

# The

# Berea Baptist

# Banner

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THIRD IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON MORALS  
BY MILBURN COCKRELL (1941 - 2002)

## Temperate In All Things

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible" (I Cor. 9:24-25).



In my text the Apostle Paul is making an allusion to the Isthian games celebrated in the vicinity of Corinth. The Corinthian had often attended these and watched the foot race. The apostle compares the Christian racer to the Grecian foot racer. In the case of both temperance was a vital factor. Both were responsible to exercise self-control in all things.

Generally, if a man announces he is going to preach on temperance people assume he is about to give a discourse against the excessive use of alcohol. It is true that the Christian grace of temperance prohibits alcohol abuse, but temperance involves a great deal more than this. The words "**is temperate**" used by Paul in the text denotes abstinence from all that would excite, stimulate and ultimately enfeeble. It means to pursue a course of entire temperate living.

Note carefully the words "**is temperate IN ALL THINGS.**" Temperance not only relates to abstinence from unlawful indulgence, but also abstinence from many lawful things which may weaken our Christian testimony. The apostle said: "**Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend**" (I Cor. 8:13).

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## The Truth About Christmas

By Ralph F. Becker  
(19?? - 19??)

"Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry" (I Cor. 10:14).

"Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15).

"Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (I John 5:21).

Dear Reader---These words of the Holy Spirit should interest you greatly if you are a Christian. They are very searching, very alarming words. And they are words of Holy condemnation.

These words show us that whatever is very popular with men is not of God. They teach us, that without a question whatever ungodly men esteem highly, is abominable to the Lord. And sad as it is, they reveal that Christ's own children can be deceived into the sin of idolatry.

## LOVE

By John Harvey  
(18?? - 18??)

*'Art thou a Christian? Is the moving cause,  
The spring of all thy actions, love? Do its  
pure laws*

*Constrain thy every power, thy heart,  
strength, mind?*

*Do its o'erflowings reach to all  
mankind,*

*And sit upon thy lip, and in thy bosom  
tremble?*

*In burning love to souls, thy Christ  
resemble?"*

The sacred Scriptures fully and clearly demonstrate the truth of the Christian religion. Every book, chapter, and paragraph, supplies indubitable evidence both as to their antiquity and divine inspiration. "**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for**

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Holidays are highly esteemed among men. And no holiday is more highly regarded than Christmas. No date on the calendar is more looked forward to. The ungodly who spend their short lives only in pursuit of money, pleasure, fame and power unite as one to celebrate Christmas. World wide no one date is so wholly given over to revelry, sin and idolatry as December 25.

This Christmas the world celebrates is not of God. It is abominable to Him. It is not honoring to His Son, Jesus Christ. It is only a false misrepresentation of Him. It is not of the Holy Spirit. It is only a grievous mockery to Him.

Christmas is not a time of spiritual upbuilding in the Church. It is an evil that plagues that body of true believers.

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## Why I Believe the Doctrines of Grace

By Steve Cornett  
of Brownsburg, Indiana

Several years ago I read an article on why I disagree with the doctrines of grace. I thought I would answer him as to why I believe these doctrines.

We who believe and preach the doctrines of grace are a minority. At one time we were a majority. Our position is the historical position of the Baptists. Men like Spurgeon, Gill, Keach, Pink, Bunyan, T. P. Simmons and many others held to these truths.

As long as God has His churches in the world, His truth will shine as a light in a dark place. The Bible says that God's ways are not our ways, neither are His thoughts ours. Let me give three reasons why I believe the doctrines of grace.

**1. JESUS CHRIST PREACHED THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE.**

◊ (Continued on page 234)

## What Jesus Christ Is

By Roy Mitchell  
of Corbin, Kentucky

"Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all" (Col. 3:11). He's all, that about sums it up. He's all to us.



He means more to me now and He means more to you than anything else in all this world. As you near the end of your journey as I am, Jesus Christ becomes more precious everyday. He certainly does. And He's always been precious but He becomes more precious when we know the end is near. I'll soon be 78 and will soon be at home with the Lord. So Christ is all, there is no other Saviour. "**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved**" (Acts 4:12).

◊ (Continued on page 223)

## Small Fellowships

By Raymond Bennett  
of Ithaca, New York

"**And Terahtook Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there**" (Gen. 11:31).



"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:" (Gen 12:1).

"So Abram departed, as the LORD

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*The problem today is that the church is so worldly, and the world so churchly that people cannot tell any difference between the two.*



December 5, 2005  
Volume XXV, Number XII  
Whole Number 321

Editor: Christopher Cockrell  
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THE BEREA 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 BEREA 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.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

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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.

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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.

# Temperate In All

(Continued from page 221) ♦

Temperance is not confined to any one thing, but to every kind of indulgence that tends to render the body weak and cause the Christian testimony to wane.

## TEMPERANCE BETTER UNDERSTOOD

"**Temperance**" in the Bible signifies self-government over the appetite and passions of our nature. It is a moderation of our desires, pursuits and aversions. It is the equilibrium of the mind, the equal balance of the temper, and the regulator of the heart. Temperance as a virtue must dwell in the heart (Dan. 1:8). It consists in a rigid subjection of every inward feeling and power to the rule of right reason. It means to be master of one's self. It means one's passions must be his subjects obeying his will.

The field of temperance is exceedingly broad, and it takes in the whole realm of Christian living. Temperance is an essential element of good Christian character. It is the application of reason to all daily acts of life. It is the highest and best form of life one can attain to on earth. The temperate Christian by abstaining from the excess of most things will be surprised how many things he can still enjoy.

Temperance is not an optional grace for a Christian; it is a thing commanded of God. The text said: "**And EVERY MAN that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.**" In Titus 2:2 it is written: "**That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate. . .**" In listing the six important Christian graces to be added to our faith, Peter said: "**And to knowledge temperance. . .**" (II Pet. 1:5). What is required of a minister should be regarded by all Christians: "**For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, TEMPERATE**" (Tit. 1:7-8).

Temperance is a subject worthy of man's pursuit. True religion is designed to deliver us from the dominion of fleshly lusts and to purify our character (Tit. 2:13; I Pet. 4:1-5). The person who abounds in this grace makes himself useful and honorable. He fits himself for discharging his duties in a manner worthy of the Savior he professes to know. Temperance stamps the character with loveliness and purity. It is a virtue without pride and envy, the best guardian of youth and supporter of old age. It is the physician of the soul as well as the body--the universal medicine of life. It is the boundary line over which we cannot step without violating the rules of discretion, blotching our character, disfiguring our moral features, and sustaining great physical loss.

## THE SIN OF INTEMPERANCE

Temperance is necessary to prevent extremes either of excess or deficiency. Excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures, in carnal gratification, in eating and drinking, is not only injurious to our physical and moral nature, but it is prohibited by God. Proverbs 23:20 commands: "**Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh.**" Christians would do well to regard the Savior's caution to His disciples in Luke 21:34: "**And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life. . .**" To be a real Christian requires that we govern our passions. There can be no advancements in the path of holiness without temperance.

The streams of intemperance are legions. The allurements that lead downward are equally numerous in our modern world. There is not a power of the mind, affection of the heart, nor a desire of the body that may not be disposed to some form of intemperance which may injure our physical and spiritual well being. All forms of intemperance are evil and destroy some function of the mind or body. Intemperance is a disease which spreads in harmony through the whole of man's being.

Good health can only be acquired and maintained by temperance. Bodily pains and aches tell of intemperance in some areas of life. Pain means penalty, and penalty means that its sufferer should reform. Intemperance is the curse of modern society. It has filled our hospitals with patients, crowded the offices of medical doctors, and dug many an untimely grave. Most of the diseases that afflict the body grow out of man's inability to control his appetite and passions.

Intemperance means excess. A thing is good as long as it is necessary. All beyond necessity is sinful. Money is good; more than is necessary may cause us to be pierced through "**with many sorrows**" (I Tim. 6:10). Food is good; too much destroys us. Light is good; too much will blind us. Water is good; too much will drown us. Heat is good; too much will burn us. Any excess of a good thing constitutes intemperance and is to be avoided.

## THE TEMPERANCE OF THE TONGUE

In many things and in various ways men may be intemperate. A temperate person controls his tongue. The government of the tongue is essential to all self-control. James 3:2 declares: "**If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able to bridle the whole body.**" An unbridled tongue is the proof of an unbridled spirit.

It is said that Peter the Great, Czar of Russia, once spoke harshly and struck his gardner, who, being a man of great

sensitivity, took to bed and died in a few days. Peter, hearing of this, exclaimed, "Alas! I have civilized my subjects, I have conquered nations; but I have not been able to conquer myself."

It is our responsibility to keep our tongues in check. In Psalm 34:13 it is written: "**Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.**" He who can conquer his tongue is greater than all world conquerors. A wise man must sometimes bite his tongue until it bleeds. We all do battle with our tongues. There is none among us who does not at times speak indiscreetly, foolishly, or immodestly. We read where Moses "**spake unadvisedly with his lips**" (Ps. 106:33). Because of this he was not privileged to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. How often have our lips caused the Lord to turn from blessing us?

Some have no control over their temper. When they come into collision with something they do not approve, they explode in a flame of passion. Trivial occurrences, slight provocations, a little opposition, or small doctrinal disagreements throw them into a fit of irritation which unbridles their tongue. This unbridled tongue "**defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell**" (Jas. 3:6). This cesspool of iniquity proceeds from an uncontrolled emotion and an unchecked tongue. It is a scar on the character and indicates the existence of an ill-regulated heart!

Unless the tongue is kept in check it is apt to go aside from sober to ridiculous conversation. From it may come exaggerated statements, jestings at sacred things, foolish expressions, and idle words. A proper government of the tongue checks such inconsiderate remarks and promotes "**Sound speech, that cannot be condemned**" (Tit. 2:8).

## TEMPERANCE IN DRESS

While the Scripture furnishes us with no detail rule of the precise form of clothing we are to wear, it does enjoin "**modest apparel**" (I Tim. 2:9). Our apparel should be such as becomes a godly person. It must be modest in the sense of being opposed to immodest. Our clothing should become us and be appropriate to us. Our outward appearance in clothing ought to sufficiently cover the body, for clothing was enjoined by God to hide the body and to prevent unlawful lusts.

A lady once asked John Newton what was the best rule for female dress and behavior. "Madam," said he, "so dress and so conduct yourself that persons who have been in your company shall not recollect what you had on." There is much truth in his words.

We must not dress in needless finery. We must not sacrifice necessary food to appear fine and affluent. We should never rob the Lord of His tithes and

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address.

# Temperate In All

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offerings to buy beautiful clothes. Good stewardship is a must for a Christian. We cannot ignore those destitute of the common necessities of life nor the call of Christian missions. These things should make a heavier demand upon Christian liberality than any costly raiment.

Nonconformity to the world must be observed in the wearing of apparel. The Divine injunction reads: **“Be not conformed to this world”** (Rom. 12:2). The word rendered **“conformed”** properly means to put on the form, fashion, or appearance of another. It certainly does include such things as dress. The world is not to lead the church in the styles of clothing, but the church is to be an example to the world. The Bible should be the mirror at which the Christian dresses. Being temperate in all things means dress as becomes a true Christian.

## TEMPERANCE IN DESIRE

Temperance demands that we control our appetite at the table. **“When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat”** (Prov. 23:1-3). We are to make provision for the needs of our body by proper eating habits. But we must not make **“provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof”** (Rom. 13:14). God gave us our body to feed, not to feast; to be our servant, not the master, of our spirit.

A man can commit suicide with a fork at the table as well as with a pistol to the head. Paul wrote to the Philippians about some **“whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly”** (Phil. 3:19). Excessive eating makes the body sick: **“Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it”** (Prov. 25:16). A man at today's prices may literally eat himself into poverty: **“For a drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty”** (Prov. 23:21). Daniel, in obedience to God, refused to engage in riotous eating: **“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank. . .”** (Dan. 1:8). The Israelites (Deut. 29:6) and John the Baptist did likewise (Matt. 11:18; Luke 1:15; 7:33).

A true Christian will control his diet. A believer's power of endurance is sorely tried at the eating table. Any food which harms the body is off limits to a Christian. All drink and drugs harmful to the body are forbidden. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and we must not defile it. Most Christians hang their religion on a nail while they eat. This ought not to be. Intemperance in eating is not a laughing matter. We must not make a joke of it,

for it is a part of being temperate in all things.

## TEMPERANCE OF THE MIND

A man's mind cannot remain dormant. It is constantly being exercised either in lawful or unlawful desires and imaginations. Objects, opportunities, and actions furnish ample material for thought and observation. When our thoughts move in a forbidden direction, they must be arrested, controlled and brought into subjection. The imaginations of our minds often exceed the bounds of decency, unless they are disciplined and kept in subordination. Peter made reference to a temperate mind when he wrote: **“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober. . .”** (I Pet. 1:13).

In regeneration the mind is renewed (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23). A carnally minded man becomes a spiritually minded man in regeneration (Rom. 8:1-9). A renewed person has a **“sound mind”** (II Tim. 1:7), and he serves the Lord with all of his mind (Matt. 22:37). There can be no peace of mind and conscience unless the Christian minds heavenly things. Isaiah 26:3 says: **“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”** By keeping a pure mind the believer distinguishes himself from **“men of corrupt minds”** (I Tim. 6:5).

## ITS DESIRABILITY

You cannot abuse God's physical laws and expect to escape punishment. God is not to be mocked by puny man even in the physical realm. An excess committed today may not bring the penalty until tomorrow. But the law of nature requires a definite penalty to follow all excess. The punishment is mild at first, but afterwards it becomes more severe. When nature's voice goes unheeded the final penalty is physical death. An admonitory sign board should be hung upon our walls at home which says: **“No excess.”**

There is no more strong and noble virtue among men than the ability to resist strong impulses, to subdue powerful passion, and to silence the voice of wrong desires. The nation which has the best government progresses the most and enjoys more of God's blessings. Even so, the Christian who governs best himself honors God and receives God's best. No man is free who has not command of himself. He who is governed by his appetite and passion is enslaved to a dirty tyrant.

The man who masters his passions is stronger than Samson. We should measure the strength of a man by the power of the feelings he subdues, not by the power of those that subdue him. Have you ever seen a man receive a terrible tongue lashing and then reply calmly? Have you ever witnessed a man in deep anguish stand as if he were carved out of solid rock mastering himself? What about a man bearing a hopeless daily trial and remaining silent? That is strength!

There is a man who is spiritually strong. There is a man who is temperate in all things.

A truly temperate person will subordinate his appetite to the superiority of reason, restrain his temper, bridle his tongue, check extravagance, control the desires, and moderate the imaginations. This virtue of temperance must be cultivated and exhibited by all who profess the name of Christ. It must be cultivated by self-denial, by abhorrence of evil, by cherishing exalted thoughts of Christ, by faithful imitation of His example, by constant exercise of prayer, and by living under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Christ demands our all, and He will accept nothing less. There must be no reservation, nothing kept back which Christ desires. All our hopes, desires, and affections must be centered on Christ. Moral virtues must be visible in our character. There must not be merely a skeleton of religion. Temperance in all things is the badge of true discipleship, the universal attire of the soldiers of the cross.

## CONCLUSION

We are all intemperate to some degree. But we are duty bound to strive to improve and cultivate temperance. Each day every Christian should strive to be temperate in all things. Let us keep our eyes upon Christ who never violated the rule of temperance. May we give heed to Paul's words to the Philippians: **“Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand”** (Phil. 4:5).

Some person may say, “I have such a problem with self-control. I am the helpless slave of my own passions. What must I do?”

Temperance is not a product of the old nature but of the new nature. Galatians 5:23 lists temperance as the fruit of the Spirit. The unsaved person does not have the Holy Spirit to produce temperance in his life. This leaves him to be a slave of intemperance. In regeneration the Holy Spirit comes to influence a person to be moderate in all indulgences, to teach him to restrain his passions, to govern himself, to control his evil propensities, and to subdue all inordinate affection. Only by the help of the Holy Spirit given in regeneration can you ever expect to be temperate in all things.



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# What Jesus Christ Is

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Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven. **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”** (John 14:6). Now you may have heard me say many times before that nearly all older relatives on my father's side went out of this world as far as anybody knows without being born again, none of them. Hardly any of them believed you had to be born again and they thought you'd get to Heaven on your good deeds. Most of them were honest people and truthful people. But you can't get to Heaven without being born again no matter if you are honest. Oh that's good, we want to be honest and truthful but that won't get you to Heaven. Jesus said: **“Except a man be born again he can't see the kingdom of God.”** There's no way to get to Heaven without the new birth. So Christ is all.

First of all, He's all in redemption. There is no redemption outside of Jesus Christ. **“In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins”** (Colossians 1:14) Redemption, what a interesting word in the Bible. It has three meanings in the New Testament. Redemption means “to purchase, to buy and the purchase price.” **“Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men”** (I Cor. 7:23). We've been purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Most of you know that I spent fifty-one years in the school business in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In counseling young people over the years about their conduct and their manner of living, I've heard this comment many times. **“This is my life, I'll live it like I please.”** If you are a child of God you can say that you've been purchased. And the purchase price was the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Our obligation to Jesus Christ after this purchase is the obligation of a bought slave, bought, purchased.

