the redeemed of the Lord say so*" (Psm. 107:2).

Four thousand three hundred little children will be murdered today while we are alive

and breathing because we have freedom of choice! They will be killed without any type of trial and without any counsel to stand by their sides. They will be executed in a cruel and inhumane way.

Who are the conspirators in today's cold-blooded murders? The Supreme Court for one. Also, the government's social planners (meaning Planned Parenthood), many medical doctors (who are supposed to preserve life), and the owners of the greedy, godless abortion clinics (which is a multi-million dollar business). They will be joined by willing mothers and willing fathers. Those are the conspirators in this crime. They will give an account of it someday, and so will we if we remain sinfully silent.

Over one and one-half million babies will be slaughtered this year in America. Pharaoh, who killed the babies in Moses' day, and Herod, who killed the babies in Jesus' day, will have to take a back seat to the modern-day butchers of our society. Even Adolph Hitler did not slaughter as many innocents as are revealed by our shameful, sinful track record in the United States.

Only Three Requirements For Murder

On January 22, 1973, nine men robed in black issued a decree that will live forever in infamy. Because of those nine men, it became legal to kill an unborn baby. There are only three requirements:

1. That the baby still lives

within the mothers.

2. That the mother wants the baby killed, and

3. That a doctor is willing to do the killing.

We have been bombarded, besieged, attacked, and are misguided when it comes to this issue of abortion.

There are people who tell you, "Oh, just in the first trimester or in the second trimester or maybe in the early part of the third trimester." But, dear friend, the truth is, you can kill the baby, according to the Supreme Court, even while a mother is in labor.

The Catch Phrase

The Supreme Court, on January 22, 1973, in the Roe vs. Wade case, ruled the following on abortion:

A state is forbidden to proscribe [that is to forbid] abortion any time to birth if in the opinion of one licensed physician an abortion is necessary to preserve the life [and here's the catch phrase] or health of a mother.

Most of the people I know would not argue about preserving the life of the mother — that's not a problem at all — but what do they mean when they talk about "preserving the health" of a mother? That is a very wide term.

Let me tell you exactly what the Supreme Court said in its own definition (not what some screaming fundamental-

(See **ABORTION** on page 16)

ABORTION...

(Continued from page 15)

ist came up with):

The medical judgment may be exercised in the light of all factors [What medical judgment? The medical judgment to kill a baby! Now listen to these]: physical, emotional, psychological, familial [that means family] and the woman's age relevant to the well-being of the patient. All those factors may relate to the health of that mother. Therefore it includes any kind of situation that forces upon the woman a distressful life and future.

That means when the idea of having the baby becomes distressful for the woman, you can kill the baby. If having the baby will produce psychological harm to the woman, you can kill the baby. If live delivery will bring distress associated with an unwanted child, you may kill the baby!

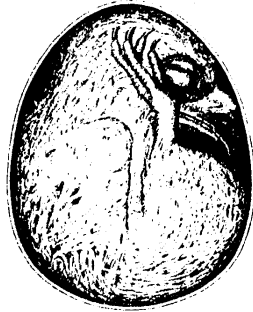
What Can A Baby Do?

I have a preacher friend who testified before the Senate committee on the Hatch Amendment back in 1982. He was pro-life and anti-abortion, just like any preacher is who has any honesty within his soul. (God help those preachers who are coming out on the wrong side of the abortion issue. They can call it free choice or pro-choice or whatever they want to, but it's pro-murder.)

After this preacher spoke against abortion and was on his way out of the room, a young woman came up to him in the hallway, livid with anger. She said, "Preacher, I'll have you to know I'm a Baptist deacon." His "spiritual antenna" went up immediately. The woman who claimed to be a Baptist deacon went on to

WHICH IS MORE VALUABLE?

(Please check box)



AN UNBORN EAGLE AN UNBORN CHILD

If you chose the unborn child, sorry, you're wrong . . . at least according to the laws in this country. You see, the penalty for taking or destroying an eagle's egg is \$5,000 and a year in jail, but the penalty for taking an unborn child's life is nothing. In fact, people get paid a lot of money for doing it.

Does something seem wrong to you? It is. Let's take our children off the endangered list.

say, "You just don't understand the trauma an unwanted pregnancy brings on a woman."

Then that preacher turned to her and simply said, "Now let me tell you something, little lady; you're bringing a trauma to me right now. Suppose you're making my life uncomfortable, and suppose I were to decide to take you by the neck and strangle you?" Needless to say, he had her attention! Then he said, "At least you can run, scream and seek help; but what can a little baby do?"

Anytime a woman says, "I don't want my baby," and a doctor is willing to put the baby to death, that baby is sentenced to die by abortion.

That innocent baby deserves the right to life!

**To Be or Not to Be —
That Is the Question**

There are some things we would be wise to consider when it comes to an unborn baby. First of all, an unborn baby is a human life and a person. When the two elements of life (the seed of the man and the egg of the woman) merge together, then human life, which reflects the design of Almighty God, begins to grow within the mother.

There are those who will try to deceive us and say it is not "human life." If it is not human life, what kind of life is it? Vegetable life? Animal life? No! It is the product of two human elements of life that God has designed to bring about birth.

Furthermore, that little baby is not even a part of the mother. It is "in the mother," but it has a life of its own. It is not the life of the mother — it is the life within the mother. It is new life that is totally different from its mother and will often have a different blood type. It is new life, a gift from God.

