

the Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

ISSN 8756-9612

VOL. XXXVI, No. 2

February 1996

WHOLE NO. 414

A Belief In Divine Sovereignty

By the late Charles H. Stevens

We recognize that the next thing to heresy is undue emphasis upon one doctrine to the neglect or the depreciation of another, and this has been particularly true in the long controversy that has raged between the ultra Calvinists and the Arminians. The Sovereignty of God is most certainly recognized and taught by the writers of the Holy Book. Perhaps in this age when evangelicals are placing so much emphasis upon human effort, the race for numbers, distress over corroding world conditions and feeling that God is so dependent upon mankind to reach a lost world, we need to re-examine the basic doctrine of divine sovereignty, electing grace, predestination and an over-ruling Providence. A solid belief in divine Sovereignty is sure to stabilize one in the following respects.

A Sovereign Book

The battle of this hour among the so-called Christian groups is over the character of the Bible. The predominant question is, is the Bible inspired, is it a revelation or evolution? Is it the Word of God or does it contain the Word or is it a complete, "once

delivered" revelation or the beginning of a process of divine communication that is continuous, ever enlarging and enriching with each generation. There is no single feature of our historic Christianity more vital than a correct estimate of the nature, authority, and inerrancy of the Book. Make no mistake about it, all must ultimately stand or fall upon this one point — is not the Bible the Word of God? To fail here is to fail all along the line. There is no position defensible other than 2 Timothy 3:16. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Divine sovereignty guarantees a divine revelation. God's final and complete Word to man is a transcript of the living incarnate Word, the Son of God.

It was distressing to read in the paper recently the account of the trend of the Presbyterians U.S.A. as divulged in three recent meetings in Columbus, Ohio, where it was proposed to revise the venerable and time-honored Westminster Confession and disclaim belief in the full inspiration of the Bible. It is the trend of the great apos-

tasy that is settling upon us.

A Sovereign God

If there ever was an hour when the world needs a sovereign God it is this hour of world dissolution and approaching spiritual and moral chaos. Nothing short of this will stabilize the heart of man. While the "nations rage and the people imagine a vain thing and the kings of the earth set themselves against the Lord and His anointed saying, let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh." A belief in sovereignty causes us to look up in the dark hour and realize that God has not abdicated or been dethroned. He is most surely and securely seated upon the throne of the universe. Evolutionists may choose to believe otherwise but how great the consolation that possesses the soul of those who have faith in a great, eternal, all-powerful, all-wise, righteous and gracious God. In this hour the world needs such a gospel and such a stabilizing faith.

A Sovereign Savior

Our Christ is all He claims

to be, divine and human; the God-man; the Redeemer; the one Mediator between God and man; "which in his time he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords; who alone hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto" (1 Timothy 6:15-16). In Him we have one who is able to save unto the uttermost. In such a divine Savior there is security that defies the world, the flesh, and the devil. Aside from such faith there is only "hope so," "perhaps," "maybe," and "finally save us in heaven for thy name sake, Amen!" We need to return to the "faith of our fathers." They believed something and they knew what they believed! Man's depraved and hopeless state demands such a Lord and Savior.

A Sovereign Holy Spirit

It seems we are tempted to err here as no where else. We are prone to forget that all our effective labor, all our spiritual results must come from Him, the blessed Holy Spirit. All too often we substitute our own

(See SOVGN on page 23)

The Work of the Prophets -- Message #5**Prophecy In Perpetuity -- III**

By R. Nelson Colyar

"He that heareth you heareth me; and he that rejecteth you rejecteth me; and he that rejecteth me rejected him that sent me" (Lk. 10:16).

"He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward" (Mt. 10:40-41).

It is accepted in our system of jurisprudence that the principal is bound for the acts of his duly authorized agent, particularly when the agent acts within the limits of his authority.

I found that out once in a court of law. But apparently there are many in the world, even in professing

Christendom, who have not yet discovered that the same rule holds good under the spiritual law of the Kingdom of God. It is recorded three times in the Book of Judges, thus: "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Even so now, one would think there is no king in Christendom, known in the Scriptures as the "kingdom of heaven," the way men flout the word of God and do as they please in matters moral and spiritual. Do they not claim, every one for himself, "I have a right to believe what I please?" The Devil has done a swell job of putting this half-truth over as the whole truth. Since men act as they believe, universal acceptance of this half-truth for whole-truth will spread pandemonium over the

whole earth. "A noise (tumult) shall come to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations" (Jer. 25:31). None but a fool can fail to discern the signs of our times. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psm. 9:17).

Too many of the world, even some called Christians, assume that the prophets of God are all dead. If so, divine authority must also have ceased: for the one without the other would leave the world without moral responsibility to the Supreme Authority.

As an example, the Pharaoh of the Exodus was held accountable unto God. Why? The reason is found in Exodus 7:1. "And the Lord said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet. Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh." Moses, in the role as god to Pharaoh, was a mighty prophet of God. "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, in all the sins and wonders, which the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land" (Dt. 34:10-11). So it is: when God's authorized agent, the prophet, speaks the words of God, they are as much words of supreme authority and of power as when God the principal speaks them directly out of His own mouth. The land of Egypt suffered the ten plagues from God at the hand of Moses and Aaron, because Pharaoh rejected the word of God from His prophets.

The continuity of the work of all the prophets is com-

plete, without breach or contradiction, because it is God "who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in times past unto the fathers by (in) the prophets" (Heb. 1:1). Nor was that continuity broken with the passing of the prophets of "olden times." That Prophet "which should come, like unto Moses," did come; and it is in Him that God also "hath in these last days spoken unto us" (Heb. 1:2). None of the prophets of old was by Him denied: their every word concerning Him was confirmed, either by fulfillment in the events of His first coming, or by His own word of prophecy concerning His second coming. All prophecy is therefore self-contained in Him, as He said to the two disappointed disciples on the road to Emmaus: "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself*" (Lk. 24:25-27) Note the all-inclusiveness of this statement — Moses and all the prophets — in all the scriptures.

Prophecy in the New Era

God has spoken to us of the New Era also, by His Son. The Son came and wrought His work, and returned to the Father more than nineteen centuries ago. Yet there has never been a day in all the centuries when the Prophet has not spoken by the mouth of all His prophets. "The word of our God shall stand forever," is the declaration of God by the prophet Isaiah. It

(See COLYAR on page 8)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

(USPS 547-400)

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 Second-class postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas

 Published Monthly Subscription: Free By Request

 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
 The Baptist Challenge, P. O. Box 25848, Little Rock, Arkansas 72221-5848

 Articles carrying the author's byline do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the paper.

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Since **The Baptist Challenge** has no subscription cost, it is being printed as a mission project of the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas. Contributions are appreciated from those who would like to help defray the cost of its publishing. We request that each reader furnish us with a change of address when moving in order to save us the cost of \$.50 charged us by the Post Office. If we receive a Change of Address form from the Post Office, your name will automatically be dropped from our mailing list.

The Divine Purpose of Bible Miracles -- Part 5

Some Further Comparisons And Contrasts

By Louis Entzminger

In reviewing the works of Aimee Semple McPherson, "Divine Healing Sermons," and "What God Hath Wrought in the Life of Raymond T. Richey," by Eloise May Richey, and the Bosworth brothers, and others, it is interesting to notice how the New Testament miracles of Jesus and the apostles are in absolute contrast in method and result.

In Mrs. McPherson's little book, "Divine Healing Sermons," in the chapter on "The Three Parties Concerned in Your Healing," she puts great emphasis on the "important work of preparation," (pg. 46). They are instructed to make the same preparation they would make at Mayo Bros. Clinic for an operation." They must clean up, purge their system, and their hearts must be "clean and pure" before they come and ask the sacred and holy touch of Christ. "How pure, then, they must be, spiritually washed in the blood of Jesus and clad in the white robes of righteousness beneath which heart and life and soul are made pleasing in his sight, before coming for healing."

How much cleaning up did the man at the poor of Bethesda make? He had been lying there 38 years. No prayer. Nothing about faith. No cleaning up. Nothing of the sort.

How much cleaning up did the man at the gate beautiful have? He had been lying there between 30 and 50 years,

daily. There is no such instruction given and no such method followed in any New Testament miracle.

After these preparations are made, she says, "The results of this preparation are self-evident. They are wonderful (pg. 47).

"Are you a real Christian, a follower of the Lamb? Have you been born again? Are you taking up your cross daily, denying yourself and following after Him?" (pg. 47).

No such questions were asked a single man, woman, or child healed in the New Testament!

On page 52, "Those old-time grudges must be gotten rid of." There is no place in Bible healings where any such demands were made upon any healed.

Where in the New Testament was anybody in preparation for healing commanded "to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness?"

We have arranged a list of all the divine healings recorded in the Gospels and the Acts, and we ask the reader to check these references to see what preparation was demanded.

1. The healing of the nobleman's son (Jn. 4:43-54).

2. The healing of the demoniac in the synagogue (Mk. 1:21-29).

3. The healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law (Mt. 8:14-

15; Mk. 1:29-31; Lk. 4:38-39).

4. The healing of many in Capernaum (Mt. 8:16-17; Mk. 1:32-33; Lk. 4:40-41).

5. The cleansing of the leper (Mt. 8:2-4; Mk. 1:40-45; Lk. 5:12-15).

6. The cure of the paralytic (Mt. 9:2-8; Mk. 2:1-12; Lk. 5:18-26).

7. The impotent man at the pool of Bethesda (Jn. 5:1-17).

8. The healing of the withered hand (Mt. 12:9-12; Mk. 3:1-6; Lk. 6:6-11).

9. The healing of the centurion's servant (Mt. 8:5-13; Lk. 7:1-10).

10. The healing of the deaf and dumb (Mk. 7:31-37; Mt. 9:32-33; Mt. 12:22-30).

11. The healing of the Gadarene demoniac (Mt. 8:28-34; Mk. 5:1-20; Lk. 8:26-39).

12. The healing of the woman who touched the garment (Mt. 9:20-22; Mk. 5:25-34; Lk. 8:43-48).

13. The healing of the two blind men (Mt. 9:27-31; Mk. 8:22-26).

14. The Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter (Mt. 15:21-28; Mk. 7:24-30).

15. The healing of the demoniac boy (Mt. 17:14-21; Mk. 9:14-29; Lk. 9:31-42).

16. The ten lepers (Lk. 17:11-19).

17. The giving of sight to the man born blind (Jn. 9:1-7).

18. The healing of the man with dropsy (Lk. 14:1-6).

19. The healing of blind Bartimaeus (Mt. 12:30-34; Mk. 10:46-47; Lk. 22:50-51; Jn. 18:10-11).

20. The healing of the ear of Malchus (Mt. 26:51-56; Mk. 14:46-47; Lk. 22:50-51;

Jn. 18:10-11).

21. The lame man at the Gate Beautiful (Acts 3:1-10).

22. The sick and vexed with unclean spirits in Jerusalem and cities round about (Acts 5:12-16).

23. The ministry of Philip (Acts 8:5-8).

24. Saul's eyesight restored (Acts 9:17-19).

25. The healing of Aeneas (Acts 9:32-35).

26. The impotent man at Lystra healed (Acts 14:8-10).

27. A demon cast out of the damsel in Philippi (Acts 16:16-18).

28. Miracles by Paul (Acts 19:11-12).

29. The viper's bite harmless (Acts 21:1-6).

30. Healing of Publius' father (Acts 28:7-9).

Of how many was faith demanded?

How many were commanded to come to a meeting after fasting and cleansing and purifying themselves?

How many were commanded to pray?

How much preparation did the man at the Pool of Bethesda make?

How much preparation did the blind man make?

How much preparation did the lame man at the Beautiful Gate make? Some did not even know who had healed them until it was all over. *What a mockery this modern "healing" movement is!*

In contrast notice also everyone healed by Jesus and the apostles was *instantaneously* healed!

Notice again on the mat-

(See ENTZ on page 20)

The Value of A Doctrinal Training Union

[The following correspondence was received by the editor from a former member of the Central Baptist Church here in Little Rock who moved to southern Texas. It is at his request that I am including both his letter and his statement in **The Baptist Challenge**. He has since moved his membership to an independent Baptist church, Bethel Baptist Church in Kountze, Texas

where Bro. Charles Empey is pastor.

[His letter and his accompanying statement are evidence of the value of the study of Bible doctrine in a church. Few churches study Bible doctrine any more today. Does yours?]

* * *

Dear Bro. M. L.

It never occurred to me

that anyone, much less myself, would be writing you a letter of this nature in 1995. My intent is to share with others my situation and encourage, and remind others the importance for standing for the truth.

Let me first state, I am neither a minister, nor a Bible college or seminary student. Nonetheless it's my firm belief based on 2 Timothy 2:15 and Galatians 1:8 that each of us are to study

the Scriptures ourselves in order to know what "*thus saith the Lord*," and do not base it solely upon what any man preaches or teaches (Rom. 3:4).

