

# The Berea Baptist Banner

"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth" Ps. 60:4

## One Thing Have I Desired

By Paul Stepp  
of Indore, West Virginia

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple" (Ps 27:4).

◊ (Continued on page 2)



## People Are Basically Good?

By Milburn R. Cockrell  
(1941 - 2002)

"For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue" (Ps. 5:9).

In these words the psalmist sets forth the

◊ (Continued on page 4)



## Attributes of Godly Mothers

By Matthew Stepp  
of Wayne, West Virginia

There is a great and precious opportunity for mothers to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Word of God, even in this dark age of modernism. America needs strong mothers that will bring the focus of child-rearing under the authority

◊ (Continued on page 15)



## Bible Prophecy and the Birth of Christ

By Frank B. Beck  
(1921 - 2007)

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold,



the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 1:18-20).

One of the greatest proofs that

◊ (Continued on page 8)

## Philippians 4:19

By Roy Mason  
(1894 - 1978)

I turn to Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, 4th chapter and 19th verse for our text, and it consists of these words: "**But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**" I use this text because I want to speak on human needs. My subject was suggested to me by something I saw on a church bulletin board some time ago. It was a statement something like this, "Every man needs God in his life, in his home, in his business." And then the statement came back to me over and over again, until I came to feel that I just had to speak on it. It states a human need, and my text tells us exactly who can supply that need.

Now let us take up that



statement and let us take a look at it very carefully. First, this statement, "every man needs God in his life." There

was never a truer statement made than that. That word "man" is used there in the generic sense to include both men and women. The meaning is that every person needs God in his life. Let me make it more definite and personal by saying that every person in my unseen audience right now needs God in his life. Now there are some things that are not universally needed. There are some things that I do not need, and I would not know what to do with if I had them. I do not need

◊ (Continued on page 18)

August 5, 2018  
Volume XXXVIII, Number 8

Whole Number 469  
Editor: Christopher Cockrell  
Staff: Sheron Cockrell, Marsha Kiser, Virginia Cockrell

THE BEREBA BAPTIST BANNER (UPS 546470) is published monthly for \$6.00 per year by the authority of the Berea Baptist Church, 3881 Highway 363, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855. Periodical Publication postage paid at Mantachie, Mississippi.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEREBA BAPTIST BANNER, P. O. Box 39, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855-0039.

PUBLICATION POLICIES: All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts are to be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of BBB and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication.

The publication of an article does not necessarily mean the editor is in complete agreement with the writer, nor does it mean he endorses all this person may have written on other subjects.

COPYING PRIVILEGES: Unless otherwise stated any article published in this paper may be copied by other publications, provided they give proper credit line stating that such was copied from this publication, and the date of publication; provided that such materials are not published for profit. If we are not on an exchange list with the publication copying, it is requested that a copy of the issue containing the article be sent to our address. All copyrighted materials may not be copied without written consent.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY with paid circulation in most states in the U.S.A. and some foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - U.S.

One year.....\$6.00  
Two years.....\$10.00  
Five years.....\$24.00

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - FOREIGN One Year \$45

PLANNING TO MOVE? Notify us three weeks in

advance. The post office will only forward periodical mail for 90 days. They charge us \$.70 for each "change of address" they have to send us. Please save us this expense and the post office time.

BUNDLES TO ONE ADDRESS: These are sent for \$4 per paper for a year. An example: 10 papers for one year at \$40 or 20 papers for one year at \$80.00.

LOCATION OF PUBLISHING CHURCH: Our church is located on state highway 363 about one mile south of Mantachie, Mississippi. Readers are always welcome to visit our services.

CHURCH PHONE: 1-662-282-7794.

A PAPER WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION: Some times people write to us and say that they did not subscribe for the BBB. They are receiving our paper because someone else has paid for their subscription.

We trust the BBB will be received as an outstretched hand to you. Take what you find helpful and discard what you cannot use. If you do not want to receive such a gift subscription, please write to us. We are happy to cancel such a subscription. We do not want to go where we are not wanted.

DISCLAIMER: The Editor assumes that the articles submitted for publication in the BBB are written by the person whose name they bear, unless otherwise indicated by a quote from another writer. However, the Editor cannot personally guarantee that this is the case in all articles which appear in the BBB.

The purpose of the Berea Baptist Banner is as follows:

1. To honor God and to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To preach the gospel to lost sinners.
3. To spread the whole counsel of God's Word.
4. To encourage God's preachers and to strengthen His churches in the most holy faith.
5. To motivate God's children to a closer fellowship around His Word.
6. To inform people of world events in light of Bible prophecy.
7. To condemn and expose error wherever it may rear its ugly head.
8. To stimulate Christian growth in grace.
9. To make the Devil and his demons as mad as possible.

# One Thing Have I

(Continued from page 1) ◊

Sometimes it seems that life is very difficult, and very complicated. Sometimes it seems that there are so many choices to make, and there are so many different objects which vie for our affections. But, for those of us who know the Lord, we can simplify our lives to one very basic desire: to know, love, and enjoy the Lord Jesus Christ.

We find that King David endured many difficulties and dangers in his life. The Scriptures reveal to us that he was often beset with sin, and his life was fraught with peril. In the Psalm that I am using for my text, we find that David refers to the dangers that were present in his life – there were those who were his enemies who even sought to take his life! In comparison to the dangers and difficulties that David faced, our own trials and tribulations seem to diminish in importance. If any man had a right to give up and despair, it ought to have been David! And yet, we find that David was strong, and he persevered, by the grace and strength of God. Even in difficult times, David's request – the **"One thing"** which he most desired of the Lord – was to simply be near unto God, and to enjoy the presence of God. In our text verse, he breaks this desire down into three phrases: to **"dwell in the house of the LORD;"** **"to behold the beauty of the LORD;"** **"and to enquire in his temple."** For the purposes of my sermon, I will address these three thoughts (but one overall desire, which David expressed) this way: live in safety, enjoy the presence of the Lord, and learn of the Lord.

Matthew Henry said this about our text passage, "With what a

gracious earnestness he prays for a constant communion with God in holy ordinances, v. 4. It greatly encouraged his confidence in God that he was conscious to himself of an entire affection to God and to his ordinances, and that he was in his element when in the way of his duty and in the way of increasing his acquaintance with him. If our hearts can witness for us that we delight in God above any creature, that may encourage us to depend upon him; for it is a sign we are of those whom he protects as his own."

Protection. Providence. Progress. Each of these is predicated on living with God, and always being near Him, and closely associated with Him.

## LIVE IN SAFETY

Protection. When we draw near unto the Lord, we can be sure that we will be kept safe – at least as far as the Lord has determined. There will be a certain confidence that we have from the presence and the nearness of the Lord. There will be a certain peace that we enjoy, because of the communion which we share with our Lord.

Let me give you another quote from Matthew Henry, which addressed the idea that David desired safety in the Lord: "He desired to dwell in the house of the Lord that there he might be safe from the enemies that surrounded him. Finding himself surrounded by threatening hosts, he does not say, "One thing have I desired, in order to my safety, that I may have my army augmented to such a number," or that I may be master of such a city or such a castle, but 'that I may dwell in the house of the Lord, and then I am well.'"

**"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith**

◊ (Continued on page 3)

## Tune in to the Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WCNA, Myrtle, MS.....	Sunday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. ....	95.9.....	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY .....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. ....	680.....	5,000 AM
WFTA, Tupelo, MS.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. ....	101.9 .....	3,000 FM
KARI, Blaine, WA .....	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. ....	550.....	5,000 AM
WQRL, Benton, IL.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. ....	106.3 .....	12,500 FM

Berea Baptist Banner  
PO Box 39  
Mantachie, Mississippi  
38855  
(662) 282 - 7794

[www.bereabaptistchurch.org](http://www.bereabaptistchurch.org)

request@bereabaptistchurch.org  
bbchurch@nexband.com

Planning a move?  
Please let us know your  
new address. The post office  
charges us \$.59 for each  
returned wrong address.

## FALLEN TO SLEEP WAITING ON THE MAIL?



Look at your mailing label on the front page of this month's paper. If you see above your name "Expires 8/2018" then this will be your last issue. So do not doze off while waiting for the mailman! Renew now so you will not miss next month's *Banner*.

# One Thing Have I

(Continued from page 2) ♦

the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive" (Jer 29:11-14).

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever" (Ps 23:6).

"Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple" (Ps 65:4).

"How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah...For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (Ps 84:1-4, 10).

ENJOY THE PRESENCE OF

## THE LORD

Providence (Presence).

The desire of David was to have sweet communion with the Lord. In the Old Testament the sign and the symbol of communion with the Lord was the tabernacle. Of course, David loved to worship and praise the Lord in the tabernacle. But, he was not always in the actual, literal, tabernacle which Moses had built. Instead, he knew that he could always enjoy the presence of the Lord, whether he was in the tabernacle, or whether he was out of the tabernacle. God is not limited to a presence in the House of God! He is everywhere, and He is always with us!

Charles Spurgeon said, "Is it possible for a man to live in God's house all his days? Oh, yea Good men do not desire impossibilities. "But," say you, "we cannot always be in the church or the meeting-house." No; and even if you were, you might not be in God's house any the more for that; but to be like a child at home with God wherever you may be, to live in him and with him wherever you are, this is to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of your life. You may begin dwelling in the lower rooms of that house even now; and, by-and-by, he will call to you, and say, "Friend, come up higher," and you will ascend to the upper room where the glorified dwell for ever with their God. It is my one desire always to be—"No more a stranger or a guest, But like a child at home," — at home with my God all the days of my life, that I may behold his unutterable beauty, and that I may inquire in his temple what is his will, and what are the exceeding great and precious promises which he has made to me in his Word."

It is good for us to depend upon God for protection; it is

even better to enjoy the presence of the Lord for Who He is, and for what He has done for us. It is a simple thought, but one that every Christian should indulge in: Enjoy the presence of the Lord. Be happy to have Him with you. Rejoice in the knowledge that God is ever present with you. Enjoy having Him with you more than you enjoy the presence of any other. Rather than only seeing His presence with you as a force of Good that will limit your enjoyment of the vain pleasures of life, and the indulgence of various sins; see His presence as a blessing, as the harbinger of peace, as the greatest joy and happiness that you can find in this life.

"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches" (Ps. 63:1-6).

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants. O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the

beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it" (Ps. 90:12-17).

"Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (II Cor. 3:12-18).

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" (II Cor. 4:6-7).

## LEARN OF THE LORD

Progress.

I think that an inevitable result of God's presence, and the protection and the enjoyment which His presence provides, is that we will learn more and more about our Lord.

If we truly know the Lord, how could we not desire to know more of Him? If we have safety in the Lord; if we enjoy the presence of

♦ (Continued on page 4)

# One Thing Have I

(Continued from page 3) ♦

the Lord; should we not meditate in, and contemplate on such a God and such a Saviour? It was David's desire to "enquire" in the "temple" of the Lord. It was David's desire to learn more about God – to learn more about God's will for him and his people. Our desire should be similar to David's. Again, this is a very simplified way of looking at our (sometimes) difficult lives. We should focus on our desire for God and for sweet communion with Him. No matter what might be our lot in life, a closer relationship with God should always be our desire; and, this closer relationship with God will give us the victory over every trial and every trouble which will come our way.

And yet, is it not remarkable how many of those who say that they know and love the Lord, do not desire any more of Him than they already have?

**"Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it"** (Deut. 31:12-13).

Our service unto God requires forward progress on our part. Our service unto God requires learning and growth on our part. The spiritual man must be fed and aided!

**"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in**

**heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"** (Matt. 11:28-30).

**"For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit"** (Eph. 2:18-22).

Speaking of the need to grow and to meditate in the Lord, Richard Sibbes said, "meditate much upon them. To induce us to seek this love for the house of God, let us remember that so only can true glory rest upon us: that our souls were made to behold the glory of God, and that disregard of His ordinances will cause God to depart from us. If we do not prize heavenly things we shall not be allowed to keep them."

**"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"** (II Tim. 3:14-17).

I hope that God and communion

and fellowship with Him is your greatest desire today. If you were to have any single desire granted to you today, I hope that it would be the person and the presence and the power of Jesus Christ in your life today.

Without Him, there is only misery in this life. Without Him, there is only terror of death, and a constant anticipation of judgment. Without Him, there is only condemnation, and everlasting punishment awaits all of those who do not know and love Him.

With Him this life is so much better. With Him, we have peace, contentment, and joy – despite the trials and the tribulations. In His presence there is no fear of death, there is no anticipation of awful judgment. With Him there is salvation, and with Him there is eternal life.



## People Are

(Continued from page 1) ♦

doctrine of human depravity. This is not merely a declaration of David's enemies, but of the whole human race by nature and practice. Since the fall of the race in Adam man has possessed an incurably wicked heart. He stands in need of regeneration by the Holy Spirit that he might enjoy spiritual life and moral vitality. Psychologists, educators, evolutionists, secular humanists, and liberal theologians dispute this Biblical truth. They cannot bring themselves to believe that the heart of a man is the storehouse of the Devil.

### PROPAGATORS OF THE MODERN MYTH

First, in the early 1900s Higher Criticism and liberal Christianity invented a new conception of the nature of man. Freethinkers and

fools began to convince themselves that man was no longer helpless and corrupt as the Bible said, but he was rather a person with some defects, a growing, developing being. Modernism made man's very nature in itself divine, at least in its human possibilities. It taught that man is basically good.

