

# the Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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## *Who Killed Pre-millennialism?*

*By M. L. Moser, Editor*

I have been in the ministry now for nearly 47 years and I have never found a modernist that was not a believer in A-millennialism nor have I ever found a Pre-millennialist that was not a believer in the fundamentals of the word of God. A-millennialism or Anti-millennialism is simply another denial of the clear teachings of the word of God. A-millennialism is a first step toward the denial of other doctrines of the word of God and ultimately leads to the denial of the fundamentals of the faith. It is the first step toward liberalism, unbelief and infidelity.

Perhaps a definition of terms is in order here. *Pre-millennialism* is the belief that the Lord Jesus Christ is to return to this earth to rapture or catch-up His saints *before* His reigning on this earth for one thousand years. This period of one thousand years is called the Millennial reign of Christ. It is also referred to as "Chiliasm." *Post-millennialism* is the teaching that Christ will not return to this earth until after the one thousand years. *A-millennialism* or *Anti-millennialism* is a denial of a millennial reign at all, and is in reality a denial of the teaching of the Book of Revelation, mak-

ing it an allegory not to be believed literally. Admittedly this is an over simplification, but in essence that is what these terms mean.

It is only in recent years that the false doctrine of A-millennialism has crept in among the ranks of Southern Baptists so that today it is the dominate if not the exclusive view taught in all of their universities and seminaries. It had been transported from the old Northern Baptist Convention (now the American Baptist Convention), and they derived it from their close association with the liberal and modernistic schools connected with the National Council of Churches. This liberalism is now moving into the ranks of independent Baptists, and could be the beginning of modernism and unbelief among the ranks of independent Baptists, hence the purpose of this article.

It has been stated by the advocates of A-millennialism that Pre-millennialism began during the 18th century and that there were no Pre-millennialists prior to that time. This I deny. I hold that the doctrine of Pre-millennialism was predicted before the days of Jesus Christ, by the prophets of the Old Testament, and

re-affirmed by the writers of the New Testament. Furthermore, this has been the historic belief of Christianity down through the centuries since the days of Christ. During the time of the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church this doctrine was nearly eliminated by the Popes, as the doctrine of A-millennialism is an invention of the Roman Catholic Church, and, as in all other doctrines, Rome allows for no difference of opinion regarding Biblical interpretation. According to her, her word is law.

To show this is true, we quote a portion of a book I have in my library entitled "**The Voice of the Church on the Reign of Christ**," published in 1855. This is a book of over 406 pages, printed in small print. In this article we are only going to print a small portion of the book. The portion which we will print points out that Pre-millennialism was all but killed by the Roman Catholic Church during the "dark ages" and the times of the inquisition, and that Pre-millennialism only resurfaced during the times of the Reformation Period and the centuries following. The 18th century was not the beginning of this doctrine, but a resurfacing of this doctrine,

even as the Ana-Baptists, which were practically buried during the previous centuries, resurfaced at the beginning of the Reformation Period.

It is my prayer that our independent Baptist brethren who may be tempted to follow off after this Romish doctrine of A-millennialism will think seriously about this matter before doing so. A-millennialism is not a Bible doctrine, nor a Baptist doctrine, but a Roman Catholic doctrine.

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Pre-millennialism, we hold, is Apostolic; but in reviewing the testimony of the early church on the question of Chiliasm (Pre-millennialism), it is of course admitted that they mixed errors with the doctrine. We remember that "the mystery of iniquity" worked in Paul's day, and we have read his solemn prediction in his farewell charge given to the church at Ephesus. An English writer has well observed, "I do not appeal to the writings of the early Christians as authority; so far from it, I regard their writings as the history of truth perverted; so that while

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The Work of the Prophets -- Message #8

## The Prophets As Expounders of the Law -- Part 1

By R. Nelson Colyar

*“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Mt. 22:37-40).*

By these words of Jesus, recorded in Matthew, we understand that all of the Law, commonly referred to as the Law of Moses, and the prophets, meaning the declarations, predictions, exhortations, warnings, and writings, in short, all the works of the prophets of God, are referable to these two commandments as an ultimate and unchangeable principle. That principle set out in these

two synthetic commandments is Love: love toward God and love toward men. Hence it is written: “Love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10). Perfect love, therefore, is the fulfilling of the perfect law. Love in us here and now is imperfect. For that reason our obedience is also imperfect, i.e., in part only. “But when that which is perfect is come,” *perfect love* — “then that which is in part shall be done away” (1 Cor. 13:10).

The prophet of God is not a lawgiver, though Moses, God’s lawgiver to Israel, was a mighty prophet. He was both lawgiver and the expounder of the law he gave. Since the prophet is not a lawgiver, we must always look till we find the law upon which his declara-

tions are predicated before we can understand him. Any attempt to interpret the prophet without this careful search is all but certain to fail. That is true of both the Old and the New Testament prophets. Their warnings, indictments, exhortations, and pledgings are all based upon some fixed principle previously published by the Lord. “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his prophets” (Amos 3:7). The Lord never exacts judgment, nor smites in chastisement, unless first He has put His subject under obligation to Him and has forewarned him of the penalties imposed upon its violation.

Moreover, we must consider also that God in wisdom begins early to call His erring people back from their wanderings. This He does that He may appeal to the heart while it yet has the warmth of love toward Him and toward fellowmen; for it is true that when iniquity abounds “love grows cold,” hence all the less likely to yield to love’s appeal. Then, too, the sooner the backslider returns the less injury to the things of the kingdom of God will be sustained. And again, the sooner his return, the less severe his chastisement will need be. In this sphere of labor, the prophets are mighty in the power of the Spirit. Though their tongues often seem sharp and their words painfully incisive, the fact remains that love motivates them.

Our study of the prophets as expounders of the law could be extended to great length. We shall pursue it from here as far as it seems profitable.

### The Work of Antediluvian Prophets

Two facts should arrest our attention concerning the

pre-Flood Era, from Adam till Noah. One is, the law of the Lord was known to the men of that Era; and the other is, God has had His holy prophets since the world began (Acts 3:21). Had the law not been present, the prophets would have had nothing on which to predicate their warnings of impending judgment. In fact, there can be no judgment without the law. The presence of the law without the prophets would have left men exposed to judgment without warning. Hence the presence of one argues the necessary existence of the other. If we bear these facts in mind, as we study the work of the prophets as expounders of the Law, we shall understand them so much the better.

This is not the place to pursue the subject at great length, but it must be definitely understood that the Law of the Lord, otherwise known as the Ten Commandments (“Ten Words”), was not given to *man* first at Mount Sinai. A few scriptures will establish the fact. James says, “when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (Jas. 1:15). “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). “Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 Jn. 3:4). “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). “So death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Rom. 5:12). Now, lest some conclude that since the Law was given to Moses on Sinai there was therefore no sin before Moses, the Lord by the Apostle Paul explains: “For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed (reckoned) when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses” (Rom. 5:13-14). Since sin is the

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### THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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## Satan's Audio-Visuals

By Norman H. Wells

One of the characteristics of a good educational system is they will have excellent audio-visual aids. Satan's religion and educational system has the best — the movies, the television, and the record and tape business.

Almost always when some fundamental preacher or concerned parent begins to become alarmed about movies, television, and rock music, they will make the same complaints. They will point out the abundance of sex, profanity, violence, brutality, crime, immorality, free-love, perversion, etc. This is all true but we again need to be reminded that these are mere symptoms — not the disease. Treating symptoms does not cure the disease. Satan doesn't mind how much attack is made upon these symptoms as long as the disease itself is never discovered. That disease is *humanism*. As long as the individual is infected with this disease the symptoms will continue, no matter how much protest is made. In fact, it probably pleases Satan to watch as preachers, parents, and others who are concerned, wasting their time trying to eliminate the symptoms while ignoring the disease.

Satan uses the movies, television, and records to give instruction in his religion, humanism. They are his audio-visual aids. Let's see if this is not a fact. Think now! How many movies and television shows have you and your children watched where the old morality of so-called authoritarian religion was pictured as bringing misery and despair? This is the kind of show where

the old moral values of the Bible were pictured as outdated, and held up to ridicule. How many of these have you seen? You've seen it so many times you know it by heart ... and for sure your child does. It generally goes something like this — the child has been raised in a home where he has been expected to go to church. The Bible was read in the home and the parents expected the child to obey the moral teachings of the Bible. The child was not allowed to participate in the things that would corrupt the purity of what he had been taught in the Bible. This is pictured as bringing misery and unhappiness to the child. The parents are generally pictured as terrible tyrants. The story goes on with many twists but usually portrays the torment of the effort of the child to break from this environment and to break free to the happiness where all these restrictions and guidelines are forever thrown away and the joy of freedom is to be found. This is Satan's visual portrayal of his religion ... *humanism*. The old ways of God, the Bible, morality, bringing misery and despair. The new way, the new freedom, without God, without Bible truth, without godly parents ... this is the way of happiness (according to Satan).

It is impossible to watch today's movies and television without recognizing that almost without exception, belief in the Bible as the literal word of God is held up to ridicule and pictured as the height of ignorance. As pictured in the movies and television, giving your life to serving humanity is bet-

ter than the emptiness and worthlessness of serving God. Effective religion is always pictured as that which has turned from the old ways of dedication and worship of God, and has entered into the meaningless life of serving humanity. This is pure *humanism*, Satan's religion.

How much of the conversion of "today's generation" as pictured in Satan's audio-visuals is saturated with expressions like ... "I've got to be me" ... "I've got to be free" ... "I've got to do it my way" ... "You've got to believe in yourself" ... "I'm trying to find myself" — self-confidence, self-esteem, self-assurance, etc. all come in for their fair share. Some of you, as you read this, are saying, "What's wrong with that." The tragedy is that you probably really don't know ... and never will!

How many times has it been pictured? The girl sadly walks from the house of her parents with her knapsack on her back launching out to find herself?

Think about it! Isn't it a fact that in most shows where the religion that brought such happiness just one life time ago is pictured as a life of misery and unhappiness, now? What happened? Satan has successfully evangelized and reversed our standards.

Doesn't it occur to you that every time there is a defense made of God and the Bible in the movies and on television, it is generally by a bungling, out-dated Archie Bunker?

All men are brothers and God is the Father of us all. This does not come from the Bible, so why do we believe it? Because its been taught in apostate churches and pictured on Satan's audio-visual machines.

Start paying attention to what you are watching and hearing on Satan's audio-vi-

sual machines. See if all the main tenets and doctrines of Satan's religion, humanism, are not glorified. This is the disease. The whole bulk of the instruction is constantly given exposure. The time for God and the Bible is passed. Adherence to the moral standards of the Bible bring misery and heartache. Authoritarian religion is a constant villain. The basic concern of man should be directed toward fulfilling the human potential. Believe in yourself. Break with the old ties and standards. Social evolution is presented as a reality. Each generation is smarter, better, more advanced, more enlightened than the last. Religious institutions must be reconstructed to function for this life ... ignore eternity ... Morality is determined by scientific research, not by divine revelation. Our only purpose of existence is the advancement of the good life. Day and night, from movie screen, television tube, and CD's and cassette players, Satan's religion is blasted forth.

Let's use one example. One of the most popular shows on television is "All In The Family." This show is funny, entertaining, and well written. But ... let us look at some isolated, random, things about this show.

There is the continual association of yesterday's morals, and guidelines with Archie ... the bigot, the buffoon, the ignoramus. Conclusion: Yesterday's morals and guidelines are foolish, like Archie.

One episode presented Archie's outrage at homosexuality until he found out that one of his best friends was a homosexual. Conclusion: Homosexuality is all right.

Archie became incensed at the idea of his daughter going

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## Epi-Agonizing For The Faith

By I. W. Rogers

It is surprising how few people, even among pastors and Sunday School teachers, know the difference between *faith* and *the faith*. The seriousness of the matter is illustrated by the fact that there are many passages in the New Testament which cannot be correctly interpreted unless one knows this difference.

Probably no text in the Bible needs more emphasis in this day of spineless compromising conformity than Jude 3, because here the reader is exhorted to "earnestly contend for the faith." But it seems that the average reader thinks this text means that we are to strive to have more faith in the Lord. It is true, we ought to have more faith, but this verse does not say so.

Now, *faith* is trust, belief, or confidence in the Lord. But it is more than that. The kind of faith that saves also produces action. "I will shew thee my faith by my works" (Jas. 1:18). The same may be said of faith that produces fruit in a Christian life.

But, *the faith* is something else. It is the body of teachings found in the Word of God. *The Faith* is the truth — the doctrines taught in the Bible. For example, Paul, in recounting his experiences following his conversion (Gal. 1:17-23), said that the believers had heard only "that he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth *the faith* which once he destroyed." What did Paul preach? He preached the truth. He preached the great doctrines of salvation by grace. His main emphasis was "Christ,

and him crucified," as the only hope for the salvation of sinners. The book of Romans is a fine example of *the faith*. Also, in the last message we have from Paul he is consoled by the facts: "I have fought a good fight" (earnestly contended for *the faith*); "I have kept *the faith*" (had not erred from the doctrines of Christ). Here are a few of the many references that illustrate the use of *the faith*: Acts 6:7 and 14:22; Rom. 14:1; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:13; Phil. 1:27; Col. 2:7; 1 Tim. 1:2 and 3:9.

