

the Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

ISSN 8756-9612

VOL. XXXVI, No. 3

March 1996

WHOLE NO. 415

A Brief History of the Baptists

By the late Norman H. Wells

The history of the ancient churches is very obscure. Much of the early recorded history was either lost or destroyed. A great part of the history that remains was changed to suit the interests of the Roman Catholic Church. All of church history has been involved in much controversy and was subject to the whims and fancies of each particular age.

In a very broad outline we want to look at the history of the church.

The First 300 Years of Church History

Jesus Christ, during His earthly ministry, founded the first church in Jerusalem in approximately the year 30 A.D.

This first church was commissioned to go forth preaching the gospel, winning the lost to Christ, baptizing and teaching the converts and establishing new churches.

On the pages of the New Testament we find the record of the growth of Christianity and the founding of many New Testament churches.

Nero, the Roman Emperor, blamed the Christians for the burning of Rome in 64 A.D. and began the first of ten persecu-

tions the Christians were to receive at the hands of the Romans.

Despite all the persecution, Christianity grew. At the end of the first 300 years the religion of Jesus Christ was established all over the then known world. *There were churches in every town and community.*

The Progress of Error During The First 300 Years

In the first two centuries the individual churches rapidly multiplied and some of them became very large. The church at Jerusalem had possibly as many as 50,000 or more members!

These large churches each had several preachers or elders. Some of these bishops or pastors began to assume authority over smaller churches. This corrupted the original democratic policy and government of the churches and led to the kind of hierarchy we see in the Roman Catholic Church today.

In the first two centuries the false teaching of "baptismal regeneration" began to spread. This error led to infant baptism and many other errors.

It has to be remembered

that these changes did not come about all in a day, nor within a year. They came about slowly and never within all the churches. Some of the churches vigorously repudiated these errors.

About the middle of the third century the lines were clearly drawn. Those churches that remained loyal to the Scriptures were now clearly separate from those that had gone into error and apostasy.

Constantine ruled as Emperor of the Roman Empire from 306 to 337 A.D. and his reign was to mark one of the great turning points in church history.

During a battle in 312 A.D. Emperor Constantine believed he had a vision of a flaming cross and above it the words, "By this sign thou shalt conquer."

He decided to fight under the banner of Christ and Christianity came into favor in the Roman Government.

In 313 A.D. Constantine gave a call for all the churches to come together and pronounced himself as the head of the churches.

Many, but not all, of the churches came. The true churches would have no part in this error.

This hierarchy or body of church rulers, that Constantine formed was the *definite* beginning of the Roman Catholic Church. Many of the errors of Catholicism had already had their beginning but now they were organized into a definite system.

Constantine made "Christianity" the "State Religion." Up until this point the persecution of the Christians had been done either by Judaism or Paganism. Now came a change. Christians (in name) began using the law to compel all Christians to join the organization. The true churches that refused were persecuted.

The division was now complete. The true churches refused to line up with the errors of the "state church." The church of Constantine became what we know as Roman Catholicism. *Baptists were never part of Roman Catholicism.* They remained true to the Scriptures and rejected the error.

After the organization of the churches into a hierarchy and their acceptance as a "State Religion" the true, loyal churches that rejected this error were identified by various

(See **HISTORY** on page 21)

The Work of the Prophets -- Message #6

Two Kinds of Prophets

By R. Nelson Colyar

"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken" (Lk. 24:25).

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you" (2 Pet. 2:1).

It will be profitable for us first to take a look at the prophets before entering much in detail into their works. It is the work of the prophets that we are chiefly concerned about in these articles. But that work can better be evaluated and esteemed if we preface the study with a foreview of the prophets themselves.

From the Holy Scriptures we learn that there have been two kinds of prophets in the world always. From our own personal observations we know

that two kinds of prophets are in the world today. Surely no discerning mind can deny it. Such an obvious truth should startle this easy-going, pleasure-seeking, money-crazy, Christendom to attention. Most of professing Christendom is spiritually dead to begin with and much of the rest of it is sound asleep and not awake to what is taking place in the world of today. If Nero fiddled while Rome burned, he was no more profligate than a professing Christendom fiddling while the world burns and hell enlarges its borders. But it is just such conditions as this which give bold relief to the work of the prophets.

The Prophets of God

It has been often reiterated in these articles that God

has spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets since the world began. Wherefore it is written: "We have a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the Day Star ariseth in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in olden time by the will of man: *but holy men of God spoke as they were moved (borne along) by the Holy Spirit*" (2 Pet. 1:19-21). Here it is disclosed that the holy men of God did not speak the will of man: they spoke only as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, giving utterance to the very words which God gave them. This is the mark of a true prophet of God, and there is no substitute for it. Men simply cannot speak the will of God apart from the moving of the Holy Spirit.

A few examples from the Scriptures on this point must suffice. Take the case of one of the less conspicuous prophets, Micaiah, of Israel. King Ahab sent for him to prophesy before King Jehoshaphat. "And the messenger that went to call Micaiah," it is written, "spoke to him saying, Behold, the words of the prophet declare good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good. And Micaiah said, as the Lord liveth, *even what God saith, that will I speak*" (2 Chr. 18:12-13). Micaiah set forth the truth as the Lord gave it to him. King Ahab said, "Feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I return (from the Syrian war) in peace." Micaiah replied: "If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the Lord spoken

by me. And he said, Harken, all ye people" (2 Chr. 18:26-27). There you have the mark of a true prophet: one who speaks God's word; one who believes what he speaks; and one whose word God vindicates. Micaiah truly did the work of a prophet, even at the price of his own liberty.

There is another who is called the "weeping prophet," Jeremiah. The Lord said to him, "Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth" (Jer. 1:9). Henceforth Jeremiah was heard to say again and again: "The word of the Lord came to me;" "The Lord said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king;" "The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord;" "At that time, saith the Lord;" "Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel;" "Thus said the Lord unto me;" and so on and on. It was so common for him to acknowledge the Lord as the giver of his words that he came to be called the Lord God man. "Thy words were found," he laments "and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: *for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts*" (Jer. 15:16). He, too, was imprisoned for his unflinching fidelity to the Lord. That is the mark of a true prophet, a "holy man of God."

Take one other, Amos, who prophesied at the king's chapel at Bethel. He prophesied, saying, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land." He was asked by Amaziah, the king's priest, you know — to flee away into Judah and prophesy there; but to prophesy no more at Bethel: "For it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court." A mere pretender, or a hireling prophet (puppet), would prob-

(See COLYAR on page 6)

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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The Great Wine Debate or Should Wine Be Used At the Lord's Table

By L. K. Landis, Pastor
Fellowship Baptist Church, Liberal, Kansas



One of the most divisive issues facing Bible believers today is the issue of alcoholic wine being used in the observance of the Lord's Supper.

I must confess at the outset of this work that I was raised in a very strict Baptist home, where my strict Baptist parents despised and forbid the use of alcohol in any form, at any time. I must also confess that I am glad they did.

In these many years that I have been in the ministry I have learned to hate alcohol and have seen the ravages that the use of alcohol brings on its victims. There is nothing that does more to destroy homes, morality, purity, virtue and families than does this drink with a kiss of death.

While I understand that those who use wine at the Lord's Table do it with a sincere desire to please God and be obedient to Him, I believe that the Scriptures reveal that exactly the opposite is true. I

contend that the Bible is very demanding and that it demands the use of the purest grape juice in the observance of this vital ordinance.

In this message I trust that with the aid of the Holy Spirit I can lay to rest, once and for all, the question of this matter, at least for the people whom the Holy Spirit has made me overseer (Acts 20:28).

While it is my intention to thoroughly put forth a valiant defense of the use of grape juice, this is by no means an exhaustive study. To do absolute justice to the subject would require volumes. In this short treatise, I shall put forth only three of the major reasons why I completely reject the use of alcoholic, intoxicating wine.

The evidence against the use of wine is so great in the Scriptures that I don't see how anyone with an open heart and mind could come to any other conclusion than that of the use of grape juice as the ele-

ment of the Lord's Supper.

In all of my discussions with the brethren who do use wine, I have noticed that they have all gone outside the perimeter of the Bible to defend their position. However, I shall confine my arguments to the Word of God alone.

The Attitude of the Scriptures

To begin with, we must consider the **Attitude of the Scriptures** themselves toward the wine itself. It is totally out of character with what the Bible teaches regarding intoxicating wine to believe that the Lord Jesus would use this liquid to represent His blood.

From the very beginning of the Bible, it is obvious that wine has played a major part in the sins of men and the tragedies that are in this world.

1. God compares wine to "... the poison of dragons and the cruel venom of asps" (Dt. 32:33). Ask anyone who has ever had a hangover about the bite of alcohol. Ask the "winos" with cirrhosis of the liver, or those whose brains have been pickled because of the alcohol. Wine is indeed as the "*poison of dragons and the cruel venom of asps.*"

2. God associates wine with violence (Prov. 4:17). Any social worker in this country will tell you that the vast majority of domestic violence incidents involve alcohol. Ask any police captain and they will tell you that the vast ma-

majority of violent deaths, stabbings and shootings involve alcohol in some form or another.

3. God says, "*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise*" (Prov. 20:1).

Think about this verse for just a moment. If the God of heaven says that those who are deceived by wine and strong drink are fools, isn't it highly unlikely that His Son would use wine at the ordinance of the Lord's Supper?

4. God tells us we are not even to look upon intoxicating wine. "*Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder*" (Prov. 23:31-32).

Not only are we not to drink it, but we are not even to look upon it. How could Jesus use it without looking at it? That doesn't even make good sense.

5. God says that wine causes people to "... *forget the law, and pervert the judgment ...*" (Prov. 31:4-5). In those verses God also says that people in positions of leadership should not drink wine or strong drink.

This is good advice for our two Baptist presidents of recent years, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton. One says that his favorite beverage is a particular brand of whiskey, and the other who was often seen sip-

(See **WINE** on page 21)

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70 Bible References On Drinking

1. Gen. 9:20-26. The first drunkenness and the attendant immoral behavior.

2. Gen. 19:30-38. Drinking results in Lot's debauchery of his own daughters.

3. Gen. 27:25. Isaac was drinking when he mistakenly blessed Jacob.

4. Lev. 10:9. An express command not to drink.

5. Num. 6:3. The vow of the Nazarite.

6. Deut. 21:20. Drinking leads to stubbornness, rebellion, and gluttony and brings dishonor to parents.

7. Deut. 29:2-6. Abstinence assures a closer walk with God.

8. Judg. 13:4, 7, 14. Samson's mother, an example of all womanhood, was commanded not to drink. Was alcohol recognized even then as a protoplasmic poison, injuring posterity?

9. 1 Sam. 1:14-15. Hannah, an example of honored motherhood, was a total abstainer.

10. 1 Sam. 25:33; 36:38. Nabal, a rich but churlish man who opposed David, died after a drunken spree. He had already lost his wife's respect.

11. 2 Sam. 11:13. Only by strong drink could David lead Uriah into a fatal trap.

12. 2 Sam. 13:28-29. Amon, in a drunken brawl, was murdered by his brother Absalom.

13. 1 Kings 16:8-10. While a king was "drinking himself drunk" in his own home, one of his captains conspired against him and slew him.

14. 1 Kings 20:13-21. Drink and war. While Ben Hadad and thirty-two other Kings were drinking in their pavilions, a small band of Israel's men fell upon the Syrians and put them to flight.

15. Esther 1:5-22. Drink

wrecks homes and separates man and wife. At a week's feast of food and wine, King Ahasuerus drunkenly tried to subject his queen to the beastly gaze of inebriated nobles, causing separation of the royal husband and wife.

16. Job 1:18-19. The children of Job were feasting and drinking when blown away in a cyclone.

17. Prov. 4:17. Violence results from drinking.

18. Prov. 20:1. No wise men will indulge.

19. Prov. 21:17; 23:21. Drink leads to poverty.

20. Prov. 23:7-8. The body rebels after drinking.

21. Prov. 23:29-30. Strong drink produces sorrow, contentions, wounds without cause, babblings, redness of eyes.

22. Prov. 23:31. Do not be tempted by intoxicants.

23. Prov. 23:32. God's Word warns that liquor eventually harms all who drink.

24. Prov. 23:33. It produces willfulness and prevents reformation.

25. Prov. 23:33. It fills men's minds with adulterous and impure thoughts.

26. Prov. 23:34. It brings on insecurity.

27. Prov. 23:35. Insensitivity follows drinking, rendering a man into a clod.

28. Prov. 23:35. Habit forming. One drink calls for another.

29. Prov. 31:4-5. Kings and all other rulers or officials with the weight of human lives in their control should not imbibe.

30. Prov. 31:6-7. The only sanctions for the use of strong drink was a medicine or anesthetic for those about to die. We now know better medicines

and anesthetics than whiskey, wine or beer.

31. Eccl. 2:3. The writer of Ecclesiastes tried strong drink, but in the end was forced to admit that it too is vanity (Eccl. 12:8).

