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WHOLE NO. 429

Why I Believe In God

By Evangelist Mordecai F. Ham

GOD

For the first division of our message we will cite two texts: Psalm 14:1, Romans. 1:20. "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." That is a fool's statement because it is not the product of reason and is contrary to every known system of reasoning. Answering a fool according to his folly makes appropriate the statement "as you knows of," and the satiric reply of one to this same fool, "Well, the Bible says the fool says in his heart there is no God but you be one big fool for you just blab it right out."

There are four things for which they who deny the existence of God cannot account — the Universe, the Bible, the Christ and the Jew.

As A Fool Reasons

While waiting in the machine shop of an automobile factory for the men to finish their lunches, having announced a noonday talk to the men, I overheard a discussion among the men concerning belief and unbelief. One who denied the existence of a God when asked who made the universe said: "One time the entire universe was nothing but a

bunch of nebular matter and it began to cool and got to revolving so fast that little particles flew off and these in turn got to revolving and finally turned into worlds and revolved into positions." He had the old discarded nebular hypothesis.

Why any man who can swallow such stuff has any difficulty in believing that the whale swallowed Jonah is too much for me. I could swallow a man myself easier than I could swallow that stuff. The man who can talk so much like an ass should not express surprise that Balaam's ass talked like a

man. For it is not any more unreasonable for an ass to talk like a man, than for a man to talk like an ass.

I began my talk by repeating part of the conversation just heard, then, pointing to a bench on which rested a number of emery stones, I sought to explain their existence by saying that at one time the larger one got to revolving and that finally it flung off other stones and these in turn got to revolving. In the same fashion an automobile came into existence; a bunch of junk thrown together got to revolving and floundered

around and finally an automobile was evolved.

You say, "Ham, you are a fool." I admit it, but I'm giving the argument of the brainy infidel.

And then one day I stood looking at a Mogul locomotive and listened as its intricate mechanism was explained. And of course I thought of the marvelous accident by which it happened. No doubt at one time a bunch of junk got heated up and began to cool and to revolve and then by some sort of evolutionary and spontaneous maneuvering formed itself into such a piece of machinery. The engineer said when I commented in such fashion: "Why, man, you're a fool." I know I am, but I'm following the argument and the reasoning of the brainy infidel.

I showed my watch to a jeweler one day and commented upon its marvelous and delicate design. Then I spoke of the manner in which a bundle of ore got together and got to whirling around and finally evolved itself into a timepiece. And he called me a fool and insisted that intelligence and reasoning designed and made the watch. I know I was a fool but if the uni-

Where Christian Science Leads

By Roy Mason

As we think of "Christian Science" we are reminded of a small tin box of candy frequently seen on candy counters. The name of it is, "Chicken Bones." Curiously enough the box contains neither chicken nor bones. "Chicken Bones" is just the name of it! Now "Christian Science" is neither Christian nor scientific — that is just the name of it!

The Founder. The founder or "foundress" of this absurd "religion" was Mrs. Mary Baker,

Glover, Eddy — much married female. She was originally a Spiritualist medium. Due to the extreme gullibility of the human race, she gained a great following, and incidentally much cash from the gullible. She denied pain, yet slipped off to a dentist when she had the toothache. She denied the reality of death, and some of her followers deny that she died — she "just passed on." (Which would you

(See **MASON** on page 24)

(See **HAM** on page 17)

Why Baptists Do Not Unionize

By David Pitman

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Rom. 16:17-18).

I have deliberately chosen an archaic term for the title of this article. The meaning behind *unionize* is virtually unknown to our modern religious scene. The word was once understood as defining efforts to blend different religious sects and sentiments into one group. Sometimes the effort was temporary and targeted a specific meeting or series of services. The ecumenical movement is the present equivalent in some respects. The ministerial associations are symptoms of this ef-

fort. However, I prefer the old term and its connotations.

Let me define briefly what I believe about the church. I am persuaded that the church is an organized, local, visible assembly of born-again baptized believers who have covenanted together to carry out the Great Commission. Christ is the Head and the Holy Spirit is the Administrator. Christ established such an assembly in His own earthly ministry and He has perpetuated that kind of assembly to the present day in churches patterned after and descended from that first church. I realize that much of Christendom does not agree with that definition; and I respect their right to disagree. However, I do not think that we can deny that we fundamentally disagree.

Let me also indicate some

(See **UNIONIZE** on page 21)

The Priest and the Wafer

By Fred J. Junior

A Roman Catholic gentleman in England being engaged to marry a Protestant lady, it was mutually agreed that there should be no contests on the subject of religion. For some years after their union, this agreement was scrupulously observed; but in the course of time the priest, who paid them frequent visits expecting to find no difficulty in making a convert of the lady, began to talk upon the peculiarities of his religion. He particularly insisted upon the doctrine of transubstantiation, and grew troublesome by his importunity.


To avoid being farther pressed by him, she one day seemed to be overcome by his arguments and agreed to attend mass with her husband the following Sunday, provided she might be allowed to prepare the wafer herself. The priest, not suspecting anything, and glad on any terms to secure such a convert, gave his consent.

The lady accordingly appeared at the chapel with her husband and after the consecration of the wafer, which she had brought with her, she solemnly demanded of the priest whether it was really converted into the body of Christ? To which question he without hesitation replied that there was a conversion made of the whole substance of the bread into the body of Christ and that there remained no more of its former substance.

“If this is really the case,” said she, “you may eat the wafer without any danger; but as for myself, I should be afraid to touch it, as it is mixed with arsenic.”

The priest was overwhelmed by a discovery so un-

expected, and was too wise to hazard his life upon a doctrine for which he had contended with all the earnestness of perfect assurance. The lady’s husband was so struck by this practical confutation of that which he had implicitly believed, that he never afterwards appeared at the mass.

If that humbug of a priest had eaten the wafer, it would have been the last mass he ever would have said this side of the Pope’s Purgatory, and he was wise enough to know it. If he could turn wine into the blood of Jesus and a bit of baked dough into the flesh of Jesus, he certainly could turn arsenic into salt or sugar but the truth is he could not do it and he knew it . 

Space Scientist Believes In Creation

In May of 1974, Wernher von Braun, one of the top space scientists in the world, stated in a published article:

“One cannot be exposed to the law and order of the universe without concluding that there must be design and purpose behind it all. ... The better we understand the intricacies of the universe and all it harbors, the more reason we have found to marvel at the inherent design upon which it is based. ...

“To be forced to believe only one conclusion — that everything in the universe happened by chance — would violate the very objectivity of science itself. ... What random process could produce the brains of man or the system of the hu-

(See **BRAUN** on page 20)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Massive Evangelism Or Massive Entertainment?

By Peter B. Durik

There is absolutely no question that we live in an unprecedented, unique and incomparable age of entertainment. In fact, entertainment is a big business and in great demand. Entertainment is not only expensive but also is expected. People desire and demand entertainment. People aspire and await to be entertained. Entertainment has penetrated and permeated all areas. The religious realm is not an exception but became more exploited. Frankly, it is in the church where one finds it to a greater degree than in any other area. Christian people desire, demand and are greatly delighted to be entertained. The pastor is looked up to as a master of ceremonies. He is expected to promote, patronize and provide concerts and ceremonies. People want churches to sponsor and to supply all kinds of entertainment for all ages and groups and for all occasions.

Christian people have acquired a unique taste, tendencies and trends toward entertainment. That's what tickles them in the first place. Many of them have become transient members from church to church, always looking for a church of their choice that would satisfy their choicy desires, dictates, delights and demands. Churches periodically have to sponsor and supply programs that would entice, excite, emotionalize and entertain people. Everything else is secondary to entertainment. Godliness and the gospel is little by little injected as people are entertained. Belief and the Bible must be injected with discretion and in small doses. In fact, the pastor must be extremely cautious and

careful and not to inject heavy doses of godliness and the gospel lest people may resent, rebel and reject. As he teaches self-love, self-esteem and self-assertion he could spice it up with Scriptures circumspectively, carefully and cautiously. In other words, the pastor must be shrewd, smart and subtle in injecting the Scriptures in the overall social activities and programs of the church. In fact, churches are competing with one another as to which one could provide better social programs and entertainment.

As entertainment has invaded and influenced churches so it has also invaded and influenced evangelistic campaigns. For an evangelistic campaign pastors decide on the evangelist that would entice, emotionalize, excite and entertain the multitudes. he has to be a religious counterpart to Hollywood. Any evangelist according to the Holy Word will be too boring and not a blessing to our modern world inclined, interested in and influenced by excitement and entertainment. The evangelist of the hour is one that can appeal, attract and amuse the multitudes and not one that would announce and sternly and strongly admonish repentance. After all, this is not an uncivilized, uneducated and uncultured nation. This is America! Ministers would not choose an evangelist like John the Baptist that would jolt and jar masses condemning sin and compelling people to "bring forth ... fruits meet for repentance" (Mt. 3:8). They would rather have a jolly and jubilant evangelist that knows how to joke, jest and jape and be a good jabber!

Modern evangelists are nothing but good religious entertainers. Are they ever good on telling jokes at great length one after another. They enjoy seeing crowds cracking up with laughter. Luis Palau, on March 13, 1993 in Chicago, before Spanish pastors promoting his massive campaign for 1995, couldn't resist but spent the first part of his speech relating in great details and with great determination and delight three funny jokes one after another. The rest of his sales pitch for his future massive campaign was characterized by self-exaltation for his success and continuous cracky and funny remarks that had all pastors and those present periodically laughing and cracking up with laughter.

Needless to say, all had a good time laughing and thought the evangelist was very cool and felt very comfortable with him. They felt that he was quite humorous and hilarious. The evangelist has a unique gift of speaking in such a way that everybody feels at ease, enticed, excited, enthused and emotionalized. He is not known for rocking the boat. However, he may have a religious group in the stadium that would serenade the crowds with Christian Rock and Roll music. This is considered an asset as it would help people to identify with those who courageously will be making a decision for the Lord Jesus Christ in the same style, system and spirit as those famous Christian stars present did. Who wouldn't mind to imitate their performance and profession for Jesus Christ. After the exhibitivite and exciting performance of the famous Christian TV stars and the flam-

boyant evangelist, even those who would be making a decision for Jesus Christ, would also have the pleasure and the privilege to exhibit their performance of inviting Jesus into their hearts as they would be asked to parade to the front and in front of TV cameras! This puts these people at a vantage point of being able to come close to the platform and view the famous TV stars and the famous and flamboyant international and interdenominational evangelist! Who would ever want to miss such a unique and unprecedented privilege and pleasure!

For the entertainment performance there must be also a special place and this couldn't be just any other place but a stadium. Of course, it has to be definitively and decisively away and apart from the church. The church's edifice and environment may sour and spoil the excitement and entertainment of people. People, for a change need to be away and apart to experience amusement. Moreover, entertainment has to not only be enjoyed but also exhibited. It has to be exhibited to the world that you can have fun if you receive Jesus Christ in your heart fast and facilely. It is not fair not to have fun, otherwise why would anybody want to have Christ in his heart in the first place. What the people of our age want is happiness and humor and not holiness; rejoicing and relaxation and recreation and not remorse and repentance from sins; satisfaction and not sanctity; comfort, complacency and contentment and not conversion, commitment and consecration; crown and not the cross; easiness and excitement and not endurance and exertion; distraction and diversion and not denial, discipline and doctrine.

In fact, the evangelist is

(See **DURIK** on page 20)

Science and the Deluge — Part 4

By Harry Rimmer

Geology

The testimony of Geology will be of great value, for Geology is the science that deals with the physical earth. If there was a great cataclysmic deluge, the earth must bear some record of that fact; and never doubt but that the earth does! Those who laugh at the Genesis account of the flood do so out of the depths of profound ignorance of geology. Many scores of students have asked me: "If the account of a flood in the Bible is history, why is there no record of it in Geology?" The answer is, there is such a record.

There is the same harmony of opinion (?) among Geologists that characterizes the other sciences; but most of them admit a world-catastrophe which was probably the deluge. One authority claims this was the cause of the Glacial Age; and builds a convincing and ingenious theory on the weight of water and its effect on the climate of the earth. Several others, equally authoritative, disagree, and say the flood came as a result of the collapse of the giant ring of ice that once encircled this globe like a tremendous lense. Others claim the deluge was only local, and the merry battle goes on. *But whatever theory Geologists may hold, they almost all agree that there was a flood.*

A most remarkable book of Geology extant today is "The New Geology: A Text Book for Colleges," by G. McReady Price. If you haven't read this you are behind the times that much, and you ought to read it at once. This book is a masterpiece of *real* science, and explodes in a convincing manner some of the

ancient fallacies of science falsely so-called. Dr. Price gives much space to the evidences from Geology and proves conclusively there was a flood. I will not here review his arguments; get the book and read it.