What are we to do about *the faith*? We are to "earnestly contend" for it. The expression, "ye should earnestly contend" is all one word in the original, and it is one of the strongest words in the Greek language. Dr. T. T. Eaton, in his book **Faith and The Faith** says concerning this word, "It is the strongest word in any language, so far as I know, to express *intensity of struggle*." It is the word from which we get our word *agonize*, only it is a stronger word. In this verse it is *epi-agonize*. We are to *agonize* to enter in at the strait gate (Lk. 13:24); but we are to *epi-agonize* for "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." It would seem from this that it is more important that *the faith* be maintained than anything else — even our individual salvation.

We are not to let error and wickedness alone. That is the very thing that the devil wants us to do — let him alone. It is like our relation to the Communists. All we have to do to be taken in by Communism is to

fold our hands and do nothing. All we have to do for false teachings to prevail is to fold our hands and do nothing. And, if *the faith* is to be maintained and grow and prosper, it will be accomplished because God's servants *epi-agonized* for it. Truth will not propagate itself. It must be maintained and spread abroad by those who are willing to do and dare and die in its behalf. It would be just as reasonable for doctors to let diphtheria alone as it is for God's servants to let false doctrine and wickedness alone. Are we going to be less concerned about the diseases of modernism and infidelity and other false doctrines that lead souls to hell than the doctors are about diphtheria?

This does not mean that we are to go around with a chip on our shoulder daring anyone to knock it off. It does not mean that we are to needlessly cause offense to anybody. But it does mean that we are to oppose false doctrines and proclaim the truth with all the strength of our being. The day in which we live is characterized by easygoing, compromising cooperation with the crowd, no matter how far wrong the crowd may be. The objective seems to be to avoid controversy at all costs, even at the expense of God's wonderful truth found in His word. If the early disciples of our Lord had done this we would never have heard of Jesus Christ.

Our salvation was provided at an awful cost; and our Lord pronounces a woe upon those who are at ease in Zion while false teachings and wickedness threaten to engulf us. It is my prayer that we who really love the Lord will "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for *the faith* of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27). ■

## Key Questions In Gambling Debate

"The gambling cartel cannot be allowed to frame the questions of the gambling debate," said Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

He offered four questions that should be answered before government-operated gambling — such as lotteries — is allowed into the community.

1) Is it a function of government to make losers out of its citizens? State-operated lotteries guarantee that most citizens will become losers, and seemingly, has one government agency working to hurt citizens when other agencies are working to help them.

2) Is it a function of government to compete with legitimate businesses? State-operated lotteries place the state in competition for the same dollars being spent for goods and services elsewhere.

3) Is it a function of government to advertise that which is known and demonstrated to be addictive? The American Psychiatric Association lists gambling as a compulsive disorder, Jones noted.

4) Is it a function of government to conflict with its own consumer protection laws? Truth in advertising laws would not allow a grocery store to make outrageous claims, such as, "Buy our food and live to be 100!" Yet, lotteries promote false hope, advertising that a few dollars can lead to millions, Jones said. — Baptist Record ■

## Christians Versus the Lions Again

By Guy Henderson

"Today Christians are more widely persecuted than believers of any other faith," said John Hanford, aide to Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind).

Charles Colson, writing in **Christianity Today** (March 4, 1996) tells of persecution in Sudan in Northeast Africa. Khartoum government troops took children captive and sold them into slavery. Women were raped, men were slaughtered ... all because the Muslim government in Sudan made it a crime to convert to Christianity.

In Egypt, Coptic Christians are arrested, businesses destroyed, and church buildings burned. In Saudi Arabia, the government offers reward money for information on secret worship services. Iran's government assassinated three evangelical pastors last year. Islam-inspired persecution of Christians is on a rampage.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government refuses to acknowledge the persecution is taking place and we continue to give foreign aid to many of the offending countries. Our government seems to be caught up in an anti-Christian backlash and will not accuse Islamic-dominated governments of any wrongdoing.

The **Voice of the Martyrs** newspaper, founded by Richard Wurmbrand, tells of persecution continuing toward Vietnamese Christians. Dinh Trung, Christian witness, is in prison now, accused of "explaining the good news."

A North Korean believer hid his Bible for 15 years and lives in fear of having it confiscated and being sent to prison. In northern Thailand,

Karen Christian refugees may yet be returned to Burma to face an unfriendly government.

Can these Muslim-led inquisitors, acting with impunity, continue to raid Christian homes and churches while Christian America remains silent? Or is this just more election-year hype, religious fervor, and evangelical raving?

Michael Horowitz of the Hudson Institute has collected evidence of wide-spread persecution in Africa and the Middle East. Ask the Serbs or even the Muslims in Bosnia if there is such a thing as religious persecution.

Missionaries have declared the repression of Christians in China is the greatest since the 1970s.

Tom Strode in a Baptist Press release (Feb. 22, 1996) said some American business interests are supportive of or at least neutral in the persecution of Christians by repressive foreign governments.

Nina Shea, director of Freedom House, says there is little evidence that economic progress with the U.S. in a country with a repressive regime results in more human rights or religious freedom. China and Vietnam are cited as two prime examples.

Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has suggested that the trade status aid to foreign governments be connected to the government's treatment of religious adherents.

Persecution is an ugly, unpopular issue but we best address it now rather than when they come for us. — Baptist Record ■

## Who Mythed The Boat?

We have been shocked by the many denominations who have revised their Sunday School lessons, some of which are supposed to believe the Bible. Their aim, according to their proponents, is to make the Bible more acceptable to the modern scientific minds. With this lofty purpose in view, they now teach their pupils that the story of creation recorded in Genesis is a myth. The story of Noah's Ark is said to be a fairy tale. They tell us that David did not really kill Goliath, and further state that the glorious account of the Virgin Birth is nothing more than a myth.

It really looks as if these people may have "mythed the boat." It would be difficult to convince Noah of any myth about it. He not only spent one hundred and twenty years constructing it, but he was the captain who navigated it on a shoreless sea for a long period of time. The people who "mythed" the boat in Noah's day, "mythed" everything.

Now if David had "mythed" Goliath with his stone, there would not be much history of Israel to record. Goliath was very real as he brandished his mammoth spear and terrified every Israelite except David. His vile oaths rent the air and his savage threats caused the armies of Israel to reel backward without encounter. Goliath rattled his saber, flashed his shield and clattered his armor as he hurled vile insults and blasphemous curses at the hosts of Israel when David approached him. David met the Philistine giant in the name of the Lord and soon the giant was slain. I am glad David did

not "myth" the mark he aimed at.

Now these people seem to have mythed the Virgin Birth as well. This means that they must have mythed the angels too. No doubt they mythed the shepherds and the Wise Men also. A little later they seem to have even mythed the resurrection. The farther you probe this interpretation, the more it becomes obvious that it only leads to myth-understanding the Bible

That is the trouble when you discount the inspired revelation of the miraculous creation in Genesis. You just have no place to stop. If man decides that the Bible account of creation is a myth, then man becomes the judge of the Book instead of being judged by the Book. There is a dangerous fallacy in the wisdom of man ... "The world by wisdom knew not God" (1 Cor. 1:21). It is better to be simple and safe than to be worldly wise and be lost. For if the Virgin Birth is a myth, then salvation is too. But millions of people have experienced salvation and the evidence is all around us in transformed lives of believers. Those who mythed the Ark drowned. Those who myth the Savior forfeit eternal life. Be sure you don't myth it! ■

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## High Price For Baptist Independence

[The following was an editorial in the April 1972 issue of **The Baptist Challenge**. It is just as appropriate today.]

Independent Baptist churches have a price to pay for their independence:

They are made the objects of many and gross misrepresentations.

They are often charged with assuming an I-am-better-than-thou attitude.

Many Baptist preachers counsel their out-going members not to join an independent Baptist church. The claim is made, often openly, and very often by inference, that an independent church cannot be a Baptist church. Many derogatory suggestions and insinuations are directed against independent churches.

In the denominational catalogue of independent Baptist church sins, two of the worst are: to use the Bible instead of the modernistic Sunday School literature in the Sunday School, and to practice direct missions instead of supporting the whole Cooperative Program.

Concerning direct missions, I have before me an article from the editorial page of the **Western Recorder**, from an issue quite a time back. Though not of recent date, it does reflect pretty well the general attitude of the denominational leaders.

The article in question follows:

### A Dangerous Policy

"We notice in the denominational press an increase in

the number of news items, stating 'Our Church adopts a missionary.' What it means is that the church has decided to break fellowship with the denomination and maintain its own missionary. It does not sound very kind for one to say so, but to do that type of mission work is to go back to the days of 'Direct or Gospel Missions,' and to assume the right to take care of a missionary, thus forbidding all other churches and their members to have part in his labors. Two serious dangers are inherent in this plan: (1) It mitigates against our denominational fellowship. Somehow we have always felt slighted when any church assumes the right to send out a foreign missionary without letting others of us have part in his labors. (2) It most surely carries the threat of renewed debt for the Foreign Board. Now that money is plentiful, almost any enthusiastic speaker can thrill a large church, or even a smaller one, and get it to vote to adopt a missionary and maintain him. But wait until the next financial depression strikes — and history proves that it is sure to come in time — and that church will, in all probability not be able to pay the missionary's salary. The result will be that the Foreign Board will have a worker on its hands and either have to borrow money to pay him, or bring him home. Thus were the foundations laid for part of the recently paid enormous debt. Thus will another debt be incurred some day if this movement spreads. *Brethren, there is but one scriptural way for churches to carry on their general work and that is through*

*a joint plan which we have in our Cooperative Program. We had better steer clear of the privately supported missionary."*

There is just one thing wrong with the above article, and that is all of it. In the first place it says, that when a church decides to adopt a missionary, as a church, it means that it has decided to break fellowship with the denomination. It is a poor fellowship, I would say, that is broken simply because a local New Testament church exercises its God-given authority. Why should the adoption of a missionary by a church mean a breaking of fellowship with the denomination?

But wait, this editor's statement is all too true, because records of the past show in many cases, that when the church dares to assume the responsibility of carrying out the program that Christ gave to the church and do not bow down to ecclesiastical overlordship, fellowship is broken all right, but it is broken by the crowd of denominational ramrods, whose attitude toward the local church is, "We will whip you into line, or we will cut you off, root and branch."

This article speaks of the danger of going back to "Direct, or Gospel Missions," and of a church assuming the right to take care of a missionary. I challenge any person on earth to show any other plan taught in the Bible. This article says that there is but one scriptural plan for churches to carry on their work, and that is the Cooperative Program. I plead for just one chapter and verse to prove such a statement. There is no such thing as the Cooperative Program in the New Testament. There is no such thing in the New Testament as denominational authority to send out missionaries. There is

no commission or authority given to man-made organizations. The commission was given to a church — not to a denominational agency.

Since when did it become dangerous to do the things commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ? There is no New Testament instance of any other kind of mission work, save that of a New Testament church. There is no New Testament instance where any board, denomination, or convention [or Fellowship] ever sent out any missionary. Is it possible that the denominational leaders never read the 13th chapter of Acts where the church at Antioch, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, sent forth Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey?

The fact is the claims made in this article are so rotten that they make one sick. It is just another evidence, however, of the modern trend toward denominational control of the churches. It points toward Romanism. God help us to oppose it.

Brethren, there is but one New Testament plan for the work of our God, and that is through the *church*. If God's plan is not through the local church, then somebody was sadly muddled when the commission was given.

How can denominational leaders brazenly disregard the God-given authority of the local church?

This article is very closely akin to rebellion against divinely given, New Testament church authority, and God's Word says, "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity, and idolatry" (1 Sam. 15:23).

If the job is ever done to the glory of God, it will be done through the agency which Christ set up to do it — that is the local churches. ■

## Parsonage Or Housing Allowance

The trend among Baptist churches who must decide what to do about a home for the pastor is to give a housing allowance instead of furnishing a house. The pros and cons of such a decision are many; however, many pastors who have been given the housing allowance like it and so do their church families. Here are some facts about each choice.

### When A Parsonage Is Furnished

The new pastor can move onto the field much faster and not have to be bothered with looking for a house.

It is often a nicer home than the pastor could afford.

The pastor does not have a monthly house payment and often utilities are paid.

Upkeep is left up to the church.

When the pastor leaves the field, no provisions must be made for selling his house.

It is usually easily accessible to the church.

The pastor can have a comfortable home even though he does not have savings for a house down-payment.

### When A Housing Allowance Is Given

The pastor's family can use their house payments as a method of saving.

The pastor can choose a home which meets his family's needs.

The pastor learns what it is like to live like his church members to make house payments, pay insurance, and provide upkeep.

The pastor has the pride of ownership.

The pastor can choose a

house he really likes and can decorate it in any way he chooses without consulting a committee.

The church is free of the "housing business."