"For thou hast possessed my

reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psm. 139:13, 14).

David said that when he was in his mother's womb, he was the object of God's love, care, concern and grace. David was willing to say, "God, You have been good to me. You've formed me and shaped me. Even while I was in my mother's womb, You took care of me."

Is An Unborn Baby A Living Soul?

There are those who may wish to distinguish between prenatal and postnatal life. They wish to claim that a baby is not a living, breathing soul before physical birth. But the Bible doesn't make any such distinction.

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jer. 1:5).

God said to Jeremiah, "Before you ever saw the light of day, while you were yet in your mother's womb, I ordained you and sanctified you to be a prophet." Yes Jeremiah was a person while he was in his mother's womb.

God wouldn't sanctify someone to be part of a nation or a prophet to a nation unless he was a person whom God had chosen, ordained and sanctified to be set aside to bring honor and glory to the name of God.

Consider John the Baptist. He was in his mother's womb when Elisabeth and Mary met. You remember the story found in Luke 1, don't

(See **ABORTION** on page 17)

ABORTION...

(Continued from page 16)

you? Mary was carrying the Lord Jesus Christ, the child of God the Father, and Elisabeth was carrying that long-awaited son, John the Baptist.

“And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost” (Lk. 1:41).

The baby in Elisabeth’s womb — John the Baptist, who, the Bible says, was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother’s womb — leaped with joy because he was in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

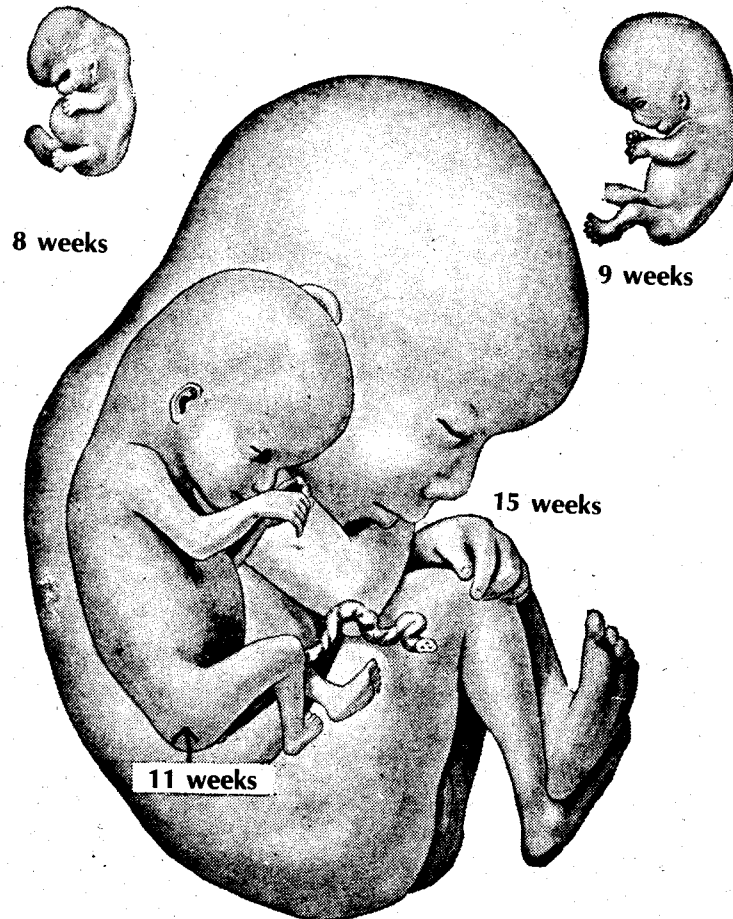
What I’m trying to show you is that a child is a human being, a human life. There is no distinction in the Word of God between prenatal and postnatal. God just says it is a living being.

Incidentally, the word *babe* comes from the Greek word *brethos*, and the Greek word translated *babe* in our English version is, according to Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, “an unborn child, embryo, fetus, a newborn child, an infant, a babe.” In other words, there is no distinction whatsoever.

Many try to say that the fetus is not really intelligent life. It is just a blob of cells. However, the Word of God refers to it as a “babe,” and the same word is used throughout the Scripture to mean both an unborn child and a child that is physically breathing air.

An unborn child is a person, and that unborn child is human life. He is separate and distinct from his mother. His is not the mother’s life; he has a life of his own. He has the God-given ability to live because God has set in motion the two elements of life. God said,

THE HUMAN FETUS — ACTUAL SIZE



From **Developmental Anatomy**, a Textbook of Embryology by Leslie Arey, Ph.D., Sc.D., Ll.D.

“When these two elements come together and I bless their union, there shall come from that union a life. It is human life; and, therefore, it is worthy of dignity.”

Why Is Abortion Wrong?

Abortion is wrong because the Bible says, “Thou shalt not kill” (Ex. 20:13). The liberal says, “You screaming fundamentalists! You say, ‘Thou shalt not kill a baby,’ but you support the death penalty. How can you be pro-life for the baby but favor death for those who commit crimes?” They point out that this is an inconsistency, in their opinion, of the way we

stand on the issues.