The second meaning is “set free.” Set free from the law of sin and death. You might ask the poor drug addict if you have any around, and I'm sure you do like we do, **“Are you free?”** **“Yes, I'm free. I can go where I want to and I can do this or that.”** They think they are free but they are not. They are under the domination of Satan and redemption will set that man or woman free. In my school where I work I've learned this, I've learned how to watch my students when they come in and observe everything and when I see them coming in I know I can observe which ones are on drugs, and we have plenty of them. I saw one of the best videos on drugs there and sometimes in a class where I fill in, I change the teacher assignment and put that video in. Before I put it in I say, **“Boys and girls, I've got the cure and at the end of this video I'll tell you the cure of the drug problem. I'll**

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tell you the cure to the alcohol problem, I'll tell you the cure for the moral sins that you boys and girls are committing everyday. And after the video is over, I say, "Now I've got the cure," I told them that many times, and in this particular class I remember real well, an old country boy spoke up and said, "tell us what it is then." And I told them, and I don't hesitate to tell them in a public school and no one has ever said a word to me. I've been there going on twelve years in this particular school. I said, "Here's the cure for the drug problem and the alcohol problem and the moral sin problem. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's son, cleanses us from all sin." I tell them the blood of Jesus is the only hope of getting out of that drug problem. Rehab is not, absolutely not, the cure. Now I've visited Rehab one time. Oh how pitiful, how pitiful. There were boys and girls lying in the hall and we had to step over them. And the ones who could walk, were so pitiful raising their legs as high as they could like they were trying to fly through the air on drugs. Rehab is not the cure, the blood of Jesus Christ is the cure. Redemption means to "set free."

The third one will take you surely on shouting ground. The third meaning of redemption is "to take you out of the market place." No longer being auctioned off by Satan on his auction block, you become one of the precious jewels of Jesus Christ, and He certainly guards His jewels. One of these days He's going to put all these jewels on display. **"All that the Father giveth to me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"** (John 6:37). When the roll is called up yonder, every last one of them whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be there. All will be there and not one will be absent. If we get any crowns at the judgment seat of Christ, we'll lay every one at the feet of Jesus Christ. Redemption, oh how I love to proclaim it. There is no other way. **"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"** (I Peter 1:18-19). How are you redeemed? How are you so purchased? How are you set free? How are you taken out of the market place of sin? Only by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. When they brought us back from Germany in 1952, they put us on a train in New York City, traveling through all the way to Kentucky to be mustered out. Honestly, I can't really remember but one thing on that trip from New York to Kentucky. One night I was sitting right by the window as we were going down the railroad tracks. Just

to my right as I was sitting there, there was this small church building with a neon sign all the way across that church building and it read: "Jesus' blood makes the sinner clean." Back then a lot of people traveled on the train and I don't know how many hundreds or perhaps thousands of people saw that sign there at night. The blood of Jesus makes the sinner clean. That's the only hope if you are lost today. You only have one hope and that hope is in Jesus Christ. There's no other way, no other truth, no other light, no one else is the Bread of life, no one else is the Water of life. The hymn writer said:

*My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

Secondly, Jesus Christ is all in our justification. Now when I hear a preacher or Bible teacher give the meaning of justification, it raises me up on shouting grounds. Justification, if you break it down to syllables will mean "just as if I never sinned." Just as if I never committed a single solitary sin and were declared righteous. The blood of Jesus has cleansed us from all sin. The righteousness of Jesus Christ was placed over on us and our dirty rotten and filthy sins were placed over on Him. He bore our sins with His own body on the tree of the cross. We are justified by faith, therefore, being justified by faith we are at peace with God. **"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified"** (Gal. 2:16). We are justified on the basis of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Now did you know every Christian, every saint reading this, has a clean record in Heaven, even though your record my have been as dark as midnight. Makes no difference what kind of sin you've committed, the blood of Jesus Christ cleansed you from all of that. No Christian has a sin record. It has all been laid on Jesus Christ. We are clothed in His righteousness. He's all in redemption, He's all in justification, Thirdly He's all in forgiveness. A lot of people have a lot of different ways of thinking that they are going to be forgiven, some on the basis of good works, turning over a new leaf, reforming to do better. I have a book written by a man of another denomination who didn't believe what I'm saying. Do you know what his advice was to lost sinners? Go home and begin to do better. He ought to have known better but he didn't and he died believing that. There's no other source of forgiveness in Whom we have redemption than

through His blood, even the forgiveness of sin. If I were to ask you how many sins you've committed in your life, you would say, "well, I surely don't know." No one knows how many sins we've committed. It ought to alarm us more than anything else, all our accumulated sins. You can't think of numbering them but the blood of Jesus cleansed us from every one of them. Christ is all in our forgiveness. No other basis, no other source, no other way, no other name, all in Jesus Christ and in Him alone. If I were to ask you, what are you depending on to get you to heaven? What's the basis of your hope of going to Heaven? I hope you can say what I quoted from the hymn writer a while ago, "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness." I have no other hope.

Fourthly, Jesus Christ is all as far as righteousness is concerned. All of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags, filthy rags in the sight of a Holy God. Christ is all of our wisdom, He's all of our righteousness, He's all our sanctification, He's all of our redemption, **"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"** (II Cor. 5:21). That Scripture tells us that His righteousness was placed over on us and our sins were placed over on Him. Now we are clothed in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. When God the Father looks down at these redeemed ones He sees us clothed in the righteousness of His own dear Son. What a Saviour we have!

In the fifth place, Jesus Christ is all as our Mediator. How many mediators do we have between God and man? One! A mediator is one who stands in between two parties. God the Father on the throne and we down here as His children. And how do we reach the Father? Through Jesus Christ the Mediator. One mediator and no other. You can't get to the Father except through Jesus Christ. Do you know what Jesus Christ is doing now? Do you ever wonder what Jesus Christ is doing at the present time? He's making intercession for us. He ever liveth, He's seated right now beside God the Father making intercession for all His people. I tell you, we have a marvelous Saviour. As I said, He becomes more precious to me everyday.

Now the last point I want you to notice is that He's all when it comes to

the end of the way. He's everything we need when it comes to the end of the way. My godly Mother had a brain tumor, and I stood beside her until she drew her last breath. Even though the pain may have been terrible and from head to foot, deep down in the heart and soul of her or any other saint is a peace that the world knows nothing about. They know that they will soon be at home with the Lord. They know that the trials, trouble, and sorrows of this life are soon going to be over. They know that at the resurrection of the just they are going to get a glorified body like unto the glorified body of the Son of God. He's not finished with us yet. Salvation is in three tenses. We are saved from the penalty of sin, that's justification. We are being saved now from the power of sin, that's sanctification. One of theses days we are going to be saved from the very presence of sin and Jesus Christ is the source of every one of them. May the Holy Spirit bear this question deep down in your heart as I ask it. I wonder if there's a person reading this who is outside of Jesus Christ. You know we, as sovereign grace preachers have been misrepresented by our enemies so badly. All the sovereign grace preachers that I know of have no problem preaching the glorious gospel to every creature because we know that God chose a great number that no man can count, but we don't know who they are. We surely don't. So we have no problem preaching the glorious gospel to every creature, knowing that the Holy Spirit will use it to bring in His people. The sweetest sound that a regenerated sinner ever heard after being quickened and made alive is when you hear the first time with those new ears how that Christ died for our sins, how He became our suffering substitute, how He paid all the debt that we owed, and how He was buried and on the third day rose again according to the Scriptures. That's the glorious gospel, the sweetest sound that I ever heard. I wonder if you've heard that sweet sound. I pray that Almighty God may be pleased to use these few simple words to edify saints and to use it to draw sinners to Jesus Christ. Look unto Him, unto Jesus Christ and live for evermore.

(Transcribed from a sermon preached on June 6, 2005.)



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# The Truth About

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It is no season of holiness when the heart is lifted up in thankfulness to God. This flood of revelry called Christmas is only a depressing, unprofitable and polluting time for anyone taught by God's Spirit. And as we stand and see this sinister cloud of evil, annually descend in a smothering pall of idolatry, on the inhabitants of the earth, we can only say like the Apostle John, **"I wondered with great admiration"** (Rev. 17:6).

All Christmas celebrating is founded on the superstitious Pagan idolatry of Babylon woven shrewdly unto the ritual of the Roman Catholic Church. There is plenty of proof existing today that places this fact beyond doubt. The celebrating we now witness every December 25 is a Roman Catholic copy of the festivities held long before Christ, when all Babylon reveled in honor of the birth of the son of their Queen of heaven.

Faithful men of old fought against the mingling of idolatry and the name of Christ. Very vigorously did they oppose the entry of Christmas among believers. But in spite of their efforts the lukewarm Church, with the exception of a small remnant was overcome by the Romish paganism.

Now it is freely admitted by all learned and honest writers of old that the date of Christ's birth cannot be known.

How then did the Roman Catholic Church fix December 25 as Christmas day?

Long centuries before the time of Christ a great heathen feast was celebrated at that precise time of the year in the Chaldean city of Babylon. Now this pagan revelry was in honor of the birth of Tammuz of Bel, or Bacchus, who was the son of Semeramis, or Cybele or Rhea, the Chaldean's Queen of heaven.

The Romish way of converting pagans and making them adherents of the Catholic Church has always been to absorb them, along with their idolatrous observances. Down through the centuries, Rome, following this procedure, incorporated much pagan image worship into her ritual. Thus the heathen could observe and enjoy their own idolatries, in the Church of Rome realizing that these celebrations belonged to them originally.

And so has it been with Christmas, according to reliable historians.

Nearly every known form of Paganism that has descended from Babylon centers its worship with different variations on--a mother and the birth of her child. So in pretence of honoring the birth of our Saviour, the Roman Catholic Church has taken the idolatry of Babylon, in the worship of Semeramis and her son, Tammuz, incorporated it into her "Mass" and given it the name of Christ. The result is the universal observance of

Christ-mass.

Are you startled Reader? Are you angry that someone should write such things about the Christmas you have celebrated all these years? Then do not throw down this article in disgust but allow me to furnish proof of these statements. For remember **"Many false prophets are gone out into the world"** (I John 4:1). **"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light"** (II Cor. 11:14).

Following are some brief quotations from our own standards of authority, as to the origin of Christmas.

In Webster's Students' Dictionary for Upper School Levels---page 145 (a Catholic dictionary used in our schools today) we read---

"Christmas---Christ + Mass. A church festival, December 25. Christmas day commemorating the birth of Christ."

In the Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia, 1903, Vol. 2, Page 987---we read---

"Christmas---Christmas properly begins with the evening of December 24. ...and continues until Epiphany, January 6, the whole period called Christmastide. In the Roman, Greek, Episcopal and Lutheran Churches Christmas is observed as a religious festival with special services. Its celebration was formerly forbidden by the Puritans."

In the Encyclopedia Britannica, 9th Edition, Vol. 5; Page 611---we read---

"Christmas Day---there is however difficulty in accepting this (December 25th), as the date of the Nativity, December being the height of the rainy season when neither flocks or shepherds could have been at night in the fields of Bethlehem. By the fifth century, however, whether from influence of some tradition or from the desire to supplant heathen festivals of the period of the year such as Saturnalia, the 25th of December had been generally agreed upon."

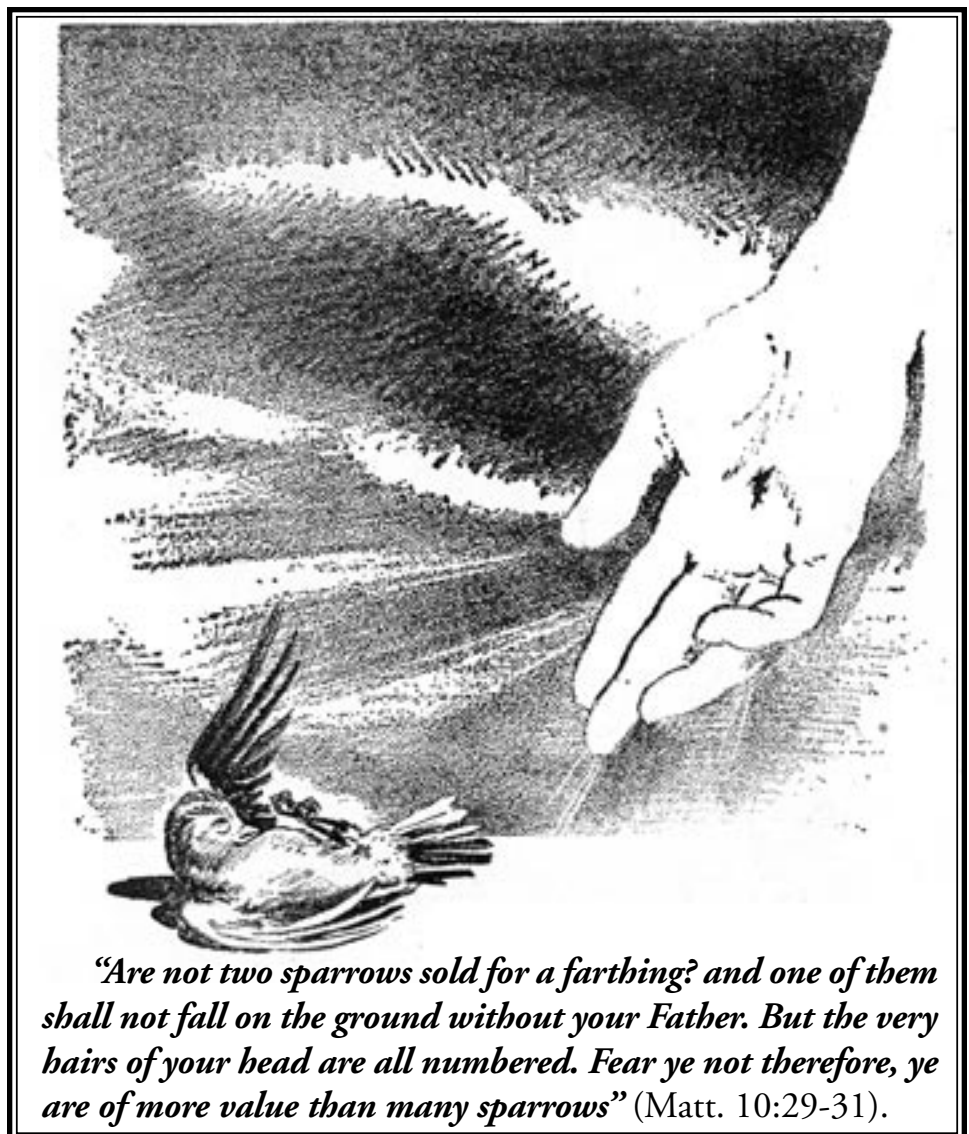
The Encyclopedia Americana, 1942 Edition, Vol. 6; Page 623, reads thus---

"Christmas---It was according to many authorities not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian Church as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth. A feast was established in memory of the birth of the Saviour in the Fourth Century. In the Fifth Century the Western Church (Roman Catholic) ordered it to be celebrated forever on the day of the Old Roman Feast of the birth of Sol.

The holly, the mistletoe, the Yule log and the wassail bowl are of pre-Christian times.

The Christmas tree has been traced back to the Romans. It went from Germany to Great Britain."

Any thinking person will have no difficulty in understanding from these historical authorities that Christmas itself has no connection with the birth of



***"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows"*** (Matt. 10:29-31).

Christ. It did not appear until the fourth century, then under the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church it came forth as a pagan festival.

Now let us notice a few of the original Christmas customs according to the Encyclopedias.

In the new Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica, 1900, Vol. IX, Page 5236, we read---

"Saturn---An ancient Italian god. . . Saturnalis, this is the great "Festival of Saturn," celebrated on the 19th, but after Casar's reform of the calendar, the 17th of December. Augustus decreed that the 17th and 18th should be sacred to Saturn and the 19th and 20th to Opalia the festivals of Ops.

Caligula added a fifth day, "The Day of Youth," December 25th, lasted seven days. The time was one of general joy and mirth. The woolen fetters were taken from the feet of Saturn and each man offered a pig. During the festival schools were closed. . .

Gambling and dice at other times illegal was now practiced. All classes exchanged gifts, the commonest being tapers and clay dolls. These dolls were especially given to children. Varro thought that these dolls represented original sacrifices of human beings to the Infernal God."

The new Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica, Edition of 1899, Vol. XI; Page 404, has this---

"Beffena---A corruption of the word 'epiphania' (Epiphany) is the name of an old female character in Italian folklore, who was so busily engaged in housecleaning, when three wise men of the East passed by on their way to offer their treasures to the Infant Saviour, that she excused herself for not going out to see them thinking she would have the opportunity of doing so when they returned. Not knowing that they went home by another road she has been ever since watching for them. She, like the Dutch Santa Claus, is supposed to take great interest in children, who in Italy are put to bed early on the "twelfth night" a stocking of each being hung up before the fire. Soon the cry "Ecco le Beffena" is raised when the children jump up and seize their stockings, each of which contains a present bearing value in proportion to the conduct of the child during the year. One whose behavior has been particularly bad finds his stocking filled with ashes in token of Beffena's displeasure.