There were undoubtedly two causes for the flood. The first was solar. It rained for forty days and nights. The significance of this is seen when we remember that up to that time there had been no rain upon the earth, but a mist arose and watered the land. How utterly incomprehensible must Noah's warning have sounded to the Antediluvians when he said, "Flee from the Flood! The Heavens will rain water!" They never saw rain, and had absolutely no conception of it. So men today will not heed the warning of Peter when he says, "The earth is reserved for the fire of judgment, that will destroy all flesh!"

It never had rained. Around the globe was a protecting lense of ice that made the whole world an Eden of tropical splendor. It was a "firmament" indeed; and rain could not come through it. The rays of the sun that cause decay were strained out, and long life was the rule. These rays also cause fermentation and Noah, who was accustomed to drink the juice of the grape in the days before the flood, was amazed when the fermented juice made him drunk! In that wondrous atmosphere life was so easily sustained men ate no meat, but a vegetable diet was the rule. Then the catastrophe came. The great ring melted and descended in a torrent of water and ice. In some sections it fell as water, and a flood was the result. In other sections it collapsed as ice, and a condition of glaciation was the result. The whole matter is set forth in these simple words, pregnant with depths of meaning: "And the windows of heaven were opened!"

For forty days and nights the waters fell, and this was one cause of the flood. It rained. I saw it rain twenty-two minutes once, and hundreds of thousands of dollars damage resulted in the valleys below! Men said it was a cloudburst: in the days of Noah it rained thus for forty days and nights.


The second cause of the flood was geological. There have been many upheavals of the earth's surface and slippages of its crust: here was one of them. The level of the land sank, the bottom of the sea was raised, "The fountains of the great deep were broken up," and the waters prevailed on the face of the earth. The highest mountains were covered to a depth of fifteen cubits, and death was the result.

It is evident at once this upheaval, or slipping of the earth's crust was the main cause of the flood. Noah began to build his ark in the valley near the mouth of the river, and when the waters had carried it to its final resting place, it was up in the Armenian mountains, in the Arrarat range. It is thus evident the drift was from the sea to the land, and this current would nominally be caused by the influx of sea water.

The common laws of nature were here bent, as always, to serve the will of God. When the waters had prevailed a hundred and fifty days, God's thought turned again to Noah, and the flood was stopped. First, a wind swept out across the waters. Thus the rate of evaporation was greatly increased, and some waters lifted. Then the "windows of heaven were stopped," which provision kept the evaporated waters from precipitating again. And finally, the fountains of the deep were stopped. That can mean only one thing, the land level was shifted again, so the sea went back to its former place, or nearly so.

Can this shifting of land levels be seen in the science of geology? Indeed it can.

The unbelieving and materialistic scientist is hard pressed to understand this strange condition; there are mountains and cliffs that have been stood on their heads!! The Geologist claims that he knows the rock formations from the earliest to the latest, and classifies them according to age. The "oldest" rocks are on the bottom of course, and the "youngest" rocks are on top. So we read the geological account like a calendar. This, of course, is an entirely gratuitous arrangement and has caused a tremendous amount of confusion and trouble. What can any man know about the age of undated things he claims were made a hundred million years before there was a man to keep the record?

The confusion grows worse when we leave the text books and get out in field research for then we see that the rocks with stubborn ignorance refuse to follow the chart laid down by the World Congress of Geology! In many places rocks *one hundred million years old (?) are laid down on top of rocks only one million years old!!* And this according to the geologists' own way of reckoning. How did this happen? How could it happen? Why the only possible way was for the earth's crust to slip and turn over. In some of our California formations, notably of the Eocene period, *the strata of layers of rock run straight up and down instead of across the mountain!!* When did this tremendous shift take place? Dr. Price says it was at the time of the flood. 

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Are "Bible Churches" Really Bible Churches

By David E. Gonella

When Jesus Christ was on this earth He established an organization and left it behind to do His work. The local, visible church at Jerusalem was commissioned by our Savior to do the work of winning people to a saving knowledge of Himself, baptizing those converts, and teaching them to do all that He commanded. To this church was also delivered the Lord's Supper, which, with baptism, pictures salvation.

As an organization (not an organism which is the popular notion of our day) this church could survive beyond the lives of its founding members and plant other churches like itself, upon which would devolve the original commission given by Jesus Christ. Thus this church could perpetuate itself and its work. God is to be praised for His wisdom in ordaining that His work in this dispensation would be carried out by the true churches of Christ.

But where God has established "the pillar and ground of the truth," you can be sure that Satan has also raised up his counterfeits, and has worked tirelessly to subvert that which is true.

The first major error introduced into some of the churches was baptismal regeneration. This was a logical progression into heresy, for if baptism saves, it would follow that it should be performed as early as possible.

In 251 A.D., the churches that remained true to New Testament principles declared that they would not fellowship with the churches that had adopted baptismal regeneration. Further, because the latter groups had perverted the gospel, the former

group pronounced the latter to be no longer true churches of Christ, and thus without authority to baptize. Therefore, the true churches would not recognize the baptism of the false churches and when one came to them for membership from a false church, even if he was saved and had been immersed, he would be accepted only upon a clear profession of faith and a subsequent immersion. Thus, the true churches of Christ were labeled "Anabaptists" (rebaptizers) by the false churches because they considered baptism by a false church to be "alien," or foreign to New Testament practice.

Within a few centuries the false churches had coalesced into the Roman Catholic (universal) Church. For 1,000 years there stood only two professing Christian systems, the Catholic (both Eastern and Western) and the Anabaptist which later became known simply as "Baptist." The history of the Anabaptists is literally a "trail of blood" as the Catholic Church mercilessly persecuted them and, during the Dark Ages, killed between 30 and 50 million of them. In different regions and at different times they took a variety of names (Paulicians, Donatists, Lollards, Cathari, Petro-brusians, Waldenses, Albigenses), but the distinguishing doctrines of these Anabaptists remained intact generation after generation. Though persecuted and often driven into hiding, these "kept the faith" and paid with their blood to maintain doctrines that some Baptists today label as "non-essential."

In time the Roman Catholic Church became so corrupt that

the few who were saved within her, and many of those who were unsaved but of moral character, could not bear the depth of depravity to which she had sunk. This resulted in the Protestant Reformation, one of the greatest movements Satan has ever hatched out of Hell. The Great Whore gave birth to her harlot daughters and now, instead of one false "Christian" religion persecuting the Anabaptists, there were five: Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Reformed, and Lutheran. These man-made churches each taught a form of baptismal regeneration and persisted in "baptizing" infants. The Protestants also copied their Roman mother well in the matter of killing, torturing, and dispossessing the Anabaptists on the European continent, in England, and in the American colonies. For one to believe that the Protestant Reformation was a movement of God to re-establish New Testament principles, he would have to ignore both the New Testament and the witness of history.

With the establishment of religious freedom in England and America, the Protestants who had added a couple of new churches to their movement (Methodist and Congregational, both from the Anglican Church), now began to reach out to the Baptists, proposing pulpit exchanges, inter-communion, and other forms of "church" fellowship. The real design of all this was to accomplish through infiltration what could not be accomplished through persecution, the extermination of Baptist doctrine and practice. This new fellowship was proposed on the basis of agreement be-

tween Baptists and Protestants on a handful of scriptural doctrines like the virgin birth of Christ and the nature of the Holy Trinity, while ignoring such issues as what constitutes a scriptural church and scriptural baptism, eternal security, scriptural (restricted) communion, and others. Some Baptists, who previously would not hold church fellowship with anything that was not a scriptural church, began to soften their convictions and make common cause with the Protestants. This was denounced by those Baptists who remained true to New Testament principles and who maintained ecclesiastical separation as "religious liberalism." The modern term for "religious liberalism" is "fundamentalism." The united evangelistic efforts of the more liberal Baptists and the Protestants bore fruit and filled the Protestant churches with new converts. The sad truth is that Baptist soulwinning zeal helped keep some Protestant groups alive so that they could continue their attack on Baptist doctrine and practice from their pulpits and in their publications.

As modern liberalism, or "modernism," began to gain ground in the Protestant denominations, even the basic doctrines of fundamentalism were discarded. Those who were more theologically conservative fought to retain control of their respective denominations. In time, some could see "the handwriting on the wall" and began to advocate separation from the old Protestant denominations and the establishment of new denominations (like the Free

(See **BIBLE** on page 14)

Flooded Church Needs Help

The following is a copy of a special prayer letter concerning our home, sponsoring church. My wife and I were both saved in this church, raised up in the Lord, call to be missionaries, married, trained, authorized and send out by this church. If you have been reading the news then you know more about the flood than we do.

We are sending this prayer letter out for special prayer. Pastor Mike Custer and his wife, Grace, arrived in South Africa as scheduled on April 10th. God has blessed his preaching and work here and we have seen souls saved during his visit. They have indeed been a special help and blessing to us. We praise God for their visit, encouragement and counsel.

However, they are compelled by the Lord to return home sooner than scheduled because of the flood situation in our city. As you may know 75% of the residents of Grand Forks, North Dakota and East Grand Forks, Minnesota have been evacuated. Neighboring Baptist churches have been a great blessing to our people, by taking them in and housing them for the time being.

There are many problems with a flood of this sort and we would like for you to pray with us about the situation. 85% of our church members have left their houses and most of them have water in their houses. They will be staying in other peoples homes for an extended period of time. Many will have no work nor income during this time. We do not know what kind of damage that will be done to their houses, but some will lose most of what they have. Some do not have insurance on

their houses nor their belongings, and there are many things that insurance does not cover: A flooded car; garden, yard and house plants; food supplies stored in the house; plus many items of personal value.

We have been praying earnestly for a new church building for many years. The need for a building has increased with each passing year. We do not know of the condition of the present buildings, but the water is over the pews in the auditorium. Meaning that all furnaces, the piano and organ, carpets, desks, office, nursery and kitchen equipment etc. etc. will all be destroyed by water damage. Plus until the water leaves we cannot even determine the effect upon the foundations of the houses or buildings. The estimate is that the people will be able to return to the town in about two weeks to start cleaning up and rebuilding. Standing in water for over two weeks will not be good for any of the houses or church buildings.

Brethren, our church needs your prayers. Our people need your help. If you would like to send an offering, or help in some other way, write to the following address:

New Testament Baptist Church, PO BOX 40, Larimore, North Dakota, 58251. Please write on the memo line: Bible Baptist Church EGF. The church's bank is unable to be open at the present time and so a special account will be opened in Larimore at the First American Bank to handle disaster relief. I'm sure our folks from Bible Baptist Church, East Grand Forks, Minnesota would greatly appreciate it.

For many of our people their first thoughts were of us their sponsored missionaries. With post offices and mail boxes under water for over three weeks how will they take care of the missionary support. New

Testament BC, Larimore, ND volunteered to help in this regard, therefore send our support as usual to PO Box 40, Larimore, ND, 58251 as the address until the end of May 1997.

The Wyatt Family

Defects of Campbellite Repentance and Faith

By W. C. Taylor

Campbellite hold "the Word alone" theory, which means that the gospel without the direct aid of the Spirit leads to repentance and faith. They believe that the Spirit expended His power in the inspiration of the Word and now has nothing to do in bringing sinners to repentance and faith. The defects common to both Campbellite repentance and faith are:

1. Without the aid of the Holy Spirit.

But the Holy Spirit grants men grace to perform these duties. "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Cor. 3:6). Paul did not ascribe the result to the truth alone, nor to his logic, nor to Apollos' eloquence, but to God. How could this be except through the presence and power of the Spirit?

Paul's preaching was "in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power" (1 Cor. 2:4). This was not in simply the words spoken by Paul. He ascribes it to the Spirit.

"The Spirit and the bride say, Come" (Rev. 22:17). The church, by the word of salvation, addresses the mind of man. The Spirit, by His personal influence upon the heart, whispers, "Come." The gospel conveys truth to the mind. The Spirit makes man feel it in his heart. The Word is the instru-

(See DEFECTS on page 7)

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Not On Pentecost

By C. O. Simpson

Pentecost was truly a great day. Some mighty things took place there, but some things that some people claim took place there did not.

1. The Church Not Set Up On Pentecost.

There is not a word to indicate that any kind of organization was affected on that day. That was the day when God, according to promise, endued with power the organization already affected. The day when the body of Christ — the church in waiting — was baptized in the Holy Ghost.

The setting up or establishing of a church logically requires some very essential things. The prospective members must be called out and assembled. The Greek word *"ecclesia"* which is translated church means a called out assembly. Such group must then be organized, authorized and set apart to its appointed work. Then it must be commissioned to its task. None of which was done on Pentecost. All of which was done some three years before Pentecost. All of these essentials were fulfilled when Jesus went up into the mountain and prayed the night through and called unto Him whom He would and of them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles and whom He ordained, organized, authorized and instituted as a body and to which He gave the first commission to preach, baptize, heal, etc., and sent them out to the Jews only (Mk. 3:12-15; Lk. 6:12-14). Here all the essentials to the setting up or institution of the church are found and nowhere else are they found. Here Jesus used the material prepared by

John the Baptist to build this foundation church. No other material would do (Acts 1:21-22). One had to be a witness from the baptism of John to be in this building as a charter member. Other material was used if the church was set up on Pentecost.