Second, secular humanists joined with liberal theologians by saying that man is innately good and capable of solving his own problems independent of any Supreme Being. These people put emphasis upon "feeling" rather than "responsibility." They say, "If it feels good, it must be good." Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), the French skeptic and idol of college professors, said: "If man is good by nature, as I believe to have shown him to be, it follows that he stays like that as long as nothing foreign corrupts him" (Cited by Tim LaHaye in *The Battle for the Mind*, p. 69).

Third, there is another propagator of this myth. It is modern-day psychologists. Abraham Maslow, one of the world's most famous psychologists, stated: "The inner nature as much as we know of it so far, seems not to be intrinsically evil but rather neutral or positively good". Since this inner nature is good or neutral rather than bad, it is best to bring it out and to encourage it rather than to suppress it" (Cited by Chris Thurman in *Self-Help or Self-Destruction*, p. 6). Most psychologists would agree with Maslow.

This teaching that man is basically good has permeated the political world, the educational world, the scientific world, and even the religious world. This myth has some very serious problems. If man is a godlike person with unlimited goodness,

♦ (Continued on page 6)



# Little Hills

By Nathaniel Hille of  
Plant City, Florida



## Acquaint Now Thyself With Him #5

### The Apple of God's Eye Deuteronomy 32:1

We want to look at the Eye of God one more time. We have taken notice of the eyes of the Lord and what He looks upon. We observed the phrase **"the sight of God."** Now we, being led of the Lord, look at the phrase **"the apple of his eye"** or variations thereof.

### FOUR TIMES IN THE SCRIPTURES

There are five times in the Scriptures that the apple of the eye is mentioned. Four of the five times it is recorded it is in reference to someone or something that is cherished above all others; one time it is meaning the pupil of the eye. Three of the references are in reference to the apple of God's eye. Proverbs 7:2 is in reference to God's people keeping the law of God as the apple of our eye. Lamentations 2:18 refers to God's people, Judah, observing the destruction of Jerusalem, and that they were instructed to weep and lament over the destruction because it was a result of their sins. Judah was commanded that the apple of their eye ought not to cease, that is crying, lamenting over their sins and the destruction God imposed for them.

The first occurrence is in the song of Moses, Deuteronomy 32. In this hymn, Moses, exalts the Lord stating, **"...I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God"** (Deut. 32:3). Part of the greatness of

which Moses ascribes unto the Lord is His keeping of His people. Moses describes it in Deuteronomy 32:10, **"He [the Lord] found him [Jacob] in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he [the LORD] led him [Jacob] about, he [the LORD] instructed him [Jacob], he [the LORD] kept him [Jacob] as the apple of his eye."**

The next occurrence of this phrase is in the Psalms. The sweet psalmist of old, David, rendered up a prayer to God in the form of a psalm. David begins his petition to the Lord: **"Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips"** (Psalm 17:1). David desires for his prayer, his cry, his **"...effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man..."** (James 5:16), to enter into the ear of the Lord. Evidently, when David prayed this psalm, he was dealing with an enemy (Psalm 17:7, 9-14). We are not told who that enemy was. Perhaps the Philistines, Saul, Absalom? Perhaps, it was his own self? We are not told. Yet, David prayed that the Lord would **"Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings, From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about"** (Psalm 17:8-9).

The third occurrence of the phrase is in Zechariah 2:8, **"For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you**

**toucheth the apple of his eye."** Here, Zechariah is informed that the Lord would render unto Babylon for her malicious and wicked treatment of Israel. The Lord states that Israel is the **"apple of his eye"** and whosoever touches Israel or His people today, His church, touches the **"apple of his eye."** There will be a day when God will require it at their hands.

### THE MEANING OF THE EXPRESSION

The expression **"apple of the eye"** has two meanings: the pupil of one's eye; and, something (more properly someone) that is cherished above others. In this expression we see:

The Delight we are to Him: Deuteronomy 10:15, **"Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day."** We are that which God cherishes. Now, there is nothing in us that would cause this care, love, or treasuring of us. The fact that God delights in us is all of grace!

Beloved, the Lord God cherishes someone more on this earth than anything else, His church. **"For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church"** (Eph. 5:29). The Lord cherishes His church above all other "things" upon this earth. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is that which Christ purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28), that which He assembles with (Matthew 18:20; 28:20), that which He uses for the furtherance of the gospel (Matthew 28:18-19), that which Christ has given the two ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper to, that which Christ uses for the instruction and cleansing of His blood bought people through the preaching and

teaching of God's Word (Eph. 5:25-27, Matt. 28:20). Oh, we are a delight to the Lord. It is an immeasurable delight, of which we are not worthy.

The Loving Care He exercises over His eye: Psalm 17:8, **"Keep me as the apple of the eye..."** The psalmist does not simply ask to be kept, but to be kept as the **"apple of the eye."** Moses calls the people of God to take note that God did keep them as the **"apple of his eye"** in the most difficult and severest of circumstances (Deut. 32:10). Moses describes the land as a **"...desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness..."** (Deut. 32:10). What dangers there are in such a place to the sensitivities of the eye. These two phrases depict a land of debris capable of getting into the eye and causing disease, blindness, irritation. Thus, great care must be taken over it. (NOTE: I once had a piece of dirt in my eye. We could not get it out. The next morning it was swollen shut and I had to go to the hospital to get it taken care of). Thus, these are the circumstances. We are in a desert place, a waste howling wilderness or danger, evil, wickedness both spiritually and physically. But the Lord will keep us as the apple of His eye and we ought to be kept as such.

The **"apple of his eye"** (Deut. 32:10) distinguishes the love and care He exercises over His people. Observe the love and care of which God has placed upon the eye. It stands surrounded by projecting bones. I encourage you to look at the picture of the skeleton and see the names of the bones surrounding the eye. They are there for protections. Spurgeon stated in his *Treasury of David*: "Moreover, its (the apple of the eye) great Author has

◊ (Continued on page 6)

# Little Hills

(Continued from page 5) ♦

surrounded it with many tunics of inward covering, besides the hedge of the eyebrows, the curtain of the eyelids, and the fence of the eyelashes; and, in addition to this, he has given to every man so high a value for his eyes, and so quick an apprehension of danger, that no member of the body is more faithfully cared for than the organ of sight."

According to the *Harvard Database of Useful Biological Numbers* (April 24, 2017), "The average duration for a single blink of a human eye is 0.1 to 0.4 seconds, or 100 to 400 milliseconds." See how the eye is very quick to protect itself. It is a natural inclination. How many of you have blinked and/or ducked when a bird or debris hits your windshield? See how God has given His creation a natural instinct to protect the eye. These are all just teachings of creation on the care of which God has for you and me, the apple of His eye, and this church, which He nourishes and cherishes.

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

What marvelous work the Lord has done. No wonder David sought to be kept as **"the apple of the eye"** by the Lord. There is coming a day when the Lord will render unto those who mistreated His people, the **"apple of his eye"** (Zech. 2:8). No wonder David was fearful of killing Saul, for he was the anointed of the Lord and he knew it would be required of the Lord in a great way (I Sam. 26:9; I Sam. 24:6; II Sam. 1:16).

Is it not even more sad that children of God, or church members "touch" one another? They are both the **"apple of his eye."** Are we not going to be held accountable before Him for doing

such? The Scriptures indicate it to be so. Oh, may the Lord help us to cast ourselves in the safety and security that is the **"apple of his eye"** and as well be careful of our touching the **"apple of his eye."**



## People Are

(Continued from page 4) ♦

why are there so few people on earth who are really good? Why are the nations not beating their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks? Why do nations still have armies and navies? Why are cities and towns still building jails, prisons, penitentiaries, and houses of correction? Why is there not on earth at least one nation full of good people who are free from corruption? If man is inherently good, how do we explain the Nazi concentration camps and the killing fields of Cambodia?

The biggest lie that the Devil has ever told to the modern world is that man is basically good. Perhaps more than any thing else, this lie is destroying America and most other civilized nations on earth.

## THE FAMILY

Beginning in the 1960s, the traditional family in America came under fire. Sexual equality, birth control, child care, working mother, "no fault" divorce, interracial marriage, abortion on demand, alternative lifestyles, teenage pregnancies, and other things became commonplace. The Bible ceased to be the ultimate authority in all family matters. The very word "family" has become confused. Now a married adult and lover (of the same or opposite gender) qualifies as a family. Each person may have a variety of sexual relationships, all of which qualify as "family" relationship, according

to modern-day thinking.

Any person who has only limited intelligence knows that the home in America is in serious trouble. Since 1960 there has been more than a 400 percent increase in illegitimate births, a quadrupling in the divorce rate, and a tripling of the percentage of children living in single-parent homes. This break up of the family is hard to reconcile with the idea that man is good, and that he is slowly moving to greater heights in the evolutionary process.

If I as a husband believe I am basically good, then I view all my actions toward my wife from that standpoint. All the things I do to her, good or bad, will seem right in my own eyes. I shall excuse all my conduct by saying I had good intentions in what I did. I will not be able to understand why she becomes upset when I am such a monster and menace from time to time. I will wonder why she does not always think I am a nice guy. Proverbs 12:15 says: **"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."**

If a wife believes she is basically good, then she will view all her actions toward her husband from that standpoint. Her every action, good or bad, appears to be okay in her eyes. She will probably wonder why her husband is so bent out of shape when she is such a witch and a weasel. She will reason, "Why can he not see what a fine lady I am?" Proverbs 21:2 declares: **"Every way of a man (or woman) is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts."**

So you see the whole problem with the modern home is the idea that human nature is basically good. But such is self-delusion. Things may seem right in our own eyes, but they may not be right

in God's eyes. The all-searching eye of God discovers pride, selfishness, covetousness, hatred, and rejection of holiness in what seems right unto us. Things are not right simply because they seem right.

If a husband and wife would concede the teaching of the Bible that human nature is depraved, they would enter marriage with a sense of humility. Neither would be surprised when the actions of the other were off base, for all people are sinners before God. There would not be the need to defend one's self against criticism, **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Rom. 3:23). A husband and wife will not find it difficult to admit they do wrong and then seek to improve in their conduct. Belief in God and the Bible makes one accountable to God and each other. A good marriage can be built on this foundation, for it acknowledges that man is basically a sinner who needs to daily seek to improve his conduct.

The myth of man's natural goodness has played havoc with the rearing of children. Those who embrace the liberal idea are constantly trying to justify every wrong action of their little rascals. Such parents get angry with the public school teacher who dares to correct their little "angels." They revile the legal system for charging these little demons with being guilty of a crime. These parents who live in a fool's paradise will end up with spoiled brats and moral morons. These little rascals will be a constant nightmare to public school teachers and a problem to law enforcement officials.

## THE COURTS

Small children, the aged, and young girls experience the

♦ (Continued on page 7)

# People Are

(Continued from page 6) ♦

bloodiest death at the hands of demon-controlled maniacs, and the general public pays no attention. The state spends millions of the taxpayer's dollars in an attempt to convict these wicked criminals. Most of these crooks get away with their crime and are let loose to commit still more crimes. This is why violent crime has increased 560 percent since 1960. Why can not these moral morons and social parasites be convicted and punished by our judicial system? Because most judges and juries have been brain-washed with the idea that people are not sinners. They believe that all men and women, boys and girls, are basically good.

I cite just two cases to prove this. Most people will remember Erik and Lyle Menendez who openly admitted having murdered their wealthy parents while they were eating ice cream and watching television so they could inherit their wealth. Leslie Abramson, their lawyer, said about one of the boys, "Erik Menendez is a good person who did a bad thing." Here is clearly the myth that man is basically good. Here is the reason why criminals can never be convicted and punished.

Just about every American knows about the trial of O. J. Simpson. The evidence strongly indicated that Mr. Simpson probably killed his ex-wife, Nicole, and Ronald Goldman. The jury was taken up with the idea that man is basically good. They could not bring themselves to believe that a charming, wealthy, movie star could have done such a horrible crime. They reasoned that if a man is basically good, then a man like O. J. must be the best of all.

This pop psychology has so corrupted the minds of the average American until a trial by jury is both a waste of the taxpayer's money and time. Unless there is a return to Bible morality on the part of our general public, then our whole judicial system is destined to cease to properly function. With an increase of liberal judges and humanist lawyers and a public with no moral standard, crime does pay, at least in money. If the present trend does not reverse, we can expect a return to vigilante justice or total anarchy.

The Prophet Isaiah said: **"None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. They hatch cockatrice eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper. Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men"** (Isa. 59:4-10).

## RESPONSIBILITY

Man is a responsible being. He is responsible to the state, his family, his employer, etc. Most of all, he is responsible to God, the Judge of all. **"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God"** (Rom. 14:12). Each man and each woman, each boy and each girl, must one day stand before the God of all the earth and give an account of his character and conduct, works and words, plans and purposes. Liberals as well as conservatives will be held responsible for their conduct before an omniscient God.