The word *kill* in “Thou shalt not kill” literally means murder. When government, which is recognized as an authority by God (government has been established by and for God), decrees that a man has had an honest and fair trial and deserves, because of some criminal act, to be put to death, then God gives government the authority and the sanction to put that man to death. That is the execution of a law of God, carrying out what God has ordained. God has said that punishment must be sure and swift. Those words are not just words we’ve framed ourselves — they are from the Holy Scriptures.

However, when you say a child shall not live, there has been no trial or jury. It is the decision of one person or maybe two. Regardless, they have sentenced that child to die without due process of the law of man or God. It is wrong! *“Thou shalt not kill!” Murder!*

Bernard Nathanson, a medical doctor who was at one time a leader in the pro-abortion movement, wrote the book, **Aborting America**, published by Doubleday. He helped change the laws in more states to permit abortion on demand than anyone else who was active in the movement at that time.

In his medical career, he performed, administered, or witnessed at least 1,500 of these abortions himself. His clinics and his associates were responsible for over 75,000 abortions.

When he realized he was doing that which was a violation before God, Nathanson said, “I quit! I quit!”

In his book he tells about doctors and nurses who had nightmares, psychological problems, went through depression, and many had total personality changes. Why? Because they participated in abortions and put innocent children to death.

Even animals have more sense than to murder their own. Animals have enough sense to protect their own.

Abortion is an abomination. Abortion is a transgression of the law of God that says, “Thou shalt not kill,” and it transgresses the Golden Rule. Because it is against our God-given instincts, it ought to be enough to wake up every Christian. “To be or not to be” — that indeed is the question that 30-plus million aborted babies would love to have answered!

(See **ABORTION** on page 18)

ABORTION...

(Continued from page 17)

The Case For Abortion Is Weak

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. . . . Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful" (Rom. 1:21-23,31).

That phrase, "*without natural affection*," literally means "a lack of natural love and natural kindness," which describes far too many homes in our culture.

What mother and father wouldn't have a natural love for their children? It is the lowest form of human cruelty for a parent to say, "I don't want to let my baby live. Put my child to death." People in these days are so selfish they would rather put a baby to death than to have the inconvenience of having that child. May God help us!

Most so-called pro-choice people want you to believe that abortion is for the poor and the over-burdened, but that is not the truth. These are the facts:

76% of the women who aborted their babies are unmarried, and 53% have no other children. Most of those who aborted their children are over 20, white and of the middle and upper classes of society. Over a third of the women who have had an abortion are having their second or third

abortion.

So it is not because they are sick, poor or unstable — it is simply because they are so self-centered they are "*without natural affection*."

These are some arguments they use to support abortion, along with the answers:

• **Life really doesn't begin** (and this is where the liberal theologian gets his excuse) **until the baby breathes physical air.**

Those who use this argument will use the Bible for an illustration. They say Adam did not become a living person until God breathed into his nostrils "the breath of life." Likewise, they say, when a little baby is born, he is not really alive until he breathes physical air.

However, their analogy fails because Adam had no life whatsoever until God brought him to life. But that baby in the womb of a woman is already a living, breathing soul. That baby is already receiving oxygen from his mother and is already alive. Babies are alive from the moment of conception.

• **What if it is necessary to save a mother's life?** Most of us agree that if the mother's life is in danger, we should do everything possible to preserve the mother's life. However, we must be cautious because there is a "smoke screen."

I quote Dr. Jerome Lajeune, a world renowned specialist in genetics:

I would never attack and kill an unborn child. If a mother's life is in danger, I'll do whatever is necessary to preserve the life of that mother. If in that process the baby dies, that is regrettable, that is lamentable; but I would never attack and kill a little baby.

When a woman who is

pregnant is in danger of losing her life, it has always been the medical process to interrupt the pregnancy and take the baby. However, they do not throw that baby in the trash can. Instead, they take the baby to the nursery and try to save that baby's life as well as the mother's. It has always been the goal to preserve life, first and foremost. Yet today, so often when they talk about "the endangerment of the mother's life," they are really saying, "Why not interrupt that pregnancy and kill the baby?"

Wholesale murder — that is what the "Baby Doe" case is all about. In the "Baby Doe" case, an attempt was made to abort a baby, but the baby didn't die. For six days the baby was left to strangle and starve and just lie there helpless without any medical attention, and the courts of our land were powerless when it came to protecting it.

However, when it comes to the fetus of a deer, the court says you can't kill that deer. That is life! Yet they give no protection to human beings because they hid behind the black robes of the Supreme Court.

• **What about rape and incest?** I simply ask you the question, "Are we going to play God? Are we going to decide who should live and who should die?"

Rape and incest are horrible, terrible crimes committed upon women, but we are not to play God. Incidentally, it is extremely rare that a pregnancy occurs as a result of rape. In a ten-year study conducted by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Hospital, 3,500 cases of rape were reported, yet not one resulted in a pregnancy. Dr. C. Everett Koop, the former Surgeon General of the United States, has said that less than 3% of the

abortions performed can even slightly be linked to rape, incest or endangerment of the mother's life.

• **What about the danger of deformity?** What if a baby is deformed — would he be better off dead?

"Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord?" (Ex. 4:11).

Like it or not, God makes the imperfect. We do not have the right to decide if they should be destroyed.

A professor at UCLA stood before the school of medicine one day and gave this case study:

Here is a family history. The father has syphilis. The mother has TB. They already have four children. The first one was blind, the second one died, the third was born deaf and the fourth had TB. The mother is now pregnant with her fifth pregnancy, and she and her husband have both agreed to an abortion. What should we do?