The apostles were first set in the church (1 Cor. 12:28) and they were not set in on Pentecost but on the mountain three years before.

Jesus told His disciples long before Pentecost to tell their grievances to the church (Mt. 18:17). This they could not have done if there was no church.

The second, final, and

(See **PENT** on page 17)

DEFECTS...

(Continued from page 6)

ment — "the sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17). The instrument can do nothing without the Agent. Without the Agent, the Word is a dead letter.

No man can savingly receive the Word until his heart is divinely opened, like Lydia's of old (Acts 16:14). "No man can come unto me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (Jn. 6:44). "No man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (1 Cor. 12:3). The power of the Spirit is necessary for men to trust Christ.

Faith is the gift of God, and it is "the fruit of the Spirit" (Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 5:22; 1 Cor. 3:5). So also the ability to repent is a divine grant (Acts 11:18). "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit" (1 Pet. 1:22). "The truth" in the case was the gospel — the Word. These people instrumentally purified their souls by obeying it. But it was not the Word without the personal influence of the Spirit which did the work. For Peter said these

people obeyed the truth "through the Spirit." Hence, Campbellite repentance and faith, being without the power of the Spirit, cannot be genuine.

2. No redemptive blessing secured for their possessors.

Campbellites hold that there is no salvation short of baptism. It is their dividing line between condemnation and salvation. Hence, their penitent and their believer is no more secure after his repentance and faith than before. He is still condemned and liable to eternal punishment until he reaches baptism. The sinner with Campbellite repentance and faith can as easily go to Hell with them as without them.

The Word of God does not so teach. Genuine repentance is "unto life" (Acts 11:18). That taught by Campbellites leaves a man with no spiritual life. And Jesus says that the believer "hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death into life" (Jn. 5:24).

But Campbellite faith leaves a man still in spiritual death. Listen to Peter: "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name, whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (1 Pet. 1:9). "And put no difference between them and us, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:9). And Simon Peter plainly says that baptism is a "figure" (1 Pet. 3:21). Being a symbol only, it is not conditional to salvation, but belongs only to the saved. Simon Peter uttered these three testimonies to the fact that men are saved at the point of faith. Anything which makes Peter contradict himself in some other passage shows that it is false. Campbellism does this.

The Lord Jesus, speaking

from heaven when He commissioned Paul on the Damascus road, spoke of saved people as "them which are sanctified by faith that is in me," which, of course, carries the other two blessings mentioned, "forgiveness of sins" and "inheritance," which are also by faith. And the great apostle wrote: "Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Rom. 3:28), which means that "God imputeth righteousness without works" (Rom. 4:6-8). This same inspired witness wrote: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

So, the true believer in Christ has, "without works" as further conditions, "eternal life," "remission of sins," "justification," "forgiveness of sins," "the salvation of your souls," "inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith," etc. All of these are the present blessings of believers in Christ. That Campbellite repentance and faith secure no such blessings to the sinner they contend, and I freely admit. That the repentance and faith of the gospel save immortal souls, God's Word and Christian experience abundantly testify. That there is a vast difference between Campbellite repentance and faith and those taught in the Bible and realized in every converted soul, is apparent to all who have prayerfully and thoroughly investigated the subject.

Let nobody be fooled by the voicing of "sound words" which do not carry their proper Bible meaning. Such words are sound only!

"Faith in Christ will save me,
Let me trust Thy weeping Son,
To His arms, Lord, help me run,
Faith in Christ will save me."

Challenge Press Books

IDENTIFYING THE APOSTASY by Roy L. Aldrich. The most important reason for this effort is the conviction that the church of Jesus Christ needs awakening to the fact of the nearness of the Lord's coming. It is only when the apostasy is identified that it becomes an unmistakable sign of the end of the age. **\$1.50**

VITAL CHURCH TRUTHS by R. J. Anderson. Why join a church? When? These and many other often confusing questions are answered Scripturally in this book written especially for new converts. The author pastored Baptist churches for many years and presents in a clear manner what the Bible teaches on such vital matters as How To Be Saved — What Constitutes Scriptural Method of Financing a Church — Church Government — Church History — The Church Covenant. An excellent textbook for doctrinal training and new converts class. **\$1.50**

THE FIRST BAPTIST by S. E. Anderson. "There is no such thing as understanding the Christian ministry and the Christian message without first understanding the message and ministry of John" — W. A. Criswell, Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas. All about John the Baptist — Learn more about this Christian martyr so essential to the New Testament dispensation. **\$4.95**

THE FIRST CHURCH by S. E. Anderson. "A careful study of this book would put iron into the blood of Baptists, and a prayerful reading of it would win friends and influence people for the Baptist position" — Dr. Faris D. Whitesell, 30 years professor at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. A thorough review of the New Testament church — its origin, nature, and purpose. **\$4.95**

FOUR FRONT DOORS TO NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES by S. E. Anderson. In dealing with the four Gospels, repetitions are to be expected. For most readers they will be helpful. The Holy Spirit repeats important facts often. The book supplements our previous books on church truths. "Unto God be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end." **\$4.95**

THE MEANING AND USE OF EKKLESIA IN THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CENTURY by S. E. Anderson. An 8-page pamphlet on the Greek word *ekklesia* in New Testament times. Even though Christ said the gates of hell would not prevail against His church, the fact is that Satan has placed a great smoke screen to hide the original meaning of the word. **\$0.50**

OPEN WINDOWS FOR CATHOLICS AND OTHER CHRISTIANS by S. E. Anderson. Baptists, Protestants and Catholics alike will welcome **OPEN WINDOWS**. It is courteous, fair and thorough. Conversations between Catholics and Protestants, already enjoying openness, will be stimulated and enriched by

reading this volume. Both groups agree on many vitally important doctrines, both may have some shortcomings. These expositions of 95 Scripture passages may not satisfy all readers, but they should compel more Bible study. The Holy Spirit can help each reader to separate the good from what is less so, and find herein enough inspiration for a closer fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ. **\$5.00**

BIBLE ARITHMETIC by Wes Auger. Four messages to challenge the heart of every Christian — Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division. Is your math grade what it should be? **\$1.00**

A CRITIQUE OF THE SCOFIELD BIBLE by Wes Auger. The Scofield Bible has probably had as much, and possibly more influence among evangelical Christians than any other reference Bible. Since most people read this Bible "from bottom to top" and grant its notes nearly the same infallibility as the Scriptures themselves, Scofield's notes have led to some serious doctrinal errors, particularly as they relate to the New Testament church. This book exposes these errors in a kind and courteous way. **\$1.00**

GOD'S MASTERPIECE — MAN'S BODY by Arthur L. Brown. Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice I. H. Linton in writing the Preface to this book said, "Of all God's wonders none are greater to the point of being almost unbelievable, even when we behold them, than the wonders of this human body. Dr. Arthur I. Brown's book 'God's Masterpiece,' seems to me to be in many respects the most thrilling and convincing development of this great basic proof of the existence of God. ... Dr. Howard A. Kelly, of Johns Hopkins University Hospital, one of the 'Big Four' who made Johns Hopkins world famous, once told me that he had carried around a former and lesser book of Dr. Brown's in his pocket for a long time just to read and get from it the information it contained. Here is a greater book than that which one of the world's most famous surgeons and scientists said had instructed him — the last word from one of the most careful, exact, devout and scholarly Christian men now living." **\$5.95**

EXPOSITORY NOTES ON THE BOOK OF JUDE by Dr. Raleigh Campbell. This is a series of lectures to the Independent Baptist College of Dallas, Texas. This book is the printed form of the lectures which was handed out to the students of the college, and those attending the seminar lectures. **\$1.50**

"TONGUES." THE BIBLE VIEW vs. THE MODERN VIEW by Dr. Raleigh Campbell. the author of this brief discussion of "Tongues" was president of Independent Baptist College of Dallas, Texas for many years. In this book he gives a safe and Scriptural examination of glossolalia from its modern-day origin to its present day infiltration of all major denominations. **\$1.75**

Challenge Press Books

ECCLESIA (THE CHURCH) by B. H. Carroll. An exhaustive study of the Greek word "Ecclesia." Dr. Carroll discusses its usage in the Septuagint, the New Testament, and in many of the classics. An important book in understanding the nature of the New Testament church. **\$2.50**

THE TRAIL OF BLOOD by J. M. Carroll. This book has a subtitle "Following the Christians Down Through the Centuries ... The History of Baptist churches From the Time of Christ, Their Founder, to the Present Day." This book includes an excellent chart or map in the back showing not only the origin of Baptists, but also the rise of the Roman Catholic Church and the origin of Protestantism. Probably the best brief history of Baptists ever written. **\$1.00.** (Also available in Spanish and French.)

AVOIDING THE SNARE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM by David W. Cloud. "This study is designed to be used as a syllabus for Bible classes, as well as a book to be read for personal profit. An attempt has been made to break down the Seventh-day Adventist heresies and the Bible refutations in a clear, orderly manner to be easily used in Bible classes." This is the best book available today. **\$5.95**

THE DAY OF PENTECOST by R. Nelson Colyar. An excellent scholarly exegesis of the book of Ephesians, verse-by-verse. Dr. Colyar, a Greek scholar, places particular emphasis upon the doctrine of the local church, revealing the erroneous interpretations in Ephesians by those who advocate the universal, invisible church theory. **\$4.95**

WHY ALL "GOOD PEOPLE" WILL BE LOST by J. E. Conant. As the title states, they are the ones who imagine that the way to get to heaven is by being good — good enough, at least, so that their good deeds will outweigh their mistakes in the final balance at the Last Day. Their neighbors regard them as "good people," and they themselves believe that they measure up at least fairly well with those who expect to go to heaven, and so they think their future is secure. **\$0.75**

SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD by Jonathan Edwards. A sermon preached July 8, 1741, and marvelously blessed of God. Surely Christians reading this sermon must be stirred to a new zeal in witnessing to the lost. And God grant that lost sinners reading it may realize their danger of eternal damnation and turn to Christ. **\$0.50**

"THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST" AND "TONGUES" by Louis Entzminger. The author was for many years associated with Dr. J. Frank Norris of the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth,

Texas. He was an instructor in the Bible Baptist Seminary and was known throughout fundamentalist circles for his orthodoxy and his contending for the faith. Both subjects, "The Baptism of the Holy Ghost" and "The Gift of Tongues" are Scripturally discussed in this book. In view of the importance of these two subjects today, this book should be read by every one. **\$1.95**

STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH by Louis Entzminger. Dr. Entzminger is an excellent writer. Along with his great Sunday School work, he was also known for his teachings on the New Testament church. This book came as a result, for he has written this book in order to put these messages in written form. An excellent book to add to your library. **\$2.95**

OUR CHURCH LIFE by J. M. Frost. You will not find a better book written concerning membership in a Baptist church. Chapters are: 1. What A Church Stands For; 2. The Church in the Thought of God; 3. The Church of God at Corinth; 4. The Church and Its One Book; 5. The Church and Its Ordinances; 6. How the Denominations Came; 7. The Confession of Faith; 8. Why Join the Church; 9. Why Join the Baptist Church; 10. The Church and Its Public Services; 11. Your Membership in the Church; 12. The Church of your Membership; 13. The Church and the Commonwealth; 14. Church Life and Church Loyalty; 15. The Enrichment of Church Life. **\$5.95**

BAPTISTS AND BELIEFS by Oscar Gibson the author was pastor of the Walnut Street Baptist Church of Louisville, Kentucky for many years. This is another book that was prepared for distribution to new church members. Chapters are: Baptists and Baptism; Baptists and the Lord's Supper; Baptists and Other Denominations; God's Program for World Conquest; What Must I Do To Be Saved; and Can A Person Be Saved and Then Lost? **\$2.50**

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH by Davis W. Huckabee. This is the second in a series of publications on the New Testament church — its government, officers, membership and discipline — and will prove most helpful to all who wish to further their knowledge in this area. **\$4.95**

THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH by Davis W. Huckabee. There has been a sad lack of both decency and order in the ordinances as practiced by most practicing Christians in these last days, and even some Baptists have begun to let slip these grand Bible truths. The ordinances have been confused, misused, abused and refused until "Babel" is a more fitting word than orderliness. This great need for decency and orderliness may easily be seen when we consider that the right use of these is so important to the Scriptural status of the church. **\$4.95**

Christian Stewardship

By Milford L. Baker

Christian stewardship means the recognition of God's ownership of all things and man's responsibility in carrying out God's program on the earth. Acknowledge the fact of creation as an act of God, and you admit that God is the owner of the universe and everything in the world, including the forests, animals, minerals, the land, and all wealth (Psm. 50:10-15; Lev. 25:23; Job 41:11; Hag. 2:8). This includes man and his descendants, for God made man, gave him life, and determines the boundaries of his habitation (Acts 17:24-26). This ownership includes more than the possessions of wealth and individuals as such, but the souls of men (Ezk. 18:4). Through redemption, the believer belongs to God (1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Dedication

The Macedonian Christians in their poverty first gave themselves to the Lord in behalf of the Christian enterprise by the will of God (2 Cor. 8:5). God is sovereign, but He allows the Christian his own choice, therefore, many believers fall far short of God's expectations for them. For instance, Paul begs the Roman Christians to present their bodies "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God ... and be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed" (Rom. 12:1-2). Paul could speak from experience when he wrote, "Paul, a servant (bondslave) of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, sepa-

rated unto the gospel of God" (Rom. 1:1). This voluntary dedication of self to God is not an unconditional surrender forced upon the believer; it is voluntary submission to His will. He is sovereign and knows what is best for us. What may seem to be burdensome to us now may prove to be a blessing later. This dedication includes all that he possesses, such as time, talents, personality, wealth, money, and ability to make money, influence, knowledge. Such a Christian is thankful to God for the blessings bestowed upon him and really wants to use his life in such a way that it will please God and advance His cause.