When retirement comes the pastor will have enough equity built up to have his house paid for and not have to buy a house when his income is lessened.

In case of a sudden death or illness in which he must resign from the church, he will have a home to live in, or in case of his death, his widow will have a house. If he lives in a parsonage, his widow would have to vacate the parsonage and would have no place to live.

Churches which must reach a decision about a house for the pastor should carefully weigh the advantages of the parsonage or housing allowance and choose the one which best suits their church and the desire of their pastor. ■

### BOOK REVIEW: The First Baptist By S. E. Anderson

For three years in my under-graduate work at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, I reviewed the whole field of New Testament study, remembering that some day as I worked toward a Ph.D. degree, I would be asked to present a subject on which I would write a doctor's thesis. After surveying the entire gamut of the almost limitless facets of the life and literature of the days of Christ and of the apostles, I chose for my subject the ministry of John the Baptist. Both in those days of intensive research and through these many years since, I have ever been grateful for the selection of the study. No greater contribution has

ever been made to my own life and to my understanding of the Christian message than this intimate conversance with the work of the great Baptist.

To my amazement, I learned during those days of research that there are comparatively few books written on this man who was the second greatest born of woman. Why he has been overlooked is still a mystery to me. This is one reason for my great appreciation for Dr. Anderson's choice material, upon learning of his intention to publish this volume on John. Having seen the manuscript and having followed the clear line of this discussion, I am doubly grateful. To all who would know more about Christ and to all who would follow in the sweet, humble spirit of John the first baptizer, these pages will be an untold blessing.

The calling and the work of John the Baptist were from heaven. Explicitly and repeatedly, the Holy Scriptures present John as being personally a child born in the elective

purpose of God and the words that he preached and the baptism that he instituted were no less the directives of Heaven.

There is no such thing as understanding the Christian ministry and the Christian message without first understanding the message and ministry of John. Through the eyes of Dr. Anderson and through his patient and careful research, we shall see the great preacher in all of his glory, in all of his meaning, and in all of his sweet humility as he prepared the way for our Lord.

Blessed are the eyes that look upon these pages: blessed are the teacher and the preacher who possess this volume. Above all may God bless to the good of His children in the earth the incomparable example of the First Baptist who lives for no other purpose than to point men to Christ. May the Lord make like soul-winners of us all.

W. A. Criswell,  
Pastor Emeritus  
First Baptist Church  
Dallas, Texas

## The First Baptist

By S. E. Anderson

"There is no such thing as understanding the Christian ministry and the Christian message without first understanding the message and ministry of John" — W. A. Criswell, Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas. All about John the Baptist — Learn more about this Christian martyr so essential to the New Testament dispensation.

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(See Postage Rates on page 24)

## The Right Balance

By Kenneth Bazar

A favorite uncle of mine, on leave from the navy, visited our home for a few days. One morning we had the usual bacon and eggs, plus a big pan of biscuits, a jar of ribbon cane syrup, and a big mound of butter. My boyish eyes must have gotten bigger and bigger as I saw him putting away those biscuits, with the syrup and butter. After a long while he looked up at me, instantly understood what was in my mind and grinned.

"I just can't seem to make the biscuits and the syrup run out at the same time," he said. And then he manfully returned to attack that plateful of food.

His problem was getting the right balance. That's often the problem in other areas as well. Many times a problem is not a simple "either-or" but rather "this-plus-that," in just the right balance.

Sunday school growth needs a right-balance approach. One brother promotes several attendance drives during the year, and puts great emphasis on the numbers. Comparisons and percentages are given; charts are drawn; an attendance gimmick is used. The big thing is to have a big number. But another brother plays down the numbers, and talks more about doctrines and character. He may have attendance register boards removed so that the people will give less thought to how many people are present.

But must we choose between either numbers or spirituality? Why not work for a proper balance of the two! Someone has pointed out that these are not competitors, but wings of the same bird. A

church needs both to fly.

Surely there is nothing wrong with trying to get more people in Sunday school and church. Wrong enters in when improper means are used to try to get people to come. We remember the command of the Lord in the parable of the great supper: "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Lk. 14:23). Our Lord wants a house full.

And certainly there is nothing wrong in teaching sound doctrine and striving for quality Christianity. But it is futile if there are no people present to hear these grand truths.

As missionary Baptists we feel good about our doctrines. We very earnestly want to conform to New Testament Christianity — a noble ambition. If our doctrines really are so great, we should want to teach them to as many people as possible. But when we are content with our growth, we have begun a program of self-destruction. A program of growth requires vision, planning and work.

**A vision sees the needs and possibilities.** Nehemiah has such a perception in relation to the city of Jerusalem. The lack of walls was a shame, putting the Jews and their God in a bad light before all those about them. There was danger without them. And no permanent kingdom could be established until the walls were back in place. Surely we can see reasons for needed growth in our churches.

**Nehemiah laid careful plans.** He knew Jerusalem could be rebuilt only through the power of God; he remembered the importance of the city as it represented the Lord God before unbelievers; he valued the people of Jerusalem. Taking all that into con-

sideration, he laid down some specific plans, informed the people of what the goals were and their part in attaining the goals, and the work began. How remarkable that Nehemiah recruited people who did not even live in Jerusalem — from Jericho, Tekoa, Gibeon, and other places — to build the wall. People from all walks of life — farmers, goldsmiths, merchants, priests, and temple servants — joined the effort. Single men worked, as did many of the women. Building for God means getting people involved.

And they all worked. They fully applied themselves. They were not concerned who got the credit, how much they were paid, or what someone else might be doing. They worked (Neh. 4:6), taking pride in the fact that the labor was for God. They show believers today that even building attendance requires hard work. Nobody said it would be easy.

But what about the balance? Are we only interested in numbers? Is that all we work toward? Our only goal? Again Nehemiah gives us an example.

The wall was vital with Nehemiah. It has to go up. But then Nehemiah, along with Ezra, began the task of teaching the Word of God to the

people calling them to follow it. He found the people to be hungry for the Word, just as many today are hungry. Church members may rejoice because the attendance today is 50% better than a month ago, but they shrivel sadly away if they are not fed the Word of God. The people of Jerusalem came together before the water gate to hear the Word. "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading" (Neh. 8:8). They read it, explained it, and applied it. And the people got it. They mourned because they had not been true to the Word, and then they rejoiced because they had understood. Nehemiah had the right balance: build plus teach. It was a glorious time for Jerusalem.

Our personalities differ; our backgrounds differ. Some leaders and churches find it easy to organize and work to bring the people. Others are more comfortable in the ministry of the Word. But we all must seek the right balance. Paul had it when he admonished Timothy. He told Timothy to preach the Word, to exhort with longsuffering and doctrine. But he also instructed him to do the work of an evangelist. It is the combination that makes great churches. ■

### What Is Faith

This book contains sermons on faith by Arthur Finlayson, C. H. Spurgeon, D. L. Moody, W. Hay Aitken and Alexander Maclaren. Chapters are: "What I Believe," "Faith," "Trust," "What Must I Do To Be Saved?" "Faith In Christ," "Scriptural Salvation," and "A Solemn Impeachment of Unbelievers." Order From:

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(See Postage Rates on page 24)

# Atheism: Fastest Growing American Religion

"Surveys show atheism as the fastest-growing American belief. Up to 8 per cent of adult Americans are atheists" says the April 5, *Washington Times* in a report titled "Humanists pronounce movement a positive force—Say its influence on culture cannot be stopped."

The report by Larry Witham, religion editor of the *Washington Times*, says:

ATLANTA—Looking out over America, humanists see lots of religious authority but little free thinking.

So when the 55th annual American Humanist Association (AHA) convention met here last weekend, they joked about preachers who decry a "secular humanist" conspiracy and dreamed of better days ahead for humanist ideas.

"When the leader of a humanist parade turns around to see who's following, there's often no one behind you," said Tom Malone, 37, a public-school teacher called "Atlanta's best-known atheist" by local newspapers.

Yet the humanist outlook "is such a powerfully positive force, it's almost impossible to stop its values from influencing our culture," said Mr. Malone, head of the Georgia AHA, who prefers to be known as the "best-known humanist."

"We have taken the scientific and rationalist part of humanism to its logical extension, so we reject supernaturalism," he said.

American humanists number fewer than 200,000 in groups such as the AHA, the Ethical Society or the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Most of them are in the 210,000-member UUA, an international group of which 75 per cent of its adherents are humanists. The AHA has 5,500 members who are among 10,000 subscribers to its magazine the *Humanist*.

Older humanists tend to join the AHA, while those who are younger or with families to UUA congregations.

"We have over 4 million registered humanists all over the world, so stop telling people how small we are," Jean Kotkin of the Humanist Institute in New York said at the AHA business meeting.

Humanist organizations began forming in the United States in the 1930s. The Humanist Manifesto I was issued in 1933, its signers being half Unitarian ministers and half secular philosophers.

A second Manifesto was issued in 1973. Its optimism about humanity and science was stated more cautiously in the light of two world wars and totalitarianism, and its agenda focused more on minority rights.

Western humanism grew out of the Enlightenment, adopting its skepticism and science. In the United States, it also became influenced by New England "transcendentalism" and such notables as Ralph Waldo Emerson and psychologist William James. They added awe and creativity to humanism's cooler scientism.

Educator John Dewey, who died in 1952, was this century's best-known humanist, who influenced theories of public education and in his book "A Common Faith" he called for a secular, progressive society.

Among today's humanist

luminaries are entertainer Steve Allen and the late Isaac Asimov, a scientist and former AHA president. Scientist Carl Sagan lends his name to the humanist cause, and many of its influential members are in the social sciences.

Many cultural critics have argued that the secular and scientific views, if not the humanist outlook itself, now pervade the courts, public education, the universities and the media.

Humanist leaders reject the conspiracy label stamped upon them by foes, but they acknowledge the impact of their worldview on intellectual elites.

"Humanism is very intellectually based," said Benjamin Wade of Massachusetts. "You could say that most Americans, during the workweek, think humanistically. But on Sunday they're traditional again. I don't think Americans have crossed that no-man's land into what I would call being intellectually free."

Edd Doerr of Silver Spring, the AHA president who attends the Piney Branch UUA, champions the broadest definition of humanism.

"To be a humanist, one need not have to call oneself by any name or join anything," said Mr. Doerr, 65, who was reared in Indiana as a Roman Catholic but has been a humanist for 45 years. "There is something about a probing, inquiring mind that moves people in this direction, and yet it also works against having an organization."

Surveys show atheism as the fastest-growing American belief. Up to 8 per cent of adult Americans are atheists.

"I believe I was born an atheist," said Priscilla

Vandecar of Marietta, Ga. "I was raised a Lutheran, but you grow up and finally think for yourself."

Given the humanist beliefs in egalitarianism, science and freedom, its adherents often are in the forefront of ecology, abortion rights, sex education, support for the United Nations, homosexual rights and the right to die. Human ethics, states the 1973 manifesto, are "autonomous and situational."

This year, the AHA gave its Humanist Pioneer Award to feminist writer Riane Eisler, who traces the "domination model" of Western culture to the belief that "the world was created by a male God giving orders."

"That's one of the reasons humanists are being demonized, because we do seek knowledge independently," she said in her talk.

During the convention, film-maker Oliver Stone received the Humanist Arts award. He said he'd not heard of the AHA but was impressed by its historic roster of honorees.

What his movies have in common, he said, is protagonists "who go through a crisis and think for themselves." That applies to his movies on Jim Morrison of the rock group the Doors, and Richard Nixon, he said.

The Humanist of the Year award went to atheist Richard Dawkins, a biologist at England's Oxford University. Mr. Dawkins' books, "The Selfish Gene" and "The Blind Watchmaker," have popularized genetics and evolution as the keys to human nature and destiny.

(See AHA on page 19)

## FELLOWSHIPS AND CONFERENCES

### OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

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

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### RUSSELL SPRINGS, KY

July 16-18, 1996, Grace Baptist Church, Dowell Rd., P. O. Box 98, Russell Springs, KY 42642, Joseph Pellicone, Pastor.

\*\*\*

### HOMER, MI

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

\*\*\*

### LIBERAL, KS

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

\*\*\*

### SIoux FALLS, SD

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

\*\*\*

### FORT WORTH, TX

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

### LITTLE ROCK, AR

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

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

## Caution

By Gene Seay

A few days ago I took a couple of old, dried up donuts out in the back yard, tromped down the snow to make a solid place about three feet across, and put the donuts on the packed snow. Then I went back into the house to see what happened.

It was not long until a raven spotted the donuts. He flew down onto the back fence several yards away and eyeballed the situation. Being a cautious bird by nature he was hesitant to come any closer. He looked this way and that way to be sure nothing was sneaking up on him, and then flew down and landed a short distance from the donuts. Cautiously he approached the donuts and looked them over suspiciously.

Finally he pecked one and immediately sprung like a coiled spring into the air about a foot and a half, as though he thought it might bite, and landed a foot or so away. He walked about half way around it and gave it a peck from the other side and again sprung into the air like he was on a pogo stick. By this time we decided to name him BOING! He repeated the performance three or four times more, and then decided that whatever it was it looked dangerous to him, and he flew away.