The vast majority of the students, over 90% of them, raised their hands and said they should abort the child. The professor said, "Congratulations. You just murdered Beethoven."

• **"Well, my body is my body!"** That's the pro-choice argument, and it's true. Your body is your body, but that little body inside of you is not your body.

What if you're a guest in my house and I decide I don't want you? Does that give me the right to eliminate you? Does that woman honestly have the right to eliminate her child? Certainly not! No mother has the right to kill.


What should we, as com-

(See **ABORTION** on page 19)

ABORTION...

(Continued from page 18)

mitted Christians who hope to be the salt in our society, be doing? We need to be informed. We need to pray for and work for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the sanctity of human life. We need to be more compassionate, loving, and forgiving of unwed mothers and those who need our love. We must help start homes all across the nation to care for those who are pregnant and cannot afford to have and raise a child but who have the moral sense and sanity to know they don't want to abort their child.

This has basically been a message about a moral issue, but the ultimate of all moral issues is this — "Who is your Lord? Who is your Master?" Has there ever been a time in your life when you gave your heart to Jesus Christ? If not, would you invite Him into your heart right now? — Baptist Trumpet 

TRIBUTE...

(Continued from page 5)

members of CBC. No pastor could ask for a greater group of Christians to serve. These people have answered the call and, if it were possible, gone over and above the call of duty in service to their Savior. They were quick to fill the gaps and seek unity. We now enjoy unity and peace within the body. Indeed, our Savior can calm the stormy seas. I have not been a perfect pastor, and yet they have overlooked my deficiencies, loved me, and followed my leadership with great intensity and unity.

I stand in tribute to the four deacons of CBC, David Eagle, John Jacobsen, Bob Newsom, and Bob Thomas,

Sr. These are the men called upon by my request to serve with me in facing and recommending the hard decisions. I have never served with four finer Christian men. They took their responsibility soberly, and faced each issue with a faithful resolve to do God's will. I am younger than each of these men, and was a new pastor to them, yet at the difficult times when I needed someone to stand with me they were always there.

I stand in tribute to Bro. & Mrs. M. L. Moser, Jr. Like his father before him, Bro. Moser has served his savior faithfully as pastor of this great Church for many years. He and Mrs. Edith have suffered many things over these past few years, but they have remained faithful. I will never forget the emotion in Bro. Moser's voice as he stood in that first meeting to lay the ministries he has labored in for so many years on the table for the sake of his Savior and CBC. There is no question of his love and commitment to this great church. Over these past two years I could not have asked for a more faithful friend than Bro. Moser. My respect for him has only grown.

I stand in tribute to my wife and children. Carol has served her Savior and CBC with an intense commitment. She has worked long hard hours, and stood under great pressure. She has always been there when I needed her, and may times encouraged me to go on when I felt I could go no farther. Nathan and Betsy have spent a lot of time alone over these past two years. They have stood under the pressure and, in fact, become an influence for the

Should I Keep An Unwise Vow?


By Charles H. Spurgeon

In Jephthah's case there were good reasons for going back. he had made a rash vow, and such things are much better broken than kept.


If a man makes a vow to commit a crime his vow to do so is in itself a sin, and the carrying out of his vow will be doubly sinful. If a man's vowing to do a thing made it necessary and right for him to do it, then the whole moral law might be suspended by the mere act of vowing, for a man might vow to steal, to commit adultery, or to murder, and then say he was right in those acts because he vowed to do them. This is self-evidently absurd, and to admit such a principle would be to destroy all morality.

You have, first of all, no right to promise to do what is wrong;

and secondly, your promise, which is in itself wrong, cannot make a criminal act to be right. If you have come under a rash vow, you must not dare to keep it. You ought to go before God and repent that you have made a vow which involves sin; but as to keeping the sinful vow, that were to add sin to sin.

But would it not be sin to break a vow? There was great sin in making it and there will probably be some measure of sin connected with our breaking it, for few human actions are perfect, but to keep your evil vow would certainly be sin, and you must not commit the greater sin to avoid the less sin which perhaps may be involved in the breach of your foolish promise. 

Savior in their church and school. This husband and father could not be more proud and thankful.


The reality today is that God has mightily blessed CBC. We are now in a new building. The monthly deficit no longer exists, and, as I said earlier, the church is in peace. We have taken on new missionaries, and raised the support of all our missionaries by one third.. In our first service in the new building we baptized three people and ordained two deacons. We are now finishing a foundation from which we will begin again to take the light of Jesus Christ into this community. Just as the devil never expected Job to rise from his assault to face the day, I'm sure he never expected CBC to remain faithful and rise to face the day. But ... God be praised, she is here to face today and tomorrow. 

APOSTASY...

(Continued from page 14)

own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, traitors, heady, high-minded," etc.

Because of the apostasy of this hour, crime after crime is committed against the high heaven. God's instruction, "This is the way, walk ye in it," is taboo. The will of man supplants the will of God. The methods of man supplant the method of God. The pride of man supplants the precious truth of God.

Because of the apostasy of this hour, travesty upon travesty is perpetrated in the name of God. Organization supplants agonization. Compromise supplants courage. Culture supplants the cross. Works supplants grace. Manipulation supplants the ministry and the might of the Holy Spirit. My, my, how tragic is this hour. 


