

the Baptist CHALLENGE

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WHOLE NO. 430

Why I Am A Baptist

By H. Boyce Taylor

I am going to talk to you this morning on "Why I Am A Baptist." In the last chapter of Matthew, verses 18-20, you will find these words: "*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*"

Peter told us "to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15). That is a good reason why every Baptist here today ought to be able to tell you why he is a Baptist. Every Baptist ought to be able at any time to give his reasons for being a Baptist: and counterwise, since the Master never established but one church, every man, who isn't a Baptist ought to be able to give reasons, good and sufficient to satisfy the Lord Jesus at the judgment why he is not a Baptist. For if the church that Jesus built was a Baptist church, then no churches but Baptist churches are churches of Christ

and every man will have to face the Lord Jesus at the judgment and tell Him why he joined some church founded by an un-inspired man, instead of the one founded by the Lord Jesus Himself.

There is much talk nowadays about a community church. Why should not Baptists go in with all others and organize one church in every community? If it were left to us nothing would be more delightful. We like to agree and get along with other people. But it isn't left to us and to our consciences. The Master's plain

Charles Thomas With The Lord

Independent Baptists have lost one of their truly great preachers. Charles Thomas, retired pastor of Rodgers Baptist Church of Garland, Texas died of a "massive heart-attack" at his home in Chandler, Texas on Thursday, May 22. The funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 17 at the Rodgers Baptist Church, Garland, Texas, the church that he loved and pastored for so many years.

Services were conducted by Bro. F. Duane Phy retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Clute, Texas and Bro. M. L.

command to the first church was "to teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Church membership is not left to your consciences or your whims or your reasonings; it is a matter of loyalty and obedience to Jesus Christ who bought us and saved us with His own precious blood. Conscience is not a standard of right or wrong for any man, for conscience is a creature of education and needs teaching. The conscience of the ignorant, or uninformed would say one church is right or none, and the conscience of the man who is

Moser, Pastor Emeritus, Central Baptist Church Little Rock, Arkansas. Bro. Lester Hutson, pastor of Berean Baptist Church, Houston, Texas led in the opening prayer, and Bro. Dick. Johnston, of Brownsboro, Texas concluded the services at the graveside.

It was estimated that over 125 preachers and missionaries were in attendance, and hundreds packed the auditorium and expanded into an annex where closed-circuit television was provided. The funeral home

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taught would say another. So you see conscience cannot be a standard by which men are to regulate their church membership. A standard must be that to which all men can come, and which, when submitted to, will make all men do what the Lord, Himself says do. That is why Jesus said, "teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." The Bible is the standard and men's consciences never get right until they get right with the Bible and then they all agree.

The fundamental and distinguishing Baptist doctrine and the one underlying all other Baptist doctrines is this: "The Bible, the Bible alone, is our only and all sufficient rule of faith and practice." If you can't find it in the Bible it isn't Baptist doctrine; if it is Baptist doctrine you can find it in the Bible. That is the shibboleth of the message this morning. Our authority for making this our distinguishing teaching is our marching orders, given us by the Lord Jesus, the Head and Founder of the first Baptist church.

The man God sent to make ready a people out of whom the Lord Jesus organized His church

(See **WHY** on page 21)

Gambling and the Christian

By Wayne Camp, Memphis, Tennessee

Gal. 5:16-25

TEXT: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 Jn. 2:16)

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

INTRO: As the casinos have multiplied just south of us and more to the north I have become increasingly concerned about the eventual effect it might have on our area. This week the progress was made toward getting a Tennessee lottery

Just recently a man and a woman who had come to Tunica from Ohio to gamble were shot dead in an elevator by a distraught man who was a gambler and drug addict. In the last few days, a woman was seized in the wee hours of the morning after returning from the casinos. She and her husband had planned to go together but when he was going to be about 30 minutes late she went on to the Casinos without him. I don't know the outcome of the matter but it appeared from the news account she was so eager to get down there to gamble she was unwilling to wait 30 minutes on her husband.

I received e-mail this week from a preacher brother who wrote, "My brother, 58 years of age, claiming to be a believer, has spent his life gambling. Be-

(See **CAMP** on page 17)

The Pre-millennial Coming of Jesus Christ.

By Bob Thrower

"Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" — Titus 2:13

Today we come to study the great doctrine of the coming of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The coming that we are going to study today is the coming in the air after His blood-bought saints. The coming that we are going to study is known as the Pre-millennial coming. This great doctrine fills the pages of God's Word. This great doctrine thrills my soul to the very depth. This great doctrine makes me to rejoice and, at the same time, shed tears. I rejoice because of the fact that I will see Him face to face. I cry at the fact that then I will see where I have come short in so many ways.

The Pre-millennial coming is our (every believer) blessed hope. The coming again of our Lord is the only hope for Israel. Then the clock will be punched and God will again deal with the Jew as a nation. Oh, praise His wonderful Name! He has not cast His people away for good, but for a small season. Today the Jews are scattered into the four corners of the world, but in that day, our great God will gather them back to their own land — the land that God gave them.

Jesus came the first time to bear the sins of those the Father had given Him (Jn. 6:37). We read:

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many: and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salva-

tion" (Heb. 9:28).

Listen again: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But, made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:5-8).

Beloved, from those verses, no man can tell me that He came the first time to set up His Kingdom. He knew before He left glory that the Jews were going to treat Him cold and throw rocks at Him. He knew that He had come to die on the tree, and hang between Heaven and earth, shedding His blood for poor Hell-going sinners.

First, may I say that the word "millennium" is not found in the Bible. It comes from the words "thousand years."

There are different views on the millennium.

1. The first group call themselves just Millennialists. That is, they believe there is to be a millennium, but they do not know when it will take place.

2. Post-Millennialists are those who teach that there will be a millennium, but it will be established by the church. The world is to be converted, and then Christ will come after the millennium. This group is known as the ones who preach, "We are bringing in the kingdom." They are wrong. We are not bringing in the kingdom; we

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THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Great Scientists Who Were Christians

Sir Isaac Newton's Christian Faith

His lifelong devotion to the Bible, and his powerful arguments against atheism

The law of gravitation is generally associated with the name of Sir Isaac Newton, for, if the tradition is authentic, the fall of an apple in a garden led him to the discovery of that universal law. It is perhaps not so widely known that as a result of his optical researches he separated white light into the colors of which it is made up, and constructed the first reflecting telescope. He was a great mathematician, an astronomer, and at the same time a student and lover of the Bible and a humble believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In his "Memoirs of the Life, Writings, and Discoveries of Sir Isaac Newton," Sir David Brewster has a chapter in which he discusses Sir Isaac Newton's theological writings and his attitude toward Christianity. Sir David says:

"The history of Sir Isaac's theological writings cannot fail to be regarded as an interesting portion of his life. ... That the greatest philosopher of which any age can boast was a sincere and humble believer in the leading doctrine of our religion, and lived conformably to its precepts, has been justly regarded as a proud triumph of the Christian faith. Had he exhibited only an outward respect for the forms and duties of religion, or left merely in his dying words an acknowledgment of his belief, his piety might have been regarded as a prudent submission to popular feeling, or as a proof of the decay or the extinction of his transcendent powers; but he had been a

searcher of the Scriptures from his youth, and he found it no abrupt transition to pass from the study of the material universe to an investigation of the profoundest truths, and the most obscure predictions, of Holy Writ.

The Value of His Testimony

"The religious opinions of great men — of those especially who, by force of genius and patient thought, have discovered new and commanding truths — possess an interest of various kinds. The apostle of infidelity cowers beneath the implied rebuke. The timid and the wavering stand firmer in the faith, and the man of the world treats the institutions of religion with more respect and forbearance. Nor are such opinions less influential when they emanate from men who follow truth through her labyrinth, neither impelled by professional ambition nor alarmed by articles which they have to sign, or creeds which they have to believe."

Sir David discusses the charge that had been made that Newton's theological writings "were composed at a late period of life when his mind was in its dotage, or had suffered from that supposed mental aberration to which so many acts of his life have been so erroneously ascribed." He completely demolishes such charges and shows that Newton's theological writings were produced when he was in the very zenith of his intellectual powers. He quotes a

(See **NEWTON** on page 10)

Doctrine and Fellowship

Some Baptist brethren hold tenaciously to the idea that Baptist fellowship is based upon cooperation with a Convention, an organized Fellowship, or an Association program. In this, they sin against both their faith and the Scriptures. Our Baptist faith, which has come down through the centuries, has changelessly posited fellowship upon doctrines — not upon deeds. Acts 2:42 shows clearly that the first church at Jerusalem found fellowship in doctrines. Fellowship is in a common faith and not a common program.

When brethren set forth a false foundation for fellowship such can but lead to division and the perversion of the Scriptures. Independent Baptists are misunderstood, for they have fellowship for all of our Baptist brethren who hold to the like precious faith. We can fellowship all true Baptists but the trouble is, while we do not demand that they take our program for us to fellowship, they demand that we take their program for them to fellowship with us. Now if all Baptists would accept the leadership of the Holy Spirit in evangelistic, missionary, and benevolent endeavors and be willing to prove their acceptance of such leadership, then all independent Baptists would be walking side by side with all other Baptists. The crux of our differences is on the position the Holy Spirit holds in our church work. Independent Baptists hold that missionary and benevolent endeavors are absolutely in His hands and that He initiates all of the Lord's work through local churches, while non-independent Baptists

(See **DOCTRINE** on page 15)

Universal Visible Churches

Some of the greatest heresies of the day are directed against evangelical ecclesiology (the doctrine of the New Testament church). There has always been the danger of insisting upon a scriptural theology, while ignoring the equally authoritative teaching of the Bible concerning a scriptural ecclesiology. The Bible as the Word of God contains nothing superfluous, and the implicit denial of the scriptural doctrine of a New Testament church as a Divine institution, as the scriptural house of such as are born again, and the spiritual unit of the kingdom of God is really a dangerous heresy.

There are several erroneous teachings directed against the teaching of Christ and the Apostles concerning a New Testament church, and I purpose to examine two of them in the light of scripture. There is the Roman Catholic idea of a *universal/visible* church; and the Protestant idea of a *universal/invisible* church.

The ultra-Biblical notion of a "*universal/visible church*" of world-wide scope had its origin in an era of doctrinal corruptions which followed the days of the apostles; and it gradually developed into the papacy, the most successful of all systems of error. The equally unscriptural notion of a "*universal/invisible church*" had its origin in the Reformation, when Protestants invented this idea to offset the Romanist one of the Universal church. Between these upper and nether millstones, the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth has been ground to powder,

(See **CHURCHES** on page 14)

Why The Bible Is God's Book!

INFIDELITY

By **Mordecai F. Ham**

This library which is bound in one volume called the Book (Biblos) is to be accounted for in some manner. We have it. It is either from man or from God. We will not even consider the discussion of destructive critics as to how much of this library is of God and how much of it is of man. If we admit that God has had anything to do with this book at all, we can also believe that He has guarded it from perilous corruption. So we will only seek to answer to your own satisfaction. Does the book furnish sufficient evidence within its own lids to justify believing that this book as we have it has been furnished us by God, the Creator of all things?

It stands alone among all other books, makes neither concession nor apology and never has been compelled to revise any of its statements. All attempts to prove it unreliable in its history, unscientific in its statements, unsafe in its precepts have failed miserably.

It does not claim to be a complete history, neither does it pretend to be a treatise on science; but whatever has been dealt with within its pages has mocked the wisdom of the wise, and the criticism of the learned, in every instance where they have attempted to reflect upon its authenticity.

Though in existence for centuries, it is the only ancient book which has been absolutely free from superstitions and puerile fables, unscientific teachings, unhistoric legends and the corrupting influence of immoral philosophies in which all other ancient literature, and especially

religious literature, abounds. And while the character of its friends and enemies when compared (excluding isolated individual cases) has been sufficient evidence to satisfy the majority of people who judge a tree by its fruit, and will relish a berry though the bush has thorns, yet we will leave that evidence for another time and see what the Book itself reveals, and what makes it wonderful and separates it from all others.

Its Writers

If written by the men whose names are associated with each volume, it has about forty authors, the first writing in 1,400 B.C., and the last about 96 A.D. So they could not have cooperated by mutual consent. They were separated not only by time but by custom. They were under the influences of the civilizations of the following countries: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. They came from various walks of life: Prince, shepherd, farmer, military officer, prime minister, governor, king, politician, fisherman, merchant, lawyer, rich, poor, cultured, rustic, clothed in purple, clothed in sheep skins, living in palaces and living in caves.

To believe that men separated so widely by time, custom, training, thoughts, habits, manners, could have produced this library with its unity and symmetry of thought, each complementing the other, no portion doing violence to another, would be far more difficult than to accept the statement: "All scripture is inspired of God" (2 Tim. 3:16).