32. Eccl. 10:17. Blessings are promised to the temperate and abstaining nations.

33. Isa. 5:11-12. Woe to the drunkards.

34. Isa. 5:22. More woes to them who drink.

35. Isa. 22:13. Drinking and carnality go together. Leaves men hopeless.

36. Isa. 24:9. Drink is bitter to them that drink it.

37. Isa. 28:1. Woe to the drunkards of Ephraim.

38. Isa. 28:3. The pride of drunkards will be trodden down.

39. Isa. 28:7. Prophets and priests erred through drink.

40. Isa. 28:7. Those who drink are set aside as useless.

41. Isa. 28:7. Prophets and priests finally swallowed up by drink.

42. Isa. 28:7. Drinking brings on spiritual blindness.

43. Isa. 56:9-12. Rebuke to drinking church members. His watchmen.

44. Jer. 35:5-6, 8, 14. Total abstinence of the Rechabites cited as example of obedience on the part of God's people.

45. Ezk. 44:21. Priests are not to drink wine.

46. Dan. 5:2, 23. A nation whose women drink.

47. Dan. 5:1. Belshazzar is exhibited as an example of a leader who drank and taught his people to drink.

48. Dan. 5:2, 23. A nation whose women drink.

49. Dan. 5:5-9, 25-28. Ruin and downfall for nations whose rulers and leaders

cause them to drink.

50. Dan. 5:3. Belshazzar's sacrilege in using sacred temple vessels for liquor.

51. Hos. 3:1. Part of the degradation of Hosea's wife induced by drink.

52. Hos. 4:11. Strong drink and immorality go hand in hand.

53. Hos. 7:5. King and people reproved because of drinking.

54. Joel 1:5. Drunkards to awake from their drinking.

55. Joel 3:3. Young virtue sold for the price of drink.

56. Amos 2:8. Wine of the condemned.

57. Amos 2:12. Pollution of the innocent.

58. Amos 4:1. Dissolute women, oppressors of the poor, call for their liquor.

59. Amos 6:6. Drinkers not concerned about God nor the welfare of others.

60. Nah. 1:10. Drunkards to be destroyed.

61. Hab. 2:5. Arrogance inflamed by drink.

62. Hab. 2:15. Wrong to give one's neighbor drink. Social drinking.

63. Hab. 2:16. Drink leads to shame and humiliation.

64. Matt. 24:48-51. Drunkards warned about the return of Christ and His judgment.

65. Luke 1:15. Greatness of John the Baptist linked with his total abstinence.

66. Luke 12:45. Christ warns against being enmeshed in drink evils.

67. Luke 21:34. Warning against drunkenness and the cares of this life which follow, keeping one occupied to the exclusion of the Spirit.

68. Rom. 13:13. All are ad-

(See 70 on page 21)

The Winning of Others To Jesus

By Roy Mason

If one should take a text for this subject, a good one would be "He that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30). Coupled with this verse should be another verse, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament forever" (Dan. 12:3).

Standing first in the Great Commission of our Lord (Mt. 28) is the command "Go ye into all the world and make disciples ..." That comes ahead of baptism or teaching or anything else.

Something The Devil Does Not Want Done

The devil is much opposed to the reaching of the lost. He is opposed to genuine conversion, and since he is such an able counterfeiter, he has devised all sorts of substitutes. Let us mention a few:

1. Non-Evangelicalism

Many denominations are non-evangelical. That is, they do not believe in evangelizing. Among these are the Episcopalians and the Catholics — two huge religious groups. They depend on growth by natural birth. Babies of members are taken and baptized and made members of those churches before they have any say so about it. In most instances, it is to be feared those baptized never come to learn anything about the new birth.

2. "Church Work." In Baptist churches, as well as others, many people become "church workers." They help get up and put on "programs." They lead in putting on parties and socials. They organize and execute, and with all of it, they never win one soul to Christ. Most of such "church work" has never been authorized by

Christ anyhow. Many "church workers" are thoroughly worldly in life, for it takes no spirituality to get up a party, or to read something out of "Royal Service" magazine. If all that energy was spent on the winning of the lost, how much more profitable it would be!

3. Evangelistic Clap-Trap.

The devil has perverted much evangelism such that people by skillful manipulation are led to make some sort of a profession, without any knowledge of what it is all about. "Juniors" are swept into the church in droves through "story hours" and "magic" and "movies" and what not. The devil highly approves all such "evangelism."

What It Takes To win Others To Christ

1. It takes a faithful consistent Christian life (Mt. 5:16). If you don't have anything worth while, then others don't want it. People must feel that you are sincere — that you really have something.

2. It takes a prayerful heart. You need divine help in this as in nothing else. In answer to prayer, the Lord can open the way of approach. He can soften a hard heart. He can bring conviction that leads to conversion.

3. It takes a sincere concern about the welfare of others. It is hard for even the hardened sinner to rebuff you when he feels that you speak to him out of sincere friendship.

4. It takes some plain common sense. "Are you a Christian?" said a tactless girl — a neighbor of ours — to a friend. "No." "Goodnight! Why aren't you one?" Others have

been just as tactless, and as lacking in sense. Sometimes it is plain that people are not ready — maybe they don't understand, or don't have the interest desired. In such cases it may be wise to induce them to attend church where they will hear the gospel.

5. It takes persistence. A member of our church recently told of how a devout couple prayed for him, and spoke to him about the Lord, for 17 years before he finally turned. It reminds one of the statement, "He that goeth forth weeping bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again, rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

The Reward Of The Winner Of Souls

1. There is great present reward. No joy quite equals the joy of the soul winner. No Christian will backslide, or will need reviving, if he is a persistent soul winner.

2. There is eternal reward. He shall "shine as the brightness of the firmament forever." For all that means, we will have to enter eternity.

An Inexhaustible Supply

On a visit to the island of Trinidad, we drove to what is known as Pitch Lake. Here is one of the wonders of the world. On reaching the lake we found what resembles an extinct volcano with a radius of one-half mile.

This crater area is filled with asphalt which is hard enough that our party of seven walked to the center, where two crews of men were digging and loading trolley cars. Occasionally we found places where gas was escaping, causing bubbles on the surface.

The men with sharp picks were digging the asphalt. It would break into good sized chunks weighing from fifty to one hundred pounds. They loaded the cars eight and ten in a train. These cars attached to a cable, were pulled to the refinery, built on the edge of the crater.

In removing the asphalt, they did not go more than five or six feet deep. They told us that within seventy-two hours the hole would fill up to the lake level, with no sign that any had been removed. They further told us that they had been digging and shipping this asphalt to all parts of the world for the past sixty-three years. There is just as much asphalt in Pitch Lake as there was sixty-three years ago. Though many thousands of shiploads have gone into the highways of the earth, the supply is not diminished.

A few years ago in the center of the lake they drilled a hole two hundred and eighty feet deep. All the way down they found nothing but black asphalt. At that depth there was so much pressure on the rill bit that the project had to be abandoned. An inexhaustible supply of asphalt!

When we looked upon this bit of God's creation, we said that this is the same as with God's grace. The God of all grace has an inexhaustible supply. All the Christians in all the world can have grace in abundance — all that they can use — and yet the supply is never diminished.

For this reason we are interested in getting the gospel to all men. The Lord has never been a party to race prejudice. He died that all his elect might be saved. "Whosoever will may come." The rivers of earth may fail, but the river of salvation flows through all lands and will never fail.

— C. Warren Jones

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

COLYAR...

(Continued from page 2)

ably not have faced up to that situation. But Amos was no pretender. He replied to his would-be intimidator in no uncertain terms: "I was no prophet, neither was a prophet's son; but I was a herdman and a gatherer of sycamore fruit: and the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel. Now therefore hear thou the word of the Lord: Thou sayest, Prophesy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac. Therefore thus saith the Lord; Thy wife shall be a harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shall die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land" (Amos 7:10-17). The prophesy uttered refers not only to a few of the priest's personal matters, but it has something to say about the king's politics also. This is both

a mark of a true prophet and a fair sample of the work of the prophets.

The Prophets of Satan

The second king of prophets in the world is Satan's prophets, false prophets who prophesy falsely. They are legion. Of course they prophesy in the name of the Lord. They would have the world believe they are mighty in knowledge and in wisdom. But false prophets and false teachers are the sons of Belial and ministers of Satan.

One does not have to be an earnest student of the Scriptures long before he discovers this truth, that wherever the Lord establishes a divine order among the angels and among men, Satan always counters in opposition to Him with a substitute, and therefore a counterfeit, order. For example, the Lord established the home on monogamous marriage; Satan counter's in opposition with polygamous marriage. The Lord sets forth the truth; Satan counters with corruption of the truth in manifold forms of error. The Lord is the Savior of sinful men through His substitutionary death; Satan is a religionist preaching man as his own savior by "being good" and doing "good works." The Lord set up a New Testament church as His house of witness; Satan counters with a whole brood of counterfeit churches, preaching "another gospel," as Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia, "which is not another" (gospel). The list of examples may be extended almost indefinitely. The Devil is a counterfeiter of no mean ability. There is one definite earmark on the Devil's counterfeits: on one side of it is the denial of the Deity of Christ and His authority in heaven and in earth; and on the other

side of it is deification of man, which turns out to be, in final analysis, the deification of Satan himself. Note also that every Satanic counterfeit of divine order is accomplished through the flesh always playing to gratify man's ideologies, lusts, and hopes.

To support the affirmation that false prophets are Satan's ministers the following scripture is cited: "For such are false apostles (the apostles were prophets too), deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ" Not God-transformed, but self-transformed impostors. "And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Cor. 11:13-15). Some of these false apostles, claiming the *authority* and the *power* of the apostles of Christ, showed up at the church in Ephesus. The church "tried them" and "found them liars" (Rev. 2:2).

It is therefore important to know how to detect and to identify false prophets. The Lord gave Moses the test to be applied to one who would speak as a prophet: "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? *When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing (prophesied) follow not, not come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously:*

(See COLYAR on page 11)

Doings of the Devil

In John 8:44 and in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, we find the character traits and doings of Satan, the god of this world, disclosed. Here we find him to be a mighty liar and a mighty deceiver. And in his role of lying and deceiving, he enlists manifold agents in his evil works. Among the doings of the devil, we survey briefly but a few.

As "*prince of this world*" (Jn. 14:30), he is the active head of civilization, as manifested in the state, in business, in education, and in social life. As head of government, he always moves to socialize all life, heading ever toward state Socialism. As head of business, he encourages expenditures beyond incomes, the application of unfair measures, the use of the end justifies the means, and the playing of all business into the hands of the state. Thus he moves toward the control of all enterprise, outlawing initiative and freedom for the individual as he goes. As the head of education, he humanizes it, socializes it, and animalizes it. Thus he outlaws the soul and reduces life's responses to mere animalistic impulses and brings the Word and the work of the Lord into discredit.

As the "*god of this world*" (2 Cor. 4:4), he is an inventor and propagator of religion. As the head of worship, he naturalizes religion. He builds his worship upon the flesh and its mentality. He magnifies the goodness of man and not the goodness of God. He magnifies the deity of man and not the deity of God. He magnifies works for salvation and not works because of salvation. He magni-

fies apostles of humanitarianism and not the apostles of God. He magnifies human investigation and not divine revelation. He makes man his own savior. Thus he revolutionizes, in the name of God, all redemptive truth.

As the head of worship, he is the inventor of every occult group in the world. Occultism is all worship outside of the name of Christ. Paganistic systems of worship through the ages and throughout the world today are his inventions.

As the head of worship, the devil is the inventor of every cult in the world at this hour. Cultism is all worship in the name of Christ which adds to, or subtracts from, the Word in order to establish its premises and its proclamations.

In the realm of worship, he manifests himself as an angel of light or an apostle of Christ. And in nearly all of his preachments, he offers the righteousness which is of the flesh.

As both a liar and deceiver, he acts upon the flesh; stimulates fleshly reactions; builds up carnal ideals; cultivates carnal habits; breaks down moral convictions; leads men and women to countenance evil; and causes them to neglect the weal of our youth by doing nothing about the evil which openly and brazenly tempts them.

The devil is hard to whip. And that is true because he works under the cover of darkness. Having blinded the minds of men, multitudes refuse to see the truth, or seeing it imperfectly, refuse to embrace it. He makes multitudes of people coddle ser-

pentine principles and embrace them as spiritual virtues. He is long on liberalism. In the name of virtue, he makes cursing a light matter, theft a light matter, lying a light matter, covetousness a light matter, killing a light matter, adultery a light matter, dishonoring father and mother a light matter, desecration of the Lord's Day a light matter, worship of images a light matter, and rejection of the God of heaven a light matter.

Being the god of this world and his nature being the exact antithesis of the God of heaven, he is opposed to everything that the Lord is for, and seeks to defeat every ministry of the Lord in this world. Accordingly, the church of the living God is the chiefest object of attack. And in his attack, he weakens the churches by bringing them to compromise the Lord and to cowardly sacrifice heavenly standards in order to gratify the flesh.