Now some might believe

that the raven was paranoid and overly cautious, even timid, but my guess is that nothing will ever eat him, and he will die at a ripe old age. Caution is something that everyone had better develop to some degree so as not to become a victim at every turn in the road of life.

I learned a lesson about caution at an early age. It happened before I was old enough to go to kindergarten. While playing in my grandparents back yard my uncle, probably in his twenties, pointed out to me a cat that was burying something and said, "What do you suppose that cat is burying?"

Well, I immediately became curious and decided to find out. With both hands I dug into the cat's buried stash and soon found out. Of course my uncle slapped his leg and howled with glee. It is probably a good thing that I was very small at the time or my uncle perhaps would have not lived long enough to die of old age.

We hear a lot these days about "repressed memory," but I do not believe there is such a thing. My memory of that traumatic experience never became repressed. More's the pity!

Or is it a pity? At least I have avoided becoming a victim. A suitable amount of caution will get one through life in good style. I learned not to poke into things that do not concern me, and I learned not to trust every uncle on the block. And with proper caution one might avoid the gravest danger of all, i.e., becoming victimized out of his soul by religious frauds. "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world*" (1 Jn. 4:1). ■

## What Is Proper Dress?

By Velma Merritt

Styles in clothing get more and more relaxed. Many churches are feeling the strain of deciding if anything should be said about appropriate dress for church. Parents are sending their daughters in pants and shorts — some even in hot pants — to God's house.

Where is the limit going to be? When should church leadership speak out? Is it better to demand respect for God's house or hope that respect will come with Christian teaching?

Old Testament people were taught that certain things were or were not allowed in the temple. Perhaps we need to follow this example.

Christians today seem to place little emphasis on their appearance being different from the world even when inside the church building.

The New Testament admonished women to keep their bodies covered yet some Christian women frequently appear in public with legs and buttocks shining for all the world to see.

Low-cut dresses and blouses may look fine when a Christian woman stands straight with shoulders erect but what about when she slumps, bends over or has someone standing over her when she is seated. Little is left to the imagination.

Many styles popular in fashion circles today are not decent. Christian women and girls should not wear them under any circumstances.

What about dress where decency is not involved? Should there be limitations in

(See **DRESS** on page 11)

## Homosexuals Push For More and More "Rights"

By G. Russell Evans

One more rung up the ladder of acceptability of the homosexuals was the recent retirement ceremony for Petty Officer Keith Meinhold at the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Washington. Just why the Navy found it necessary to honor Mr. Meinhold with an hour-long elaboration, highlighted by his commanding officer's praise, is unclear.

Isn't this the man who defied the Navy's anti-homosexual policy and won in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals — a court long known for liberal findings? It really is! The 9th Circuit just said the Pentagon policy was "not an absolute ban." Not surprising for that court!

Such judges, it seems, are getting on board the Clinton bandwagon to institutionalize perversion on the road to the Colin Powell — Bill Clinton Utopia of "Don't ask, don't tell" for the new military.

In his retirement speech, Meinhold further tweaked the noses of the straights by saying, in effect, that he had proved his point, had no need for more Navy service and was on his way to a nation-wide speaking tour, sponsored by the Servicemembers' Legal Defense Network, a homosexual support group for military people — soon to appear in your neighborhood — to publicize the righteousness of his cause.

And speaking of the media, just what have they done lately to warn Americans of one of the most potentially dangerous developments of all — *legalized homosexual marriages*? Virtually nothing! Do people know, for example,

that cases are pending right now to legalize same-sex marriage in Ithaca, New York and Hawaii? That's right!

If approved, homosexual couples could get married in those places, then return home anywhere in the USA, e.g., next door, and claim all the benefits of married couples: tax breaks, adoption privileges, legal protection, insurance benefits and others. In Virginia, Ohio, New Hampshire, anywhere.

If this happens — and it could within months — *American will be the only nation in the world to allow homosexual marriage*. This would be an abomination to God and a travesty and threat to the culture and civilization on which our great country was founded and on which it grew to prosperity and respect such as the world has never known.

Let's be specific: In the Ithaca case, Mayor Ben Nichols sided with two homosexual men and ordered his city clerk to issue them a marriage license. Wow! Some mayor! Maybe he needs a recall.

Even so, the Ithaca city attorney is reviewing Nichols' order. Meanwhile, homosexual activists are trying to contain their ecstasy, believing liberal judges in Hawaii to be their best bet. Probably so.

In Hawaii, the state Supreme Court ruled in *Baehr v. Lewin* that the statue outlawing homosexual marriage "may be unconstitutional" unless the state proves a *compelling reason* to limit marriage to male-female union. The case was sent to a lower court with decision due this summer.

## Address To The Unborn

(Based upon Lincoln's Gettysburg Address)

Two decades and one year ago our Judicial Fathers brought forth on our nation, a nation conceived and once dedicated to the value and sanctity of human life, our

Same-sex marriage, of course, cannot create the miracle of children. The foundation of our race and civilization is procreation — necessary for society's existence. We value children above all creatures. The homosexuals add nothing to the Divine purpose of life. Indeed, they destroy its true meaning and substitute immorality and perversion.

For those who scoff at critics of homosexuality: Would they dare read what the moral book of the ages says? The Bible from Genesis through Revelation thunders against homosexuality, unequivocal in condemning this cardinal sin. For example, try a few of these passages: the 19th chapter of Genesis and the 19th chapter of the Book of Judges. Also, Lev. 18:13, 22 and 20:10-22; Isa. 3:9; Mt. 19:4-12; 1 Cor. 6:7-11; 1 Tim. 1:10; and Rom. 1:18-29, 32 ■

### DRESS...

(Continued from page 10)

God's house?

God is the Supreme Being. He deserves our very best in life including our best dress in the buildings where we worship. Anything short of our best does not bring proper honor to Him. To come to church looking as if we're going on a picnic shows no reverence for Him.

We call Him Lord of our lives. Isn't he also the Lord of our dress? ■

most atrocious holocaust.

We are now engaged in a great moral war testing whether our nation, built on the Judeo-Christian ethic and dedicated to the Eternal principles of God's Word, can long endure. The battlefield of this war is the bodies of our young women and the final resting place of the victims is the incinerators, experimentation laboratories, and the garbage canisters. The tragedy is their lives were taken without their choice. There is no cause, just their mothers' "freedom of choice" and the freedom to do it again and again. But it is altogether fitting that someone raise a memorial for the innocent 30 million already slain in this warfare.

But in a large sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate ground for them -- for the battle is not over. Every day over 4,000 more lives are added to the list of the innocent blood. These brave men and women (could they have had the privilege of growing up) might have altered the history and destiny of science, politics, and religion. The world will little note nor long remember what I say here, but eternity will reveal how the abortion industry has ravished our world of some of its choicest sons and daughters.

It is for us, who believe in life from conception to dedicate ourselves to the unfinished task of saving the lives of the unborn -- that from these innocent dead we take increase devotion to the cause for which they suffered the supreme sacrifice. Though these died in vain, may we, with God's help give future generations of precious babies their rebirth of freedom -- freedom to be born, freedom to experience life, love, light, and longevity. Under God, may Americans demand righteous government of the people, by the people, and for the people that our great nation should not perish from off the earth. ■

**V-Chip Means More TV Smut.** A high-ranking TV network executive says a possible effect of the new V-chip may make television smuttier and more violent. The networks may decide they no longer have to police the content of their own shows since a chip is doing it for them. They could then show the equivalent of R-rated programs, including full nudity, bare breasts, simulated sex — and all kinds of vivid gashings and graphic gore. The V-chip is “supposedly” standing guard and keeping minors out. — CC.

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**Carl Sagan: “Educated Fool: Faces Death.** World famous evolutionist and star of the “Cosmos” series Carl Sagan was named “Humanist of the Year” in 1981. He said back then he opposed the spread of Christianity. In the 3/18 USN&WR he says “...the Bible is demonstrably wrong in areas of science.” His new book is entitled: **The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark.** Sagan now faces death from a rare bone-marrow disease, and his despair is sad to behold (3/10 *Parade*): He says: “Four times now have I looked Death in the face ... I would love to believe that when I die I will live again, that some thinking, feeling, remembering part of me will continue. But ... I know of nothing to suggest that [an afterlife] is more than wishful thinking.” He said “I

## Seminary Teacher Critically Injured In Auto Accident

We have just received word that Bro. José Hernández was critically injured in an automobile accident Friday afternoon April 19 when hit by a drunk driver. The drunk driver was killed, and it has left Bro. Hernandez in the hospital in a very critical condition.

His daughter told me that he has suffered a severe concussion or skull fracture and recognizes no one and remembers nothing. In addition, he has multiple fractures to an arm and a broken pelvis. He has probably undergone surgery by now but we have not heard any of the results as yet. Our latest reports are that he is gradually coming around and recognizes people, remembers the accident, but apparently nothing before that. The family has been informed that he will be months recovering from all of this.

Bro. José is not only a teacher in our seminary but is also pastor of the church in Villahermosa, Tabasco.

I am sure that he would appreciate receiving some get-well cards from people here in the States, even though they would be in English. I would urge our readers not only to remember him and his family in prayer, but also to send him a get well card. Postage is .60 cents, and be sure and write the word “Airmail” on the outside of the envelope. His address is: Pastor José Hernández López, Av. 27 de Febrero No. 1408, Villahermosa, Tabasco MEXICO

cannot conceive of a god who rewards and punishes his creatures....” The god of science offers no hope at death. — CC

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**Disney Is Pagan, Pro-Sodomite.** Creationist Ken Ham in his 2/96 **Answers In Genesis** says: “[For] years, I have been saying that as people or organizations build their thinking on evolution, they’ll eventually abandon Christian morality, build a humanistic worldview, and eventually move into the New Age movement.” During a recent visit to Disneyland, he said “... it hit me how pagan Disney had become.” He cited music, and evolutionary propaganda, and said Disney offers health insurance to live-

in partners of its homosexual employees. Disney head Michael Eisner says Disney (which tries to influence children) has the “largest lesbian and gay employees organization in the entertainment industry,” and that “as many as 40 percent of its 63,000 employees might be [homosexual].” — CC

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**U.S. Government Is Largest Distributor of Porn.** Pornography is a \$10 billion a year business. The federal government is America’s largest distributor of pornography. It sells sex magazines tax-free and at discount through the military exchange system. The Pentagon Book Store sells nine “soft-porn” magazines and

two explicit homosexual ones. Many, if not most, of all sex crimes are directly related to the use of pornography. Pornography demeans women, perverts youth, and destroys families. — CC

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**Second Husband Sentenced To Federal Prison.** Roe Messner, 60, a contractor who built the Heritage USA religious theme park for the evangelist Jim Bakker and is married to Bakker’s former wife, Tammy Faye, was sentenced in Wichita, Kan., to more than two years in federal prison after being convicted of bankruptcy fraud by hiding assets.

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**“Binge” Drinking Afflicts Nearly Fifth of Young.** On an average night in America, 40% of people age 18 to 30 will drink enough alcohol to impair mental and physical performance according to a recent survey. The survey, commissioned by the American Medical Association, paints a disturbing picture of alcohol abuse among young adults: ● 15% said they drink six or more drinks a night; ● One in five said they occasionally drive drunk and 5% said they drive drunk every time they consume alcohol. ● 13% said they have been involved in accidents while drunk; ● Nearly one in five is a frequent “binge” drinker, with males consuming five or more drinks and females four or more; 7% say they drink this much every time they drink.

—Scripps Howard News Service.

\* \* \*

### **Creationist Magazine Banned From Public Library.**

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” Thus reads the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, the very guarantee of our most precious freedoms. Yet today, more than 200 years after the successful conclusion of the War for Independence, our own government sometimes acts to take away these freedoms. In this instance, a public library system in Georgia has decided that *Creation ex nihilo* magazine is “not suitable for the library’s collection.” This is censorship, or book banning, in its purest form. In the summer of 1995, Dr. Ronald Houser donated to an Oconee County (GA) Library a subscription to *Creation ex nihilo* magazine. *Creation* magazine is a high quality layperson science magazine printed by the Creation Science Foundation in Australia, and distributed in the United States by Answers in Genesis, a ministry in Florence, Kentucky. This magazine which is “not suitable for library’s collection” has been in publication nearly twenty years, has a print run of over 53,000 copies per issue, and is

circulated in 88 countries around the world. Already more than 30 public libraries in the U.S. alone carry this publication, whose contributors include men and women with truly impressive academic and professional credentials. The magazine teaches science using a strict literal interpretation of the book of Genesis. — Minuteman Alert.