The Temple

Suppose a temple has been erected upon this lot. The stone is from forty different quarries scattered over the known world. Each stone differs in size, shape and color. Unloaded at different times, when put together not a hammer touched them, yet there appears in imposing majesty a wonderful structure, perfect, sublime in every architectural detail; while the mosaics spread over every wall outline a picture of the same person. Would it be reasonable to suppose it all an accident? And would it be unreasonable to suppose that the individual whose portrait was carried out in every detail of construction might be the God of the architect who gave instruction to every workman in the quarry?

So this book which I hold in my hand, though its portions differ widely and have been handled by workmen from many lands and climes, customs and times, when put together constitute a perfect picture of the individual who claims authorship and must be the product of one master mind. Genesis is the foundation and introduces us to the beginning of generation, the beginning of degeneration, the beginning of regeneration, the beginning of a new generation. Revelation, the dome, brings us up to the finish of generation, and of degeneration, and of regeneration and into the new generation. In Genesis we see the heel bruised and bruising. In Revelation we see the head crowned and reigning. Between the heel and the head we see a bosom laid open by a cross revealing a heart which throbs and bleeds for humanity.

Inside the Temple

Several years ago I entered

the portico of this great temple. I met Moses, who introduced me to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Their faith impelled me to move on into the vestibule. There I greeted Joshua, Gideon, Samson, Samuel and other heroes who conquered and wrought marvelously for Jehovah. These strengthened my courage and I passed on into the chamber of Kings and Psalms and the harp of David set to vibrating the chords of my soul. I beheld the glory and listened to the wisdom of Solomon, was instructed in my soul and inspired to worship. I was swept onward by the grand, celestial tones of Isaiah and by the minor wails of the weeping Jeremiah which blended with the music of the harps and the songs of the Psalms as a great organ under the touch of a master musician. I sat entranced by the music of heaven and intoxicated by the fragrance of the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley. Strangely moved by the glory of the place, it seemed that I saw a powerful light flashing down the aisles of the ages pointing out the rise and fall of kings and kingdoms until, as seen by Daniel, the God of Heaven should set up His everlasting Kingdom.

I saw there, too, windows of varies and beautiful design through which streamed the Sun of Righteousness lighting in wonderful detail Matthew's portrait of the King, Mark's picture of the servant, Luke's concept of the perfect man, and John's dream of the God man, all forming a composite of the Matchless One whose appearing was heralded by John and whose works were recorded by the evangelists, whose mystery is revealed by Paul and whose coronation is unveiled by John, the Revelator, where I saw the

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King in all the beauty of His supernatural majesty riding in His four-wheeled cherubim chariot, accompanied by the angelic band and the white-robed throng, and all joining in the coronation anthem: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

Bible and Science

To those who have been taught that the Bible was unscientific I hasten to state that not one known scientific fact has done violence to this book. But on the contrary the Bible has evidence of a knowledge of facts which were heralded as discoveries of scientists centuries after they had been recorded in this book.

Earth Hangs On Nothing

Job 26:7 fifteen centuries B.C. said, "And hangeth the earth upon nothing," while Hindu scholars were teaching that the earth rested upon the backs of four elephants and others that it rested upon the back of a big turtle, and that earthquakes were caused by the moving of these beasts.

Earth is Round

Galileo nearly 1,600 A.D. is said to have discovered that the earth turns round; but 2,300 years before that Isaiah wrote: "It is he that sitteth above the circle of the earth" (Isa. 40:22), and 1,550 years before Galileo, Luke speaks of Christ's coming to the earth again when it would be midnight at one place, noon-day at another and morning at another and evening at another, a condition that could not be were the earth not round (Lk. 17:34-36).

Thirty-four hundred years ago Moses warned (Dt. 4:19)

Israel against the worship of stars which the Lord had allotted as portioned unto all nations under the whole heavens, and that was 3,100 years before Copernicus was born. How did that get into the Bible if it was not known then that the earth was round?

Isaiah and Scientists Agree (Isaiah 40:12)

"Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand?" Scientists say that any more or any less proportion of water or land would be perilous. "And meted out heaven with a span?" Scientists all agree that if the atmosphere, which is 45 miles high, had been any deeper it would have been a burden to live and that if were any less we could not have breathed without much pain. "And comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure." There is just enough soil for the earth's fruitfulness and beauty. "And weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance." Physical geography tells us that the height of the mountains on every coast is in direct proportion to the depth of the sea that beats upon the shore. Geologists have just discovered what was known by the Bible writers 2,800 years ago.

Some have criticized the Bible for teaching that there was light before the sun was placed in the heavens. They say Newton's theory controverts that. Yes, and Newton's theory was exploded half a century ago. This Bible says that the Spirit of God began moving (Gen. 1:2) and is still moving over the face of the waters and thence comes the light. Science now teaches that light is the result of a force which causes ether waves to vibrate with infinite rapidity. With the invention of photography, scientists have had to revolutionize their ideas

of light. Sir John Herschel says light is the greatest force in all the universe. Proctor says that it was the first of all that existed in the universe. The more scientific you are the better you may understand the Bible.

Rain

The old Hindu sacred books taught that the sun was nearer the earth than the moon and that the rain came from the moon. Why is it that there are no such scientific blunders in the Hebrew scriptures. Read Ecclesiastes 1:7: "All the rivers run into the sea and yet the sea is not yet full." "Into the place from whence the rivers come, thence shall they return again." Hundreds of thousands of tons of water are poured into the sea every hour and yet it is not full. Read Psalm 135:7: "He causes a vapor to ascend from the ends of the earth; He maketh lightnings for rains; He bringeth the wind out of His treasures." The vapor rises and forms into little globules having air inside and watery vapor outside. Clouds are formed but rest over the ocean. Now He harnesses the winds to the clouds and moves the vapor over the land. Then how are we to get the water down to the earth? "He maketh lightning for the rains." Flashes from positive and negative poles meet and the shocks burst the globules and down comes the shower. This is the finest irrigating plant ever installed. Lord Kelvin said in his classroom when talking on natural philosophy: "I believe there never is rain without lightning."

Evolution

Probably no battlefield has drunk more blood, figuratively speaking, than that one on which the Darwinian evolutionists and the Bible defenders have fought.

The evolutionists have discovered a similarity between the bodies of animals and man's body and blindly have concluded that man has evolved from the lower animals, passing through many successive and progressive stages before reaching his present shape and form.

Now in Genesis 2:7 Moses said God formed man out of the dust of the earth, referring to his body. In Psalms 139:15-16 we see how God had man in His mind long before he was wrought out. The evolutionists claim that man is the climax of a progressive evolution from some original substance which has gradually and finally reached his present bodily perfection. But the Bible says that when man existed in "unformed substance in the lower parts of the earth" God saw him as he now is, just as an architect sees his building before it is built. So man is the product, not of blind evolution, but of a Creator who first thought and then wrought. It would seem that man was the climax that God aimed at and in his body he is earth's crowning formation.

Look at His order in animal creation. Geology and comparative anatomy combine to teach that the order of creation was from the lower to the higher. In this the proportion of brain and spinal cord figures: Fish 2 to 1, reptile 2½ to 1, birds 3 to 1, mammals 4 to 1 and man 33 to 1. Man got earth's best in the formation of the body. And in Psalm 8 we learn that he also got Heaven's best. Though God created worlds, planets and stars, seraphim and angels, He created man in His own image and breathed His own soul into him. This was not true of planets and worlds, of animals and the creatures of the earth. Man is the union of earth's and

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heaven's best.

Bible and History

Much has been said to reflect upon the historic authenticity of the Book. But since the spade of the archaeologist has gotten busy proof has been so overwhelming on the side of the Bible that little need be said here.

The Flood

Few things have contributed to the authentication of scripture in more fascinating fashion than the continued verification of the fact of the flood. Time was when proof outside of the Biblical narrative was sought only in indirect suggestion in profane history. Then the archaeologist brought forth evidence. But later the geologist advanced a host of indisputable arguments and to these were added the discoveries of the ethnologists until now each year brings forth new proofs from one or more of these fields of research. The ethnologist has found traditions of the Deluge to exist among the Semites, Babylonians, Hebrews, Hamites, Egyptians, Aryans, Indians, Armenians, Phrygians, Lithuanians, Goths, Celts, Greeks, Turanians, Chinese, Mexicans, Red Indians, and Polynesian Islanders. Hieroglyphic figures have been found at great heights on rocky cliffs of the Orinoco, which natives declare their fathers reached in boats at the time of the "Great Waters." Fifty tons of bones of bear, ox, horse, deer, hare, boar and rhinoceros have been found gathered together in one high cave whence they could only have been driven from the plain by one great common danger.

History Written Before It**Happened**

"It is the unexpected that happens," a veteran statesman once said. The anticipations of the most far-seeing and the precautions of the wisest are mocked and put at naught time and again by the bitter irony of events. We might as soon think to pluck the stars from the heavens as to wrest its secrets from the future.

Four-fifths of this book is prophecy and while it is rapidly becoming history we may with more certainty look for the history of the future to fit the prophecy of the present like the wax impression fits its seal.

One of the most powerful weapons against infidelity is the fact of prophecy and its fulfillment. It is a theme of vast and of such striking importance that it is surprising that the church has neglected it. Yet the more the question is studied the more wonderful it becomes in its convicting power and all sorts of higher criticism are swept aside like chaff before the breeze in the onward march of historical fulfillment. The marvel of it all possesses the student when he realizes that there are other "sacred books" but that none of these pretends to prophesy at all. Pascal, the historian, said he had studied all other religions and in the Christian alone found prophecy.

"Produce your cause, said the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth and show us what shall happen; let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them, or declare us things to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know, that ye are gods" (Isa. 41:21-23), "I declare the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done,

saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isa. 46:10).

This was the Lord's challenge of false religions. None of them ever made good. Yet not a single Bible prophecy, whose time of fulfillment is now or is passed, has failed in the minutest detail. Great prophecies were fulfilled at the time of Christ, great prophecies are having fulfillment before our very eyes, and the fulfillment of great prophecies is yet to come.

I hold in my hand Myers' General History for Colleges and High Schools, 1889 edition. I shall read first the Biblical prediction and then the historical fact of its fulfillment Ezekiel prophesied about 600 B.C.

Tyre — "Behold, I will bring upon Tyre Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon" (Ezk. 26:7).

"With Jerusalem subdued, Nebuchadnezzar pushed with all his forces the siege of the Phoenician city of Tyre. After a siege of thirteen years the city seems to have fallen into the

hands of the Babylonian kings" (Myers, p. 59).

"Every head was made bald and every shoulder was peeled" (Ezk. 29:18). "Every head was made bald and every shoulder was worn" (Myers', p. 59).

"I will cause many nations to come against Tyre. I will also scrape her dust from her and make her like the top of a rock. It will be a place for the spreading of nets" (Ezk. 26:4-5).

Alexander the Great, after a most memorable siege, captured the city of Tyre and reduced it to ruins (332 B.C.) The city never recovered from this blow. The site of the once brilliant maritime capital is now bare as the top of a rock, a place where a few fishermen that still frequent the spot spread their nets to dry (Myers', p. 71).

"They shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water" [Ezk. 26:12).

"The inland city of Tyre, af-

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ter a memorable siege, was taken by means of a mole, or causeway, built with incredible labor through the sea to the city" (Myers, p. 163).

"Thou shalt be built no more" (Ezk. 26:14).

"The city never recovered from this blood" (Myers, p. 71).

Sidon — "And they shall know that I am the Lord when I shall have executed judgment in her. For I will send into her pestilence, and blood into her streets" (Ezk. 28:22-23)

Artaxerxes took the city and forty thousand were slain in its streets. The crusaders pillaged it several times. Bibars, sultan of Egypt and Syria, came upon it in 1290. God said through Ezekiel that Tyre should be destroyed, but that Sidon should be judged and remain. Sidon stands today.

Alexander and His Kingdom — "And the rough goat is the king of Grecia; and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power" (Dan. 8:21-22).

"Perdiccas was not strong enough to master the difficulties of the situation. Consequently the vast empire created by Alexander's unparalleled conquests became broken into many fragments. Four well-defined and important monarchies arose out of the ruins. Their rulers were Lysimachus, Seleucus, Nicator, Ptolemy and Cassander" (Myers, p. 170).

Egypt — "Egypt was to remain the basest of kingdoms" (Ezk. 29:14), "with no healing" (Jer. 46:11). The canal recently dug there was dug by forced labor without the use of tools and the workmen were not given any rest or sleep except such as they could get in the ditch.

When one died he was simply thrown along the bank and the dirt put on him.

"It was to have no more a native prince" (Ezk. 30:13). (About 340 B.C.) And from that time until our day no native prince has ever sat upon the throne of the Pharaohs (Myers, p. 26).

"The reeds and flags shall wither away" (Isa. 19:6). The papyrus plant has entirely disappeared (Myers, p. 35).

"And they shall be desolate in the midst of countries that are desolate; and her cities shall be in the midst of cities that are wasted" (Ezk. 30:7). Barca, Tripoli, Libya, Cyrene, Edom, Philistia and Ethiopia, all are desolate today.