Reader friend, no fact, save one, should be more obvious to the sons of men on earth than the fact of the presence and the operation of the devil among us. The fact of all facts, of course, is God. We humbly call on all to hear the Master say "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Mt. 11:28-30). ■

Baptists And Falling From Grace

How many among us, bearing the age-old and honored name, "Baptist," believe in falling from grace? None!

shouts a denominational enthusiast. None! shouts a program Baptist. None! shouts an ecclesiastical Baptist. None! declare all those who are more concerned about the triumph of institutions than about the triumph of truth.

We beg to differ from the position of such brethren. There are multitudes of men and women, bearing our age-old and honored Baptist name, who believe in falling from grace. Every one who admits an element of works as a condition of salvation believes in falling from grace. Every one who believes that the followers of Christ must do good in order to be saved believes in falling from grace. Every one who believes in grace plus works as a means of salvation believes in falling from grace. Every one who prays, "Lord help us to hold out faithful to the end," believes in falling from grace. Every one who tinkers with the old Word, making it part human and part divine, believes in falling from grace. Every liberalist among our Baptist ranks, modernists, freethinkers, et al, believes in falling from grace. Every one who believes in the new birth plus the second blessing in order to have standing with God believes in falling from grace.

The reader should not be deceived; none of the above claiming to be Baptists are Baptists. Baptists are Bible believers and the Bible teaches without doubt, "once in grace, always in grace." Thank God our Lord's salvation is eternal salvation. ■

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An Open Letter To Professor Stephen Jay Gould

By Bolton Davidheiser, Ph.D.

January 1996

This could become a rather long letter and you may not wish to read all or any of it, as I am a creationist. I have a Ph.D. in zoology and was an evolutionist till the age of thirty-two. Professor George Gaylord Simpson said I was the only creationist who wrote to him in a courteous manner. I made apologies for the others.

My delay in becoming a creationist I attribute largely to the fact that everything I read of an anti-evolutionary nature was written by people who displayed ignorance of the subject and made obvious factual mistakes. But evolutionists also can display ignorance and be unwilling to acknowledge error when corrected. For example, it has been said in print not infrequently that Darwin never said we evolved from monkeys or apes. Whenever I came across this I sent the author a copy of the first two statements printed below, written by Darwin in the sixth chapter of his **Descent of Man**, Revised Edition, and I never received an acknowledgment.

But a naturalist would undoubtedly have ranked as an ape or a monkey, an ancient form which possessed many characters common to the Catarrhine and Platyrrhine monkeys, other characters in an intermediate condition, and some few, perhaps, distinct from those now found in either group. And as man from a genealogical point of view belongs to the Catarrhine or Old World stock, we must conclude, however much the conclusion may revolt our pride, that our early progenitors would

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He has taught twenty years on the college level; worked on cancer research at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health; a speaker on the creation-evolution issue coast to coast in the United States and Canada in conferences, churches and schools, and repeatedly on radio and TV.

Dr. Davidheiser was also one of five scientists who spoke in a Creation Seminar in the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas in February, 1967.

have been properly thus designated (Page 171).

The Simiadae then branched off into two great stems, the New World and Old World monkeys; and from the latter, at a remote period, Man, the wonder and glory of the Universe, proceeded (Page 181).

Further, Darwin wrote in the same chapter:

There can ... hardly be a doubt that man is an off-shoot from the Old World Simian stem, and that under a genealogical point of view, he must be classed with the Catarrhine division (page 169).

...We may infer that some ancient member of the anthropomorphous sub-group [referring to the Catarrhine] gave birth to man (Page 170).

We are far from knowing how long ago it was when man first diverged from the Catarrhine stock; but it may have occurred at an epoch as remote as the Eocene period. ... (Page 172).

We have seen that man appears to have diverged from the Catarrhine Old World division of the Simiadae, after these had diverged from the New World division (Page 173).

One of my sons came home from junior college and said the head of the History Department told the class Darwin never said we came

from monkeys or apes and he would give ten dollars to anyone who could show that Darwin did. I supplied the first two of these quotations and when I asked about the outcome I was told the teacher refused to accept them. Wondering why a person of that academic standing would not accept Darwin's own words, I wrote a letter of inquiry. No reply. I really wanted to know, so I took the drastic procedure of sending another inquiry, this time by certified mail. (I never mentioned the ten dollars.) After some complimentary remarks about me personally, his reply was, "I am not interested in convincing you, your son, or anyone else, of anything. I simply present the facts and hope the logical, intelligent mind will reach it's [sic] own conclusion. I do not attempt to unlock closed minds." What stupid creationist could have displayed greater ignorance or bigotry?

On a Phil Donahue show a famous university professor was asked, "Did you teach your children that their great ancestors were monkeys?" The professor replied, "No,

and neither does the Theory of Evolution. [Capitals in the transcript.] That's one of the mis-directed things. I get so tired of that. 'We descended from apes.' I challenge you to find that in one work of Charles Darwin or anyone else. That's one of those mythological things, that we came from apes."

The challenge to find that "we descended from apes" in the work "of anyone else" beside Darwin was an utterly shameless bluff. Anyone can easily do this in a short time in a public library. Could a creationist display greater ignorance?

As to the challenge to find it in any work of Charles Darwin, I sent the professor the first two quotes printed above from **The Descent of Man**, and I sent them by certified mail so I would know he received them. No reply.

Later at a conference where I was a speaker I met an atheist who goes to creation conferences to obtain information which he uses to combat creationism. In our conversation I mentioned the matter of the professor on the Donahue show.

"Oh," he said, "you sent it by certified mail, so he knows you're a kook."

"He won't think you're a kook," I replied, and suggested *he* write to the professor about it. Presently I received a reply confirming that the professor does not correspond with creationists.

"I cannot devote time refuting your self-conceived positions which you credit to me," he said. Actually, there

(See **OPEN** on page 9)

OPEN...

(Continued from page 8)

were thousands in the television audience beside myself who heard what he said, and it was printed in the transcript. It was not a position self-conceived by me. He continued that for the sake of the one with whom I had conversed he would deign reply. He wrote, "For example, your inclusion of so-called 'quotations' from the **Descent of Man** are erroneous. I have a photo reproduction of the 1871 edition of the **Descent of Man** published by John Murray in London. Your quote which you purport to have copied from page 171 is on page 198 of my edition and you have engaged in a deception. You have taken part of a sentence in the 12th line of the subject paragraph, rewritten it, and placed it at the head of your paragraph and have reworked the paragraph so that it no longer is a quote from Darwin, but a quote from Davidheiser. This deception is unacceptable, as is your selective quotation from the paragraph."

It was Darwin, not I, who "reworked the paragraph." The professor has a copy of the first edition, published by Murray. I have the second, revised edition, published by Hurst and Co. Apparently the accounts have no significant differences but, if anything, the revised edition should be more authentic of Darwin's intention of the wording. In the days when I was an evolutionist, I would have considered it a complement indeed that I be given credit for writing done by Darwin!

I have traced back to Elbert Hubbard the saying that Darwin never wrote man evolved from monkeys or apes. (In Darwin's day there was not the clear distinction between monkeys and apes as today, but the Catarrhines

and Platyrrhines are monkeys.) Was the rumor started here by someone who read Hubbard more than Darwin? Were evolutionists impressed by the rumor and neglected reading Darwin? Why are they reluctant to admit error when it is pointed out? At any rate, the error became widely dispersed that Darwin never wrote we evolved from monkeys or apes.

There was a time when a number of evolutionists were sensitive about ape-to-man evolution and denied that according to evolutionary theory man evolved from apes. When cornered, they said they meant we did not evolve from any *living* species of ape, hoping people would not think about the *extinct* species of apes in the alleged ancestry of human beings. But times have changed and now statements in articles and books about our ape ancestry are too common to need documentation. Desmond Morris wrote his popular book, **The Naked Ape**, that's us, in which he referred to people as apes no less than ninety-four times. Others have taken up this theme.

There is the matter of the unfortunate terms "creation science" and "scientific creationism." It could have been predicted from the start that evolutionists would have a heyday ridiculing creationists for calling creation scientific. Creationists believe creation was by supernatural acts of God. There was nothing scientific about it. Why call it "creation science"? The intended significance is that literature, lectures, and debates on the creation/evolution issue may be confined to matters "scientific," with no reference to religion or Scripture. I myself have lec-

tured coast to coast in public schools under this restriction. I was in one of the Morris-Gish debates and attended others, where this restriction was imposed, though the evolutionists freely broke it.

The evolutionists also committed a mistake in terminology with "micro-evolution" for something that is not evolution. The classic example is the case of the light and dark moths in England, cited in a multitude of textbooks and in articles for the public. There was no evolution. The moths remained moths and were not becoming anything else. But a popular scientific magazine reported it as "The most striking evolutionary change ever witnessed by man."

The difference between the two is that one has a corrective explanation and the other was devised *intentionally* to mean what it implies — that it *is* evolution — though it is *not* evolution. For the creationists, their terms brought ridicule, which continues. But for the evolutionists, coining the term "micro-evolution" is a trick that worked. The public has been sold on the idea that since changes called "micro-evolution" are factual, they must accept at least *some* evolution, and this leads to accepting what really would be evolution, and is called "macro-evolution." Evidence is lacking that "micro-evolution" leads to evolution.

I much enjoy reading your articles in **Natural History** and the collection of some of them into books. Obviously you are exceptionally well informed. I hope some day in a college library to read in back numbers articles I have missed.

But you refer to forces of irrationalism that persecuted

Scopes at the famous trial in 1925 (**Ever Since Darwin**, pg. 141). How was Scopes persecuted? When the American Civil Liberties Union advertised for a teacher who would admit teaching evolution contrary to a new law in Tennessee, prominent men in Dayton met at the town drugstore to discuss it. Their desire seems to have been merely "to put Dayton on the map." They called for Scopes and talked him into being a volunteer. He later said it was just a drugstore discussion that got past control. After the trial he admitted publicly at least five times — I document them in a book — that as far as he could remember he never taught evolution. He later said he feared he might be called to the witness stand under oath, in which case he would have had to admit he had not taught evolution. The book **Land of the Free**, which was required reading in California schools, no doubt considerably contributed to public misinformation by saying, "Then in 1925 a courageous teacher in Tennessee took a stand against the anti-evolution law. John Thomas Scopes, a teacher of science in the small town of Dayton, Tennessee, defiantly told his class about Darwin's theory." Then there is the film **Inherit the Wind**, based on this trial, with its share of misinformation. It starts out with officials actually catching Scopes in the act of teaching evolution!

It is commonly said that the prosecution won because Scopes was found guilty. From the start he said he was guilty. That is why there was a trial. It was a victory for the defense as they *wanted* him found guilty so the case could go to higher

(See **OPEN** on page 10)

OPEN...

(Continued from page 9)

courts. Chief of defense Darrow told the judge, "I think to save time we will ask the court to bring in the jury and instruct the jury to find the defendant guilty. We make no objection to that and I think it will save a lot of time and I think it should be done." It did not go to higher courts because the Tennessee Supreme Court declared it a mistrial due to a technicality—the judge imposed a fine of one hundred dollars (the minimum possible) while any fine over fifty dollars should have been imposed by the jury. Scopes was not persecuted.

There was a time, even in my day, when the Bible was welcomed in the public schools. Each day began with a reading aloud of Scripture by the teacher, followed by reciting the "Lord's prayer" (Matthew 6:9-13), and the salute to the flag. Now, because of "the separation of church and state guaranteed by our Constitution," (which the Constitution nowhere does, but the humanists get away with saying it does), children can initiate court trials merely by bringing a Bible to school. Paganism and the occult are accepted without question in public school programs, but nothing Christian is allowed. Anything Christian might even offend a child from some country where it is a capital crime to convert to Christianity.

Most evolutionists seem to be particularly antagonistic to Bible believing Christians because of the conflict between the Bible and evolutionary theory. They say the Christian creationists would like to bring the Bible back into the schools. That is true, but the power of the humanists has become so strong this cannot be hoped for. As to

the matter of evolution, it has become such an issue it cannot be ignored and creationists desire it to be taught as a theory and not as a fact. Kelly Segraves, one of my students, won a court case in California, declaring evolution be taught as a theory and not as a fact. The judge told him he won the case and then told the press both sides won. Right there the state superintendent of schools told Kelly they were going to teach it as a fact anyway and if he didn't like it he could sue, assuredly knowing Kelly could not do this, having gone into debt for the first trial.

But the evolutionists really show how biased they are because of their effort to obstruct the teaching of problems and difficulties with evolutionary theory, as brought up by creationists in writings, lectures, and debates. This is in conflict with the reputation of scientists as being objective searchers for truth.