\* \* \*

**Stanley’s Wife Drops Divorce Suit.** The Rev. Charles Stanley’s wife has dismissed her divorce suit against Stanley, one of the nation’s best known television pastors. In a letter read to the congregation of Stanley’s church, First Baptist of Atlanta, Anna J. Stanley said she and her husband are not living together but are “working toward that end.” The Stanleys have been married for 40 years and have two grown children. Stanley is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

\* \* \*

**Politicians Tough On Tobacco, Silent On Alcohol.** Government investigators are taking tobacco bad boys to task, but don’t hold your breath for a similar campaign against alcohol abuse. There are 14 million adult alcoholics in the U.S., 100,000 of whom die each year from this (3/25 USN&WR). We hesitate to give the federal government so much power in our individual lives, but if they go after tobacco companies, why not

distilleries and breweries? Both smoking and drinking are harmful to our society, but we confess to feeling safer meeting a smoking driver on the highway than a drinking one. — CC

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### **Promise Keepers “Break Down The Walls.”**

Last year over 720,000 men gathered for 13 Promise Keepers stadium events. In 1996, Promise Keepers men will assemble in 22 stadiums to “Break Down The Walls.” Some of the “walls” they will break down are walls of separation erected by God’s Word to “put a difference between the clean and the unclean” (Lev. 10:10), those teaching a false gospel (Catholics, e.g.) and those teaching a true (evangelicals). Galatians 1:6-9 is clear that those bringing a false gospel are to be “accursed.” The 1996 slate of ecumenical speakers is about the same as last year, plus a few new ones, including: Chuck Colson, Bruce Wilkinson, Haddon Robinson, and David Burnham. ACCC Executive Sec’y Dr. Ralph Colas attended the Promise Keepers Clergy Conference for Men in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. A long firsthand report is available from: ACCC, P.O. Box 19, Wallingford, PA, 19086 (send offering). His report states that there were “priests, bishops, and ministers from every denomination in our country” among the almost 40,000 attendees. The 4/96 *Charisma* said “several Catholic priests were in attendance.” Dr. Colas said, “The

big beat, contemporary music brought the ministers to their feet....” Steve Green belted out repeatedly “Let the Walls Come Down.” The 40,000 clergy shouted, whistled, clapped, and cheered as they worked to a higher and higher pitch of emotion. Dr. Colas said: “While there may be some good things said at a PK conference, this meeting included compromise, ecumenism, apostasy, Jesuit casuistry (end justifies the means), and hyper-emotionalism, along with a theology based on relationships rather than Biblical truth.” — CC

\* \* \*

**What If Clinton Is Re-elected?** The question: “I’ve heard that neither Hillary Rodham Clinton nor her staff attend key White House meetings anymore. If Bill Clinton is reelected, will the First Lady continue to keep a low profile?” The answer: “Those who know the Clintons predict that, if her husband wins another four years in the White House, Mrs. Clinton, 48, will make a comeback and resume her role as ‘unofficial deputy President.’ She has been keeping a low profile because of her negative ratings in the polls, a result of the Whitewater investigation. ‘In a second term, Hillary would be as influential as she was before,’ a Washington insider tells *PARADE*. ‘The President is dependent on her. He’s the

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kind of personality who leaps from one thing to another, creating administrative chaos. He looks to Hillary to put the jigsaw pieces together. She'll also have an effect on policy. The President tends to steer a pragmatic course, but if he's re-elected and doesn't have to worry about running again, Hillary will pull him to the left." — *Parade Magazine* 3/31/96

\* \* \*

**Texas Church Named In IRS Complaint.**

A Washington-based church-state organization has asked the Internal Revenue Service to investigate one of Southern Baptists' largest churches, Second Church, Houston, for what it called political campaigning violation of tax codes. The alleged violation cited by Americans United for the Separation of Church (AU) and State involved a church member who did not have proper approval, a church spokes person said. In a formal complaint, AU Executive Director Bobby Lynn said materials his organization received "indicate (the church), as a tax-exempt organization, is engaging in political campaigning in violation of (IRS) prohibitions." He asked the IRS to apply "appropriate penalties including revocation of the church's tax-exempt status" if the church is found in violation. AU provided copies of materials made available at Second Church that instructed interested members which slate of delegates to vote for at a precinct convention two days later. Doug Elliott, a church member, placed the materials on the information desk in the church's lobby without the knowledge

of the church staff according to a church spokesman. Materials placed on the information desk normally must be approved by church staff, but neither the church, which has 22,000 members, nor its staff approved the documents.

\* \* \*

**Fetus Not A Person.** The Florida Supreme court ruled a fetus is not a person under the state's Wrongful Death Act, rejecting the appeal of a Jacksonville woman whose unborn child died at St. Vincent's Medical Center. The court's unanimous decision reaffirmed the court's previous decisions. It also put an end to Gwendolyn Young's attempts to sue the hospital for the loss of her unborn child, said her attorney, Annette Ritter. Young said she was "appalled" but needed more time to talk to Ritter and learn about the decision. Bill Kuntz, an attorney for St. Vincent's, said the decision was good news but not a surprise. In the lawsuit, Young said the hospital was negligent and responsible for the still birth of one of the twins she was carrying in November 1989, when Young was 8 1/2 months pregnant. The suit focused on a test in which a needle is inserted into the uterus to draw fluid that is analyzed to determine the maturity of a fetus' lungs. Young said a "doctor in training" twice mistakenly punctured one of the fetuses, court records say. After she returned to the hospital with labor pains the next day, the child was stillborn. The other twin, now 6, was born after a Cesarean section. Young sued under the state's Wrongful Death Act. The hospital's lawyers said Young could not successfully sue on behalf of the twin

who died in her womb because the Wrongful Death Act does not recognize a fetus as a person of legal standing. — Florida Baptist Witness.

\* \* \*

**The Blood of the Martyrs.**

The last Bible to be stained with the blood of the martyrs is the King James Bible. History records the violent deaths of noble saints who gave their lives in defense of the word of God. Where are the martyrs for the NIV, the NASV, the NEB, the RSV, the LIVING BIBLE and others of this epidemic of perversions that have flooded the market in the last forty years? There are not martyrs, just plenty of merchandisers. Tampering with the Word of God has turned into a multi-million dollar enterprise and in their pursuit to merchandise the Word of God, men have forgotten Revelation 22:18-19. — Maranatha Baptist Watchman

\* \* \*

**Supreme Court Allows Arkansas To Maintain Abortion Restrictions.**

Lower federal courts went too far when they overturned a 1985 Arkansas constitutional provision that bars public financing of abortions except to save the life of the mother, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled March 18. Amendment 68, added to the Arkansas Constitution in 1985, declares that it is state policy "to protect the life of every unborn child from conception until birth, to the extent permitted by the federal constitution." The amendment prohibits public funding of abortions except to save the life of the mother. Two lower courts invalidated the amendment, holding that the 1994 Hyde Amend-

ment requires states that participate in the joint federal-state Medicaid program to finance abortions in pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, as well as those performed to save the life of the mother. The Supreme Court agreed with the lower courts that the Hyde Amendment requires Medicaid funding of abortions in cases of rape or incest. But the high court reversed the blanket invalidation of Amendment 68 noting that the amendment could properly restrict funding of abortions in a state-funded program outside of Medicaid. The court also noted that the Hyde Amendment is not permanent legislation. While the 1994 version of the amendment requires funding of abortions in the cases of rape or incest, previous versions limited funding to abortions necessary to save the life of the mother. The amendment is routinely attached to federal health-care appropriations bills.

\* \* \*

**Scalia Applauds Fellow "Fools For Christ."**

Christians should stand up for their beliefs although the "worldly wise" have long dismissed them as simpletons, Justice Antonin Scalia said. In an unusually candid discussion of religion by a U.S. Supreme Court member, Scalia told a prayer breakfast that the word "cretin," or fool, is derived from the French word for "Christian." "To be honest about it, that is the view of Christians taken by modern society," Scalia told 650 people at the First Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. The justice said many of the intellectual elite will acknowledge watered-down religious views

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but are hard-pressed to accept the concept of miracles. "We are fools for Christ's sake," he told the audience, which reposed with a standing ovation. "We must pray for the courage to endure the scorn of the sophisticated world."

\* \* \*

**Vatican Has Become A "Saint Factory."** Silvio Oddi, 85, an Italian cardinal, in rare open criticism of the pontiff, wrote in his recently published memoirs that Pope John Paul II, who has been head of the Roman Catholic Church for 17 years and canonized more people than all of his 20th-century predecessors, is elevating too many people, and he said the Vatican "has become a saint factory."

\* \* \*

**SBC Restructuring Consultant Criticized For Lottery Involvement.** The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has come under fire for hiring a management consulting firm that has ties to a state lottery in Texas. The Executive Committee voted Feb. 19 to spend up to \$495,000 to employ an unnamed management consulting firm to help implement a massive denominational restructuring approved by the SBC last summer. It was announced that the Executive Committee had signed a contract with Coopers & Lybrand, a management consultant firm based in Atlanta, and Coopers & Lybrand also certifies the results of drawings in the Texas state lottery, and the firm's name is routinely mentioned during televised lot-

tery drawings. A spokesman for Coopers & Lybrand declined to describe the firm's connection to the Texas lottery, citing a company policy against discussing a client matter with outsiders.

\* \* \*

**Pro-abortion Pataki To Lead Fight.** Gov. George Pataki of New York said in Albany that he will fight to have the anti-abortion plank removed from the Republican national platform, explaining that he wants voters "to see an open, inclusive party, and in the aftermath of some of the primary rhetoric, the presidential primary, we have an obligation to speak out." It appears that some Republicans are determined to see that President Bill Clinton is re-elected regardless of his character flaws, immorality and open love-affair and support of the Gay Rights movement.

\* \* \*

**Texas Southern Baptists Feature Woman Preacher.** The front page of the January 24, 1996 issue of *The Baptist Standard* (the official news magazine of the Southern Baptists in Texas) has a picture of Anne Graham Lotz at the speaker's podium at a recent Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference. The picture is captioned with "More than 10,000 people attended the Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference in Fort Worth, January 15-17. Stirring preaching featured Anne Graham Lotz..." Editor's Comments: Although Mrs. Lotz was only one of several featured "preachers," none of the others were even mentioned. So it seems the moderates (liberals), who are firmly in control in the

Texas Convention, are not only augmenting their agenda (including women preachers), but they are proudly showcasing it and promoting it. — Sword of the Lord.

\* \* \*

**Scholars Search For Jesus.** *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News* all featured "Jesus" on the cover of their magazines in April. But the stories hardly honored Him. Unbelieving liberal "scholars" of the Jesus Seminar deny that Jesus said 80% of the words attributed to Him in the Bible -- was not born of a virgin, did not rise. Jesus Seminar leader Robert Funk says "Christianity as we have known it is anemic and wasting away," that it's time to "reinvent Christianity" (*4/8 Chr. News*). Liberals are opening a new debate and "rethinking" the resurrection. A Barna Research Group survey finds that 30% of "born again" Christians do not believe that Jesus came back to physical life after he was crucified." But belief in the resurrection is a vital part of salvation (Rom. 10:9). -- CC

\* \* \*

**Partial-birth Abortions: Brutal Child Murder.** The late-term partial-birth abortion procedure is a gruesome form of child murder. It involves partially extracting a baby, legs first, then stabbing the infant at the base of the skull with medical scissors, widening the wound, and inserting a catheter to suction out the brain and collapse the skull, killing the child. Of the nation's 1.3 million abortions in 1993, about 13,300 were performed after the 21st week of gestation, according to the CDC. -- CC

**My Testimony****By Resa Bragdon**

On October 8, 1995, I was saved by God's grace. I had said at the age of 10 that I had been saved but it wasn't so. I had really been bothered as a teenage and even before Mike and I married with many doubts about my salvation experience. Then we got married and went Japan and it never bothered me much in the 13 years we were there.

Sometimes I would doubt and become afraid but somehow I would continue on in my own deception.

Since coming home in May, I have been exposed to much preaching and many true Baptist churches and Christian people. My doubts and fears began to surface again.

Then in July our church received a letter from a missionary's wife in Mexico, Heather Craft. She told of how she had made a profession of salvation but had had many doubts. She said she had not repented of her sins and truly believed. She said there were many evidences in her life that proved she did not have the Spirit of God living in her. She went on to name them and as I read the list my heart too was very convicted.

1. She had fear in her heart and so did I.

2. She had no peace in her life and I also had no peace.

3. She did not highly esteem God's Word and prayer — neither did I.

4. She had not experienced the chastening hand of the Lord — neither had I.

5. She did not have a converted life and I also did not have a changed life.

After reading this letter in

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## “Who Made God”

By Harry Rimmer

After one particular lecture, we were approached by a young student who desired to enter into a discussion concerning origins. This young inquirer began by saying, “I would like to talk to you in the language of science. In this interview I hope we can confine ourselves to scientific facts and language and get to the bottom of this question I desire to ask.”

Of course, we were more than willing to meet the youth upon his chosen grounds. Our early days in the study of medicine were spent learning the double-pointed, twelve cylinder, knee-action words, and we felt that if he wanted to speak exclusively in the weird and compound verbiage of science, we should be happy to accommodate him. We felt that the discussion promised much.

The lad opened the conversation by saying, “Where did the world come from?” To this I replied, “Now, let us be scientific. What do you mean by ‘world’? Do you mean this planet, this solar system, the sidereal system, the universe, the cosmos, or what?”