The custom of carrying an effigy called the Beffena on the "Twelfth Night" in a procession through the streets is probably a relic of one of the "Mysteries of the Middle ages."

The new International Encyclopedia, 2nd Edition, Vol. 3, Page 27, tells us this---

"Epiphany---A festival held on the 6th of January by the Roman Catholic,

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Eastern and Anglican churches in commemoration of the manifestations of Christ. Three different events are included in this celebration. As early as the third century at least, it was observed as the commemoration of the Baptism of Christ. . . Later in the east it was taken to commemorate the manifestations of divine power in Christ's first miracle at Cana in Galilee. . . In the fourth century the birth of Christ was also connected with it by some writers. Many special observances are to have been connected with the day which under the name 'Twelfth Day,' 'Twelfth Night' was a time of special merry making in England and closed the Christmas festivities."

Thus we see that not only is Christmas of pagan origin but its customs all came from the heathen as well. And for centuries it has been highly esteemed by the Roman Church and the ungodly in all nations. Yet during these same generations the truly faithful have shunned Christmas festivities and denounced them as the Romish Pagan celebrations they are. And Reader---if you are faithful to Christ you will NOT keep Christmas. For since Rome is truly "Babylon the Great (Rev. 17) and the virgin in her sanctuaries is actually the Babylonish queen of heaven, how one ought to tremble at the very thought of taking any part in her wicked idolatry. And though the sin of idolatry may appear light to some, our God does not consider it so. For he has attached the greatest of all threatenings to that Commandment---

**"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me"** (Ex. 20:5).

And if we awake suddenly to find the heavy judgments of God bearing down relentlessly upon our people and nation, can we not discern His hand in fulfilling this Scripture for the national sin of Romish idolatry?

**"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them"** (Eph. 5:11).

Let us now consider some practical points about this pagan Christ-mass.

1. The name of Christmas---This very name is an abomination of the Holy Lord God. The reason for this is that this word Christmas is an unholy combination of the two words "Christ" and "Mass." Christ died once for our sins (Heb. 9:26). And by that one offering He has perfected forever every believer (Heb. 10:14).

But in the Roman Catholic Mass

Satan himself has introduced to the untaught ignorant soul the horrible blasphemy that Christ is sacrificed over and over countless times at the will of a sinful priest. Yes, the priest of Rome even claims that the "Mass" adds to and improves upon Christ's atonement made at Calvary!

Christ is the divine title of our wonderful Lord. "Mas" is from shortening the Roman Catholic word, "Mass" or "Missa" which means simply "to dismiss." Christ is the head of the True and Living church. The Roman Catholic Church, under the leadership of the Pope is the false harlot church. She is spoken of in the Word of God as the **"Mother of Harlots"** (Rev. 17:5). Nothing in the natural realm will stir one to anger quicker than for someone else to connect his wife's or his mother's name with the name of a harlot. Then Christian, how can you blend the Holy Name of Jesus Christ with the foul "Mass" of the harlot Church?

2. Now the Christmas Tree---Traveling any part of America today during the weeks of Christmas festivities one feels like Paul did while he waited at Athens once. "His spirit was stirred within him as he beheld the city FULL of idols" (Acts 17:16).

In ancient paganism whenever the sun was worshipped it was not venerated as the orb of light, but as God incarnate in Babylon's system of idol worship the sun was called "Baal" the one and only God. So when Tammuz the son of the queen of heaven was worshipped as God he was also revered as Baal.

Now that Christmas idol, the evergreen tree which is so universal in twentieth century heathen worship, was just as common in Pagan Rome and Pagan Egypt long before Christ. In Egypt a palm tree was worshipped as "Baal-Tamar," the Pagan Messiah, who after being killed, was restored to life by the great serpent god, Aesculapius. The Christmas tree in Pagan Rome was a fir tree, which symbolized the same new-born god as, "Baal-Berith." A feast was observed in Rome in honor of him on December 25<sup>th</sup> and it was called the "Birthday of the Unconquered Sun."

Thus in the spangled evergreen tree, as well as the other Christmas celebrations the Roman Catholic Church has brought the pagan worship of Baal down through the ages to us. And whether it be public or privately erected this seasonal Christmas tree is a glaring evidence of Baal worship. And so in keeping with Rome's usual order of worship, while millions suppose they honor Christ with a Christmas tree, they are actually commemorating a pagan festival in honor of Baal (I Kings 18) also read (Judges 8:33). How well spoke Jeremiah when he said, **"For the customs of the peoples are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver**

**and with gold; They fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne because they cannot go"** (Jer. 10:3-5).

3. Remembering Christ's Birth -- Nowhere in the Bible are we told to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians are commanded to remember the death of Christ both by the Lord Jesus Himself in Luke 22:18-19 and the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 11:23-26. Surely the heart must be far from right with God that can enjoy itself in doing exactly the opposite of what He commands. Yet we see many who profess faith in Christ join with the hilarious ungodly in celebrating a carnal pagan Christmas. But who that has been taught by God's Holy Spirit, could countenance for one moment a celebration that is not only a pagan tradition, but also a Romish abomination?

I have noticed that those who make most of Christmas are those who make least of the death and resurrection of Christ and the day He has told us to remember Him on---the Lord's Day. People who willingly desecrate that day by secular work, open business houses, ungodly amusements and sports, will forfeit all these to attend a Christmas program in a church or a school house. Then back they go to their ungodly desecration of the Lord's Day until next Christmas. Christian can you take part in their sins? Can you, like Judas, betray Him Who died for you, by joining hands with those who hate Him, yet falsely pretend to honor Him in a festival of sin? Can you go halfway with the pagans in crucifying Christ afresh and putting Him to an open shame? Remember the words of I John 2:15: **"If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."**

**"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues"** (Rev. 18:4).

4. Date of Christ's Birth---There is not one Scripture to prove that December 25<sup>th</sup> is the birthday of Christ. Neither is there a word about the time of the year He was born. Not one Scripture mentions Christmas. No one knows the date of His birth. There is absolutely no authority except from the false Roman Catholic Church to connect His birth with December 25<sup>th</sup>. God in His wisdom has chosen to hide the time of His Beloved Son's birth into this world of sin. The Bible is the inspired Word of that same Holy God. His dear Son is the central figure in it from Genesis to Revelation. He has revealed many wonderful things to us about Christ in that Word. But one thing God has hidden completely from man. It is the precise date of the birth of Jesus.

In Bible accounts where celebrating and gift giving was done at someone's birthday party sin and evil prevailed and

murder followed. In Genesis on Pharaoh's birthday the chief baker was hanged and beheaded. During Herod's birthday party John the Baptist was beheaded for preaching against sin. In Revelation 11 we read how wicked people celebrated the slaying of God's two faithful witnesses by making merry and sending gifts to one another. The Holy Spirit by the mouth of Paul once said, **"Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years, I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain"** (Gal. 4:10-11).

5. Giving of Gifts---I believe that gifts can be great blessings. But a gift is of no value whatever unless it is given in love. But those who give in order to receive as much again do not give in love. They only give in covetousness in hope of receiving. Those who give only at a time of a Roman Catholic celebration of idolatry certainly are only doing so to the abhorrence of the Almighty. How much more then are they mocking God and making themselves abominable to him, who send gifts to one another at such a time in a pretence of honoring the birth of His Son?

The godly wise men from the East gave their gifts to the Child Jesus Himself---not to one another. They gave to Him from hearts moved by the Holy Spirit. Their gifts were a part of their worship of the Messiah. Their gifts were no common trinkets but presents of great value showing their heart's true love for their Lord. And they did not bring Christ presents, that they might receive from Him in return. O how far removed from those first gifts to the Child Jesus is the modern cheap knock-knock giving of the fickle throng of Christmas revelers who give only that they may receive as much again!

6. The World and Christmas---There is one thing, which if it were entirely alone, would prove to me that Christmas celebrating is not of God. It is this; the world which hates Christ and His blood atonement for sin, responds as one man at that time to revel and feast.

If in reality December 25<sup>th</sup> was a date, set by God to remember the birth of Jesus, the world would not have anything to do with it. There would be absolutely no response by the rank and file of mankind. Witness how the world does not regard the Lord's Day which is of God. But the world DOES regard and love Christmas, therefore it is not of God. For **"the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God"** (I Cor. 2:14). Then how can an obedient Child of God, or a church, or a gathering of Christians, follow Pagan Rome and the drugged and reeling world in their abominable idolatry and sin of Christ-Mass festivities?

Everyone knows well that Christmas time is a time of social and fleshly enjoyment.---It is not a time when Christians draw near to God. Rather

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they turn away from Him to serve Rome's idols. Many of those who profess faith in Christ remind me of Jehu who cried, **"Come see my zeal for the Lord!"** Then he turned and went away to serve Jeroboam's idols.

Those who despise the Gospel of God's grace will go to any length to celebrate a false tradition about His son's birth. Those who hate the doctrine of forgiveness through Jesus' blood alone, are filled with great zeal to promote programs, to play Santa Claus, to adorn their dwellings with wreaths and trees and say "Merry Christmas" to everyone they meet! Proud sinners, self-righteous sinners, immoral sinners with a character black as midnight, morally virtuous sinners with hard impenitent hearts, refined and educated sinners knowing everything and everyone but Christ, religious sinners with a lofty heady profession---all, all with one accord join hands in the gay hilarity of Christmas following the Old Mother Harlot, ignorantly imagining they are doing honor to a Saviour they neither love or know or care to know.

During Christmastide men and women become foully drunk on "Christmas present" whiskey and perpetuate every kind of social vice, animal lewdness and criminal debauchery. In wild "Christmas parties" young men and women willingly sell their bodies to evil and their souls to Hell around the be-ribboned and wreathed "Christmas gifts" of champagne, brandy, wine and beer. And thousands, who would not get drunk commit the abominable sin of gluttony like some gorging carnivorous animal. And in all this the name of Christ is used in vile cursing, vulgarity and blasphemy by men and women, boys and girls who lie deliberately about "St. Nick" and "Santa Claus" and love a "Merry Christmas." Dear Christian, can you help to betray Christ to these pagans by going with them to their religious riots? Can you sell Christ to the ungodly world for a pagan Christmas, like Judas did for 30 pieces of silver?

7. Christmas Programs and Literature--Please read Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 2, then Luke, Chapter 2. By doing so with care any thoughtful reader can see at once that Christmas songs, books, cards and programs are not Scriptural. For in most of these we find in one way or another, ignorant misrepresentations about the shepherds, the wise men, the star, the Child, the stable, etc.

Let us begin this problem by stating that nowhere in God's Word are we informed how many wise men there were. Neither does Scripture state that they followed a star to Jerusalem. Most certainly they knew the way there. Being wise men they knew how the prophets foretold that the Messiah was to be

born in Bethlehem. When they came to Herod to learn the whereabouts of the new-born Christ it was sometime after His birth. No one in Jerusalem seemed to know where the Child was. So the same star they had seen before at the time of His birth, now appeared and led them to where the Child was. When the wise men found the Lord Jesus He was no longer a tiny babe but a child living in Nazareth. Joseph and Mary had already returned from taking him to Jerusalem, which took place when Jesus was 41 days old (Lev. 12). Therefore the wise men never saw the Saviour until He had been brought back to Nazareth from the temple in Jerusalem (Luke 2:39). They could not possibly have seen the Christ-Child before, because immediately after their departure, when they had seen the Saviour, Joseph and Mary fled into Egypt with Him and remained there till Herod was dead (Matt. 2:14-15).

It was not the wise men but the shepherds who came to visit the Babe Jesus in His manger cradle in Bethlehem. They followed no star either as they did not even see one. They were informed of the birth of their Messiah by the angel of the Lord (Luke 2:10).

Today the land abounds at Christmas time with all sorts of literature, cards, books and programs of celebrations, which utterly confuse the facts written in God's Word about the birth of Jesus. Shepherds and wise men, angels and stars, stable and inn, manger and house are misrepresented. The visit of the shepherds and the visit of the wise men are confused, so that the whole story of the birth of Christ is a jumbled mass of ignorant untruth.

Long ago King David said to a carnal generation like ours, **"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?"** (Ps. 2:1).

8. God's Judgment---One more point we dare not overlook concerning Christmas. The very source of Christmas equipment condemns the tradition. Until World War II nearly all Christmas goods were stamped "Made in Germany" or "Made in Japan." Thus these very goods, used by England and the United States to pollute the worship of God and make whole nations to sin, came from the very countries God used in bringing His judgment of war upon us. How did such poor nations finance so great a war? By selling us the fruit of their cheap labor among which Christmas goods played a major role. Ought we to regard this as a mere coincidence? Ought we not rather to see the threatening of God in it? NO COUNTRY IN ALL HISTORY HAS TURNED TO IDOLS AND THEN PROSPERED FOR LONG. The national unrest, the ominous rumblings in the World Councils, the low standard of morality, the universality of open sin, the wickedness of idolatry all point to one great event we may soon see come to

pass, the fall of this nation. If the sin of Roman pagan idolatry is not nationally recognized and confessed and forsaken we can only look for national doom. If it is increased and developed and the nation goes on with her open idolatry, her legalized gambling, her mountainous liquor corruption, her disregard for the Truth of the Bible, her desecrating of the Lord's Day and the maintainence of pagan festivals we may be sure of one thing, "The Lord's anger will not be turned away, His hand will be stretched out still" (Isa. 9:17).

**"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people"** (Prov. 14:34).

**"Pride goeth before destruction"** (Prov. 16:18).

**"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil"** (Ex. 23:2).

Perhaps some well meaning untaught Christian will say, "We only keep Christmas to give the children a good time."

Let me give you some questions to consider.

1. How can you, if you are a Christian, allow your own dear little ones to worship Baal-Berith in their childhood ignorance?

2. Do you want them to grow up in servitude to the Roman Catholic Church's observances and celebrations?

3. How can you have the brazen boldness before God, to teach your children paganism and the Word of God at the same time?

4. Why combine the story of our adorable Saviour with the Roman heathen idol, the Christmas tree or Baal-Berith?

5. Why try and mingle your children's pleasure with a wicked heathen tradition?

6. How can you expect your children to believe you, that they must worship Christ alone if they see you indulge in Paganism?

7. How can you expect your child to believe your witnessing to him about Christ when he finds out you have been lying to him about Santa Claus and his reindeer?

8. Can you expect your children to be honest and truthful when they find out you have been lying to them?

9. Do you believe that a festive season that not only came to us through Rome from Babylon, but in itself is a system of perpetual lying to little children is of God?

10. Can you teach your children to honor the Lord and the Lord's Day and then help them engage in honoring a heathen god, Ball-Berith, a Christmas tree?

11. How can you tell your children you are a child of God yourself when they annually watch you celebrate a Romish Pagan Christmas like a child of the devil?

**"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them"** (Matt. 7:20).

**"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"** (Prov. 22:6).

It may be you have saved up money to buy Christmas gifts and cards and decorations, etc. Be sure this is not pleasing to God, fellow Christian. Let me suggest to you what should be done if this is the case with you.

Do not spend what God has given you on carnal gifts. Do not contribute to the "good cause" of supporting a Romish Christmas entertainment. Do not buy an expensive tree or ornaments and decorations or wreaths, like the Christ-hating world does.

Instead of all this, take what God has given you and send it as a gift to the Lord to some needy missionary in a dark and foreign land. Think awhile on those poor of the earth, those thousands of souls that have never heard the glad tidings of Christ, for the lack of support to real Christian missionaries. Can you, use what the good Lord has given you, to celebrate like the idolatrous heathen, instead of giving that these heathen in awful darkness, might hear and be saved?

**"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"** (Matt. 25:40).

I have no desire to discourage one honest soul. But I have witnessed this pagan festival of sin creeping as a deadly thing, coiling its slimy yet glittering idolatries around the feeble Baptist Churches, to strangle the true worship that remains. And I have found most who know Christ as Saviour and Lord totally ignorant of the truth about Christmas. And scarcely a voice have I heard raised in protest of this paganism, for the honor of Jesus Christ.

Therefore I have revealed to you the truth as God has shown me by His Word and by history and existing facts. May He make it a word in season to you. It is my hope and prayer that every Christian who discovers he has erred so exceedingly as to partake of Rome's Christmas, will turn again to the God of all grace and in contrition, utterly and forever forsake all that pertains to this Christ dishonoring sin of Babylon. It is my desire to see, not only the souls of men saved, but the children of God walking in obedience to Him. The Apostle John said, **"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth"** (III John 4).