The myth that man is basically good has tried to dismiss human responsibility. If a man does wrong it is due to his bad environment, or a lack of proper education. A young woman may drown her two kids in a lake, but she really meant no harm because her boyfriend had rejected her! Modernists and liberals tell us that such a person is a victim, not a villain; a person deprived of certain things, but certainly not a depraved sinner. If a man beats another man on the head with a brick, he is not basically bad. The poor man is merely caught up in the "euphoria of the moment!" No matter how hideous the crime, we hear the plaintive cry that "society has failed." We never hear that the individual has failed. Even the sins of professed Christians against God are blamed on predestination, and others say, "The Devil made me do it."

## MAN IS A SINNER

There is one thing that all men and women have in common. They are all sinners before God. We are not only born in sin, but we suffer from what theologians call "total depravity." This does not mean that man is as bad as he can get, but it does mean that every

faculty of our being is affected by sin.

Adam's sin brought spiritual death upon himself and his race: **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"** (Rom. 5:12). Every son and every daughter of Adam is born with a sinful nature. David said: **"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me"** (Ps. 51:5). The reign of sin is universal. **"There is no man that sinneth not"** (I Kings 8:46).

From equator to pole there is not a perfectly good and sinless man: **"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not"** (Eccl. 7:20). This verse does not say there is not a man upon earth that sins not, but **"there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."** Even in our good deeds there is sin. Isaiah 64:6 tells us that **"all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."** Even the believer has a difficult time crucifying the flesh (Gal. 5:24; Rom. 6:11; I Pet. 2:1).

Every person born into the world is born spiritually dead: **"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins"** (Eph. 2:1). By nature he is a child of wrath. Even those saved by grace when in a state of nature were **"the children of wrath, even as others"** (Eph. 2:3; cf. John 8:44; Acts 13:10; Matt. 13:38). By nature he is a slave of sin: **"Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin"** (John 8:34; cf. Rom. 6:20). By nature he is a captive of the Devil: **"And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will"** (II Tim. 2:26).

♦ (Continued on page 8)

# People Are

(Continued from page 7) ♦

When I say man is totally depraved I am saying no more than the Bible says in many places. Man's mind is depraved. It is said of the antediluvians **"that every imagination of the thoughts of"** their hearts were only evil continually (Gen. 6:5). Man's understanding is darkened by sin, and he is **"alienated from the life of God"** (Eph. 4:18). Man's heart is depraved: **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"** (Jer. 17:9). His affections are depraved: **"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil"** (John 3:19). His conscience is depraved: **"...even their mind and conscience is defiled"** (Tit. 1:15).

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO SIN?

Most people make light of sinful actions: **"Fools make a mock at sin"** (Prov. 14:9). To the modern-day, Bible-denying world sin is liberty and freedom---doing the real thing---without any responsibility for actions to either God or man. Sad to say, but even preachers cannot agree on what sin really is. Social workers and psychologists have added to the confusion by watering down sin by calling it "social maladjustments," "immaturity," and "bad taste." Even professed Christians often speak of "mistakes" and "little white lies."

The world has pushed aside the Bible doctrine of original sin and total depravity. Lying has become propaganda and diplomacy which is essential to good politics and business. Stealing is a "misappropriation of funds." Adultery is only having "an affair."

Alcoholism is a disease which comes from a bottle and from which the government gets a tax. The murder of an unborn infant is merely a woman exercising her "free choice." Pornography and obscenity is "frankness" and "realism." Homosexuality and lesbianism is "an alternative lifestyle." Isaiah 3:9 reads: **"The show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves."**

## SELF DELUSION

The greatest delusion in the world is that which a man voluntarily practices upon himself. **"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself"** (Gal. 6:3). Often a man is inclined to look upon himself as a mighty saint and upon others as a brand fit for the burning. Human nature does not like to admit it has failed. Fallen man likes to cherish the dream that "he has no sin," because all the world is as sinful as he is. He has difficulty knowing himself to be a sinner because from infancy he has breathed the atmosphere of sin. Sin tends to diffuse darkness and to make a man love the darkness it diffuses. Sin deceives that it might destroy. **"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. . . . If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us"** (I John 1:8,10).

Man's first difficulty is to admit he has sinned against Heaven. His second difficulty is to confess his sins to God. Just what is it to confess our sins to God? It is to tell God about our sins. It is true that God knows them already better than the sinner does, but the sinner needs to know them

better and feel them more deeply. The importance of confession lies in the condition of mind and feeling it represents and indicates. The truly penitent person has a humble heart, godly sorrow, and a holy resolve for amendment of life.

In I John 1:9 it is written: **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** Observe the twofold promise. First, the broken-hearted sinner receives forgiveness for his sins. Second, he is cleansed from all unrighteousness. This is man's great need: pardon for past sins and cleansing for the future. Behold here the gifts of justification and sanctification. By justification God blots out our sins and counts us as righteous for Christ's sake, without our actually being so. By sanctification we are made righteous in ourselves by the work of the Spirit in us to conquer the power of sin and to perfect holiness.

## CONCLUSION

1. Do not be deceived by the Devil into thinking that you are basically good. Your own experience proves otherwise. Your friends and neighbors know you are a sinner. Job said: **"If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse"** (Job 9:20).

2. God never turns away a broken-hearted sinner (Jer. 3:13). A man must admit he is basically bad. The psalmist said: **"For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest"** (Ps. 51:3-4). The person who confesses his sins and forsakes

them shall be pardoned by God. **"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon"** (Isa. 55:7).



## Bible Prophecy

(Continued from page 1) ♦

the Bible is the Word of God is the perfect fulfillment in every detail of the many prophecies. Not one prophecy has ever failed in its smallest iota. **"...There hath not failed one word of his good promise, which he promised. . ."** (I Kings 8:56).

Out of the many direct and indirect prophecies of the coming of Jesus Christ, in His first advent, there are eight outstanding ones that I would suggest for your study in this message. They date approximately from 500 to 4,000 years before the event took place. They were spoken directly by God in the garden of Eden, by Noah (possibly near Armenia?), by God directly on Mount Moriah, by dying Jacob in Egypt, by Nathan in Jerusalem, by Isaiah in Jerusalem, by Micah in Judah and by Gabriel in Babylon. Though separated by hundreds of miles and, some of them, thousands of years, these witnesses did not contradict or disagree and each minute mention in each prophecy was fulfilled completely by Christ.

Was all this guess-work, calculation and speculation by men? There is only one reasonable conclusion: This Holy Bible is the infallible, verbally inspired Word of God. God is the Author of this book!

Here are the eight prophecies concerning the coming of Jesus

♦ (Continued on page 10)



# Small Drops

By Joseph M. Sidders of  
Temperance, Michigan

"My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God" (Deuteronomy 32:2-3).



## Microwave vs Crockpot

My household has one child who is allergic to eggs, one with an allergy to gluten, another with a reaction to onions, and one who refuses to eat red sauce, ever. On top of that, I need to watch my salt intake. Needless to say, the days of preparing my food from freezer to table in under two minutes are over!

I am now forced, for the first time in my life, to turn over each packaged item in the store to study its nutritional information. Most of these labels read like a pharmaceutical commercial; the ones that promise to heal the one thing that is majorly wrong with you, while causing a new list of harmful symptoms of their own -- up to, and including death. (They typically mumble that part as to not frighten impressionable viewers like myself.) When I read these labels, all I can think about is how, if I were fifteen years younger, I would already be eating my pizza bites by now!

I Peter 1:6-7 says, **"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."** Peter is explaining that there are a great many things going into our Christian 'diet' that do not provide an immediate reaction. Through

the heat of life, Jesus promises to make the believer perfect in faith. Certainly, we would prefer to put in our minute and a half and be good to go, but God seeks to sustain our lives with the perfect blend of ingredients, carefully prepared over time.

When we make a meal at home, it generally takes a while for everything to simmer, boil and process. In comparison, as a bachelor, I would just microwave something until the cheese melted so I knew it was done. God sees to the heart of what He is making. He is making you to be "Christ-like" (the meaning of the word Christian). Much like the process of time that is necessary for carbon to become a precious diamond, God is allowing for the things we experience to form us into something more refined. Oft times, our various experiences are giving us a much deeper understanding of our need for God!

When describing your anticipation of an upcoming season, event, or milestone to a parent or grandparent, you may express a desire for time to move more quickly to get on with what you are awaiting. In response, you will often hear about how precious time is and not to wish away the present. My grandmother always told me, "hold your horses," when I got too far ahead of myself. It is unlikely that those who are much younger, with less experience and wisdom, can value time the way the older generation can. This

is due to the duration of heat, or life experiences, one has been subjected to. Someone who has experienced God's intervention repeatedly will know to be patient and wait on His refining, while someone who has not, would not be familiar with such a deliverance.

If you are going through a tough time, you might be wondering why the God you love is allowing such struggles to take place. It may seem strange, but it really is because He loves you. Hebrews 12:6-7 says, **"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"** What an honor to be considered a child of God. It is because of His love for His saints that He allows us growing opportunities. We should seek to grow at His pace rather than our own.

## Mountaintop Experiences

There is a sledding hill near my in-laws home that my kids love to frequent. My son schedules his visits months in advance though they only live 20 minutes away. This hill is man-made. It was the remnant dirt from past construction projects that over the years has now become a city park attraction. The climb is, of course, ridiculously steep and exhausting while the speed of the drop is fun and exhilarating.

One winter day, as Isaac was finishing his 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> ascent to the top of his mountain, he settled into the seat of his sled, gripped the handles and leaned forward to start his thrill-ride down. In retells of the harrowing saga, he says something was off from the start. He leaned too far to one side

or pulled too hard on the rope in the wrong direction and he ended up on a path less sled on.

This particular way down the mountain was seldom used, and for good reason. There was a rather large rock just above the midway point of the descent and mostly tall grass and gravel beyond that. Isaac hit the large rock on his new-found path and went airborne. He and the sled came back down to earth at the same time, but not in the right order. The sled stalled out just after the rock and Isaac continued the rest of the bumpy journey solo, in a speedy fashion.

As he dusted himself off and began to limp to the car, his grandfather came running to be sure he was okay. My thrill-seeking son was done; he was not going back up the mountain, not even for his sled. What he had come to trust to be exhilarating and harmless had now left its mark on his memories.

There are things in our adult lives that we might find great pleasure in, but have come to realize are not the way to true happiness. We oftentimes cling with such a desperate, kung-fu grip to these items or experiences that we fight friends and family to keep them. And then one day, these pleasures of the flesh let us down. We have an opportunity to experience something real, something that lasts beyond a season. I Peter 1:6-9 says, **"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"**

◇ (Continued on page 10)

# Small Drops

(Continued from page 9) ◊

**Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."**

There are experiences in life, such as falling while sledding, that as an adult I would gladly do over again because I know bruises heal in time. Let us walk away from these mountains with a lesson though. There is a greater joy to experience in the climb and fall than in our dependence on self-preservation.

II Corinthians 4:17-18 explains, **"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."**



# Bible Prophecy

(Continued from page 8) ◊

Christ (many more might be given).

## 1. MANKIND IS CHOSEN, THROUGH WHICH THE REDEEMER WOULD COME.

This prophecy is, in reality, the first "Sermon foretelling Christ's birth" given by Jehovah Himself, 4,004 years before Christ's birth. It is in Genesis 3:15 and spoken to the serpent: **"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."**

The Redeemer would come, not as God Almighty alone, but also as the Son of Man **"the seed of the**

**woman."** **"...He took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham"** (Heb. 2:16). **"The Word was made flesh"** (John 1:14), was made in the **"likeness of sinful flesh"** (Rom. 8:3), **"made in the likeness of men"** (Phil. 2:7).

## 2. THE RACE IS DESIGNATED.

After the flood Noah said: **"...Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem..."** (Gen. 9:26-27). If the last pronoun, **"he"** mentioned, refers to God; (Irwin's Commentary says: "The word 'he' may refer to God or to Japheth") then you have a prophecy that God would enter the human race through Shem. The Semitic race came from Shem, among them being the Hebrews. This word by Noah was spoken 2,348 years before the birth of Christ.

## 3. THE NATION IS FORETOLD.

After Abraham willingly offered up Isaac on Mount Moriah (though not actually, Gen. 22), Jehovah spoke blessing to him, saying **"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed..."** (Gen. 22:18). This was uttered 1,872 years before Christ's birth and tells us that Messiah would come from Abraham, after the flesh. The fulfillment is in Matthew 1:1, which reads, **"...Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."** Galatians 3:16 interprets this seed: **"And to thy seed, which is Christ..."** See also Acts 3:25-26.

## 4. THE TRIBE IS ANNOUNCED.

Jacob, in his dying breath, prophesied that our Lord would come of the tribe of Judah. In Genesis 49:10 is the prophecy: **"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from**

**between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."** Shiloh means "Resting place" and the Lord Jesus Christ is our place of rest. We **"Rest in the LORD"** (Ps. 37:7) and He promises **"rest"** to all who come unto Him (Matt. 11:28-29). While this was fulfilled partially in King Solomon, whose name means: "peaceable" and after him the sceptre did depart from Judah, in that Judah went into captivity. Yet who shall say that this prophecy does not find its completion in Christ, Who is our Shiloh and Who sprang out of Judah? This was promised 1,689 years before Christ's birth.

## 5. THE FAMILY IS NAMED.

It would be of the house of David. God speaking to David, through the prophet Nathan, said; speaking of David's seed: **"He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever"** (II Sam. 7:13). Verse 12 clearly names the one coming as of David's seed. Jesus Christ is the end of the prophecy. He is the greater **"son of David"** (Matt. 1:1). This was spoken 1,042 years before Christ's birth.