Edom — According to Jeremiah 49 and Ezekiel 35:3-7, 15, Edom was to become a desolation.

You may pass thirty ruined towns in a three days' journey. It was swept off the map 603 to 636 A.D. "Commerce shall cease," and it has ceased. "I will cut off from it him that passeth through and him that returneth" (Ezk. 35:7). The race was to become extinct. No man claims to be an Edomite today. "There shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau" (Obad. 18).

Petra — Was to become desolate (2 Ki. 14:7; Jer. 49:16). Today it is only a city carved from solid rock. Bats, owls and serpents inhabit it.

It was prophesied that Egyptian cities were to become desolate (Ezk. 30:7).

Thebes (or No) — Thebes was a city of great splendor and power. Homer says there were 100 gates to it. It could muster 700,000 armed men, according to Tacitus. A wall one and three-fourths miles in circumference, 24 feet thick and 60 feet high surrounded one of her four temples.

God said He would execute judgment on No, would cut off

its multitude and it should be broken up (Ezk. 30:14-15). In 525 B.C. Cambyses pillaged the city; in 89 B.C. Ptolemy effected a wholesale slaughter of its inhabitants, and since 29 B.C. it has been divided into nine hamlets, thus fulfilling all the prophecy, "Broken up."

Memphis — This city was to be obliterated and its idols and images destroyed (Ezk. 30:13). It was standing in 1200 B.C., but today the former site can scarcely be found.

Philistia — The people were to be destroyed out of the land which was to remain fertile and again be a pasture for flocks (Zeph. 2:5-6). Ashdod, the king, withstood Egypt 29 years in the longest siege on record. Part of this prophecy was not fulfilled until the twelfth century, but now flocks and herds are all that can be seen on this land.

Askelon — Askelon was to be depopulated, but again inhabited (Zech. 9:5; Zeph. 2:4-7). It was destroyed in the thirteenth century by Sultan Bibars. In 1940, 20 wells of water were discovered, which is leading to its being again inhabited.

Gaza — Shall be forsaken (Zeph. 2:4). It is forsaken. Baldness has come upon Gaza (Jer. 47:5).

Samaria — "Therefore I will make Samaria as an ashheap of the field and as plantings of a vineyard; and I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and will discover the foundations thereof" (Mic. 1:6).

I stood on the site of this city with a skeptic who was astonished as I read this verse, and we could see the cultivated fields about us and the vineyards, too, while the stones of the ruins had literally rolled down the hillside, laying bare the foundation of the former buildings.

Bethel — "I will smite the winter house with the summer

house and the houses of many shall perish and the great houses shall have an end, said the Lord" (Amos 3:14-15). "Bethel shall come to naught" (Amos 5:5). While riding near the traditional location of Bethel I asked my dragoman where the city was and he replied that no one knew.

Jerusalem — "Therefore shall Zion be as a plowed field" (Mic. 3:12). I walked over a corn patch in 1906 on Zion. "High places as a forest." And I also stood in the shade of a cypress tree on the spot where Solomon's temple and Herod's temple stood. "Shall be trodden down by the Gentiles until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Lk. 21:24).

The Temple — It was to be destroyed and not to be rebuilt until the end of the days of the Gentiles (Lev. 26:30; Amos 9, especially verse 11; Acts 15:14-16).

An attempt was made to override the prophecy (Lev. 26:30) that the temple was not to be rebuilt. Myers says, p. 334: "Julian determined to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem, which the Christians contended could not be restored because of the prophecies against it. He actually began excavations, but his workmen were driven in great panic from the spot by terrific explosions and bursts of flame."

Judea — Read Leviticus 26:14-39 and Deuteronomy 28:15-68 and you have a detailed history of the misfortune of the Jews and their land written about 1,500 years before Titus laid waste the Holy City and Temple, 72 A.D. There is enough evidence in these two chapters to convince any honest doubter that God is the author of this book. In these passages scripture says that the distress at the siege of Jerusa-

(See **HAM** on page 15)

Challenge Press Books

Challenge Press Books may now be ordered from the Website of the Central Baptist Church, and may be paid for by either COD, Visa or Mastercard. This service can be received by searching the Internet for:

www.centralbaptistchurch.org

THE CHURCH AND THE ORDINANCES by Buell H. Kazee. Provocative and timely — the author has exercised keen perception in dealing with such subjects as alien baptism, open communion, a universal, invisible church, the ecumenical trend among Baptists, etc. **\$5.95**

THE BIBLE AND THE ROMAN CHURCH by J. C. Macaulay. The studies in this book aroused keen interest and elicited many earnest inquiries, particularly from college students. This suggested that the chapters might be profitable to others if put in permanent form. This book presents the true differences between the Catholic Faith and other Faiths. **\$3.95**

GRACE AND TRUTH by W. P. Makay. An excellent book on God's plan of salvation with the title taken from John 1:17, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." **\$3.95**

THE MYTH OF THE UNIVERSAL INVISIBLE CHURCH THEORY EXPLODED by Roy Mason. One of the most widespread theories of today is the theory that the church that Jesus founded was not a local, visible assembly, but a universal, invisible church to which all believers belong, and of which they were made a part through a mysterious, mystical [mythical] Holy Spirit baptism. The author shows the fallacy of such a theory by a candid discussion of all passages used to support a universal church theory, showing that not one passage of scripture refers to anything other than to a local assembly. Roy Mason was a missionary of the Southern Baptist Convention in Brazil for some 25 years. **\$3.95**

THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT by Roy Mason. This is a book on Baptist church history, tracing Baptists through all ages back to their founder, Jesus Christ. Do you know your history, Baptist brethren? If not, you will be tremendously blessed by the reading of this history. No Baptist can afford to be without this book. **\$5.95**

30 EXPOSITORY LESSONS IN FIRST CORINTHIANS by J. H. Melton. The author is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and was chairman of the Department of Bible at Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri for many years. Though in outline form for use in his college classes, the notes are com-

plete, thereby making it a complete commentary on the book of First Corinthians. **\$5.95**

BLUEPRINT FOR THE ANTI-CHRIST by Col. Gordon "Jack" Mohr. This book contains three of his hard-hitting lectures: Blueprint for the Antichrist, Formula For Survival and Nervous Nellies. Since writing this book, Mohr has taken some positions which we totally disassociate ourselves. **\$2.50**

THE SEVEN SABBATHS by J. B. Moody. A comprehensive study of the Sabbath day (original, moral, Christian, civil, holy, anti-typical, American). This book may surprise you. **\$1.00**

AN APOLOGETIC OF PREMILLENNIALISM by M. L. Moser, Jr. 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 Pretribulation and Premillennial 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. **\$3.95**

BAPTIST HANDBOOK FOR CHURCH MEMBERS (REVISED) by M. L. Moser, Jr. This handbook examines church membership in the light of its privileges and responsibilities and reviews the rich heritage of Baptists. Written especially for new church members, it will nonetheless prove a valuable aid to every Baptist **\$2.95** (Also available in Spanish and Japanese)

BAPTISTS AND INTERDENOMINATIONALISM by M. L. Moser, Jr. One has said "For hundreds of years Baptists had no problem regarding their relationship to other denominations. They were a persecuted, hunted people, fleeing from the power of tyrannical religion. ... Since the rise of post-Reformation denominationalism, Baptists have been faced with the problem of their relationship to other denominational groups. In the last fifty to seventy-five years the problem of interdenominational movements has been accentuated for fundamental Baptists in the United States. The growth of fundamental interdenominationalism has been notable during this period and has produced a flood of mission boards, radio and television programs, schools and other agencies. Its influence has extended into Baptist churches and affected the thinking of Baptist people. The spirit of the day is the spirit of 'togetherness,' a spirit which declares 'Let us forget our differences so that we may all work together.'" The spirit of interdenominationalism is a pervasive one. It must be viewed in the light of Scriptural principles, those to which Biblical Baptists adhere, and that is what this book does. **\$2.95**

Challenge Press Books

THE BIBLE, THE BAPTISTS, AND THE BOARD SYSTEM by M. L. Moser, Jr. and J. A. Scarboro. Bro. Scarboro first wrote under this title in 1904 and he exposed the mission board system of the Southern Baptist Convention as having been borrowed from the Episcopalians. This is a completely new book which preserves all of the basics from the earlier edition, yet up-dating it in its application to the Southern Baptist Convention. Since 1904, new organizations have come into existence among Baptists, some even claiming to be "independent" Baptists, and this book makes special reference to the Associations and the organized Fellowships, such as the World Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist Bible Fellowship. Everything is fully documented and is a wealth of material taken from primary sources. **\$4.95**

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT — CHRISTIAN OR BARBARIAN? by M. L. Moser, Jr. The author boldly confronts the controversial issue of Capital Punishment, not with words of man's wisdom, but with a "Thus saith the Lord!" The introduction is written by the late Senator John L. McClellan (D.-Ark.) A very important book for TODAY. **\$1.95**

THE CASE AGAINST THE LIVING BIBLE by M. L. Moser, Jr. Few modern translations of the Bible have received such wide popular acclaim as "The Living Bible," especially among young people. Yet as "Case" points out, it is not a Bible at all, but a paraphrase — not God's Word, but man's — and definitely, it is neither reliable nor desirable as a "Bible" or a commentary. **\$2.95**

THE CASE FOR INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCHES by M. L. Moser, Jr. Who are independent Baptists? What is an independent Baptist church? When did they begin? What is the difference between independent Baptist churches and other Baptist churches? These are all valid questions and deserve an answer, and that is the purpose of this book. **\$3.95**

CREATION OR EVOLUTION by M. L. Moser, Jr. On March 27, 1966, this sermon was preached to the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, and portions of it were televised on the CBS-TV Network on April 1, 1966. It has been edited and printed in the hope that more people might become aware of the gaps in the *theory* of evolution which is being taught as *fact* in most of our schools. **\$1.95**

ECUMENICALISM UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT by M. L. Moser, Jr. A careful examination of the "one-world church" movement — its past, present, and future — and what it means to Baptists. These lectures were delivered as a series in February, 1968 at the Independent Baptist College, Dallas, Texas. The four lectures are: (1) The Ecumenical Movement in History; (2) The Ecumenical Movement and Doctrine; (3) The Ecumenical Movement and Baptists; and (4) The Ecumenical Movement and Prophecy. **\$4.95**

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN — THE DEVIL'S MASTERPIECE by M. L. Moser, Jr. Dr. Bob Jones, Chancellor of Bob Jones University of Greenville, South Carolina says: "A splendid analysis of a most dangerous perversion of the Word of God. Rev. M. L. Moser, Jr. has written a book which will alert the unwary to the dangers inherent in the whole fabric of **GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN**. Surely no one who loves the Word of God and who believes it is divinely inspired and wholly infallible could recommend or even tolerate this so-called 'translation' after reading **THE DEVIL'S MASTERPIECE**." Bro. Moser was awarded a silver medal in 1971, *The Bob Jones Memorial Award for the Defense of the Scriptures*. **\$4.95**

THE NEW ENGLISH BIBLE — SATAN'S POLLUTED TRANSLATION, by M. L. Moser, Jr. An expose of the new and modern translation which some have called the "Ecumenical Bible" for the Ecumenical Movement. Fundamental doctrines are attacked by this so-called translation, and these are detailed in this book, along with a strong defense of the King James Version. **\$3.50**

THE PASTOR edited by M. L. Moser, Jr. The nature and duties of the pastoral office form a subject of great importance. The duties of the pastor have become so great that a pastor often finds himself unable to do all that is expected of him by his congregation. To better accomplish his duties and do them more efficiently, he must be fully aware of his duties and the more aware he is of them, the better he will be able to accomplish them. This book will help him. Chapters include: The Divine Call to the Ministry; The Choice and Change of the Pastor's Field; The Pastor and Public Worship; The Administration of the Ordinances; The Pastor's Attitude Toward Missions; The Pastor and Revival; Cultivation of Social Life in A Church; The Pastor as an Organizer; The Pastor and Funeral Services; Marriage and Divorce; Cultivation of the Missionary Spirit; Extension of the Pastor's Pulpit; The Pastor and Interdenominationalism; Ministers Not in the Pastoral Office; Pastoral Study; Pastoral Responsibility; The Pastor's Outer Life; The Pastor's Inner Life. **\$7.95**

STUDY GUIDE TO THE BOOK OF EXODUS by M. L. Moser, Jr. This is an outline study of the book of Exodus made for the use of the officers and teachers of Central Baptist Church to aid them in preparation of the Sunday School lessons. It would be helpful to anyone who is interested in making a study of the book of Exodus. **\$3.00**

STUDY GUIDE TO THE BOOK OF ISAIAH by M. L. Moser, Jr. This outline study was made for the use of the officers and teachers of the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas in their preparation for teaching in the Sunday School. It could be used by anyone for a personal study of the Book of Isaiah. **\$3.00**

NEWTON...