Christians are commanded to be holy (I Pet. 1:15-16). They are to be living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1). They are to utterly forsake idolatry (Ex. 20:5). They are told to walk in the Spirit, and not fulfill the fleshly desires (Gal. 5:16). They are told to stand fast in the liberty of Christ (Gal. 5:1). They are commanded to grieve not the Spirit of God (Eph. 4:30). The Apostle

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# The Truth About

(Continued from page 227) ♦

said we believers ought to walk as Jesus walked (I John 2:6). Christ Himself said we should be perfect as our Heavenly Father is (Matt. 5:48). Jesus told us to set our affections on things above where He is (Col. 3:2). In Christ we are new creations (II Cor. 5:17). By His grace we have come from the hole of the pit (Isa. 51:1) to Mount Zion, the City of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, into the Church of the Firstborn whose names are written in Heaven (Heb. 12:22-23). By God's grace we have been brought from the terrible darkness of death (Eph. 2:1) to the light of Life (John 14:6; 8:12). We have been saved from eternal death by the blood of His dear Son (Rom. 5:9). We have been bought with a price most precious (I Pet. 1:19). We are not our own any more but His (I Cor. 6:20). And now in Christ we are temples of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 3:16).

Reader do you now see why faithful John said, **“Little children, keep yourselves from idols”** (I John 5:21)?

## Small Fellowships

(Continued from page 221) ♦

**had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran**” (Gen. 12:4).

**“Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom”** (Gen. 13:11-12).

**“And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth”** (Gen. 14:22).

**“After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward”** (Gen 15:1).

Obviously we have again just printed selected verses from a lengthy passage of background for this devotional. We have highlighted a few key words that will play an important part in this message. Our subject deals with the all-important issue of, **“With Whom Shall We Associate?”**

Born again Christians are not – must not – be snobbish or clannish people. The issue of separation has been debated over the years with many points of view, from ascetic monasticism to all-inclusive ecumenicalism. Either side of the debate will, and can, find a scriptural verse or two to support their extremes, a fact that emphasizes the need of interpreting the Scriptures in the light of the whole Bible, not just a proof text.

That the believer is intermingled with the world is obvious. Jesus prayed, **“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”** (John 17:15-16) He was *in* the world but not *of* the world. Nevertheless He was never so aloof that He did not have friendly social fellowship with the world as seen in His attendance at the marriage festival in John 2 and His dinner date with Simon in Matt. 26; Mark 14; Luke 7; and John 12.

Jesus would eat in the house of a leper, a Pharisee, or a Publican. Paul further advocates this willingness to be sociable with unbelievers in 1 Corinthians 10:27, **“If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go...”** To borrow from a cliché we used in the 70's, “if you want to win some you must be winsome.” But the key lies in our Lord's last words in the quote we have used from John 17, **“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”**

Christ did not join in business partnerships with unbelievers! We need to be careful here. A young man took this concept to such an extreme that he wouldn't work for or sub contract with an unbeliever. That is not what we are teaching! Simply looking at the slave (servant) relationship that Paul deals with so often should make that point clear. I can, do, and must work for unbelievers. But I cannot have an unbeliever as my business partner even if for no other reason than his business ethics will not be the same as mine.

This carries over even more so to our ecclesiological associations. Many of us are in situations where we have no proper church to worship with, much less join, but there *are* churches, not necessarily as proper as the New Testament would have them, but none the less they are believers and often quite close to our theological camp. With certain restraints, we can attend most of their services and even learn from the preaching. We need to guard against the error taught from both sides of the theological spectrum (Pink on one side and Camping on the other side) that we should just stay at home and not worship. Granted, sometimes we must travel a few extra miles to find a good church with proper doctrine, but we must not be ‘Lone Rangers’ if we can help it.

The question comes in the associations. Whom may I have as family, partners in business, and perhaps more important, partners in worship practice? This is where our text comes in.

In Genesis 12:1 we note that God had said to Abram, **“Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee.”**

It is evident that the event recorded in Genesis 11:31 might better be seen as

Abram convincing his immediate family to leave Ur with him. Family ties are important! That is why it is so important that a believing young man or woman earnestly seek a spouse of like faith. Many are the young people we have seen who have struggled through life because of an unequal yoke. But please notice that it wasn't until Abram had made this first step in separation, noted in Genesis 12:4, that he was allowed to see the ‘promised land’.

After Abram's father died, Abram went the next step, but he still took Lot with him. Henry Morris speculates that it may have been more Sarai and Lot's pleading that moved Abram to leave Canaan (Gen. 12:10) than the famine. In any case, the famine can be seen as a test of Abram's faith at that time.

After Abram and Lot returned to Canaan (Chap. 13) the Lord, in His sovereignty, brought about the separation of Abram and Lot. There is a necessary parenthetical point that must be seen here. After Abram's failure in chapter 12, he had to return to the point where he had left in order to start over. (12:8 & 13:1) Like getting lost on a woodland trail, there are no short cuts to the right trail. You must go back to where you first left the trail.

Now, please notice 13:14, **“And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look...”** This land was not promised to Lot! This land was not promised to Terah! This land was promised to Abram and his seed – through the promised son, Isaac! It is now that God reveals to Abram the scope of the promise – after he had separated from Lot. The next few chapters reveal that Lot was/would be a serious impediment to Abram.

Abram's organic separation from Lot did not mean that he no longer had a concern for Lot! In chapter 14 we observe Abram going to the rescue of Lot. The kings of the five cities were incidental. It was Lot that Abram went to rescue, showing again how much the world is blessed because of the presence of Christians.

In chapter 18 we again see Abram (by now called Abraham) showing his concern and coming to the rescue of Lot, but those events are another message.

Then we zero in on Abram's commitment to God alone in 14:22-24. Abram has experienced the power of God on his behalf. He has seen that it is not the worldly associations or alliances, not the power of mighty armies or treaties, but the power of God that brings deliverance. The Psalmist rightly declares, **“except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”** (Psa. 127:1).

Abram, in this commitment, refuses the help of unbelievers, will not allow unbelievers to claim any glory for the

work of God, and puts his trust for provision and protection in God alone. We need to apply this principle in our ministries. We must not and cannot depend on the assistance of the world's methods, money, or manpower to do the work of the church.

It should be understood that even in that pagan society there was still some recognition of God. This is frequently seen throughout the entire Old Testament. But recognition of God does not mean a true worship or obedience to God. Compare here Zerubbabel's response in Ezra 4: 2 **“Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither. But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel.”**

Spurgeon, preaching from John 16:7, made this point. “Better to have a small Church of poor men and the Spirit of God with them, than to have a hierarchy of nobles, to have an army of titled princes and prelates without the Holy Spirit.” May I rephrase this in reference to our 21<sup>st</sup> century ecclesiological society? Better to have a small church of devout worshipers, meeting in a living room or shack, with the Holy Spirit, than to have a big, rich church, meeting in a beautiful sanctuary with all the liturgical dressings without the Holy Spirit.

I dare say that Mr. Spurgeon believed in and practiced closed communion and ecclesiastical separation.

## Love

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**instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”**

The folly of some men has been apparent in their avowed opposition to Christianity, and much cunning and sophistry have been employed for the purpose of sapping the foundation and burying in ruins the great temple of truth. But all their theorisings, skepticism, and denunciations against the religion of the Bible have only exposed the feebleness of their reasonings, the irrationality of their arguments, and the fallacy of their conclusions; and may be regarded as fleeting memorials of their own infatuation. But Christianity is of God; and, therefore, men and demons cannot overthrow it. It has survived the storms of ages, and reared its immutable form above the waves of opposition, retaining

♦ (Continued on page 229)



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**Outlines for Country Preachers**  
**by a Country Preacher**  
*Sermon Outlines by Milburn Cockrell*

# The Faith of the Magi

## Matthew 2:1-12

Tradition tells us much about these wise men. It says their names were Melchior, Caspar, and Bathazar. It says they were three kings. The Bible does not say all of this. They were probably from Persia, or Chaldea, or Arabia. They were a special class who studied the stars--- a highly honored class (Gen. 41:8; Dan. 2:2). We would call them today, scientists. They knew all about the birth of the Messiah.

## I. THE TRAVEL OF THEIR FAITH (V. 1).

1. If they came from Persia, or Chaldea, or Media it was a long way for that day and time. They probably came from Arabia (Gen. 25:6; Judg. 6:3). Jethro and Job lived there.
2. They shrank not from the toil and the danger of the way.
3. They believed the sign of the star. They came in great faith to see the Messiah.
4. They did not come so far just to see some new-born king. They came to see the Messiah---the King of the Jews.
5. It is wrong to say that they were not aware of His Divinity. They could have known of the prophecy of Daniel, the wise man of Babylon (Dan. 9:24-26) or the prophecy of Balaam (Num. 24:17). Note **“his star,”** not just any star.
6. About two years had passed since they had seen the star (Matt. 2:16; Luke 2:22, 39; Lev. 12:1-4).
7. They were doubtless Gentiles who seemed to know more than most Jews about the Messiah.

## II. THE INQUIRY OF THEIR FAITH (V. 2).

1. They were earnest seekers for Christ. Those who seek find.
2. They sought One born a King---a king by birth and Divine right. We must find Him. He is the Light and Life of our souls!
3. They did not wait for Christ to find them; they made it their business to discover Him.
4. Many do not know Christ because they will not take time to seek Him.
5. Men who seek the Lord have already experienced the grace of God. These scientists sought Christ the King!

### III. THE WORD OF THEIR FAITH (VV. 3-8).

1. Herod the Great was troubled about a new king, being old and near the end of his life. He was an Edomite who, chiefly through the friendship of Mark Antony, became king of Judea.
2. The people were troubled by their dread of revolution and Herod's rage. He killed all the babies 2 years and under!
3. He consults the theologians (vv. 4-6).
4. The wise men must have expected to find the capital and the city jubilant over the new King. People in the streets knew nothing and did not want Him (John 1:11).
5. The theologians had dead orthodoxy---a name to live when they were spiritually dead. The "letter" alone killeth.
6. They believed the theologians who had cited the Scriptures about Christ (Micah 5:2). They had followed the star; now they follow the Word. Science should lead men to the Word and then to Christ.

#### IV. THE WORSHIP OF THEIR FAITH (VV. 9-12).

1. The star reappeared. They were ready to go south to Bethlehem. Christ was north in Nazareth (vv. 9-10; Luke 2:39). He was not a babe but **“a young child.”**
2. The King was not in Jerusalem, nor Bethlehem, nor in glorious palaces, nor the temple, nor in a manger. Nazareth was the skid-row of Palestine---the ghetto---where the poor mean people lived (John 1:47).
3. As they saw Nazareth and the carpenter’s home their faith was sorely tried. A King living in the slums! Unbelievable!
4. The child and His mother was not what they expected to see. No outward signs of royalty, no pomp, no guards, no courtiers, no halo, etc. A poor cottage! A run-down house!
5. Their faith was not shaken by these surroundings. They knew this little child was the King Messiah---the only begotten of the Father.
6. They worshipped Him as God and the King (vv. 2, 11; Micah 5:2).  
(1) They did not worship the virgin mother!

- (2) To worship involves the homage of the heart, the reverence of the whole being.
- (3) They did not honor Herod as they did Jesus. They worshipped Him as God and the great King.
7. True worship involves gifts.
  - (1) The gold was given as a tribute to the King of the Jews.
  - (2) The frankincense recognized His Divinity because God is honored with incense. Gentiles could not compound it.
  - (3) Myrrh recognized His humanity and was used in embalming (John 19:39). It was used in the holy perfume, and it could not be used by the common people (Ex. 30:34). This was the leading ingredient of the holy oil (Ex. 30:23). As a man He would die.
  - (4) Two from the vegetable kingdom, one from the mineral (S. of S. 3:6).
  - (5) The Shechinah cloud, the holy oil, and holy perfume described the qualities of Christ well.
  - (6) "Offered" appears 7 times in the N.T. and each time it is connected with offerings to God.
8. They returned another way (v. 12). So do all who find Christ!

## CONCLUSION.

1. Some like the priests know all about Christ, but they do not know Christ Himself!
2. Wise men still seek Him until they find Him! God guides those who truly seek Him.
3. All that find Christ fall down before Him, adore Him, and submit themselves to Him.
4. All who come to Him go another way after meeting Him!

# Love

(Continued from page 228) ♦

its glory untarnished and undiminished,  
while numbers of its foes have sunk into  
oblivion.

*'As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form  
Swell from the vale, and midway leaves  
the storm,*

Though round its breast the rolling clouds  
are spread,

*Eternal sunshine settles on its head.*

Where Christianity is embraced, the results are the most glorious and beneficial. Philosophical or ecclesiastical codes and human inventions, when compared with it, dwindle into insignificance. In point of magnitude, interest and durability, it stands unrivalled. Where its benign influences have been felt, it has changed and moral aspect of society. It expels darkness from the mind, penetrates and softens the heart of adamant, subdues the rebellious will, civilizes the barbarian, transforms the lion into a lamb, and converts the soul. It reaches man in the depths of his iniquity, compasses him in all the measures of his guilt; it has stood by the penitent when imploring pardon, and freely bestowed the **"oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."** And, like an angel of light, it has shed a celestial radiance over the Christian in his final struggle, pointed him to a world of light, and accompanied the triumphant spirit in its towerings to an immortality of blessedness.

Christianity implies the knowledge, possession, and influence of the Holy Spirit, for we are "born again of the Spirit." The operation of the Spirit on the human mind is imperceptible and mysterious, but the results of that operation are intelligible and satisfactory, inasmuch as it invariably imparts to every believer a "knowledge of salvation by the remission

of sins;" for this has been the distinguished privilege of Christians in every age and in every nation.

**“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” “And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.” “He that believeth on the Son of God, hath the witness in himself.”** These are practical manifestations of a heart renewed by divine grace. The quality of the fruit will correspond with the character of the tree; for **“a good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”**

The fruits of the Spirit are necessary to justify a profession of religion. **“Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain.”** **“Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.”**

The apostle Paul has enumerated and the apostle in contrast the works of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit. The works of the flesh are these: --- **“Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, revellings, and such like.”** **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.”** Here is a magnificent cluster of virtues---a collection of the rarest gems, with which the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, the sardonyx, the chrysolyte, and beryl, the topaz, the chrysoprasus, and the amethyst will not bear comparison. Here is the believer’s golden chain---a full length portrait of the Christian.

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# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

When tithes are paid, should they be paid from the gross pay or the take-home pay? - Kansas

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week according to what your personal deductions are. This would only increase your tithe from around \$75 to \$100. This isn't much when you consider what God has given us.

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According to the law, tithes should be given from the gross earnings. **"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD. He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed."** (Lev. 27:30-33). The Lord clearly required the first tenth part of everything. If a faithful Israelite had other obligations - taxes, debts, etc., he would have paid those after giving his tithe to the Lord.

We also have the example of Abraham and Jacob giving tithes of all in Genesis 14:20 & 28:22. Of course this is especially interesting because they were both giving tithes prior to the Lord commanding His people to do so in the law.

In the book of Malachi, the Lord accuses His people of robbing Him because they were not giving their tithes and offerings, but He promises them great blessing if they repent and give back to the Lord what they have taken. **"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"** (Mal. 3:8-10).

Christ teaches us in Luke 20:25 to **"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God**

**the things which be God's."** Clearly, we have responsibilities to render tribute both to God and to the civil government, which is the minister of God's justice (Rom. 13:1-7). We ought to gladly obey the teachings of Christ.

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Leviticus 27:30 declares: **"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD."** It is my personal conviction that tithes should be paid on the gross instead of the take home pay. God should get the first 10% before the government in my opinion. This is not clearly spelled out in Scripture, but it is always better to go with more than less when it comes to paying tithes and giving offerings. I would rather err on the side of generosity and know that whatever I pay above my tithe is an offering unto the Lord. Jesus said: **"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again"** (Luke 6:38). I have been saved for 25 years and have been faithful by God's grace to always pay my tithe and give an offering over and above. As a result I have seen the power of this verse come to light in my life. God's provision is always much greater than my tithes and offerings!

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I know of no direct Scripture reference to this subject, but it appears quite prominently that there was no such thing as 'take-home' pay, as we have come to understand that term in our pre-taxed society. The tithes of both Old Testament and New Testament worshipers were paid on gross income.

While there does seem to be a distinction made between first fruits, tithes, and offerings the main distinctions are: a) first fruits and tithes were mandatory under the law, a tax if you please. These were owed God (Mal. 3:8-10) and required for the maintenance of the worship; b) first fruits were a 'one time' or 'once a year' offering, speaking of the promise of a good harvest, while tithes were applied to all functions; and c) offerings were encouraged but not demanded, accepted in accordance with a man's willingness and ability (cf. II Cor. 8:12, **"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."**)

It is also worthy of note that our Lord indicated that we should both pay tithes and taxes. Matthew 22:21, **"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."**

Perhaps the two most applicable references to the question would be:

Genesis 14:20 (applying the 'first usage' rule of interpretation), **"And he gave him tithes of all."** Notice the end - Abraham paid tithes of **"all"**. Perhaps the most direct application to the question is seen in that Abraham paid the tithe to Melchizedek before giving the goods to Bera, king of Sodom.

Deuteronomy 12:17, **"Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of..."** Again the evident picture is that the tithe was to be taken out before the individual partook of the harvest for personal use.

The 'first fruits' establishes a principle that the tithe should come off the top, before we take our alleged share. Our government takes their share off the top, leaving us with the remainder. Shouldn't our Lord get the same?