## 6. THE MANNER OF HIS BIRTH IS NAMED, HIS NAME IS GIVEN.

He would be born miraculously, born of a virgin. **"...Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"** (Isa. 7:14). This is one of the most daring, boldest prophecies in the Bible! Who would dare prophesy and miraculous birth of a child 742 years before it took place and give his name?! This was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, Who was called **"Immanuel"** and born of the virgin Mary (Matt. 1:18-23).

## 7. THE TOWN IS MENTIONED.

It would be Bethlehem. **"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah,**

**though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler (or Shepherd) in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"** (Micah 5:2). It is a prophecy that He would come as a King and a Shepherd. This Jesus did. He is the **"King of saints"** (Rev. 15:3) and the **"good shepherd"** (John 10:11). Yet He would be the eternal God. So Jesus is. **"The Word was God"** (John 1:1). And He was born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:15). This was prophesied 710 years before the birth of Christ.

## 8. THE VERY TIME WAS PROPHESED WHEN HE WOULD APPEAR.

From the commandment of Cyrus to build and restore Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1) to Messiah the Prince (Jesus Christ) would be 69 weeks (or 69 weeks of years, equaling 483 years). This was revealed to Daniel by Gabriel, in Daniel 9:25. This was revealed to Daniel 538 years before the birth of Christ.


## THE BIRTH OF CHRIST PROVES THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES TO BE THE VERY WORD OF GOD.

The Messiah was of the **"woman's seed,"** He was of the Semitic race, He was of the nation out of Abraham, He was of the tribe of Judah, He was of the house or family of David, He was born miraculously of the virgin Mary, He was born in Bethlehem, He did appear as Messiah 483 years later.


The very same Bible prophecies proclaim that this same Jesus will come again (Acts 1:11), that the dead will be raised out of their graves at His coming (John 5:28-29) and that Jesus Christ will be the Judge (John 5:27, II Tim. 4:1). Have you surrendered yourself to Christ? John 3:36, Mark 16:16.



# The Noted Pastor



By Todd  
Bryant  
of  
Northport,  
Alabama



## The Odd Opposition to Expository Preching

We live in a day when it is hard to be surprised. Every day we are bombarded with news reports that would have shocked our grandparents' generation. However, to us such things have become the new normal.

That being said, I have been rather shocked at the number of preachers that are vocally and adamantly opposed to expository preaching. And, it seems to be a movement that is gaining steam. Questions have been asked during ordinations, accusations of heresy have been waged in recorded sermons, social media posts have been somewhat constant—all of which, oddly enough, oppose the accurate preaching of the Bible. Now, that charge would be denied, I am sure. However, to oppose expository preaching is to oppose preaching the Bible accurately. I can only assume that somebody has been given a wrong definition of expository preaching.

Before I explain what expository preaching is, I would like to take just a moment to critique what is often viewed as normal in pulpits today. Most preachers in our generation preach about the Bible. This often begins with some explanation as to how "God gave me this sermon." The congregation

is simply expected to believe that. A verse of Scripture may or may not be read—it is not always necessary in the modern pulpit. Oftentimes, even when a verse is read, it is little more than a "springboard" to launch into some topic. The context of the verse is often ignored and the verse may be used in some way that has nothing to do with the original intent of the inspired author. In this modern style of topical preaching, the preacher begins with a topic and seeks verses that support his topic. Such preaching lowers the standard for the pulpit and certainly misleads the congregation as to why the Bible was written and how it is to be studied. God certainly has not instructed men to preach in such a fashion.

Definitions of expository preaching are readily available. For instance, Mark Dever defines it as, "preaching in which the main point of the biblical text being considered becomes the main point of the sermon being preached." (*Preach: Theology Meets Practice*). David Helm defines it as, "preaching that rightfully submits the shape and emphasis of the sermon to the shape and emphasis of a biblical text." (*Expositional Preaching*). Haddon Robinson defines it (more like a textbook) as, "The communication of a biblical concept derived from and transmitted through a historical-grammatical and literary study of a passage in its context, which the Holy Spirit first applies to the personality and experience of the preacher then through him to hearers." (*Biblical Preaching*). Since these definitions agree that expository preaching is that style of preaching that seeks to unfold the true meaning of Scripture in its proper context as originally written and then applies that

meaning to the hearers, I truly struggle to understand how anybody could oppose it.

Paul in no uncertain terms told Timothy to "**preach the word**" (II Tim. 4:2). Do not preach about the Bible, preach the Word as it is written. In his first letter to Timothy, Paul wrote, "**Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine**" (I Tim. 4:13). That is, read a section of the Bible, explain to the congregation what it means and encourage them to do what they are instructed to do. It is difficult for me to imagine that Paul is suggesting that Timothy come up with an idea and then fit the Bible into his idea. No, he is telling Timothy to open the Bible, read it, explain it and apply it.

Nobody is suggesting that a pastor cannot preach a topical sermon. However, many topical sermons today begin with an idea in a preacher's mind while often yanking verses kicking and screaming out of their context to support such an idea. If a topical sermon is to be preached properly, every verse or passage that is read by the preacher will be done without ignoring their context. Even when preaching topically, a preacher must learn that verses should be treated the same way they would be if he were preaching through the book they are in. It has been rightly said that a preacher may choose to preach topically sometimes, but he should preach expositively all the time. Considering the above definitions and Paul's instruction to Timothy, I wholeheartedly agree.

Even in the Old Testament, exposition seems to be the normal way the Bible was taught. For instance, in the book of Nehemiah, we find one particular day when Ezra had gathered the people together and he was reading the

Law to them. He had helpers—Levites—that helped "**the people to understand the law**" (Neh. 8:7). In fact, the Biblical writer goes on to say, "**So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading**" (Neh. 8:8). This is a perfect picture of what expository preaching is—reading the Bible and explaining to the congregation what it means. What else should preachers today be doing?

Does expository preaching guarantee that we will always arrive at the right conclusion? Of course not. Good men have often disagreed over various (normally 2nd tier) subjects. However exposition is the Biblical way to preach the Bible. Only exposition approaches the Bible first to see what we are to believe and do. When exposition is rightly done, it will lead a pastor and his flock into the truth. Jesus prayed to the Father, "**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth**" (John 17:17).

As we have said, the normal style of topical preaching today begins with an idea and seeks to pull the Bible towards that idea. Such preaching can never go beyond the knowledge of the one preaching. Exposition pushes a pastor to grow and learn—as well as his congregation. And though exposition does not guarantee that we will always be right, one only has to look around Christendom today to see the results of constant topical preaching.

I would like to give the benefit of the doubt to those making such a fuss in opposing exposition. I want to believe these men simply have a poor definition of what expository preaching is. But, this seems a more likely error for a young preacher than an older

◊ (Continued on page 11)



## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. Would you say that Proverbs 30:11-14 speaks of our present generation? -Mississippi

Roger Reed  
20 Ledgebrook Dr.  
Mansfield, Ohio 44905

Missionary of  
West Jefferson  
Missionary Baptist  
Mission  
90 E. Main St.  
West Jefferson, Ohio  
43162



Absolutely Proverbs 30:11-14 speaks of our present generation. God is not pleased with this world today, especially with America, the land I believe God gave us flowing with milk and honey free from tyranny and persecution. But that is not the America we live in today.

**"There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother"** (Prov. 30:11). I can attest to this verse with the treatment we have received from our son and daughter-in-law. They have nothing to do with us and talk bad about us to others. There definitely is hatred toward us. I have seen it in other families as well. Our son has no regard for his mother and has not for many years. I totally believe there is something different and wrong with this generation of children.

**"There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness"** (Prov. 30:12). This generation sees themselves righteous before God and others, but God sees their heart. **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Rom. 3:23). The sinner may be able to pull the proverbial wool over our eyes but not God's. The Sodomite thinks he should be accepted by

all of Christianity and proclaims that God loves him and he can continue in his sin and still be saved and go to heaven. **"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity"** (Matt. 7:23). Iniquity is wickedness and sin. The Psalmist declared in Psalms 119:128, **"Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way."**

Look at our government right now! I would be willing to say that many that bring God up in their conversation will be crying out one day as the rich man in Luke 16 did. This generation is filled with lawlessness and only believes in themselves and that they are pure in heart and righteous as I stated above, before a holy and sovereign God.

**"There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up"** (Prov. 30:13). Today we live in a holier than thou society. The rich look down on the poor; those that are educated think they know more than everyone else. **"And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD"** (Zech. 8:17). They are puffed up in their fleshly minds. I am convinced that there are even some preachers today that fancy themselves more holy and righteous than others. **"But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed"** (John 7:49).

**"There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their**

**jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men"** (Prov. 30:14). We have many in our government and society that should be tried for treason. There are still some Christians and non-Christians that do not realize that there are those in our government that want us to be poor and want to destroy all those who would speak out against them. They are full of cruelty and would deprive us of the little that most of us have.

We should praise God that He is still blessing America. God has given plenty of warnings that He will not be gracious much longer. I am so thankful we did not get the other person that was running for our President into office. That was the providence of God. May God continue to bless America until the Lord's return. God Bless!

ROGER REED

Tom Ross  
6339 County Rd. 15  
South Point, OH  
45680

Pastor  
Mt. Pleasant  
Baptist Church  
6939 County Rd. 15  
Chesapeake, OH  
45619



Proverbs 30:11-14 states: **"There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother, There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, and devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men."**

Certainly these verses could be applied to our present generation especially in light of how Paul describes a reprobate society

given over to wickedness in Romans 1:30-32: **"Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only to do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."** II Timothy 3:1-5 also fitly describes the condition of our present generation: **"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."** All of these passages describe a generation that is rebellious, self righteous, disobedient to parents, and filled with hatred for God.

What is said about our present generation could easily be

◊ (Continued on page 14)

When the church feels it must become like the world to win the world, it has not won the world, the world has won it!

**"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord"** (II Cor. 6:17).



# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. Could you please comment on I Thessalonians 5:16?

Matthew Stepp  
286 Big Creek Road  
Wayne, WV 25570

Pastor  
Big Creek  
Baptist Church  
286 Big Creek Road  
Wayne, WV 25570



**“Rejoice evermore”** (I Thess. 5:16). An alternate translation of these two words might be found in our vernacular as: “They lived happily ever after.” Selah! Think about it! Certainly, as we search the depths of this precious verse, this is the premise. Evermore and ever after God’s promises have depths and immeasurable infinity attached unto them. Certainly in this world, we will have problems, afflictions and tribulation, but through it all, we know with assurance that God will carry us through. Not by the skin of our teeth, eh Bro. Job? But masterfully and wondrously, we will find ourselves “rejoicing evermore” as God’s providence is revealed on every page, but most obviously to all on the final page of glorification. Hallelujah! Selah! Think about it!

Rejoice! That is joy as a verb, is it not? Rejoicing is to shout out the joy of our salvation for all to hear. When things just fall into place, we exclaim, “praise the Lord,” rejoicing again at His marvelous grace. The joy of a Christian is not tied to the vagaries and shifting sands of our circumstances or the treachery of our companions in life. Joy is the gift of God in salvation that proclaims the promises of God: **“Let your conversation be without**

**covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me”** (Heb. 13:5-6). **“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ...”** (Rom. 8:31-35)? We know that all things will work together for good and joy—no doubt. Praise God! **“Rejoice Evermore.”**

The distinction between happiness and joy is that joy is an unvarying, internal state of peace, rejoicing and eternal contentment in Jesus Christ. Satan and the world can not touch this eternal, internal gift of God. Joy is the evidence of faith in action. I often tell my congregation that what Mrs. Job lost was her hope in Job 2:9, **“Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.”** Faith was not the problem here. She knew that God was in control. Else, why curse Him? The problem was, that faith was unconnected to her hope and joy. Job faithfully reconnected for this beleaguered couple. **“But he said**

**unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips”** (Job 2:10). Good and evil events and circumstances may come and go, but our hope being based “evermore” in Christ Jesus anchors our joy and enables us to be more than conquerors.

Mere happiness is based upon environmental waves of good or ill forces that polarize our emotions into happiness or sadness; love or hatred; ebullience or despair. God’s commandment in this second shortest verse in the Bible is to **“Rejoice evermore.”** We can consider it good advice or an exhortation to encouragement, but it is written in the imperative and has all the force of the God of the Ten Commandments behind it. **“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”** (I John 5:3-4). Our joy! That is the victory, is it not? As the saints of yore were taken to the chopping block, the stake, the gallows or wherever the faith of God required them to sacrifice in this world of woe, we see them striding forth with joy in their hearts and a song of praise upon their lips. Hallelujah! **“And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name”** (Acts 5:41). **“Rejoice evermore.”** May our life be a celebration of what Jesus Christ has done for us, is continuing to do for us, and has promised to eternally accomplish for us. **“..we were pressed out of measure, above strength,**

**insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; Ye also helping together by prayer for us...”** (II Cor. 1:8-11). **“Rejoice evermore.”** Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP

Roger Reed  
20 Ledgewood Dr.  
Mansfield, Ohio 44905

Missionary of  
West Jefferson  
Missionary Baptist  
Mission  
90 E. Main St.  
West Jefferson, Ohio  
43162



Paul gave a summary of the Christian virtues. These verses provide the foundational principles for a sound spiritual life in brief, disconnected statements that, in spite of their brevity, give believers the priorities for a successful Christian living.