Partnership

This desire to cooperate in advancing the cause of Christ means partnership with God. "It is he that giveth thee power to get wealth" (Dt. 8:18). With the power to get wealth comes responsibility to administer it properly. He should consult the partner in matters of acquiring, saving, investing, spending, and giving. James L. Kraft reached the point of bankruptcy, when he suddenly realized he had left God out. He repented, took God into partnership, began to tithe, and was able to give much of his time to persuading men to give God a chance in their lives and business. The Psalmist said, "Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: and call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psm. 50:14-15). "We emphasize stewardship," said George W. Truett, "not for the purpose of getting the money, but for the purpose

of developing the giver in the Christian life. To give is to live; to withhold is to die." God promises to open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it, if the Old Testament saint will only be faithful in his partnership with God (Mal. 3:10). When the Philippian church sent a gift to Paul while he was in the Roman prison, he thanked them and said, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

Christian Stewardship Includes Tithing

The tithe is fair to rich and poor alike. The larger the in-

come, the larger the tithe. Abraham commenced tithing before the law was given (Gen. 14:20). Moses commanded the tithe of the land, fruit, and herds to be paid as a matter of law (Lev. 27:30-33). Malachi condemned Israel as a nation for not paying the tithe. He said they had robbed God in tithes and offerings. Jesus commended the Scribes and Pharisees for tithing mint, dill, and cummin, but He condemned them for neglecting the most important matters of the law, such as justice, mercy, and faith (Mt. 23:23). What Abraham practiced before the law, what Moses commanded as the law, what the prophets upheld under the

(See STEWARD on page 20)

Just Published Study Guide To The Book of Revelation

By M. L. Moser, Jr.

This is a verse-by-verse Study Guide to the Book of Revelation written from a Baptist viewpoint. Most books on Revelation are written from an interdenominational, non-baptistic viewpoint. This book does not.

Special emphasis is given to the first three chapters, particularly as they relate to the Seven Churches of Asia. The book is also written from a Pre-millennial and Pre-tribulational viewpoint, refuting both Post-millennialism and A-millennialism.

Originally published in four volumes, this perfect-bound book has been expanded and contains 317 pages in one volume.

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(See Postage rates on page 22)

Every Christian's Duty Is To Be A Witness for Christ

By Roy Mason

Whose business is it to win people to Christ? Is this a duty that devolves upon preachers, and perhaps upon Sunday School teachers? Certainly it is their task — but it is also the duty of every saved person on the face of this earth. The average church member not only never wins anybody else to the Lord — he never even tries to do so! There is no sense of obligation whatsoever on the part of the average church member as regards the reaching of the lost. “That’s what I help hire the preacher for,” is the attitude. This failure on the part of church members in general to talk their religion to others, is back behind the comparatively few people saved. Churches that engage in real soul-winning effort with numbers of persons participating, always reach many people.

What Does The Bible Say?

What obligation does the Lord lay upon saved people along the line of witnessing for Christ and the winning souls?

1. What is our obligation to our own kinfolk? To the converted Gadarene who wanted to accompany him, Jesus said, “Go home to thy friends and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee” (Mk. 5:19). What did the man do in obedience to that command? The answer is found in verse 20. But note! Another good example is found in John 1:41-42, “He first findeth his *own brother* ... and he brought him to Jesus.”


It is the prime business of every Christian to win his own close of kin to the Lord. Very often people live in such a way

that they don’t have the nerve to talk to their close of kin for they know that they have no confidence in them. Then often people as regards their own children, have no real interest in their salvation. During a revival meeting for instance, they find excuses for staying away, instead of planning to be with their lost children in the services every night. We have known instances in which parents actually resented people talking to their children about their salvation. In many instances the trouble probably is that such parents, though church members, are utterly lost and just a breath removed from Hell.

2. What is our obligation towards our own people? The Apostle Paul set us a good example along this line. Read Romans 10:1 and 9:1-2. He simply says that such was his desire to see his own people, the Jews, saved that he would gladly have doomed his own soul to Hell if that could have accomplished the salvation of his people. He did everything in his power to reach the Jews, suffering hate and misrepresentation and abuse of every description.

We have an obligation to our own people, of our own locality and nation that we do not have toward anybody else. That is, our first obligation is to them. Some people have a glamorous conception of what they call “Foreign Missions.” They are terribly interested, so they think, in the heathen far away, but they would not speak a word to a heathen here at home for anything. We ought to be interested in foreign missions, but at the same time we should have even a greater interest in

the lost right at our doors.

3. What is our first obligation as a church? We are speaking now to church members particularly. The Great Commission was given by Jesus to the church He started. What does that Commission say? Read Matthew 28:19-20. The first thing commanded is to “teach” or disciple the people of all nations. To “disciple” is to make a believer — a Christian. The command is not to amuse, feed, and entertain. It is not to promote some kind of a “program” — it is to give the gospel to the world. Mark states it, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” This comes absolutely *first*. 

Time Slips Away!

“What is the price of this book?” asked a man who had been dawdling for an hour in the front store of Benjamin Franklin’s newspaper establishment.

“One dollar,” replied the clerk.

“One dollar,” echoed the lounge, “can’t you take less than that?”

“One dollar is the price,” was the answer.

The would-be purchaser looked over the books on sale awhile longer, then inquired: “Is Mr. Franklin in?”

“Yes,” said the clerk, “but he is very busy in the press-room.”

“Well, I want to see him,” persisted the man.

The proprietor was called, and the stranger asked, “What is the lowest, Mr. Franklin, that you can take for this book?”

“One dollar and a quarter,” was the answer.

“One dollar and a quarter! Why, your clerk asked me only a dollar a few moments ago.”

“True,” said Franklin, “and I could have afforded to take a

dollar rather than to leave my work.”

The man seemed surprised but wishing to end a parley of his own seeking he demanded: “Well, come now, tell me your lowest price for this book.”

“One dollar and a half,” replied Franklin.

Why, you yourself offered it for a dollar and a quarter just a moment ago.”

“Yes,” responded Franklin, “and I could better have taken that price than a dollar and a half now. Time is money!”

The man silently laid the money on the counter, took his book and left the store, having received an impressive lesson from a master in the art of translating time into either wealth or wisdom.

Oh, that we would learn that lesson in the service of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. If we could only learn the value of time we would pray like Moses did in Psalm 90:12, “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

Time is another of those precious commodities of life involved in being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We must give of it just as we do of our money and talent. Every moment of our day we should think of ways we can invest it in the service of our Master. We would do well to think like the author of this poem concerning time.

I have only just a minute,
Only sixty seconds in it,
Forced upon me;
Can’t refuse it;
Didn’t seek it;
Didn’t choose it;
But it’s up to me to use it;
I must suffer if I loose it
Give account if I abuse it;
Just a tiny little minute —
But eternity is in it.

(See **TIME** on page 18)

lar religious events.”

* * *

A Victory For Religion In Alaska Rent Case. Three Alaskan landlords who refuse to rent to unmarried couples based on religious beliefs are protected by the First Amendment, a federal judge ruled. U.S. District Judge H. Russell Holland said city and state laws forbidding rent discrimination based on marital status are unconstitutional ... The opinion makes moot a 1994 state Supreme Court decision in a similar case that found in the renters' favor ... A 1990 U.S. Supreme Court ruling said laws that apply broadly and are neutral toward religion are not unconstitutional just because they may infringe on the religious beliefs of some people. But in 1993, Congress sought to overcome the 1990 ruling by passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The act gives more weight to claims that actions taken by the government sometimes improperly restrict religious freedom.

* * *

Court Approves Graduation Prayers. The Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled January 16 that invocations and benedictions at graduation ceremonies are constitutional. The ruling affirms a lower court decision that prayers given at the Indiana University exercises are legal because attendees are not coerced into participating. “The invocations and benediction,” the court ruled, “serve legitimate secular purposes of solemnizing public occasions rather than approving particu-

O’Hair’s Organizations Lose Tax-exempt Status. The IRS has stripped the tax-exempt status of the Society of Separationists and the Stevens American Atheist Library, two of the five non-profit organizations founded by Madalyn Murray O’Hair, for tax code violations. O’Hair has been missing since September 1995. In addition, the IRS on February 18 seized the \$231,000 Austin, Texas, home of O’Hair to pay back taxes.

* * *

House Affirms Ten Commandments Display. The U.S. House of Representatives has thrown its weight behind a controversial bid by an Alabama judge to keep a display of the Ten Commandments on a courtroom wall. The House voted 295-125 on March 5 to approve a resolution supporting Etowah County Judge Roy Moore’s display of the Ten Commandments. The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit two years ago to stop the Gadsden, Ala., judge from opening court sessions with a prayer by a local Christian minister and from displaying the commandments. The nonbinding resolution expresses the “sense” of the House that the Ten Commandments are a declaration of fundamental principles that are the cornerstones of society and “the public display, including the display in government offices and courthouses, of the Ten Commandments should be

permitted.” Supporters of the resolution say there is no difference in Moore’s display of the Ten Commandments and a display of the same commandments in the U.S. Supreme Court.

* * *

“Ellen” to Air Homosexuality. “Ellen” will air her homosexuality April 30, according to a March 3 announcement by ABC — a Walt Disney Company subsidiary. The sitcom will make TV history by featuring the first openly homosexual lead character. One media observer, Bob DeMoss, noted that “since the Disney company owns ABC and ABC owns the prime-time sitcom ‘Ellen,’ this was ultimately a decision that went to the top of Disney.” DeMoss issues a weekly fax report, “Entertainment Today,” from Nashville, Tenn. According to media reports of the script, bookstore owner Ellen Morgan, played by comedian Ellen DeGeneres, will voice her homosexuality to a therapist played by Oprah Winfrey of TV talk show fame. One of the sitcom’s sponsors, Mazda, is on record as saying it would temporarily cease advertising on the show if Ellen declares herself to be a homosexual, according to *Advertising age*.

* * *

Abortion Expert Lied. Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers which represents some 200 independently owned abortion businesses, in a February 25 interview said he

“lied through his teeth” when he said on *Nightline* that partial-birth abortions are rare and confined to serious threats to mother and fetus. He knew at the time that thousands of such abortions are done each year, most on healthy mothers and babies. He now says telling the lies made him “physically ill.” He said he lied because he feared the truth would damage the abortion rights cause. President Clinton’s veto of a bill to ban partial-birth abortions, the brutal stabbing of a 90%-born baby in the birth canal, was predicated on a lie. — CC

* * *

Tobacco & Booze. Tobacco products kill over 400,000 people each year. That’s more than the combined deaths due to AIDS, car accidents, alcohol, homicide, illegal drugs, suicide and fires (1/6 *US N&WR*). Tobacco causes approximately 115,000 “spontaneous abortions” every year. If it doesn’t get the fetus in the womb, it may get the baby in the crib. Maternal smoking alone is responsible for an estimated 1,200 to 2,200 deaths each year from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Meanwhile, alcohol is the leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24. They die in alcohol related car crashes, drownings, fires, homicides, and suicides. — CC

* * *

Church of Rome Now A Marxist Church? A new book by Wilson Ewin, *The Chilling Significance of Pope John Paul’s Oct. 22 Address*, says:

"The Church of Rome is now a Marxist Church. Before many, it still proclaims there is a God; before others, however, it is building a close association with global atheists." This 32-page booklet discusses evolution, the pillar of atheism, and the one world church. Send \$2.50 + postage to: Ewin Publications, P. O. Box 180, Norton, VT 05907.