RAY BENNETT

## The Real Business of Any Church

By Roy Mason  
(1894 - 1978)

There may be some repetition in this lesson, for it is hard not to repeat when different subjects are so close together. However, there is a certain value in repetition---it serves to lodge truths in our heads.

The main business of a church can be simply stated. It is missions. One writer has published a book under the title, "Missions Our Mission." That is an excellent statement. Now when we say "missions" we do not just mean "foreign missions." We mean that the main business of a church is the preaching of the Gospel from that church on out unto the uttermost parts of the world. The purpose of church membership should be to have fellowship with other Christians,

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# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

Will there be different skin colors in Heaven, i.e. red, white, black, yellow, brown, etc.? - Mississippi

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Revelation 5:9 states: **"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."**

It is obvious from this verse that every race from the various kindreds will be represented in Heaven. It is not clear whether we will have the skin pigment of the Lord Jesus Christ, unto whose image we will be conformed (Phil. 3:21; I John 3:2), or whether we will retain our natural skin color in light of I Corinthians 13:12 which declares: **"...but then shall I know even as also I am known."**

In the glorified state our minds will not even give a thought to the skin color of our brothers and sisters in Christ. There will be no prejudice. Our minds will be entirely occupied with serving and glorifying our Lord. Since that is going to be our attitude in Heaven, perhaps it would be good for us to put it into practice now as we prepare to enter into glory.

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I know of no Scripture to address this. We do know that our Lord accepted proselytes from races other than the Jews, and that the church will be made up of elect from every tongue, tribe, and nation, so certainly all races (i.e. skin colors, as per the question) will be represented in Heaven. We also know that **"we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is,"** (I John 3:2) but this verse has greater application to our *spiritual* likeness. That spiritual likeness will very well include a 'spiritual body' such as our Lord's resurrection body, which *may* eliminate racial distinctions.

On the other hand we understand that we will be recognizable in glory, as per Moses and Elijah being recognized

on the Mount of Transfiguration.

But we have no concrete evidence either way in regards to our racial distinctions. This should not be a matter of concern! What we need to be concerned with is whether we will be in Heaven. Scripture tells us, **"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus"** (Gal. 3:28) so I think it doubtful that such matters as racial differences should concern the saints of God, other than idle curiosity. There are better and more important things for us to spend our time on.

I Timothy 1:4, **"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith"; 4:7, "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."**

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I can see no reason why there wouldn't be different skin colors in Heaven. According to I Corinthians 15:35-54, we will be bodily resurrected from the dead just like our Lord Jesus Christ was. We do not spend eternity in a disembodied state of bliss, but we spend eternity here on a recreated earth in real, human, glorified bodies; which are both physical and spiritual once we are resurrected from the dead.

Since Christ was recognizable after His resurrection, His features must have been somewhat similar to the way He was prior to death. It would seem to me that skin color like other bodily features would remain intact and distinguishable in Heaven.

One of the glorious truths of God's redemption is that He calls His people from every part of the earth. He is not the God of the Jew only, but also of the Gentiles (Rom. 3:29). In Heaven there will be saints from every culture, nationality, and ethnicity. **"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made**

**us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."** (Rev. 5:9-10).

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I have never really understood the basis for this. Sadly, many have taught that there are "cursed" races and this curse needs to be removed. Therefore, they believe there will be no races in Heaven. These people, by chance I am sure, just happen not to be of the races they believe are cursed.

I believe there will be races in Heaven for three reasons. First of all, in the resurrection, our actual body that we are in now will be resurrected from the ground. It will be changed. However, this most likely doesn't concern the look of our body, but, the state of our body. We will become immortal and incorruptible (I Cor. 15:52-54). These things do not affect our looks. Therefore, at the rapture, people will look similar to the way they look now. Secondly, Paul says we will be known even as we are known (I Cor. 13:12). Thirdly, at the Mount of Transfiguration, Elijah and Moses were recognizable.

To say that there will not be races in Heaven could imply that there is some sin in being one race or another. This is simply wrong. We are all sinners by nature and all are in need of the Savior no matter what race we are. There is no cursed race except the human race.

TODD BRYANT

## The Real Business

(Continued from page 230) ♦

to maintain the worship of God, and to tell the world the good news of salvation and eternal life thru Christ. Sad to say, church membership does not mean this to many people. Let us note some of the unworthy motives that lead many to join churches.

### THE MOTIVE OF SECURING SALVATION

Plenty think that they can join and that the church will take care of their souls for them. All such trust the wrong thing. The church is not to SAVE---but for those who are saved.

### THE MOTIVE OF SOCIAL AND OTHER PRESTIGE

A fellow moves to town and he says, "Which is the most influential church in town?" He joins it for business or social reasons. This is using a sacred institution for sordid, cheap, material purposes.

### THE MOTIVE OF A GOOD TIME... ENTERTAINMENT

Some switch their membership where there is the most fun and frolic. They like constant suppers and parties. They like for the church to sponsor ball teams, etc. Their church is their club. What a cheap degrading of the things of God! Why don't they go and join a straight out club that doesn't pretend to be religious?

### THE MOTIVE OF HAVING THEIR EGO INFLATED

Many members want to be made over---want to be coddled. They are not concerned about the advancement of the cause of Christ---they are self-centered. Everything revolves around "them."

### THE MOTIVE OF HAVING A NICE PLACE TO ASSOCIATE WITH FRIENDS

Let such persons move to another community where those friends are not and they often quit even going to church. They don't care two hoots for the cause of Christ.

In an attempt to satisfy these various selfish motives, and to make the church minister to the whims and wants and wishes of a selfish membership who are more concerned about self than God and His work, the average church spends most of its income on purely local things. They employ an assistant just to direct the fun and frolic. Various workers are paid to do things that need not be done if people are not selfish and self-centered.

### THE REAL BUSINESS OF A CHURCH

1. Jesus outlined it in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20).

At our church, we are not only getting the Gospel before many locally, but to tens of thousands every Sunday, thru broadcasting.

2. Our coming together in church meeting is designed to be for the purpose of mutual encouragement (See Heb. 10:25).

3. The ministry is designed to be of spiritual help (See Eph. 4:11-15).

We think of the preacher who recently said on Saturday afternoon, "I have been kept so busy this week that I haven't had time to prepare to preach." He got up his sermon for Sunday morning that night and his sermon for Sunday evening on Sunday afternoon. So busy buzzing around attending to material things, that spiritual things were neglected. That is one reason many don't go to church---nothing when they get there! The devil will turn any man's ministry into purely material channels if he can do it---and plenty of people will help the devil to do it.



# Love

(Continued from page 229) ♦

We will examine and illustrate the fruit of the Spirit in the order laid down by the apostle. **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love.”** Let us consider the nature---evidences---and means by which our love to God may be promoted.

## I. THE NATURE OF CHRISTIAN LOVE.

One prominent feature of the Christian religion is love to God. This strong and essential link is annexed to God, and on it hangs the whole of the believer's golden chain. We observe---

1. *It is divine in its origin.* In vain we look for this principle in an unrenewed heart, for **“the carnal mind is enmity against God.”** It is not the production of earth, nor the result of a mathematical demonstration, neither is it generated by a classical education. It is not procured by any merits of our own, nor obtained by penance or bodily mortification; but it is a divine principle implanted in the heart, and developed in the conduct. **“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us”** (Rom. 5:5). These are terms which denote free and abundant communication, and prove that all the graces that adorn the Christian proceed from the Holy Spirit. There are frequent allusions in the Scriptures to the outpouring and effects of the Holy Spirit on the hearts of men. While Peter was preaching, **“the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost”** (Acts 10:44-45).

Love is an emanation from Deity, a divine communication to man; it is God dwelling in man or man dwelling in God; hence we read that **“God is love; and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him.”** (I John 4:16). Again, **“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”** (I Cor. 3:16). **“For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people”** (II Cor. 6:16).

The more we love God the more we shall reflect His moral image; pure reflection tends to assimilate to the resemblance of the object which occupies our thoughts, and in which we feel the liveliest interest. **“We love Him because He first loved us.”** Love to God must be---

2. *Constant and increasing.* Not casual as the winds, fluctuating as the tide, nor uncertain as the sunshine, but constant at all times, in all places, and under all circumstances. Not in a flame to-day,

and to-morrow cold as an iceberg; it must not blaze in the crowd, and become extinct when alone; there must be no transition from the torrid to the frigid zone. It should burn on the altar of the heart night and day, fanned by the breath of praise and prayer, by which alone the heart can be kept in a proper temperature.

Besides, it must not be stationary, but increasing in intensity, in degree. We are not to pause at the commencement of our religious career, nor fancy our work is done when we are converted to God. We must go forward in the divine life, make new discoveries, and gain fresh triumphs. There may be enemies to encounter, temptations to overcome, and obstacles to surmount, but ‘onward’ must be the motto inscribed on our escutcheons. **“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity”** (II Pet. 1:5-7). Observe---

3. *It is supreme.* Love implies an object. Esteem for the object we love, desire after it, and complacency and delight in it, are characteristics of love. The object of Christian love is God. He demands the primary and profoundest homage from all His creatures. We are to love our parents, partners, children, relatives, neighbors, and all Christians; but our love to God must exceed all other love. It must not be a secondary consideration, nor manifested in an inferior degree; but supremely, and with all our hearts. Our love to God is defective, unless we can say with Asaph, **“Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee”**; or with the Psalmist, when he said, **“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).

Also, to love an object implies a knowledge of the existence of that object. “Through the defection of man from his uprightness of heart,” says Dr. Wardlaw, “the knowledge of God Himself, and consequently the knowledge of God's will, has been frequently impaired, and, although still discovering itself in the dictates of conscience, yet has necessarily been bereft of its certainty and its consistency as a standard of moral rectitude; and that this knowledge, lost in

consequence of the sinful aversion of the human heart to retain it, has through the unmerited favor of God been restored in divine revelation.’ Our happiness consists in knowing and loving God. **“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent”** (John 17:3).

With more ease might we gauge the ocean, weigh the mountains, bend the pillars of the earth, control the freedom of the air, or number the stars of the firmament, than ‘find out the Almighty unto perfection.’ Nevertheless, by searching the inspired Word, we may attain a knowledge of His nature, character, and will, and our duty. **“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me.”**

To love God is a moral obligation. It was enjoined both under the Mosaic and Christian dispensations. When Moses received the law from God, he pressed its observance upon the people. **“Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD: and thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might”** (Deut. 6:4-5). A certain lawyer asked the Saviour which was **“the great commandment in the law:”** **“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”** (Matt. 22:36-40). To love God is not an irksome task to a Christian, but his highest delight and most exalted exercise. With David he says, **“I will praise thee, O LORD, my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore!”** Notice---

## II. THE EVIDENCES OF LOVE TO GOD.

Love to God produces hatred to sin in all its forms, to every system and principle which is at variance with truth, and causes the affections to gravitate to the earth. Love to God is manifest.

1. *In obedience to Him.* The Saviour saith, **“If ye love me, keep my commandments. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.”** Nothing short of this can authenticate the existence of this principle in the heart, for obedience is the proper test of love to Christ. We also read that His **“commandments are not grievous.”** There is nothing in the keeping of them derogatory to our honour, nor detrimental to our happiness; but, on the contrary, “Him that honoureth me, I will honour:” and **“Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them.”** Our lives must be conformable to the sacred precepts, that we may “walk in love, as He also hath loved us, and gave himself for us.”

Obedience implies a readiness to do the will of God, which must be our rule, and His honour and glory the end of all our actions and efforts. **“I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.”**

Obedience includes active effort in the Saviour's cause. Love is not a dormant but an active principle; and, to achieve any great amount of moral good, decisive action is the pre-requisite. It does not require a great stretch of intellect to conceive the necessity of personal effort to destroy the works of the devil, promote the prosperity of the church, and the regeneration of the human race.

The path of enterprise the Christian must pursue is marked out. Numerous and powerful impediments may lie across the path; therefore, to accomplish his object faith and courage are absolutely necessary. When one of the six-winged seraphs took a live coal from off the altar, and laid it on the lips of Isaiah, and the voice of the Lord fell on his ear, saying, **“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”** he answered, **“Here am I; send me.”** He did not hesitate; he made no inquiries; he did not particularize; nor object on the ground of difficulty, danger, or expediency. He did not say, send me if the work is easy; send me if there is no cross to bear; send me if there are no difficulties to encounter; send me if there is no persecution to endure; send me if there is ample compensation for the work. No, he was willing to venture, ready to obey, prompt to comply.

One writer remarks, ‘It is the nature of love to seek its highest gratification in the happiness of its object. Love lives in the enjoyments it bestows. This is the element of its existence. It delights in occasions of manifesting its strength by the extent of its sacrifices in promoting the good of those that are loved. The eye can linger upon nothing more beautiful than the manifestation of this affection. The heart can be subjected to no influence richer in the purest enjoyment.’

To be obedient is to follow the Saviour, not only when the road is smooth and the elements are placid, but when the way is rough and the storm high; not only when men speak well of you, but when your characters are branded with infamy; not only when the sun of prosperity shines upon you, but when the gloom of adversity gathers around you. **“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me”** (Matt. 16:24).

2. *Love to others indicates our love to Christ.* Love is comprehensive in the objects it embraces, and diffusive in the principles it inculcates. There must be the outgoings of pure affection. **“These things I command you,”** said the Saviour, **“that ye love one another.”** It is the badge of our discipleship: “By

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# Love

(Continued from page 232) ♦

this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye love one another.” It is one of the evidences of our conversion: **“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren”** (I John 3:14). **“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”** It is impossible to enjoy religion if we love not one another. **“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also”** (I John 4:20-21).

Love to others must be manifested in words and acts of kindness; we are to be humane and generous in our dispositions and deeds. **“For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward”** Paul writes to the Galatians: **“By love serve one another, For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”** John writes: **“Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; which have borne witness of thy charity before the church.”**

We have a touching exemplification of this principle in the conduct of Obadiah, when he **“took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water”** (I Kings 18:4). The Primitive Christians sold their possessions and goods, and distributed them to meet the wants of the needy.

The apostle Paul urges the observance of Christian sympathy. **“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”** Christians should sympathize with each other. The members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it (I Cor. 12:25-26). This sympathy must extend to the unconverted. **“Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body”** (Heb. 13:3).

How softly the tear of sympathy falls on the heart bruised and broken by sorrow! It assures the sad and weeping soul that it is not alone in a wilderness of cold hearts; that there are those who can feel for the troubles of others; and oh! what is more cheering to an aching heart than such a thought? The desire to be loved is common to human nature. It is the first impulse of the opening heart, and it lives and breathes in the bosom of all until the hour of death. A look of love, and word of kindness, a tear of sympathy costs us nothing; why, then, withhold

them from those who would prize them as blessings winged with the fruitful dews of heaven? The tear of sympathy never falls in vain. It waters and fertilizes the soil of the most sterile heart, and causes it to flourish with the beautiful flowers of gratitude and love. And as the summer clouds weep refreshment on the parched earth, and leave the skies more beautiful than before, with the rainbow of promise arching in the cerulean dome, so the tear of sympathy not only refreshes the heart on which it drops, but it elevates and beautifies the nature of him from whom it springs. A sympathizing heart is like a spring of pure water, bursting forth from the mountain side. Ever pure and sweet in itself, it carries gladness and joy on every ripple of its sparkling current.

Not only is this love manifested in relieving the destitute and sympathizing with the afflicted, but also in efforts to promote their spiritual welfare. The claims we have upon each other are obvious; especially when we consider that we are created by the same God, redeemed by the same sacrifice, and must stand at the same tribunal in the final judgment. But to be regardless of those claims and socialities of life is criminal, and calculated to disorganize society and negative our fraternity. Let our language be---

*‘All that I am and all I have  
Shall be for ever Thine;  
Whate’er my duty bids me give,  
My cheerful hands resign.’*

3. *Gratitude is also an evidence of our love to God.* The Psalmist recorded his gratitude to God: **“What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?”** And have we not equal cause for gratitude? Think of the blessings He has bestowed upon us; are they not innumerable and unmerited? There are benefits bestowed upon us in creation, in the exercises of His providential administrations, in the provision for our sustenance, in our redemption, and in the plenary effusions of the Holy Spirit on our hearts and the labor of our hands. Besides, we have our Sabbaths, the ministry of the Word, the ordinances of religion, and, the assurance of a home in the skies. Every blessing we receive from God should inspire us with gratitude and praise. David invokes the celestial, terrestrial, and all rational creatures to praise God; and concludes his incomparable psalms with a general exhortation: **“Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.”** And it appears as though John heard them in the delightful exercise, for saith he, **“Every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever”** (Rev. 5:13).

(Continued in next issue)

## Bits of Wisdom for the Young and Old

*Realizing the need for more good writers in our Baptist churches, the editor has established this section of the paper for those who are just beginning to engage in religious writing. I would urge both young or older writers to use this space in the BBB. Such articles must be at least one page (approximately 500 words) and should not exceed three pages. Please submit your articles to the Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855.*

## WISDOM---PASS IT ON!

By David G. Hoffman  
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Bits of Wisdom for the Young and Old was created as a forum for beginning religious writers in our Baptist churches. I had the happy experience of being the first writer published in this section and would like to encourage others to submit articles. “Beginning writers” to some implies *young* writers and that’s just not the case. Older writers have far more wisdom to bestow by virtue of their life experiences that our young people would be wise to heed.