It is quite likely that most evolutionists, as well as a large percent of the nominal Christian public, believe the creation/evolution issue is only about historical events recorded in the first two chapters of Genesis. (There are more than a hundred references to creation in the Bible beyond these two chapters.) They are unaware of the *doctrinal* issue. If evolution is true, we are improved animals instead of sinners fallen from a perfect creation. Then there never were only two first human beings who sinned and brought a sin nature upon the human race. It follows from this there is no need for the Savior, no occasion for the Redeemer. This is why Bible believing Christians are so strongly opposing the teaching of evolution as a fact instead of a theory in the public

schools.

Ever since evolutionary theory became an issue there have been those who teach various compromises between the Bible and evolutionary theory, to bring them into harmony and soothe the minds of those who wish to have it both ways. With the current religious trend ever toward the more liberal, ecumenical, apostate, the motivation for compromise appears to be augmenting in an effort to adapt the Bible to evolutionary science. This is both disparaged by evolutionists and deplored by creationists.

* * *

"Our law and our institutions must be necessarily based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise, and in this sense and to that extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian.... This is a Christian nation." — The United States Supreme Court. *Church of the Holy Trinity vs. The United States*, February 29, 1892.

"Under the guise of separation of church and state the United States Supreme Court has declared prayer (1962), the Bible (1963), the Ten Commandments (1980), and God (1987), unconstitutional in our public schools. We are legally an atheistic, immoral nation.... The only religious worldview allowed in our public education today is the atheistic Secular Humanist worldview — which supports abortion and homosexuality. Its religious tentacles permeate every level of our society today." — The Journal. *A Summit Ministries Publication*, December, 1995.

* * *

If evolutionists will not admit the fact that Charles Darwin

Long Day Theory

By Edward Overbey

Some Bible scholars believe that the word "day" in Genesis 1 is used in a figurative sense and refers to a period millions of years in duration. It is possible for words to be used in a figurative sense, but if they are then the context will make it clear. It is possible for the word "day" to be used in a figurative a sense and it is sometimes. When we say this is the day of salvation we mean this is the time or period of salvation. This period has been going on for many many days. Most of the time, though, the word "day" is used literally of a 24-hour day or of the daylight portion of such a day.

We reject this long day theory because the normal meaning of the word "day" makes good sense in the context of Genesis 1. The normal or literal meaning of the word is a twenty-four hour day. The context indicates that it has the literal meaning because the days are numbered, first day, second day, etc. When the word is used figuratively of an indefinite period of time this is not done nor is it necessary. The whole creation could be referred

(See **DAY** on page 11)

did write, and repeatedly, that man evolved from monkeys, would they be expected to admit the part the teaching of evolution has done to help bring about the a-moral and un-Christian condition of our country today?

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DAY...

(Continued from page 10)

to as the day of creation if one wanted to use it figuratively rather than saying God did this work in six days and rested on the seventh (Ex. 20:11).

Each of the first six days are said to be divided into two parts, evening and morning. These divisions are the divisions of a twenty-four hour day. The evening refers to the darkness part of a twenty-four hour day and the morning to the light part. The seventh day when God rested is given as the reason why Israel was to rest on the seventh day of each week. Israel rested on a twenty-four day each week which would indicate that God first rested on such a day also (Ex. 20:8-11). Verse 11 should be carefully noted.

Scientific Facts and a Low Creation Date

Within the immediate context, Genesis 1 — 2:3, our interpretation of the language makes good sense and is the normal interpretation of these words. This interpretation also harmonizes with the other statements within the Bible. But the statement may be made, "Surely science has proved that the creation must have been millions of years ago so your interpretation does not harmonize with the facts of science. The Bible must harmonize with the facts without the Bible as well as those within." We believe that the facts without the Bible *do* harmonize with the teachings within. It is the *theories* of some scientists and others that our interpretation does not harmonize with. There are no scientific *facts* that prove that the world

is more than a few thousand years old. The low date that we gave for creation will harmonize with the facts of science. The long period of time that some scientists assign for the age of the earth is based upon methods of dating that are founded on unproved assumptions.

In interpreting the Bible or any book we should seek to find what it says not what we can make it say to fit with what we may think is fact or theory outside of the book under study. ■

COLYAR...

(Continued from page 6)

thou shalt not be afraid of him" (Dt. 18:20-22).

This is indeed a rigid test. The Lord always fulfills His word, thereby vindicating the true prophet who speaks His word; but the Lord will not honor the false prophet who speaks in His name presumptuously.

Even the black arts are resorted to by the false prophets sometimes. Isaiah exacted the test of some, thus: "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep (chirp, speak in a low, whispering voice) and that mutter (as the lamenting of sighing men): should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?" Is it not preposterous to seek unto the dead on behalf of the living, with chirpings and mutterings as in fancied imitation of departed spirits of the dead? It is a satanic work trying to comfort the distressed and sorrowing by calling up the spirits of the dead, for cash usually. Isaiah the prophet of God says to them that resort to such means: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is

because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:19-20). The word of the living God, the Holy Scriptures, is the place for God's people to inquire concerning all matters pertaining to life and death. No Christian has any business in the tent of the necromancer. Any Christian who takes counsel of the "fortune teller" and the spiritualists' seance, and such like, insults his Lord. We are told that there are millions of people in this nation who seek instruction and comfort for troubled hearts at the dispensaries of satanic opiates. There is a better way for troubled hearts: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me," Jesus counseled His troubled disciples.

Beware!

The Devil is a dopester. His victims are lulled to sleep in false security by the mouth of false prophets. Jesus warned: Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Mt. 7:15-16). False prophesying is the fruit of false prophets. They peddle the Devil's lies in the name of the Lord. They gain a hearing through false pretense. They are ravening wolves in sheep's clothing. They fool the religious by multitudes, but never a Spirit-filled child of God.

They make a great show, but Satan is the power back of every exhibition. They carry on many "wonderful works," carrying their dupes with them to the judgment of the ungodly. Jesus pronounced judgment upon them. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord," He says, "shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils (demons)? and in thy name done many wonderful works? and *then* will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (lawlessness) (Mt. 7:21-23). And there is no work so iniquitous as the Devil speaking lies in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

If we understand these things concerning the prophets: namely, (1) that there are true prophets of God and false prophets of Satan, and (2) that the prophets of Satan speak of the Antichrist, we shall not have made our study of the work of the prophets in vain.

Let the children of God, therefore, take heed how they hear and what they hear, lest they be led astray. ■

The Unequal Yoke

By Martin Paul

"If I have failed both to point out the danger and the cure of Liberalism within the churches, in as convincing and urgent a manner as I should have wished, may the Lord use these pages at least to inspire an abler pen to lay hold on the idea and do its better share to open the eyes of sleeping Christians everywhere to the fact that Christianity without Christ spells both temporal and eternal ruin" — Martin Paul. Order from:

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(See postage rates on page 19)

China Detains Protestant Churchman. Chinese police briefly detained a prominent leader of an unsanctioned Protestant church and confiscated 2,500 Bibles, a Christian news agency in Hong Kong reports. The Rev. Samuel Lamb, 71, was questioned two hours about his congregation before being released, said Andrew Wark of News Network International. The police also searched Lamb's church in the southern city of Canton and took away the Bibles in 40 bags, Wark said, citing information gathered by a colleague who had visited Lamb. The police did not threaten to shut his church as they have in the past, he said. Lamb, a Chinese Protestant, spent two decades in jail for refusing to join China's state-sanctioned church. He was released in 1978 and now runs an unofficial church in Canton.

Alcohol Use Costs Over \$100 Billion. The cost of alcohol use in America is staggering. Consider: The aftermath of alcohol use cost the United States more than \$100 billion in 1994, or \$404 for every man, woman, and child (Source: National Clearinghouse for Drug & Alcohol Information, Rockville, Md.); Alcohol is the greatest factor in contributing to crime, with police, judges, and prosecutors saying it is involved in at least 80% of crimes (Source: Louis-

ville *Courier-Journal*); Violent crimes committed by people under the influence of alcohol have dramatic annual costs, including \$2 billion in medical care, \$8 billion in lost earnings and other costs, and \$48 billion in pain, suffering, and lost quality of life (Source: National Commission Against Drunk Driving); Every dollar spent treating alcoholics saves \$11 in costs associated with drinking (Source: *Courier-Journal*); During 1993 in Kentucky, alcohol was involved in 30% of traffic fatalities (Source: Kentucky Accidents Facts 1993). Information provided by Temperance League of Kentucky. — Baptist Record.

Persecution Intensifies In Northern India. Open persecution of Christians is on the rise in Northern India, according to Lance Thollander, director of Christian Aid Mission's India Division. India is a secular state that grants freedom of religion, but Hindu militants have increased pressure against proselytization. Thollander has received several reports from Christians of hostile action being taken against them. "They [the reports] are especially noteworthy since India proclaims itself to be the world's largest democracy." Reports of churches being burned to the ground and Christians being arrested are frequent. Thomas Mathews, a church leader in India, reported that three of the group's churches in Orissa

state were burned. One of the churches was rebuilt, only to be burned down again. Christians have been attacked in the "generally more friendly South," the Mission reported. A church of the Shiloh Evangelistic Mission burned to the ground near Madras last January. The leader of the ministry attributes the fire to "Hindu Zealots." The church cannot rebuild on the site because of zoning laws.

Navy Reinstates Objector of Women in Combat. A Navy officer who was facing discharge because of his opposition to women in combat will be retained. Navy Secretary John H. Dalton decided not to discharge Lt. Cmdr. Ken Carkhuff, citing his "superb record of achievement." The controversy began on August 24, 1994, when Carkhuff, a helicopter pilot, told his executive officer privately that as a Christian he believes women should not serve in combat and, therefore, that he had reservations about transporting a detachment that included two female pilots. The Clinton Administration has erased more than 250,000 combat exemptions for women. Today women can be assigned to 95% of all Navy billets. — The Baptist Bulletin

"Cleaned-up" New Testament. Word has reached us via writer Luther W. Martin of Broadus, TX of a "New Testa-

ment Without Anti-Semitism" published by the Judean Publishing House of Jerusalem, Israel. Presumably to make the New Testament more palatable to Jews, this publication has attempted to remove or re-label anything in the New Testament that seems to place blame on the Jews for the crucifixion of Christ. For example, Martin noted, Acts 2:23 has been changed from "...ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" to "...ye have taken and Roman hands have crucified and slain him." Similarly, Acts 2:36 and Acts 3:13 are changed in this version to take the onus for Christ's death off the Jews. "There is no Greek manuscript evidence that supports such changes as the Judeans have made," Martin stated. Other instances of "cleansing" the New Testament Martin listed include substituting "minister" or "chief minister" for "priest," "high priest," or "chief priest"; calling the Pharisees "Separates"; and substituting the word "Bible" for Mosaic Law, "Jewish Law," or simply "law." — Pulpit Helps

Christian Psychologist Disciplined. A Christian psychologist has been sharply disciplined by the State of Washington for informing a client who was planning to have an abortion that he opposes termination of pregnancies. The State Examining Board of Psychology ruled that M. Douglas Anderson committed an act of "incompetence,

negligence or malpractice” when he divulged his personal views to his client, who broke into tears at the comment. Anderson said he was being candid with his client, rather than pressuring her. — Pulpit Helps

No Asylum For Women Fleeing Forced Abortions.

While women’s rights advocates met in Beijing at the United Nations Fourth Conference on Women, 13 Chinese women were being imprisoned by the United States and awaiting deportation back to China. The group had fled China’s forced abortion policies. The women face extreme punishment in slave labor camps or even death if they are returned. President Clinton has refused to grant them asylum. In a reversal of the Reagan-Bush immigration policy, Clinton declared that forced abortion was no longer grounds for political asylum. He has, however, extended asylum to homosexuals fleeing “persecution.” — AFA Journal

GI Who Refused To Serve

U.N. Convicted. Spc. Michael G. New, 22, a U.S. Army medic from Texas became the first American soldier to face a court martial for refusing to wear U.N. blue with his American uniform or to accept U.N. command. New’s unit in the Army’s 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, based at Schweinfurt, was ordered Oct.

10 to wear blue U.N. shoulder patches and headgear for assignment to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. New refused, saying he had sworn allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, not the U.N. charter, and considered it disloyal to serve a power other than the United States. New of Conroe, Texas, was arraigned November 17 in U.S. military court on one charge of disobeying a lawful order. He did not enter a plea. [Following the above, New was convicted and is to be given a dishonorable discharge.]

Billy Graham’s Son Named Successor.

Franklin Graham, a self-described former rebel who for years struggled with living up to the family name, formally has been named to succeed his father as head of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. A statement issued by the Minneapolis-based Graham organization said Franklin Graham, 43, was appointed by its 32-member board of directors to the newly created post of first vice-president to his father’s \$88 million-a-year crusade organization, “with direct succession to become chairman and CEO, should his father ever become incapacitated.” Until that time, Billy Graham, who is 77 and who suffers from Parkinson’s disease, will remain chairman and chief executive officer of the ministry he founded in 1950, the statement said. Franklin Graham’s autobiography, published last year, is

titled “Rebel With A Cause: Finally Comfortable Being Graham.” In it he recounts his early years “marred by smoking, drinking, fighting, confrontations with the police, and eventually expulsion from [LeTourneau] college.” The cover photo shows Franklin wearing a black leather Harley-Davidson motorcycle jacket and cowboy boots. Franklin wears jeans, boots, denim shirt and leather jacket. While the elder Graham is an ordained Southern Baptist minister, Franklin Graham received his ordination from the board of elders of Grace Community Church, a non-denominational evangelical Christian congregation in Tempe, Arizona. Also, unlike his father, Franklin Graham is closely identified with what is termed “the social gospel of providing direct help to those in immediate need. — Christian News

Evolution Disclaimer In Alabama Textbooks.