* * *

Abortion Advocates' Newest Scam. Sensing perhaps that their decades-long denial of the humanity of unborn children is rapidly being undermined by advances in ultrasound technology, leading abortion enthusiasts have turned to academia for a new legal theory — abortion as self-defense — to protect their cherished right. This theory, reported in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, is developed in the new book *Breaking Abortion Deadlock: From Choice to Consent*, by political science professor Eileen McDonagh. This professor concedes the humanity of the unborn child, just as a homeowner concedes the humanity of a thief in the night but shoots him dead. And that's her chilling argument: "[E]ven in a medically normal pregnancy, the fetus massively intrudes on a woman's body and expropriates her liberty. If the woman does not consent to this transformation and use of her body, the fetus's imposition constitutes injuries sufficient to justify the use of deadly force to stop it." ... Prof. McDonagh's book is published by Oxford University Press; it includes

dustjacket blurbs of praise from NOW president Patricia Ireland ("required reading") and feminist abortion crusader Eleanor Smeal ("a powerful, new, women-centered framework for abortion rights"). — EDITOR'S COMMENTS: There seems to be no limit to which the advocates of abortion will go to market their views and to continue their murderous practices. After decades of denying that the fetus is a real, live human being, this book does give assent to this already obvious fact. However, to hear them now advocate that "the use of deadly force" is "justifiable" is bone-chilling. The twisted minds who dream up such advocacy are barbaric, inhumane and perverted. — The Sword of the Lord.

* * *

NIV To God "Gender-Neutral"? Susan Olasky in the 3/29 *World* said: "*The New International Version* of the Bible — the best-selling English version in the world — is quietly going 'gender-neutral.' Say goodbye to the generic *he, man, brothers, or mankind*. Make way for *people, person, brother and sister, and humankind*." She said by the year 2000 or 2001, if the 15-member Committee for Biblical Translation — the NIV's controlling body — has its way, the 35 percent of American Bible buyers who prefer the NIV will not be able to buy a new copy. But publisher Zondervan may choose to put out two separate versions as it does in England. The CBT wants there to be just an inclusive language edition here. Pressure for unisex lan-

guage came from women who "felt left out" by traditional language, and from NIV publishers. Olasky said this fits with the trend toward egalitarianism — the denial of any distinctions between men and women, and that women should be pastors and co-heads of families. Pro-abortion feminist Virginia Mollenkott, "a practicing lesbian who promotes adultery and repudiates the Christian faith" (11/25 CN), was a consultant for the NIV translating committee. —CC

* * *

Arguments Heard in Texas Church-State Case. A religious freedom dispute over the expansion plans of a Texas church triggered a broad debate over the powers of Congress before the Supreme Court. St. Peter's Church in Boerne wants to triple the size of its building, but the city invoked historic preservation laws to halt the plan. The church went to court, citing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a law passed by Congress in 1993 that makes it

harder for government at all levels to take actions that restrict religious practices. A ruling is due by July. [EDITOR'S COMMENTS: Whatever the judgment of the Supreme Court, this case is likely to have a far-reaching impact. If the court finds in favor of the city, it will strengthen the grasp of jurisdictions wanting to bring controls upon churches. If they rule in the church's favor, it will lessen the powers of state over religious matters. The constitutional protection of the First Amendment has been seriously eroded over time. The 1993 law restored some of what had been lost. This case will affect all of us, whichever way it goes.] — The Sword of the Lord.

* * *

Restrictions Or Regulations? In general, the anti-abortion side has lost the language war. One-day waiting periods for

(See WNR on page 14)

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

WNR...

(Continued from page 13)

an abortion are always "restrictions," unlike three-day waiting periods for guns, which are merely "regulations." — U.S. N&WR.

* * *

What Is America's Greatest Debt? [America] must be submissive to God's will ... This country will never again be healthy if we don't have the courage to confront the spiritual and cultural and moral deficit that is an even greater threat to our future than our economic deficit. — House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

* * *

What "Gene"ology? "There is no 'gay' gene, any more than there is an 'adultery' gene, a 'pornography addiction' gene, a 'premarital sex' gene, a 'greed' gene, or a 'theft' gene." — The Advocate

BIBLE...

(Continued from page 5)

Methodist Church) where they could maintain their handful of fundamentalist doctrines. A union took place between conservative Presbyterians and Congregationalists and the "Bible Church" movement was born.

These "Bible Churches" presented a collage of Presbyterian, Congregational, and interdenominational principles. This mongrelization of doctrines produced a movement that seemed to have something for everyone. Baptists could identify with salvation by grace through faith, the independence of local congregations, and baptism of believers only. Presbyterians could appreciate lay-

elder boards and the Calvinistic leanings of many of the "Bible Churches." Methodists could feel comfortable with the Arminianism of some of the "Bible Churches." People of various religious backgrounds were happy with such ideas as optional baptism and open communion. The universal/invisible church theory pleased all Protestants as did a revisionist Protestant view of church history. Hence, we will maintain, the "Bible Church" movement represents the culmination of an effort spanning 18 centuries to form a "Christian" church without obeying the requirements of the New Testament. As we shall see, most "Bible Churches" wear the name falsely, and are a clear and present danger to pure New Testament Christianity.

What Is A Real Bible Church?

Most of the organizations that call themselves "Bible Churches" are actually counterfeits of the true Bible church movement which Jesus started almost 2,000 years ago. A real Bible church is one that believes and obeys what Jesus Christ taught by His own mouth and through His apostles. In addition to the "fundamentals" of Bibliology, Christology, and Eschatology, a real Bible church holds to the fundamentals of Biblical Ecclesiology, some of these being, (1) That a church is a local, visible, assembly of baptized believers in Christ, associated together to obey all that He has commanded. (2) That believer's baptism by the authority of a scriptural church is required for church membership. (3) That the scriptural officers of a church are pastors and deacons. (4) That the Lord's Supper is to be restricted to the members of the church observing the supper, as practiced by the Lord of the table Himself

when He first gave that ordinance. (5) That the church (see #1 above) is the body of Christ, with Jesus Christ Himself as its Head and Lawgiver, the churches being executive, not legislative. (6) That the government of the church is congregational, not denominational or hierarchical from without, nor corporational (board-run) from within. (7) That each church is independent and autonomous of all outside organizations in matters of religion.

The above-listed principles are the biblical principles that Baptists alone have historically maintained since the time of Christ's earthly ministry until this present day. They are easily proven from the Scriptures, although we cannot take space here to do so. We invite any and all doubters to a calm and rational discussion of these issues, and have no fear of being able to provide all the proof necessary for honest men in search of the truth.

To reject any of the above-listed principles is to reject the inspired record of Jesus Christ and His apostles. How can any group seriously claim to be a Christian church while willfully disbelieving and disobeying Christ in these matters? A true Bible church believes and obeys the Bible. We maintain that true Baptist churches are true Bible churches.

Rejection of the Bible Doctrines By "Bible Churches"

As we have said above, a true Bible church believes and obeys the Bible. We will readily concede that most "Bible Churches" are peopled, for the most part, by saved individuals. We will further concede that most "Bible Churches" hold to, and teach, a number of truths from the Bible. But at the same time most "Bible Churches" reject Biblical truth in the area of

Ecclesiology. How can a group of people claim to be a "Bible Church" and yet reject Bible truth about the church? Is this at all consistent? Still, all over America, and indeed, throughout the world, are these "Bible Churches" that willfully deny and disobey New Testament church doctrine, and teach for Bible doctrines the commandments and opinions of men.

Earlier in this article we gave a list of some of the fundamental principles of Ecclesiology. Let us take them one by one and see how well the "Bible Churches" hold to Bible truth concerning the church.

1. *A church is a local, visible assembly of baptized believers in Christ, who have associated themselves together to obey all that Christ has commanded.*

Most "Bible Churches" hold to the universal/invisible church theory, which is a Protestant invention and foreign to the New Testament. To believe that the "church" is composed of all believers in this dispensation is to confuse the church of Christ with the family of God. The Greek word from which the word "church" is translated, and the words used to describe a church (such as body and temple) all speak of something that is local and visible in its reality. Almost all of those churches that claim to be "Bible Churches" cannot even define the word "church" in scriptural terms.

2. *Believer's baptism by the authority of a scriptural church is required for church membership.*

Here is where "Bible Churches" divide. Some do not require baptism for church membership, even though the people who were saved on the day of Pentecost were added to the

(See **BIBLE** on page 15)

BIBLE...

(Continued from page 14)

church only upon their baptism. Nor does the command of Christ to baptize move these "Bible Churches."

Many of the "Bible Churches" do require baptism for church membership and immerse believers only. But while they may perform the right act upon the right candidate, where is their authority to perform it at all? A movement that is less than 100 years old cannot have been commissioned by Jesus Christ. Jesus commissioned the church He started to baptize, and that church passed the commission down to the true churches of Christ from generation to generation. In their search for authority, the "Bible Churches" must go back to the Presbyterians and Congregationalists, and from the to the Anglican Church, and from them to the Roman Catholic Church. None of these "parent" churches are New Testament churches, and therefore, do not possess the authority to baptize.

Since only a true church can perform scriptural baptism, from what true church do these "Bible Churches" descend? When those of the "Bible Church" movement put their hand to baptism, or any other element of the Great Commission, they usurp the work and authority of the true churches of Christ.

3. *The scriptural officers of a church are pastors and deacons.*

Again, the "Bible Churches" are divided on this issue. Many of them have what they call a "lay-elder" board, as anti-scriptural a notion as anyone ever had. In the New Testament the office of elder was identical to that of pastor. Hence, Paul instructed Titus "to ordain elders in every city."

Scriptural elders are not laymen, but ordained officers of the churches.

Some of the "Bible Churches" do have pastors and deacons. But how can church officers exist in the absence of a scriptural church? Since the "Bible Church" movement was not started by Jesus Christ, but by men, and its "churches" have no authority to baptize, they are no churches at all in the Biblical sense. So they have no authority to ordain to the ministry of the deaconate.

4. *The Lord's Supper is to be restricted to the members of the church observing the Supper.*

Those of the "Bible Church" movement uniformly practice open communion. This writer knows of none that do not, yet, when Jesus observed the first Lord's Supper with His assembled church, there were none present who were not members. Further, the fact that the Lord's Supper is involved in church discipline (1 Cor. 5) demands that it be restricted to church members. We dare not extend the supper beyond the limits of our discipline.

Now some would object, saying, "You are taking away the right of some Christians to commune with the Lord." To this we would answer: First, no one has a right to the Lord's Supper. It is a privilege to partake. Second, it is the Lord of the table who has set the restrictions. Jesus placed His table inside the church. Therefore, one must be in the church to partake properly.

5. *The church is the body of Christ, with Christ Himself as its Head and only Lawgiver, the churches being executive, not legislative.*

Here is where the "Bible Church" movement really derails. They will all profess that the church is the body of Christ, and that Christ is its Head., But

they, without exception to this writer's knowledge, hold to the universal/invisible church theory. So to them the church is composed of all the saved during this dispensation, living and dead. This "Church" being equal to the body of Christ, the "Bible Churches" therefore maintain that the body of Christ is a mystic organism with Christ as its mystic Head in Heaven, while the mystic body is on earth and also in Heaven. That this flies in the face of the definition of the word "church" (*ecclesia* — a called out assembly) and the idea of a body (a visible, tangible thing) is obvious. It would be laughable were it not for the fact that those in the "Bible Church" movement seriously and sincerely believe it.

If we define a church as a local, visible body (in the organizational sense, not an organism) with Jesus Christ as its Head (again, organizationally), we have a scriptural definition that makes clear sense. We also have a definition that fits the words "church" and "body."

When we say that the churches are to be executive, not legislative, we mean this: That a church exists to carry out the commands of Jesus Christ as He gave them, not to make new commands nor repeal old ones. Consider that the "Bible Churches" have made new commands and repealed old ones concerning baptism, the Lord's Supper, and church government. We must conclude that those "Bible Churches," which apparently cannot either properly define nor operate a scriptural church, must not themselves be scriptural churches.

6. *The government of a church is congregational, not denominational, hierarchical, or business-style corporational.*

Again, we have a situation where the "Bible Churches" fol-

low no standard rule. Many of them profess to have a congregational government, while some are in a quasi-denominational set up (like the IFCA). We know of none in a hierarchical situation.

What is true is that many of the "Bible Churches" that profess to have a congregational government are actually governed by a board. The "board" approves church programs and budget items, and church discipline is always taken up by "the board."

The New Testament knows nothing of church boards, official boards, elder boards, or even deacon boards. The churches of Jesus Christ are to operate on democratic, not business-corporational principles.

7. *Each church is independent and autonomous.*

Here is where most, if not all "Bible Churches" do fit the New Testament pattern. To the best of our knowledge, all "Bible Churches" are independent and autonomous. We know of none that are not so.

An Assessment

Now let us assess the situation of the "Bible Churches" as concerns Ecclesiology. Certainly a New Testament church should be strong in the doctrine of the Church — that which the Bible says about what a church is and how it should operate. We would be charitable to say that some (a minority) of the "Bible Churches" are correct in their practice of a few of the seven principles we have listed, even though they would lack Biblical authority for these.

Ask yourself: Would you allow a surgeon to perform major surgery on your body if you knew that, while he was in medi-

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BIBLE...