(Continued from page 3)

letter from John Craig, the eminent mathematician, to Conduitt, as follows:

"I shall not tell you what great improvements he made in geometry and algebra, but it is proper to acquaint you that his great application in his inquiries into nature did not make him unmindful of the Great Author of nature. They were little acquainted with him who imagine that he was so intent upon his studies of geometry and philosophy as to neglect that of religion and other things subservient to it. And this I know, that he was much more solicitous in his inquiries into religion than into natural philosophy, and that the reason of his shewing the errors of Cartes' philosophy was, because he thought it was made on purpose to be the foundation of infidelity. And Sir Isaac Newton, to make his inquiries into the Christian religion more successful, had read the ancient writers and ecclesiastical historians with great exactness, and had drawn up in writing great collections out of both; and to show how earnest he was in religion, he had written a long explication of remarkable parts of the Old and New Testaments, *while his understanding was in its greatest perfection, lest the infidels might pretend that his applying himself to the study of religion was the effect of dotage.* ... But now it's hoped that the worthy and ingenuous Mr. Conduitt will take care that they be published, that the world may see that Sir Isaac Newton was as good a Christian as he was a mathematician and philosopher."

His Belief In Great Doctrines

Sr. David Brewster quotes letters of Sir Isaac written in 1690, 1691, and 1692 showing that he believed in Jesus as the Christ, and believed in miracles. These letters were written to Locke. Sir David speaks of Sir Isaac's "avowed belief that our Saviour was the object of 'worship among the primitive Christians,' and that he was 'the Son of God, as well by his Resurrection from the dead, as by his supernatural birth of the Virgin.'"

In one of his papers, entitled "A Short Scheme of the True Religion," Sir Isaac has this to say:

"Opposite to godliness is Atheism in profession, and idolatry in practice. Atheism is so senseless and odious to mankind, that it never had many professors. Can it be by accident that all birds, beasts, and men have their right side and left side alike shaped (except in their bowels), and just two eyes, and no more, on either side of the face; and just two ears on either side of the head, and a nose with two holes; and either two fore-legs, or two wings, or two arms on the shoulders, and two legs on the hips, and no more?

"Whence arises this uniformity in all their outward shapes but from the counsel and contrivance of an Author? Whence is it that the eyes of all sorts of living creatures are transparent to the very bottom, and the only transparent members in the body, having on the outside a hard transparent skin, and within transparent humours, with a crystalline lens in the middle, and a pupil before the lens, all of them so finely shaped and fitted for vision, that no artist can mend them?

"Did blind chance know that there was light, and what was its refraction, and fit the eyes of all creatures, after the most curious manner, to make

use of it? These, and such like considerations, always have and ever will prevail with mankind, to believe that there is a Being who made all things, and has all things in his power, and who is therefore to be feared."

His View of Our Duty To God

Sir Isaac concludes, in this paper, the section on idolatry with the following summary:

"We are, therefore, to acknowledge one God, infinite, eternal, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, the Creator of all things, most wise, most just, most good, most holy. We must love him, fear him, honour him, trust in him, pray to him, give him thanks, praise him, hallow his name, obey his commandments, and set times apart for his service, as we are directed in the Third and Fourth Commandments, for this is the love of God that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not grievous (1 Jn. 5:3). And these things we must do not to any mediators between him and us, but to him alone, that he may give his angels charge over us, who, being our fellow servants, are pleased with the worship which we give to their God. And this is the first and the principal part of religion. This always was, and always will be, the religion of all God's people, from the beginning to the end of the world."

In a draft of an Act of Parliament drawn up by Sir Isaac, he had this to say:

"If anyone finds any doctrinal parts of Scripture difficult to be understood, we recommend him, 1st, The study of the Scriptures in humility and singleness of heart. 2d, Prayer to the Father of lights to enlighten him. 3d, Obedience to what is already revealed to him, remembering that the practice of what we do know is the surest way to more knowledge; our in-

fallible guide having told us, if any man will do the will of him that sent me (his will), he shall know of the doctrine (Jn. 7:17). 4th, We leave him to the advice and assistance of those whom he thinks best able to instruct him; no men, or society of men, having any authority to impose their opinions or interpretations on any other, the meanest Christian; since, in matters of religion, every man must know and believe and give an account for himself."

Sir David Brewster has this comment to make on the attitude of skeptical writers towards Newton:

"It is scarcely a matter of surprise that skeptical writers should have spoken disrespectfully of the theological writings of a mathematician and philosopher, but it has surprised us that other authors should have regarded the study of the Scriptures as incompatible with scientific research. When Voltaire asserted that Sir Isaac explained the Prophecies in the same manner as those who went before him, he only exhibited his ignorance of what Newton wrote, and of what others had written; and when he stated that Newton composed his Commentaries on the Apocalypse to console mankind for the great superiority which he had over them, he but shewed the emptiness of the consolation to which skepticism aspires."

In his concluding paragraphs on Sir Isaac's attitude towards Christianity Sir David says:

"The antiquity and authenticity of the books which compose the sacred canon — the fulfillment of its prophecies — the miraculous propagation of the Gospel — have been demonstrated to all who are capable of appreciating the force of historical evidence; and in the

(See **NEWTON** on page 11)

Is Foot Washing A Church Ordinance?

By C. W. Dickerson

The night in which the Lord Jesus instituted the Memorial Supper He also washed the apostles' feet. Then He said to them, "If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (Jn. 13:14-15). Unfortunately, disagreement abounds as to His meaning. Therefore, let us study the Scriptures.

Although the Supper was new, the practice of foot washing was ancient. Joseph's brothers, in Egypt to buy food, were given water to wash their feet (Gen. 43:24). Abraham and Lot practiced it in Palestine (Gen. 18:4; 19:2). In Mesopotamia, in Laban's home Abraham's servant and his men were given water to wash their feet (Gen. 24:32). Years later David told Uriah, a soldier home from the battle front, to go down to his house and wash his feet (2 Sam. 11:8). Centuries later, the Lord Jesus rebuked His host because water had not been given Him in order to wash His feet (Lk. 7:44).

In each of these instances it is obvious that the people washed their own feet. Unthinkable then to imagine that they washed clean feet! That would be idiotic! These incidents establish that the custom was necessary for cleanliness and comfort. (Modern foot wear renders this custom unnecessary.) Established also is the fact that, in at least three countries, and during 2000 years before New Testament days, it was a home custom observed in all walks of life.

The Savior's Example

When the Memorial Supper was instituted, water and towel were present, but, for some reason, the disciples had not washed their feet. It would seem that they were expecting a servant to render this service (Jn. 13:2). After supper (not the Memorial Supper) the Savior girded Himself with a towel and washed their feet. Thus He set them an example, and told them to do as He had done. He rendered a service which should have been done before supper.

Now, since every Old Testament example leaves no doubt that the people washed their own feet, that forever settles the question: they washed dirty feet! Therefore, let no one charge the Lord of glory (1 Cor. 2:8) with the folly of washing feet that needed no washing, nor with the inconsistency of washing dirty feet and then commanding His disciples to follow His example by washing clean feet.

Caution, my friend! Do not insult the Deity! All that is praiseworthy and commendable in washing an unclean foot, thus rendering a service, becomes sham and pretense if the foot be clean. For then Christ's example is forsaken, His commandment is disobeyed, His purpose thwarted, by exalting pride instead of humility!

I am not too proud to help my brother in need. But, I am too honest to claim to have rendered a service and shown humility by washing a foot which does not need washing! That would be hypocrisy! A more baseless, frivolous idea, nor

one that ignores more evidence contrary thereto, would indeed be difficult to imagine, than the idea that for thousands of years, the citizens of many nations practiced the social courtesy of providing water for their visitors to wash their own already clean feet! It simply is impossible. Besides, people entering their own dwelling, washed their feet. Note Uriah.

Our Savior did not break custom. He washed dirty feet and commanded His apostles to do the same. Therefore, to disregard His example, and dare to repudiate His command, is a great sin. And all who wash clean feet in a church service are guilty!

Many people are proud of the fact that they are humble enough to wash feet which need no washing! Proud of humility. Proud of disobeying the Lord! Poor blinded sinner. May God have mercy!


Conclusion

Baptism and the Supper memorialize the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection. Washing feet does not. This disqualifies it for church observance.

How does foot-washing picture the gospel? It does not. Baptism and the Supper are prominent in the church Epistles. Foot washing is not! If, as many believe, it is to accompany the observance of the Supper, why, when giving detailed instructions for observing the Supper (1 Cor. 11:18-34), foot-washing is not mentioned? The answer is, it has no connection with it. No Scripture commands, nor justifies, foot-washing in church services.

True, one of the requirements for a widow to receive church help is, that she must have washed the saints' feet (1 Tim. 5:10). Naturally, this refers to a widow who is a member of the church. But look! If the


church practiced foot-washing, there can be no doubt about her having washed feet. She would have been excluded if she had not! This has to refer to her home life. Without a good record as to hospitality, she would not qualify for help from the church

This case is strongly against the theory that foot-washing should be practiced in church services. The Divine record does not place it in church worship. God forbid that any one should add it to the Word of the living God! 

NEWTON...

(Continued from page 10)

poetical and prose compositions of the inspired authors, we discover a system of doctrine, and a code of morality, traced in characters as distinct and legible as the most unerring truths in the material world. ...

"If such be the character of Christian truth, we need not be surprised that it was embraced and expounded by such a genius as Sir Isaac Newton. Cherishing its doctrines, and leaning on its promises, he felt it his duty, as it was his delight, to apply to it that intellectual strength which had successfully surmounted the difficulties of the material universe. The fame which that success procured him he could not but feel to be the breath of popular applause, which administered only to his personal feelings; but the investigation of the sacred mysteries, while it prepared his own mind for its final destiny, was calculated to promote the spiritual interests of thousands. This noble impulse he did not hesitate to obey." 

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The Great Disney Betrayal. Disney movies have long promoted magic, occultism, etc., and were never as pure as their reputation. But the new Disney under Michael Eisner has become a money-making machine, outraging three generations of shocked devotees by anti-Christian films released by it and its subsidiaries such as Miramax, Touchstone, and Hollywood Pictures. A 156-page 1996 book *Disney and the Bible* by Perucii Ferraiuolo [Horizon Books, 3825 Hartzdale Dr. Camp Hill, PA 17011], says of Disney: "Biblically based family values are attacked; Occultism, Satanism, Eastern religions and new Age philosophy are promoted; Sexual perversion is modeled and applauded as an acceptable alternative lifestyle. ..." The book gives an interesting biographical peek at the man Walt Disney, and cites examples of Disney declension. It has become a haven for homosexuals, has homosexual theme nights at its parks and provides health insurance to partners of its homosexual employees. Its publishing company *Hyperion* has anti-family books such as *Growing Up Gay in America*. Disney now owns ABC which has *NYPD Blue*, and the lesbian *Ellen*. Sadly, the new Disney is an unabashed peddler of immorality, licentiousness, and in-your-face homosexuality. -- CC

Recipe For the Creation of Life. An article in the April is-

sue of *Science* gives this as the recipe for the creation of life: "Drop a handful of fool's gold (the mineral iron pyrite) and a sprinkle of nickel into water, stir in a strong whiff of rotten eggs (caused by the gas hydrogen sulfide) and carbon monoxide, heat mixture near the crackle and hiss of a volcano and let simmer for an eon." — The Denver Post 4/20/97

Parental-Notification Law Reinstated. The U. S. Supreme Court has revived a Montana law that requires notification of a parent or a judge's approval before an unmarried minor can undergo an abortion. In an unsigned opinion, justices reversed lower-court decisions that struck down the Montana law. A group of Montana physicians argued that the law was unconstitutional because it did not sufficiently protect a minor's right to have an abortion. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, affirming a lower court, agreed with the physicians. But the nation's high court said Montana's statute is "indistinguishable in any relevant way" from an Ohio law it upheld in 1990. The court said both "allow for judicial bypass if the minor shows that parental notification is not in her interests."

Church's TV Ads Target "Ellen" Viewers. When "Ellen" came out of the closet, southeast Texas viewers heard the gospel. Calvary Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas,

aired two 30-second commercials during the much-publicized April 30 ABC-TV comedy in which the title character declared her homosexuality. The church enlisted Michael Johnston, founding president of a ministry to homosexuals, to appear in spots at the halfway mark and the conclusion of the one-hour broadcast. Johnston is an HIV-positive Christian who formerly was involved in a homosexual lifestyle. "Homosexuality is not a laughing matter to me. I'm dying of AIDS," Johnston said in one of the paid spots. The commercial messages contrasted "imprisoning" homosexuality with the "liberating" power of Jesus Christ. "It's not intended to be any kind of social message," said Calvary pastor John Powers. "We just want to present the gospel."