**“Rejoice”** is another word for **“joy.”** I am always telling folks not to let Satan rob them of their joy. **“Joy”** is appropriate at all times:

**“As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things”** (II Cor. 6:10).

**“Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me”** (Phil. 2:17-18).

**“Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe”** (Phil. 3:1).

**“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice”** (Phil.

◇ (Continued on page 14)

## Forum #1

(Continued from page 12) ♦

applied to all generations due to the effects of the fall of Adam and the wickedness of human depravity. There are times when God restrains the wrath of man in a society, and times when He is pleased to allow mankind to fully express the ungodliness that dwells within his corrupt heart. It appears to me that in these last days the truth of II Timothy 3:13 is being confirmed: **"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."**

In spite of the rise of wickedness in our present generation we are still called to be light in a darkened world, and salt in a corrupt generation. Thank God that there are Christian parents who are raising their young ones in the nurture and admonition of the Lord to stem the tide of sweeping ungodliness. I rejoice as I fellowship among the Lord's churches when I see young people with a heart for God and a desire to walk in truth. Let us continue in the things which we have learned (II Tim. 3:14-17) and earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3) until Jesus comes again!

TOM ROSS

Matthew Stepp  
286 Big Creek Road  
Wayne, WV 25570

Pastor  
Big Creek  
Baptist Church  
286 Big Creek Road  
Wayne, WV 25570



I would say it speaks of every generation! How could it not? Rebellion is definitely the one constant of the "next" generation. Every generation must be headed the wrong direction, if the Lord

has filled His Holy Writ with adjurements to "come back!" **"..but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD... And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart...I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them..."** (Jer. 3:1, 24:7, 35:15). Selah! Think about it!

Repentance and faith do not come naturally and each generation has to find out the true mercy (second chance is mercy defined) and joy of Jesus Christ for themselves. It is rarely passed rotely and painlessly to each succeeding generation, but the birthing pains of a generation consumed with total depravity will be witnessed as they willfully and with all intelligence and youthful exuberance test the boundaries of Holy Righteousness. **"There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up"** (Prov. 30:11-13). Selah! Think about it!

Change is the revenue of youth! They do not want to be like Dad or Mom. "Surely there must be a better way! How about this! How about that! Certainly not that way." Many mean no harm as they try to "improve" on the old-fashioned way, until it is too late and Satan has them in his clutches. Many a scar will this generation wear to prove the mercy and grace

of God in extracting His sheep from those terrible and thorny bushes of worldly life.

But the majority of each succeeding generation will never acknowledge the sanctity of God's Holy Word and His precise order. The youth will have no compunction about "doing it my way," all the broad way down the slopes of Hell's chaotic and energetic path. **"There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men"** (Prov. 30:14). Rehoboam, the son of Solomon is a prime example of forsaking the old paths and shaking off the burdensome yoke that is perceived by youth concerning God's commandments. **"And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions"** (I Kings 12:13-14). **"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein"** (Jer. 6:16).

As the parents of each generation attempt to bring up their children **"..in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"** (Eph. 6:4), we must remember that it is an uphill battle that will require much prayer and seeking of the grace of God, for surely it is our only hope. A set of identical twins could be reared in a godly home, with both memorizing the same verses and receiving the

same instructions and love, but if God does not bless them both with the New Birth, they will at best be "moral puppets" of a godly environment, and at worst will flee to the world to practice their depravity and rebellion to the infinite pain and sorrow of their loving parents. Beloved parents, we need the pity and grace of our Heavenly Father to deliver our precious children from the bondage of their insubordinate natures. **"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again"** (John 3:7). It is their (and our) only hope, that the Holy Spirit will convict and regenerate the ever rebellious souls of each generation and draw them back to the Master of Grace.

One warning, is that the tension of this war between the generations will typically come at a cost. The Lord is faithful to call His elect and many times they are running as fast as Jonah in the opposite direction of Tarshish. God is gracious to send "storms and great fishes" to execute His sovereign mercy in their lives, called affliction: **"I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early"** (Hosea 5:15). But only by His amazing grace! Selah! Pray for it!

MATTHEW STEPP



## Forum #2

(Continued from page 13) ♦

4:4).

**"Evermore"** means "at all times." The theme of **"joy"** and **"rejoicing"** is (as shown above) prominent in the Epistle to the Philippians where the word and its derivatives occur about 16 times. God's redeemed people have

♦ (Continued on page 15)

## Forum #2

(Continued from page 14) ♦

every reason to be a joyful people considering their multiplied blessings, not only in this life but in that which is to come.

Warren W. Wiersbe says of this verse, "Joy takes the burden out of service. 'The joy of the LORD is your strength' (Neh. 8:10). God loves a cheerful servant as well as a cheerful giver. Every church family has its Doubting Thomas or its Gloomy Gus. To see them and listen to them is like witnessing an autopsy, or diving into a cold lake on a winter's day. God wants His family to be happy, and that means that each member must contribute to the joy."

I love the way the Amplified version brings this verse to light; "Be happy (in your faith) and rejoice and be glad-hearted continually — always."

We should have "joy" in our hearts at all times; "rejoicing always" for what the Lord our God has done for us, even in times of adversity. "Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him" (Prov. 8:30). God Bless!

ROGER REED

Tom Ross  
6339 County Rd. 15  
South Point, OH  
45680

Pastor  
Mt. Pleasant  
Baptist Church  
6939 County Rd. 15  
Chesapeake, OH  
45619



"Rejoice evermore" is a simple and direct command for the believer to have a cheerful disposition and an attitude of rejoicing at all times and under all circumstances. In a world filled with discontentment, immorality, sadness, disappointment,

brokenness, and ungodliness believers are to provide a stark contrast to those dwelling in the sullen darkness of human depravity.

Drawing from the truth of Scripture and the promises contained therein, believers should find this admonition a reasonable way in which to live. Think of all the blessings and benefits that we have in Christ Jesus! We are blessed with all spiritual blessings, eternally loved and chosen by God, washed in the blood of the Lamb, and accepted in the Beloved (Eph. 1:3-7). We are fully justified by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1), a position that means we are complete in Him (Col. 2:9-10). We are forgiven of sin and privileged to walk and commune with God in the light of His glorious holiness (I John 1:4-9). The Holy Spirit of God dwells within us to enlighten, lead, guide, comfort, convict, and sanctify us. All the promises of God are confirmed in Jesus Christ. We have the Holy Scriptures to encourage and empower us to walk in a way that is pleasing to God. We have the privilege of Christian fellowship with other believers. God has assured us that even the trials and afflictions we must endure work for us rather than against us (II Cor. 4:16-18). We are promised that Christ's finished work has secured for us an eternal inheritance of joy and bliss that will never fade away (I Pet. 1:2-7). In short, we are chosen, redeemed, regenerated, indwelt by the Spirit, guided by the Word, fitted for fellowship with God and His people, and on our way to see the King in His beauty and enjoy the wonders of the glorified state. Along the way God has been pleased to load us with temporal blessings each

and every day. Family, friends, a measure of health, food, clothing, shelter, and many other blessings! The joys of seeing our children and grandchildren saved and walking in the truth as it is in Jesus. Blessing upon blessing, and grace upon grace fill our days!

As we ponder this admonition to "Rejoice evermore" let us do so with a renewed desire to truly count our blessings! May God deliver us from complaining, discontentment, and feelings of despair. Oh, that we may be able to say with the prophet: **"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments"** (Hab. 3:17-19).

TOM ROSS



## The Noted Pastor

(Continued from page 11) ♦

one. That said, though it seems odd to oppose something that one obviously is not well acquainted with, I suppose it is possible. However, definitions have been offered...seminars have been put on and are even available online for free...books are available which explain expository preaching with great detail and with crystal clarity. It would be wise—for any of us—to research a thing before we oppose it. Because, in this particular instance, men will find themselves actually opposing the

accurate preaching of the Word of God. Perhaps the worst thing about it is that the next generation of preachers is being taught to oppose Biblical preaching pretty much before they have even gotten started doing it.



## Attributes of Godly

(Continued from page 1) ♦

of the Holy Spirit of God almighty. There are at least four mandates for godly mothers to successfully obey God's command-ments.

**GODLY MOTHERS MUST SHELTER THEIR PRECIOUS CHILDREN FROM THE WORLD.**

A strong foundation of morality and of God's order and purposes must be relayed to the next generation at the earliest possible stages. As parents, we have obligations to provide as pure an environment as possible for our children, to keep the impurities of the world at bay, as long as possible. **"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life. Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them. Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"** (Prov. 22:3-6). This doctrine of conservatism is imperative to maintain this anticipated purity. Liberalism is rampant in our society, and it teaches that our children and protégés should learn via experiential creativity. Hands-on activities are encouraged to test their boundaries in every field and to let the children decide their own relativity of the

♦ (Continued on page 16)

# Attributes of Godly

(Continued from page 15) ♦

abundance of “modern truths.” But, conservatism is the Biblical method of instruction. A divinely inspired morality should be taught from the Bible, God’s Holy Word, to instruct in what God considers “right” or “wrong.” No shades of grey are acceptable to God, and no variance should be acceptable to godly mothers as they take responsibility of the stewardship of God’s gift of children to them. True science, true history and true political views are found in God’s Word, and are expounded in the history of Israel, God’s nation in the Old Testament, and then in the church of the living God (AnaBaptists and Baptists) from the New Testament unto the current generation.

How foolish it is for parents to allow their children to “try” smoking or pornography for themselves, and then find out too late, how addictive these particular vices might be for them. Instruct our children in the way of righteousness and instruct them to avoid the pitfalls of carnality and immorality, instead. We are the adults, are we not? Yet so many of our “childish counterparts” have never grown up enough to take responsibility for the children under their authority and guardianship. Much of this, I know, is due to fractured families and teen-age single moms, but many more liberal American parents have departed from God’s Word and the safety of church membership and struck out on Cain’s path in Genesis 4:16, **“And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.”** The great sin of Cain in departing from the presence and aura of the

Lord, was in taking his wife and children with him. Imagine young folk growing up and never hearing about God and the Messiah to come through Eve’s seed. With Cain’s antagonism to the true religion of God the Creator, there is no telling what substitutionary stories were told these helpless children. No wonder so many false religions arose so quickly and humanism swiftly turned the impressionable hearts of the next few generations into what Noah found on every hand in the generation of the great flood. **“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth...”** (Gen. 6:5-7).

Conservative instructions must come from the parents. The education of our children must be based on the Bible. The best way to do that in modern America is to home school them. Only in this manner is the education completely in the hands of the parents. If there is a godly Christian school in the area, it could be an option, but in many cases false doctrine might still be rampant in their teaching, that would have to be countered with faithful instruction concerning church truth, sovereign grace and other paramount teachings that might be neglected or even attacked by many modern (even fundamental) “assemblies.” To send our children to modern day public schools is going to take even more time to combat the myriad number of sins that they will be subjected to. While past American public schools may have

still championed the curriculum use of the Bible and godly primers, I could never in good conscience recommend public education (of America- 2018) for the learning minds of young children. There are too many terrible images and influences promoted by current socialistic and humanistic hierarchies that can never fully be erased. Evolution and other modern bases of Satan-blinded science, along with relativistic morality and aforementioned experiential liberalism have created disastrous curriculums for our impressionable youth. What they are teaching in our neighborhood elementary and high schools have no connection to godliness and righteousness, according to God and His Holy Word. But even more subtly, just the association with seemingly moral kids, that have various interpretations of truth, can be disastrous for our young families. Years of moral instructions can be torn down by one bad apple that gains influence in our lives, much less a child’s life.

## GODLY MOTHERS MUST SHOWER PASSIONATE LOVE AND INCULCATE DEEP-SEATED REVERENCE FOR GOD AND THE PARENTS IN THEIR CHILDREN.

I would recommend Gary Chapman’s book, *“The Five Languages of Love”* to all couples. In a profound and practical way, Dr. Chapman has proven the Biblical concept of love to be selfless, sacrificial actions that are meant to irrevocably tie “bonds of love” around families. The five specific tendencies to send and receive that Biblical love are outlined in his book. They can also be powerful avenues to shower passionate love to our children to satisfy their needs for

affection and attention.

First is “words of affirmation.” Keep the words flowing. The purpose here is not to vainly flatter, or to falsely inflate the child’s sense of importance, but to genuinely let them know that we love them, regardless of success or failure. Our love must be as unconditional as the Heavenly Father’s love is to both us and them. Audibly let them know this. **“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works”** (Heb. 10:24). Let them know we appreciate the efforts and sacrifices they are required to make so many times as Christian children. Do not take anything for granted, but daily corroborate that the words of affirmation are there. They do not have to be long speeches, either. One of the best is just three words, “I love you.” A solid communication line is critical to any important relationship, and certainly our children are of supreme importance.

Second is “acts of service.” The adage that “actions speak louder than words” is true in many cases and on many levels. To say words of instruction and then not follow up on them with actions of faith and acknowledgment of their truth is parental suicide. Children know fakes almost instinctively, and we must be genuine in our service to God, if we expect them to trust the Lord with their lives. A generation of parents that benignly drop their kids off at church or Sunday school has destroyed the “good intentions” of a faithless generation. Love defined is “selfless, sacrificial actions;” it is not just a word, or an emotion. John 3:16 shows love in action, and love is ultimately sacrificing what is valuable for us, to love another invaluable.