Be on guard, for Satan's schemes have not changed since the beginning. He begins with "*Yea hath God said?*" and will offer you nine truths, and slip in one lie. Subsequently,

(See **DOCTRINE** on page 5)

Baptist Doctrine In One Year

Based on Pendleton's Church Manual

by M. L. Moser, Sr

For Baptists □ By Baptists □ About Baptists □ To Baptists □ To Make Baptists □ To Strengthen Baptists

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✘ **Baptist History Traced** from the time of Christ to this present day.

(See **DTU** on page 6)

R. Nelson Colyar
Mountain View Baptist
Denver, CO

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this book of 52 lessons in Baptist doctrine, church decorum and program to its readers. A whole year's course of studies for church members in training for greater service is a keenly felt need among independent Baptists particularly, and doubtless it would do valuable service to any church that will make consistent use of it ...

The work is also made valuable to all Baptists who care to take the trouble to be faithful in faith and practice to our Baptist heritage according to the New Testament by piquant quotations from recognized Baptist authorities on doctrine, church decorum, church independence and missions. These quotes are

(See **COLYAR** on page 6)

J. Cullis Smith
First Orthodox Baptist
Ardmore, OK

Baptist Doctrine In One Year is the title of a 237 page book, designed for use of Baptist Churches, in B.T.U. and Sunday School work. The book is authored by a man of unquestioned, independent Baptist belief and practice, M. L. Moser, Sr., formerly Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The book is composed of fifty-two lessons in analytical outline form convenient for class studies and participation assignments, and an appendix comprised of the New Hampshire Confession of Faith and the Orthodox Baptist Confession of Faith, with the Scripture references for each statement in them, and a copious amount of historical quotations regarding the history of Baptists. The les-

(See **SMITH** on page 6)

I. W. Rogers
Editor, The Faith and
Southern Baptists

Here are the contents of Pendleton's **Church Manual**, together with the comments of Pastor Moser and articles from other authors, arranged in 52 lessons — one for each Sunday of the year. This is the best book I know of for teaching Baptist doctrines.

In the preface Pastor Moser says: "The plan and the outline suggested in this book has been put to the test for more than fifteen years in the Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark."

The appalling ignorance of the average Baptist of the doctrines of the Bible as believed and taught by Baptists poses one of the greatest needs among us.

The wise use of this book will meet that need as no other book with which I am acquainted. □

DOCTRINE...

(Continued from page 4)

slowly blinding people to the truth. Here is an example of what actually occurred to me in a conservative Southern Baptist Convention church.

A recommendation was brought before the church body to change the by-laws on church membership. At issue was whether to receive other denominations baptism into our fellowship or not. It was my firm conviction that we were dealing with alien immersion and I was opposed to it.

During the first business meeting I read the enclosed paper before the church. Afterwards, the pastor called me at home and objected to what I had read, and in his words, "took great offense at its content" and "believed I didn't stay on the subject." You decide for yourself.

A "town hall" meeting was scheduled after the issue was tabled. Both meetings combined, I read 30 verses of scripture, and had more. They only shared one (Eph. 4:5, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism). I do believe there is only One Lord, One faith, and One true baptism — "Baptist baptism." Unfortunately, the church voted to change the by-law and adopt alien immersion. A total of seven people voted against it.

On Sunday evenings at Central Baptist Church in Little Rock, I recall attending DTU (Doctrinal Training Union). Our study guide was **Baptist Doctrine in One Year**. Now, 35 years later after my first class, those doctrines have not changed (Mt. 24:35) "my words shall never pass away." *Those who spent many hours to study and teach me, be assured your teaching was not in vain. I stood firm on God's Word and resigned my*

membership of that church.

In closing, let me reiterate how important I believe it is for Baptists to be teaching Baptist doctrines. It can not be preached only from the pulpit. Let me challenge you if your church is not presently teaching doctrines, please consider it. Other denominations regularly teach their doctrines to their members. We (Baptists) have been given the truth, and God Himself commanded us to carry this out ("Teach them to observe ..." Mt. 28:20).

Thanks to my early doctrinal training, my decision was not difficult. I stood on the truth of God's word. However, let me ask you, what will your response be to the words: "Yea hath God said?"

Freddie Campbell,
Lumberton, Texas

* * *

(The following is the statement that he read to a group of about 100 people of the church on Wednesday September 27, 1995.)

North End [Baptist Church] has not, nor will she face an issue that will change the course of this church any more than this issue tonight. It's important that each member fully understand what we are about to vote on. I feel many of you do not fully comprehend the implications of changing a by-law that is based and rooted in our Baptist doctrine.

Regardless of what anyone calls it — this change promotes "Alien Immersion." The original North End church members worded the by-laws to conform with God's Word. Therefore since it already conforms to His Word, there is no need to change it.

Jesus Christ in Matthew 18:18-20 gave the Great Com-

mission to the apostles who were the first local New Testament church (1 Cor. 12:28).

The word "commission" by today's definition means: "an authorization or command to act in a prescribed manner or perform prescribed acts."

For there to be true scriptural baptism — four things are required. (1) **The Right Person** — a saved, born again Christian. (2) **The Right Mode** — it can only be by immersion. (3) **The Right Design** — show the righteousness of God (show death, burial and resurrection). (4) **The Right Authority** — only a local New Testament church.

This is what distinguishes Baptists from all other religions in that Jesus Christ Himself gave us (Baptists) the authority to baptize. It was not given to any other group or body (Mt. 28:19).

He then told them to teach these new converts to "*observe all things that I have commanded you*" (Mt. 28:10). The word "observe" by today's definition means: "an act of following a custom or law."

He never gave us the right to change anything. We are commanded to carry it out and observe, nothing more. The early Christians, called "*Anabaptists*" by their enemies which means *Re-baptisers*, took this doctrine extremely seriously and defended it to their deaths. History has recorded that over 50 million Anabaptists died to protect this very doctrine (**The Trail of Blood**). That is why Jesus Christ says in Matthew 28:20 "I will be with you always, even unto the end of the world." He knew many more would die defending the gospel, and because our forefathers did — the Bible and Church are still with us today. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18).

God is a jealous God when it concerns His Word — "He magnifies his word above his name" (Psm. 138:2). Anyone or any group who attempts to change it will experience His wrath. Consider what He told the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:4-5). They left their first love — Christ or the Word (Jn. 1:1), and needed to repent and return to their "first works." Ephesus never did — it was a fallen church.

Ask yourselves — Is North End about to leave her first love? As God did at Ephesus — He will remove the candlestick from this church and it will no longer be an effective church.

"The person that belongs to a church that minimizes and breaks some of the commands of Christ, necessarily lends his influence toward teaching men so. By so doing, they place themselves in the class of those who Christ said should be "called the least" in the kingdom (Mt. 5:19).

The question of your church affiliation is something that you will one day have to give an account for when you stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. It will pay you to do what is right about the matter — irrespective of what it may cost you, and irrespective of what anyone in the world may think about it" (**The Church That Jesus Built**, pg. 133).

This is not just a vote to change some wording in the by-laws. You are voting to change a foundational doctrine of the church and God never gave any of us the right to do that (Ex. 20:25).

Therefore ask yourself, am I prepared to face the outcome of how I vote. Either way, it will have an everlasting affect on your life. "Thus saith the Lord."

I then sat down. □

DTU...

(Continued from page 4)

✘ **Duties of Officers** in a Baptist Church.

✘ **How Baptist Carry out the Great Commission.**

✘ **How Baptist Should Cooperate** in the light of the New Testament.

✘ **Contains The New Hampshire Confession of Faith** with full Scripture references.

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✘ **No Other Book** like this published today.

✘ **Recommended By Many Baptists** from all over the nation.

COLYAR...

(Continued from page 4)

choice bits and should be treasured as a rich heritage by all Baptists.

It provides a means to a coveted end: namely, a more thoroughly indoctrinated and trained church membership to carry on the noble work left to the churches by our Lord Jesus Christ till He comes again. I am happy to commend it to pastors and churches desiring a constructive work. □

SMITH...

(Continued from page 4)

sons are based on Pendleton's **Church Manual**, in general use today among Baptist Churches perhaps more than any other church manual.

I am happy to recommend the use of this excellent study book to Baptist churches everywhere for the B.T.U. classes, Sunday School classes, Bible study groups, ladies Bible study groups, etc. In fact, I thought so much of it as a practical study in Baptist doctrine and practice, we adopted it as a text in our Church Administration class in the Orthodox Baptist Institute. □

Conservative Versus Liberal Christians

Our study herein aims to view in contrast two classes of worshipers in Christendom today; namely, conservative and liberal worshipers.

Conservative Christians let the word say what it says, while liberal Christians make the word say what they want it to say — justifying their attitude in the name of higher learning.

Conservative Christians

(See **LIBERAL** on page 8)

The Reliability of the Book of Exodus

By Stephen Caesar

The December 1995 issue of **The Baptist Challenge** had an article entitled "Fabulous Facts 'n' Figures," which commented on the colossal miracles God performed for the benefit of the Israelites as they wandered through the desert for four decades. These miracles, contrary to liberal theologians and Bible critics of all stripes, are historical facts, not religious myths. Take, for example, the parting of the Red Sea. Two oceanographers, Doron Nof of Florida State University and Nathan Paldor of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, have proven that the parting of the Red Sea to allow the Israelites to pass through, and the subsequent drowning of the pursuing Egyptian army, is entirely possible. The January 1993 issue of **Discover** magazine reported:

The key to their equations lies in the shallow Gulf of Suez, where the Israelites are believed to have crossed. Only 15 miles wide but 217 miles long, the gulf sticks up from the Red Sea like a watery finger and is bounded on each side by towering mountains. These walls of rock funnel wind from the northwest down onto the gulf waters at around ten miles an hour on an average day. But ... if those winds stiffened into a good-size gale of about 45 miles an hour, the force would be powerful enough to push the gulf waters ahead of it, the same way you can temporarily push water to one end of your bathtub before it sloshes back. Since this particular bathtub opens into the Red Sea, however, the water goes right out the far end. If the wind blew steadily for ten hours, Nof and Paldor say, it would clear

enough water from the gulf to drop the water level by eight feet. Nof's equations, and diagrams that can be drawn from them, actually show a near-vertical wall after the water recedes He built a small model with a fan, a tunnel, and a shallow tank of water to demonstrate the effect. It shows that the water piles up on itself as it is blown to one side of the tank. According to the researchers, if the wind were to cease, or even to change direction abruptly, it would take just four minutes for the water to flood back into the area — leaving no time for the pharaoh and his entourage to retreat. (Beth A. Meehan, "Exodus by Numbers," **Discover**, Jan. 1993, p. 62.)

After the miracle of the Red Sea, the Bible says the Hebrews were miraculously fed in the desert with enormous numbers of quails that could be caught by hand. Once again, this has been proven to be true. Werner Keller, in his book **The Bible as History**, writes:

The Exodus of the Israelites began in the spring, the time of the great bird migrations. From Africa, which in summer becomes unbearably hot and dry, the birds have from time immemorial migrated to Europe along two routes. One route goes via the west coast of Africa to Spain, the other via the Eastern Mediterranean to the Balkans. In the early months of the year, quails, together with other birds, fly across the Red Sea, which they must cross on the eastern route. Exhausted by their long flight, they alight on its flat shores to gather fresh strength for the next stage of their journey over the

(See **EXODUS** on page 7)

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EXODUS...

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high mountains to the Mediterranean. Josephus (*Antiquities*, III, I, 5) describes an experience of this kind, and even today the Bedouins of this area catch the exhausted quails in spring and autumn *by hand*. (Werner Keller, *The Bible as History*, 2nd Revised Ed., translated by William Neil, William Morrow & Co., New York, p. 128.)

Alongside the miracle of the quail was the miracle of the manna. Again, this Biblical story is not mythology but true history. Keller writes:

[A]nyone who is interested in manna will find it on the list of exports from the Sinai peninsula. Further, its supplier is registered in every botanical index of the Middle East, it is the *Tamarix Mannifera*, Ehr.... "In every valley throughout the whole region of Mt. Sinai there can still be found Bread of Heaven, which the monks and the Arabs gather, preserve and sell to pilgrims and strangers who pass that way." These words were written in 1483 by Breitenbach, Dean of Mainz, in an account of his pilgrimage to Sinai. "This same Bread of Heaven," he continues, "falls about daybreak like dew or hoarfrost and hangs in beads on grass, stones, and twigs. It is sweet like honey and sticks to the teeth." (*Ibid.*, pp. 128-129).