Music is Not Neutral. In his 1992 book "The Battle for Christian Music" Tim Fisher writes: "[T]he testimony against the neutrality of music is overwhelming. Where would Musak (the company that formats music for shopping malls, restaurants and businesses) be if music had no effect on people? Where would the film music industry be? If music didn't have such a profound effect on us, why would it be such an important part of our existence? Those who have looked beyond the current music publications know that no one has ever taken the position that music is neutral except for Christians in the last 25 years who are trying to justify bringing

rock into the church." — CC

Bork's Book. Justice Robert Bork's best selling book, **Slouching Toward Gomorrah**, cites religious liberalism as a major cause for the virtual decline of decency, integrity, and traditional morality in many sectors of American life. Bork says the feminist movement has been permeated if not controlled by witchcraft proponents. In seeking to protect traditional morality, he favors having the courts tighten up the current definitions of sexually explicit and offensive speech in the print and electronic media — CC

Annulment Is Coldhearted. The Catholic Church's marriage annulment practices, already at the center of a fierce public battle between U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II and his former wife, have become an issue for another politician — U.S. Sen. John F. Kerry. Kerry's former wife, Julia Thorne, says she received what she considers a coldly worded letter in November from a church official notifying her that the senator was seeking an annulment of their 12-year marriage, which ended in 1984. Thorne, a published author on issues of emotional experience, does not hold back her contempt for the way the Roman Catholic Church takes a marriage off the books. Thorne, who married Kerry in 1970, said the church's approach to the issue was coldhearted and showed no respect or recognition of her 12-year union with

the senator. "It was disrespectful to me, it was aloof to any emotional issues, and devoid of any sense of the humanity of what this means to me and the children," Thorne said. She and Kerry have two daughters, ages 20 and 23. The Roman Catholic Church considers marriage a sacramental bond that cannot be severed by civil divorce. Only an annulment from the church — essentially a finding that a true marriage never existed — allows a Catholic to remarry in the faith. Thorne said that an annulment would not only invalidate her 12-year marriage to Kerry but also hurt her children by calling into question the existence of the union that produced them. "I cannot look my children in the eyes or stand before them with integrity and know in my heart that I have contributed in any way to a process that invalidates and nullified the union from which they were created," Thorne said. — Detroit Free Press via Christian News.

Canadian, U.S. Religious Practices Surveyed. Many in the U.S. assume that Canadians are just like themselves in many respects. But one striking difference is in how the two countries practice religion. A Princeton survey found that Canadians (33%) are less inclined than people in the U.S. (58%) to rate religion as being very important in their lives. People in Canada are over twice as likely as those in the U.S. to consider the Bible as nothing more than an ancient book of tales, legends, history and moral

precepts (38% to 11%). A higher proportion of the U.S. (31% to 14%) believes the Bible is the actual Word of God. And 40 percent in the U.S. say they read the Bible at least weekly, compared to just 18 percent in Canada. More Canadians admit they never read the Bible (41% to 20%).

Mormonism A False Cult. Mormons opened a new temple in St. Louis last month. Their Christ is not the Christ of the Bible. They reject the entire Christian faith. Mormonism's founder was a liar (5/5 Ch. News). The Golden Tablets he claims to have translated never existed. Mormonism is an incredible fairy tale, a works-righteous false religion with connections to magic and Masonry. -- CC

U.S. Target of "Holy War" In Saudi Arabia. A leading financier of Islamic militants says U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia are now the main target of his "holy war" against the U.S. (5/11 H. Times). He said: "In our religion, it is not permissible for any non-Muslim to stay in Arabia." -- CC

Wimpy American Males. Men as leaders and protectors of society have meekly allowed women to be placed in harmful situations. Women are given guns and told to take on murderers and drug dealers, and may soon face military combat.

We are a society of men turned weak and women turned ugly. Ugly with anger at men who have no backbone. Our schools and churches have produced meek little robots -- not only by preaching, but mainly by example. Both men and women have lost their identity. A strong man or feminine woman is looked upon as politically incorrect and in this society is scorned unceasingly. Today's male keeps quiet, works hard to support huge government programs, and whiles away his existence between entertainment and lethargy. [Adapted, May '97 Network] -- CC

Partial-birth Ban Won't Stop Abortions. Banning barbaric partial-birth abortions, the gruesome technique of murdering late-term unborn infants, will not stop this slaughter of the unborn. Medical monsters can do their dirty work using other methods. As one abortionist noted, if he kills the baby before performing the grisly partial-birth technique, any congressional ban against

aborting "a living fetus," would not apply (5/12 *New Amer.*). So he injects a lethal solution into the womb which kills the baby. He then grabs the dead infant, pierces and crushes the skull, drags the dead baby out and disposes of the parts. His tactic begins by killing the fetus in the womb so that he can't be accused of doing an abortion on "a living fetus." -- CC

Music Is Dividing Churches. Dr. Hugh Pyle in the 5/2 *Sword of the Lord* said: "The admission of 'beat' music into churches was bound to lead to this. Churches now have two morning services, one still resembling New Testament Christianity with sound Bible exposition and traditional music; the other, a laid-back 'contemporary' gathering with religious entertainment and rock 'n' roll. The driving beat of contemporary music is supposed to make the worldlings lose their distaste for religion and 'turn them on' to God." ☐

Services "Live" On the Internet

The 11:00 A.M. Sunday morning service of the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock can now be heard "Live" in both audio and video on the Internet. Though the Sunday morning service is the only one carried "live" every week, at times other services are also carried live. To receive the service in video you must have a modem greater than 14.400. The service can be received by searching:

www.centralbaptistchurch.org

CHURCHES...

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and when one seeks to obtain honor for the autonomous churches of Christ one is often opposed by objections arising from one or the other of these erroneous views.

Before examining these two church theories in the light of scripture permit me to present some facts concerning the meaning and use of the Greek word "*ekklesia*" translated by the English word "church." *Ek* — the preposition — means "out." *Kaleo* — the verb — means "to call," from which comes the word *ekklesia*, the noun, which means "an assembly." *The basic concept of this word ekklesia (church) is assembly*, else the calling out is to no point at all. Out of possible 115 references in the New Testament, 110 times it refers to a local church. Of these 110 references it is used ten times in a *figurative* sense — by synecdoche — where a part is put for the whole, the singular for the plural, one for all. In each of these ten instances what is true of all the churches is true of any one (Eph. 1:22; 3:10, 21; 5:23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 32; Col. 1:18).

Pope Boniface VIII in Bull Unam Sanctam 1302, says: "There is one holy Catholic (universal) and apostolic church ... and outside of this there is neither salvation or remission of sins." According to this view there can be but one church throughout the world. No single congregation is a church in any sense, but an infinitesimal part of a whole, the seat of which is at Rome, and the absolute governing power, the Pope.

To call the aggregate of those who profess the Christian faith "The Christian Church" is a misuse of the word, and not warranted by scripture. There is no such thing as a universal church on earth embraced in

one grand communion. Equally unscriptural and baseless is the claim that all the religious organization of individual societies within a nation or province constitute a national church, or a denominational church. Such claims and use of the word church contradicts the New Testament idea of the autonomous churches of Christ. Nowhere do we read "The Church of Macedonia — The Church of Galatia — the Church of Asia." There is no instance of the word "church" in the singular, used to describe the churches as a whole, that is, the aggregated local assemblies of believers. Whenever the word church is used in the singular, the body of believers is geographically localized and hence not universal. For example: The church which is at Jerusalem (Acts 11:22); The church which is at Corinth (1 Cor. 1:2); The church of the Laodiceans (Col. 4:16). Thirty-six times the word is used in the plural, which demonstrates the fact that the universal, national, provincial, or denominational idea was not known to the Apostles. For example: Then had the *churches* rest (Acts 9:31); The churches of Christ salute you (Rom. 16:16); The churches of Galatia; (Gal. 1:2); The churches of Asia (1 Cor. 16:16); The churches of Macedonia (2 Cor. 8:1); The churches of the Gentiles (Rom. 16:14).

The Spirit of God has given to us a good illustration of the autonomous churches of Christ in the last book of the Bible. The Apostle John when writing to the seven churches which are in Asia speaks of the people of God — *not as composing the "universal church,"* but as "*the kingdom of Jesus Christ.*" And John was not an archbishop, or other eminent ecclesiastic but — their "brother, and companion" in that kingdom (Rev. 1:9). Then follow the seven letters, each

addressed to a particular church, each complete in itself, and differing in its contents from each of the others; all these seven churches being located within the boundaries of a small province. The important series of letters, each dictated by the Lord, exhibits clearly the complete "*autonomy*" of the local church of Christ, that is, the entire independence of each local church in respect to human authority and oversight and its subjection solely to the Word and Spirit of God.

Historians declare that this *apostolic example and practice* continued during the first two centuries. **Giesler:** Of the churches of the first and second centuries: "all congregations were independent of one another." **Mosheim:** "During the great part of this (second) century all the churches continued to be, *as at first*, independent of each other ... each church was a kind of little independent republic." **Owen:** "In no approved writer for 200 years after Christ is mention made of any organized, visibly professing church except a local congregation." Therefore the testimony of the Bible and history refute the theory of a *universal church* as being conformed to that which Christ established, and not being so conformed the idea is therefore unscriptural.

But let us take this a step further: Many fail to realize that there has never been, nor ever will be a church without an assembly. The church in the wilderness (Acts 7:38) was a *called out* nation from Egypt, and *assembled* about the Tabernacle. The *mob assembly* of Acts 19 was a *called out* gathering by Demetrius, which *assembled* in the town hall. The churches of Christ differed from the church in the wilderness and the mob assembly at Ephesus. The church in the wilderness was an assembly of the nation

of Israel, but not an assembly of saved people. The mob assembly of Ephesus was an assembly of idolaters — enemies of the gospel. The churches of Christ were assemblies of believers, saved people, each of these churches sovereignly independent of each other, but sometimes cooperating together in the work of the gospel. In every instance each church was a local assembly of baptized believers.

Since there never has been and never will be an ekklesia (church) without an assembly, then there never has and never will be a universal, visible church on earth of unassembled members. The saved of all the denominations in the world unassembled cannot be called a church. *No assembly — no church.* No fact is better established than this, and therefore, the various Catholic and Protestant organizations who declare themselves to be universal, national, provincial, or denominational churches can lay no just claim to be patterned after the apostolic model, and therefore should not be considered or called Christian churches.

Out of a possible 115 references in the New Testament, five times it is used in a non-Christian sense (Acts 7:38; 19:32, 39, 41; Heb. 2:12) which leaves us in three senses. First, *the primary and ordinary sense*, that is, of a particular, independent, autonomous body in some 94 references. Second, *the abstract or institutional sense*, as in Matthew 16:18. When the term in these few references is used without reference to a particular church, it is used in the abstract or institutional sense, but when reduced to the *concrete*, it becomes a particular church. Third, *the spiritual sense*, as in Hebrews 12:23 and

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The Evils Of Adventism

By Roy Mason

Many people suppose that Seventh Day Adventism is a relatively sound system of doctrine — just a little bit off concerning the Sabbath. Such a notion is untrue for it greatly minimizes the error of this system. The truth is the Sabbath error is *about the least of its errors*. Let us ask then,

What Are Some Of The Errors Of Adventism?

1. Adventism had a wrong founder. That founder like Christian Science and Theosophy, was a hysterical neurotic woman. William Miller originated the first adventist group. He declared that the Lord would return in 1844. When he did not return, he confessed his mistake. Mrs. White took up where he left off, and eventually outlined a whole system of doctrine. She had visions and revelations, which even some Adventists physicians (we have their names and statements) admitted were the products of her diseased mental condition.

2. Adventism makes the Devil to be the real sin-bearer and Savior. The scapegoat type of the Old Testament — plainly the type of Christ, is made to typify Satan by the Adventists. Mrs. White says: ("The Great Controversy") "The scapegoat typified Satan the author of sin, upon whom the sins of the truly penitent will finally be placed." But contrary to this is the statement, "Who his own self, bare our sins in his own body upon the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24).

3. Adventism teaches that the Lord Jesus inherited a sinful, fallen nature. lest this be denied, we quote from their writings. (Bible Readings

For The Home Circle, page 115, 1915 Edition) "In His humanity Christ partook of our sinful, fallen nature." In contrast with this read John 14:30 and 1 John 3:5.

4. Adventism teaches that the soul sleeps after death. They take passages that refer to the *body* and make them to apply to the whole person. Refutation of this theory is found in Paul's words, "Absent from the body — present with the Lord," and "Having a desire to depart *and be with Christ.*"

5. Adventism teaches conditional immortality. They deny that all persons must live forever somewhere. Immortality they say is received on certain terms, and unless it is received a person is annihilated. They teach, consistent with this, that there shall be no future, eternal punishment. Rather there will be annihilation of the finally impenitent. Matthew 25:46 sufficiently refutes this.

6. Adventism puts the believer back under the law by means of its Sabbath teaching. The truth is the Sabbath was given to only one race, and as a sign between that race, Israel, and God (Ex. 31:12-18). Besides the Scriptures teach (Rom. 6;14) that the believer is "not under law, but under grace."