Those of you who have read my earlier articles know that I’m a state prisoner. I’ve been incarcerated since 1997. I didn’t emerge from the womb a believer, or a writer. A month shy of my 31<sup>st</sup> birthday, in 2001, the Lord plucked the scales from my eyes and drew me to Himself. Then two and a half years later, in the winter of 2003, I wrote what became my first article in the *Berea Baptist Banner*, with no idea anyone would ever read it but myself and a few friends. It was almost a year later before I sent it to the *Banner*. Imagine my surprise when I opened the April 2005 issue and there it was!

Each of our lives is unique. Our experiences combined with the instruction and spiritual precepts of Scripture give us understanding and insight to admonish, teach and inspire others. In short, to edify our readers. All of us won’t be as eloquent as Charles Spurgeon, Arthur Pink, or Milburn Cockrell the first time we put pen to paper. The Lord knows I wasn’t and ain’t. It’s not the eloquence of the writer but the wisdom of the message that’s important.

Whether it’s the wisdom of a Sunday school teacher wanting to reach beyond the classroom, a grandfather wanting to reach across the generations, or a prisoner reaching through the bars to a society who needs the Grace that found him in the dungeon, it’s better to have tried and failed than to have failed to try. Do you have a bit of wisdom to share? Flee to the Throne of Grace and inquire for a morsel to nurture this generation and those to come.

**“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold”** (Prov. 3:13-14).

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# 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.

### “INTELLIGENT DESIGN” GETS VICTORY IN KANSAS

(EP)--New science standards approved Nov. 8 by the Kansas Board of Education say high school students must understand major evolutionary concepts, but that they should also know that basic Darwinian theory has been challenged in recent years by fossil evidence and molecular biology.

The vote, six Republicans against two Democrats and two Republicans, marked a victory for “intelligent design” advocates who contend that the complexity of the universe points toward the existence of intentional acts rather than simply random chance.

Critics of the new policy claim it is an attempt to inject God and creationism into public schools in violation of the separation of church and state.

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### ‘INTELLIGENT DESIGN’ ON TRIAL IN PENNSYLVANIA

(EP)--Darwin’s theory of evolution cannot fully explain life and its complex biological processes. Simply put, that’s the idea behind “intelligent design” and the case supporting the Dover Area School Board’s decision to inform ninth-grade biology students that Darwin is not the only game in town.

Lehigh University biochemistry professor Michael Behe testified Oct. 17 in the lawsuit over the school policy, telling the court that processes such as bloodclotting, one of numerous topics in a textbook called “Of Pandas and People,” is “poorly explained by Darwinian processes but well explained by design.”

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## Why I Believe the

(Continued from page 221) ♦

The doctrines of grace did not originate with John Calvin as many proclaim. The Lord Jesus Christ preached the doctrines of grace 1500 years before John Calvin. He preached all five of these doctrines. He preached total depravity in Luke 18:19. He told the rich young ruler that none is good save God. He told the Pharisees in Mark 7:20-23: **“And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”** Here He names three forms of evil: human nature out of the heart, human mind---evil thoughts, human actions, adulteries, murders, etc. Sounds like total depravity to me.

In John 6:63: **“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”** Man is dead in sin, unable to do anything spiritually for himself. This sounds like total depravity to me.

He preached unconditional election in John 6:27. He spoke of some that the Father had given unto Him. **“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”** He said in His intercessory prayer in John 17:2 that He had been given **“power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”** No more, no less. In John 15:16 He said: **“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.”** He does away with free will. He did the choosing. This sounds like election to me.

He preached irresistible grace in John 6:44. He said none had power in themselves to come unless the Spirit draw them.

In John 6:37 He said: **“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me.”** God's all drawing power would make him willing. God never saves a man against his will, but conforms his will to do God's good pleasure. In Matthew 1:21, talking about Christ's birth: **“He shall save his people from their sins.”** Note the words **“SHALL SAVE.”**

He does it by the mighty working of His Holy Spirit. All of God's people shall be willing in the day of His power.

He preached particular redemption. By this we mean that Jesus died for His sheep only, and not for those who go to Hell. In Matthew 20:28 He said: **“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”** No not for the whole human race, but only for the ones whom the Father chose and

the Spirit draws. In John 10:11 Christ said: **“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”** Not for every man that ever lived. Because many were already in Hell when He went to Calvary to make an atonement for the sins of His people.

Christ also preached eternal security. We mean by this that everyone God saved He keeps. In John 10:27-29 He said: **“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”** John 3:16, is a favorite Arminian text which they don't even believe. **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** You notice Christ said everlasting life. That means forever, world without end. No foot race with Satan is seen here.

### 2. THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE EXALT GOD.

Either salvation is all of grace or all of works. There is no middle ground. Only the doctrines of grace exalt God and give Him the proper glory due Him. Arminianism exalts man's will, which is contrary to Scripture. You see, God is sovereign and not man.

Psalms 115:3 says: **“But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.”** He is the maker and possessor of Heaven and earth, one is His throne, the other His footstool. He does whatsoever He so desires in creation and providence and in grace. God hath made all things for Himself, yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. God saves all those who are written in the Lamb's book of life from the foundation of the world.

In Jonah 2:9 God says salvation is of the Lord, not a joint effort with man. Grace exalts God and not man. We must always give God all the glory for saving Hell-deserving sinners.

Not unto us, no not unto us, but unto Thy name alone is due glory, honor and praise. Only the doctrines of grace exalt God's grace while Arminianism exalts man's free will.

### 3. THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE ARE THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL EVANGELISM.

One of the greatest problems facing us today is that man is trying to do the work of the Holy Spirit. The Arminian when he closes his sermon says God has done all He can and can do no more. So He leaves salvation up to man. This results in a lot of false professions. We must preach not what man can do for God, but what God must do for man!

If I believed like the Arminians do that God's done all He can and He can do no more, I would quit preaching the gospel.

We who preach the doctrines of grace know that since God has elected sinners unto salvation, they will be saved through the preaching of God's Word. In II Thessalonians 2:13-14 we read: **“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”** Here we have the surety of evangelism, election, how the elect are saved. Verse 14 says: **“Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** This does away with Arminianism and Hardshellism. We have God's purpose, election and the means, the gospel.

Paul in Acts 18:8-11 was doing mission work. We read: **“And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.”** Paul stayed and preached because he knew the Lord had lost sheep there who needed to hear the gospel and be brought into the fold.

If God would have done all He could, He would have told Paul to go home and forget about it, but God is God and His people shall be willing in the day of His power.

The reason we preach is that God's sheep hear His voice, and they follow Him, and He gives unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No, beloved, because God is sovereign and in control is so much more the reason to be evangelistic. We know God's Word will not come back void but accomplish His purpose (the salvation of His people).

I know these doctrines are not popular in our day, but neither was Jesus Christ in His day. I close by quoting Matthew 11:25-26: **“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”** Praise God, may the Lord bless you all. Amen.



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The school system's policy, under fire from eight families who filed the lawsuit with help from the American Civil Liberties Union, requires that students are read a statement saying that Darwin's theory is “not a fact,”

has inexplicable “gaps” and refers them to the textbook, which includes the work of Behe and others.

The landmark federal trial in Harrisburg, Pa., could have major implications as to whether intelligent design can legally be mentioned in public school science classes. The trial opened Sept. 26 and is expected to last up to five weeks.

According to Associated Press reports, Behe testified that intelligent design specifically questions whether life at the molecular level evolved through natural selection — “the most poorly supported aspect of Darwin's theory,” according to Behe.

The Discovery Institute — a Seattle-based think tank and arguably the nation's best-organized and best-funded proponent of intelligent design, filed a brief on Oct. 17 urging the Judge to rule in favor of the school board.

Despite the brief filed with the court, the Discovery Institute does not suggest that intelligent design should be taught in the classroom, but rather that teachers and students study more about Darwinian evolution, both the evidence that supports the theory, and scientific criticisms of it.

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### SCHOOL BOARD THAT BACKED INTELLIGENT DESIGN OUSTED

(EP) - Voters in Dover, Pa., ousted school board members who had dared to entertain a doubt about Darwin's theory of evolution, though some say the vote may have been more about economics than ideology. “Some people felt intelligent design shouldn't be taught and others were concerned about having tax money spent on the lawsuit,” said David Napierskie, who lost on Nov. 8. A spokesman for the winning slate of candidates told the Associated Press that the new board wouldn't act hastily and would consider the outcome of the court case. The judge expects to rule by January.

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### MISSOURI INMATE TO RECEIVE ABORTION

(EP)--Missouri prison officials will transport an inmate to have an abortion, after the Supreme Court on Oct. 20 dropped a temporary stay that had stopped the procedure from happening over the weekend.

Even though state law forbids spending tax dollars to facilitate an abortion, a federal district court judge said the prison system could not block the inmate from exercising her rights.

Taxpayers in Missouri will not pay for the abortion procedure -- the woman is borrowing money from family members for that -- but the ruling required the Department of Corrections to pay for her transportation and two prison guards who must accompany her.

Patty Skain with Missouri Right to Life told Family News in Focus that crosses the line.

“People who are incarcerated do give up

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rights. We believe the rights of the taxpayers not to fund something that's unethical should trump that," she said. "Obviously, it's a weighing of what the courts recognize as her constitutional right to abortion versus the taxpayers rights not to fund something that we believe is unethical."

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### SINKING MORAL LEADERSHIP

(EP)--The mayor of New Orleans has a bold solution to spark the renewal of his devastated city: Build more casinos and a "Las Vegas-style strip."

Ray Nagin said at a news conference last week, "Now is the time for some bold leadership, some decisive leadership." Apparently, the same leader who left 206 buses underwater and thousands of people stranded at the Superdome has suddenly found new leadership skills. His answer to Katrina? Build even further below sea level!

An examination of the facts reveals major cracks in Nagin's vision of the future for the famous "city of sin."

First, the whole issue of gambling has, for the past couple of decades, divided the people of Louisiana. Many people object to it on moral grounds. Others correctly point out that the high-paying management jobs go to outsiders, while the low-paying menial jobs go to the locals. Regardless of the reasons, gambling is a divisive issue in a city and state sorely fragmented after the hurricanes.

Second, the casinos that existed in the city prior to the floods struggled financially. Harrah's filed for bankruptcy not once, but twice, and then succeeded only because the state bailed it out with a large tax cut, undermining the original argument for allowing it to exist. The public school system, ever the excuse for expanding the gaming industry, was among the worst in the nation by anyone's standard. New Orleans rolled the dice on gambling once already and failed to beat the odds.

Third, the city of New Orleans, the state of Louisiana and the gambling industry all have a long history of corruption. In an area riddled with crime, addiction, poverty, broken families and other human blights, building the economy on higher moral ground would seem to make more sense than taking the low road.

Fourth, casinos and the accompanying hotels, restaurants and other businesses are expensive. To rebuild such costly ventures below sea level again flies in the face of common sense. Putting them on floating barges doesn't remedy anything either -- just ask Mississippi.

Mayor Nagin's leadership may be bold; but it's divisive, socially and economically flawed -- and morally bankrupt. Reconstructing an important American metropolis requires better thinking.

In reality, the essential industries in New Orleans are related to oil and gas, and the port connection between the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. Given the energy crisis

we're facing, it would seem obvious that the key to a brighter future lies in rebuilding the city around those two centers of commerce. The land below sea level should be used for the most expendable purposes, not the most expensive. And a leader with strong character should realize that people are not expendable, which means that government housing should not be located in dangerous, flood-prone areas.

Nature wiped the city of New Orleans clean. We would be smart to rebuild on a stronger foundation -- not just structurally and economically, but morally as well.

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### JUDICIARY COMMITTEE STRIPS OUT HATE-CRIMES AMENDMENT

(EP)--The Senate Judiciary Committee has passed a new version of the Children's Safety Act -- one without the hate-crimes amendment the House attached just before it sent the bill over to the Senate.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, successfully stripped the amendment from the Children's Safety Act, and turned that bill into a new one -- S. 1086, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act.

But the move does not mean an end to efforts by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., to get hate-crimes legislation passed.

Kennedy, the prime mover behind the legislation, indicated he will again try to introduce an amendment when the bill comes to the Senate floor. No timeline has been given for a full Senate vote.

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### COURT SAYS PARENTS NOT SOLE PROVIDERS OF KIDS' SEX EDUCATION

(EP)--A federal appeals court on Nov. 2 dismissed a lawsuit by elementary school parents who were outraged that the Palmdale School District had surveyed students about sex.

While the surveys asked students how often they thought about sex, among other questions, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said parents of public school children have no "fundamental right" to be the exclusive provider of sexual information to their children. The parents maintained they had the sole right "to control the upbringing of their children by introducing them to matters of and relating to sex."

Parents whose students took the survey signed consent forms. However, the forms never mentioned sex would be a topic. Questions the children answered included whether they thought about having sex, thought about touching other people's "private parts" and whether they could "stop thinking about having sex."

In upholding a lower court that had also ruled against the parents, a three-judge panel of the appeals court here dismissed the case, ruling unanimously that "parents are possessed of no constitutional right to prevent the public schools from providing information on that subject to their students in any forum or manner they select."

Judge Stephen Reinhardt, writing for the panel, added that "no such specific right can

be found in the deep roots of the nation's history and tradition or implied in the concept of ordered liberty."

Conservative and Christian groups immediately reacted to the decision.

Brian Fahling, senior trial attorney with the Center for Law & Policy, the legal arm of the American Family Association, called the decision "extremely disturbing."

"I think this opinion holds that when parents send their children to public schools, they essentially have forfeited any right to control any aspect of the education of that child as it pertains, for instance, here to sex education," Fahling said.

Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council agreed, and said there was a good chance the ruling would be overturned. "The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is the most overruled circuit in the country," Perkins said. "For off-the-wall liberalism, it has no peer. And Judge Stephen Reinhardt often plays ringmaster to this out-of-control circus."

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### CHRISTIAN, FAMILY GROUPS WIN BIG IN TEXAS

(EP)--Let there be no doubt about marriage in Texas -- it takes one man and one woman. Some 76 percent of Lone Star voters cast ballots in favor of a state constitutional ban of same-sex marriage on Nov. 8, one of a few bright spots for conservatives across the nation this election.

Like every other state except Massachusetts, Texas law prohibited same-sex marriage, but the amendment, similar to those in 19 other states, will serve as an extra safeguard against activist judges.

At least that's the hope of Proposition 2 supporters who campaigned vigorously for the amendment.

"I think Texans know that marriage is between a man and a woman, and children deserve both a mom and a dad. They don't need a PhD or a degree in anything else to teach them that," Kelly Shackelford, a leader of Texans For Marriage, told the Associated Press.

The Family Research Council's Tony Perkins hailed the move as a "strong marriage amendment that addressed not only same-sex 'marriage,' but any other configuration masquerading as marriage."

"Texas' amendment short circuits liberal groups from hi-jacking traditional marriage and morphing it into a hodgepodge of relationships used only for the benefit of their agenda," said Ann Hettinger, Area Director for CWA of Texas-North.

While conservatives rejoiced in the outcome in Texas, they were quick to point out that what is really needed is an amendment to the United States Constitution.

"Yesterday's vote underscores what was already clear -- that Americans believe that marriage is the union of a man and a woman. And yet, without federal constitutional protection, marriage continues to hang in the balance," said Focus on the Family Director of Issue Analysis Carrie Gordon Earll in a statement issued Nov. 9. "We call on Congress

to pass the Marriage Protection Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and allow the people to decide how marriage will be defined in our country."

"Despite the record breaking number of voters going to the polls in Texas in support of the state amendment, lawsuits challenging the results can be expected," he said. "Only a U.S. Constitutional Amendment that protects marriage can ensure the hard work in the states is not in vain."

The turnout for the off-year election in which only propositions were on the ballot was nearly 18 percent, the highest in Texas in more than a decade.

"You would think the politicians in Washington would get the message," Perkins said. "However, many of them apparently have a persistent case of cold feet and have refused to join the American people in defending marriage against homosexual activists and activist judges who are trying to redefine marriage for the nation."

According to Concerned Women for America, several more states are expected to pass constitutional amendments to protect marriage next year. Among them are Alabama, South Carolina, South Dakota and Tennessee.

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### CALIFORNIA'S PROPOSITION 73 FAILS

(EP)--Before the Nov. 8 election, national consultant Gary Marx called the message of California's Proposition 73, "common sense, pro-parent and easy to communicate." But despite efforts to spread the word throughout the state's mega churches, the measure that would have required doctors to notify parents of abortion seekers age 17 and under before performing abortions, failed at the polls, along with three other of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's ballot proposals.

"Tonight, parents and families all over the country lost out to the powerful interests of Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry, which for too long has led children into abortions without the counsel and loving care of their parents," Bill May, Chairman of Catholics for the Common Good said after the vote.

The governor tried to encourage his supporters, even after it became clear that his proposals had been rejected.