In 1823 the German botanist G. Ehrenberg published a paper entitled "*Symbolae Physicae*" which asserted that manna was a secretion exuded by tamarisk trees and bushes when pierced by a species of plant-louse native to the Sinai area. A century later, two botanists from Hebrew University, Friedrich Simon Bodenheimer and Oskar Theodor, set out for the area of Mt. Sinai to prove or disprove Ehrenberg's claim:

For several months the two

scientists investigated the dry water-courses and oases in the whole area of Mt. Sinai. ... They not only brought back the first photographs of manna [which can be seen in Werner's book] and fully confirmed the findings of Breitenbach and Ehrenberg, but also established the factual truth of the Biblical description of the desert migration of the people of Israel. Without the plant-louse mentioned first by Ehrenberg there would in fact be no manna at all. These little insects live primarily off tamarisks which are a type of tree indigenous to Sinai. They exude a peculiar resinous secretion, which according to Bodenheimer is about the same shape and size as a coriander seed. When it falls to the ground it is white in colour, but after lying for some time it becomes yellowish-brown. Naturally the two scientists did not fail to taste the manna. Bodenheimer's verdict was: "The taste of these crystallised grains of manna is peculiarly sweet. It is most of all like honey when it has been left for a long time to solidify." "And it was like coriander seed, white: and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey", says the Bible (Ex. 16:31). The findings of the expedition likewise confirmed the other features of the Biblical description of manna. "And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted" (Ex. 16:21). Exactly in the same way today the Bedouins of the Sinai peninsula hasten to gather up their "Mannes-Sama", the "Manna from Heaven", as early as possible in the morning, for the ants are keen competitors. "They begin gathering when the ground temperature reaches 21 degrees centigrade," says the report of the expedition, "which is about 8:30 AM. Until then the insects are inert." (*Ibid.*, pp. 129-130).

Another one of the great Exodus miracles which God performed was to produce water from a rock. Once again, this is not fable but pure fact. Again we turn to Keller's excellent

book:

Major C. S. Jarvis, who was British Governor of Sinai in the thirties, has seen it happen himself. "Moses striking the rock at Rephidim and the water gushing out sounds like a genuine miracle [which is exactly what it is], but the writer has actually seen this happen. Several men of the Sinai Camel Corps had halted in a dry wadi and were in process of digging about in the rough sand that had accumulated at the foot of a rock-face. They were trying to get at the water that was trickling slowly out of the limestone rock. ... [The top-ranking sergeant] took the spade of one of the men and began digging furiously. ... One of his violent blows hit the rock by mistake. The smooth hard crust which always forms on weathered limestone split open and fell away. The soft stone underneath was thereby exposed and out of its apertures shot a powerful stream of water. The Sudanese ... overwhelmed their sergeant with cries of: "Look at him! The prophet Moses!" This is a very illuminating explanation of what happened when Moses struck the rock at Rephidim." (*Ibid.*, p. 136).

Thus, another Exodus "myth" turns out to be a reliable, historical fact. In other words, those who say that the events in the Book of Exodus, particularly the miracles, are fiction are clearly being dishonest. Pay no heed to such people. Instead, place your trust in Holy Scripture, for it was inspired by God, who cannot lie. Choose this day whom you will follow — the deceivers of this world, or God Almighty and His infallible Word!

(Stephen Caesar is head of Bible Proof Ministries and author of "Many Infallible Proofs — A Defense of the Holy Bible as the Infallible Word of God", from which this article is excerpted. For more information call 1-800-PROOFS-9, or write to Box 8014, Nashua, NH 03060.) □

The Failure of Man's Boasted Wisdom

[The following article was published October 27, 1938 in *The Illuminator*. Changing the name of Czechoslovakia to "Yugoslavia" or "Bosnia-Hezegovina", it could have been written yesterday.]

For ages man has boasted of his wisdom. Being too selfish and too lazy to survey the work of his own hands, he has failed, and now fails, to see the dire wreckage and unholy fruitage of his wisdom.

The sages of antiquity built up a mighty civilization in Egypt, but today the somber and the silent pyramids give mighty testimony to wisdom's failure. The wisdom of ancient Egyptians failed to build an enduring civilization.

The sages of antiquity built up a mighty civil and political commonwealth in Mesopotamia, but today desolate and drifting sand dunes blanket buried cities anew and tell us more of wisdom's failure. The mental guidance of that day failed to build an enduring civilization.

The sages of antiquity built up a mighty civil and social order in Syria and Palestine, but today the spade alone reveals the hidden culture and grandeur of the once mighty people of those countries. Thus again we witness wisdom's failure to build an enduring civilization.

And the political sages of Continental Europe commit the world to a suicide policy in the present dismemberment of the Czechoslovakian Republic. Though this republic was carved out by arbitrary forces to serve as a buffer state against German eastward expansion,

(See **BOSNIA** on page 8)

Does Water Wash Away Our Sins?

By Roy Mason

The devil doesn't care how religious people are, just so they trust in something or someone other than Jesus for salvation. He uses all sorts of schemes and devices in order to get people to trust something else, at least in part, for salvation. But it is fatal to plus Jesus with anything. Just as well trust something else wholly for salvation as to trust something else a little bit for salvation.

Among all the things with which Satan tries to plus Christ, there is nothing more deadly than *baptism*. Just as well depend upon a stone god to bring about remission of sins, as baptism. A water god is as absurd as a stone god.

The Catholic Church started the doctrine of baptismal salvation, under the prompting of Satan. Since baptism was held to have saving power, it wouldn't do to let an infant run the risk of going unbaptized, so they started the practice of sprinkling infants. Protestantism (and Baptists are *not* Protestants), brought infant baptism over from their mother church — the Church of Rome.

While various groups — like the Mormons for instance, hold to the necessity of being baptized for salvation, the so-called "Church of Christ" people are the most vigorous in teaching that baptism is necessary for salvation.

How They Seek To Justify Baptismal Regeneration

The following Scriptures are their stand by:

1. Acts 2:38. A.T. Robert-

son, world renowned Greek scholar says that the expression "for the" can with propriety be translated, "because of" and he cites numerous instances where the expression is so translated, and where any other translations would not make good sense. However, the best proof that Peter did not mean to teach that one is saved wholly or in part by baptism, is his own specific statement in Acts 10:43, "Whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." No mention whatsoever of baptism. If Peter didn't mean that remission of sin comes through faith in Jesus, then he contradicts himself.

2. 1 Peter 3:21. They quote the part that says, "baptism doth also now save us," and leave out the expression "in like figure whereunto." "Figure" signifies that baptism has an illustrative purpose here. As a matter of fact water did not save Noah (and the flood is being spoken of here). It was water that drowned and killed. It was the ark that saved, and the ark was a type of Christ. That is what we mean when we speak of people being "in the Ark of safety."

3. Mark 16:16. It is stated that "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," but what is it that damns or condemns? The answer given is, "but he that *believeth not*." That makes plain that condemnation is for unbelief — not for failure to be baptized. Incidentally, the Church of Christ people who harp so on the 16th verse, pay no attention to the 17th and 18th verses, but condemn the Holiness people for their insistence on these verses.

What Is Against Baptismal Regeneration?

1. The types of the Old Testament. The Passover for instance. The blood of the Lamb was sufficient to save from death, without anything being added. "When I see the *blood* I will pass over you."

2. The plan of salvation itself. God's plan is to save by grace, through faith alone. That is what is taught in Ephesians 2:8-10. The "not of works" rules out any human activity or merit — any work of any kind. Despite attempts to deny it, baptism is a form of human effort — it is *works*.

3. Specific examples of salvation apart from baptism. Note some samples of these: (1) "Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace." Jesus said this to the sinful women. No mention of baptism. He saved this woman without even suggesting baptism. (2) The Penitent thief. Baptismal regenerationists have duck fits in an effort to squirm out of this, but there is no honest squirming out possible. The thief was saved and was promised that he was going that day where Jesus went. He wasn't saved under the Law — he was saved by grace through faith exactly as all others who are saved at all. (3) Cornelius and others (Acts 10:44-48). The Holy Spirit came on those people following their exercise of faith, and before baptism. Manifestly they were baptized because it was plain that they had been saved — not in order to help save them. □

BOSNIA...

(Continued from page 7)

today we witness it crumble, and in its crumbling we witness a full condemnation of the wisdom of the men who arbitrarily fixed boundary lines of Europe along economic lines. An international outlaw cannot be appeased except by getting what he wants.

While the world breathes a sense of freedom from impending war at this moment, that sense of freedom cannot long obtain when it comes at such a calumny as we witness imposed upon Czechoslovakia. A look at the achievements of earthly wisdom and then the consequent failure convinces us that the wisdom of man is a false stay. We are convinced that God is man's only security. Then let the sons of men put God first. □

LIBERAL...

(Continued from page 6)

support their opinions by the authority of the Word, while liberal Christians often support their commitments by human authorities.

Conservative Christians preach Christ and Him crucified as the only way of salvation, while liberal Christians preach Christ as an example, the way of salvation.

Conservative Christians are sticklers for the whole Bible, while liberal Christians are content with the New Testament.

The first holds the Bible to be a divine book, and salvation divinely wrought, while the second holds the Bible to be largely a human book and salvation largely human wrought. □

COLYAR...

(Continued from page 2)

is therefore changeless, constant, and eternal. Though the gift of prophecy is cast into earthen vessels, which come and go with time it is perpetual, dying never, belonging to God, and bestowed upon whom and at such times as He will.

During His personal ministry, Jesus was confronted in

(See COLYAR on page 9)

COLYAR...

(Continued from page 8)

opposition by the sons of them who killed the prophets. "Fill ye up the measure of your fathers," He challenged, "Wherefore, behold I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them ye shall scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city" (Mt. 23:34). The old era went out with the blood of the prophets in its hands. In setting up a new house of witness after Israel, God "set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers," etc. (1 Cor. 12:28). These apostles and prophets were persecuted unto death, as Jesus had predicted of them. "Now ... Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also" (Acts 12:1-3). Peter escaped his hand. But His Master had said of him: "... when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not. This spoke he, signifying by what death he should glorify God" (Jn. 21:18-19), i.e., a martyr's death. And tradition has it that not Peter only but all the apostles suffered martyrdom.

The prophets of the New Testament Era were borne along by the same Holy Spirit as their predecessors in the prophetic office. John the apostle, Peter, Jude, James, and Paul are outstanding among New Testament prophets. Their work was done in the First Century A.D. But their work in the Lord lives on. Others after them took up the word of God and have preached it in the wisdom and in the power of the Holy Spirit through all succeeding centuries. Their names are legion.

Though their names are not found upon the pages of Holy Writ, they lived and wrought as prophets of the living God nevertheless. Only heaven can reveal and only eternity can measure the might of their deeds of faith. By their word, which is God's word, kings and princes, priests and prophets, popes and people, great and small, high and low, all in fact, are bound. The prophets of "olden" times stand in the faith, blessed indeed, but not alone. For God ordained that "they without us should not be made perfect" (complete) (Heb. 11:40). Why? Because their work and the work of the prophets of the New Era are of one piece. Prophets live, and die; but prophecy lives on. Adam at the East of the garden of Eden and John on Patmos stand on common ground, though they lived more than four millenniums apart. They are one in Christ, and their message is one. Paul in the Roman prison and Bunyan in the Bedford jail are one in spirit, in faith, and in the word of prophecy. John Huss in the flames at Constance, lighted by the fagots of Romanism, and the flaming Charles Spurgeon in the London pulpit, under fire of Baptist ecclesiasticism, had much in common, namely: the word of the Lord which they loved more than their lives. There must have been something in common between Polycarp, the disciple of John the Apostle, who, before he was burned to death (A.D. 155), exclaimed: "Six and eighty years have I served Him, and He has done me nothing but good; and how could I curse Him, my Lord and my Savior" and John Waller, Lewis Craig, James Childs, and others, who were put in jail by the Establishment at Spotsylvania, Virginia, 1768, of whom it was said:

"May it please your worships, these men are great disturbers of the peace; they cannot meet a man upon the road, but they must ram a text of Scripture down his throat," though separated by more than sixteen centuries.

The word of the Prophet cannot be broken. He said to the Twelve: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought of how or what ye shall speak, for it shall be given you in that hour what ye shall speak. *For it is not ye that speak, but the spirit of your Father which speaketh in you*" (Mt. 10:16-20). Thus it must be understood that when the prophets of "olden times" and the prophets of the New Era speak, it is not they who speak, but the Prophet of all times speaking through them the word eternal, in which there is no inconsistency, contradiction, error, impurity, shortcoming, and shadow of turning at all.

The Spirit Speaketh Yet

The Spirit of God the Father has never ceased to speak the words of prophecy. He has never ceased to energize His servants to the work of their high office. Till this good hour, He speaks on. "The word of our God shall stand forever," "the scripture cannot be broken;" and "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." From Adam till Moses, from Moses till Isaac, from Isaac till Christ; and from Pentecost till His unveiling, when He comes upon

the glory cloud, and every eye shall see Him, the word of prophecy will continue unbroken, contiguous, constant, eternal, the voice of Heaven speaking to earth and the earth answering to Heaven again. They who speak the truth by the Holy Spirit now, proclaiming the gospel of Christ in its purity, condemning sin by the word of God, and telling forth all that is in the Scriptures foretold, are as much prophets of the living God as they whose names are engraved upon the pages of Holy Writ and upon the pages of illustrious history of the martyrs. God will bless their word and continue their work till His will is done in earth as it is in Heaven. For as surely as God sits upon His throne of righteousness the word of His prophets cannot fail.