The Alabama state school board voted 6-1 to put a note in biology textbooks telling public school students that nobody witnessed evolution, and therefore it must be taught as a theory and not as a fact. The note presents a series of unanswered questions about origins and the fossil record. It allows for “microevolution” (white moth evolve into gray moth) to be described as fact, but says “macroevolution” (reptile into bird) has never been observed and must be considered a theory. — CC

“Gay Gene” or Sodomy Sin?

Cal Thomas says the “discovery” of “new evidence” of a “gay gene” was trumpeted on the front page of *The Washington Post* as a scientific break-through equivalent to a cure for cancer. The story quotes another “study” by Dean Hamer, a molecular biologist, and fails to mention that his widely trumpeted 1993 “gay gene” study is under investigation for alleged fraud. And neither the *Post* story nor a long article in the 11/13 USN&WR mention Hamer’s homosexuality, which might indicate to some that Hamer has a bias in favor of discovering a biological cause/excuse for homosexual sinful behavior. — CC

Evolution Is A Hoax.

ICR President Dr. Henry Morris has announced his retirement and has been succeeded by his son John. He says: “Evolution is about as false scientifically as any theory could ever be. It is not occurring at present, has never occurred in the past, and could not possibly occur in the future, unless the basic laws of science are all wrong.” — CC

Roberts on Met With Pope.

Religious broadcaster (See WNR on page 14)

WNR...

(Continued from page 13)

Pat Robertson had a seat of honor at the Mass during Pope John Paul II's Oct. visit to New York. He marched at the head of an ecumenical procession to the papal altar and was seated with Protestant, Orthodox, and evangelical leaders. He said his meeting with the Pontiff was "very warm" and, through a personal letter hand-delivered to the pope, pledged to work for Christian unity between evangelicals and Catholics. Robertson called the pope "a humble and caring servant of the Lord." He said: "I believe the time has come where we must lay aside minor idfferences and focus on the common ground of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ." In an AP phone interview, Robertson said of the pope: "He's got great humility and spirituality..." He said: "We all admire the Holy Father tremendously. We all want to build bridges with the Catholic Church."—CC

Baptists, Stetson Part Ways. In a bittersweet divorce, a state Baptist organization officially broke its union with Stetson University for allowing drinking on campus. Stetson and the Baptists had grown apart in recent years, sparring over issues such as abortion counseling, condom distribution and textbook content. As expected, the Florida Baptist Convention's governing arm voted to cut its 112-year-old tie to the college, which has a campus in DeLand and a law school in St. Petersburg ... Both parties described the split as amicable and bound to happen....Stetson's trustees voted in May to allow students of legal age to drink at some so-

cial functions and in dormitory rooms at each campus....The Baptists' conservative bent was too restrictive for a university seeking academic and social freedom. "It's quite clear that we've been moving in opposite directions," Stetson spokeswoman Betty Brady said later Friday....Stetson has far more Catholics than Baptists, and the money the university loses is a tiny fraction of a scholarship.

College Drinking. College freshmen entering so-called "party schools" quickly adopt the binge drinking habits of their peers, according to a study by the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) in Boston. The study, conducted at 13 colleges across the U.S. identified as having high rates of binge drinking, revealed 41% of freshmen who said they did not binge drink in high school admitted to beginning the practice after arriving at the colleges. Only 6% of the students said they anticipated getting drunk during their freshman year, but a few weeks later more than 50% of the study subjects said they had indeed gotten drunk at least once. That number rose to 68% by the end of the first semester. Of that total, 60% said they did something they regret while drunk, 55% missed classes, and 38% engaged in unplanned sexual activity under the influence of alcohol. A stunning 86% said they experienced negative consequences from another student's drinking. Henry Wechsler, HSPH director of college alcohol studies, said, "We must pay more attention to the students who no longer think that repeatedly getting drunk should be a college rite of passage."

Louisiana Baptists Defeat Inerrancy Amendment. Louisiana Baptists elected a president committed to conservative reforms but narrowly defeated a constitutional amendment that would install biblical inerrancy as the official stance of the state convention. The constitutional amendment endorsing inerrancy — although submitted by the convention's Executive Board — fell seven votes short of the required two-thirds majority (1,435 to 724). Although conservatives won the hotly contested presidency (1,256 to 1,136), Louisiana liberals won both vice presidencies.

Church With Woman Pastor Seated. For the second year in a row, an effort to refuse seating messengers from a church with a woman pastor was rejected on the opening day of the California Convention's annual meeting.

Son Of Charles Stanley To Start New Church. Andy Stanley, former preacher at First Church, Atlanta's satellite congregation in Dunwoody, will start a new church in the city's northern suburbs, according to news reports. Stanley, the son of First Church pastor Charles Stanley, resigned from the staff of First Church in August over concern about his father's leadership of the 13,000-member congregation during a pending divorce. The new church will be geared to people who feel disenfranchised by traditional churches, he said. The new church has been incorporated as Northpoint Community Church, but that could change, Stanley said. It will probably not start until

late 1996 and will be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

No Laundry Duty For Hillary. As everybody knew they would be, federal employees furloughed during the recent government shutdown were paid for the time missed as if they had worked. The cost to taxpayers of paying employees who did not work was \$400 million. That's half of the \$800 million the Clinton administration estimated that the shutdown cost. The other \$400 million was attributed to taxes that the government will fail to collect because the enforcement arm of the Internal Revenue Service didn't operate for five days. Why couldn't the IRS enforcement agents have been declared to be essential and kept on the job? Certainly they are more essential than the 16 of 60 some odd White House servants who stayed on duty to make sure that Hillary didn't have to wash socks during the shutdown.

Arkansas Baptists Elect Rex Horne President. Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, was elected president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. President Bill Clinton is a member of Immanuel church. Horne and his congregation gained national attention during the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting when Bo Hammock, pastor of Providence Village Baptist Church in Lake Butler, Fla., charged the members of Immanuel were "by their silence, supporting Bill Clin-

(See WNR on page 15)

WNR...

(Continued from page 14)

ton's endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle."

Virginia Conservatives Vote "No" To New Convention. After lengthy discussion, Virginia Baptist conservatives backed away from forming their own state convention, but will continue studying that option after hiring a full-time executive director. At their recent meeting in Norfolk, the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia voted 150-60 not to "declare ourselves to be a separate state convention effective today." The motion would have forced the Southern Baptist Convention for the first time to decide how to relate to competing conventions in one state.

Promise Keepers Hoping For Rally in Little Rock in 1997. Some Arkansas Promise Keepers have made another vow — to hold one of their huge, male-only rallies in Little Rock. The rally would be held at War Memorial Stadium which seats over 54,000 for football games. Some 60,000 men attended a Promise Keepers rally in November at Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas. More than 70,000 clergy are predicted to participate in an unprecedented gathering in Atlanta, February 13-15, 1996. This is to be the first conference devoted entirely for clergy, according to the organization.

Muslims Murder Christians, Demand Rights. The 12/95 *Berean Call* says: "Mus-

lims can build mosques and proselytize in the West, but no one can build a Christian church or proclaim the gospel in most Muslim countries. One cannot even have a Bible study in one's home in Saudi Arabia, where it is officially the death penalty for a Muslim to convert to another religion. It is the death penalty in Pakistan to 'blaspheme' Allah. Christians are literally being crucified in the Sudan; but the United Nations, which recently condemned the United States for 'human rights violations,' says not a word! Of 22 Arab nations, not one is a democracy. There is no freedom of religion, of speech, of press or of conscience in Muslim countries, yet Muslims riot in the West for such freedoms..." — CC

Fired Over Religious Liberty. Tim Hunter was fired from the State Department recently because he blew the whistle on violations of religious liberty at the U.S. embassy in Saudi Arabia. The U.S. consulate there sets aside special facilities for Islamic worship, but refused to accommodate Christians desiring a place to worship. (They could be arrested for practicing their faith outside diplomatic grounds.) Although officials allowed a small group of Catholics to meet on the grounds, Hunter was instructed to deny that the practice existed. Apparently Protestants wanting a similar chance were turned away. The State Department responded that Hunter had not "absorbed the foreign service culture." — NAE Washington Insight.

Ashland Ave. Baptist

Church to Have Criswell. At the September revival meeting at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, home of Lexington Baptist College, Dr. W. A. Criswell, leader in the Southern Baptist Convention and a former president of the Convention, will be preaching. Dr. Criswell is long time noted for his compromises. Hershael York, pastor of Ashland Avenue Church seems to be gradually leading the church away from independency and into the Convention. He led the college into accreditation, invites to a cruise with New Evangelicals, and now has Dr. Criswell preach. Where is Lexington Baptist College heading?

Number of Abortionists Continues to Drop. As the nationwide debate on abortion continues, doctors are voting with their practices. A survey commissioned by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that two-thirds of practicing obstetrician-gynecologists do not perform abortions — up from 58% in 1983. Personal opposition, community objections and a changing marketplace for medicine are among the reason doctors choose not to do abortions, the survey found, and younger doctors are least likely to perform abortions. For doctors in all age groups, the primary reason was personal moral, ethical or religious objections to the procedure — over half cited such a reason. Younger doctors, however, were also likely to mention other reasons, such as community opposition. "The survey indicates what we have been hearing from doctors for years," stated Wanda Franz, president of the National Right to Life Committee. "Most doctors recognize that

abortion stops a beating heart and are refusing to take part in the deadly abortion industry."

Adventists, Mormons Claim Gains. Statistics released by the Seventh-day Adventist Church show that it is one of the world's fastest growing churches. Figures comparing church members for 1994 and 1995 show a net growth rate of 5.32 percent. In twelve months, the church gained a net total of two-thirds of a million new members, bringing total membership to 8,608,586. According to a report by F. Donald Yost, director of Archives and Statistics at the church's world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, the church worldwide gained, on average, a new member every 48 seconds. By the year 2006, Yost said, the church should be gaining a million new members annually. Meanwhile, the Mormon Church, one of America's few home-grown religions will have a majority of its 9 million adherents abroad by February. But that does not mean its U.S. growth has slowed. Top officials of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the group's official name, just approved construction of new temples in Boston and White Plains, a suburb of New York City, for a growing membership in those metropolitan areas. "Almost every single problem we have in the church is due to growth," explained Vaughn J. Featherstone, president of the northeast region of the North American church.

Executions Increasing— Murder Decreasing! States

(See WNR on page 16)

WNR...

(Continued from page 15)

executed a record number of death row inmates in 1995. The number could be even higher next year. The 56 executions in 1995 were the most since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976. Death penalty advocates say the record is a sign of a "get tough" national mood and may be one of the causes of this year's 12% drop in the national murder rate. Thirty-eight states and the federal government allow capital punishment. — USA Today.

* * *

Oral Roberts and Evil Spirits. Dave Hunt in the 9/95 *Berean Call* writes: "To what extent are church leaders involved with evil spirits? Oral Roberts claimed a seven-hour conversation with a 900-foot Jesus (strangely not mentioned in his new autobiography) who told him to build the City of Faith Medical Center in Tulsa. This 'Jesus' made false promises in exchange for money: There would be cures for cancer and other diseases if Oral's 'prayer partners' would each contribute \$240. Simple, sincere people (who still believe him today) contributed more than \$150 million needed to complete the 20 story complex. There was no miracle, no cure for cancer or anything else Oral's 'Jesus' promised. The 777-bed medical center never had more than 148 beds occupied and went bankrupt in spite of millions of dollars given by gullible Christians in response to further false promises. Had some Wall street promoter, through similar false promises, bilked people out of a fraction of the money Oral got he would be in prison. Oral claims he was only obeying Jesus. yet we know

for certain that the 900-foot apparition was not Jesus, for He doesn't lie. Did Oral hallucinate? A seven-hour conversation with a 900-foot hallucination? Hardly! Only two possibilities remain: either Oral lied, or he was lied to by a deceiving spirit. — CC

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Gay Deathstyle. The Omega Journal of Death and Dying reveals that the median age at death of homosexuals who die of AIDS is 39. The figure that is not publicized is that homosexual men who die of causes other than AIDS die at a medium age of 42. This is compared to a median death age of 75 among heterosexual married men. Not only is homosexuality an ungodly lifestyle, it is an unhealthy one as well.