Why Aren't You In The Convention?

If you had asked that question of the church at Jerusalem or the church at Antioch, what answer do you suppose you would have received? Of course, these New Testament churches would not have known of such a thing as a Convention, an Association, or an organized Fellowship. And it is for this simple reason (primarily) that we are not in *any* convention, association, organized fellowship or any other such organization: such is foreign to the Word of God, was unknown and non-existent in Christ's time, therefore unauthorized by Christ and not indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

The only organization that Christ ever started, the only organization that Christ ever commissioned, and the only organization inhabited by the Holy Spirit is the new Testament church. All other organizations — regardless of what they are called, how they operate, or what they do — are manmade, purely of human origin, and without divine approval or authority.

The same arguments that "justify" conventions, associations, organized fellowships and other such organizations, will "justify" Romanism. Neither convention Baptists nor Romanists can logically hold that the New Testament furnishes us with an all-sufficient and complete pattern. To hear Convention Baptists talk about the Convention and its Cooperative Program makes one wonder how God "got along" until recent years in getting His work done. The truth is, He got along just fine and the

present set-up of the organized Baptists is a digression toward Romanism rather than an advance in the right direction.

This reason — that the Conventions, Associations, organized Fellowships, and all such organizations are unscriptural — We only have room for giving one answer in this column, however, it is the greatest reason and is quite sufficient an answer to the query. 

Parable Of The Tobacco Seed

"Then shall the kingdom of Satan be likened unto a grain of tobacco seed, which, though exceedingly small, being cast into the ground, grew, and became a great plant, and spread its leaves, rank and broad, so that huge and vile worms formed a habitation thereon.

"And it came to pass, in the course of time, that the sons of men looked upon it, and thought it beautiful to look upon, and much desired to make their lads big and manly. So they put forth their hands, and did chew thereof. And some it made sick, and others to vomit filthily.

"And it further came to pass that those who chewed it became weak, and unmanly, and said, 'We are enslaved, and cannot cease from chewing it.' And the mouths of all that were enslaved became foul; and they were seized with violent spitting; and they did spit, even at the house of the Lord. And the saints of the Most

High were greatly plagued thereby.

"And in the course of time it came also to pass that others snuffed it, and they were taken suddenly with fits, and they did sneeze with a great and mighty sneeze, insomuch that their eyes were filled with tears, and they did look exceedingly silly.


"And others cunningly wrought the leaves into rolls, and did set fire to the end thereof and did suck vehemently at the other end thereof, and did look grave and calf-like; and the smoke of their torment ascended up like a fog.

"And the cultivation thereof became a great and mighty business upon the earth; and the merchants waxed rich by the commerce thereof.

"And it came to pass that professed saints of the Most High defiled themselves therewith; even the poor who could not buy bread, nor books, nor shoes for their little ones, spent their money for it. And the Lord was greatly displeased therewith, for His Word said, 'Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread?'

"I beseech ye therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service' (Rom. 12:1).

"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your won? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glory God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

"But with one accord they exclaimed, 'We cannot cease from chewing, spitting, snuffing and puffing!' " 

Once A Pentecost, Now A Baptist

By G.E. Nethercutt

BOOK REVIEW: By I. W. Rogers. Here is the author's account of his conversion and experience as a member of the Pentecostal church, and his reasons for leaving them and becoming a Baptist. He discusses the five principal doctrines of the Pentecostal group, giving scores of Scriptures that prove that they are false, and says that these doctrines are what led him to leave the Pentecostal and join a Baptist church. These five Pentecostal doctrines are:

(1) A person is not saved until he speaks in other "tongues";

(2) We must be baptized in Jesus' name only;

(3) The way to receive the Holy Ghost is to praise God;

(4) It is a sin to use medicine or to call a doctor.

(5) God's children may fall away and be finally lost in hell.

One of the great values of this book comes from the fact that the author speaks right out of his own experience. He is well-informed on the teachings of the Bible, and demolishes each one of these doctrines of the Pentecostals with the Word of God.

Since the Pentecostal group is rapidly growing, and quite a number of members of Baptist churches are being swept into it, it is fortunate to have this excellent book to inform ourselves about this sect, and to place it in the hands of those who are being influenced by the Pentecostals, and those who have already been

(See **REVIEW** on page 21)

Why The Preacher Can't Always Smile Imagine You Were Pastor For A Week

It is said that the preacher has a great time.

If he is a young man, he lacks experience, if his hair is gray, he is too old.

If he has six to twelve children, he has too many; if he has none, he is not setting a good example.

If his wife sings in the choir, she is presuming; if she does not, she is not interested in her husband's work.

If he speaks from notes, he is a bore; if extemporaneously, he isn't deep enough.

If he spends much time in his study, he does not mix well with the people; if he is seen about town, he ought to be at home preparing a good sermon.

If he is attentive to the poor, he is playing to the grandstand; if to the wealthy, he is trying to be aristocratic.

If he suggests changes for the improvement of the church, he is a dictator; if he makes no such suggestions, he is a figure head.

If he quotes rather freely, he is a plagiarist; if not, his discourse is dry.

If he makes use of illustrations, he is tedious; if not, his teaching is not clear.

If he condemns wrong, he is cranky; if he condones wrong, he is a sinful compromiser.

If he preaches an hour, he is tiresome; if only twenty minutes, he is lazy.