Nations must give answer to the word of prophecy. Kings and princes, priests and prophets, popes and prelates, and all people, great and small, must one day be reckoned according to the word of the prophets. "And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments" (Rev. 16:4-7).

The work of the prophets is to speak all these things to all men of all ages. It is on the part of wisdom that man hear and heed the word of the prophets of the living God *now*. For "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." □

FELLOWSHIPS AND CONFERENCES

LAWTON, OK

February 13-15, 1996,
Bethel Baptist Church, 1902
NW Columbia, Lawton, OK
73507, Forrest L. Keener,
Pastor

* * *

RIO RANCHO, NM (Albuquerque Area)

February 26-28, 1996,
Mesa Baptist Temple, 1411
Golf Course Rd., Rio Rancho,
NM 87124, Jeff Carr, Pastor.

* * *

DALLAS, TX

February 26-28, 1996, Trin-
ity Temple Baptist Church, 3902
Blue Ridge Blvd, Dallas, TX
75233, Glenn Dotson, Interim
Pastor.

* * *

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

March 7-8, 1996, Missions
Colloquium, Bodine Baptist
Church, 3501 SE 59th St.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73135,
Dr. Joe C. Hocking, Pastor.

* * *

LUBBOCK, TX

March 11-13, 1996, Taber-
nacle Baptist Church, 1911
34th St., Lubbock, TX 79411,
E. L. Bynum, Pastor.

* * *

PINCKNEYVILLE, IL

March 12-14, 1996, Holt's
Prairie Baptist Church, Rt. 4,
Box 163, Pinckneyville, IL
62274, Mark Cox, Pastor

LUDLOW, KY

March 25-28, 1996,
Bethlehem Baptist Temple,
316 Adela Ave., Ludlow, KY
41016, Bill Miller, Pastor

* * *

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

* * *

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, Pas-
tors School, Lake Worth
Baptist Church, 4445
Hodgkins Rd., Ft. Worth,
TX 76135, Jerry D. Locke,
Pastor

The Gap Theory

By Edward Overbey

Some Bible scholars believe that there is a great gap of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. This gap is thought to be millions of years in duration and to separate a first creation from a second creation. This theory claims that the first creation of the heavens and the earth was perfect. After some time Satan and some other angels rebelled against God for which reason God judged that world and it became without form and void and then God after perhaps millions of years re-created the world. It is this re-creation that Genesis 1:2—2:3 relates. This theory is thought to be implied in Genesis 1 and in other parts of the Bible. For those who hold to this theory, the date of creation was perhaps millions of years ago, at least it is much further back than approximately 4,000 B.C.

We must reject this theory. The normal interpretation of the passage will not permit such a theory. We should always take the normal interpretation unless it contradicts something in the passage or other parts of the Scripture. In the first chapter of Genesis, God divides His work of creation into six days. He tells us what He did on each day. Verses 1-5 tell of the first day's work. The beginning of that day is stated in verse one and the end of that same day in verse 5. The time unit is mentioned in verse 5, a day. Since that is the only time unit mentioned in verses 1-5, then "the beginning" mentioned in verse one must refer to the beginning of that time unit. In other words, God, at the beginning of the first day of time (a 24-hour day), created out of nothing all of the

material that compose the heaven and the earth (the universe). Later in the same day God made light. The day began with darkness (called evening) and then ended with light (called morning). These two divisions of time made up the first day. The second day began with darkness just as the first did and ended with light (vs. 6-8). This was the way of each day. The normal meaning of the word day is a 24-hour period. The words "the evening and the morning" also normally refer to such a day; in fact it always refers to such a day in every place we have ever seen the terms used.

Now if the words "the beginning" refer to a period of time millions of years in duration (as some would have us believe), that unit of time is nowhere mentioned in these verses or in any other place in the Bible. One would think God would mention this unit of time if there were such since He was careful about mentioning each of the seven days. Certainly if He would mention so carefully such a short period as seven days we could expect Him not to forget several million years.

As one looks at the seven days mentioned in chapter 1 and the early verses of chapter 2, we see an orderly presentation of what happened from the beginning to the end of the first seven days of time. If there are any gaps in that period, we are not told about them. The gaps come from the theories of men. Notice how the "gap theory" would break the structure of the passage.

According to that theory the first verse and a half of Genesis 1 tell of the beginning of a period millions of years in length but we are not told of its end or of the unit of time

(See **GAP** on page 19)

IBC Thanksgiving Offering

The church that I pastor is a regular participant in the annual Thanksgiving offering to Independent Baptist College. The college sets the goal amount and trusts that participants will follow the Holy Spirit's leading to meet the goal. We have been richly blessed and count it a distinct privilege to be a participant in such a worthwhile mission project. We have yet to establish a church goal for the offering. We choose to receive offerings as the Spirit leads, accumulate them and endeavor to send it to IBC by Thanksgiving (after all, it is a Thanksgiving offering). By God's grace we have a significant part in the annual offering.

In recent years it appears that reaching the goal amount is taking longer and longer. The college has gone so far as to extend the time during which offerings received will be counted as Thanksgiving. This extended time may extend to February or even March. This suggests a lack of concern for the needs of the college or a lack of preparation on the part of the contributors, possibly some of both. When I invite one or more to my table at Thanksgiving and inform them of the time that we plan to dine it is my expectation that all will be present at the appointed time. I would be more than a little upset if one showed up 3 or 4 hours late and offered an excuse that suggested a lack of concern or preparation to be there at the appointed time. What about you? Do we not know when Thanksgiving is? Do we forget from year to year that IBC receives a Thanksgiving offering? In my view, to be one, two, three, or even four months late with a Thanks-

giving Offering is a reproach. We can do better in the service of the One we call Lord.

On a positive note, please consider the following: there are about sixty (60) churches or individuals that are monthly contributors to the support of IBC. If just 10 individuals (or families) within those sixty churches purposed to set aside *one dollar* each week for the Thanksgiving Offering that \$31,200.00 could be in Dallas *before* anyone of us sat down for dinner on Thanksgiving Day. This is an attainable goal and one by which each and every one of us will be richly blessed.

The address of the college is: Independent Baptist College, P. O. Box 210799, Dallas, TX 75211.

Robert Sims, Pastor
Indp Miss Baptist Church
San Diego, California

“No Place To Go”

When the recent announcement was made that the Cleveland Browns NFL professional football team was moving from Cleveland, Ohio to Baltimore, Maryland, after thirty years in the Ohio city, some members of the news media were interviewing some of the Cleveland fans.

They interviewed one fan who said he worked as a body shop man, as he was sitting in his pickup truck. He wept when he was questioned as to his feelings about the departure of the team from his city.

As he sat there with tears rolling down his cheeks, he said, “Now me and my family will have no place to go on Sunday.” How sad! I guess it never entered his mind about the possibility of taking his family to church.

He, like millions of other Americans, worship at the

shrine of professional sports, which has become a religion in this nation of ours. Many children don't know the Old Testament from the new Testament and many adults don't know the Epistles from the Gospels, but they know all of the professional stars, their batting averages, yards gained, points scored, etc.

How sad for this man who has no place to go on Sunday. His god has moved out of Cleveland and gone to Baltimore. I'm glad that nobody can move my God. He has promised “never to leave me or forsake me.” — Maranatha Baptist Watchman □

The Bible A Priceless Book

A blacksmith in Camdentown, England, seeing a secondhand book in a book shop, bought it for a “penny.” He took the book home. Later a visitor in his home noticed the date of its publication: 1450 — and he asked permission to show the book to the British Museum authorities.

Later, the blacksmith was asked to call at the museum and the museum authorities asked him how much he would take for the book.

First they offered him 60 pounds, and after he hesitated a few moments, from sheer astonishment, the offer was boosted to 90 pounds! He accepted it at once.

This book was a “Gutenberg” Bible, the first ever printed — and it was priceless to the museum. Twice the book had been lost, and once stolen from its owner, after which its history was unknown till it was found in the secondhand book store by the blacksmith. □

Why The Pastor Gets Old

Mrs. Huff is up the Miff Tree
On a seat fixed good and firm;
And she'd like to tell that pastor
A few things and make him squirm.

Mrs. Huff was sick abed, sir,
Yes, sir, sick abed a week,
And the pastor didn't call, sir.
Never even took a peek.

Wasn't that enough, sir,
To provoke a saint to wrath?
And to make a Christian pilgrim
Wander from the churchward path?

When I asked her if the doctor
Called to see her, she said
“SURE”
And looked as if she thought I
Needed some strong mental cure.

Then I asked her how the doctor
Knew that sickness laid her low,
And she said that she called him
On the phone and told him so.

So the doctor called to see her,
But the pastor didn't go
For the doctor knew she was ill
And the pastor didn't know.

Now the doctor gets his bill paid
With a nicely written check,
While the pastor, for not knowing,
Simply—”gets it in the neck.”

FMB Fires Missionary Couple For Charismatic Practices.

A Southern Baptist missionary couple in Singapore has been fired by the Foreign Mission Board for promoting charismatic practices. Charles and Sharon Carroll, 13-year missionary veterans, were dismissed as missionaries for practices "not consistent with what Foreign Mission Board personnel should be encouraging and leading," according to their letter of termination. The 400-member Community of Praise Baptist Church has participated in healing, speaking in tongues, laying-on of hands, and exorcism since its beginning. The Carrolls founded the church in Singapore in 1990. At issue is the experience of "falling under the Spirit," also called being slain in the Spirit, in which a worshiper falls to the floor apparently in an unconscious or semi-conscious state. The practice is not a major element in worship at the Singapore church, said Carroll, the church's pastor, but it has been seen more frequently in recent months. Jerry Rankin, FMB president, said the charismatic practices at Community of Praise have caused "dissension and confusion" among Baptists in Singapore and that the Carrolls are guilty of insubordination. The couple was asked to resign but refused, saying it would be unethical.

They appealed their termination to the trustees of the FMB which upheld their termination.

Some Typical Improvements. As a missionary for the Methodist Church, I hire interpreters to translate for me when I travel to remote areas of the world. When I was in Swaziland in southern Africa, I noticed my translator was going on and on, despite the short statements I was delivering. Finally I stopped and said, "It seems to be taking you a lot longer to say what takes me only seconds. Are you sure you're translating exactly?" "Oh, no, sir!" he said proudly. "I am greatly improving upon what you are saying." — Readers Digest

History Repeats Itself. Our Lions Club was having trouble finding a place to meet where a meal could be served. Finally, a church agreed to host the gatherings and to serve dinner. "History repeats itself," one member remarked. "The Christians will be feeding the Lions again." — Readers Digest

Huge Taxpayer Funds Go To Catholic Charities. The 12/4 *USN&WR* gave us a revealing peek at 50 of the big-

gest charities in America, listing the amount of their public and private support. For Catholic Charities USA, the private support was listed as \$336.2 million for FY94, the total income (including government grants, etc.) was \$1.9 billion. The article stated: "Critics don't like the organization's increasing reliance on government funding — about 65% of the money currently comes from public sources — and say the charity's religious mission may be compromised by the government's secular goals." Public funding for Catholic Relief Services was over twice the private funding. Thus taxpayer funds are likely used in a big way to promote Roman Catholicism in the U.S. and over the world. Separation of church and state? Not often when it's the big Roman Catholic church! — CC

Our Proudly Pro-homosexual President. Congressman Barney Frank blew kisses to a group of 600 homosexual journalists Oct. 19. Senior White House advisor George Stephanopoulos told them Pres. Clinton supports a bill to ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation and intends to get back a large portion of the gay and lesbian vote. Stephanopoulos detailed the president's record with gays, including being the first president to appoint an openly lesbian federal judge, increas-

ing AIDS funding, creating an AIDS housing office, allowing AIDS victims to enter the U.S. to take part in the "Gay Games", and appointing an AIDS policy director. The 12/18 *USN&WR* said Clinton last week "staged the first White House conference on AIDS and HIV." It said Reagan and Bush wouldn't do it. Kristi Hamrick of the Family Research Council calls this the most pro-homosexual administration in U.S. history. — CC

CIA and Psychics. All forms of spiritism are severely condemned and forbidden by Scripture. We were disappointed to hear of Nancy Reagan's use of an astrologer concerning her husband's scheduling. We recently learned that our CIA used psychics for 20 years at a cost of \$20 million, but has dumped the program because it "saw no value in it." A University of California professor of statistics said the government psychics were accurate about 15% of the time. Billy Lyon sent us an article from the *Dallas Morning News* which said New Ager Shirley MacLaine predicts the next big earthquake to be in November 1995. It didn't happen! Psychics sometimes have demonic powers, as Alice Braemer has attested to from her travels with Jeane Dixon, but often amateur guessing is just as accurate/inaccurate. — CC

Contemporary Music.

Forty years ago the music of the church was distinctively different from that of the night club. Even the ungodly could identify a hymn of the Church then. Today's contemporary Christian music (CCM) makes no distinction between Christian and non-Christian ... Contemporary music, its sensual sound and style which demands and encourages applause, lands a devastating blow to true worship and the spiritual life of the Church. Charismatics are a main cause of the increasing worldliness and perversion of music in our churches today. — CC

Graham's Disobedience.