* * *

Legal Persecution. Christian Attorney David C. Gibbs, Jr., reports that a large and growing number of legal challenges to churches and individual Christians practicing their religion occurred in 1995. These ranged from a church in Philadelphia whose property the city plans to sell at sheriff's auction for unpaid taxes, to street preachers arrested (and in one case thrown in jail for three months), to challenges to Christian schools' freedom to teach without government control. Others have been charged with disorderly conduct for passing out Christian tracts on public streets, and in other cases local zoning ordinances are being set up to block churches from building in communities. The Christian Law Association (CLA), headed by Gibbs, received more than 40,000 inquiries from individuals and churches facing legal difficul-

ties in 1995, and gave legal aid in 12,000 cases across the country. CLA does not charge for its ministry.

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Courtship Making A Comeback? The old-fashioned idea of courtship as the prelude to marriage is reportedly making a comeback in conservative Christian circles. Families in which courtship is practiced usually restrict exclusive male-female friendships until a couple is spiritually and financially ready for marriage. That ordinarily eliminates dating during the teen years, they say. When a young man wants to court a young woman, he contacts her father for permission. If the answer is yes, he participates in their family activities, as well as seeing the young woman alone. Courtship may seem impractical but it has advantages over dating, proponents say. When courting, young people can get to know each other gradually, without undue pressure. Courtship also allows the family to get to know the young person who is interested in one of their children. — NIRR

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American Baptists Exclude Churches For Pro-gay Stance. Four American Baptist churches have been thrown out of a regional denominational group for their openness toward homosexuals. At a special meeting, delegates of the American Baptist churches of the West voted 457-127 to exclude four churches, all located in the San Francisco Bay area. The four churches all belong to the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, a group of several dozen American Baptist churches involved in outreach to homosexuals. On

the national level, American Baptist leaders voted in November to establish a commission to seek to "deal constructively" with the divisive issue of church attitudes toward homosexuality. — ABP

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New Survey Reflects Common Sense. Abortion is the worst way to deal with an unwanted pregnancy, 55% of Americans say, according to a poll conducted for the Washington, D.C.-based Family Research Council. Chosen as better options: adoption (29%), marrying the child's father (24%), and single motherhood (11%). The poll found that 75% of Americans ages 18-30 say that the values portrayed in movies, television, and music lyrics do not reflect their own. Also, 66% of Americans do not want to increase welfare payments to women who have additional illegitimate children. — NIRR.

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Tax Initiatives Threaten Churches. Churches, ministries, and other nonprofits in Colorado are mobilizing to oppose a ballot initiative that would force them to pay property taxes. The proposed constitutional amendment apparently has more than the 54,242 signatures of registered voters needed to place it on next November's ballot, news reports said. The ballot initiative divides nonprofits into two groups. The tax-exempt group, which the sponsors call "community duty charities," are nonprofits that house orphans, the disabled, the elderly, the homeless or prisoners. All others would have to pay. John Patrick Michael Murphy,

(See WNR on page 17)

WNR...

(Continued from page 16)

cosponsor of the initiative, said it is unfair for nonprofit organizations to use the police, fire department, and library but not pay property taxes. . . . The tax would be "absolutely devastating" to Colorado's 8,000 nonprofits, said Pat Reed, executive director of the Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations. Many programs would be scaled back, and some nonprofits would go out of existence, Reed said. If churches can't afford taxes, "they'll have to sell their property to a church that can," Murphy said. Although nonprofits don't pay property taxes, the benefits they provide to the community far outweigh any loss of revenue, said Cathy Robbins of the Colorado Springs Chamber Foundation. — Sword of the Lord.

Lesbian Blabs To Congress — Feds Support Gays!

Many homosexual activists are wrongly using federal AIDS-education money to lobby politicians, raise funds, conduct explicit educational programs in public schools, and recruit children into the homosexual lifestyle, Claire Connelly told Congress. An avowed lesbian and president of the Ojai, California-based Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, Connelly testified at the House Economic and Education Opportunities Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight. . . . "I have seen horrendous things go on in the name of education, such as giving explicit details . . . and encouraging promiscuity," Connelly told National & International Religion Report (NIRR). Students ages 12-18 are told they can have sex with as many people

as they like as long as they use condoms and are encouraged to experiment sexually, she said. Connelly said students are invited to private "educational classes" where alcohol and drugs are available and are "enticed into homosexual relationships." Connelly estimated that \$3 billion in federal money, much of it from the Centers for Disease Control, filtered down to about 8,000 homosexual activist groups last year. — NIRR

U.S. Faces Crisis By 2025.

In a Knight-Ridder Washington Bureau article appearing in the *Arkansas Democrat/Gazette* 1/28/96, we are warned of the following crisis in the United States. "Led by Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, spending on entitlements is projected to climb steadily from 10.9 percent of gross domestic product this year to 22.5 percent in 2030, when baby boomers fill nursing homes. Unless major structural reforms are phased in, entitlement benefits will consume *all* federal tax revenues by 2025 — leaving no money even for nation defense. 'It seems to me we had an important opportunity to make a major step toward solving the long-term problem' this year, said Richard Jackson, an analyst with the Concord Coalition, a nonpartisan group devoted to ending deficits. 'For the first time since the mid-'80s, the middle-class entitlements were on the table. . . . 'The Republicans lost the ideological war on that to the White House,' Jackson said. 'To me, that means that having raised those issues and taken a beating with next to nothing gained in the end, it will be more difficult to raise them over the next couple of years.

... If we can't begin incremental reform now, this will hit us like a ton of bricks around 2005.'" If the United States falls into a real crisis by 2005, President Clinton must shoulder the blame for not agreeing with the Republicans about balancing the budget and by stopping the rapid growth of entitlements.

Animal Rights Paganism.

While we'd all agree that cruelty to animals is improper, this "animal rights" business is getting out of hand. One "Friends of Animals" representative despises rodeos and says such a "barbaric spectacle will soon take its place in history books along with the feeding of Christians to the lions." When we become so depraved as a nation that we equate animals with the slaying of Christians, we've just about struck bottom. Usually those who deplore the use of animals for food fervently defend the rights of abortionists to kill children. If hunting were not permitted, we'd soon be inundated with surplus beasts, and our highways would be worse death traps than they are now. Animal rights extremists actually threaten their own survival in their efforts to forbid medical science using animals for experimentation. Hard-core animal rights activists believe humans should never attend a circus, a rodeo or a pet store. Sea World to them is a no-no. They say it is immoral to drink cow's milk or eat honey which "is stolen from bees." Nor should sports figures be permitted to use equipment made from animal skins. So there go football and the World's Series. Batty? You bet; but that isn't all. Now they say we must ban all fishing, nor should we ever eat

shrimp or lobster. The editor of the **Waco Tribune-Herald** comments, "You have to give them credit for sticking to their logic, which should lead them to protest water-treatment plants for cruelty to cholera bacteria . . . after that, they will have disappeared forever"! All such extremism comes from rejecting and despising what God says in His Word about the use of animals for food and clothing. Depart from the Bible, and you're hopelessly lost! — Hugh Pyle in *The Sword of the Lord*.

Baylor Lifts Campus Ban On Dancing.

It's time to boogie at Baylor. The nation's largest Baptist university is lifting a ban on dancing beginning in the spring. Some of the school's 12,000 students already are talking about holding an on-campus street party. "We have aerobic dancing in Baptist churches and dance routines at athletic events," Baylor President Robert Sloan said. "Dancing can be, and is when properly done, a very wholesome activity." The school, founded 151 years ago, has never allowed dancing, in accordance with Baptist principles. But it has operated independently since breaking away in 1991 from control by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. — AP

Poll Says Support For Death Penalty Not Influenced By Religious Views.

Religious beliefs make little difference in whether a person supports the death penalty, according to a nationwide Gallup Poll of American adults, which found

(See **WNR** on page 18)

The Origins of the Church Which Model Do You Hold?

By Dr. Ron Tottingham

The issue of the church is not just how Christianity is practiced today. And that is what most "Fundamentalists" who are Baptist believe the church is — a practice. The issue however, is one of doctrine — what we believe the church is as to its origin.

You see, some hold that the church originated at Pentecost and only through a body of all who are born again during the period of Pentecost to the Rapture. Then they believe that because they hold, that it's solely through a local church that God moves and works today, that that is being a true Baptist and in Biblical trueness.

Not so brethren. The issue is the origin of the church, *not* its practice in this age. Many, many believe similarly on the issue of the practice of God's using only local churches to fulfill His purpose in this age. However, we greatly disagree on the origin. Like evolutionists and creationist, we agree that we are here and breathe air, etc. (They practice the life we all have), but differ greatly on the origin.

The Bible does not teach that the church began at Pentecost. And the issue then is when did it begin, who began it and it's purpose? There are two origin models set before us today. Which is correct? Did Christ establish His church or did the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost?

There is much agreement once we get past this essential point. That God gave His

authority solely to His local churches to fulfill His purpose in this age many agree, and practice their Christianity accordingly. But the issue, as I've said, is deeper, it's which model of origin do we hold to? for upon our chosen model of origin we will build our Christianity and practice. One model allows no para-church ministries, or no denominationalism (organized institutionalism of churches or Christians outside of a particular local church), no boards, no agencies, etc. Because Christ put His authority and commission in His local churches alone. The other model allows all that because their model of origin is essentially one of "universal" church body of all believers during this age. And within that "body of all" who've been redeemed, there's room for arms, legs, eyes, etc., or ministries as within the "church" universal. From the other model (Pentecost to Rapture), the church is universal and all ministries are within that which makes their "church."

True Historic Baptists have always believed that the church is local. Protestants have always believed that the church is inclusive — a universal body. True Historic Baptists have always held that the bride — body — church's purity is doctrinal correctness. Protestants have always held that the a universal — body — church's purity is blood washing alone and that doctrinal correctness was essentially nonessential.

It does make a difference what you believe. ■

WNR...

(Continued from page 17)

that 77% favor the death penalty. Among those who say religion is very important in their lives, 75% favor the death penalty. That compares with 69% support for the death penalty among adults who consider religion not very important in their lives. The group that is most likely to favor the death penalty is American adults who consider religion fairly important in their lives. Among this group, 85% favor the death penalty. Overall public support for the death penalty hit its highest point in 1994 when 80% of all American adults favoring it. The low point for public support of the death penalty was in 1966, when only 42% favored it.

Protestant Missionaries Sowing Doubt, Pope Says.

Directly confronting the challenge to his church's traditional dominance in Central America, Pope John Paul II accused Protestant missionaries of spreading "confusing and uncertainty" among Roman Catholics. On his first visit to Central America in 13 years, the pope devoted the second day of his stop in Guatemala to a series of reminders that the region has been Catholic for centuries and that many have given up their lives for the church. The poor and Indians might be most prone to stray and in need of guidance from Catholic clergy, the pope said in an evening prayer service in a Guatemala City park. Membership in Protestant evangelical churches in Central America has surged in recent years. About 30% of Guatemala's 10.7 million people now identify themselves as Prot-

estants — the largest percentage of non-Catholics in any Central American country.

1995: The Year Sodomy Became Sanctioned On TV.

A 12/25 *Huntsville Times* article said of 1995: "Suddenly, gayness was cool. Although gay characters still weren't allowed to connect physically in prime time, homosexuality became a topic deemed safe, sanctioned, and wide open for discussion on series old and new." It said 1995 was the year *Gay Came To Stay* on prime time TV. And it promises to get worse. A 1/17 HT article said that on network television today, being gay or lesbian is OK, perfectly acceptable, and that, "Hollywood producers as well as gay activists are convinced that the current flood of 'innocuous' gays will open the door to more honestly portrayed characters."

South Korea's Mega-churches.

Today, South Korea is home to almost half of the world's 50 biggest mega-churches. Ten of the 20 largest churches in the world are in Seoul (1/96 *Charisma*). Several of these are Presbyterian and charismatic. The world's largest church, Yoida Full Gospel Church with 750,000 members is pastored by David Yonggi Cho. Arthelene Rippy (10/94 *Charisma*) says Cho struggled over whether to put women in positions of authority in his church. Today, women make up two-thirds of the 700 pastors at Cho's huge church. About 20 churches are planted in South Korea every day. — CC. ■

Gehenna

By B. H. Taylor

The final abode of the wicked is Gehenna. Several things are taught in the New Testament about it.

First, *it is a prepared place*. "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Mt. 25:41). "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Rev. 20:10). Prepared for the most depraved and dangerous prisoners — the devil and his messengers.

Second, *for a fitted people*. "What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction" (Rom. 9:32). Gehenna is a specially prepared place for vessels of wrath specially fitted for perdition. The word translated destruction in Romans 9:22 is translated perdition in 1 Timothy 6:9, 2 Peter 3:7, and Revelation 17:8-11. It never means annihilation. "And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me; for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh" (Isa. 66:24). "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan. 12:2). These teach that a part of the preparation of the lost for Hell is in their resurrected bodies. These bodies if any thing like the

bodies of the saints will be flesh and bones (Lk. 24:39). They will also be indestructible if like the saints (1 Cor. 15:53). They shall be such as to bring shame to the wicked and awake everlasting contempt and abhorring to all beholders (Isa. 66:24).