In some surprise the boy hesitated. Then, with an embarrassed smile, he replied with an expressive wave of his hands, “I mean the whole shooting match.”

We laughed and said, “That’s not scientific, but is very clear. You wish to know where the cosmos came from.”

“It was created.”

“By who, or by what?”

“By God,” was our simple and sincere reply.

“Who or what is God?” he asked.

We looked at him closely,

to be sure he was really in earnest with this question. We saw, at least, that he thought he was thinking and even that attitude on the part of a student is one to be encouraged! So we answered, “God is the Deity who made all things. You may call Him ‘First Cause,’ ‘Logos,’ ‘Personified Power,’ or whatever else you wish. The point is, behind the appearance of the cosmos there remains a Person who is the Author of all created things. He is Life Inherent.”

“All right,” he said, “we will pass that for a moment and ask this: ‘Who made God?’”

“Nobody made God,” was our rejoinder. “You are not being scientific in your language. We said that God was Life Inherent. In the universe there are but two types of life. Creature life is life that is transmitted. The life of Deity is life that is inherent, thus establishing by existence per se, a Creator. We said that He was self-existent, and there is no other term for an infinity that is personified that is more expressive than Inherent Being. God always was, for there could be no beginning to Deity.”

“Oh, come,” he said, “I can’t accept that, you know. It’s not scientific.”

We said, “I am sorry you can’t see that, but that’s the best we can do. Now let me ask you some questions, to which we also wish a scientific answer. Where do you think the cosmos came from?”

“It was evolved.”

“Out of what?”

“Out of a nebulous mass of gaseous matter.”

Fortunately we had read this same textbook, and so we were prepared to ask, “Where

## Darwin and the Evolution of Man

By Bolton Davidheiser, Ph.D.

Writing in *Natural History* magazine, Professor C. L. Brace says that it has been commonly assumed by those who have not read Darwin’s *Origin of Species* that the book is about the origin of the species, referring to man. The fact is that in this book Darwin assiduously avoided any reference to man except on the very last page, where he mentioned man “in a cryptic sentence,” as Professor Brace describes it. That Darwin could have written so lengthy a volume about evolution without discussing man is quite remarkable in itself. To make such a casual reference at the very end seems to be the very least he could have done.

Actually Darwin was afraid

did this nebulous mass of gaseous matter come from?”

The young man frowned in puzzlement for a moment and said, “Oh, I guess you would say that was created.”

“But I am through talking now; where do you say that it came from?”

“Well, I will concede that the original mass of vapor was created.”

“By whom, or by what, was it created?”

“By Nature.”

“Very well, then, what or who is Nature?”

He hesitated a moment and said, “Er, you know, Nature is the -er, by Nature we mean what we mean when we say Nature!”

We said, “I am afraid that is not very scientific nor clear. We do not know Nature. Just who is it?”

“Well, Nature is the first cause of everything, the primary beginning.”

“Then who made Nature

to refer to man at this time, as is evident in his correspondence. He feared and dreaded the repercussions he knew would result.

Twelve years later, when sentiment on the subject had shifted sufficiently, he boldly published his *Descent of Man*. In the sixth chapter he plainly said repeatedly that we evolved from monkeys and even told which monkey group it was from which we came. In spite of this, people who have not read this book still assert that Darwin never said we came from monkeys or apes, and these are not just the laity but also men of sci-

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and when did Nature begin?”

The lad flung open his hands in despair at our stupidity and said, “Nobody made Nature at any time; Nature always was!”

We laughed and said, “I am sorry. I cannot accept that; it is not scientific.” There we parted company, both of us having been talking about the same identical Person or Force under two different names.

The man who thinks his way through the mechanics of creation will find, behind all created matter, a Personified Being of intelligence and power. This Being he calls God.

The man who is content to be superficial and only dimly grasps at the appearance of reason behind matter, is content to say, “Nature,” and pass on.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). ■

# The Bible and Society

By Chester E. Tulga

Nowhere in the Bible is a bright future predicted for sinful society. Society will come to judgment not only because of divine judgment, but because of the weight of its sins, and the moral deterioration that always follows.

The older post-millennialists looked forward to the conversion of the world by the gospel. Now, disillusioned, they have retired to their tents. Many have rejected the gospel, accepted the dreams of liberalism, and fail to see the fruit of their own folly.

The older advocates of the social gospel spoke of a redeemed society. But Jesus did not live or die for a redeemed society. He died to redeem individuals. Now they face a deteriorating society, while they have substituted for a redeemer, a program of political action. They want to create a utopia for sinful man, but every human utopia has had its family of serpents.

There is a gospel for the worst of sinners, but not for a

God-rejecting, self-loving society. (There is no salvation for an individual or a self-loving society). The individual who loves himself more than God is not a Christian. Human society is largely made up of self-idolaters.

The Bible has accurately described the society of our times. Contrary to all self-confessed scholars, the Bible is sound on the character of human nature — psychologists to the contrary. Every sin mentioned in the Bible is still being committed. The Bible has a gospel for sinful men, but no gospel for a God-rejecting society.

## I. The State of Modern Society

1. It is a criminal society composed of criminals and their sympathizers. A recent ad in the *United States News* asserts that every 36 minutes someone is murdered in America. In ten years murders increased 62% and violent crimes increased

130%. It asserts that one reason crime increases alarmingly, experts say, is because courts and juries and parole boards are too lenient. There are 4 million serious crimes in this country every year. We also have the criminal syndicates in our big cities, many of them going free. We have a new crop of criminals coming on in the young vandals who destroy millions of dollars every year. We have the underground of the American Bar Association, lawyers who make a career of freeing the guilty. They are the medicine men of criminal society, serving their criminal gods. We have on the fringes of society the naive, the sentimentalist, and fuzzy-minded idealists, who give aid and comfort to the criminal. While this is going on, the liberal preachers continue to preach the gospel of beneficent vagueness. Some conservatives, avoiding moral protest, preach on faith, hope and charity and look for the rapture. Moral protest is too hazardous for many of the orthodox. The prophets wouldn't feel at home in their churches.

2. It is a lousy society, *Newsweek* says, "Dermatologists say that many of the nations uninhibited young people, with their long hair, communal life-style and free wheel-attitudes toward sex have unwittingly launched a silent epidemic of lice and crabs." It is estimated that 5% of the nation have either lice or crabs or both. This is an unheard of situation. The permissive society is bearing strange fruit. [This was written before the AIDS epidemic — Editor.]

3. It is a tolerant, permissive society, based upon moral confusion. Isaiah 5:20 speaking to his times described our times. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;

that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter." A modern writer, "The clear-cut distinction between right and wrong has become blurred. Black and white have blended into a dull grey. As expressed by someone, men have discovered the almost rightness of a great deal that is wrong and the almost wrongness of a great deal that is right."

Our permissive society has lost its way, it founders in a sea of contradictions, and generates its own smog. Our society is permissive because it has forsaken and even repudiated Christian morality as set forth in the Bible. Our preachers are lost in the fog, and our liberal theological professors get lost in the forest of confusing wordage. In trying to define ethics, they have destroyed ethics. However, when the professors speak from Cloud Nine, the liberal preachers cry, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians."

The permissive society has its medicine men. The more unintelligible they are, the more profound they feel. They are sowing the seeds of their own destruction. They have rejected Christianity and sanctified Babel. The confusion of tongues is now a badge of intellectualism.

## II. The Characteristics Of Our Latter Day Society

1. Atheism: The world has more atheists than any time in history. Atheism is not an intellectual position, regardless of empty claims. There is no evidence of the non-existence of God and much evidence of His existence. The Bible correctly states the truth, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psm. 14:1).

(See **SOCIETY** on page 18)

## The Case Against the Social Gospel

By Chester E. Tulga

Under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, the prophets laid down certain timeless principles for every social order. The author has set forth in this book for us these principles in a thought provoking and interesting manner. Let this book help you in your determination of God's social principles. Order from:

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The atheist with no proof whatever believes that matter is eternal, that the universe originated in nothingness. Only a fool believes this: It is interesting to note that the Bible nowhere says that the atheist is an intellectual. He is a fool, using his prejudices for brains. He is a social liability with the moral convictions of his cousin, the alley cat. Now some atheists are advocating that all moralistic laws based upon religious values be repealed. When that happens, we are leaving for the moon. The atheist is not a harmless fellow but a social liability.

2. Society is composed largely of self-idolaters (2 Tim. 3:2). The liberals talk about love for our fellowman. The greatest enemy of love in society is self-love. Self-love is rampant in American society and it is taking many forms. Years ago the older modernists thought man was divine — including themselves, of course. But their wives doubted and some dumped that gorgeous piece of divinity for something less heavenly.

In our day self-love is taking fantastic forms. Racism is always self-idolatry, whether it is white, black, or purple. A black militant on TV beat his breast and proclaimed that he was somebody. No one would have noted this if he had not announced it. Now, we have black theology, a black Christ. Black racism is rampant. Now we have the Women's Lib, a radical group of self-lovers. They are obsessed with the magnificence of their sex. Their theme song is that old time hit, "I love me, I am wild about myself." Not a single radical group shows the faintest traces of humility.

Then we have racism proclaiming proudly, "Black is

beautiful." Lacking mirrors they revel in this self-love orgy. Some others proclaim that their ancestors came over on the Mayflower. They haven't noticed how the line has deteriorated. Pride of ancestry is an empty pride, for all sorts of people have brats in jail. In Europe we have the myth of royal blood. Self-love is the most prevailing form of idolatry. Loving your fellowman is an empty idea as long as men and women love themselves the most. Male egotism and female vanity are common forms of self-love.

Along with this goes some other side effects. Some are heady, not brainy, just heady. There is a difference. Some are boasters, proclaiming how wonderful they are. They should be placed in a discount store and marked down.

Some are high minded. This is an occupational disease common to scholars, real and fancied. They often glory in their degrees forgetting that degrees often resemble a peacock's tail, making a big show but representing very little meat. (Some professors are even fools, except when they look proudly into a mirror). Self-idolaters are a social liability. They love themselves more than you.

Even preachers succumb to the glories of the peacock's tail and sport their degrees. They get a degree and shout with the black militant, "I am somebody." Our liberals continue to prescribe cures, forgetting that no cure will work without a proper diagnosis.

3. Society today is largely made up of apostate religionists:

(1) Some have departed from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1). This is evident in our day. The apostle means departure from the New Testament faith, not departure from religion, which

may not be Christian at all. Many of the great denominations have departed from the faith. When are they apostate? When they have repudiated the deity of the atoning Christ as set forth in the New Testament. A great host of liberal theologians, using the jargon of confusion, have become apostate. Some think the more confused they are, the more intellectual they are. Dizziness is not only of the head but also of the brain.

(2) Many of those who have departed from the faith, have a form of godliness. If the salary is satisfactory, they do not hesitate to steal the robes of heaven to serve the devil. The forms and ceremonies of many churches are meaningless. Apostasy finds the wrappings of orthodoxy useful. They make hypocrisy more plausible. Godliness is disappearing but the forms persist. Many Unitarians, who are atheists, still find the word "church" useful. It makes atheism respectable, so the apostates can still creep in unawares. Liberal theologians, hiding their agnosticism behind fuzzy words, are in good repute. Liberal preachers listen to them with awe. We also have millions of church members who know little of Christianity. One great denomination confessed that it doesn't know where thousands of their members are. But the great god — statistics — must be honored for the sake of denominational pride. They don't know whether they are in jail or out. If they are in jail they are still Baptist. Selah!

4 American society is largely made up of those who love pleasure more than they love God (2 Tim. 3:4). This means that they are essentially selfish. They are a social liability.

Many are sports mad. We hear of hungry children while

we spend millions on sports. We pay policemen low wages and athletes enormous salaries. Universities used to be called a stadium with a few classrooms.

Liquor is a popular form of pleasure. In spite of the drunken drivers, the thousands of alcoholics, the enormous property loss, the liquor traffic is largely unrebuked. How many children are hungry because much of the welfare money goes for liquor? Who knows? The newspapers say nothing. The politicians say nothing. The do-gooders say nothing. Why this silence everywhere? The churches used to thunder but no more. The liquor industry used to fear the church vote, but no more. The churches have little moral influence in American society.

Young people are music mad, not for the great music but for the radio and TV trash, and rock music which is 90% noise and 10% music. They love noisy cars, noisy motorcycles, and screaming tires. The great god noise has many worshipers. Campus speakers who have big mouths and bray loud are in demand. Brains are going out of style. If you make the right noises, brains are not necessary. Student audiences have a strong taste for garbage, spiced with four letter words for the retarded. Our society likes pleasure more than God and often likes the pleasure found in a hog pen. Some like the raw sewage of sex. Sunday has a new name — Funday. A Southern Baptist church in the vicinity had an all night party for young people. We don't attend that church. Mother's Day is passing out — a growing scarcity of mothers.