O Timothy Editor David Cloud lists and discusses some of the reasons why fundamentalists must warn against Dr. Billy Graham's disobedient ministry. He says Graham: Accepts degrees from Catholic Colleges and says the Catholic gospel is the same as his own; has turned thousands of converts over to apostate churches; thinks the Pope is a great evangelist; thinks there is special power in infant baptism; does not believe Hell is a place of literal fiery torment; invites Catholic bishops on to his platform to bless those who come forward at his invitations; praises Christ-denying modernists; and has promoted practically every perverted Bible version to appear in the last four de-

caes. — CC

Falwell's "Liberty University" Teaching Purgatory.

Truthfully I never thought I would see the day when Baptist preachers would accept as fact the Roman Catholic mythical dogma of Purgatory. But, alas, it is true. According to an article in the *Hutchison* (KS) News for November 11, 1995, a professor at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, philosophy professor, Gary R. Habermas, says, "That portrait (a Catholic theologian's description of purgatory) isn't much different from what some leading evangelical scholars call the 'intermediate state' between death and Paradise... Habermas concedes that the name Purgatory still sets off alarms in most Protestant minds, but says that might change if believers read" the definition by Peter Kreeft, a one-time Protestant who converted to Catholicism. Professor Habermas continues by saying, "If the word (Purgatory) offends you, call it 'Heaven's kindergarten.' Call it what you might, but Purgatory is still Purgatory and the belief in an intermediate place between death and heaven is heresy. I will stick to what the Apostle Paul writing under the influence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God said, "...to be absent from the body (is) to be present with the Lord" (2

Cor. 5:8). — The Wilderness Voice.

Jehovah's Witnesses Changing Doctrine!

Jehovah's Witness leaders called for an end to forecasting the exact date of Judgment Day, when the sect believes only its 144,000 true followers will be saved. The Witnesses had warned that the generation that was aware of events in 1914—purportedly the year Jesus "returned," but only to rule in the heavenly realm—would not die before seeing Armageddon and the dawn of a new world. But the sect's leaders, cited in its official *Watchtower* magazine, now say that re-examination of Scripture prompted them to see "this generation" as the people of a historical era rather than the lifespan of certain individuals. The prediction had added an urgency to the door-to-door message that time is short, observers said. Charles Russell, founder of the movement, first predicted the world would end in 1914. Two more false alarms occurred in 1925 and 1975. — NIRR

An Unusual Translation!

The old preacher stood up to preach. He read his text, Matthew 4:24, "They brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases." Then he said: "Now, the doc-

tors can scrutinize you, analyze you, and sometimes cure your ills, but when you have divers disease, them only the Lord can cure. And brethren, there is a regular epidemic of divers diseases among us. Some dive for the door after Sunday school. Some dive for the TV set during the evening services. Others dive for the car for a weekend trip, while others dive for their dimes and nickels to put in the offering, instead of tithing. Yes, it takes the Lord and the love for the church to cure *divers diseases*.

Some Catholics Expand

"Holy Family." The "perpetual virginity of Mary" has been a doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church since the beginning of the Catholic church in the third century. They have held fast to the this doctrine which declares that Jesus' mother Mary was a lifelong virgin despite more than a half dozen references in the New Testament to Jesus' brothers and sisters. But now, some Catholic scholars are gingerly voicing the view that Mary had other children besides Jesus. Catholicism has long declared that when the Gospels described Jesus' siblings, or the apostle Paul mentioned the

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“brothers of the Lord,” the words — translated from the Greek — really meant “cousins” or “relatives.” However, four years ago in his presidential address to the Catholic Biblical Association, the Rev. John P. Meier told a meeting at Loyola Marymount University that on historical grounds “the most probable opinion is that the brothers and sisters of Jesus were true siblings.” His statements drew an immediate objection from some conservative Catholics. However, the widely respected Meier teaches at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Notre Dame scholar Jerome Neyrey in the new Harper Collins Encyclopedia of Catholicism says “No linguistic evidence warrants our interpreting Gospel passages about Jesus’ brothers and sisters as his cousins.” Neyrey said the word used in the original Greek could not be interpreted as “cousins.” The Catholic interpretation is to state that the word “brother” and “sisters” actually means “cousins,” but Catholic scholar Pheme Perkins of Boston College contends that calling Jesus’ brothers cousins “is plain ridiculous.”

* * *

Gay Prostitute Gets Job Back. A part-time journalism instructor, suspended after admitting he moonlights as a gay prostitute, will be allowed back at his job, his university announced. The instructor, Gerald Hannon, also has drawn criticism for contending that sex between adults and adolescents is not necessarily wrong. His suspension fueled a lively debate over the limits of free speech and academic freedom. A report released by Ryerson

Polytechnical University clears Hannon of allegations he used his writing class as a platform for his views on sex between children and adults. However, the Toronto university reprimanded Hannon for admitting to a newspaper reporter that he was a part-time prostitute. Hannon, 51, said he started working as a prostitute a few years ago to supplement his income from writing and teaching, and still advertises himself in newspapers. Prostitution is legal in Canada.

* * *

Welfare For Artists? Cal Thomas says people are angry that taxes are used to blaspheme their God and trash their values. “Why do artists think they have a right to tax money when the rest of us have to make money the old-fashioned way by earning it? Why doesn’t the government underwrite professional wrestlers, architects or scuba divers? Why single out ‘artists’?” Some of the vilest trash has been so subsidized for the NEA “artists.” They would likely be the first to squawk if a dime were given to a religious cause. Welfare for these degenerates must be stopped. — Hugh Pyle in *Sword of the Lord*.

* * *

Clinton Receives Laying On of Hands. “More than a dozen religious leaders, from churches linked with the National Council of Churches, prayed with the President and then laid hands on him” said a recent ENI press release. “As they did so, Bishop Nathaniel Linsey, of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, prayed that God would ‘make the President strong for the task’ as he negotiated with

Congress of the troubled question of the national budget.” A report of the American Council of Christian Churches said “All of the NCC delegation ‘laid hands’ on the chief executive. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the NCC, explained that the ‘laying on of hands’ symbolizes the outpouring of God’s spirit through those present to one who is facing a time of crisis.’ The fact remains that the leadership of the apostate NCC rejects the historic Faith and thereby have only empty hands to be placed on any head — including President Clinton’s!” This 45-minute November meeting in the Oval Office has come under attack by the Institute on Religion and Democracy, a “frequent critic of the NCC.” The IRD has accused the NCC of “employing rites of the Church for partisan political advocacy.” Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the NCC, responded by saying that the main purpose of the visit was to deliver the text of a NCC resolution urging the President and Congress not to cut social welfare benefits. Campbell denied the visit was intended to take sides on the budget battle. The fact remains, however, that these liberal church leaders are doing their best to gain the president’s confidence and promote the ascendancy of liberal political views and actions.

* * *

The US and the UN. “Demonizing the UN” was the title of a December 11, 1995 *Christianity Today* editorial. Written by Robert A. Seiple, president of World Vision, a subtitle reads, “While bloated and badly in need of reform, the UN fills a necessary role that Christians should support.” The truth of the matter is that the United Nations was

fatally flawed in the principles of its founding 50 years ago; constitutes a real danger to the USA and other nations which now enjoy freedom; and is an enemy of Jesus Christ and every true believer. Ever since its organization in 1945, ecumenical church leaders have given it strong support which is understandable because of their common bonds of both political and religious liberalism. It is sad indeed to realize that evangelical leaders and organizations are now supporting the UN, even though admitting it is in need of some reforms. What is really needed is for the USA to pull out of the UN and insist that its headquarters be relocated elsewhere. ... The UN is not a friend, but a foe and should be treated as such.

* * *

Home Schooling Exploding. Home schools have grown nearly tenfold in Arkansas since 1986 according to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and this year more than 1 percent of the state’s school-age population learn at home. In 1990, the U.S. Department of Education estimated 350,000 students were home schooled. By 1993, home schooling had become legal in all 50 states, and current estimates of home-schooled pupils across the country range from 500,000 to 1 million. Little Rock School District Superintendent Henry Williams sees value in the home-school option. “I think it has its importance to parents who believe they can provide better quality education to their children,” said Williams, who was superintendent of the Syracuse, NY district before moving to Little Rock. “Parents are your first tea-

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chers and, indeed, can be excellent teachers."

A Rare Comic Strip. An unusual comic strip appeared in the Sunday papers on December 24. The comic strip "B.C." by Johnny Hart has a message that one would never expect to find in such a place. The first panel gives a full quotation of Acts 4:12 *"There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."* In the last panel which is three times as long as a single panel, is a rock formation in the form of the word "Jesus" with the words "is the reason for the season" inscribed on the letter "U". The man walking away from the letters (I suppose named B.C.) says " 'U' is the reason for the season," having reference to Christmas.

Cuban Churches Growing. Churches in Cuba are now facing a situation similar to that encountered by the early Christians, when, according to the Bible, new faithful were added to the Church every day. But, according to Rafael Cepeda, a Cuban historian and a member of the country's Presbyterian Reformed Church, Cuba's churches have been "caught unprepared to face the challenge" of rapid growth, with thousands of Cubans now attending church regularly. As the crisis of socialism in Cuba has grown, even people who previously believed that the revolution was capable of fulfilling all their needs are now

turning to Christianity. — ENI

Effective Ads. Many churches choose to advertise on local radio stations, but such ads are not the time to "slam people with the Bible," said a West Virginia pastor who specializes in writing radio spots. Tom Cheyney, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Morgantown, advised aspiring ad writers to keep it simple and don't try to be cute. "Read the advertisement to a child and ask him what it was about. If he can't repeat the general idea, the idea is too complicated for radio," he said. Ads should stick with one theme and be straightforward as well as truthful, he added. "Tell a story but don't produce a drama. Repeat points that are not easily understood. Never confuse the listener with strange words. never play games with listeners," Cheyney pointed out. Other suggestions from Cheyney include: Don't yell. Never be flippant. Use humor sparingly. Lastly, don't be sloppy. "Too many times advertising is done at the last minute, and it looks like it was done in a hurry. Go for class, not mass," Cheyney said.

No Nativity At Disneyland. For the first time in 17 years, Walt Disney officials say the Village Marketplace in Orlando did not present its annual "Glory and Pageantry of Christmas" Nativity because of massive construction projects at the village. "There are a lot of boarded up areas and major expansion going on at the Village this year. The nativity is very popular, but requires a lot of area for staging and traffic flow," said Bill

Warren, Disney's public affairs manager. However, Warren said the Disney company has not yet decided whether to offer the Village Nativity in 1996. Disney enterprises is turning from a family oriented entertainment company to a worldly, secular entertainment business, catering greatly to the sodomites and homosexual crowd.

Bible Society Offers "Hate-free" Bible Version. A new Bible translation that removes anti-Semitic references from the New Testament has been released by the American Bible Society. The new Contemporary English Version (CEV) of the Old and New Testaments seeks to correct an anti-Jewish bias that has been carried down through Christian history. However, it was accuracy, not political correctness, that motivated the new translation, said Barclay Newman, the Bible society's senior translation officer. The new Bible offers "a hate-free" translation of the 195 passages referring to a phrase translated in most English Bibles as "the Jews," said David Burke, who directs the ABS's department of translations and scripture resources. The phrase was repeatedly used to refer to opponents of Jesus or His band of Jewish followers and describes a dispute not between Jew and Christian but rather a fraternal dispute between those Jews who thought Jesus was the Messiah and those who did not, Burke said. — Florida Baptist Witness

ABC approves Commission Regarding Homosexuals. American Baptist Convention leaders have voted to estab-

lish a commission to seek to "deal constructively" with the divisive issue of church attitudes toward homosexuality. The General Board of the 1.5 million-member American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. voted to establish a 12-member commission to study, engage in dialogue and recommend to the board any statements "it considers necessary and/or helpful to advance our common commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to maintain the unity of His body," the recommendation said. "At the present time, we are deeply concerned about the growing controversy surrounding the interpretation of biblical passages regarding homosexual practice," they said.

Black "Injustice." The *Wall Street Journal* has revealed that the Simpson case may not be the only example where black-dominated juries are letting black criminals go. The newspaper says that black juries "are choosing to disregard the evidence, no matter how powerful" and refusing to convict black criminals. In black-dominated urban areas, the conviction rates of black criminals is "unusually low." It is only 18.7% in majority-black Washington, D.C., and 30% in majority-black Detroit. In the black neighborhood of South Bronx, New York, 47% of all black defendants are let go which is three times the national average. A black law professor at George Washington University has said that black juries should "presume in favor of nullification," meaning let black defendants go when

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they are proven to be guilty, in all "non violent" crimes — Human Events.

* * *

Black vs. Board of Education An Insult To The Black Race?