Thirdly, *Gehenna is a place where the damned are tormented by fire and brimstone by day and night forever and ever*. "And the smoke of their torment ascended up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name" (Rev. 14:11).

Fourth, *this fire will be unquenchable*. "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mk. 9:43-48). Think of it! Imperishable bodies of flesh in unquenchable fire.

Fifth, *an undying conscience*. "But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented" (Lk. 16:25). Always an accusing conscience — a worm that dieth not. A gnaw-

ing, burning conscience on the inside and unquenchable fire on the outside. No wonder God says they have no rest day nor night forever and forever (Rev. 14:11).

Sixthly, *the wicked live in Gehenna as long as God lives*. The strongest expression in the Bible for that which never ends is "forever and ever." That expression is found twelve times in Revelation. Eight times it is used of God "who liveth forever and ever," etc. Once (22:5) it is used of the righteous. Three times it is used of the conscious suffering of the wicked (14:11; 19:3; 20:10). As long as God lives, that long will the wicked suffer.

Seventh, but some man says, I do not see any justice in that. Well, note *that the righteous in Heaven shout over God's justice in His judgments* (Rev. 19:16). They see it whether you do or not. Again, a man in one minute kills his fellowman. He goes to the prison for a life sentence. Suppose he lives 50 years. His offense was committed in one minute; he is punished over 26 million minutes for one minute's sin. That, too, for only one offense. Multiply that by an innumerable number of offenses, not against depraved man, but against Holy God, and you see that even from the viewpoint of earthly courts the wicked ought to suffer eternally (Rev. 22:11), and you will know in part the way of eternal punishment. Down here it is given to us to know only in part (1 Cor. 13:9).

Eighthly, *who goes to Gehenna?* "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8). The unbeliever as well as the great sinners. How

shall you escape the damnation of Gehenna, if you reject Jesus Christ, man's only Savior (Acts 4:12; Heb. 9:22)? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

There is life for a look at the crucified,

There is life at this moment for thee.

Eternal, nonforfeitable, unending non-losable life is offered thee just now, O sinner, if you but receive Christ (Jn. 1:12; 6:37; 10:27-29). ■

How To Have A Missionary Spirit In A Baptist Church

The way to have a real missionary church is to preach missions, teach missions, talk missions, and sleep missions. The more a church gives for missions, the more she will give for every other purpose. It is not enough to shed a few tears and tell how you love missions. The preaching and tear-shedding must be followed by real mission giving. You cannot outgive God.

Finally, to have a real missionary church, pray much about missions. Sincerely ask the Lord to bless the missionaries. Call each missionary by name before the throne of grace when you pray daily. Call them by name when you pray in your pulpit. The pastor should lead the way in mission giving and mission praying. ■

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Joyous Church Going

David said: "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psm. 122:1). Thus he declares worship to be a glad-some privilege. To stand within the gates of the Lord's house, filled his heart with joy, and elicited his praise for the Lord.

Today, there are many, many church members who apparently find little or no joy in church going. The blame for this must fall partly upon us preachers, partly upon the world, and partly upon the church members.

To find pleasure in worship, church members must be fed upon the Word, and that's the preacher's job. To find pleasure in worship, the church member must understand that the world is against God and must be resisted day by day. To find pleasure in worship, church members must understand that the flesh is against God and that its carnal urges must be sacrificed.

The failure of church people to understand that both the world and the flesh are against God and against the heavenly interests of the Lord, must be laid largely at the feet of us pastors. The only hope of correcting this *lack of joy in worship* is for us preachers to honor the admonition of the Holy Spirit by Paul to "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). We believe that when the Word is fully preached without fear or favor, church members will come more and more to enjoy the worship.

Why should church mem-

bers enjoy going to church? We offer the following reasons:

1. Because God is there. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are incomparable in all grace and truth. The three have absolute power and absolute understanding and absolute love. They are altogether glorious, and they are the grandest leaders known to man. The royalty of heaven is in the churches of the Lord.

2. Because the church is the dwelling place of God (Eph. 2:22). In the church of God, the Holy Spirit abides (Jn. 14:17). Abiding with the saints, He provides the sublimest fellowship known to man. He is light and understanding for the saint.

3. Because the church is God's lighthouse, or God's light-giving house (Mt. 5:14). It was instituted by the Lord during His personal ministry to be His exalted witness and to be His glorious lighthouse on a hill which cannot be hid. It was through the ministry of His house that all of the saints of God among us came to see the light and turn from sin's darkness unto Christ, the Light of the world. This ministry of the church of the living God, should impress our hearts daily and should challenge us to be true to Him.

4. Because the church provides the holiest fellowship known to man on this mundane sphere. In it, we walk with the blood-washed; we talk with the ransomed and the free; and we sing the songs of Zion, praising over and over Him who loved us unto death because He bore our sins in His own body on the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24).

5. Because the church is the only institution in the world which lives, by divine appointment, to serve others

only. Every interest of the heart and every interest of the home, and every interest of the state is served by its gospel message and by the proclamation of the Word.

Now, an institution blessed with the leadership of our triune God; blessed with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for comfort, teaching, testifying, preaching, and guiding; blessed with the Word as God's lamp for our feet and light for our path; blessed with the glorious fellowship of the saints under the blood; and blessed with the ministry of a body which lives to serve them — these blessed things should make every child of God rejoice to go up to the House of God.

Now, in the light of these eternal truths, what shall we, saints of God, do about worship? We give it as our candid conviction that all of us church members should do something about it.

We believe that we should put our church first (Mt. 6:33).

We believe that we should give ourselves first (2 Cor. 8:5).

We believe we should support the Lord's house with our presence, our time, our talents, and our tithes (Psm. 122:1; Mal. 3:10-11; Mt. 23:23).

We believe that we should help bear the gospel message of the churches of the living God and back its labors by self-denial and sacrifice (Lk. 9:23).

To fail to accept this challenge is to yield ground to Satan and to the forces of darkness now operating among us. To fail to accept this challenge is to give tacit assent to the corruption of morals and to the turning of the footsteps of our own away from the house of God. To fail to accept this challenge is to

give strength to the evil forces now marshaled to damn this world and to turn this and future generations into the broad way which leads to destruction.

To one and all, we would say: Pray mightily; diligently commit yourself to a loyal walk with the Lord in your church; and sacrificially yield your all to the Master. *Be glad to do it.* ■

Squeezing Toothpaste

The other morning, as I was about to brush my teeth, I squeezed too much toothpaste onto my brush. I tried — well, have you ever tried squeezing toothpaste back into the tube? Then came to mind the old proverb, "*Three things once released will not return again: an opportunity neglected, an arrow released from its bow, and a word spoken in haste.*" May I add a fourth — toothpaste squeezed from a tube. We could spend the next six months drawing lessons from this familiar proverb. An opportunity neglected — an arrow released — a word spoken in haste.

Sometimes in my efforts to say exactly the right thing at the right time, I speak words in haste. Usually I immediately wish I could recall those words. Words spoken in haste. All those words I speak without weighing how each could be understood by the hearer(s). All those words I utter in jest. Everything I say without thinking.

God tells me to weigh my words before allowing them to leave my lips (Col. 4:6), but how often do I really do that? In fact, Jeremiah 9:8 tells me

(See **PASTE** on page 21)

So You Want To Visit The Mission Field

By the Editor

A few months ago a young lady from our church moved to Costa Rica to help Bro. Dennis Thomas and his wife on the mission field. I regret that I did not inform her of some of the requirements for a missionary in Latin America. I learned this first hand in Mexico and should have informed her but simply failed to do so. In case there are any others who may be considering going to the mission field, either for a short term or long term, the following are some of the requirements.

Ability to mix with people, mix concrete, wade rivers, write articles, love one's neighbor, deliver babies, sit crosslegged, conduct meetings, drain swamps, digest questionable dishes, help kill dozens of chickens and other varments, patch tires, and patch human weaknesses.

In addition, persons allergic to ants, babies, beggars, unidentified foods, cockroaches, scorpions, guitars, humidity, heat, itches, mildew, mud, poverty. If you can't stand these, you might think twice before going. ■

70...

(Continued from page 4)

monished to walk honestly, not in rioting and drunkenness. It is not honest to be less than men, created in the image of God.

69. Rom. 14:21. Drinking causes a brother to stumble. Importance of example.

70. 1 Cor. 6:10. No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God. (Therefore the preaching of the gospel must include alcohol education.) ■

PASTE...

(Continued from page 20)

my tongue is "like an arrow shot out."

Perhaps the preacher was right when he quipped, "God gave us two ears and one mouth — that ought to tell us something." — Copied ■

HISTORY...

(Continued from page 1)

names.

It is not to be understood that each of these groups was entirely free from error or entirely embraced the truth. Through these groups can be traced the people called Baptists. *In these groups is to be found the true church — not in Catholicism.*

Montanist ... Paulician ... Novationist ... Paterines ... Donatist ... Albigenses ... Anabaptists ... these were some of the names used to identify those who refused to identify with Rome.

The Dark Ages

The period from 426 A.D. to 1628 A.D. is called the "Dark Ages."

With the establishment of the new Catholic temporal power a bloody persecution began. Loyal, New Testament churches, by whatever name they were called, were hunted and hounded to the utmost limit by this new Catholic power.

The now established Catholic Church began a war of extermination upon all who opposed her.

It is reliably reported that 50,000,000 died of persecution during the Dark Ages.

During the bloody times of persecution, as Catholicism tried to exterminate the true churches, many of the false

doctrines of the Catholic church of today began to take place.

The Inquisition 1198-1700

The Inquisition was instituted by Pope Innocent III and perfected under Pope Gregory IX. It was a "Church Court" established by the popes for the trying and punishing of "heretics" ... a heretic being anyone who did not agree with Roman Catholicism. The Inquisition lasted for 500 years and was a time of indescribable horror.

During all this persecution Baptist churches continued to exist.

The Reformation

The conditions within the Catholic Church had become so corrupt that many voices were raised within the church in protest. Among these voices was that of John Wycliffe (1320-1384), John Huss (1373-1415), Savonarola (1452-1498), Zwingli (1484-1531), John Knox (1505-1572), John Calvin (1509-1564), and Martin Luther.

The combined effort of these men, along with many others, brought about the Reformation.

All these Reformers started new churches. This was the beginning of Protestantism. *All Protestant churches had their beginning in the period of the Reformation or since that time.*

Baptists continued to exist through the Reformation as they had since the time of Christ. Since the Reformation the Baptists have had a glorious history. There are over 23,000,000 Baptists in the United States and they are also found in over 100 different countries. ■

WINE...

(Continued from page 3)

ping wine with his meals.

And if this is good advice for political leaders, certainly this is excellent advice for those in positions of religious leadership such as the world's foremost Baptist evangelist whose Presbyterian wife and he are known to use wine.

6. God says that wine inflames and that those who drink strong drink and wine do not regard the Lord's work, "neither consider the operation of his hands" (Isa. 5:11-12).

Wine inflames the uncontrollable passions of lust and it is certain that those under the influence of wine are not considering the fact that one day they, too, shall stand at the judgment before God Almighty.

7. God pronounces a "woe" upon those who drink wine and says that it perverts their judgment and takes away their righteousness (Isa. 5:22-23).

Wine breaks down the natural barriers of morality and causes people to do and say things that they normally would not do if they were not under the influence of alcohol.

8. God says that those who drink wine and strong drink cannot be merry (sing a song), but the end result of their drinking is bitterness (Isa. 24:9).

9. God associates those who drink wine with "drunkards" filled with pride and that their beauty is a fading flower (Isa. 28:1).

10. God says that wine causes people (especially those in religious positions) to "... err in vision (and) stumble in judgment" (Isa. 28:7). That preacher who is a winebibber (one who drinks wine) cannot stand to preach and be the in-

(See WINE on page 22)

WINE...

(Continued from page 21)

strument of God to condemn sin.

11. The Bible records that Daniel associated drinking wine with defilement (Dan. 1:8) and refused to drink it.

12. God associates the drinking of alcoholic, intoxicating wine with blasphemy, desecration of holy things and heathen worship (Dan. 5:1-4).

13. God associates drinking wine with "whoredom" and says that it "*take(s) away the heart*" (Hos. 4:11).

14. God associates the consumption of wine with disease and having companionship with scorners (Hos. 7:5).

15. The Bible says that wine causes rebellion against God and that it keeps people from crying out to God with their heart (Hos. 7:14).

16. God says that the drinkers of wine "*weep and howl*" and that they need to "*awake*" to the truth and cease from drinking this awful beverage (Jl. 1:5).

17. God says that a person who drinks wine is a "*proud man neither keepeth at home*" and that he "*transgresseth*" (sins) by doing so (Hab. 2:5).

18. God pronounces a "*woe*" upon those who offer their neighbor a drink of intoxicating beverage. He also says that the man offering the drink is "*filled with shame*" and associates drinking with sexual impurity (Hab. 2:15-17).