Despite their Sabbath teaching, the Adventists *do not* observe the Sabbath according to the regulations laid down in the Old Testament. They just "keep at it."

7. Adventism has a warped and unscriptural eschatology. The system foisted on them by Mrs. White cannot be changed no matter how erroneous it is shown to be. Adventists teach that *the papacy is Anti-christ*. This is plain violation of the


clear teaching of Scripture that Anti-Christ shall be a *person*, and not a system. They also make *Sunday to be the mark of the beast*. This violates the plain Bible teaching that the mark of the Beast will be an actual mark, imposed by an actual person — not a day advocated by a system.

8. Adventism often works in a sneaking, underhanded way in propagating its faith. Often they put up a tent or tabernacle and advertise attractive subjects very widely, while keeping the name of the sect in the dark. They give the impression that they are some other group until

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Ephesians 5:25-27. But in every instance of this kind the assembly is a thing *in prospect*, and not now in actual existence. There *will be* a general assembly of all the redeemed of all time — past, present and future, but this assembly can now have only an *ideal existence*. It is manifest, therefore, that the only church *now in existence* after the New Testament order and having New Testament authority, is the particular, independent, self-governing, unattached body of baptized believers. 


DOCTRINE...

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make a place for Boards or Committees, or Directors intervention in mapping out the work of the churches.

Baptists have historically stood for the sovereign independency of local Baptist churches. For nearly 1800 years there was never a real Baptist church except after the order of independent Baptist churches today. If our independent role

is unscriptural, then Baptist churches were unscriptural in their attitude and effort for nearly 1800 years. The fact of the business is, our Baptist forebears centuries ago were Scriptural in their position even as independent Baptists are today. If we are not going to take the Bible for a guide in church life, then we should cease to hold it up as the only rule of faith and practice.

The emergence of Conventions, Associations and organized Fellowships with their missionary, educational, and benevolent endeavors is a modern feature in Baptist life. The Southern Baptist Convention is just 152 years old. Why should any Baptist assume that a Baptist church has to cooperate with Convention, Association or organized Fellowship forces in order to be a real Baptist? Such an attitude is Scripturally indefensible, and such slaps the Holy Spirit squarely in the face. What is the matter with us Baptist preachers, anyway? Answer: We have become too lazy to study the Word and too fearful lest we lose our jobs. 

HAM...

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lem shall be so great that a woman shall eat her own babe.

The historian, Josephus, an eye-witness of the siege of Jerusalem, relates a case where a woman had eaten half her babe and hid the other half, roasted, in the dresser drawer.

Deuteronomy 28:48 even identifies the nation, the iron part of Daniel's image (Dan. 2:33-40), as the Roman empire which is to destroy and lay waste the land, 700 years before Rome was built and 1,400 years before Julius Caesar.

Ninevah's doom is pictured

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PRE...

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are preaching the gospel of grace to every creature.

3. The A-millennialists are those who compose the third group. They deny the millennium altogether. They believe that when Jesus comes, He will come to judge the world.

4. The fourth group, of which I myself am proud to be a part, are Pre-Millennialists.

A Pre-millennial Christian is a person who believes that Jesus Christ will come in the air for His saints, both living and dead. Next, while we are at the judgment seat of Christ receiving our rewards, the seven years of Great Tribulation will take place upon the earth. Those called out in this dispensation will not go through the Great Tribulation. The Tribulation will last for seven years. After the Tribulation Period, all of those who were raptured at His com-

ing in the air will come back to the earth to rule and reign with Him a thousand years. He will set up His kingdom after the Great Tribulation.

Now, beloved, before I go into the body of the message, may I say with all the firmness of my soul that we are not bringing in the kingdom. The Lord Himself will do that.

I. Christ will come in mid-air after the saved, living and dead.

You may want to know how it is that I know He is coming again. The second coming of our Lord in the air is a "must." There never has been in all the entire Bible one thing that God promised and then did not carry out. When God promises something, beloved, you can always count on it. God promised a flood in the days of Noah. Sure enough, the flood came. God promised a Savior, and sure enough, Jesus was

born of a virgin. God promised His Son would die, and sure enough, Jesus died on the cross. Then God promised that Jesus would stay in the tomb three days and nights and then be raised by His power. Sure enough, all this came true because of His promise and power.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also" (Jn. 14:1-3).

There are some words that really stand out in those verses. Did you hear me as I read those words, "I will come again?" Those words were so sweet and comforting in those days, and I say from the depths of my soul that those words to my mind are sweet today. Those words are a perfect and sure sign that our great God and Savior will come again.

If you have your Bible handy, and I hope you have, turn with me to the first chapter of the Book of Acts:

"Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go to heaven" (Acts 1:11).

Jesus must come back to finish His work of redemption. When God saves a sinner you might say that the work is only half done. By this, I don't mean that He saves half of the soul one day and then later comes back to do the other half. I am speaking concerning the body. God is going to redeem this old flesh. God is going to give us a new glorified body. All this will take place when our Lord comes in the air. We read:

"In whom ye also trusted,

after that ye heard the word of the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory" (Eph. 1:13-14).

We see from these verses that God gives us, when we are saved, the "earnest of our inheritance." By that I mean that He seals and stamps us with the Holy Spirit until He sends His Son, Jesus Christ, in the air.

That is one way, beloved, that I know I can not be lost. When a person seals a letter and places a stamp on it, the letter goes to its destiny. That is what happens to all of those whom God saves by His grace. God seals and stamps them. Their destiny is heaven and all the powers of hell cannot take them back. That is the Word of Truth. That is the powerful and loving God of the Bible. We who are saved are waiting for His glorious coming. Praise His Name! He (Jesus) is coming again to rapture us out of this body of clay and give us a body like unto Himself.

Our Savior coming in the air after His children will be a wonderful event, but it will be in two stages. First, He will come for His saints, and second, after the Tribulation, He will come with His saints. The Word of God declares:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the

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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 Premillennial return of the Lord.

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

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CAMP...

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ginning at an early age, he went to prison for writing bad checks connected with gambling debts. After a number of years, he went (to prison) again. He's still gambling. It has wrecked his family, destroyed his children, and he's still at it. He can't (won't) stop."

A few months ago I read in the paper about a Memphis man who started gambling at Tunica. He threw away a pretty good life's saving, mortgaged his house and lost that money, lost the house, lost his wife and family, and finally took his own life.

I have not come before you this morning to tell you a lot of horror stories connected with gambling, although, the history of gambling abounds with horror stories. The American Psychiatric Association lists gambling as a compulsive disorder.

The day was when gambling was associated with the saloon, dance hall, and prostitution. It has not changed a lot even though it has received the stamp of approval in many states. Nevada, one of the first states to promote Casino gambling, is also a state where houses of prostitution are also run with state approval.

But, what I want to deal with this morning is the subject, "Gambling and the Christian". I was in a grocery store check-out about two weeks ago and overheard two ladies discussing gambling. One was a member of a large Baptist church in our area and she said, "I asked my pastor if there was any Scripture that expressly forbids gambling. He said he would get back to me on the matter, but I could tell he couldn't think of one. So, I am going to just keep going to Tunica when I want to.

That put me to thinking. And, I sent out e-mail to some 20 or 25 preachers asking them

for a Scripture. Most agreed there was no specific verse that forbids gambling but that the whole tenor of Scripture is against it.

Friday, I met Ron at the airport for lunch. He was flying to Bentonville for a week of training required of new managers. The road leading from the Airport is lined with advertisements that are designed to lure travelers down to the Casinos.

Gambling Is Not of God

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" Phil. 4:8).

Gambling is not true and honest for while one is lure with promises of riches without work, the truth is, the Casinos want to take every dollar they can get from their prey, and they care absolutely nothing about the persons whom they dupe.

Gambling is not just because it pits professionals against amateurs who are often there for the first time; and they will take what belongs to the man and they care not if he has to mortgage the home and loses his family as long as he comes in and gives them his money.

Gambling is not pure; it is every thing but pure; it is often controlled by the Mafia and other elements of organized crime. There is no way a person will be purer after he has gambled.

Gambling is not lovely; I doubt any one would speak of how lovely a one-armed bandit or a crape table is. It is certainly not lovely to lose hard earned money on a roulette table.

Gambling is not of good report. In fact, gambling is of ill

and evil report. People lose their grocery money there. They lose their house payment there. The whole business is built on luring losers into the casinos; winners would put them out of business.

There is no virtue in gambling. In fact, gambling is considered a vice. Vice is exactly opposite of virtue. There is nothing you can praise about gambling. If one wins, he takes what some other person lost. "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth" (1 Cor. 10:24).

I guarantee you the Casino always comes out in the black on any given accounting period, as for as the gambling goes, so the winners among the customers are only taking what some other person lost. If one loses, there is no praise to that.

Gambling is not spiritual; it is carnal, and therefore against God.

Gambling does not edify the Christian nor does the Christian edify others by gambling. "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19). "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do" (1 Thess. 5:11).

Gambling does not help one to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen" (2 Pet. 3:18).

Gambling does not glorify God. The primary work of the Christian on this earth is to glorify God and you can't do it gambling. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God" (1 Cor. 10:31-32). A Christian can-

not go to a casino and eat for the glory of God, much less go there and gamble for His glory.

A Christian cannot go to a casino and drink for the glory of God and you sure can't go there and glorify God by pulling the lever on a slot machine. A Christian may argue that he should be able to do what he wants once in a while, even if it doesn't glorify God, but that is not true. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

There is absolutely no way a Christian can take his body and spirit to a casino and gamble and be glorifying to God in body and spirit while he is doing it. No Way!

The Gambling Business Thrives on the Lust and Covetousness of the Carnal Nature

The person who gambles does so because he covets the money that belongs to someone else. "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel" (Acts 20:33). The owners of the Casinos covet the money of the customer. The customer covets the money of the Casino owners. A person would be very stupid to gamble to lose money; every gambler hopes to win because he covets what others lose. "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Tim. 6:10). For any who doubt my contention that gambling thrives because of the covetousness of the carnal nature, let me ask some questions.

Does a person put money

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into the office pool betting on a basketball game for any reason other than hoping he wins what everybody else puts in? That is covetousness.

Does a person go down and buy a lottery ticket for any other purpose than that he hopes he will win a lump of the other money that other covetous people put down for tickets? That is covetousness!

Does a person call a bookie or go to a horse or dog track and buy a ticket betting on some horse or dog for any other reason than that he hopes he wins some of the money the other bettors will lose? That is covetousness!

Does a person put a coin in a slot machine for any other reason than that he hopes he will hit the jackpot and win what others have lost? That is covetousness!

Does a person play the crape table or the roulette table for any other reason than his hopes that he will win what others have lost? That is covetousness!

Do gambling establishments set up business for any other reason than their hopes that enough suckers will lose enough money that they can make millions of dollars? That is covetousness!

The deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things are often forces behind gambling. "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful" (Mk. 4:19). These lusts of the flesh which cause some to gamble can result in much hurt. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" (1 Tim. 6:9).

These lusts which drive some to gamble can be the cause of war in the home or in the church. "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" (Jas. 4:1).

Now that I have firmly established that gambling thrives because of the covetousness of the carnal nature, we should consider God's attitude toward the covetous. The Lord abhors covetous people. "For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth" (Psa. 10:3)

Paul admonished the church at Corinth to exclude members from their fellowship who were covetous. "Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (1 Cor. 5:10-11).

Paul warned that covetous people will not inherit the kingdom of God. "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:10). "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God" Eph. 5:5). Covetousness will disqualify a man as a pastor. "Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous" (1 Tim. 3:3).

Habakkuk pronounced a woe upon those who are covetous. "Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest

on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!" (Hab. 2:9).

Gambling Thrives Because of Man's Desire To Have Something For Nothing, Rather Than Laboring For What He Gets.

The lazy or slothful person does not want to work but that does not keep him from coveting something for nothing. "The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour. He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not" (Prov. 21:25-26).

Notice the covetousness of the slothful. Notice that the righteous give; they do not covet and hope to take from others through a roll of the dice, or a pull of an arm, or the speed of a horse or dog, or the prowess of a team on which they have bet in the office pool.

God has commanded that His people work for what they get; gambling discourages the work ethic ordained by God. "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Eph. 4:28).

God blesses wealth that is gained by labor but not that which is taken from another, such as is done in gambling. "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase" (Prov. 13:11).

God will sooner or later take that which is obtained through the wrong means, and then where will the gambler be? "As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool" (Jer. 17:11).

God strongly condemns

any effort at getting something for nothing as is done in gambling. "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread" (2 Thess. 3:10-12). Paul admonished the Thessalonians to quietly work to earn what they needed. "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you" (1 Thess. 4:11). He never admonished them to try to get money any other way than by work.

It is the laborer, not the gambler, who is worthy of his hire. "And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house" (Lk. 10:7).