If he preaches the truth, he is insulting; if he doesn't preach it, he is a hypocrite.

If he fails to please everybody, he is hurting the church; if he tries to please everybody, he is a fool.

What do you say about it? Are you guilty of any of these? Check and see which ones. ☞

You would be the servant of the public on twenty-four hour call. No five o'clock quitting time for you. Often the phone rings with bad news early in the morning and late at night.

Your moods must be as changing as a chameleon. One moment you are standing beside an open grave trying to speak a word of comfort to a sorrowing loved one. An hour later you may be in the joyous festivity of a wedding party.

In the study you must know how to find work and present facts like a scholar. In committee meetings and conferences you must "take" most anything with a smile and be a man of practical affairs. In public affairs and gatherings you must be the representative of your church, and of your flock, with never a slip anywhere for one mistake could often ruin you and your church insofar as reputation is concerned. Twice or more on Sunday, on Wednesday evening, and often other times through the week, you will be expected to speak with force and clarity on fundamental themes that are both practical and spiritual. You must acquire the bedside manner of a doctor. On the street, you must always be a "hail-fellow, well met." That is a pretty big order, isn't it?

Usually the pastor does the best he can with what he has. He makes mistakes and knows it better than anyone else. Furthermore he wouldn't trade places with any other man on the face of the earth. ☞

It Got Up And Went

How do I know my youth is all spent?
My get up and go has got up and went
My joints are stiff and filled with pain.
The pills that I take they give me no gain.
I rub in the ointment like fury, I do.
Each pain when it leaves, comes back with two.

When I was young and my slippers were red,
I could kick up my heels high over my head.
When I grew older and my slippers were blue,
I could still stay up the whole night through.
But now I am old and my slippers are black,
I creep to the store and puff my way back.
Yet, "I really don't mind" I say with a grin
When I think of the places my get up has been.

Old age is golden I have heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
My "ears" on the dresser, my "teeth" in a cup.
My "eyes" on the table until I wake up.
Ere sleep comes each night I say to myself
"Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?"
But in spite of it all I am able to grin
When I think of the places my get up has been.

Since I have retired from life's competition
Each day is filled with complete repetition.
I get up every morning and dust off my wits,
Go pick up the paper and read the "o-bits."
If my name isn't there I know I'm no dead
I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed
The reason I know my youth is all spent—
My get up and go has got up and went.

REVIEW...

(Continued from page 20)

led astray. I am glad of the opportunity to wholeheartedly endorse this book. Order from:

Challenge Press
P. O. Box 25848, Little Rock, AR 72221

\$2.95 plus P & H

COLYAR...

(Continued from page 2)

by the intervention of Heaven, they could not take Him. But, almost immediately, He resisted them not, but voluntarily yielded Himself up to them. Then they laid hands on Him and bound Him. Why could they take Him now? Because His hour, right to the very minute, had come that He should be delivered up according to the Father's will. The hour of His enemies had come. Hence further resistance would have borne Him outside the Father's will.

So it is with the servants of God that fear Him and walk in His will. Mortal, yet deathless till their work is finished, no weapon that is formed against them shall prosper.

We have noticed in previous articles that the work of the prophets of God are one with the word and work of the Prophet Eternal. Now we shall observe that their personal experiences are also one with His. Jesus said to His disciples, "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." So it is, the experience of the prophets of God is like that of their Master's. "It is given in behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake" (Phil. 1:29).

Take for an outstanding example one of the prophets of the Old Testament, Elijah. He was a mighty man of God. His works were wrought in faith. He lived and worked in the perilous times of wicked Ahab, king of Israel. Wickedness was rampant. The prophet prayed that it rain not in Israel, and it rained not for the space of three years and six months (1 Ki. 17; Jas. 5:17). A mighty drought it was; but Elijah was fed by the ravens by the brook Cherith. He was the Lord's charge, for he had spoken in His name. The king

sought the prophet to slay him, but could not find him by diligent search. Then the prophet revealed himself to the king and challenged all his lying prophets to a showdown with the Lord. The Lord heard His prophet, answering by fire, whereupon the prophet slew the 450 prophets of Baal. The prophet prayed again, and the rain came in abundance. Jezebel's threat to kill the man of God scared him nearly death, or till he wished to die at any rate, yet no hand could touch his life to take it. The Lord would see to that. But when it was done the chariot of fire and horses of fire came for him, and "Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

Paul, the mighty apostle and prophet of the New Testament, is another example of what our text says. He was called of the Lord to share the sufferings of Christ as a prophet. The Lord says of him, "he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15). When he turned from the "Jew's religion" and began preaching Christ, whom he had met on the way to Damascus, the Jews of Damascus sought to kill him (Acts 9:22-25). He escaped in a basket over the city wall. They stoned him at Lystra, leaving him for dead. But this weapon meant for destruction did not prosper: he rose up and went on preaching Christ. Lewd fellows sought his life at Thessalonica, but his brethren sent him away by night. Upon his last visit to Jerusalem, Paul was seized in the temple and was borne outside to be killed. But the Lord gave him words in the nick of time which divided his persecutors against themselves. It saved his life. Again he escaped a plot on his life by his appeal to Caesar, before Festus. On the way to Rome he

suffered shipwreck, but was safely delivered. In the prison at Rome he preached Christ to both Jews and Gentiles. These incidents of great danger to his life are but a few which befell him. But no weapon ever forged against him prospered. He triumphed through faith in the ministry of the word of God. When his work was at last finished he said in calm and triumphant spirit: "I am now ready to be offered, and my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:6-7). Then, and only then, could his enemies lay their hands upon him to lead him to his execution. His work was finished.