A conservative-libertarian black journal has charged that the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision which ordered racial integration in public schools destroyed the cream of black schools in the U.S. and forced inferior education upon blacks. *Issues & Views* says that several elite all-black public high schools were destroyed by the Brown decision, including Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C. and Williston High School in Wilmington, NC. Both were completely staffed by blacks and were reputed for turning out highly educated graduates. These schools were replaced by inferior "integrated" versions by government mandate. The publication quotes black intellectuals at the time who saw forced integration as a disaster for black self-reliance. Black writer Zora Neale Hurston, for example, said, "How much satisfaction can I get from a court order for somebody to associate with me who does not wish me near them? I regard the [Brown] ruling of the United States Supreme Court as insulting, rather than honoring my race." Contemporary black intellectuals such as Justice Clarence Thomas are concurring, arguing that forced integration cuts blacks off from a self-determined education process and implies that all-black education is inferior and must be replaced by education in con-

tact with whites. Writing against a district court decision in Kansas which declared all "racially imbalanced" schools to be "unconstitutional" Thomas said, "[Historically black schools] can be both a source of pride to blacks who have attended them and a source of hope to black families who want the benefits of ... learning for their children. Because of their distinctive histories and traditions, black schools can function as the center and symbol of black communities, and provide examples of independent black leadership, success, and achievement." The publication does not want to return to a legally forced racial segregation but a freedom of association which allows institutions structured by racial preferences. Government-dictated integration is as bad as government-dictated segregation.

* * *

"Republicans for Choice." This is a group dedicated to removing the pro-life plank from the Republican party's national platform. How Republican is it? According to the Family Research Council, the organization was founded by Planned Parenthood, the antion's leading abortion provider. And, it's being run by Ann Lewis, deputy manager of President Clinton's re-election campaign and sister of homosexual congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.).

* * *

Boy Scouts May Exclude Homosexuals As Leaders. Citing the biblical account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as evidence that homosexuality is immoral, New Jersey Superior Court Judge

Patrick McGann ruled that the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) can exclude homosexuals as scout leaders. "Sodomy is derived from the name of the biblical city, Sodom, which, with the nearby city of Gomorrah, was destroyed by fire and brimstone rained down by the Lord because of the sexual depravity of their male inhabitants," ruled McGann, who added that "all religions deem the act of sodomy a serious moral wrong."

* * *

Divorce of Charles Stanley to Continued. Anna Stanley says there is no chance of reconciling her 40-year marriage to Charles and that the prominent pastor's reports of progress in the troubled relationship are a "charade." Mrs. Stanley had written a letter to the members of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, where her husband is pastor, that was to be read at an August 13 church conference. However, the moderator of that meeting ruled her letter out of order. The next day, Mrs. Stanley released the letter to the press, in an attempt to explain why she is seeking the divorce. "Long ago ... Charles in effect abandoned our marriage," she wrote. "He chose his priorities, and I have not been one of them." — Western Recorder

* * *

The Gospel Contains Fiction and Lies. The four Gospels of the New Testament and the Bible contain much fiction and lies, according to "The Search for the Authentic Word of God Jesus — THE FIVE GOSPELS—What Did Jesus Really Say?" The 553-page new "Bible" with a new translation and commentary was recently published by MacMillan Publishing Company of

New York. According to **The Five Gospels**, Jesus never said at least 80% of the statements attributed to Him in the Bible. The scholars responsible for the new Bible contend that Christianity is just one of many man-made religions which gradually evolved through the centuries. Theologians from most of the major denominations, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Roman Catholic Church, the United Church of Christ, the *Southern Baptist Convention*, etc., are members of the Jesus Seminar. Officials of these denominations are allowing clergymen on their denominational rosters to remain members of the Jesus Seminar. *The new "Bible" mentions that the vote of the Jesus Seminar declaring that some of the words of Jesus are not authentic was unanimous*, which means the Southern Baptist Convention representatives approved the "Bible" as well.

* * *

Student Prayer Fails Court Test. A Mississippi law that allowed student-led prayer in public schools was struck down by a federal appeals court. The panel said the law "tells students that the state wants them to pray," thereby violating the constitutional ban on state-established religion. The flaw, viewed by many as the nation's most sweeping effort to put prayer back in schools, let students lead prayer in school settings — from classrooms to football games. The ruling leaves in place an earlier decision by the same appeals court that allows student prayer at graduations in the judicial district that includes Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

“Religious Liberty” — Its Cost In Blood and Tears of Our Baptist Fathers

By J. W. Porter

It has been said that there are two things in the World worth contending for — religion and liberty. Certainly these constitute a priceless heritage, and Baptists as a people may thank God that they have been permitted to preserve the one in its purity, and to procure the other at the greatest price that was ever paid by human hearts and hands. Indeed, the mightiest and most tragic struggle of the ages has been the one ceaselessly waged for the freedom of the soul. It is entirely safe to say that no battle known to history has cost so much in tears and blood, and brought such blessings, alike to the victor and the vanquished.

Probably the earliest recorded plea in behalf of religious liberty was made by Tertullian, who lived in the third and fourth centuries of the Christian Era. This Christian hero, in his splendid advocacy of the Baptist principles of religious liberty, said:

“It is easily seen to be unjust to compel free people against their will to offer sacrifice, for in the acts of religious services a willing mind is required. It should be counted quite absurd for one man to compel another to do honor to the gods.”

From the days of Constantine, when Christianity became a state religion, till this good day and hour, there has never been a time when there were not those who were ready to suffer, and, if need be, to die, for the imperishable principles of soul liberty. As early as the fourth century,

the Donatists, who were Baptists in theory and practice, if not in name, earnestly contended that the conscience should not be coerced, and that the state and the churches were separate and distinct institutions. In spite of persecution, and death to many of their numbers, they resisted the right of the state to dictate in religious matters, and by their sufferings and lives sanctified the struggle for religious freedom. Speaking of these people, Neander says: “For the first time the ideas which Christianity, as opposed to the pagan religion of the state, had first made men distinctly conscious of, became an object of contention within the state itself — the ideas concerning universal, inalienable human rights, concerning liberty of conscience, concerning the rights of free religious conviction.” The Donatists as declared by Neander, and generally conceded by church historians, were afterwards merged with the Waldenses, who for centuries continued to contend for the rights of conscience, and its corollary, separation of Church and State.

Other denominations sought to establish themselves by alliances with the state, and too frequently by becoming the persecutors of their brethren. The Mennonites, who sprang out of the Waldenses in 1536 (Mosheim, Cent. XVI., Sec. 3, part 2), contended for perfect liberty of conscience, and that the magistrates had no right to interfere with religious convictions. This opinion is founded on the “one principle” which, as

Mosheim justly remarks, is at the basis of all their peculiarities; i.e., “the Kingdom which Christ has established on earth is a visible society or company, in which no place for any but holy or pious persons. In this they have always persevered, and when, about the year 1820, on the publication of the proofs of their ancient origin, by Professor Upeij and Dr. Dermont, they were offered government support by the King of the Netherlands, and recognition as a state religion, they declined the bounty on the ground that it was contrary to their oldest and most settled principles.” In this report by Professor Upeij and Dr. Dermont, the Baptists were declared to be the oldest of all the denominations, and that their origin dated back to the earliest Christian times.

It is a fact, that can not be denied, that all the great Reformers held that the state had a right to coerce in matters of religion. Martin Luther preached and practiced the right to force men to hold a certain faith. he says: “I am averse to the shedding of blood. It is sufficient that they should be banished.” Of the Jews he said: “Their Synagogues should be leveled with the ground, and their houses burned, and their book even to the Old Testament, taken from them.” Several of the Baptists were put to death by the Lutherans, “for propagating their errors, contrary to the judgment of the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel” (**Struggles and Triumphs of Religious Liberty**, p. 87). In vain have the friends and followers of John Calvin tried to acquit him of the death of Servetus. Calvin claimed that “it was by my persecution that he was imprisoned,” though he did express the hope that “they might condemn him to death, though not

by the terrible one of being burned.” In 1618 the Synod of Dort declared that the state should punish heresy, and as a result many were imprisoned or banished (Cumberland’s **Introduction to Limborch’s “History of the Inquisition”**).

“These Independents, when they were compelled to leave their own country, formed congregations in the Netherlands and in America, but they were still firmly rooted in England, where the Puritans under continual persecutions became daily more violent and gloomy, and gradually a dangerous and powerful party. In their morals and manners they were eminently pious; they looked upon all earthly pleasures as sinful; their own fancies were regarded as divine inspirations, and they thought that the state itself should be subject to their democratic hierarchy. Their rejection of infant baptism, in consistency with the Protestant doctrine of faith, and on account of its want of Scriptural authority, together with their consequent repetition of their baptism of adult believers, became the distinctive badge of their party. These Anabaptists, who made their first appearance at Zwickau and Wittenberg (1521), were nearly all put to death in the Peasants’ War, but in almost every part of the country, a class of enthusiasts resembling them, but very unlike each other in moral and religious character, became the pioneers and freebooters of the Reformation” (Dr. Hase: **History of Christian Church**). The last execution for heresy in England by burning alive took place at Lichfield, April 11, 1612. At this time, Edward Whitman, a Baptist, was burnt alive.

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It may be well, just here, to give more than passing mention to the attitude of Martin Luther to the Anabaptists, since, in these latter days, some have arisen who claim that Luther never persecuted any one on account of their religious beliefs. We, of course, do not claim that Martin Luther was responsible for all the persecutions of Anabaptists, for many of these he probably could not have prevented even had he so desired.

We know of no better authority or clearer light on this subject than the "Life of Luther," by Dr. Sears. Certainly his biographer did all within his power to put Luther in the best possible light on this question.

Dr. Sears says: "Luther has been accused of inhumanity towards the Anabaptists, and when we compare him with the wild Brentz, who opposed putting them to death for their sentiments, and with religious men of modern times, we must, in part at least, admit the charge."

A letter written by Luther in 1530 to Menius and Myconius is as follows: "I am pleased that you intend to publish a book against the Anabaptists as soon as possible. Since they are not blasphemous, but also seditious

men, let the sword exercise its right over them; for this is the will of God, that he shall have judgment who resisteth the power. Let us not, therefore, think better of these men than God Himself and all the saints have done." The genuineness of this letter has never been, and can never be, successfully called in question.

"The first edict against the Anabaptists was published in Zurich in 1522, in which there was a penalty of a silver mark set upon all such as should offer themselves to be rebaptized, or should withhold baptism from their children." This decree proving insufficient to check the alarming growth of the Anabaptists and immersion, the senate decreed that all persons who professed Anabaptism, or harbored the professors of the doctrine, should be punished with death by drowning. In defiance of this law, the Baptists persevered in their regular discipline; and some of their ministers of learned celebrity realized the severity of the sentence. Many Baptists were drowned and burnt.

It would be indeed difficult for the friends of Luther to free him from complicity in these persecutions. His power at this time was well-nigh great enough to make his will law, if not gospel. □

"Transubstantiation" Means Real Change of the Elements

From the Michigan Catholic

[Many Baptists are not fully aware of the Catholic doctrine concerning the "Eucharist" or what we call The Lord's Supper. The following appeared in a Catholic magazine, and we are reprinting it so that our readers can understand what they mean by "Transubstantiation." The italics have been added by us other than the question.]

Q: *What is transubstantiation?*

A: In the first few centuries of Church history, writers merely stated that in the Eucharist was present the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Cyril of Jerusalem (347) seems to be the first to try to deal with what happens in the Eucharist. He noted that the bread and wine are "changed" or "converted" into the body and blood.

Soon, more Fathers of the Church were using terms such as "transformed" or "transfigured" or "transmuted." The idea for all these writers was to avoid any understanding that was merely symbolic; instead, they wanted to describe a real change.

In 1079, the Roman Council for the first time referred to the bread and wine being "substantially changed" into the body and blood of Christ. A new term came into existence about the year 1100 to account for this, "transubstantiation." Theologians began to use this word, and soon so did Church councils (IV Lateran, 1215, etc.). *It means that the entire substance or basic reality of the bread and wine becomes the entire substance or basic reality of Jesus Christ without affecting, in any way, the out-*

ward appearances or qualities of the bread and wine.

When Luther taught a "consubstantiation," that the body and blood of Christ co-existed with the substance of the bread and wine, and when other reformers began to look upon Jesus' presence in the Eucharist as only symbolic, the Council of Trent defined the Catholic belief in 1551 "by the consecration of the bread and wine a change takes place in which the entire substance of the bread is changed into the substance of the body of Christ This change the holy Catholic Church fittingly and properly calls transubstantiation." Trent added that "*the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ, is truly, really, and substantially contained*" under the form of bread and wine (see the Catechism, #1374-6).

Therefore, Catholics cannot believe that bread and wine remain after the priest consecrates them at Mass; what remains is Christ and only the appearance of bread and wine.

Fr. Earl Boyea is dean of studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. — Copied from The Christian News. □

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My God, My Country, and My Party

Should I ever have to choose between my God and my party, I shall stand with my God.

Should I ever have to choose between my country and my party, I shall stand with my country.

Should I ever have to choose between my party and my conscience, I shall stand with my conscience.

When my party stands for both God and my country, I shall stand with my party.

When my party breaks faith with its history, incorporates socialism, supports homosexuality and abortion, I shall break with my party. □

GAP...