(Continued from page 15)

cal college, he scored 43% or less on his final exam in anatomy? Then why would you join a "church" that does no better in Ecclesiology? Why would a Baptist church have church fellowship with an organization that could not be a New Testament church? Why invite their speakers to our pulpits, attend their conferences, and link with them in what we call the work Jesus Christ gave to His churches? Why support their missionaries with Baptist money to start unbiblical churches, while Baptist missionaries go begging for support? Why receive their instruction on what a church is and how it should operate?

The Danger "Bible Churches" Pose To Baptists

As we have said, the "Bible Churches" pose a clear and present danger to the Baptist churches, even more so than the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. This is because of the doctrinal orthodoxy of the "Bible Churches" in many areas which lulls Baptists into a compromise with their doctrinal errors in Ecclesiology. The Roman Catholics and Protestants are so different from Baptists that it is easy for us to spot their errors and avoid them. But here are the "Bible Churches" preaching the same gospel we do, taking the same stand on morality and being in their sentiments closer to Baptists than any other religious group. In our desire for respectability and fellowship it becomes easy to overlook the differences and allow them to influence our churches, diluting our pure New Testament Baptist doctrine with their Protestant/inter-denominational mixture.

What is the effect that "Bible Churches" have on Baptist churches? Consider that, within a half-hour's drive of where this is being written, there are Baptist churches that practice open communion, accept alien immersions, are board-run, and have adopted the universal/invisible church heresy. One has a pastor who believes that baptism is not necessary for church membership. Another has installed a "Bible Church" minister as their pastor. Will he teach sound, New Testament doctrine, or the interdenominational viewpoint of the "Bible Church" movement? Still another Baptist church, when it came time to ordain their pastor, assembled an interdenominational ordination council. Many of the Baptist churches in Pennsylvania have pastors who have adopted the Protestant viewpoint of church history. How shall they teach Baptist church members about their unique heritage?

Now consider that many of our Baptist churches in Pennsylvania have come under the influence of such schools as Lancaster Bible College, Philadelphia Bible College, Bob Jones University, Practical Bible Training School, and some professing Baptist colleges whose faculty members have a "Bible Church" interdenominational mindset. Is it any wonder that our Baptist churches are weak in distinctive Baptist principles? Is it hard to understand why many of our Baptist church members, and too many of our pastors, have no idea of what it means to be a Baptist? As "Bible Church" men are invited to speak in Baptist churches and fellowships, they will have a telling influence on the thought of our pastors and church members.

Now there are some who would say that, if our Baptist principles are so strong and so

right, the influence of the "Bible Churches" will be of no harm. But they have forgotten two very important truths: (1) Error has nothing of value to yield to truth. When truth and error mingle, it is always truth that compromises. (2) Man has a natural tendency toward error, and that tendency is as present in Baptists as in any other group of people. We must be careful to constantly reaffirm our New Testament doctrines in our pastors and people. Should our people be exposed to "Bible Church" doctrine? Yes. But the emphasis should be placed on how that doctrine contrasts with the New Testament so as to maintain the differences between the "Bible Churches" and Baptist churches, lest we lapse into their errors.

Baptists have prospered

most when our doctrines and practices have been jealously guarded and when we have maintained an ecclesiastical separation between the true churches of Christ and the religious societies of men. Whenever Baptists have assayed to mingle with any other religion, the result has been apostasy.

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(See postage rates on page 16)

PENT...

(Continued from page 7)

world-wide commission was given to the church before Pentecost (Mt. 28:18-20). If there was no church then, the church has neither commission nor authority now.

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was set in the church, but set in before Pentecost.

2. The Kingdom Not Established On Pentecost.

The kingdom of heaven is the spiritual realm in which Christ is King and all believers on earth are subjects. It has existed from the days of John the Baptist (Mt. 11:12).

The disciples asked Jesus who is (not who will be) greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus answered, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child the same is (present tense) greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus told Pilate that He was a King. He couldn't be a king without a kingdom. His kingdom was not of this world but was in the world and began when He began His ministry and not on Pentecost.

The Pharisees demanded of Jesus when the kingdom should come (Lk. 17:20). He answered, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation (outward show) ... the kingdom is within (among) you." It was present then and Peter, James and John were permitted to see Him as He stood transfigured in His kingdom glory.

3. The Way of Salvation Not Changed On Pentecost.

The way of salvation has never been changed. Since the plan was conceived in the mind of God and determined in the everlasting covenant between

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost in eternity. It has remained the same. Man's only hope of redemption has ever been and shall ever be in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and the atonement made by Him. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission. "Christ is *the way, the truth and the life*; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." This is forever truth.

Men in Old Testament days beheld through prophecies, types and shadows the substitutional sacrifice of God's Lamb on Calvary and believed and lived — saved by grace through faith.

Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness. His justification before God was by faith.

The thief on the cross who was wholly without merit of any kind and utterly unable to obtain personal merit by any means for he could not be baptized, join the church or do good works, he was nailed to a cross. Neither could he reform and promise to do better in the future, for he was dying. His only hope was in unmerited favor — grace. So he trusted and called upon Jesus and received the promise from the lips of the dying Christ that this day he should be with Christ in Paradise.


Jesus said to the sinful woman who washed His feet with her tears, "Thy faith hath saved thee." He also said to Nicodemus, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." This statement was not given for the interim of a few months and to be abrogated on Pentecost. Paul reiterated the same truth long after Pentecost when he said, "For by grace are ye saved through faith." Salvation was by grace through faith be-

fore Pentecost, after Pentecost, and at Pentecost.

Acts 2:38 does not change God's plan. It will not suffice to say the word "for" in this verse means "in order to," thereby making baptism "in order to" or essential to the remission of sins. The Greek word "*eis*" is translated "for" in the King James version and in this connection means beyond question "in reference to" or "because of." The word "*eis*" here means exactly what it does in Mark 1:4 where He says, "John ... preached the baptism of repentance '*eis*' (for or unto) the remission of sins." If "*eis*" means "because of" here then it means the same on Pentecost and the plan was not changed there.

The meaning of "*eis*" is clearly revealed in Matthew 3:11 where John said, "I indeed baptize you in water unto (*eis*) repentance." Surely no one would claim that "*eis*" or "unto" here would mean "in order to" and that John meant that people were baptized "in order to" repent. It is clear that the meaning of "because of" repentance. The meaning is also revealed in Mark 1:44. Jesus had healed a leper and after the leprosy had departed from the man, told him to go and show himself to the priest and offer "for (*eis*) thy cleansing." Here "*eis*" (or for) could not mean "in order to" for the leper had already been healed. The word "*eis*" (for) had to mean "because of" and that is what it means in Acts 2:38 and there was no change in God's plan of salvation on Pentecost.

There will be no groups in Paradise claiming different ways of salvation. When John had a look on Paradise, he heard the saints singing one song about Jesus, and they sang, "For thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God *by thy* Blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation." Again as

John looked upon the white robed throng, the elder by his side said, "these have washed their robes and made them white," but he did not say in pool or pond or stream, but he said, "in the blood of the Lamb." Not a soul in Paradise attributes his salvation to water, works or wisdom, but all to the blood of Christ. 

HAM...

(Continued from page 1)

verse with its systems within systems and its worlds without number can just happen into existence surely it is not too much to expect a small watch to just happen. We have indulged in the folly of the fool.

Reasonable Conclusion

The automobile is the product of intelligent, thorough designing and is itself proof of the existence of a designer.

I stand on the seashore and watch the water as it evaporates, is carried over the land, comes in contact with a current of cold air, is condensed and falls as rain, watering the earth and flowing through the brooks, creeks, and rivers back to the ocean again. I ask the infidel to explain and he says, "Oh, it just happened." No, there's an intelligence back of it all.

"The invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made" (Rom. 1:20).

Nature proves the existence of a God. Go out on a snowy day and examine the snowflakes with a microscope. No centerpiece was ever more beautiful in its design and structure, all of them symmetrically similar and yet no two alike. Go into the forests and examine all the

(See **HAM** on page 22)

BOOK REVIEW:

Carroll's Wonderful Book On The Church

Many of our readers are familiar with the name of that great Baptist scholar of years gone by, B. H. Carroll. Bro. Carroll was undoubtedly among the greatest all-around scholar that ever arose from among Baptists. To say that Bro. Carroll was a learned man is to put it mildly. He not only knew God's Word, but he averaged reading 250 pages of literature a day for 48 years! He was not only a learned man, he was also an orator, teacher, preacher, theologian, debater, and writer. J. B. Cranfill described him as being "a very giant among his fellows."

For almost thirty years he pastored with faithfulness the First Baptist Church of Waco, Texas. He was the founder and first president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was the author of several books, some of which are "The Holy Spirit," and "An Interpretation of the English Bible" (17 volumes). Among his other books were "Christ And His Church," "Evangelistic Sermons," and "Baptists And Their Doctrines."

But one of the most helpful, and yet one of the smallest, of Bro. Carroll's works was his book entitled, "Ecclesia — The Church." This book consisted of two lengthy lectures delivered to his students. Bro. Carroll added an appendix to the lectures which consisted of:

(1) Quotations from Classic Greek illustrating the meaning of the word *ecclesia*.

(2) Usage of the word *ecclesia* in the Septuagint.


(3) Usage of the word *ecclesia* in the Apocrypha.

(4) Usage of the word *ecclesia* in the New Testament.

Bro. Carroll quotes every single passage in which the word *ecclesia* appears in the Septuagint, Apocrypha, and the New Testament. This in itself is worth the price of the book many times.

Because this book is so simple, yet unsurpassed in scholarship, we feel that it will be greatly used of the Lord to properly indoctrinate His people as to the truth of the church.

The popular theory among religionists today is that the church is universal and invisible. Well, after reading Bro. Carroll's arguments, one would certainly have to be a slave to theory in order to continue to believe such an unscriptural, heretical idea as to the doctrine of the church. Bro. Carroll's presentation certainly demolishes the theory. This booklet has stood unanswered by the "Scofieldites" and all other universal church heretics since its first appearance. This book to a host of God's people will be as "cold water to a thirsty soul."

This book may be secured from the Challenge Press for \$2.50 plus postage and handling. 

A Parable For Our Times

Once upon a time there was a church staff looking for teachers for their young people, children and preschoolers for the new Sunday school year.

Some adults said, "I don't want to leave the sweet fellowship and study in my adult class." (But the drug pusher on the street said, "Not even the threat of jail will keep me from working with your children.")

Some adults said, "We have to be out of town too often on the weekend." (But the porno book dealer said, "We're willing to stay in town weekends too, to accommodate your children.")

Some adults said, "I'm unsuited, untrained and unable to work with children or preschoolers." (But the movie producer said, "We'll study, survey and spend millions to produce whatever turns kids on.")

Some adults said, "I could never give the time required to plan and go to teachers' meetings." (But the pusher, the porno book dealer and the movie producer said, "We'll stay open whatever hours are necessary every day to win the minds of the kids.")

So the adults stayed in their classes and enjoyed the sweet fellowship and absorbed the good Bible study. They could go out of town often on weekends and were available to do whatever was good to do on Wednesday nights instead of going to teachers' meetings.

When Sunday came, the children came to their classes, and no one was there except the church staff going from one room to another trying to assure them that someone would surely come to teach them some Sunday soon. No one ever

came, and the young children and preschoolers soon quit coming. — Copied.

TIME...

(Continued from page 11)

Dr. Walter Wilson decided to keep a minute record of how he passed each minute of the day. He was appalled at the hideous waste of time.


We are all disgusted with how our government officials waste money, but the judgment seat of Christ, we shall all give an account of *ourselves*, and what we did with the days that shall never be repeated, never be replaced, forever and ever.

Time Slips Away — It's never held; it's never kept; it never ceases; it only vanishes, moment by moment.

Time Slips Away — Memories are formed; memories are written; memories to recall; memories to cherish, moment by moment.

Time Slips Away — Wasted opportunities; thoughtless living; searching and longing; moment by moment.

Time Slips Away — Inevitable parting, returning to dust, moment by moment.

Time Slips Away — nearing eternity, moment by moment. An account is given, for time that slipped away **Moment By Moment.** 

Thy Will

No service in itself is small;
None great, though earth it fill;
But that is small that seeks its own,
And great that seeks God's will.

Then hold my hand, most gracious God;
Guide all my going still;
And let it be my life's one aim,
To know and do Thy will.

Deputation Resumed For Work In Mexico

By M. L. Moser, Editor

After more than 50 years of mission work in Mexico, sponsored by the Central Baptist Church in Little Rock, the seminary in Cardenas, Tabasco is still active and growing.

Some time ago a letter was sent out from the Central Baptist Church stating that the seminary in Mexico was to be closed and asking contributing churches to cease sending in funds for the work. Most of the churches stopped contributing toward the support of the seminary. Though I opposed the closing of the seminary, the decision was made by the pastor to close it any way.