♦ (Continued on page 17)



# Attributes of Godly

(Continued from page 16) ♦

**“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren”** (I John 3:16). Making beds, washing dishes, hoeing the green beans and other household chores are teaching the love of sacrificial service to our children. Acts of service fulfill an innate desire to help and love others in a supremely personal fashion, which really can not be shown in any other way. Children that practice and need this particular kind of love will flourish and be remarkable Christians for the rest of their lives, by God’s amazing grace.

Third is “physical affection.” Do not skip the hugs and kisses that come with being a mother (or father). Children that grow up in wardship and orphanages many times will never recover from this horrible deprivation. The physical touch is a marvelous gift of God’s love. **“And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him...”** (Mark 1:41). The warmth of love may not be always able to be put in words and we may not always know what to do, but a simple touch of holding hands, being the recipient of a kiss, or engaging fully in a wondrous bear-hug will always share the love in our hearts. I know all folks are different, and some parents are not as comfortable with varying comfort zones, but these languages of love are taught and learned at an early age, and the precious touches of love can leave awesome and eternal impressions upon our young one’s hearts (and our cynical ones, as well).

Fourthly is “quality time.” Varying slightly from the preceding languages, yet overlapping them

as well, quality time is going to be sacrificial. How many times will a young one “pester” us parents to look at one of their drawings or accomplishments, until we really stop what we are doing to really take the quality time to actually look at and be amazed at what the child has done or said? One-on-one is an incredible way to love. For the particular time set aside, nobody in the world is as important (loved) as the recipient of such a sacrifice. Whether it just be the momentary acknowledgment of the current conversation, or whether it be a father/daughter date or mother watching from the hard bleacher seat as her son strikes out three more times, it just matters that you are there. Not halfway distracted by phone calls, or other family members, even just that the eye contact, the cheering, the important devotion time with God, the implicit knowledge of love, because the child is worth spending quality time with. **“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee”** (Jer. 31:3).

Fifth is “gifts.” It was surprising to me at first, to see this on the list of love languages, but after watching others and seeing the shining eyes and glistening tears at even the simplest of home-made gifts, I realize that it is true. Love is ultimately something that cannot be contained in a single person. It must have an outlet, and this word “gift” can additionally be translated “grace.” Whether the gift is merited and expected, or unmerited and astonishing, beloved mothers, please give and receive the gifts of love. Trinkets or valuable heirlooms and possessions alike, are only as precious as the love

accompanying it. **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God”** (Eph. 2:8). While some folks’ houses are sparse and bare, the folks that speak this language of love will have their homes decorated on every mantle and every wall, with the signs of love. It does not take much time to pick a flower, or write a card, does it? Mothers, please pass on these treasured mementos of your love to your children.

## GODLY MOTHERS MUST BE LIVING EXAMPLES OF GOD’S ORDER.

Honestly, as much as the father is responsible for the teaching and directing of the home, as its authoritative head, the godly mother is the real heart of the home. This is God’s purpose and objective. As the father heads off to his work, the mother is left in charge of the household and the children will be under her constant care and guardianship in a real and practical way, virtually 24/7. Her words are going to be just as important as the father’s in validation of the love and truth behind them. A true marriage should be seen by the children in the united front of parentage. Any differences that dad and mom have, should always be taken care of behind closed doors. As far as the children are concerned, mom and dad are always going to be on the same page.

I know that may not always be the case, in literal fact. But the article is addressed to those that desire to be godly mothers for this purpose, that our parenting goal is to primarily exalt our Lord and Master. Any selfish motives or private agendas are to be left at the door in godly marriages and families. We are the servants of the most high God, and it is His pleasure that we are to be about.

The stewardship of His gift of children ranks high on the list of His mercy and grace unto us, and we have no right to abuse such privileges and responsibilities.

The wife/mother is to show love and submission to the husband/father in all family settings. This is not a difficult or grievous task, when she has a husband that loves her more than he loves himself. **“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ... Husbands, love your wives, ... So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. ... let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband”** (Eph. 5:21-33). I understand the dangers fraught within a relationship where either the husband or wife are not saved. Please let the single folk reading note that awful danger and seek to obtain a godly spouse for the rest of their life, so as to rejoice evermore and live happily ever after. God’s grace will certainly be sufficient.

The children of a godly mother will find futility in the age-long charade of pitting mother against father. Such a mother will be a living example of God’s order. She will exhibit a love for her husband, that will forever be an example to her daughters, who will grow up looking for such a wonderful husband as their father has been, both in person and as projected

♦ (Continued on page 18)

# Attributes of Godly

(Continued from page 17) ♦

vitality upon their consciousness by their godly mother. The sons will grow up rejoicing in the hope of some day being worthy of pious love by a future godly wife, such as their mother has been. God, Himself will honor those seemingly endless days of rituals of manners, grace and service: "brush your teeth, comb your hair, take your shower, speak nice, or not at all, get ready for church, time for supper." All of these daily activities are specifically tailored by godly mothers to ensure a solid base for family love, honor and respect. Just because we make the Biblical distinction that the man is the head of the family, does not mean the woman's authority over the children is any less defined. Mom is the boss, while dad is gone, and that authority should not be any less deferred when dad gets home. Just a lift of his eyebrows, should be enough to remind the children that mom is "always right."

## GODLY MOTHERS MUST PRAY WITH AND WITNESS UNTO THEIR CHILDREN.

Mothers have a unique position of intimacy with their growing children. God, Himself has put them in that position to allow them to glorify Him and to enable mothers to saturate the children in their stewardship with the gospel. From telling Bible stories at the earliest ages, to teaching them to pray nightly and over every meal, a godly mother has the matchless opportunity to let these tender minds know of the ubiquitous presence of Jesus Christ. Children become aware very early in life of sin. Mothers must maintain discipline in these cases, but also let them know the value of repentance and faith in

Jesus Christ. The Saviour of the world is the only One that can make things "right" again, after the failures and evils of this world come to light. Children are like sponges for knowledge, and no more precious information can be instilled within them, than the truths of the Bible and the Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Mothers are the informal outlets of the truth for children, many times. Certainly their pastor, Sunday school teachers, and their fathers are going to be powerful sources of moral and doctrinal truth. I would hope that these Christian folk would make themselves approachable for childish questions and juvenile searches for truth, but the mother is usually at the front line for shy and curious children. A godly mother must be a student of the Word, and her Bible should be well-worn, as she takes her children on many an adventure into scripture to prove testimonies and to advance their knowledge of godliness and righteousness. Scripture memorization is a vital part of any child's education and those that learn to read from its holy pages are going to be blessed beyond measure. **"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"** (Ps. 119:11).

The Lord Jesus Christ put children in a special place in Scripture, when He likened the new birth and the entrance into the kingdom of Heaven, as being like a child in humility, tenderness and faith. But He also put children in a special place in the home, under the guardianship of a godly father and a godly mother. No greater gift can be given to any child than such godly parents. It is a charge to us, to recognize that responsibility and to take every opportunity to point our charges to Jesus Christ in salvation,

through the gospel. If the Lord is gracious to answer our prayers and reward us with the eternal gift of salvation to our children, then Lord help us to reinforce His teachings in bringing up these children in godliness and love. **"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"** (Eph. 6:1-4). Amen! Selah! Think about it!



## Philippians 4:19

(Continued from page 1) ♦

a glass eye, but some do. I do not need a cork leg, but some people do, and I could mention a good many other things that I do not need, and that you do not need, but there is not one of us but that needs God in our lives. So, when I come to speak to people from Sunday to Sunday over the air, trying to tell them about God, I am speaking on something that is tremendously vital and important. Unfortunately, many churches and many preachers are devoting much, and in some cases most of their time in promoting social activities, and amusing and entertaining people. I think just here of the big church in New York that I visited which has everything from a pool table and a dance hall, on up, or on down, according to the way you look at it. That church has a small religious department connected with it, and most of it is devoted to the pleasing and gratifying of the flesh. I read some time ago of

a big city Pastor who, seeing the popularity of the joints, had some juke organs installed in the social parlors of his church. He thought that he would stall off attendance on the juke joints on the part of his young people by giving them juke organs in the church. Listen, had he preached Christ and salvation to his young people, such as to bring them to saving faith in Him, they would have lost their taste for the joints and the juke organs. What young people need is not juke organs, they need God in their lives.

Time and again I have thought of something that happened in Brazil when I was a missionary in the city of Racife, Brazil. There was a man serving a term in the state penitentiary there in that city. He had been a bandit in that state, and his gun had 70 notches on it, indicating that he had killed 70 people. That man meant to kill one of our missionaries, Solomon Ginsberg, but the missionary spoke kindly to him, and he did not carry out his purpose. That night, he slipped up to the place where Ginsberg was preaching and listened to the sermon. The Holy Spirit brought deep conviction to his soul, and this resulted in that bandit's conversion. When God came into his life, it meant a complete change, a revolution. He quit his banditry and surrendered to the law, perfectly willing to take the punishment for his crimes. He was tried, was sent to the penitentiary, and when the missionaries used to go into that prison to visit and to speak to the inmates, they always visited that converted bandit, and this is what he told us. He said, "Had I learned the Gospel and turned to the Lord years ago, it would have kept me from murdering and robbing people. Many people

♦ (Continued on page 19)

# Philippians 4:19

(Continued from page 18) ♦

would be alive who are dead now, and I would not be here serving time in this penitentiary." What did that man mean? He meant that he needed God in his life before he went to ruin. That exactly illustrates the truth of this statement, every man needs God in his life. I have had people tell me when I visited them in the hospital, "Brother Mason, if I have the Lord back years ago, I would not be here, but I wasted my life, dissipated and ruined my health, and now I am paying up for it. That is exactly what a man told me whom I baptized several years ago. He was a comparatively young man, and I hated to see that fellow die. One day as I visited him in the hospital, he said to me, "I am going to die, I have so much the matter with me that there is no cure, and it all goes back to the wicked, drinking life that I lived before I was saved. Had I found the Lord years before I did, it would have saved me from a premature death."

Now, not every case is as extreme as these I have just been speaking about. Maybe you have never robbed or killed anybody, and maybe you have never lived a drunken, dissipated life, but let me say to you that you need the Lord anyhow. One thing is certainly true, you have wasted your life up to this point. How many years have you lived without God in your life? You have wasted every one of them, for you can never receive any reward for anything in those years. They are gone and gone forever. The best that you can do is to turn to the Lord now, and live from here on out in such a way as to lay up something with God. You need to come today to the Lord, saying, "I've wasted

many precious years, now I'm coming home, the paths of sin too long I've trod, Lord, I'm coming home." Without God, you are at outs with your Maker, you are out of harmony with the One Who gives you your breath, and if you die in that condition, you are going to find yourself banished from all that is good, banished from all loved ones who are Christians, banished from everything happy and worthwhile, and forever. And this is all wholly unnecessary. You do not have to go this way, and you do not have to die like that. You need the Lord in your life. What does our text say? **"But my God shall supply all your need."** That which you need most desperately can be supplied right now, and will be supplied if you will turn to Christ.

But now I turn to the second statement which I saw on the church bulletin board which I referred before. I saw this statement, "Every man needs God in his home." Godless homes! That is why there is so much divorcing, for a home in which God has no part is going to turn out to be the Devil's workshop. You can just count on that. Many parents are not Christians, not furnishing a Christian home or Christian teachings to their children, then they expect to cure delinquency, or prevent it, on the part of their children by furnishing them with teen-age recreational centers where they can learn to dance. As I have said before, that is just as sensible as to try to put out a fire by throwing gasoline on it. Teen-age dances are a curse to young people, and lead straight toward adultery, I do not care under whose auspices they are carried on, and I do not believe that a Christian man or woman ought to have one single thing to do with any kind of a club or organization

that sponsors dancing among young people, or older people, so far as that goes. Dancing is of the Devil, I say so plainly, and is used by the Devil, and was started by the Devil, and there is no way in the world of cleaning it up, or making it harmless. I make no apology whatsoever for making that statement, for it is so, it is so. Listen, fathers and mothers, what you need to do is to give your children a Christian father and mother and a Christian home in which to live. Old Joshua of old was right and he was on the right track when he said, **"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."**

I ran across this sad situation time and time again, and have through the years, uncounted cases of desperate sickness, and I find people, members of a family, who want me to pray for the desperately sick person, but they can not join me, for they are not Christians. And I remind you that if you are not a Christian, you do not have any access to God in prayer. Jesus says here in the Bible, **"No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."** What a pathetic thing it is to see parents standing around the bedside of a desperately sick child, feeling and knowing that God alone can intervene and save its life, yet unable to pray a word to Him. I have prayed for a child under such circumstances, and had my church to pray, when the parents were unable to join in with us, for they had left God completely out of their lives. I tell you, that is an awful situation to be in, and yet perhaps it would be the situation of some of you exactly, if sickness should come into your home today. A short time ago, I stood with a young couple at the grave, and saw a little casket lowered there in the earth, and that baby

was the joy of their lives and they loved it beyond words, but they were losing it. I said, "Are you Christians?" "No." Then as kindly as I knew how to do, I said, "Folks, you want to see this little one again, do you not?" "Oh, yes, we do." I said, "But you can not do it and leave the Lord out of your lives. This little child who never knew the meaning of personal sin has gone on to be with the Lord, but if you two should die as you now are, you would go to a different place entirely." Then I told them about David, who lost his child, and he said, according to the Bible, "I cannot bring him back to me, but I shall go to be with him." Standing there by that little grave, I pleaded with that couple to turn to Christ, but a sort of a hard, steely look came into their faces, and I thought of what Jesus said to some people back in His day, when He said, **"Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."** Why is it that people will harden their hearts toward the Lord? Why do they refuse the Savior? Why is it that when the Lord tells us how we may see and be with out loved ones again, so many people turn it down and refuse to pay any attention? Let me ask some of you these questions, for some of you up to this time have refused every overture of God's mercy. Does the Devil have anything that is so attractive and so alluring that for those things you can throw away the privilege of prayer, throw away the prospect of seeing your loved ones who have died in Christ, throw away all hope and prospect for the eternal future? When you think about it, you know he does not. Only the deceitfulness of sin can cause you to go on without the Lord in your life and in your home.