"Tomorrow, we begin anew," Schwarzenegger told the media on election night, his wife Maria Shriver beside him. "I feel the same tonight as that night two years ago ... You know with all my heart, I want to do the right thing for the people of California."

Had the voters done the right thing, California would have become the 35th state requiring parental notification for girls 17 and under requesting the procedure. It would not have required parents or guardians to grant their permission.

Supporters of the proposed law hoped it would reduce California's teen abortion rate, which is the fourth highest in the nation.

According to May, pre-election surveys

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showed strong support for Prop 73 among blacks and Hispanics and among people with the lowest educational levels, groups where lower incomes are more prevalent.

“This shows how the poor, often living in predatory environments, are struggling to try to maintain control over the families and protect their children,” May said. “These are the people who have really lost the most tonight.”

According to the Yes on 73 campaign, a study of 46,000 pregnant school-age girls in California found that 71 percent of the fathers were adults, with an average age of 22.6 years. Under current law, those men can take their young girlfriends for an abortion without their parents ever finding out.

“Current state law lets abortion clinics perform taxpayer-funded abortions on young girls, with the girls’ parents never knowing about this dangerous invasion of their family’s life and privacy by strangers,” the Yes on 73 Web site stated.

The campaign also pointed out the ludicrous inequity of state laws regarding procedures on minors, with the following information:

“In California, if your daughter is under 18: She can’t get a flu shot, she can’t go on a school trip, she can’t have a tooth pulled, she can’t get her ears pierced, without your knowing it. But an older boyfriend or school employee can take your 13-year-old daughter to an abortionist who can perform a surgical or chemical abortion upon her without your knowing it.”

Some say opponents of the measure were spurred to action by its language. Rather than the more neutral wording of similar bills in other states, Prop 73 defined abortion as an act that causes “the death of the unborn child, a child conceived but not yet born.”

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## PROPERTY-RIGHTS BILL PASSES HOUSE

(EP)--The House of Representatives has voted to stop federal, state and local governments from condemning private or church-held properties in order to develop the land they’re on.

Approval of the Private Property Rights Protection Act is a first step toward countering last summer’s decision in Kelo v. City of New London, in which the Supreme Court ruled private property can be taken for any public purpose.

“The day of reform is at hand,” said U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey, R-Ga. “And this Congress has an excellent opportunity to set the record straight and to reaffirm the traditional meaning of the Fifth Amendment, which guarantees no private property shall be taken except for public use and with just compensation.”

Massachusetts Congressman Jim McGovern, a Democrat, said private property ownership is an issue both parties can get behind.

“The Private Property Rights Protection

Act demonstrates that a bipartisan, collaborative effort can produce sound legislation,” he told Family News in Focus. “In the case of eminent-domain abuse, it is the duty of Congress to intercede and protect the property rights of all Americans.”

Gingrey offered an amendment to the bill to make sure tax-exempt property owned by religious organizations is doubly protected. The amendment would make it illegal for state and local governments to take tax-exempt or nonprofit status into consideration when looking for property to take over.

“If the federal government, state or local government take, by power of eminent domain, a church,” he explained, “then they will be penalized for two years and not be able to use any federal tax dollars that come by the way of community development block grants and things like that.”

The bill now goes to the Senate, where conservatives vow to approve it and send it to President Bush for his signature.

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## EIGHT NATIONS TARGETED FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS

(EP)--The State Department released its latest report on international religious freedom Nov. 8, and, for the second year in a row, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea and Vietnam made the list. Other countries singled out include Burma and North Korea

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said eight nations have been targeted for their restrictions on freedom of worship and other violations.

“In some countries, we find that governments have modified laws and policies, improved enforcement or taken other concrete steps to increase and demonstrate respect for religious freedom,” Rice said.

“In far too many countries, however, governments still fail to safeguard religious freedom. Across the globe, people are still persecuted or killed for practicing their religion or even for just being believers.”

The worst offenders are Saudi Arabia and the People’s Republic of China, according to Joseph D’Agostino with the Population Research Institute.

He especially lamented the fact that China always makes the list.

“It seems clear from the report that there has not been any improvement in religious freedom in this country,” D’Agostino said. “Clearly the international community and the First World has decided to give China a free pass on human-rights abuses.”

But Brownback admitted the U.S. is going to have to start using more than words against offenders.

“In too many places, we’ve condemned it, but have not acted at a sufficient level that it drives the point home with a host country,” Brownback said. “That needs to change.”

The reports of abuse in the countries listed included arrests, harsh penalties and barring people from entering their places of worship. An official with a mission group in Saudi Arabia was so afraid of repercussions that he declined to be interviewed.

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## NATIONAL BRIEFS

(EP)--The Walgreens Corp. has committed \$100,000 in support of the 7th annual Gay Games in Chicago -- a move that has many questioning whether one of the country’s largest dispensers of pharmaceuticals really has the nation’s health in mind. Walgreens said the agreement to sponsor the event was borne out of the desire to contribute to HIV/AIDS prevention. But the Gay Games Web site makes that claim look preposterous. “The Gay Games Social Committee is currently in the process of gathering together Chicago’s best bars and clubs, and some of the biggest and best party promoters in the country to create a Social Schedule unlike anything you’ve ever seen,” the site reads. “Chicago’s LGBT scene is fierce no matter what time of the year it is, but during that one week in July 2006, we are committed to making sure you have the time of your life.” Don Wildmon, chairman of the American Family Association, called donating money under the guise of AIDS prevention a farce. “To make their sponsorship appear to be a good thing publicly, they say they are providing AIDS education,” he said. “If any group should be aware of the dangers of AIDS and how to prevent it, it should be homosexual activists.”

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(EP)--Members of Congress considered the constitutionality of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act at a hearing on Capitol Hill Nov. 1. Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, chair of the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, said the issue plays into the debate over partial-birth abortion, what women are told before an abortion and whether they’ll be offered anesthesia for their pre-born babies. “This would require that a woman who is ready to have an abortion, that she is provided with information telling her about the pain that the unborn baby will feel,” he said. Teresa Collett, a professor at the St. Thomas School of Law, was among those who testified. “The American medical community is really behind the times on the research in this area,” she told Family News in Focus, “and in large part it’s because the political debate has so dominated science in this area.” Pro-abortion advocates have argued the bill is backdoor attempt to curtail abortion. Pro-lifer Chabat agreed. “Until we can get a Supreme Court that is willing to look at this issue and reverse Roe v. Wade,” he said, “there are other things that we can do to help protect unborn -- innocent life in this country -- and this bill is one of those things.”

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(EP)--Despite the fact that 70 percent of Nebraska voters cast ballots to amend the state’s constitution to protect marriage, the law they passed in 2000 may be null and void if a federal appeals court upholds a lower ruling striking down the same-sex marriage ban. The American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal filed a brief Nov. 1 asking the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals to uphold the earlier ruling by U.S. District Judge Joseph Bataillon, saying the ban made gay people into “political outcasts.” But Attorney General Jon Bruning said the ban should be restored because it “does not violate any person’s freedom of expression or association.” Opponents of the ban “are free to gather, express themselves, lobby, and generally participate in the political process however they see fit,” he told the Associated Press. “Plaintiffs are free to petition state senators to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot. Plaintiffs are similarly free to begin an initiative process to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot, just as supporters ... did.”

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(EP) - A California church may lose its tax exempt status because of an anti-war sermon preached two days before the 2004 presidential election. According to the Internal Revenue Service, former All Saints Episcopal Church pastor George F. Regas did not urge the congregation to support either President George W. Bush or his opponent, Sen. John Kerry, but he did attack the Iraq war and Bush’s tax cuts. The IRS warned the church in a June 9 letter that federal tax code prohibits tax-exempt organizations from intervening in political campaigns and elections. The federal agency has revoked a church’s tax exempt status at least once. According to the Associated Press, a church in Binghamton, New York, lost its status after running ads against Bill Clinton shortly before the 1992 election.

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## WORLD BRIEFS

(EP)--Calling it a “bad American habit,” the mayor of an Austrian town has launched a campaign against the celebration of Halloween. “It’s an American custom that’s got nothing to do with our culture,” Rankweil Mayor Hans Kohler wrote in a letter to area residents. According to Associated Press reports, the mayors of eight neighboring villages also support the boycott as do the local police. As the holiday has gained popularity across Europe, a backlash has begun. Critics see it as the epitome of crass, U.S.-style commercialism, AP reports say. And clerics and conservatives contend it clashes with the spirit of traditional Nov. 1 All Saints’ Day remembrances.

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(EP) - The beheadings of three Indonesian Christian high school girls are the latest in a string of attacks on believers in the world’s most populous Muslim nation. Pope Benedict XVI announced Sunday he was praying for renewed peace in the region that is split nearly evenly between Christians and Muslims. Unidentified attackers beheaded three girls and badly injured another in the province of Central Sulawesi, leaving one of the heads in front of a new Christian church. A bloody sectarian war in 2001 and 2002 killed around 1,000 people in Central Sulawesi before the government mediated a truce. Attacks on Christians, including assassinations, have continued.

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**Mini-Edition**

by Joseph Harris

Chairman of Biblical Studies  
Southeastern Baptist  
College, Laurel, Mississippi  
www.miniedition.net**Thanks for the Validation of Christianity**

There is little doubt that enmity exists between the church and the world. God is mocked, churches are belittled and individual believers are cast as backward and intolerant. The ACLU is at the forefront leading the attack under the guise of protecting the civil liberties of Americans (and illegal aliens, Muslim terrorists, etc). In reality, civil liberties in this country are not in danger, but religious liberties are constantly challenged. Pseudo science has waged war against God through an unproven theory on the origin of man, stating the existence of God cannot be proven, while demonstrating its inability to prove the theory of macro-evolution through empirical evidence. God, the Bible and morality have been kicked out of public schools and the public forum under the so-called myth of "separation of church and state" which is nothing more than a manifestation of hatred for God, facilitated by liberal politicians, educators and eager members of the media.

So for all the hatred, attacks and lawsuits against God and that which is Christian and moral, I say thanks for the validation. I appreciate the validation given by this ungodly world to the God of the universe and His followers. Jews and Christians have been attacked more than anyone in history. The Jews have endured more attempts of genocide throughout their history than any ancient people on the face of the earth and true Bible believing Christians have been targeted throughout church history (See *Trail of Blood* by J. M. Carroll and *Foxes Book of Martyrs* by John Fox).

Now look at some modern day feeble attacks against God and His people:

(1) It was a representation of Jesus and not Mohammed that was placed in a jar of urine, some years back, as an "art" exhibit. In a more recent display, the mother of Jesus was associated with elephant dung. I hope the mothers of Mohammed, and Confucius and the mother earth goddess of the Wiccans weren't offended since they were ignored and not thought worthy of this honor.

(2) Notice, also the commotion caused at the mention of the name Jesus in public Christian prayers. Apparently there's just something about that name. Besides, what other name could a Christian use in prayer, but the name Jesus? The problem is this: God hating, Christ rejecters have a problem with God, period! That is the

answer, simply put.

(3) Any attempt to take the name of God in vain is aimed at the God of the Bible, not Allah or any other wannabe deity. Allah (who is actually an ancient Mesopotamian moon god, hence the crescent moon on the flag of Islam) is not in danger of being blasphemed. We too often hear God's name taken in vain but, who has ever heard anyone taking Allah's name in vain. Some would say that Allah is god, but make no mistake the god that is referred to is the God of the Bible.

Why is such outrage expressed and such intolerance exhibited toward God and especially Christianity? I think the answer is found in the words of Jesus to His disciples. **"In the world ye shall have tribulation...."** So just expect it. Attacks against God and that which is perceived to be of God are normal. However, we don't have to like or accept it. And the same civil liberties used by the few to voice their opinion against God, are also afforded to the majority, and we should express our opposition to their opposition with zeal. If atheism and Islam had a majority, there would be no opportunity for second opinions. The quilt of freedom which covers this country was sewn on the framework of Christianity, which is the mother religion of this nation.

**Know-So Salvation**By Roy Mason  
(1894 - 1978)

**"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of His Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (I John 5:9-13).**

What's the most important thing that you can be certain about? Well, it's important that you know the state of your health. Some people go to a doctor and lay down a good ten dollar bill or more for a physical check-up. Why should a fellow give a doctor ten dollars or twenty-five dollars for a physical check-up? Because it's important to know the state of one's health, that's why. And then it's an important thing to become sure about

the title to a piece of property. I've known people to sink most of their savings in a piece of property, and then later on, they woke up to the fact that there was a flaw in the title, and the realization filled them with great anxiety. It's an important thing to know in a case like that just where you stand. It's important to know that you have a clear title to your home, or to any piece of property you may own. The most important thing that you can ever be certain about, however, is that you're saved, and certain of Heaven and eternal glory.

I ask you, do you have such a certainty as that, or are you in tormenting doubt and fear about the matter? If you're not certain, then I beg of you to hear my message very carefully. "But," says somebody, "can any person ever know for a certainty that he is saved?" My answer is, "He certainly can." Jesus came all the way from Heaven to this earth in order to save people. He said the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. It was said of Him by the angels before He was born **"Thou shalt call His name JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins."** Would Jesus come on a mission like that to save people, and then give them no way of certainty, surely knowing whether or not they are saved? Why, of course not. To assume such a thing is foolish and absurd. How, then, *can* a person know that he is saved?

Well, in the first place, he can know it by the testimony of the Word of God. In our text John knew that there would be saved people who would be assailed with doubts. Why? Because the Devil deals in doubts. If he can cripple or hurt or hinder a Christian by causing him to doubt his salvation, then he will do it. So, John writes to Christian people, and he says that he had a special purpose in writing, the purpose of enabling them to know that as believers in Christ, they possess eternal life. Here is what he says, **"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life."** How do they know it? By the inspired words that he is writing unto them, that's how. The Word of God is the best evidence in the world, for it doesn't change like the weather or like our feelings. All down through the centuries, the unchanging Word of God has had this message in it. Customs have changed, dress has changed, many things have changed, but this Word has not changed.

I think just here of the Minister who was holding a meeting at a certain place. At one of the afternoon meetings, a young lady came to him, and said, "I'm planning to bring my Mother to the service tonight, and I'd like to ask that you not say anything to her in a personal way. She doesn't believe that any person can ever be sure that they are

saved, and she's up in arms immediately if anyone differs with her." And that evening, the preacher noticed a prim-looking, little old lady with the girl, so he judged that that must be her Mother. As he stood at the door at the close of the service greeting people, the Mother and Daughter came by, and the little old lady seemed very pleased with the service, and, moreover, she seemed inclined to want to converse, so he ventured the question, "Are you saved?" She said, "I hope I am." "Do you know that you are?" "No, and furthermore," said she, "I do not believe that anyone else can *know* it in this life." "Oh, then you don't believe the Word of God." "Oh, I most certainly do, every word of it." "May I show you just one verse, then?" "Oh, there's nothing you can show me that I don't already know," she said, "I've read the Bible time and time again. I've read the New Testament through many times." "Well, it won't hurt anything for me to ask you about one verse," so he turned to I John 5:13, and he read, **"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life."** "Do you believe that?" "Certainly," she said. "Do you believe on the name of the Son of God?" "Yes." "Do you trust Him and in Him alone as your Savior?" "Yes." "Do you repudiate all of your own worthiness and renounce all else but the righteousness of Christ as security and the forgiveness of your sins?" "Yes." "Then are you saved?" "I hope so." "Oh, I see what the trouble is," said the Preacher, "When you went to school they used to spell differently from the way they spell now." "Why, how is that?" asked the woman. "Why, then, when you used to go to school, K N O W spelled H O P E." "Why, nothing of the kind," said the woman. "K N O W spelled know just like it always has." Then the old lady stopped a minute, and adjusted her glasses and said, "Say, let me see that Bible." She took it and slowly read, **"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life."** You know I never saw that verse before, although I've read this New Testament through time and time again." She read it over and over again, and the light of the truth of that verse stole into her mind like the light of the morning sun stealing over a landscape. The Preacher saw that she had gotten its meaning, and he said, "Now, Sister, if somebody asks you if you're saved, what are you going to tell them?" She said, "I'm going to say, thank God I *know* I am, for God's Word says so." Listen, that's one thing to *know* and be certain about---that you've really trusted Christ as Savior, not Christ and, not Christ plus---Christ alone. You can know whether Christ is yours or not, and if He is yours, you can know that you have eternal life. You can *know* it.