After Bro. Larry Jones became pastor of the Central Baptist Church, this was reversed, and the seminary has resumed its classes. Though the student body dropped to only five returning students, with no freshman class, this year of 1996-1997 has seen an increase in the freshman class. We now have 11 first-year students and a total of 16 young men studying for the ministry. This, of course, increases the cost of operating the school. The monthly cost of operating the school is \$2,700 per month, and we are presently receiving only \$605 to assist us. For this reason, I have begun to visit churches in the interest of seeking support from churches interested in training and preparing these young men for the mission work in Old Mexico.

For those who do not know about the school, it is a five-year, full-time Bible school. Classes are held five days a week from 7:00 A.M. until afternoon, nine months of each year. We have a full-time faculty

teaching, and Bro. Ezekiel Sanchez is in charge of the school. Bro. Sanchez graduated from the seminary in 1967, and I taught him many of his classes.

I have just finished my first trip on deputation, lasting a little over one month. Churches visited included Friendship Baptist Church, Hurst, Texas, First Baptist Church, Leadville, Colorado for an English service, and Emmanuel Baptist Mission afterwards for a service in Spanish to a Spanish-speaking congregation; First Baptist Church, Hayden, Colorado; Mountain Side Baptist Church, Sandy, Utah; Anchor Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, Utah; and finally Rogers Independent Baptist Church, Rogers, Arkansas.

In addition, we attended three Bible Conferences: Independent Bible College, Dallas, TX.; Mesa View Baptist Church Conference, Grand Junction, Colorado; and Lincoln Baptist Church, Wichita, Kansas. We took the Challenge Press books along with us and placed them on tables at each of the churches, and the sale of these books will help us in the printing of new books that we have now ready to print but simply don't have the funds.

We will only be in Little Rock for a short time and will then be leaving again.

We would be interested in presenting the mission work to other churches as well, so if any of the churches that read The Baptist Challenge would be interested in having us visit them, simply write us at our Baptist Challenge address, and we will work out a visit to churches in your area. The Central Baptist Church has provided us a mo-

Dear Brethren,


Hershael York has joined the faculty at Southern Seminary in Louisville and led Ashland Ave. Baptist Church back into the Convention. Read this and weep. Sovereign Grace Landmarkers need to be informed of these moves by Bro. York.

Also joining the faculty under presidential appointment as associate professor of preaching is Hershael W. York, pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., since 1990. York holds two degrees from the University of Kentucky and two degrees from Mid-America Seminary, including the doctor of philosophy degree, awarded in 1993.

"Hershael is a gifted pulpiteer who both models and can teach expository preaching, which is a commitment that this administration is absolutely devoted to," Akin said.


"Hershael is one of the leading pastors in the state of Kentucky," Akin said. "He has demonstrated his tremendous commitment to Southern Baptists by bringing Ashland

tor home so that we will only need the churches to furnish us with an electrical hookup.

We urge each of our readers to remember this mission work in prayer. We have had over 150 preachers finish the seminary in Mexico and are preaching all over the country of Mexico, mostly in the southeastern section of Mexico where we had the privilege of organizing the first Baptist church ever organized in that section of the country in 1956. 

Former Great Church Joins Southern Baptist Convention


By David Pitman, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Avenue back into the Southern Baptist Convention." Although the church removed itself from the SBC in the 1970s due to theological concerns, Ashland Avenue renewed its SBC ties through Cooperative Program gifts last year. 

Two Oklahoma Preachers Now With the Lord

Bro. Jarrel E. Huffman of Duncan, Oklahoma and Bro. Ben Shipley of Edmond, Oklahoma died less than 24 hours apart, both from heart attacks. The Huffman funeral was held at 10:00 A.M. in Duncan, Okla., and the Shipley funeral was held at 2:00 P.M. in Edmond, Okla., on May 2nd.

I was unable to attend the Huffman funeral, but was able to attend the Shipley funeral. The Edmond Road Baptist Church was packed with hundreds in attendance, with preachers standing alongside one wall all the way from the front to the rear; the vestibule was packed, and many standing in the Fellowship Hall, unable to even get close. Unable to count the number of preachers, it was estimated that over 100 preachers attended.

Bro. Richard Cantwell of Ft. Worth, TX and Bro. Raleigh Campbell of Dallas, TX officiated at the funeral. 

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STEWARD...


(Continued from page 10)

law, and what Jesus commended under grace we should be careful to practice today.

Tithing is not legally binding under grace, but it is morally obligatory. Certainly, a Christian who has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, because of gratitude for what Christ has done, will give more than a tithe, if at all possible. How can he possibly think of doing less under grace than what he would be compelled to do under law? Love should demand more. Proportionate giving is *the only answer, and the tithe will be the minimum*. A steward of God will not only give a tithe as a minimum, but he will obtain his income in a Christian manner and will spend the remaining nine tenths, or whatever is left, in such a way as to glorify God and His cause. The acquisition, use, and dissemination of wealth are of concern to the Lord. The Christian must give an account of what he does with his time, talents, money, and how he acts, reacts, and treats others.

Paul was independent about his own financial help by making tents to finance much of his missionary work; but he

said more than other New Testament writers about the basis for the support of the Christian ministries. He confessed that he had wronged the Corinthian church by not requiring them to give generously while he was establishing their church. He gave the argument that the ox should be permitted to eat the straw as he threshed the grain, the herdsman partakes of the milk of the flock, and the soldier receives support while fighting for a cause; therefore, the Christian ministry is entitled to the fruits of its labor (1 Cor. 9:8-11). Paul asked the church to lay aside a portion each week as the Lord prospered them, in view of his collection for the poor at Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:2). Paul could say, "And he that soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully, for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:6-7); and again, "My God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

William Colgate, the soap manufacturer, was urged by an old sea captain to make good soap, deliver an honest pound, and set aside a tenth of every dollar earned for God. Multitudes, known and unknown, have practiced the same with success. Just as many and more have been blessed of God because they were stewards of God. 

DURIK...

(Continued from page 3)

viewed as one who is an expert and would not have people entangled, entrapped and ensnared with doctrines, but would just evangelize. And this is thanks to his unique training, talents; tacts, traits, taste and tricks. Even the Catholic church can confidently and confiden-

tially participate and promote such a type of evangelism, having the assurance that their people who make decisions during the campaign would continue within their fold, family and fellowship. He is viewed as one who knows the short cut for people to get to heaven swiftly, smoothly and successfully without any sacrifice, strain, sweat and separation. In the first place, he was the one who convinced all the pastors to set aside all doctrines and enticed, excited, enthused and emotionalized them to sponsor a massive campaign to just evangelize unbelievers. With their "Let's Just Evangelize" they have not done justice to the gospel, to the Great Commission, where we are told to make disciples of all nations, and to teach and train them to observe and obey all things that Christ has ordered or commanded (Mt. 28:19-20).

However, in the massive evangelistic campaigns disciples are not being made but just decisions. The word "disciple" is practically extinct from Christians' and church's' vocabulary. The result of this modern type of evangelism is decisional regeneration, or more precisely diversional regeneration, instead of divine regeneration of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is replaced by Hollywood style, spirit, schemes and strategies. The Holy Spirit's ministry is replaced by Hollywood's manner, methodology, maneuverings, motivation and motives. Decisional regeneration is just as deceptive and detrimental as baptismal regeneration. This decisional regeneration is propagated along with diversional atmosphere and actions and the appearances of famous Christian popularities and preachers. People are supposedly evangelized as they are enticed, excited, enthused, emotionalized and entertained. Re-

generation revolves and rests on people's decision, desire, determination and diversion. People are viewed as capable of generating their regeneration by their own will, wish and way (Jn. 3:13). People are viewed as having the vigor, vitality, valor, virtue and volition to effect, establish, ensure, enjoy and experience their own salvation at their own time, tickling, tinkling, tricks, taste, tenets, tune and tone. After all, this is the American way of doing things personally, properly and popularly! People must have voice and vote and be able to even veto if it is not according to their likes and looks! That's what democracy is all about. People want even to be regenerated the democratic way instead of the divine way. Ministers are just to declare them saved and safe as they declare husband and wife after couple's public decision to marry one another. After all, the ministers have the magic, majestic, marvelous and miraculous powers and privileges to loose and to bind in such a way that God has to recognize, respect and receive their decisions and determinations.

Massive entertainment becomes easily and expediently a certain reality because entertainment in miniature form has been allowed, approved and accepted in individual churches. Massive entertainment is the result of pastors' choice to patronize, promote and participate. Having compromised and committed themselves to allow entertainment in their churches, they became vulnerable to massive entertainment. Moreover, fame and fortune are strong and subtle temptations; are appealing, attracting and alluring temptations. Pastors chose to participate and promote a famous international and interdenominational evangelist hoping that

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DURIK...


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somehow his fame and fortune would rub off on them also. They hope that his fame and fortune would be contagious enough for them to catch also and enough to enjoy. They would like to have the benefit of the kind of blessings that the evangelist has ensured himself of. Such blessings come to the degree they succeed to brown nose. Pastors will be striving to see who could beat and establish closer contact with the famous evangelist. The pastor who succeeds in using stronger adjectives and titles for the evangelist will definitely and decisively win the contest and the catch.

Every aspect of the modern massive evangelistic campaign is geared toward entertainment and amusement. Just record the different massive, majestic and magic adjectives that are going to be used to introduce the evangelist and the Christian TV stars to the masses and to the mass media and you will be amused, astonished, appalled and alarmed. A person will be shocked and surprised to know how much of God's people's money is going to be used just to display and dignify the name of the famous evangelist all over the city, on radio, TV, newspapers and billboards. Of course, there will be no room for the name "Jesus," unless it is secondary to the name of the famous and flamboyant evangelist. Just for what is spent to display and dignify the name of the evangelist quite a few churches could have enough Bibles and literature for evangelistic purposes for many months.

There is no question that more qualifying adjectives are being attributed and ascribed to the famous and flamboyant evangelist than to the Lord

Jesus Christ. Even during the campaign itself the evangelist and the carefully chosen Christian TV stars are going to receive more admiration, adoration, applaudings and acclamations than Jesus Himself. It is amazing and amusing how many standing ovations they will receive and all in the name of evangelism. In the name of evangelism they are actually the ones that are being exalted and extolled and not Jesus Christ. The name of Jesus is only used to enhance the fame and the fortune of the evangelist and of the popular Christian TV and movie stars. It will shock and surprise anyone just to know how much of God's people's money is used to pay for the exciting and entertaining performance of these famous Christian stars. No one in a sane mind would ever imagine Jesus or His apostles availing themselves of such stars, schemes and strategies.


However, this is the norm of the modern evangelistic massive campaigns. There is no question that with such entertainments and amusements in the name of evangelism, Satan is extremely amused and appeased. He accomplishes his mission. His mission impossible is made possible thoroughly and totally by massive evangelistic entertainment. He would rather see entertainment than real scriptural evangelism. No one in sane mind could ever deduce, declare and demonstrate biblically that in such type of campaigns people are saved scripturally and are born of the Word. Satan has his best and last laugh! As people are being entertained they don't sense and suspect that massive evangelism is nothing else but massive entertainment and embezzlement; massive fun, farce and fraud; massive tickling and thievery; massive diversion, deception and defrauding. 

BRAUN...

(Continued from page 2)

man eye? ...

"They [evolutionists] challenge science to prove the existence of God. But must we really light a candle to see the sun? ... They say they cannot visualize a Designer. Well, can a physicist visualize an electron? ... What strange rationale makes some physicists accept the inconceivable electron as real while refusing to accept the reality of a Designer on the ground that they cannot conceive Him? ...

"It is in the name of scientific honesty that I endorse the presentation of alternative theories for the origin of the universe, life and man in the science classroom. It would be an error to overlook the possibility that the universe was planned rather than happening by chance." — Sword of the Lord. 

UNIONIZE...

(Continued from page 2)

things that are not reasons for Baptist independency. These are reasons that in themselves collectively or individually would never justify Baptist opposition to unionized religious projects. Pride is not a legitimate reason. Fear is not a legitimate reason. Tradition is not a legitimate reason. Apathy is not a legitimate reason. Laziness is not a legitimate reason. I might add that enemies of the unique, Biblical position of Baptists have charged us, and will continue to charge us, with these crimes to distract from the truth of our convictions and commitments. That is regrettable but perhaps inevitable.

Let me now summarize some examples of *unionism*. The acceptance of alien immersion (that is any baptism admin-

istered without Scriptural warrant and worth) is an acceptance of the faith and order of false churches who immerse without Divine authority. Recognition of the leaders and teachers of false churches through pulpit exchange or public acknowledgment of them as ministers is a prime illustration of unionism. We should not recognize false prophets and preachers as being true. Nor should we grant our pulpits or our endorsements to religious leaders who may be orthodox in private but yet are affiliated and associated with heterodoxy in public and in practice. I believe it is wrong to accredit a man who is unwilling to break with known error concerning salvation and the church; it is an evil pragmatism that deludes us with suggestions that, "Well, he is such a good speaker!" or "He is only speaking on a specific subject." I know a man could be saved and yet be ignorant of church truth; he is my brother in Christ, but he is not to be recognized as a minister of Christ.