♦ (Continued on page 20)

# Philippians 4:19

(Continued from page 19) ♦

A young Chinese student, the graduate of one of America's great medical schools, was a guest in a Christian home, in fact, he had come to know the family quite well, such that he had spent many evenings in their company. This Chinaman was a very brilliant, witty fellow, and the members of the American family had come to like him very much. One evening, a member of the family said to him, "Dr. Tom, you are soon to return to China, and I want to ask you a question. You have no doubt seen many things in this country during the years of your stay here, tell us, what of all things that you have seen impress you the most?" A serious look came over the young Chinaman's face, and without a moment's hesitation, he answered. He looked around on the bright faces that composed the family circle of that Christian home, and he said, "This is the thing that impresses me most--this right here, this gathering of this Christian family circle is the most wonderful thing that I have seen in America. In my country, we do not have anything like that." That young man had seen the great American cities, the great engineering projects, the great universities, the great scientific developments, but the most wonderful thing to him was that gathering together in happy fellowship of the members of that Christian home. Listen, is your home a Christian home? Are you a Christian father, are you a Christian mother, is the family circle unbrokenly Christian? Will the family circle be unbroken over yonder in the by and by? True, true indeed it is, that every man needs God in his home. Father, mother, if you are not a Christian,

let me urge that you turn to the Lord this very day, I would say, this very hour.

But once again, the statement on the church bulletin board to which I referred before said every man needs God in his business. That is tremendously true. Any sort of business that you can not pray about and ask God's blessings upon, you had better get out of. The Bible says, **"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."** That means, that you ought to recognize God in your business life as well as anywhere else. Any business that debases and depraves human lives is not a legitimate business. Any business that preys on human weakness and flourishes on debased appetites of people is not a legitimate business. I think of a Christian who was offered the job of running a liquor store. It was urged on this Christian that it would pay a lot more than his present job, and the manager of the business said, "If you do not do it, somebody else will. You could just as well have this money as anybody else." The Christian said, "As a Christian, I can not do it. I know what liquor does for people, I know about the accidents, the tragedies, the sorrows, and I simply can not engage in that kind of business." Under most circumstances, I do not believe that a Christian who acknowledges God in his business life will run his place of business on Sunday. A man who ran a picture show in a small town where I was once Pastor wanted me to attend a certain show that he was putting on, and came around with a complimentary ticket. What he wanted was my approval of his business, for I had a lot of people in my church whose business he wanted. I thanked him for his offer of a ticket, but I told him I

could not conscientiously attend his theatre. "But why?" he asked. I said, "For one thing, I do not believe in your running your show on Sunday." "Neither do I," said he, "but I have to do it to make any money." "In the second place," I said, "I do not believe that you ought to show a lot of the old sex filth that you show on the screen." He said, "I do not, either, but I have to do it to make money. If I run the kind of films that my conscience approves of, I would go broke in thirty days." I said, "My friend, you have condemned your own business." When a fellow tells me that he can not run a business according to what he knows is right and stay in that business, then he had better be getting out of it. **"In all thy ways,"** says our text, **"acknowledge him."** You will have to do this if you are to have the blessings and guidance of Heaven. Which is the best, to engage in something in which you have to leave the Lord out, or to engage in that which acknowledges and honors Him, such that you have His guidance and His blessing? I just do not believe that people can afford to be at outs with the Lord Who furnishes them with the very breath that they breathe, and their whole lives and health and everything is in His hands.

But now I want to add a point to the statement made on the church bulletin board to which I referred. The statement said, "Every man needs God in his life, in his home, in his business." Let me add this statement, "Every man will need God in the hour of his passing from the scenes of this life." And that hour is coming for every person hearing me. A woman told me a horrifying thing some time ago. She was talking to a godless man who derided Christianity. She said to him, "What are you going to do when

you come down to death and the grave?" He said, "I am going to fool the old boy, I am going to have my body cremated." She said, "You can have your body cremated, but what about your soul?" "Oh," he said, "I will have that cremated, too." I am persuaded that many a person has left instructions to have his body cremated, thinking in that way to defeat the plan of God to raise him from the dead and bring him into judgment. What a foolish, childish, absurd conception of God such persons have! How ridiculously foolish is that person who thinks he can get ahead of God and can defeat the purpose, plan and Word of God! My friends, you can not do it, and there is no use to try. God says here in His Word, **"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this, the judgment."** You are going to die, and you are going to be called into a judgment, too, and that is just as certain as that the tides will flow and the sun set each day. Before you reach death, before you reach judgment, you need to take the Lord into your life. Yes, and you need to do that today, because you may die today.

We talk about the chilly river of death, we talk about the dark valley of shadow. I do not believe there is such a river or such a valley for the child of God. I believe that when I, as a child of God, am called to go, that God shall send me an escort of angels to bear my spirit away into His presence. That is not just speculation or idle fancy, either. Does not the Bible give us the story of Lazarus, the poor saved beggar, who craved the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table? His lot in this life was a hard one---poverty and sickness and hunger---but time came for his release from the hard things, for he died. And what else? It says

♦ (Continued on page 21)



# Philippians 4:19

(Continued from page 20) ♦

an angel carried him to his happy destination, and if an escort of angels was sent for Lazarus, I believe that the same thing will be true for every child of God.

What is going to be your situation when that last final hour of life comes? Will you lie there, a person who has lived in God's world, yet who rejected Him? Will you lie there on your bed having wasted your life? Will you lie there facing an eternal hereafter, having made no provision? Will you lie there just a few minutes away from an eternity for which you are not prepared? Millions and millions of people have done that thing, that very thing, and such an end as that is at the end of every godless life. If I had the power to call back one of those lost souls from eternity into which they had gone unprepared, he would warn you with a terrible, terrible warning. Long ago I turned and made my plans to spend my future somewhere else. Will you do the same today? Turn to Christ today, will you? Place your soul by faith in His keeping, and you shall have the matter of your salvation settled and settled forever. I ask you earnestly, will you do it?

Our heavenly Father, help people to realize that we have been talking about things that are vital, and things that are eternal, and things that concern every human being. And may there be no disposition to push these things away, but help those that have been reading to face their own situation, and to face it in the sight of God, as we ask it in Christ's name. Amen.



THE

# BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

Readers of the BBB are urged to submit religious news items which they may read in their local paper or some other publication. In sending these please give the name of the publication as well as the date it was printed. We will not be able to print all which are submitted, but we welcome any item you may feel we should read.

Send them to The Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855-0039.

## **SURPRISE: BIBLE READERS PREFER PHYSICAL OVER DIGITAL COPY**

(CH)--A new Barna survey shows that 89 percent of Bible users in the United States read a physical version – a percentage that has remained steady the past eight years. Reading the Bible on the Internet (57 percent) and on a smartphone (55 percent) remains popular, but a Barna report said Americans' usage of a physical version is noteworthy. "Little has changed in the preference for a physical copy of the scriptures in the last eight years since tracking began," the Barna report said. The survey findings are similar to those of a 2016 Pew Research Center survey, which discovered that 65 percent of Americans prefer a physical book and 28 percent an e-book.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ABORTION A 'MORAL TRAGEDY,' SAYS JUDGE IN RULING**

(CH)-- Judge James Ho who was nominated and confirmed last year to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, sided with the Texas Conference of Catholic Bishops in an opinion and also called abortion a "moral tragedy" – language that has sparked outrage from the pro-choice community. The case concerns a Texas law that would require abortion providers to bury or cremate fetal remains and would forbid them from placing the remains in sewers or landfills. The Texas Conference of Catholic Bishops offered to bury the remains for free. A lower court judge ordered

the Bishops to "discovery requests" in the case – an intrusive order for a religious organization that isn't a party in the case -- but the Bishops appealed. In a 2-1 Fifth Circuit decision, Ho joined Judge Edith Jones in blocking the lower court's order. "The First Amendment expressly guarantees the free exercise of religion -- including the right of the Bishops to express their profound objection to the moral tragedy of abortion, by offering free burial services for fetal remains," Ho wrote. "By contrast, nothing in the text or original understanding of the Constitution prevents a state from requiring the proper burial of fetal remains."

\*\*\*\*\*

## **USING THE WRONG PRONOUN COULD GET YOU FIRED, EXPELLED**

(Star Tribune)--Referencing someone by the wrong pronoun could get you fired or expelled at the University of Minnesota if a proposed policy is adopted. The university is considering a policy that would require faculty members and students to use the preferred pronoun of transgender men and women, including "he," "she," "ze" or "they." The policy also would allow individuals to use the housing, restroom or locker room that corresponds to their identity. "Violations of the provisions of this Policy could constitute discrimination or harassment based on gender identity or gender expression," the proposal reads. "Discrimination or harassment

based on gender identity or gender expression may result in appropriate responsive action, including but not limited to disciplinary action up to and including termination from employment and academic sanctions up to and including academic expulsion."

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SCHOOL WARNS CHRISTIAN MAN NOT TO DISTRIBUTE BIBLES**

(CH)--An Illinois school district responded to complaints from an atheist organization by warning a Christian citizen he must stop distributing Bibles to students outside on a street. The Freedom From Religion Foundation had told the school, La Harpe Elementary, that individuals should not be allowed to distribute Bibles and religious materials to students. "Religion is inherently divisive and has no official place in a public school where staff and young students hold varied beliefs -- and no belief at all," said FFRE co-president Annie Laurie Gaylor. "It's commendable that the district has investigated and remedied these violations." An attorney for the school district sent a cease and desist letter to the man who was handing out Bibles. The school district also acquiesced to the atheist organization's demands that the school principal stop discussing her faith and referencing it on flyers to staff. According to FFRE, the flyers included such phrases as "May His Gift Of Peace Be Present In Your Home" and "Reflect Upon His Blessings To You And Thank Him For What He Has Done For You." One flyer also mentioned a Bible verse about Christ's birth.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **CALIF. BILL WOULD LIMIT WHAT PASTORS CAN SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY**

(CH)--A California bill that targets so-called "conversation

♦ (Continued on page 22)

# Bible & the Newspaper

(Continued from page 21) ♦

therapy” for gays could have major consequences for religious liberty and even impact what pastors can say at conferences and in certain sermons, legal experts are warning. AB 2943, which passed the Assembly in April and is expected to pass the state Senate before the end of summer, would ban the advertising or sale of “sexual orientation change efforts” by counselors, even if an adult wants to pay for it. But it could have more far-reaching consequences that its supporters aren’t acknowledging. The text of the bill says “sexual orientation change efforts” is defined as “any practices that seek to change an individual’s sexual orientation.” “This includes efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex,” the bill reads.

\*\*\*\*\*

## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS FILIPINO PRESIDENT SAYS HE WILL RESIGN IF SOMEONE PROVES THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

(CH)--Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte turned up the heat in his feud with the Roman Catholic Church by questioning the existence of God and mocking basic Christian doctrines. The President’s remarks came during a tirade about the church and her doctrines. He said he would resign if someone could prove to him that God existed. The proof he looks for could come in the form of a “selfie” or someone who was “able to talk to and see God.” He did admit that some kind of higher power must exist, otherwise the planets and stars would collide. Duterte initially said he would not apologize for his remarks about God “in a million years,” but then backed down from that assertion.

He remarked, “I only apologize to God, nobody else,” adding, “If I have wronged God, he would be happy to listen. Why? Because my God is all-forgiving.” Duterte’s provocative remarks and feud with the church could take a toll on him politically. Over eighty percent of the people in the Philippines claim membership in the Roman Catholic Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHRISTIAN MAN FACES 2 YEARS IN JAIL FOR CRITICIZING HOMOSEXUALITY

A Canadian Christian man faces up to two years in prison and a charge of promoting hatred after distributing pamphlets that included Bible verses and graphic medical pictures. Bill Whatcott, 51, is accused of violating the nation’s hate crimes law, which prohibits “willful promotion of hatred.” He passed out around 3,000 pamphlets at the 2016 Pride Toronto parade and a warrant was issued for his arrest in June of this year. “This notion that I hate homosexuals is rubbish,” Whatcott. “When the Left accuses conservative Christians of hate, they’re really being disingenuous, because it’s them that hate. What I do is I speak the truth, and I think the truth is the loving thing to share, even when it’s hard to share,” he added. “If you’ve got a kid who is doing drugs and ruining his life, [then] just telling him it’s fine is not helpful. You have to tell him he’s destroying himself. ... The homosexual lifestyle and the homosexual agenda certainly destroys the lives of homosexuals, and it is harmful to the entire nation.” The pamphlets included graphic pictures of the result of sexually transmitted diseases. “The rejection of true marriage is ... in direct opposition to God’s law and it is our duty to warn you that those who choose to rebel against the God who created them, do so to their eternal peril,” the pamphlet reads.