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under discussion. Then we are told of a day but its beginning is not mentioned only what took place during the day and of its end but from then on there is a step by step explanation of each day until the seventh is completed.

The language does not absolutely forbid such an interpretation but this is not the normal interpretation of this context. The gap theory is a very unusual and forced interpretation.

The verses in other parts of Scripture that the gap theorists rely on to support their view normally interpreted fit the interpretation I advocate.

Isaiah 45:18 gives us these words, "he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited ..." In this verse we are told God did not create this earth for the purpose of being uninhabited but instead He created the earth with the purpose in mind of filling it with

animals, birds, man, etc. "to be inhabited."

In Genesis 1 we are told how God created out of nothing the material of the universe and when it was first created it was without form or any particular design but only a mass of material. It was also a void; it was empty of any inhabitants of any kind. Then we are told how God in the remaining days took this formless mass and put it into its shape or form (the land, oceans, sky, etc.), and then filled the void with the inhabitants of animals, birds, fish, and man. When God began He had a purpose and He continued until that purpose was accomplished. We see that in Genesis 1 and that is what Isaiah 45:18 tells us.

The terms "without form" and "void" do not imply sin or judgment. They can be used without any moral implications and we believe they are in Genesis 1:2 since there is nothing to suggest the ideas of sin and judgment. The advocates of the "gap theory" seek to force those ideas upon the words. Where is there evidence that such ideas are present? Those that hold to the "gap theory" should consider these things. In the first creation that they believe in, was everything created and made at the same instant? If not, then there was a time from the beginning of that creation to the end of it when it was at least partly unformed and void. Would there be any moral implications of sin and judgment in those ideas at that time? If not, why must there be in Genesis 1:2? In what they consider to be the re-creation of God, why is it that God did not create and make everything at the same instant if there is a moral implication of sin and judgment in the terms "without form and void?"

Power of The Printed Page

By the Editor

How weighty is the printed word? How important is it for any institution which is to succeed to tell its story through the printed page?

Ask any successful business institution. Ask any flourishing department store and let them show you the reams of advertising which they are constantly channeling through the newspapers into the homes of prospective customers. Turn the pages of any metropolitan newspaper and observe whether the business firms consider it wise to invest in the printed page.

Ask WalMart, or Sears Roebuck; ask Montgomery

These terms can be used to describe a judgment of God for men's sin (Jer. 4:23-26; Isa. 24:1) but they can also be used to describe the condition of the earth when first created before God proceeded to do what He purposed, that is, to form the material such as it is basically today and fill it with inhabitants.

Some have assumed that Satan sinned millions of years ago in a previous creation. Where is there proof? If he did and God brought judgment upon that creation and made it without form and void (empty) how did the sinner (Satan) who caused it all escape judgment? Also, how was the creation made void if Satan and all the guilty ones (fallen angels) escaped the judgment of that creation to cause trouble in the re-creation?

We believe Genesis tells of only one creation. It was perfect (without sin). Before Adam and Eve sinned, Satan sinned. He did not have to be in existence a long time before he could sin. Adam and Eve

Ward or any other successful mail order house what they think of the value of the printed page.

Ask the Jehovah's Witnesses. Ask the Roman Catholic Church, and they will tell you that the combined circulation of their periodicals goes well beyond 25 million and is increasing all the while. Even the Southern Baptist Convention through their 25 State Baptist papers are reaching more than 1,600,000 of their people, going into nearly every one of their churches, and for many, to nearly every family in

(See TBC on page 22)

sinned most likely within a short time of their creation, at most it was before they were 130 (Gen. 5:3).

In Ezekiel 28:12-15 we have a passage that mentions Satan according to some. If this is correct (and those that hold to the gap theory believe this) [not all who believe this hold to the gap theory — Editor], we find that Satan was in Eden and was perfect and then sinned. Now the only Eden that the Bible mentions is the one that was made in what they speak of as the re-creation. To fit the gap theory this must be another Eden which the Bible does not tell us about in any other place. What proof is there for two Edens? This theory brings a person into many problems and also goes against the normal interpretation of the words in several passages.

The word "replenish" in Genesis 1:28 means "fill." The word "was" in Genesis 1:2a is the normal translation. There is no reason for translating it "became" as the gap theorists do. □

ENTZ...

(Continued from page 3)

ter of faith, Mrs. McPherson says all can be healed if you have "active" faith. Come without any "if's." Yet Jesus Himself in the Garden of Gethsemane had an "if" — "if it be possible."

What is "the prayer of faith?" "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, 'if' we ask anything *according to his will*, he heareth us" (1 Jn. 5:14). This is the prayer of faith.

The method used by "divine healers" is largely that of the method followed by what is known as "auto-suggestion," or "hetero-suggestion," or "hypnotic-suggestion." Hypnotism and telepathy are recognized in the world of Science today. Marvelous things have been done by applying these principles. The method of the French Emile Couee, "Day by day in every way, I am getting better and better" can be seen to a certain extent in this modern "divine healing."

The one who is "healed" is urged to throw away crutches and put the lame limb down and say, "It is well," and say, "It is done," and walk on it while the healer shouts, "You are healed! You are healed! You are healed!" *Where is anything like that found in the Scriptures?*

Having spent a good deal of time studying this question, I could write a pretty good sized volume on all these methods that are absolutely foreign to the Scriptures.

In the city of Houston, Texas, we are now (May, 1938) in the midst of one of these "divine healing" racketeering

campaigns. A man of good, sound, and sane judgment, in a little vest-pocket monthly "The Ambassador," (edited by Dr. Fred H. Johnson) has under the heading "Parrott in action," the following:

"Parrott In Action!"

"Let us take a look at one of these healing services. Mr. Parrott operates similar to other leading evangelists with a so-called healing ministry. Every Tuesday and Friday he prays for the sick. Before anyone can be prayed for and anointed there are certain conditions that must be met. First, the afflicted ones are told they must attend two preparation meetings, conducted by the evangelist's wife. At these services instructions are given to the seekers after health. It is suggested that they fast for the two days preceding the actual healing service. They are told that it does not matter what ailment they may have, it is God's will to heal them, 'from the sole of their foot to the top of their head.' They must fill out a card answering certain questions. When they have met the conditions they are given their 'white card.' This entitles them to be prayed for. Without being impertinent, this writer was amazed at the astounding fact that while instructing these hundreds of sufferers how to get healing for the most desperate diseases, *the evangelist's wife wore glasses! Why does not God heal Mrs. Parrott's eyes?* We have surely a right to respectfully ask this question. If God is healing all manner of sickness and disease through the ministry of her husband, surely He could

touch Mrs. Parrott's eyes, and enable her to throw away those glasses. Mrs. Parrott's glasses may help *her* to see better, but they surely keep this writer from seeing.

"As for the actual healing service! Those who have obtained a white card are selected from their seat in the healing section by Sister Parrott. Mr. Parrott works in a wide space in front of the platform. The seeker approaches the evangelist with the white card held high in the air. It is all strangely dramatic and exciting. The air is tense. Suddenly the preacher steps forward, cries 'It's done, *Now!*' and touches the sick on the forehead with oil. The effect is startling and instantaneous. The anointed one usually hits the ground as if struck by a sledgehammer. Mr. Charles Jones, of Dallas, his associate, is directly behind the one prayed for, and catches them as they dive for the sawdust. Personally, Mr. Jones comes closer to earning whatever salary he gets than any preacher I ever saw. By the time he has caught and lowered to the ground fifty or a hundred more or less bulky persons, he has to remove his coat, and his shirt is wet with perspiration. On and on goes the service. One by one they come forward and are anointed and prostrated. There they lie, row after row, while the choir continually sings, the orchestra plays, friends weep, the crowd throngs ever closer in mounting excitement. Occasionally some sister who has been prayed for falls sideways, or Jones fails to lower her just right, and the workers laugh at the fun.

"One by one they come

out from under the 'power.' Rising, they make their way back to their seats. *And now for the big question ...*

"Are They Healed?"

"Parrott says 'Yes!'"

"I say 'No!!!'"

"If they came in an ambulance, they go away in an ambulance. If they were blind when they came, they are blind when they leave. And so on. The supreme tragedy is this: Some of these poor deluded people, not knowing what the Bible really teaches concerning healing, stake their life on what Parrott says it teaches, and their lives are shortened by years.

"One man got up in this current campaign and testified before several thousand people that he had been healed of advanced 'T.B.' at a previous service, and that he was every whit whole. He dropped his medical treatments. He believed Parrott. Well, here is something you will never hear around that tent. A brother minister of mine conducted his funeral before the end of the week.

"And there was the dear old lady. She saw a brother (he was at least consistent) who said, 'If God can heal these people like this, I need not wear my glasses any more,' so he took them off and stomped them into the grass. The old lady said, 'Well, if God can heal his eyes, He can give me new teeth, so she tossed away her uppers and lowers. Next morning she was hungry, and the new teeth had not shown up during the night. She could only sip a little coffee. But she wanted food. It ended up with the dear old lady down at the tent around noon, hunting around in the tall grass

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ENTZ...

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for the missing dental plates, so she could eat some solid food.

"The case of the old lady's teeth may be funny, but what is not funny is when some poor man or woman, suffering from some serious trouble, and kept alive and free from pain by the marvels of modern medical science, is led away by this mischievous doctrine, only to find that they have made a fatal mistake, with the emphasis on 'fatal'."

We also quote from a challenge that has been scattered all over the city of Houston that these "divine healers" dare not accept. Anything like a scientific test or fair open discussion they will not face.

**"Exposed
Parrott, Richey and All
Divine Healers**

"None of these divine healers will agree to a discussion and investigation of their teaching they claim is Biblical. I am branding them as a group of cowards and insist that Mr. Parrott is the biggest coward that ever came to Texas. The only thing these fellows do is object to anyone questioning them or their methods and draw their breath and the collections. We know they never take up a collection for themselves. They live by faith, like they teach folk are healed by faith, someone else always takes up the contributions for them. He begs money from poor people in order that he may luxuriously live in the Warwick Hotel and drive a fine automobile, while he gives in return for the money sophistry, tradition and infidelity. He buries men in falsehoods and

wraps them in grave clothes of sin. All persons claiming to be miracle workers are *pretenders*. Continually pretending to heal, provided no effort is made to find out whether the person is really sick or really well after being healed as they claimed. *Parrott and the others will not agree or even attempt to heal one person under the doctor's eyes, but persist in 'loaded dice' schemes, 'earthly, sensual and devilish.'* Why do they feature healing in these meetings? Because it is easily *faked*, but if you want to put one of them to flight just call upon them to demonstrate Mark 16:17-20, their ability to drink poison, they immediately become conscious of disobeying God and tempting Him. But this is absurd, for the same passage that authorizes the healing also enforces the drinking of poison. 'If they drink any deadly thing it will not hurt them.' The same 'they' were to 'lay hands on the sick.' If one is commanded, why not the other? *If it is tempting God as they claim to drink poison or handle snakes, it is also tempting God to try to heal ... if not, why not?* Echo, answers why? God is tempted when men do what He has never commanded. Since God has, as claimed by these fellows, commanded us to perform miracles, we tempt God *when we do not. Their reason for attempting healing instead of poison drinking is that tempting to heal will not kill the preacher.* Parrott and Richey, et al, are enjoying the best of the land and leading too easy a life, to want to die and have to face God for their false teaching before their time.

"Do you have the Holy Ghost like the Pentecostians as recorded in Acts 2? They spoke seventeen different languages. Will you folks agree for us to get a group of people that *speak and understand*

different languages, and demonstrate your ability to speak and interpret these languages? You will not agree, because you do not want to be exposed. On this occasion everybody understood; when you folk jabber, who understands?

"If you have the Holy Ghost like the Apostles, why have you failed to heal in this meeting? A man, in wheel chair, came from Oklahoma and is still in the wheel chair. Another woman attended this meeting and Parrott anointed her and prayed for her, but she is now in the T.B. hospital for treatment. Peter healed *everyone* (Read Acts 5:12-16). Parrott heals no one. Richey, who is sponsoring and cooperating in your effort, has a doctor. *I challenge you two pretenders, to cure just one that the doctors in Houston will be glad to provide. Houston's streets swarm with blind and crippled.* Why don't you go to work? There is not one thing that the whole clan can do with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that I cannot do. *You cannot do any of the things that Jesus told the Apostles they could do.* How do you classify a person that claims to do something that he knows he cannot do?

"Attempt to justify their failures by shifting blame on the one on whom the miracle was tried of *not having faith!* The only failures the Apostles made were because of *their* lack of faith, and not the lack of *faith* on the part of the 'Lunatic.' Read Matthew 17:14-21. How much faith does a *dead* person have? Read Acts 9:34-42, and Acts 20:9-10. When you try to escape the fact of your failures by laying the blame on the 'innocent and

earnest victim,' accusing him of not having faith, you are only advertising to the citizens of this city, that you do not have what the Apostles had. Miracles were performed in the Word of God to confirm the truth. That has been done. No more truth is being given, hence, no more miracles (Jn. 20:30-31; 2 Pet. 1:3; Rev. 22:18-19). Why pray for healing of body and fail to pray for daily bread (Mt. 6). Jesus is the same forever.