5. Paul says that in the latter days, "some shall depart

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from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1). Liberal theologians abolished the devil, and stressed the divinity of man. But alas! The divine man grew horns and looked like Hitler (or Castro). One liberal said, "Man is more devilish than we thought." Modernism and secular humanism, the religion of public education, banished both God and Satan and now Satan has returned to be-devil them. With no heaven or hell the liberal lays in his casket, all dressed up and nowhere to go.

*Decision* (10/71) magazine says, "You may object, 'People don't believe in the devil any more.' That's where you are wrong. The other day in a certain place 450 clergy were ordained into the 'church of Satan.' There is a tremendous proliferation in the number of wizards and witches and sorcerers and superstitious cults today. Satanic activity is flourishing as never before. An astonishing growth is reported in the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and even Russia." Satan has returned in spite of the liberals. The old question of Billy Sunday is still unanswered, "If there is no devil, who in the devil, is back of all this devilry?" Since their divine man grew horns, the modernists have no answer. We met an ex-convict. Satan was his hero and he was quite enthused. There are heresies but there are also doctrines of demons. American society has some strange currents. Which way? Who knows? While we travel this road, the liberals are trying to get self loving man to love others. He already has a lover — himself.

**Conclusion**

Our god is ourselves, pleasure, the dollar and now Satan. Agnosticism is the religion of the liberal churches. Humanism is the religion of popular education and John Dewey its Messiah. As long as society rejects God and follows other gods, it is hopeless. We will always zig when we ought to zag. Our society is a lawless society. Lawlessness takes many forms. The growing crime rate is an alarming element.

The youth vandalism is another element. Youth vandals are potential criminals. The spirit of lawlessness is alarming. The contempt for all authority is seen in the homes, the churches, the schools and universities. Radical students despise authority. Militant groups defend their people right or wrong. Business is honeycombed with people who put the dollar above principle. The labor unions are learning new ways to lose friends.

The American Bar Association, professing a high respectability, has an underworld that smells and smells. Many respectable corporations, unions, and citizens hire lawyers to find a way to evade the law. Lawlessness is on every level. The churches which seldom enforce their laws are a part of it.

"They that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same" (Job 4:8). ■

**AHA...**

(Continued from page 9)

"Science has all the virtues of religion, but none of its vices," Mr. Dawkins said in his keynote address. "The main vice of religion is faith." And to inculcate minors with religion, he said was akin to "mental child abuse."

The numerical probability in genetics for any person's existence is so low that "we are lucky to be alive," he said. "We haven't got much longer to live. Let's spend our time in the sun."

Such ethics do not make humanists hedonists, said Mr. Malone, but he thinks some parts of the movement should change, as he has changed. As leader of a group of free thinkers, he used to actively fight religious conservatives in public.

"I began to feel these kinds of confrontational tactics were not in our interest in the long run," he said.

That realization began in 1994, he said, when the wife of his assistant coach in high school soccer suddenly died. Mr. Malone watched the man's fundamentalist church rally to support the family.

"As humanists, we don't have any structural framework to meet these kinds of basic human needs," Mr. Malone said. Now he is urging humanists to appreciate the humanist within organized religion.

Still, he said, humanists as a minority must retain the role of watchdog.

"The fundamentalists look at modern society, and anything they don't like they tag on us," he said. "What they don't like is modernity. There's nothing particularly humanist in how the modern world works." -- Chr. News ■

**Gambling In Arkansas**

The Christian Civic Action Committee has drafted a proposed constitutional amendment to ban all gambling in Arkansas, including horse and dog racing. CCAC leaders are seeking to collect 125,000 signatures to qualify the proposal for the November 5 ballot.

**DARWIN...**

(Continued from page 16)

ence who should know better. We have traced this statement back to Elbert Hubbard in 1905. If anyone knows an earlier statement of this kind, we would appreciate knowing.

Professor Brace says that the misconception that Darwin was writing about man in the *Origin* "typifies man's timeless fascination with himself, as well as his propensity for repeating misinformation about himself." But Professor Brace would not need to look very deep to see that Darwin really had man in mind, and it was just an astute caution which led him to restrict his references to human evolution to later writing.

It is only natural that man should be most interested in man, especially because of the religious implications in evolutionary theory. The evolutionists in general are not interested in the religious implications and they tend to look with impartiality at the evolution of man and beast. For example, Loren Eiseley says that man "did not have to be any more than a butterfly or a caterpillar."

Concerning the evolution of man and modern fish, Robert Lehrman said, "As it happened, the move of lobe-finned fishes onto the land led in the end to the evolution of man, whereas evolution in the ocean led to modern fishes such as the mackerel. Which is better? Neither. Nature is completely impartial on this question."

George Gaylord Simpson says of evolution with respect to man that "there was no anticipation of man's coming. He responds to no plan and fulfills no supernal purpose."

This is another difference between the evolutionary and the creationist points of view. The evolutionists cannot abide the concept of teleology — purpose in the world. ■

**RESA...**

(Continued from page 15)

July, two days later we went to Kentucky for six weeks. It was a very miserable time for me because I couldn't rest or have peace but I wouldn't admit my lost condition.

The first of September I came back to Elgin, Illinois with full intentions of speaking to my dad about my condition but I never did.

On October 4 our church here at Elgin had revival services until October 8th. Bro. Gordon Silcox from North Dakota was the evangelist. Every night he preached to the saved people about the need of revival in their hearts. On Sunday morning October 8 he preached to the lost people.

The first statement in his message was, "*If you don't know you're saved, then you're not!*" This statement pierced my soul. I said in my heart, "*I must hear every word this preacher preaches today.*" At that point, I also threw my 10-year-old experience out the window. For the first time in 24 years I was honest with the Lord.

Bro. Silcox preached how it takes the Word, the Spirit and belief for salvation. As I listened, my heart became very heavy and sorrowful.

At invitation time we stood and sang one verse but I didn't move. One more verse was sung and at that point I went up front to my dad and told him of my troubled soul. You see, I came to the place that I didn't care what people thought. I came to the end of my road and I had to have peace one and for all.

Bro. Silcox and his wife

Email:  
mlmoser1@juno.com

both talked to me and read scripture to me but still my heart was heavy with sorrow. He told me to go home and start reading First John and later that night he said he would study the entire book of First John with me.

After we came home, Mike took the children to eat lunch and I was left all alone — just me and God. I was restless and I wanted salvation so much. I took my Bible and began reading First John chapter one. I then turned to John 3:1-18.

When I came to verse 18 it stood out like a neon sign. I had admitted I was lost and I knew how I stood in God's eyes. Verse 18 told me the only reason I was condemned was because I hadn't believed. Like a little child in faith, I believed!

Oh, what joy and in an instant the Spirit of God became alive in my soul. I felt free! Words cannot convey what salvation is. One must experience it to know. My soul was bubbling full and my heart burned. I couldn't wait until everyone came home to tell them about the salvation God had given me.

For the first time in 24 years I feel alive and not dead. Now I desire the milk of God's Word for I know it was by the power of God's Word that I was saved. (Not by a prayer I or someone else prayed.)

God's grace is truly amazing. I thank God every day for His mercy He showed to me all those years that I was an unbeliever. At 10 years old I had become very scared of hell and I didn't want to go there, but I didn't repent and believe. I was only reformed and not regenerated. Now, I want to tell everyone about the difference God has made in my life. Now I have no fear or worry. The Bible says that perfect love casteth out fear.

It is a strange thing for a person to spend 13 years as a missionary in Japan and do many works in Jesus' name, but we are not saved by our deeds or good works. God looks on the heart. I now know one reason why God brought us back to America — that I may know His salvation.

For years I would hear preachers and other Christians make the statement: "I know that I know I'm saved." I used to cringe whenever I heard this. But I too now can say as they, I know that I know I'm saved.

By His Grace We Are Saved,

Resa Bragdon

\*\*\*

The Bragdons (Mike and Resa) spent 13 years ministering in Himeji, Japan as missionaries out of First Missionary Baptist Church in Elgin, Illinois.

They are now beginning a work to the multi-cultured Northwest. Their desire is to plant churches in the North Chicago area with an emphasis on the many Japanese who live in the area. Please keep them in your prayers. They are sponsored by the First Missionary Baptist Church, 385 Silver St., Elgin, Illinois, Terry Wilson, Pastor.

**COLYAR...**

(Continued from page 2)

transgression of the law; since death is the finished work of sin; since death reigned from Adam to Moses; and inasmuch as sin is not reckoned when there is no law, we can but conclude that the Law of the Lord was given to man in the beginning. Then came disaffection, transgression (sin), and alienation from the life of God (death), not to Adam only but also unto all his posterity (Eph. 4:18).

Sin entered into the world by this one man, Adam; and sin ran rampant in the world ever afterward. The presence of sin is evidenced by Adam's two sons, Cain and Abel. Abel's sacrifice was a blood sacrifice, "the firstling of his flock," which acknowledges the presence and the effect of sin (Gen. 4:4; Heb. 11:4). The Lord reproved Cain because his offering, "the fruit of the ground" (this product of a cursed earth and the work of a sinner's hands), acknowledged neither the presence nor the effect of sin: "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door" (Gen. 4:7). There is where all the trouble of this world lies, in sin.

Sin incurs the wrath of God. This fact is a subject of divine revelation to man. Man is blind, woefully blind, and can know nothing of God's wrath, or of salvation, except God Himself reveal it. "For the *wrath* of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Rom. 1:18).

In the book of the generations of Adam are found the names of mighty prophets: Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah (Gen. 5:1-29), ten in all. Through these men of faith the faith was preserved and published from generation to generation.

**Enoch, A Prophet of Righteousness**

The record is brief, but it shows Enoch was a mighty prophet of God in a day of growing apostasy and wicked

(See **COLYAR** on page 21)

**COLYAR...**

(Continued from page 20)

ness in the earth. "Enoch walked with God: and he was not, for God took him" (Gen. 5:23). He lived a separated life, unspotted from the world. While the wickedness of unbelief increased more and more, Enoch preached Christ by his walk in the world. He was in the world, but not of the world: he walked with God. No man can walk in fellowship with God and walk with the world at the same time. Our walk preaches louder than our talk. It was true then, and it is true now. A holy walk with God condemns the ungodly. Apostates are naturally "despisers of those that are good" (2 Tim. 3:3); they cannot be otherwise. Enoch was a mighty prophet. He not only walked with God, but he talked with God and talked for God. He did the work of a prophet, for he preached against sin and warned the ungodly of coming judgment. He witnessed the beginnings of compromise in the faith-line which led to open and shameless apostasy. He warned of the inevitable consequences. Jude wrote of him, saying: "Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints." Note it: "the Lord cometh" — he prophesied of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, which event has not yet come to pass. Why did Enoch look to the Second Coming? Because his generation was a wicked generation. The word of God was increasingly flouted in its day. Violence in the earth was on the increase. The world was ripening for judgment. The Law of the Lord was cast away by the many. The gospel of Christ was preached to them as unto us. Its rejection meant world chaos. Listen to this antediluvian prophet: "The

Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage" (Jude 14-16).

These prophetic words apply to persons of like character in every age. Such murmurers and complainers, walking after their own lusts, lived in Enoch's day, as they do today. They complained at the restraints which the law of the Lord imposes upon men. "The law is good, if a man use it lawfully; knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane" (1 Tim. 1:8-9). Restive under its demands the ungodly rebel against the lawgiver and defy all authority. Against such Enoch prophesied. He no doubt told the men of his generation of the righteousness which God demands, and which He gives to the penitent believer in the promised Savior, on the one hand; and on the other hand, he pointed out that the wrath of God was upon the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness. The preaching and warning of the prophet provoked greater defiance upon the part of impenitent sinners. "They took them wives of all which they chose" is the record of open, willful defiance of the Word of God. It is one sure sign of moral and spiritual decadence which pre-

cedes every world crisis.

**The Prophet Noah and the Rebels**

The overtures of grace from the man who "walked with God" failed to call men from their sins, because of their hardness of heart. Evil men and seducers did wax worse and worse before the flood, as the Scriptures declare they will before the Lord's return (2 Tim. 3:13). The demand of divine authority and the threat of divine judgment did not restrain willful men then. Nor do they restrain the wicked now. The Lord set a limit on the time for them to bring forth repentance. His Spirit strove with men to turn them from their sins, but to no avail. He warned them by the mouth of His prophet Noah, thus: "My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years" (Gen. 6:3). Noah preached to them Christ and warned them of judgment. That is the work of the true prophet. It is not enough to satisfy the divine demands upon the prophets that Christ be preached for salvation. True, He alone is the Savior: "for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts :12). But that is not all: men must be warned of judgment to come. The day of final accounting will surely come. The prophet must be an expounder of the Law, as well as a preacher of the gospel. "For by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20). Sin bringeth forth death.

And "it is appointed unto men once to die (physical death), but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). Enoch warned of judgment — the law must be vindicated. Noah set a

limit on their time for repentance. It is "repent or perish." They repented not. Then came death and judgment upon the world. They died in the flood; they shall rise up unto judgment in the Judgment Day for the ungodly. The prophets did their work. The blood of the ungodly will not be upon their hands.