## MISS UNIVERSE TO FEATURE TRANSGENDER CONTESTANT

(NYT)--Ángela Ponce, a 27-year-old who underwent hormonal treatment and surgery to change from a man to a woman, will become the first transgender person to compete in the Miss Universe pageant later this year. “There are women with a penis and men with a vagina, because the only key part of being a woman is to be and feel like a woman,” Ponce said. “What strikes me is that a lot of the criticism has come from women and people from my own collective, just when women are taking to the streets to ask for recognition. I find it weird that some women don’t tolerate that I go to a competition to represent my country as the woman that I am. If we want progress, we just have to stop looking whether what other women are doing is good or not.” Guillermo Escobar, president of Spain’s beauty contest, said the judges “simply valued her as a great woman.”

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANCIENT MOSAICS DISCOVERED IN ISRAEL

(CH)--Researchers have found mosaics in Israel, including one that appears to depict the two scouts Moses sent to explore Canaan. The mosaic depicts two men carrying a pole with a cluster of grapes. In Hebrew is inscribed: “a pole between the two.” The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill announced the discovery of the mosaics at the Huqoq site in Galilee. The mosaic of Moses’ scouts appears to refer to the book of Numbers, where the men were sent to the land of Canaan after their exodus from Egypt. According to Numbers 13:23, the men “cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes” and returned to Moses.



## The Short Pews



Brief Articles  
by Curtis Pugh  
(1944 - 2018)

## WHY DOES THE POPE WEAR A HAT?

Every reader is probably familiar with the variety of head coverings, hats, and caps worn by the pope. Why does he do that? Does he not know what the Bible says about a man wearing a hat when he prays or preaches? Paul made it clear that men are not to wear a head covering at such times. He wrote: **“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head”** (I Cor. 11:3-4). Each Christian man’s head is Christ. To cover his head like a woman is supposed to do, is to dishonor Christ who is the man’s head. (For women read verse 5 of this same chapter). The fact that Roman Catholic clergy wear hats is not an insignificant matter because the honor of the Lord Jesus is at stake.

The Douay-Rheims Bible is a Roman Catholic translation of the Bible. Here is how the above quoted two verses are worded in that translation: “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying with his head covered, disgraceth his head.” Instead of “dishonoureth” the Catholic Bible has “disgraceth.” Otherwise the Catholic Bible and the King James Bible are the same. So the pope’s

♦ (Continued on page 23)

# The Short Pews

(Continued from page 22) ♦

wearing of hats cannot be a matter of misunderstanding based upon a mis-translation. Their Bible says the same as ours.

Well, then, is it that the pope is ignorant of the Bible? He may well be, but what about the myriad of Catholic scholars? The pope of the Catholic church cannot plead ignorance in this matter. He can read his own church's translation of the Bible. You and I can read those two verses and understand them. They are not at all difficult to understand. So, we ask in our title, "Why Does the Pope Wear a Hat?" In the light of the clear teaching of the Word of God, why do the pope and the bishops and priests and other men in the Catholic church make it a rule to wear a head covering of one kind or another when they pray and preach?

Historically it can be demonstrated that the double miter often worn by the pope came from paganism. It is obvious when viewed from the side that it represents the open mouth of a fish and honors Dagon, the fish god. Dagon is mentioned by name seven times in the Old Testament. But other kinds of hats are worn by the Catholic clergy as well. Why?

Our point is this: the Roman Catholic church does not care what the Bible says. They pretend to follow the Bible, but in reality they are as one man said, "a stew." Old Testament priestcraft is blended with pagan gods and goddesses under Christian (Biblical) names in their society and system. The reasons they wear hats may never be fully known to us, but the fact that they do so in the light of the Scripture proves to all the world that they do not care what the Bible says. They are not subject to the Bible. Rather they use it when it

suits them in furthering their ends. To them the Bible is like a salad bar or a buffet. They take what they want or like from the Bible and leave the rest behind.

The Roman Catholic position on the Scriptures is this. They say the Bible is neither sufficient nor perspicuous—the Bible is not enough and is not clear. So they claim the exclusive right to supplement the Bible with traditions and with the pope speaking ex-cathedra. When he does this, he is infallible, they say. The traditions of their church are equal with the Bible, according to them. And the words of the popes when speaking ex-cathedra contain no error. What they are saying is this – the Bible is not clear or understandable by the ordinary person, so Catholic church councils and popes have the exclusive right to interpret the Bible. They have the exclusive right to tell you that this or that passage does not mean what it says, but instead means something entirely different from what it says if they say so. And loyal obedient Roman Catholics must believe them instead of the Bible.

One of the Catholic arguments for disregarding the Bible is to argue that the Catholic church existed before the New Testament Scriptures. So they claim they are responsible for the Scriptures and that it is their teaching that gives the Scriptures authority. The facts are otherwise. The New Testament was completed about A.D. 100 and the Catholic system did not exist at that time. In fact the Catholic church cannot furnish an accurate date for their beginning. What happened is that dis-fellowship between sound anabaptist or Baptist churches and some of their own churches took place over several years. Gradually these unsound former Baptist churches evolved or devolved into the corrupt pagan works-mongering system that exists today.

There was no Catholic church in the first Christian century and so the Catholics could not be responsible for giving authority to the Scriptures.

To sum it all up, Catholic clergy wear hats because they do not care what the Bible says. This is obviously the case. As far as I can learn no pope has spoken ex-cathedra on the subject of the wearing of hats. They just do it. By doing so they disgrace or dishonor Christ because they want to do so. They claim their traditions are equal with the Bible and they claim to have the right to tell the world what is to be believed whether or not they contradict the Bible.

There are others who equally disregard the Bible. Here in Oklahoma we have some groups that call themselves "Cowboy Churches." In newspaper photos their preachers are shown standing in a dirt floored area preaching to people sitting in the bleachers. The idea seems to be that you can come to church fresh from the barn lot with manure on your boots and jeans and be acceptable. The preachers at these churches are dressed in jeans and western shirts, holding a Bible and preaching – complete with western hat on at the time. They are like the Catholics in that they cover their heads when preaching and praying and so dishonor Christ. So doing whatever you want to do regardless of what the Bible says is not limited to the Roman Catholics.

There are others who believe and do whatever they want to do regardless of what the Bible says. Protestant baby-baptizers, like Catholics, know that there is not a single Bible verse that supports infant baptism, but they do it anyway. They just do not care what the Bible says. Invitation-system Baptists know that there is not a

♦ (Continued on page 23)

## BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 6-1-2018 to 6-30-2018

Beginning Balance .....	\$809.21
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	300.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL .....	60.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX .....	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV .....	200.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	150.00
Carol Willett, Edgewater, FL .....	50.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL .....	25.00
Emmanuel B. C., Oldtown, KY .....	200.00
Faith B. C., Lynn, AR .....	12.50
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME .....	20.00
Grace B. C., Rural Hall, NC .....	50.00
Grace B. C., Lynn, AR .....	35.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL .....	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV .....	100.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC .....	50.00
Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY .....	35.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH .....	100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....	100.00
Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR .....	100.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL .....	100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR .....	50.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS .....	25.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX .....	30.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA .....	25.00
Subscriptions .....	34.00
Anonymous .....	1,220.00
Dividing checks .....	150.00
Sub Total .....	\$3,321.50
TOTAL .....	\$4,130.71

<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Printing .....	490.00
Postage .....	572.66
Wages .....	2,300.00
FICA .....	175.96
Supplies .....	0.00
Dividing checks .....	150.00
Bank Charge .....	13.00
Total Expenditures .....	\$3,701.62
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$429.09



## BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 6-1-2018 to 6-30-2018

Beginning Balance .....	\$1,653.10
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	225.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	100.00
.....	325.00
TOTAL .....	1,978.10
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Radio Time .....	567.96
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....	567.96
Interest .....	+01
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$1,410.15

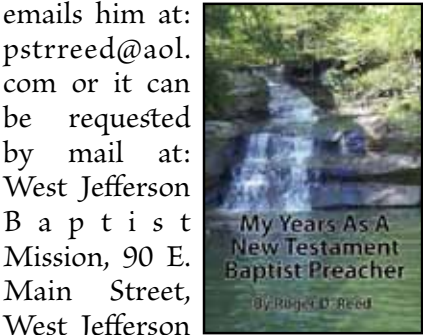
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church of Chesapeake, OH and Pastor Tom Ross, will be hosting their Annual Fellowship Missions Conference on Saturday, August 11th, at 9:30 a.m. Scheduled speakers are Elders Tim Underwood, Scott Coffey, and Ron Crisp. There will be a dinner served after the service.

On Sunday, August 12th, Bro. Daniel Pierson a missionary to Kennedy Heights, OH in Cincinnati will be preaching.

The Philadelphia Baptist Church of Decatur, AL and Pastor Doyal Thomas regret to announce that they have cancelled their Annual Fellowship Meeting scheduled for September 14th thru 16th. They look forward to scheduling another meeting sometime in the future, as the Lord allows.

Elder Roger Reed has written a book titled *My Years as a New Testament Baptist Preacher*. The book was written for young men (not necessarily young in age) called to the gospel ministry. They will be offered free to anyone who emails him at:



pstrreed@aol.com or it can be requested by mail at: West Jefferson Baptist Mission, 90 E. Main Street, West Jefferson Ohio 43162-1206. Please include your mailing address with your request.

The Grace Bible Baptist Church of Denham Springs, LA has called Elder Charles Andrews as pastor.

The Harmony Baptist Church of Godfrey, IL has called Elder Jeff Short as pastor.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Wake Forest, NC is in need of a pastor. For more information, please contact Titus Dickerson at (919) 570-6178 or email info@sgbc-wakeforest.org.

The Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Marion, IL is seeking a pastor. Please contact Gary Ratley at (618) 841-0228 for more information.

The Lord's Baptist Church in Tacoma Washington is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact Gaylen Russell at 360-879-5565 (home) or 253-495-4567 (cell) or by Email: gaylenr@rainierconnect.com.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, KS is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact the church in writing at SGBC, 400 N. Main St., Caldwell, KS 67022, or by phone Brother Darin Wiley 620-863-2431.

The Victory Baptist Church of Chehalis, Washington is in need of a pastor. Any interested brother may call Gerry Greisen at (360) 985-7975, or Mark Fenison at (360) 751-2929.

The Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Cobbitty, South Wales, Australia is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact David Jackson at 4 Station Street, Thirlmere, NSW 2572, Australia or Email: shellie45@bigpond.com.au.



## The Short Pews

(Continued from page 23) ♦

single instance in the Bible where anybody ever invited a person to come forward in order to be saved, but they do it anyway. They do not care what the Bible says. All sorts of “evangelicals” tell people to do this or that or the other religious thing and they will be born again. They do this even though the Bible never tells us what to do in order to be born again. It is easy to be devoted to a system and not care what the Bible says. Easy, that is, if you do not care what the Bible says.

The question comes to mind: are these professing Christians who do not care what the Bible says “of us” or did they go “out from us?” We know the Catholics did that very thing. We know that the Protestants came out from the Catholics. Whatever their history, those who disregard what the Bible says are “not of us.” That being the case, some Baptists are not “of us” either. And there are Baptists this

very day who are step by step in process of leaving us. Consider that last statement in the light of what John wrote. **“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us”** (I John 2:19). So when the pope wears a hat, or a cowboy preacher does the same thing – or anyone disregards what the Bible says, it is because they do not care what the Bible teaches. They are not committed to following the Bible, but rather their own system and traditions.

But there are some people who believe and say that what the Bible says does make a difference. They say that it is important in all its teachings and patterns. God has always had such a people. Back in ancient Israel God had worked in some folk and they thought His Word was important. The prophet Isaiah wrote about them in these words: **“Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed”** (Isa. 66:5). Are you one of those who **“tremble at his word?”** In spite of mistreatment and mockery from the religious liberals and Bible-deniers popular with the world, does it matter to you what God says in the Bible? Are you concerned about being obedient to the Bible? You are not alone. God has today a remnant of people in whom He has worked. These believe that following the Bible is the way to please God. They endeavor to do that very thing in their daily lives and in their religious observances. May their tribe increase!



## ARTICLE INDEX

Attributes of Godly Mothers by Matthew Stepp .....	p. 1
The Bible and the Newspaper .....	p. 21
Bible Prophecy and the Birth of Christ by Frank B. Beck .....	p. 1
Forum .....	pp. 12-13
Little Hills by Nathaniel Hille .....	p. 5
The Noted Pastor by Todd Bryant .....	p. 11
One Thing Have I Desired by Paul Stepp .....	p. 1
People Are Basically Good? by Milburn Cockrell .....	p. 1
Philippians 4:19 by Roy Mason .....	p. 1
Small Drops by Joseph M. Sidders .....	p. 9
The Short Pews by Curtis Pugh .....	p. 22