"Miraculous power is not evidence that the one claiming it is pleasing to God. If it were then Balaam, Caiaphas (one condemned Christ to death), King Saul were saved to the exclusion of Balaam's ass, the three men mentioned prophesied, and the ass spoke in a tongue (by the way, you could understand it, too) (Num. 22:24; 1 Sam. 19:18-24; Jn. 11:49; 18:14).

"We are willing to affirm: The teaching done by Parrott, Richey, Mormons, Christian Scientists, et al, is from the Father of Lies, Satan, without any Biblical authority and all who follow their teaching reject the Bible and renounce Christ, and are lost."

-- John O'Dowd, R.R. Price,

**A Challenge To Modern
"Divine Healers"**

I challenge any man or group of men, or women, who practice what is commonly known today as "divine healing" to meet a scientific test.

First, select five reputable physicians who have the necessary scientific equipment and

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ENTZ...

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are recognized by the A.M.A.

Second, select one case of leprosy, one case of palsy, one case of a man born lame, and who has never walked; one case of a person dead, one case of one born blind over 21 years of age.

Third, let this committee of doctors examine these cases scientifically as to their condition, that they are a leper, palsied, born lame, born blind, and dead.

Fourth, let the "divine healer" cure either one of these cases or raise the dead person.

Fifth, let the same doctors immediately make the examination and if the cure has been perfected, \$1,000.00 will be turned over to the person making the cure.

The tubercular patient referred to by Dr. Johnson in "The Ambassador" was named Naftoeli Gallegos, and lived at 1315 Edwards Street in Houston, Texas. He was taken to the Parrott "divine healing" meeting at Smith and Walker Streets, April 15, 1938, in an ambulance. He was "healed," got up, and danced around and declared he had been "healed," and the whole tent filled with several thousand people was turned into a veritable bedlam "praising God" and cheering and shouting hallelujahs.

The ambulance that brought Mr. Gallegos went back with the drive alone. (All the rest of the patients that came that night in ambulances left in ambulances.) Mr. Gallegos went home in an automobile. The next day, however, he was taken as a patient to

Memorial Hospital (April 16); but being a poor man and unable to continue paying a hospital bill, he was transferred April 20 to Jefferson Davis Hospital. *On April 25 he died.*

Having been "healed" he discontinued treatment he was getting from reputable physicians and no doubt the reaction from the excitement hastened his "relapse." This is the tragedy of this deception.

What about this man's awful suffering?

What about his family?

What about the faith in the Bible and in God of the multitude that saw this man "healed"?

These "divine healers" are always warning those who oppose them that they are in danger of the judgment of God coming upon them; but I believe with all my soul if God were performing now the kind of miracles recorded in the Bible, outward, physical miracles, that He would strike this "divine healing" crowd dead in sixty seconds.

I thank God for myself and for them that He is a God of all grace. But you never hear the tragic end, like the case of Mr. Gallegos, discussed around their meetings. □

TBC...

(Continued from page 19)

the church.

How important is the printed page to independent Baptists? To members of churches in which every member has a voice and vote and the church may choose to do what they feel the Lord wants them to do without pressure from some "headquarters?" How advisable is it that every independent Baptist church have

an independent Baptist magazine to keep their members informed on the doctrines peculiar to Baptists; the reasons why we are independent Baptists; the modernism that is creeping into Baptist ranks; the methods of the Communists and socialists, the Muslims, and the Roman Catholics to take over our country and to prevent mission work on the foreign fields; the tremendous growth of the cults and the charismatic movement in the United States and the growth and influence of Muslims throughout the world and even here in our own country; to know what is going on among independent Baptists in all sections of the country.

Our Lord said, "the children of this world are wiser in their day and generation than the children of light." Is it possible that many business firms are wiser than many churches? They are constantly sending their story into the homes of the people. There are some independent Baptist churches that are doing the same through **The Baptist Challenge**, but there are many thousands more that do not.

We are trying to make that possible in a very special way, offering **The Baptist Challenge** free to any church that desires copies for its members. If your church is not now receiving a bundle for distribution, we shall be happy to mail you a bundle each month to be distributed to each family within the church so that each member may be informed on all of these matters. This will help us in building the circulation of our paper as well as informing your members on current events that effect independent Baptists.

We are able to do this because there are churches who feel that this is a worthy mission project and send a

monthly mission offering to help defray the costs of publishing and mailing **The Baptist Challenge**. The sale of Challenge Press books and those who subscribe to LifeLine desigating that 10% of their long distance bill go towards **The Baptist Challenge**, all help pay the difference in our publishing cost.

At the present time, the offerings received from the churches and individuals who contribute regularly is about equal to our postage. Our book sales and contributions through LifeLine makes up the difference. If you feel that this publication is a worthy mission project of your church, we would appreciate any consideration that you might give in helping us publish **TBC**. As editor, and since I am retired as pastor of Central Baptist Church, I receive no salary or income and simply serve as editor of the magazine as a matter of love and service to the Lord and independent Baptist churches [although recently one church began sending us \$50.00 per month as a mission offering to assist us in our needs].

Write today for your bundle. Last year we averaged mailing out over 6,000 copies per month, and we look forward to receiving your request, and if the Lord should lead you to help in paying the cost of publishing **TBC**, it would be appreciated. □

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\$1.00-\$20.00 add \$3.35

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Orthodoxy and Modernism Contrasted

Lots of people do not know it but there is a very wide margin of difference between orthodoxy and modernism or liberalism. The difference is so wide that we have concluded to present the following study with the hope that it may help our readers in some way or some how.

Contrasts Between Orthodoxy and Modernism

Orthodoxy is a spiritual reality while modernism is a fleshly reality.

Orthodoxy is heavenly theism while modernism is spiritual cannibalism.

Orthodoxy is whole Bible truth accepted while modernism is part Bible truth rejected.

Orthodoxy is divine truth applied to life while modernism is a fleshly interpretation of the Bible applied to life.

Orthodoxy is the heart running true while modernism is the intellect running wild.

Orthodoxy preaches the whole Bible to the whole world while modernism proclaims a part of the New Testament to the whole world.

Orthodoxy believes in the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures while modernism believes in thought-inspiration of the Scriptures.

Orthodoxy emphasizes the divine aspect of the gospel while modernism emphasizes the human aspect of the gospel.

Orthodoxy preaches salvation by the way of the cross while modernism preaches salvation by the way of culture.

Orthodoxy laments the depravity of man while modernism gloats over the good-

ness of man.

Orthodoxy condemns the world while modernism caters to the world.

Orthodoxy proclaims blood redemption while modernism ignores the blood atonement.

Orthodoxy challenges sinners to get right with God while modernism challenges sinners to live right before man.

Orthodoxy preaches bringing in the kingdom while modernism preaches building up the kingdom.

Orthodoxy magnifies the Lord in kingdom work while modernism praises the leaders in kingdom work.

Orthodoxy glories in the cross of Christ while modernism glories in the conquests of Christians.

Orthodoxy exalts the spiritual while modernism exalts the social.

Orthodoxy clings to the old, old things while modernism caters to new things.

Orthodoxy believes in grace for salvation while modernism believes in works for salvation.

Orthodoxy glories in the Deity of Christ while modernism glories in the humanity of Christ.

Orthodoxy is humble while modernism is uppity.

Orthodoxy is theocratic while modernism is plutocratic.

Orthodoxy proclaims the depravity of the human heart while modernism magnifies the goodness of the human heart.

Orthodoxy preaches the blood gospel while modernism takes the blood out of the gospel.

Orthodoxy assumes that man is by nature bad while modernism assumes that man

is by nature good.

Orthodoxy preaches the inerrancy of the Word while Modernism proclaims error to be in the Word.

Orthodoxy preaches justice and mercy while modernism preaches mercy.

Orthodoxy denies evolution while modernism smiles upon evolution.

Orthodoxy points hearts to Calvary while modernism points hearts to culture.

Orthodoxy is pro-God while modernism is pro-good.

To sum up, orthodoxy is pro-God, pro-Bible, pro-church, pro-cross, pro-blood, pro-self-denial, and pro-sacrifice, while modernism is pro-leader, pro-institution, pro-culture, pro-compromise, pro-conciliation, pro-broadmindedness, pro-human praise, pro-flesh, and pro-world.

Heavenly Admonition

The Holy Spirit, speaking through Paul, appeals to young Timothy to stand four-square by the gospel. He admonishes him to avoid profane and vain babblings; to avoid opposition of science falsely so-called; to preach the Word; and to be faithful in the ministry of the Lord.

Why these admonitions? The answer is not hard to find. Science falsely so-called is this-worldly, not heavenly; it is vain intellectualism, not true spirituality; it betrays the gospel message of the Bible; it denies the fall of man; it denies the depravity of the human heart; it denies the necessity of the cross; it denies the fact of blood-cleansing; and it belittles everything that is truly and essentially Christian. -- The Orthodox Baptist.

The Baptist Challenge stands on orthodoxy. We believe the Bible is true; we be-

lieve its standards are perfect; we believe that Christ actually saves; we believe the Holy Spirit actually recreates; we believe that the Word of God is changeless and eternal; we believe that salvation is everlasting; and we believe that the soul committing itself to the Lord Jesus Christ need have no fear. We share with Paul his testimony to young Timothy when he says, "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." We likewise share with him the further testimony of the Holy Spirit when he says, "If God be for us who can be against us?" □

SOVGN...

(Continued from page 1)

zeal, our own efforts in an attempt to win men, for the sovereign work of the divine Spirit. To listen to the average evangelistic invitation one must conclude that man's will is sovereign and God is the desperate supplicant. Often our little formula of Scriptural gymnastics with the okaying of the Lord for the promise of eternal salvation is purely man-made and produces "church members" that know nothing of self-depreciation, repentance a spirit-begotten faith.

When the way grows hard and men will not heed, it is consoling to remember that God is still in business and ultimate success does not depend upon us but upon God. Our part is to proclaim; it is God who ordains. It is ours to work out what God works in to do His good pleasure.

With such a concept of divine sovereignty, majesty and power, our hearts are encouraged in God; our arms are

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of the State of Tabasco. They will meet here on the second floor of our church building.

Brother, one of the problems that we have here in the church is that we do not have enough space, that is to say we do not have a place as we are very small, and we are praying to the Lord for property for the church, so please help us by praying, brother, as it is very difficult because of the crisis that is prevalent here in Mexico. Many brothers are left without jobs, and increase in prices, but we are praying much for these situations, and we have confidence in our God that He will supply are of our needs according to His riches (Phil. 4:19).

We have now made plans for the activities in the church here in Villahermosa for 1996, and very soon I will send you a copy and I ask that you pray much for us that we will have the power to realize these according to the will of God.

With respect to the seminary, thanks unto the Lord we have been working normally, and very soon we will have the final exams for the first semester of this year. I am teaching the following classes: First year students — Pentateuch and Bible Introduction; Fourth year students — Church Administration, writing & composition, and Hermeneutics; Fifth year students — Bible Ethics and Christian Evidences.

We thank God for the seminary as it has been a blessing and support for the Baptist work here in Tabasco and even in the States outside of Tabasco. We lack many workers though Bro. Moser, for just think that for the activities for the 31st of December, the end of the year, we have been receiving requests from the churches and missions, but there are none as they are

all already occupied in churches, so we continue to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth workers into His harvest.

Brother I wish with all of my heart that God will bless you greatly and please receive greetings from my family and the church, and that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

José Hernández López,
Villahermosa, Tabasco

Why Democracies Fail

A Democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the

voters discover they can vote themselves largess out of the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that Democracy always collapses over a loose fiscal policy, always to be followed by a Dictatorship and then a Monarchy.

(Written by Professor Fraser Tyler, nearly two centuries ago while our 13 original states were still colonies of Great Britain. At the time he was writing of the decline and fall of the Athenian Republic over two thousand years before.)

SOVGN...

(Continued from page 23)

strengthened; our success in the Lord is assured.

Unto Him be the honor, the glory and the praise, even now and forevermore. Amen!

Pastor Writes From Villahermosa

Distinguished Bro. Moser:

I send an affectionate greeting in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, wishing that it finds you enjoying the blessings of our God along with your family and your Brother Pastor.

I write the present for the purpose of communicating that thanks unto the Lord we are now in the last days of this year and all of the programs that we have placed before the Independent Baptist Church "Prince of Peace", we have been able to complete. On the 16th of December we will have an event for the youth of the independent Baptist churches

You Can Help The Baptist Challenge

How? Subscribe to LifeLine. LifeLine is a service of AmeriVision, a private corporation and major long distance carrier like AT&T and MCI. However, instead of promoting their business with major media advertising, new customers sign up through special programs like this.

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You can have 10% of your long distance billing given to The Baptist Challenge, and it won't cost you anything!

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The change-over is "invisible" and you'll use your phone just like always. You can be billed through your local phone company as you probably are now, or enjoy even greater savings with direct billing.

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