Moreover, when that day comes the ungodly will be judged according to their deeds. And those deeds will be measured in judgment by the law of the Lord which the prophets of all ages expounded to men — from Adam to Moses, from Moses to the Savior's coming, from Calvary to the Second Coming, from the Second Coming to the great Judgment Day, for all who heed not the word of God's prophets. John saw that day in apocalyptic vision: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Rev. 20:12). The books shall be opened — the Book of Deeds, and the Book of Law, and the Book of Memory — they all shall testify unto a righteous verdict. Then shall be fully vindicated the word of the prophets of God of all ages. Enoch and Noah will be there, who warned the men of their age against this terrible doom. And so will every prophet of God who worked the works of God in his own age. Then will the work of the prophets be vindicated fully in final judgment in the eyes of all men. Then all will know that all the law and the prophets hang upon these two: Perfect Love toward God and perfect love toward men. ■

**PRE...**

(Continued from page 1)

on the one hand I should be surprised to find any truth taught by the apostles, unnoticed in the Fathers, I should be almost equally surprised to find it taught Scripturally and unencumbered by human additions, so early did the apostasy begin to work."

Above antiquity, tradition or human opinion, in the words of Burnet, "we should always require a higher witness, viz: the Bible." This is the first. But we highly esteem the faith of that church whose characteristics, says Milner, were "to believe, to love, and to suffer." "Whatever is first," says Tertullian, "is true, whatever is later is adulterate," and Mr. Faber has truly said: "If a doctrine totally unknown to the primitive church, which received her theology immediately from the hands of the apostles, and which continued long to receive it from the hands of the disciples of the apostles, springs up in a subsequent age, let that age be the fifth century, or let it be the tenth century, or let it be the sixteenth century, such doctrine stands on its very front, impressed with the brand of mere human invention" (Primitive Doctrine of Election, p. 158). Such, we argue, is Post-millennialism, and such also Anti-millennialism, of which we are now to speak, after first giving the character of the times.

Having now arrived in our history of Millennialism at the commencement of the fifth century, when the great apostasy had begun, and this Apocalyptic truth was deemed a heresy and accounted unpopular, we here purpose giving, through the combined testimony of many voices, a brief but fuller account of its decline. Paganism was fallen, but

the Papacy was hastening to its birth, and even in its embryo was hung all over with idolatry. From Gibbon, Neander and Mosheim, we learn that in the fourth century monks, monasteries, convents, penance, church councils, with church control of conscience, excommunication, the perfume of flowers, the smoke of incense, wax tapers in the churches at noon day, prostrate crowds at the altar drunk with fanaticism or wine, imprinting devout kisses on the walls and supplicating the concealed blood, bones, or ashes of the saints, idolatrous frequenting martyrs' tombs, pictures and images of tutelar saints, veneration of bones and relics, gorgeous robes, tiaras, crosses, pomp, splendor and mysticism, were seen everywhere, and were the order of the day; and says Mosheim: "The new species of philosophy imprudently adopted by Origen and many other Christians, was extremely prejudicial to the cause of the gospel, and to the beautiful simplicity of its celestial doctrines," and Gibbon writes that "If in the beginning of the fifth century Tertullian or Lactantius had been suddenly raised from the dead to assist at the festival of some popular saint or martyr, they would have gazed with astonishment and indignation at the profane spectacle which had succeeded to the pure and spiritual worship of a Christian congregation."

Martyr worship was very common, and Eunapius the Pagan, A.D. 396, exclaimed, "These are the gods that the earth now-a-days brings forth, these the intercessors with the gods — men called martyrs: before whose bones and skulls, pickled and salted, the monks kneel and lay prostrate, covered with filth and dust."

The mystery of iniquity

worked like leaven, and to use the words of Coleridge, "The Pastors of the Church had gradually changed the life and light of the gospel into the very superstitions they were commissioned to disperse; and thus paganized Christianity in order to christen Paganism."

Dr. Cumming remarks that "The great multitude consisted of embryo papists, and what we call Puseyism in the nineteenth century, was the predominating religion of the fourth." Milner says that "while there was much outward religion the true doctrines of justification were scarcely seen." All of this Dr. Duffield does not hesitate to affirm was the genuine offspring of the allegorical system and Platonic philosophy of Origen, who made the church on earth the mystic kingdom of heaven. "Vigilantius," says Elliott, "remained true, and was the Protestant of his times," but Jerome, remarks Dr. Cumming, "became utterly corrupted," and Augustine, as Elliott has shown, scarcely escaped the universal contagion. Eusebius said "the church of the fourth century looked like the very image of the kingdom of Christ," but it was not the Millennium, as he dreamed, says Cumming, but the mystery of iniquity, ripening and maturing. It rapidly approached its predicted maturity, and Antichrist loomed into view.

Such was the character of the times, and need we wonder that the true Millennium was laid aside, and with it the Apocalypse that taught it? "Rome," says Burnet, "always had an evil eye on the Millennium!" Truly spoken! Says Newman the Roman Catholic writer: "Whereas at first certain texts were inconsistently confined to the letter, and a Millennium was in consequence expected; the very course of events, as time went on, inter-

preted the prophecies about the church more truly," etc., i.e. in a mystical or anagogical manner.

Continuing our quotations on this point, we give the testimony of Bishop Russell, of Scotland, a strong Anti-millennarian, who writes as follows: "It is worthy of remark, that so long as the prophecies regarding the Millennium were interpreted literally, the Apocalypse was received as an inspired production, and as the work of the apostle John; but no sooner did theologians find themselves compelled to view its annunciations through the medium of allegory and metaphorical description, than they ventured to call in question its heavenly origin, its genuineness, and its authority.

Dionysius, the great supporter of the allegorical school, gives a decided opinion against the authenticity of the Revelation. Joseph Mede truly says of the Anti-millennarians of the fourth century, "They denied the Apocalypse to be Scripture, nor was it re-admitted till they thought they had found some commodious interpretation of the thousand years." Dr. Cumming observes, "Some divines of the fourth century rejected the Apocalypse, on the ground that it contained, as they alleged, prophecies of what they erroneously believed to be a carnal Millennium; just in the same way as some persons still argue that the Bible cannot be God's word, because it contains truths that cross their prejudices."

Dr. Elliott testifies, that from the Constantinian revolution in the eastern empire, with but few exceptions, we find the Apocalypse "passed over in silence by the great Greek Father of the remainder of the fourth century;" and he

(See **PRE** on page 24)

**PHONE...**

(Continued from page 5)

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**An Apologetic of Premillennialism**

By M. L. Moser, Editor

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

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

A must reading in view of the many attacks being made today against this doctrine.

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**Four Corners of The Earth**

*"And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth"* — Isaiah 11:12.

For many years atheists and agnostics have sought to discredit the Bible because of certain phrases that appear in the Bible. One of these phrases is used in this passage from the book of Isaiah, in which Isaiah speaks of "the four corners of the earth." These infidels have ridiculed the phrase, based on the fact that the earth is round and therefore cannot have corners.

A few years ago, a syndicated column by Hy Gardner appeared in the *Arkansas Gazette* of June 5, 1973 in which a question was raised and then answered. The question and answer is as follows:

**"Q: KNOWING THE EARTH is round, how come they still use the expression 'the four corners of the earth? And where are they located?"**

**AUDIO...**  
 (Continued from page 3)

out in extremely brief hot pants and is made to look ridiculous. Conclusion: Running around half-naked is all right.

Archie became upset at the idea of his daughter posing in the nude, alone, in an apartment with a boy friend. Conclusion: In our enlightened age this is all right.

Archie is always the one who quotes and defends the Bible, and is made to look ridiculous in doing so.

Well, I think that's enough to get the idea across. *The churches ... the schools ... the movies ... the television ... our music ... all promoting Satan's religion.* ■

— Barbara Wennerholm, New York City.

**"A:** Generally speaking they're the uttermost ends, the remotest parts of the earth. In 1965 members of the Johns Hopkins applied physics laboratory named the four corners of the earth as being in Ireland, southeast of the Cape of Good Hope, west of the Peruvian coast, and somewhere between new Guinea and Japan, where the gravitational pull is measurably greater than elsewhere."

So the earth *does* have four corners and the Bible has been proven correct once again by science, this time by Johns Hopkins University, one of the world's greatest universities. ■

**What God Can Do, And Does**

Longfellow could take a worthless sheet of paper, write a poem on it, and make it worth \$6,000 -- that is genius.

Rockefeller could sign his name to a piece of paper and make it worth millions -- that is capital.

A mechanic can take material worth \$5 and make an article worth \$50 -- that is skill.

An artist can take a five-dollar piece of canvas, paint a picture on it, and make it worth \$10,000 -- that is art.

God can take a worthless, sinful life, wash it in the blood of Christ, put His Spirit in it, and make it a blessing to humanity -- that is salvation. ■

from the sacred canon, by the same churches of Asia to which it was addressed; and we may learn from the complaint of Sulpicius Severus, that their sentence had been ratified by the greater number of Christians of his time." And to sum up this array of evidence with regard to the Millennium, as held by the church up to this period, together with its rejection, as also that of the Apocalypse, we give the following striking and truthful language of Horatius Bonar. On Rev. 20th chapter, he writes: —

"In the first centuries great stress was laid upon this passage. It was considered the stronghold of Chiliasm — so strong and decided was its testimony deemed, that the Anti-chiliasmists deemed their only escape from it, was the total denial of the Apocalypse. Chiliasm, and the Apocalypse, were deemed inseparable. They could only get rid of the former, by rejecting the latter. They never thought it possible to deny that the Apocalypse taught Chiliasm. This was not disputed; and hence those who disliked Chiliasm could not tolerate the Apocalypse. It was not till the church had learned to Platonize, or had taken lessons in the school of Origen, that they could condemn Chiliasm without disputing the inspiration of the Revelation."

Such is the voice of History, with regard to the doctrine of the Millennium, and its subsequent depression. We have been sufficiently copious, so that the intelligent and candid reader might know both the character of its advocates and opponents — its firm adherents, and its ultimate destroyers. Orthodoxy had sided with it, but heterodoxy waged war against it. The true church believed in it, but the apostate church crushed it. If this be

true, ought not the church of Christ in the nineteenth [and twentieth] century unanimously maintain Chiliasm? We think so. Rome, with those in her employ, rose up against it. Brooks affirms that the works of Papias and Nepos, and Mede adds those of Victorinus and Sulpicius, containing Millennial views were authoritatively suppressed by Pope Damasus.

The extraordinary admission of Gibbon is that, "as long as for wise purposes this *error* was permitted to subsist in the church, it was productive of the most salutary effects on the faith and practice of Christians, who lived in the awful expectation of that moment when the globe itself, and all the various races of mankind, should tremble at the appearance of their divine Judge," but now the great Antichrist was at hand, and the way must be prepared for him to reign, and be worshiped. That which Chillingworth, Lardner, Taylor, Russell and others affirm to have been orthodox in the first centuries, began to be deemed heretical. The Council of Rome under Pope Damasus, in A.D. 373, formally denounced Chiliasm, and so effectual was the condemnation that Baronius, a Roman Catholic historian of the sixteenth century observes that, "the heresy, however loquacious before, was silenced then, and since that time has hardly been heard of." And of the fifth century he writes, "More over the figments of the Millenniums being now rejected everywhere, and derided by the learned with hisses and laughter, and being also put under the ban, were entirely extirpated!"

Says Bush — "through the dreary tract of the ages of darkness, scarcely a vestige of Millennial sentiment is to

be traced!"

Thus have we seen that through the rejection of the Apocalypse by Caius, Dionysius, and finally the church in general; through the Platonism and allegorizing of Origen and his numerous followers; through the misrepresentations of Eusebius; through the scoffing of the monk Jerome; through the hatred and opposition of a great church of embryotic Papists; through the denunciations of church councils; through the combinations and bitterness of Popes; through the laughter and hisses of Popish doctors; through the influence of an onward creeping and awful apostasy; through, perhaps, the abuse of Millennial truths by their advocates; and, finally, through the presentation and final reception of a new and erroneous Millennial theory more suited to the times, the true Apocalyptic doctrine of the Millennium, as held by the primitive church, wasted away, and ultimately well nigh died — died, not at the hands of orthodox Christians, but at the hand of men noted for their unsoundness in the faith — died at the hands of the infant harlot, Rome! And, alas! how much truth died with it — how much error lived when it died! But it did not die utterly, for

**"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again,  
The eternal years of God are hers!"**

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**PRE...**

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also shows that nearly all who rejected it, were evidently under prejudices against, and misconceptions of the Apocalyptic doctrine of a Millennium.

The pointed testimony of Prof. Stuart is as follows: "In the end of the fourth century to guard against Chiliasm, quite a number doubted the genuineness of the Apocalypse, — did not receive it as canonical, and carefully abstained from appealing to it, but after this period we find only here and there a solitary voice raised against it, until at length the reception became all but universal. When the question of Chiliasm had ceased to excite any special interest in the churches ... all opposition to the Apocalypse either ceased or became quite inactive and indifferent."

Gibbon, too, adds his testimony to this remarkable fact, and says: "In the Council of Laodicea, A.D. 360, the Apocalypse was tacitly excluded