19. And finally, God uses wine as the symbol of that which causes false religion, blasphemy, fornication, martyrdom, murder, harlotry, abominations, filthiness and identifies it as the drink of the anti-Christ (Rev. 17:2).

Yes, the attitude of the Scriptures and the Author of the Scriptures is very definitely against the consump-

tion of alcoholic beverages. Surely a person cannot be an honest student of the Bible and suggest that the lovely Lord Jesus Himself used this intoxicating beverage at the institution of this most sacred of church ordinances.

Jesus was sinless (2 Cor. 5:21), pure and holy. How could He, who came to do His Father's will (Jn. 5:30), disregard the fact that God had placed a curse on those who give their neighbor to drink? Alcohol is evil!

Its consumption brings great ill in this world. It causes men to lose their senses, desert their families, beat their wives, rob their neighbors and murder innocent citizens.

The consumption of alcohol in any form is a sin. It causes great sorrow and heartache in this old world. Certainly Jesus, who came to give life and that more abundantly (Jn. 10:10), would not offer His disciples that which steals their brains away.

The attitude of the Bible toward alcoholic wine forbids its use at the Lord's Table

Actions in the Scriptures

Secondly, we must consider the **Actions in the Scriptures** of those who were affected by intoxicating, alcoholic wine. The use of wine is recorded in the Bible and many, many times it is associated with great tragedy, sin, moral corruption, depravity, degradation and reprobation.

Certainly one cannot deny that alcohol is a curse upon our society. Certainly one cannot deny that its use has caused great grief and brought much sorrow upon our nation. And yet not only ours, but every nation where drinking is allowed.

However, the horrible things caused by alcohol are

not confined to today's society. Much sorrow was brought upon the world from the very first encounter with wine.

1. Noah is the very first man to be recorded as drinking wine (Gen. 9:20-25). From its introduction into this world, wine has caused nothing but harm, sin and trouble. This first recorded consumption of intoxicating, alcoholic wine produced tragic results.

It brought about the downfall of a great prophet. It was at the root of nakedness. It brought about the most disgusting, depraved, amoral, ungodly sin imaginable and resulted in the curse of an entire nation of people.

2. Lot is another man whose entire life was changed because of intoxicating wine. In fact, the whole world was changed because of Lot's consumption of wine (Gen. 19:29-36).

One cannot deny that the use of wine played a central part in the diabolical plot of this man's two wicked-hearted daughters to commit incest with their father. They schemed to get their father drunk so that he would commit this heinous crime, this depraved act.

Lot would not have done such a dastardly deed as fathering children by his own two daughters had his sense of moral decency not been impeded by alcoholic, intoxicating wine. Here again the drinking of wine caused untold heartaches and troubles in this world.

3. In the Biblical story of Jacob and Esau, we see again that wine played a part in this tale of deceit and lies (Gen. 27:1-29). In this account Jacob pretended to be his brother, Esau, and tricked his father into giving him his elder brother's blessing and birthright.

In verse 25 of this passage, we find that Jacob

brought his father wine to drink so as to dull his senses, confuse the old man and deceive him. Perhaps this trickery could not have been accomplished had Isaac not been under the influence of this wine.

At any rate, no one can deny that wine was present when this web of lies was spun.

4. In 2 Samuel 13:28-29, we read again that drinking wine contributed to great sorrow and sin. In this brief passage we are told that Absalom used wine to make it easier to kill his brother and King David's son, Amnon.

Regardless of the situation, wine devalued the young man's character so that murder could be perpetrated.

5. In Esther 1:10, we find that wine is mentioned in the fall from grace of Queen Vashti.

6. In Job 1:13, we are told that wine was being consumed when tragedy struck Job's children.

7. The drinking of wine is responsible for the actions of King Belshazzar that brought God's wrath upon him and destroyed the nation he ruled (Dan. 5).

8. We are told that while Moses was upon the mountain receiving God's commandments, the children of Israel were busy drinking, dancing, fornicating and begging Aaron to make them a god of gold (Ex. 32:6).

Certainly alcohol played a significant role in this dark time in Israel's history. God had been so good to them, led them out of bondage and now as their minds were controlled by the alcohol, they fell to the basest sort of iniquity.

What an example! Over and over again God has spoken of the tragedy, heartache, sorrow, sin and wickedness that drink

(See **WINE** on page 23)

WINE...

(Continued from page 22)

ing wine has caused.

Scarcely could an honest student of the Bible suppose that the one thing that has been responsible for so much woe, would be the choice of our Savior at His last supper.

Example after example has been given in the Scriptures of the destruction that drinking wine produces. Incest, the murder of a prince, the cursing of a nation, the downfall of a prophet and a queen, abomination, blasphemy, desecration of holy things, false religion, and the martyrdom of millions of God's saints can be laid at the feet of this demon, wine.

Admonition From The Scriptures

However, the most compelling reason that alcoholic, intoxicating wine could not have been used at the Lord's Table is because of the **Admonition from the Scriptures**; the Biblical mandates and proofs that Jesus did *not* use wine at all, but rather the purest grape juice.

Again I say that while all of the wine using "brethren" I have ever talked to, retreat to some elaborate recipe for making wine to try and prove their theory, we shall stick just to the context of the Bible.

I personally do not care to know how to make wine. And since God did not include the process in the Scriptures, I doubt sincerely that the way that the wine is made matters to Him. Wine is wine! Whether it is Mogan David or made at home, wine is still wine! Try as they may to justify the use of the devil's drink at the Lord's Supper, we must not be concerned with tradition (Col. 2:8), but rather stick with

"what saith the Scriptures."

1. We must start with God's instructions to His priests in Leviticus 10:8-9. "*And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations.*"

This was God's instructions to the priests and He said that it would be a "statute for ever throughout your generations." If it was impossible for the priests of the Old Testament to drink wine, is it not impossible for the High Priest of the New Testament to drink wine?

Consider Hebrews 2:17 or Hebrews 3:1 or Hebrews 4:14-15, Hebrews 5:10, Hebrews 6:20 and especially Hebrews 7:25-26. "*Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.*"

Jesus is the highest High Priest. Those "wine" brethren will say, but at the Lord's Supper He was not yet the High Priest, but again I ask "what saith the Scriptures?" And the Bible says, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8).

Yes, before the foundation of the world was laid, Jesus was our High Priest. And His Father commanded that the priest could have no wine. It would, therefore, be impossible for Him to have used alcoholic, intoxicating wine at the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Not only this, but using this same logic, a saved person cannot imbibe in any alcohol, wine or strong drink. Revela-

tion 1:5-6 tells us that because He has "...*washed us from our sins in his own blood,*" He has made us also kings and priests. Since the New Testament teaches the priesthood of the believer, we who are saved have no right to partake of any wine.

2. We must also consider a passage from the Book of Wisdom, Proverbs 31:4. "*It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink.*" If it is not for kings to drink wine, was not the Lord Jesus Christ Himself the "King of kings" (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14)?

Again we must say that from eternity past, He has indeed been the King of kings and Lord of lords. The Scriptures attest to His royalty. Great anthems have been written to proclaim Him King of kings. Jesus could not be less.

He, who is the same yesterday, today and forever has always been the King of kings. It is preposterous to even think that He was guilty of transgressing the law that His Father proclaimed.

3. To completely exhaust the Bible on this very important subject would be impossible. However, to fully understand this debate between wine and grape juice advocates, we must consider when the Lord's Supper was instituted. It is a given fact that the Lord's Supper was given as an ordinance at the time of Passover (Mt. 26:2, 16-30).

Now comes the question, did the Jews use alcoholic, intoxicating wine or grape juice at passover? To comprehend the answer, we must go back to the institution of the passover in Exodus 12.

We are told that each family had to have a lamb. Not just any lamb would do, but it had to be a male of the first year without blemish (Ex. 12:5).

Second, they were to eat bread. Not just any bread, but specifically unleavened bread (Ex. 12:8). Notice that before the observance of passover, the people were to remove *all* leaven out of their houses (Ex. 12:15).

They were not to remove just the leaven from the bread, but all leaven. Now, friend, in order for the grape juice to ferment into wine, there must be the presence of yeast, or leaven as the Bible calls it.

Grape juice will sour and turn to vinegar, but it will not ferment without the leaven. If there could be no leaven in the house whatsoever, then the wine, with its leaven, had to be removed as well as the leavened bread.

It would make no sense whatsoever to remove only part of the leaven, that which was in the bread, and leave another source of this picture of sin in the wine. Did Jesus use alcoholic, intoxicating wine at the last supper? Tradition says "yea," but the Scriptures say "nay"!

Jesus did not have alcoholic, intoxicating wine available for the occasion, but only the purest grape juice.

4. Next we must consider what the liquid at the Lord's Table represents as recorded in Matthew 26:27-29. "*And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*"

The beverage of the supper in no uncertain terms represents the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, dear friend, if this represents the blood of Christ, it must then be the purest liquid available. It must also be noted that in dealing with the Lord's Sup-

(See **WINE** on page 24)

skins themselves and therefore nothing is added to the grape juice.

But this is worse than admitting that the leaven had to be added. If leaven (yeast) represents sin, which it most surely does, and Jesus said that the grape juice of the passover represents His blood, then by their own admission, the churches who use alcoholic, intoxicating wine in conjunction with the Lord's Supper or communion are denying the very deity of Jesus Christ Himself.

If the yeast is present naturally, then that is saying that His blood contained the natural taint of sin, that the blood flowing through His veins was tainted by that natural sin and therefore, denying that He had no human father, and that He was conceived by the Holy Ghost as the Scriptures say (Mt. 1:20).

But, my friend, His blood was not just blood of another spotless lamb, His blood was precious blood, perfect blood, sinless blood, atoning blood. As He held up the cup at the last supper and said "this is my blood of the new testament," He was not holding up wine which contained the leaven of sin, but rather the purest grape juice with no imperfections, no leaven, no yeast, no

taint of natural sin.

5. If all this evidence has not been sufficient to persuade the reader that grape juice and not wine is the correct element to be used for the Lord's Table, then consider this. According to the Scriptures a man who is a pastor may not have any wine (1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7).

Now this being as it is, then, the pastor of a local, New Testament church could not even take the Lord's Supper with his own church. If intoxicating, alcoholic wine is used at this very solemn occasion, this excludes the overseer of the flock from partaking in this church ordinance.

This, in turn, raises another valid question. If the shepherd of the flock is not present, then who administers the ordinance to the local church? Does a visiting preacher administer it? If so, then, the concept of the local church is destroyed. Do the deacons administer it? Again this opens a virtual "pandora's box" and some very interesting questions.

Another question is this. If children are members of that local church which uses wine in the observance of the Lord's Supper, are they given alcoholic, intoxicating wine, too? I cannot believe that genuine, true Christian parents would want to start their children on the road to ruin by introducing them to alcohol consumption, at church, no less.

And what about the recovering alcoholic? Is he or she to be excluded from partaking of the Lord's Table? Who would want the responsibility of causing this brother or sister to fall back into the sin of drunkenness?

I sincerely believe that if a person is honest before God, that person could not seriously entertain using wine in any solemn situation, includ-

ing and especially in observance of the Lord's Supper.

If I am totally positive of anything, I am absolutely sure that true, Baptist churches have no business using worldly and apostate practices in them. Wine, as are all alcoholic beverages, is not suitable for God's people in any circumstance.

We are told to abstain from all appearances of evil (1 Thess. 5:22) and certainly one of the greatest evils in this world is alcohol. Tradition, not the Bible, is the basis for this defilement of the Lord's Supper observance. We must remember that it is His supper and He alone has the right to determine what can and cannot be used at its observance.

The use of alcoholic, intoxicating wine in the Lord's Supper is a hold-over from Roman Catholic traditions and is certainly not subscribed in by any true Bible believer. I was once told that real independent Baptists all use wine at the Lord's Table. Well, that just isn't so! Many of our Baptist forefathers would rather have died than turn the ordinance of the Lord's Supper into some Bacchanalian feast.

In closing, the Apostle Paul rebuked the carnal church at Corinth for using wine at the Lord's Supper. Read the whole account of 1 Corinthians 11:17-30. The Corinthians were guilty of turning this sacred, solemn occasion into nothing short of a festive party with booze.

God help us not to fall into the same sin that the Apostle Paul writing under the anointing and inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God condemned the Corinthian church for. Let us not be guilty of "... *teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*" (Mt. 15:9).

God help us who claim the name of Christ to be above reproach and not be "... *given to wine*" in any form at any time. ■

WINE...

(Continued from page 23)

per, the Bible never uses the term "wine", but rather refers to the liquid as the "fruit of the vine" (Mt. 26:29; Mk. 14:25; Lk. 22:18), thus grape juice.

Wine cannot be the fruit of the vine, it is not pure. How can something that is not pure represent the blood of Jesus which was the purest blood? The "wine" brethren then say that the leaven (yeast) is in the grape juice naturally because it exists on the grape

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