Gambling Is Very Poor Stewardship of What God Gives

Most people who gamble lose money or the casinos could not continue to operate. The Bible teaches that we are responsible to be good stewards of 100% of what God puts in our care, not just a tithe plus offerings. Matthew 25:14-30 "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents

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went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: Lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he

shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath" (Mt. 25:14-30).

The man who was given five had to account for five and what he had earned. The man with two had to account for two plus what he had earned. The man who was given one still had it, but had not added to it, and he was an unprofitable servant worthy of punishment. I wonder what would have happened if he had said, "I lost it gambling." The casino owner is a swindler, and the gambler is being swindled, for in the long run, he never gets back what he puts into the gambling.

The time might come when a gambling Christian (I sure don't like the sound of that expression), the time might come when a gambling Christian would get in a tight and would actually gamble away his tithes and offerings.

We shall all stand before Christ one day and give an account for all that God has given us. "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10). Would gambling fall into the category of the good? Would gambling fall into the category of the bad?

Gambling Has Many Evil Associates or Companions

Gambling was, in the past, relegated to the saloon where the only women who participated were bar room floozies. Gambling is sooner or later usually associated with organized crime. Gambling is often associated with prostitution. Gambling has some close other associates which I shall now name.

Murder is often associated with gambling. Divorce is often associated with gambling. Bank-

ruptcy is often associated with gambling. Lost homes and savings accounts are often associated with gambling. Suicide is very often associated with gambling.

A group in our area which is studying the impact of gambling on the area, said there is strong suspicion that some of the wrecks that have occurred on Highway 61 between here and Tunica have been the result of suicide efforts of losers.

CONCLUSION: I realize I have not painted a pretty picture of gambling. I assure you I did not start out to put it in a good light. If I were preaching on murder, I would not try to put a pretty face on it. If I were preaching on abortion, I would not try to put a pretty face on it. If I were preaching on homosexuality, I would not attempt to put a pretty face on it. I have been dealing with gambling, and it is like death. You can take a cemetery and give it a name like Sunset Gardens, and landscape it with beautiful shrubs, trees, flowers and fountains, and you can put majestic stones on the graves. But, when all is said and done, down in those graves are dead men, women, boys and girls. Their bodies decay, rot, and stink, just as they would if you buried them in a pig sty.


You can take gambling out of the beer hall and the wild west Saloon and put it into glittering casinos with elaborate decorations and fine buffets and beautify lights and fine hotel rooms, but it is still gambling. It is still covetousness. It is still the lust of the flesh. It is still greed. It is still a stench in the nostrils of a holy God. It still causes murder, divorce, wrecked homes and ruined children. It still breeds bankruptcy. It still spawns suicides. It has always been sin; it is still sin; it will always be sin.

It is bad enough that Pete Rose, one of the greatest base-

ball players in history is banned from baseball for the rest of his life, he is barred from ever being admitted to the hall of fame, and shamed and disgraced for the rest of his life for gambling on ball games. Gambling on golf came close to destroying the career of Michael Jordan, one of the greatest basketball players of all time.

If gambling can ruin the career of Pete Rose, and come close to ruining the career of Michael Jordan, what does it do to the testimony of a Christian in the eyes of a lost world? The judgment seat of Christ will probably reveal that!

If you were to go to the casinos and win a million dollars and give half of it to the church that would not be worth nearly as much as doing right.

Let me close with some very wise words from Solomon for any who may be tempted to gamble. "Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right" (Prov. 16:8). 

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Lord' (1 Thess. 4:16-17).

The first coming in the air is when Jesus comes for the redeemed. The next time He comes (after the Tribulation Period), He will come after the nation Israel.

Now, beloved, you may be saying, "When is Jesus coming after His own?" That is a question that no one can answer except God Himself. In the days of the Apostle Paul, he looked for His coming. In the days of the early church, people looked for His coming. Since then, great men of God have looked for His coming. May I say to you with all the energy of my soul, I am looking for His return.

Yes, beloved, one of these

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mornings those graves out there in the Lanett Cemetery are going to burst open. All those saints that died in the Lord Jesus Christ will be resurrected by God's power. Speaking of the dead coming forth reminds me of Job:

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter days upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" (Job 19:25-26).

In those verses, Job is giving us a clear picture of the dead living again. Yes, my dear one, that sweet Christian mother that you put away will come forth; and not her only, but all the others who have died in the Lord Jesus Christ.

So far in the message we have studied what will happen at His coming in the air. Now I want to move on to the second point of the message and see something about the Tribulation.

II. The Seven Years of Great Tribulation.

There is something that we need to keep before us — the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in mid-air and His coming back to set up His kingdom will be separated by seven great and hard years of tribulation. During these seven years, this old sin-cursed earth is going to see some hard times. We sometimes think that we have a hard time now, but during these seven years it will be so hard that the people can scarcely bear it. Listen to the Word of God:

"For then shall be great

tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be, And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened (Mt. 24:21-22).

The devil is powerful now, but in that day, he shall use more power than he ever has. In that day, the devil's son, the Antichrist, will be the ruler. In that day, he will deceive many. All of those in this age that reject the Lord Jesus Christ and walk on the blood of the Savior will be left behind to go through this hard and great tribulation. They will be doomed and damned forever. Oh hear me, dear lost man and woman, this will be a hard time for your flesh. This will be a heavy load for your poor Hell-going soul. I beg you today to come to our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. I beg you to be ready for Him at His coming in mid-air before the Great Tribulation.

You may be saying, "What is going to happen during these tribulation days of seven years?" First, let me say that the world is going to be filled with false prophets. Right today we have more men deceiving people than ever before, but then false preachers will be coming from every hand. I want you to know that the Lord gave this sign as the first sign during the Tribulation. Listen as I read:

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you" (Mt. 24:4).

In that day the Antichrist shall set himself up in the temple as God. In that day, he will have those working under him, who will be deceiving many. The Antichrist will have the power to make fire come down from heaven (Rev. 13:13; 2 Thess. 2:9). If you were to see a person that could make fire come down out of heaven, you

would surely think he was the Christ. You would start following him. You would team up with him and take the mark of the beast. You would be deceived and go to a Hell of torment. Listen again:

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" (Mt. 24:6-7).

I want to call your attention to the word "famines." I believe the best way to have a good crop is for God to send the rain. Then, on the other hand, I believe that one of the best ways for food to be short is for our great God to hold off the rain. Nowadays, we have all the food that our billfold will permit us to buy, but not so during the Tribulation. People will have money, but there will be no food.

There will be one great thing being done during the Tribulation — the gospel of the kingdom will be preached. There is a difference in the gospel of grace in this age and that in the Tribulation age. We are not bringing in the kingdom. We are preaching the gospel of grace to every person we come in contact with. There is but one thing holding Jesus back now — the appointed time has not come. Every person doesn't have to hear the gospel now for Him to come back, but during the Tribulation every nation and tribe shall hear.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Mt. 24:14).

Now the question is, how do you know that Matthew 24 is speaking of the Tribulation age? Look with me in the chap-

ter. We read:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Mt. 24:29-30).

These two verses tell us that Jesus is coming back after the Tribulation Period. Remember, at His first coming, no one will see Him except the saved, but now after the Tribulation Period, every eye will see Him, and all tribes shall mourn because of Him. This coming after the Tribulation Period will be the coming with great power and glory, that brings us down to the third point of the message.

III. Jesus Coming To Earth To Set Up His Kingdom.

At the first of the message I said that we are not bringing in the kingdom. We are just preaching the gospel to every creature. Jesus, Himself, will set up His own kingdom.

Jesus is going to reign on the throne of David for a thousand years. There is one person who can rightly be the King of the Jews. His name is Jesus. Jesus came the first time to bear the sins of those who would be saved. The next time He comes, He will come after those saved in the church age, but after the Tribulation, He will come in power and great glory. Listen:

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (Mt. 25:31).

In this verse, we find that (See **PRE** on page 23)

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was called by God Himself the Baptist (Mt. 3:1). Mark you, he was not called the Baptist because he baptized. He was called the Baptist by the Lord before he ever baptized anybody, before he ever preached a sermon. He was called the Baptist because of the work God sent him to do (Jn. 4:1). His mission was set forth in these words: "Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John." His mission was the same kind of a mission that Baptists have always had. John was a Baptist because his mission was to make and baptize disciples. Baptists are the only folk on earth who are still working at that kind of a mission — who make men disciples then baptize them and baptize nobody else except disciples or Christians. John the Baptist baptized Christ and all the twelve apostles and Christ's church is built on them, "Jesus himself being the chief corner stone" (Eph. 2:20). Since the material for the church Jesus built was made

ready by a Baptist preacher it was Baptist material and the church organized out of it was a Baptist church. The church that Jesus called "My church" was therefore a Baptist church. To that church He gave His marching orders (Mt. 28:18-20). His marching orders are His program for that church and every other Baptist church until He comes again. His orders are very explicit: "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Baptists are commanded to teach all things the Lord Jesus has commanded: they are not commanded to teach anything He hasn't commanded. That is why I say Baptist doctrine includes all things commanded and taught and practiced by Christ and His apostles and excludes everything else. If it isn't in the Bible it isn't Baptist doctrine: if it is Baptist

doctrine you can find it in the Bible.

Our orders tell us to go and preach the gospel to every creature: that's why we are missionary Baptists. A member of this church or any other Baptist church who doesn't believe in missions or who doesn't do something for missions is a hypocrite and disobedient to the last orders of the Head of this and every other Baptist church. The Bible tells us that "Jesus made and baptized disciples" — and His orders to us are to "go, make disciples" and then baptize them.

"Disciples were called Christians" at Antioch. A disciple is a Christian. Matthew 28:19 means "teaching all nations, or making Christians of all nations." Jesus baptized none but disciples or Christians. He commanded us to baptize none but disciples or Christians. For that reason Baptists baptize no infants, no seekers, no sinners, no probationers, nobody except those who claim to be Christians; because Jesus, the founder of the first Baptist church, did not baptize anybody but disciples or Christians. He left us an example and told us to walk in His steps. That is why Baptists are sticklers for regenerated church membership. Jesus started us that way and told us to "observe all things whatsoever He commanded."

Jesus walked sixty miles to be immersed in the river Jordan by the first Baptist preacher. That explains why Baptists are sticklers for immersion and for Baptist baptism. They were started that way and the Master told us to do as He said. The Bible, our guidebook, makes baptism so clear and plain that anybody can read it out of the Book, if he wants to. That is why so many of the common people are Baptists. I

could tell you this morning, if I had time, how that when there were no Baptists in Germany, John G. Oncken, made a Baptist by reading the New Testament, started to England to find a Baptist preacher to baptize him. Yohannon, a Persian, converted under a Presbyterian Missionary, read the New Testament and came from Paris to New York to get Baptist baptism. In the island of Cuba, Diaz became a Baptist from reading the New Testament. That is why in the state of Parihya, Brazil, men converted under a Presbyterian missionary and made Baptists by reading the New Testament, sent for a Baptist preacher in Pernambuco to come up and baptize them.

Baptists take the Bible as it reads and don't try to explain it away. The Bible says that John was baptizing in Enon near to Salem because there was much water there (Jn. 3:23). Baptists believe what the Bible says and hunt "much water," when they go to baptize. The Bible says that Jesus came to the Jordan to be baptized of John (Mt. 3:13). That is why Baptists go to the water instead of bringing water to the candidate. The Bible says Jesus was baptized in Jordan (Mk. 1:9). That is why Baptists baptize in water instead of putting water on the candidate.

Years ago Bro. A. J. Preston met a prominent Presbyterian Judge in the city where he was pastor at that time, who said to him, "Have you seen the Birmingham morning paper? Did you read where De Witt Talmage immersed a man in the River Jordan the other day?" Bro. Preston said: "Judge I want to ask you one question. How is it that when you read in a daily paper that a Presbyterian preacher in the 19th century

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baptized a man in the River Jordan, you say he immersed him; and then when you read in the Bible that in the first century a Baptist preacher baptized the Lord Jesus in the River Jordan, you deny that He was immersed?" The Presbyterian Judge has not answered him yet.

The Bible says that Philip and the eunuch went down into the water (Acts 8:38). That is why Baptists do it that way today. The Bible describes baptism as a burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4). That is why Baptists insist that immersion only is baptism. The Bible says that Jesus after His baptism came up straightway out of the water (Mk. 1:10). It takes "much water," "going to the water," "going into the water," a burial and a resurrection and a "coming out of the water" to make a Bible baptism. That is why Baptists will not have any other kind. There isn't any other kind in the Bible and Baptists will not accept for doctrines the commandments of men (Mt. 15:9).

The Bible says: "Every one of us shall give an account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12). For that reason Baptists have no god-fathers or god-mothers or sponsors and do not believe in any proxies in religion. We do not baptize babies nor believe in infant membership because that puts a preacher or a priest or an ordinance or a church or a sacrament between the soul and God; and the Bible says, "There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).

Baptists believe that infant baptism is a sin against God and against little children; because it takes away from the child the privilege and duty of obeying Jesus for itself in baptism after it has repented and believed in

Christ for life and salvation.