I believe it is wrong for us to preach in false churches or to preach with the endorsement of false churches. It is unethical and unwise; it is unscriptural. I can hear a reader now say, "I will preach wherever I am invited if I am free to preach what I want." It sounds plausible; I suppose I have thought that myself. Upon further reflection, I now reject the notion. For me to preach in a false church calls for implicit recognition of that group as a church. The audience will most likely not discern the difference

(See **UNIONIZE** on page 22)

**Some People Utilize
Welfare As More of A
Hammock Than A
Safety Net**

UNIONIZE...

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in theology; honest, explicit condemnations of the false church would close the door quickly. Better to stand outside a false church and preach to those who will hear than to endorse the pulpit of a false church by your presence. I can almost hear the murmuring and disputings of those who disagree with me on this stance. I do not take it lightly or carelessly.

I think it is wrong to yoke our churches and our ministries with baby baptizers and sacramentarians. I believe it is wrong to use the curriculum and literature of false churches as the official, endorsed curriculum and literature of our churches. Someone is crying now, "But in your library there are theology books by all kinds of men." To that I plead guilty. But I do not plan to use any of those books as textbooks in our church or school. Nor do I intend to invite any of those authors to preach in our pulpit if they do not preach and practice what we believe about salvation and church truth. I can also add that after twenty-five years in the ministry I have discovered that the content of good methods and materials, co-opted by false churches, is available from legitimate sources.

I do not belong to the local ministerial association. I do not attend their joint prayer meetings or their community sings or their ecumenical services. I understand the logic of the universal church men who promote ecumenism; their premise is wrong but their deductions are correct if you grant them their view of the church. I do not understand the logic of local church advocates who promote ecumenism. I suspect that they do not really believe that the church is *only* local. Perhaps it

is a misguided benevolence or philanthropy.

I do not desire to be misunderstood. I would hope it would be unnecessary to add that I believe in religious liberty; I am involved in my community as a citizen and as a resident. I have friendship and personal fellowship with many who disagree with my Biblical interpretations; but there is a difference between personal friendship and ecclesiastical endorsement. Many modern Baptists have lost or do not choose to exercise that discernment.

I have not yet given my reasons why Baptists do not unionize. I will list them briefly:

1. Unionism obscures the singularity and the exclusivity of the gospel. Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, crucified, buried and risen again for our justification. Baptismal regenerationists, decisional regenerationists and universalists preach a different gospel.

2. Unionism undermines the true church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth. The church is to keep the faith once delivered and to uphold that exclusive gospel of grace. Ecumenicity tears down that pillar and digs away the ground upon which we stand.

3. Unionism promotes relativism and opposes the assurance of absolute truth. It confuses saint and sinner alike by calling black white and by saying different things are the same.


4. Unionism builds a modern Tower of Babel that seeks to improve upon God's message and methods and is nothing more than blasphemy.

5. Unionism is born of a spirit of unbelief and doubt that God really does save and that God is sovereign and able to work all things after the counsel of His own will.

Baptists do not unionize. I believe my convictions are Biblical. I also know that true Baptists through the centuries have stood where I know stand. I am not worthy to be their successor. But some of us must speak up and speak out to warn young men and wavering men. Unionism is not the solution to our problems; it greatly aggravates our problems.

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction" (2 Pet. 2:1).

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4)

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. {8} Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. {9} Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. {10} If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: {11} For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2 Jn. 1:7-12). 

HAM...

(Continued from page 17)

leaves you will, and you will find no two of them exactly alike — no two on the same tree, even.

Light gives color to the herbage. Now go into an orchard and study the leaves on various trees and vines. All of them are arranged in spiral groups in such a manner that no one shades the other, and the tip of the first just reaches the stem of the last. The apple and cherry leaves are arranged in groups of five, the quince and raspberry in fours and the peach and pear in sixes. An ear of corn has always an even number of rows of grains and never an odd number. Brother, who counts all these? Surely there is an omnipotent God in it all.

In every realm of nature number and mathematical perfection play such fundamental and universal parts that the more the matter is studied the more absolute becomes the conviction that a creative mind is back of it all. In the decorative coverings of animals, hair, feathers and other materials, there is mathematical accuracy in the measurement of spaces, gradation of tints and adherence to design. As harmonies in music depend upon air vibrations properly related, so blending colors have the same fixed relations in the matter of ether vibrations. There is perfect symmetrical work among the ants and the bees, and no accident can account for the 12,000 hexagonal lenses in the compound eye of the dragon-fly. Some of you little two-carat infidels would instruct the world on the origin of creation yet don't know the number of eyes a common house-fly has.

There is one thermometrical

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HAM...

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There is one thermometrical average for the heat of blood in all quadrupeds and another 10 percent higher for birds in all climates. Perfect geometric proportion exists in every phase of crystallization. The ratio by which chemical changes occur and elements combine never varies by a single atom. Not only does number reign supreme in the operation of the tiniest mechanism subject to the law of gravitation, but out into the farthest reaches of astronomical observation, and we are forced to a deeper comprehension of Isaiah's words when he says: "Who hath comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales?" (Isa. 40:12).

How can anyone with a particle of intelligence step aside from such startling examples and seek to encourage doubt by queries as to the origin of Cain's wife? It should only arouse suspicion about him who is constantly inquiring about other men's wives.

The thoughtless might argue that music, the universal language, is produced in haphazard fashion. Because a baby sings of its own accord, because the birds break into carols in the wood, because melodies seem to spring unconsciously from the heart it might be regarded as purely spontaneous, unrestrained, bound by no limitations. Yet the opposite is true. No science is more absolute.

Strike middle C! Now when an instrument sounds the tone middle C just 264 air vibrations strike the ear each second. Now, strike the note an octave lower down! This note an octave lower throbs at a rate of just half that number of vibrations; while the note an octave above middle C sends out 528 pulses per sec-

ond. And on through all the intricacies of harmony perfect mathematical ratios exist with reference to vibrations, and the least departure from these absolute rules sounds dissonance. The tones of the human voice and the vibrations of the ear drum operate with the same mathematical precision.

A Conclusion

I find that by careful application man can reproduce the automobile and the steam engine; but he cannot reproduce the smallest production of nature, a leaf or a snowflake.

Man can build a printing press, a wonderful composite of intricate mechanism, but he cannot reproduce a system to bring down rain.

Man can make watches without number, but he cannot reproduce the great time-piece which hangs in the heavens.

And since the design not only reveals the existence of the designer but is also proof of his skill, the design which is impossible to man must be the product of an intelligence superior to man. And as man himself must have an origin we might as well reasonably conclude that the intelligence which is responsible for man is also responsible for the creation around him. Herbert Spencer may call it infinite and eternal energy but we call it infinite, eternal, intelligent energy and power — God!

The existence of God is an inbred conviction in man. Even the heathen realize that there is a supreme power or being.

As Plutarch says, and he was the greatest biographer of antiquity: "If you will take the pains to travel through the world, you will find towns and cities without walls, without letters, without kings, without houses, without wealth, without money, without theaters and

places of exercise; but there never was seen, nor shall be seen by man any city without temples and gods or without making use of prayers, oaths, divinations and sacrifices for the obtaining of blessings and benefits and the averting of calamities and curses. Nay, I am of the opinion that a city might better be built without any ground to fix it on than a commonwealth to be constituted altogether devoid of any religion and opinion of the gods or, being thus constituted, be preserved."

The hunger for God is as universal as the hunger for bread.

The instinct for worship is as universal as the instinct to eat. And it is a universal law that no creature has an instinct that is not responsive to an existing fact. When first born, the babe, the calf or the kitten instinctively seeks its nourishment. Nobody ever taught it. That instinct is responsive to the fact that the nourishment is there for it. By instinct the bird builds its nest, the bee constructs its honeycomb of marvelously accurate hexagonal cells.

Nobody ever taught them. Their instinct is responsive to the fact that the nest and the cells are necessary to the rearing of their young and the storing of their food. Does it not follow that man's instinct to worship is responsive to the fact that there is a being worthy of his worship and to whom he owes worship? It is just as easy to show that no other god man ever found or devised or conceived meets the requirements of a God worthy of worship as Jehovah does. No other has the necessary attributes.

Sir Isaac Newton had a friend who like himself was a great scientist; but he was an infidel, while Newton was a devout believer, and they often

locked horns over this question, though their mutual interest in science drew them much together.

Newton had a skillful mechanic make him a replica of our solar system in miniature. In the center was a large gilded ball representing the sun, and revolving around this were smaller balls fixed on the ends of arms of varying lengths, representing Mercury, the Earth, Mars, Venus, Uranus, Jupiter, Saturn, etc., in their proper order. These were so geared together by cogs and belts as to move in perfect harmony by the turning of a crank.

One day as Newton sat reading in his study with this mechanism on a large table near him, his infidel friend stepped in. He was scientist enough to recognize at a glance what was before him. Stepping up to it he slowly turned the crank and with undisguised admiration watched the heavenly bodies all move in their relative speed in their orbits. Standing off a few feet, he exclaimed, "My! What an exquisite thing that is! Who made it?"

Looking up now, Newton solemnly assured him that nobody made it, but that the aggregation of matter so much admired had just happened to assume the form it was in. But the astonished infidel replied with some heat: "You must think I'm a fool. Of course somebody made it, and he is a genius, and I'd like to know who he is."

Laying his book aside, Newton arose and laid a hand on his friend's shoulder and said: "This thing is but a puny imitation of a much grander system whose laws you and I know, and I am not able to convince you that this mere toy is without a designer and maker; yet you profess to believe that the great original from which

(See **HAM** on page 24)

LIBERAL, KS

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

* * *

SIoux FALLS, SD

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

* * *

FORT WORTH, TX

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

* * *

GRANITE BAY, CA

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

* * *

LITTLE ROCK, AR

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

* * *


GATESVILLE, TX

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

HAM...

(Continued from page 23)

without a designer and maker; yet you profess to believe that the great original from which

the design is taken has come into being without either designer or maker! Now, tell me by what sort of reasoning do you reach such incongruous conclusions?" The infidel was at once convinced and became a firm believer that "Jehovah, He is the God" (2 Ki. 18:39). 

MASON...

(Continued from page 1)

prefer — to die, or "pass on?")

What Is Wrong With Christian Science?

1. It has a "false front" — claiming to be "Christian Science when it violates everything that might be called "scientific."

2. It was human-founded — not divinely started.

3. It palms off a lot of "gobbledy gook," on people who want to think that they are up-to-date and "scientific."

4. It violates all ordinary use of language. Christian terms are used out of all Biblical sense. New content are put into the terms entirely.

5. It furnishes a false "key" to the Bible. One is supposed to read the Bible, with Mrs. Eddy's "key" in hand, so as to find out what it means. The implication is that God couldn't make himself plain — he has to have Mrs. Eddy to interpret what He says. According to that idea the world was left to grope in darkness until Mrs. Eddy came.

6. It denies reality, and makes us all victims of illusion. So many things are "errors of mortal mind" as they term it.

7. It is "science falsely so called" (1 Tim. 6:20).


8. It thrives through so-called cures. Although in reality denying the body, it thrives because people want healing for the very body whose reality is denied. We have seen sick

people who trusted to Christian Science, and they are today in the grave.

9. It violates the teachings of the Scriptures on almost all points. It even denied that Jesus came in the flesh, and thus is answered by this Scripture: 1 John 4:2-3. It denies God as a Person. Science and Health, p. 469 says, "What is mind? Mind is God." It denies the Trinity. Page 152 of the same book says, "The theory of three persons in one God, suggests heathen gods." And one could go on and on to discover that Mrs. Eddy and the Bible are in complete disagreement.

10. It is a revival of ancient Pantheism — the doctrine that God is all and all is God. A noted Hindu came to America, and being told about the new religion, Christian Science, he made some investigation, then said, "I recognized it as the same philosophy that had been taught my people for four thousand years ... it is the philosophy of nothingness. You are to view the world as nothing but a falsehood."

Christian Science Will Send Its Followers To Hell

Since it denies the reality of sin, it has no Savior from sin. People who follow off after it, follow a delusion. The Bible gives a very pertinent warning just here (Col. 2:8). As a rule Christian Science makes its gains from members of other religious groups, who are uninstructed and weak in the faith. Baptists and others who go off after it, know little about the Bible and little concerning their own church doctrines. All of the sweet talk about God being "love," and "light" and "truth" and such, sounds good to the unwary. Many will not wake up to their delusion until they wake up in torment — then it will be too late! 

FELLOWSHIPS AND CONFERENCES**WEST MILTON, OH**

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

* * *

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

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

* * *

RUSSELL, SPGS., KY

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

* * *

GARLAND, TX

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