Looking to the time when the Man of Sin shall rule over his world kingdom, two of the Lord's witnesses will suddenly appear upon the scene in Jerusalem (Rev. 11:1-8). Elijah will doubtless be one of them (Mal. 4:5). They will have great power for 1260 days, or three years and six months. "And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devourth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will" (Rev. 11:5-6). Thus they will have their appointed service. But when it shall have been finished their enemies will prevail over them. "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and shall kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was cruci-

fied. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth" (Rev. 11:7-10). Though dwelling in mortal flesh, these witnesses will be deathless till their work is done.

But the rejoicing of their enemies will be short-lived indeed. Only for three and a half days do they gloat over the death of the Lord's two witnesses. "And after three days and a half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them" (Rev. 11:11-12). They shall sit in judgment over their enemies.

Lord, Send Us Prophets Mighty In Deeds

We are living in a day of great falling away from the faith of Jesus Christ. The world looks for peace. Will peace come? Yes, peace will come with the Prince of Peace at His coming. But unless there be a turning to God upon the part of the nations in sackcloth and ashes of repentance, there will be no enduring peace. A nation of religious reprobates as touching the faith cannot expect anything but peace of strong delusion which the Lord will give in the rise of the Antichrist.

May the Lord send us some mighty prophets, rising

(See **COLYAR** on page 24)

TRUTH...

(Continued from page 1)

texts above suggest that the "all things" that hang together are in the hands of God and under His power, and He may change them at will. Some have even denied that prayers could be answered, or miracles occur, because it would break, they say, the sacred scientific Law of Conservation of Energy.

This brings up the closely related false Uniformitarian doctrine. This is not a doctrine which you might find in the text books of Theology and most theologians would know far more about the Monroe Doctrine than the Uniformitarian Doctrine. It is merely a theory that the men of science have dreamed up for their own benefit. It is false because it fails to take into account the plain teaching of the Word of God. It is being much talked about in our own generation, but it was first promulgated over a century ago by a geologist named Lyle. He tried, by means of this theory, to explain how the surface of the earth got into the shape in which we find it in modern times. He took for granted that the Laws of science never change, and hence, it would have to take countless ages for the river valleys to have been carved out and for the mountains to have been piled up and carved away. Everything was supposed to have proceeded at the same rate as at the present time. There were no cataclysmic epochs of disaster. This would make Genesis in error in its apparent timing and hence it must have been nothing but legend and myth.

From this doctrine, geologists have formulated their timetables of the ages, with some kind of man going back a mere hundred thousand years, the dinosaurs living several million

years ago. Even that date, they say, is recent because the first simple fishes appeared on the globe several billion years before that. Finally they reached the depths of the pre-Cambrian layer, which has no fossils, but there chemical evidences that simple sponges, jellyfishes and amoebae may have been there. needless to say, if these things be true, then the Word of God is false.

Another consequence of the Uniformitarian Doctrine was its influence upon the thinking of Charles Darwin. Darwin was led to build his theory of evolution by natural selection upon the framework of the Uniformitarian Doctrine. He saw that, if there are such long stretches of time available to him, that he could derive one species from another by minute, gradual changes, which were to be explained by natural selection and the survival of the fittest.

1. DISPLAY

Thus we find that the men of many sciences displayed their ignorance of the One who knows all science. It spread from science to science. The astronomers set up their theory of the evolution of the solar system. Such theories deny creation, the Creator and the Word. The Lord knows what happened in His own universe better than the man of science.

According to the Geological timetable, the dinosaurs never lived at the same time that man was upon the earth. Yet I have seen, with my own eyes, the gigantic tracks of two huge dinosaurs in a layer of rock near Fort Worth, Texas. In the same layer of rock there was the track of a gigantic human foot. Remember that there were giants on the earth before the Flood. However, this would

upset the geologist sacred timetable, so they destroyed the human foot print.

Indeed, if we accept the Uniformitarian Doctrine, the following theses must also be accepted:

(1) There could have been no Noachian Flood.

(2) There was no change in the water distribution at the time of the Flood, a canopy theory.

(3) There was no change in human nature with the Fall.

(4) There could have been no influence of the Fall to corrupt all of nature.

(5) There would be no Second Coming of Christ, with its coming changes in the economy of all nature.

(6) There could be no miracles at all, no answered prayer, no Providence.

(7) The Lord Himself is thus denied the privilege of manipulating His own universe.

(8) Since there could be no sudden changes, creation itself is ruled out.

(9) There could be no change in the gradual breakdown of radium, strontium and Carbon 14. Once this is accepted, then these elements may be used to measure the age of things upon earth. But how can we be sure of this?

(10) Finally, there could be no change in the application of the so-called Second Law of Thermodynamics. This law says that everything is changing for the worse, decaying and dying in nature. Has this been true from the beginning and will it continue throughout all the eons of time in the future? Entropy, as this is called, will then bring us finally into the same desert condition as that which prevails on the moon and on Mars.