Because Baptist churches take the Bible as their only rule of faith and practice, they are the only churches that in all their history have never connected salvation with baptism, either for infants or adults; but have always contended that salvation is essential to baptism rather than baptism being essential to salvation. God's order is always salvation first and then baptism, "The Lord added to the church daily the saved" (Acts 2:47). Peter gave as a reason for the baptism of the household of Cornelius that they had already received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:43-47).

Because the Bible says: "In vain do ye worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mt. 15:9). Baptists do not believe that one church is as good as another and think it makes lots of difference what church you join. Since all other churches except Baptist churches were established by men — to join any of them is to obey the commandments of men, and the Bible says, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Baptists do not believe that a wife ought to join the church with her husband unless the Bible teaches what his church teaches, because the Bible says: "If any man come to me and hate not his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." The first loyalty and allegiance of every blood-bought soul is to Jesus Christ and he ought to obey Christ, even if he had to forsake father and mother and wife and children and all kinsmen according to the flesh to follow Christ in the matter of what church he joins, even if in so doing it means a house divided against itself (Mt. 10:34-36).

Baptists reject all other baptisms except Baptist baptism because there is no other kind in the Bible. Jesus and the twelve apostles had Baptist baptism. For that reason we receive no other except Baptist baptism. To reject Baptist baptism is to follow the Pharisees instead of Jesus. "They rejected the counsel of God against themselves, not being baptized of John" (Lk. 7:30). All rejecters of Baptist baptism are therefore followers of the Pharisees instead of Christ and "despisers of the church of God," which was built by Jesus out of persons, baptized by the first Baptist preacher (1 Cor. 11:22; 12:28; Acts 1:21-22).

Baptists are a democratic people. "One is your master, all ye are brethren," said the Lord Jesus (Mt. 23:8). Baptists have no bosses or overlords. For that reason, Thomas Jefferson got his idea of democracy from a little country Baptist church in Virginia, whose Saturday business meetings he used to attend. While this government is not a pure democracy, but a republic; Baptist churches are pure democracies; that is, "a government of the people and by the people and for the people." They elect their own officers. Peter was no pope or bishop. He called himself a fellow-elder with other Baptist preachers (1 Pet. 5:1). He did not appoint a successor to Judas Iscariot; but the 120 members of that Jerusalem church nominated two brethren and then after prayer gave their lots and the lot fell upon Matthias (Acts 1:15-26). Peter in Acts 6 did not appoint seven deacons; neither did the apostles as ruling elders or a college of bishops elect them, but the twelve called the multitude of disciples together and they chose the seven deacons.

Baptists not only follow the

Bible in electing their own officers; but they also track the Scriptures by receiving and dismissing their own members. In Acts 9:26 Paul tried to join the church at Jerusalem, but they refused to receive him because they were not satisfied about his conversion. In Romans 14:1 Paul tells the church at Rome, "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye," showing that the church received folk into its membership. In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul tells the church at Corinth to exclude an unworthy member and in 2 Thessalonians 3:6 the church at Thessalonica is commanded to "withdraw from every brother that walketh disorderly." If it isn't in the Bible, it isn't Baptist doctrine; if it is Baptist doctrine, you can find it in the Bible.

For that reason, Baptists believe in Closed Communion. Jesus Himself was a closed communionist. He did not invite His mother, nor the man in whose house He instituted the Lord's Supper to be present at that Supper. How could you have closer communion than that? Our marching orders put salvation and baptism before the Supper. The church at Jerusalem in carrying out its marching orders had first salvation, all that "gladly received his word," then baptism, then church membership, then continuance in the apostles' doc-

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trine, and continuance in church fellowship before getting to the breaking of the bread (Acts 2:41-42). Paul told the church at Corinth (1 Cor. 11:18-20) that if there was division or heresy present it was not possible to eat the Lord's Supper. Open communion therefore is an impossibility. Open communion is the eating together of those who are divided into different sects and teach different and oft-times contradictory doctrines. All doctrines that differ from the Bible and the Baptists are heresies, and Paul says if there is division or heresy present it is not possible to eat the Lord's Supper. So it is either closed communion or it is not the Lord's Supper.

Finally, Baptists believe that if a man is once saved, he is always saved. No doctrine we hold is more abundantly supported by the Scriptures than this one. Jesus said of the man once saved that "he shall never perish;" that he "shall never thirst" and therefore can never go to hell because in hell they do thirst (Lk. 16:24); that he shall "in no wise be cast out;" that "neither shall any pluck them out of my hand."

Paul in Romans 8:28-30 shows that all that God foreknew will be called, justified and glorified. Beginning back in God's foreknowledge and reaching out beyond time to find glorification, Paul plainly says that not a single one God foreknew would be saved, will ever fail to reach final glorification. Therefore apostasy is impossible.

But in Romans 8:38-39 Paul puts it, if possible, stronger still. He shows that nothing in "death nor life," nothing in heaven or

hell, "angels, principalities nor powers," nothing in space, "height not depth" and then for fear something had been left out he adds "nor any other creature," which includes the believer himself, "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Baptists believe those once saved are always saved, because the Bible says so. Baptists take the Bible alone as their only rule of faith and practice.

That is why I am a Baptist. If you can't read it in the Bible it isn't Baptist doctrine; if it is Baptist doctrine you can find it in the Bible. 

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He is coming back to earth to set up His kingdom. Praise His Name! He will be the King of kings and the Lord of lords. There will be no blood running down His beautiful body. There will be no blood in His pretty hair. There will be no one standing around to treat Him cold and throws rocks at Him. There will be no one to crucify Him.

In Revelation we read: "*And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of almighty God*" (Rev. 19:15).


I plead with you today, please don't be discouraged. Our God is not fighting a losing battle. Our great God is a God of great victory. He never has lost a battle, and that is not all — He never will lose one.

When I speak of victory, I can not help but think of the Antichrist and false prophets being cast in the lake of fire.

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet

that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev. 19:20).

Next in the line of victory is the devil being cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. Did you know that the devil is going to be bound and thrown into a pit for a thousand years? Yes, my dear one, this is a period of time that he will be out of the picture. This is a period of time that our Great God will rule and reign on the earth in righteousness. When you go home, I wish you would read Revelation 20:1-3 and see the angel as he comes down and binds the devil and throws him into the pit.

Now, friend of mine, you may not be saved. I say unto you sweet and kindly, you are not ready for His coming. Let me say that you need to go back and see Him on the cross. You need to see Jesus as He came the first time. The blood and death of Jesus is what you want to see. You want to see Him as the Savior of the soul. I don't believe that you can rejoice about Him coming in the air. You would have to go through the Great Tribulation. You would have to be left behind. God's Word says that two shall be in the field. One shall be taken and the other left. Your cry should be, "Oh, God, have mercy on my soul!" Then after you are saved, you will be ready for His coming in the air. 

HAM...

(Continued from page 15)

by Nahum about 700 B.C. 100 years before it was destroyed.

"It was to be obliterated and its voice no longer heard" (Nah. 2:13). For years there was no evidence save the Bible that there ever was such a city. Some

even ridiculed the Bible for its reference to a place that never existed. But portions of its ruins can now be seen in the British Museum. "Will set thee as a gazing stock" (Nah. 3:6). And that is all that Nineveh is today, an object for the gaze of museum visitors.

A visitor in the museum saw a workman scrubbing a large slab representing the building of Sennacherib's palace, trying to remove a burnt spot. He called to him and said that he was trying to remove one of the marks God put on the stone to identify it. "Then shall the fire devour thee" (Nah. 3:15).

Names Even Called — Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1 who wrote between 700 and 770 B.C. calls the name of Cyrus and tells how he is to conquer Babylon and restore Israel, which took place 538 B.C., 250 years after the prophecy. Named over 200 years before he was born! (Myers', p. 60).

"That saith of Cyrus, he is my shepherd and shall perform all my pleasure; even saying to Jerusalem, thou shalt be built; and to the temple, thy foundation shall be laid" (Isa. 45:28).

Upon the capture of Babylon by the Persian King Cyrus, that monarch, who was kindly disposed toward the Jews that he there found captives, permitted to return to Jerusalem and restore the temple (Myers, p. 68).

1 Kings 13:2, Joash was mentioned by name 300 years before his birth. In Ezekiel 38:2-3 when the Lord is pronouncing doom upon Russia, which is to be the last nation to oppress the Jews, He referred to the Prince of Rosh (Russia), Meshech (Moscow), Tubal (Tobalsk). Ezekiel prophesied about 600 B.C. and Russia appeared about 900 A.D. These names were mentioned 1,500 years before they existed. 

LIBERAL, KS

September 15-17, 1997, Fellowship Baptist Church, 216 Wilson, Liberal, KS, 67901, L. K. Landis, Pastor.

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SIOUX FALLS, SD

October 6-8, 1997, Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S. Hawthorne Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Ron Tottingham, Pastor.

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FORT WORTH, TX

October 6-8, 1997, Lake Worth Baptist Church, 4445 Hodgkins Rd., Ft. Worth, TX 76135, Jerry D. Locke, Pastor.

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GRANITE BAY, CA

October 17-20, 1997, Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, 7150 Wildwood Pl., Granite Bay, CA 95746, Rick Perdue, Pastor.

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LITTLE ROCK, AR

October 27-29, 1997, Central Baptist Church, 15601 Taylor Loop Rd., Little Rock, AR 72221, B. Lawrence Jones, Pastor.

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GATESVILLE, TX


November 10-12, 1997, Gateway Baptist Church, Hwy 36 South, Gatesville, TX 76528, Royse T. Cockrell, Pastor.

MASON...

(Continued from page 15)

they secure the confidence of the people — then as they near the close of their meeting, they begin to feed people their

adventism. They advertise and sell their books in the same way. "Here is a book to help you understand the Bible better." The book is bought without the person knowing that it is adventism.

Seventh Day Adventism is a form of "Galatianism." It is a legalistic system and it has its refutation in the letter to the Galatians. Adventism grows largely through proselyting tactics, as they get access to homes and bring in their heresies. The proper safeguard for churches to take is to tell people the truth as to their teachings. Few people would be led off after them if they knew their real teachings. 

THOMAS...

(Continued from page 1)

director estimated that there were at least 100 cars in the procession that drove to the cemetery.


Bro. Thomas' life had an impact upon independent Baptists as probably no other preacher of modern times, especially in the area of missions. No one had a greater love and zeal for missions than Charles Thomas. I am not aware of any church that has a greater missionary vision and spirit than the Rodgers Baptist Church, and this is because of the great missionary spirit and vision that Bro. Charles gave that church.

He and his wife, Joan, visited the mission field in Mexico with me at least two times and possibly three times, and I learned to love and appreciate this family more than they'll ever know. There are only about four men (counting my father) that I have felt real close to down through the years, and Charles Thomas was one of those men. He was one that I could go to and receive counsel when I could not turn to anyone else. His counsel was

always right. Knowing Charles as I did, I know that he was a "pastor" to many other pastors who needed to call upon him for advice and counsel. I know of no pastor that was held in higher respect than Charles Thomas. He will be missed by not only his family, his church, but also by pastors, not only all over the United States, but by missionaries throughout the world.

But no man is indispensable. God has already raised up one of his sons as pastor of the church in Garland, Bro. Ron Thomas who has very ably filled his shoes, and another son, Dennis who has been a missionary in Costa Rica for many years.

Bro. Thomas is one of four men of God that have gone home to be with the Lord in less than a year. Bro. Nick Michalinos of Pasadena, Texas, Bro. Jerrell Huffman of Duncan, Oklahoma, and Bro. Ben Shipley of Edmond, Oklahoma. As men such as these move off the scene, we need to pray that God will raise up other young men to take their places.

I am sad to say that as I look out among independent Baptist churches, there are few young men that are willing to follow in the footsteps of these men of God. I have seen men that say they are called to preach, yet they are not willing to pay the cost of study and preparation for the pastorate. Some of them want a full-time church with a full-time salary to enter full-time into the ministry, not realizing that most of the great men of God began in small humble ways, and God blessed their ministries as they grew in the work of the Lord. Each of us need to pray that God will raise up more young men to take the place of these giant warriors who have already gone to be with the Lord. 

**Fellowships
and
Bible Conferences**

WEST MILTON, OH

June 26-28, 1997, West Milton Baptist Church, 1070 S. Miami St., West Milton, OH 45383, Randy Titus, Pastor.

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

July 7-9, 1997, Beth Haven Baptist Church, 12400 S Western Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73189, Ivan G. Casteel, Pastor

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RUSSELL, SPGS., KY

July 15-17, 1997, Union Independent Baptist Church, Hwy 3525, Russell Springs, KY 42642, Charles Whaley, Pastor.

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GARLAND, TX

July 21-24, 1997, Rodgers Baptist Church, 2822 S. Jupiter Rd., Garland, TX 75041, Ron Thomas, Pastor