2. DECAY

The universe is running down. We know that this law of Entropy is true at the present. All is decay, rotting, stinking, corrupting. Everything dies. We are already in a dying condition. We are also in the bondage of corruption and the fear of death. However, we know, from what we have learned from the Word, that this decay first set in, not in Genesis One, but after Genesis Three and because of Adam's sin. We also know that this Law will be changed when our vile bodies shall have been changed and fashioned like unto His own glorious body (Phil. 3:21). This trend to tragic deterioration will be liquidated in a lake of fire.

3. DISMAY

Meanwhile the worldly wise men continue to question: "Is there knowledge in the Most High?" They do not yet know that "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in him (Christ)" (Col. 2:3). He is the source of all the intellectual life. They will be surprised when they learn the Truth, and they will know it within the next hundred years. But some of these men of science have taken up their complacent seat with the scornful.

Sneeringly, they are now scoffing: "Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, *all things* continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." Note that this is a Biblical statement of the Uniformitarian Doctrine and this is one of the outstanding issues of the present moment. Did Peter know

(See **TRUTH** on page 24)


say that they agree with this statement. The problem lies in the fact that each would re-define the statement to fit his own unscriptural doctrine. Jesus warned that the wolf likes to dress in sheep's clothing.

To say that salvation is "made possible" by Christ's death allows for the Catholic doctrine that salvation was purchased by Christ's death and given to the church to distribute to men through the sacraments. Roman Catholicism, with its priestcraft and sacraments, is a blatant denial of the sufficiency and efficacy of Christ's atonement and mediatorship, but there is room for Roman heresies in the Promise Keepers statement. The Roman Catholic Church acknowledges that salvation is "accepting through faith God's gift" — but it denies that salvation is through faith *alone* by grace *alone* as a gift *alone entirely without works!* In fact, the Catholic Council of Trent, which is still in force, placed a curse upon anyone who teaches this.

If the Promise Keepers leaders had simply added the words "salvation is through Christ's *blood* and death *alone* by faith *alone* and grace *alone without works and sacraments,*" much of this confusion could have been avoided and false gospels would be exposed. They do not do this, though, because they desire a broad ecumenical movement and they do not want to be so specific doctrinally that they will exclude large portions of the "Christian" world. Another possibility is that the men who composed the Promise Keepers doctrinal statement are largely ignorant of how to state the Gospel plainly.

A wise pastor said, "We will have either a limited fellowship or a limited message."

Those who preach the whole counsel of God find that their fellowship is extremely limited today. It is impossible to preach the whole counsel of God, like Paul did (Acts 20:27), and have a broad-based Promise Keepers-type fellowship. The Apostle Paul was concerned about the purity of the Gospel, but he was also concerned about the purity of every detail of Bible doctrine.

The Apostles not only preached the true Gospel; they exposed and condemned false gospels. The Apostle Paul said that those who teach false gospels and who mingle faith and works are cursed of God (Gal. 1:7-8). Promise Keepers does not expose and condemn false gospels. In fact, their own doctrinal statement leaves room for all sorts of false gospels. Beware of Promise Keepers. It is extremely dangerous and deceptive. — O Timothy. 


TRUTH...

(Continued from page 23)

when he wrote this passage in 2 Peter 3:4 that this would describe our pre-sent controversy better than at any other time? No, but the Author knows. Notice the word "creation." It suggests that this will be a controversy among those who call themselves Christian, believing in creation but not in a second coming. That is exactly what is happening today. The church is now beginning to reject the pre-millennial doctrine at the same time that they are calling the Genesis development a myth. Note also the refutation of the Uniformitarian Doctrine in the context.

First it says that they are willingly (willfully) ignorant of the Word. The historical fact of the Flood time is then described. Then the Lord's relationship to time is stated, "and a thousand years as a day." The Lord is not limited by time. Rather He created


this Fourth Dimension of time. The reason that the Lord is waiting is shown. He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should be brought to repentance." He is not slack concerning His promise.

Better get wise, men of science. Why spend eternity in Dis-may, with murderers, harlots and them that slay? 

COLYAR...

(Continued from page 22)

up early and sending them, as he did in days of old. He has always done it; He will surely do it again. Washington needs a Daniel now. The churches of Christendom need an Apostle Paul now. We need a multitude of prophets like unto the seven thousand who bowed not the knee to Baal. No weapon formed against them shall prosper. This is the *heritage* of the servants of the Lord. But all too many prophets have turned puppet, having sold this precious heritage for a mess of denominational pottage. They have turned to forging weapons against churches and pastors and prophets and evangelists who dare to do the will of the Lord.

I know some young preachers who are looking this situation squarely in the face. All machine-minded Baptists are against them. But the Lord said, "No weapon formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn." If that can be depended upon, and it and, Baptist machinery is headed for trouble with the God of the prophets. 

PK...

(Continued from page 3)

sider what it says about salvation:

"We believe that man was created in the image of God, but because of sin, was alienated from God. That alienation can be removed only by accepting through faith God's gift of salvation which was made possible by Christ's death."

In today's confused, apostate, last days climate, this type of statement is entirely insufficient. The terms must be defined much more clearly than this. We won't take the statement apart word by word, but consider the last half of it. It says alienation from God is "removed by accepting through faith God's gift of salvation by which was made possible by Christ's death." A Modernist will tell you that he believes this. A Roman Catholic will tell you that he believes this. Many cultists, in fact, will

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