♦ (Continued on page 238)



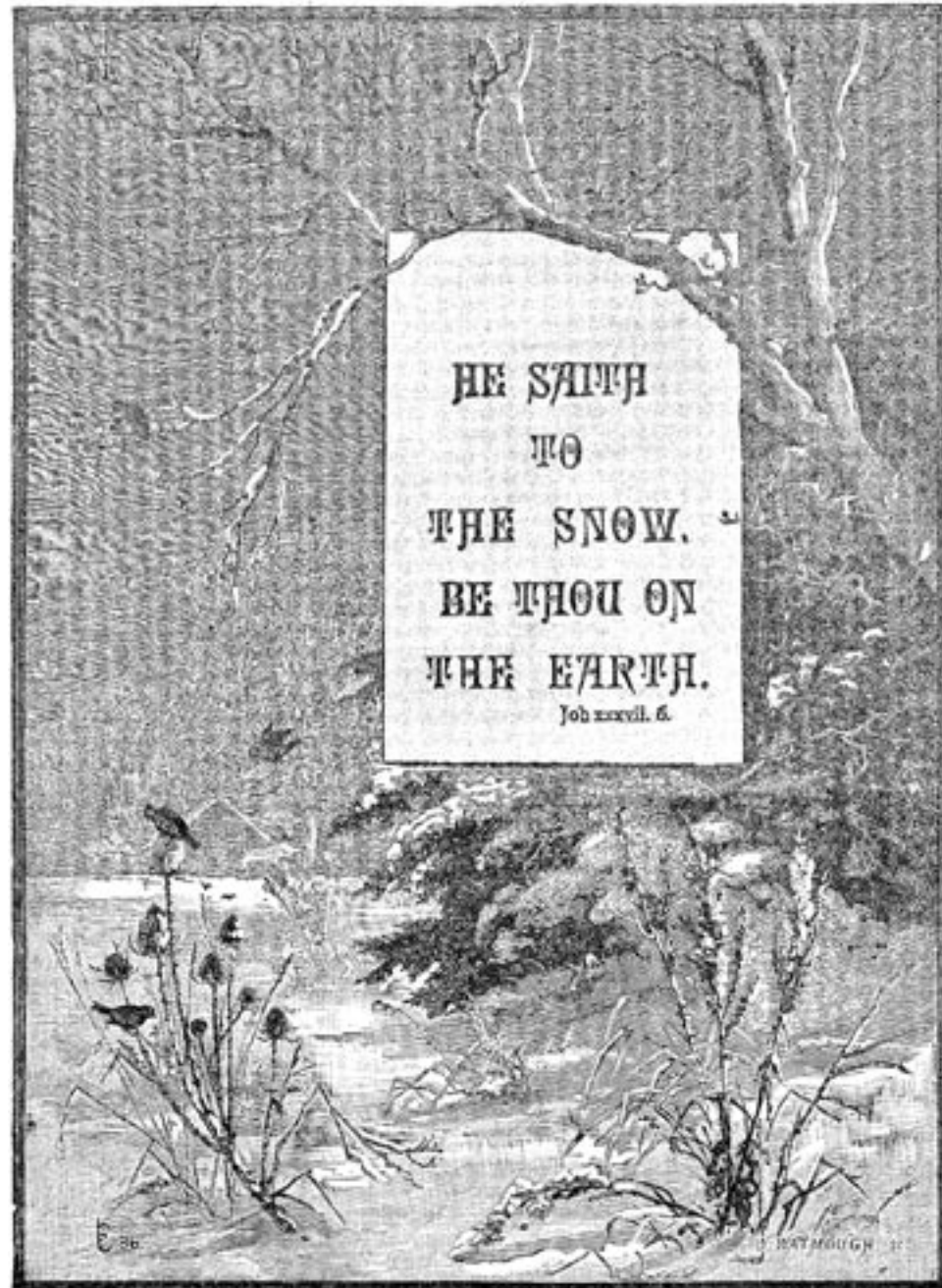
## Know-So Salvation

(Continued from page 237) ♦

In the next place, a person can know that he is saved by his attitude toward Christians. In I John 3:11-14 we read an interesting thing. It says, **“For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”** I know persons who used to avoid Christian people, and used to avoid attending church. They would go for months and never enter a church door. But since they have turned to the Lord, they are present at church almost every time the door is open. What’s the difference? And why the difference? Because the Lord has worked a work of grace on the inside, that’s exactly why.

John says that that’s one evidence that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. Because we love other Christians, in other words. I’ve been seeing that sort of thing happen all down through the years of time. Listen, a Christian characteristic is that of love for other Christian people. **“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another,”** said Jesus (John 13:35). I may differ with other pastors concerning how things ought to be done, but I don’t want to brand any man who is preaching the Gospel as not being a Gospel Preacher. I may differ with people of other denominations on quite a number of questions, but if they have the same Savior that I have, my heart goes out to them in Christian love. That is one thing that shows me that I’m a saved person. I once cared nothing about Christians, but the Lord saved me, and gave me a love for all others who are saved. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.

In the third place, a person can know that he is saved by the desire that he comes to have to obey the Word of God. In I John 2:3-5, we read, **“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”** I can look back to a time when I didn’t care a snap about the commandments of God. But that was before my conversion, for the very day that I turned to Christ, I’ve wanted to serve God. That I’ve made such a poor job of it is the sorrow of my life. I believe



that every Christian will join with me in this. I believe that every one of you would say that “deep down in my heart I want to live right, I want to do right,” and I believe that every person who has really been saved will put forth an effort in that direction.

A friend visited me and he had his little girl along with him. The child started to cross the yard toward him, and she wasn’t watching her feet and she stumbled and fell down. She scrambled to her feet, and with her face still toward her father, she started again, and again she fell down. Before she reached him, she had fallen down three times, but every time she got up with her face toward him, and finally she reached his outstretched arms. Folks, we start out as baby Christians and we are like that chubby little girl. We stumble along the way, and sometimes down we fall, but listen, if we are saved, if we are genuinely saved, every time we get up, it will be with our faces toward Heaven, and finally, one of these days, we will stumble into the outstretched arms of our heavenly Father.

In the fourth place, a person can know that he is saved by the change that is wrought in his life and his outlook. I

baptized a man back several years ago, and he was talking to me some time later. He told me that he used to hate people and that it didn’t take anything to cause him to blaze out in anger and then he told me of the grace of God in his life. Just after he had made a profession of faith, a fellow deliberately ran his car through a mud puddle and splashed mud all over his clothes, but instead of giving that man a cussing out, he found himself controlling his temper. That is the kind of thing I’m talking about. Just as surely as you really give up to Christ and take Him into your life, God will work a work within you, and you will find some strange changes coming about in your life. Not all in one day, not all in one week or month, but gradually you will find yourself dropping this and dropping that and taking up this and that new thing.

A Scotch Highland girl came forward and made a profession of faith, and the Pastor was asking her some pointed questions in an attempt to get at whether or not she knew what she was doing. The girl floundered and finally burst into tears and then she said, “I can’t explain it, but it’s like washing a sheep in a brook. We take him into the flowing stream and we

hold him until the dirt is washed from the wool. We can’t tell where the water comes from, or where it goes, but we know the fleece is clean. I can’t explain it, but the blood of Jesus cleanses me from sin.” That is what the Bible means when it says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** When God puts a new life within, it is just naturally bound to show itself, that’s all. Sometimes, I have seen wicked, violent sinners suddenly turn to the Lord, and there was the most immediate and radical change. And then I’ve seen others who weren’t like that. They were not such violent sinners, and the change wasn’t so violent, but gradually I began to see differences in taste and disposition and outlook. There was the evidence of the work of God. And let us remember that this work is not ours.

What we are asked to do is to turn to Christ and put ourselves under His control, and when we do that, God promises to bring about the new birth, and He hasn’t promised something that He will not make good on. Maybe I’m speaking to someone who is kind of afraid, who will say, if I become a Christian, maybe I won’t show these changes and maybe I won’t---maybe I won’t really be saved. Well, you are doubting God. You are doubting God’s ability. What you have to do is not to make a whole lot of changes in your life. The thing you need to do is to turn to Christ and let God do His work within you and make a new person out of you, giving you His Spirit and then that new life will manifest itself in different tastes and different outlooks---different desires and different ambitions.

I could go ahead and talk about some other things that serve to show that one is a Christian, but that isn’t necessary, for these things I have mentioned are sufficient in any person who wants to know the truth will investigate. Am I speaking to anybody who is in doubt about your salvation? Why do you want to stay in that condition of doubt for? You don’t have to. What is the good of going back into the past and trying to figure out whether you were really converted years ago, or not? The present is what you ought to be concerned about. Suppose you would say, “I wish I knew that I was really saved back there when I went forward and made a confession of faith.” That won’t do any good. Maybe you never will be able to remember exactly what your state of mind was back there. I’ll tell you how to handle that question. Bring things right down to date. Just say, “Well, I’m going to quit this worrying about the past, and I’m going to make my trust in Christ a definite, certain thing this very hour.” Then throwing away everything else as a dependence, turn the keeping of your

♦ (Continued on page 239)

## Know-So Salvation

(Continued from page 238) ♦

soul over into the hands of Christ. Turn it over into His hands so definitely and so certainly that there can be no mistake about it. Then, confess Christ before the world. Follow Him in what you know to be believer's baptism. Oh, I tell you, to go on in doubt and to think, "Well now, way back there when I made a profession of faith, did I have the right kind of feeling? I've heard other people tell their religious experience, and I didn't feel like they said they did." How foolish that is! How foolish it is to think back, "Well, am I absolutely sure that I knew all the things that I ought to have known in order to become a Christian?" Well, you don't have to know very much to know how to become a Christian. All you need to know is to trust. Back there when the Philippian jailor said to the Apostle Paul, "**What must I do to be saved?**" he didn't beat around the bush and tell him a whole lot of things. He said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.**" You know the Greek word that is used there for believe is the word that literally means "lean upon," and to lean upon something means to trust in something. If a man leans on something and the thing gives way, his dependence is fixed upon something that is unstable, but God is not like that. Christ the Savior is not like that. When you depend upon Him, you lean upon Him in faith. You are not going to lean upon somebody that is unstable and that is going to fail you. To lean upon the Lord Jesus Christ is to depend upon Him. And I mean to depend upon Him wholly, not to depend upon Him PLUS membership in a church, not to depend upon Him PLUS being baptized, not to depend upon Him PLUS trying to hold out faithful to the end, and all that kind of stuff, but to depend upon Him wholly and entirely and to depend upon Him with the thought that that dependence is to be all through the future, forever. It's a forever transaction and when you come to Christ in that way, God is going to save you. And if you don't believe that, then I urge that you put Christ to the test today.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that it is possible to *know* in this life and this world that we have eternal life. How miserable we would be if we didn't know it. And, our Father, we pray that those who may be in doubt, may not try to think over the past, and try to figure out whether or not things were genuine back there when they thought they were trusting Christ. May they make their trust definite and sure right now, so that they can know from this time forth that they certainly and surely are all right. We earnestly ask it and pray it in Jesus' name. Amen.



## The Problem with Appeasement

By Raymond Bennett  
of Ithaca, New York

**"And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not. He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou puttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem? Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered at all his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?" (II Kings 18:7-8, 14, 22, 33).**

Hezekiah was one of the greatest kings of Israel (Judah), second only to David, and perhaps even greater than David in some ways. (Cf. v. 5, "**He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.**") He had cleaned out the overt idolatry from Judah more completely than any king before him. It is to be noted that, despite Solomon's wisdom, it was Solomon who initially introduced idolatry to Israel, building temples to the pagan gods of his many wives. Idolatry had been practiced by the Israelites from the second generation that occupied Canaan, (Judges 2:10-11) but it was never actually condoned or allowed as nationally acceptable until Solomon built the temples to pagan gods.

It must also be noted that even with Israel's pagan worship, in both the northern and southern kingdoms, there was still a semblance to the proper worship of Jehovah, at least outwardly, and even in the depths of Ahab's idolatry (1 Kings 18) there was a remnant of 7,000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal.

All the kings of the northern kingdom (Israel) received the condemnation, "**he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin: but he walked therein.**"

Of all the good kings of Judah, all but Hezekiah and his great grandson Josiah also received the criticism, "**But the high places were not removed.**" Hezekiah did remove the high places, which were the places of pagan worship, but the idolatrous nature of the people

still continued, merely being forced underground. This, by the way, should be a good lesson for all those who seek to bring America to a higher spiritual and moral plain by enacting legislation. The history of Israel, from Judges to captivity, is replete with revivals that started from the top (a good step by good leaders) but in fact were only surface revivals, lasting only as long as that particular leader was there to enforce it. Revival and a moral/ethical plain can only be attained through the grace of God as He changes hearts. We refer you to a quick look at Rev. 20:7-8. Your eschatological position doesn't matter. The truth is obvious.

But what lessons can we learn from Hezekiah's reign?

One is in verses 7-8. Hezekiah's reign was not marked by the peace and prosperity that marked Solomon's reign but we notice that God still had blessed his reign with military victory over the oppressors of Judah and therefore safety in the land – because (v. 6) "**He clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments.**" What a contrast with the northern kingdom (Israel), as seen in vv. 9-12!

A second lesson that should warn us is in v. 13, "**Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah.**" When you take a stand for the Lord – and actively live that stand, you will receive opposition and attack! I speak, not only from the evidence of the Word, but from experience. Sadly, a lot of that opposition will come from those who claim to be faithful Christians and should be your backers and allies.

A third lesson in verses 14-17 is that you cannot, and should not try to appease your opposers! Evidently Hezekiah felt he did not have the ability to win in a war with Assyria, so he attempted to appease Sennacherib and stave off a battle he didn't think he could win.

But those whom we seek to appease always see appeasement as a sign of weakness! Our enemies are not satisfied with appeasement! They want (as we should also want, at least in spiritual warfare) total victory or at least total containment. This, I suggest, is especially true in ecclesiastical or religious circles. Just three points from church history should clearly demonstrate our point.

1. Pagan Rome drove the true believers into the catacombs because the true believers would not recant their confession that Jesus Christ was the only Lord, not Caesar.

2. The Roman Church (and later the Reformers as well, including such great names as Calvin and Luther) persecuted the true church, banishing and killing true believers because they would not recant their demand for believer's baptism and a regenerate church membership.

3. Islam seeks to kill all 'unbelievers'

and destroy Christianity and Israel. We don't need to explain that. Current events still prove it.

Rom. 6:16, "**Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**" is as applicable in political/military relations as it is in the spiritual realm. Hezekiah's yielding to and appeasement of Sennacherib's demands made him the servant of Sennacherib. If we yield to and appease the apostate religious traditions and practices that surround us, we become the servants of the 'traditional religious system'.

A fourth important lesson is that yielding to appeasement of the first demands not only robs us of our proper resources but also encourages more and greater demands. The king of Assyria wasn't satisfied with all the riches Hezekiah had taken from the temple (v. 15-16). He came back for more. That, by the way, is how addiction gets started. If we yield to that first, seemingly harmless temptation, be it sexual lust; substance abuse; or the modern, easy believism, sales technique evangelism of the last 50 years or more, we start down the slippery road to the trap at the end of the road. If we use the world's methods (see verse 21, "**Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him.**") the world's methods will entrap us and cause our defeat.

And finally, in verse 33, notice that Sennacherib, as did all the heathen, and we suspect a lot of Israelites, confused Jehovah, who they knew by name only, with the demon gods of the other 'world religions'. This has three applications today, depending on where you are spiritually.

For those of us who know, believe, and faithfully serve the Lord Jesus Christ, there is assurance that our God is greater than all the heathen gods, which are, in fact, not gods.

For some who may be young in Christ, perhaps recently converted from Hinduism, Islam, or some other 'world religion', you may be assured that Jesus Christ is, indeed, the true God and will deliver His own. (The seeming paradox of Christian martyrs is another study that we lack the time and space for here.)

But for those to whom Christianity is just the religion of our parents, 'the traditional religion of the United States', etc. as opposed to a personal God, separated from all other religious features or systems; if Jesus Christ is no more to you than one of the "gods of the nations"; then Sennacherib's warning in verse 33 is, indeed, a valid warning to you. Just claiming the 'name' of Christianity;

♦ (Continued on page 240)



## WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

*United Nations: "A Theater of the Absurd, A Decomposing Corpse"*



(Editors Note: Last month we had already gone to press when we received an expanded edition of Bro. Evans' article. We have printed the additional material this month as a continuation from last month.)

### IS AMERICA SELLING OUT TO THE U.N.?

How can high-level American officials, in good conscience, continue to support and praise Koffi Amman, suave United Nations secretary general the architect of world government which would undercut the U.S. constitution? Is it a sell-out?

How can the rest of us sit idly by and let them get away with it?

The U.N. agenda of peace and human rights has been superseded by Amman's goal of global democracy with global laws, global taxes, global money, and global coverts---stealing our sovereignty and precious freedom.

Amman declares the U.N. to be "The sole source of legitimacy in the use of force in the world."

In as much as the United States pays approximately 25% to 30% of the U.N. budget, congress' periodic threats to reduce that share might be productive if paired with insistence upon enactment of the reforms.

Would John Bolton, U.S. Ambassador to U.N., make a difference? I doubt it.

Would a listening post be worth 244 million dollars in annual dues? I doubt it.

**UNITED DEMOCRATIC NATIONS**  
America must lead the Democracies of the world out of the U.N. and into a new organization that can succeed in doing what the U.N. can't---UNITED DEMOCRATIC NATIONS!!!

Every American should know the truth about the U.N. and understand why the U.N.'s claim of "unique legitimacy" is both false and dangerous, and why the U.N. is broken and can't be fixed.

Once the democracies of the world are out, we can begin the process of combining them and their members into a new organization.

"We need to make clear our vision for the new organization, and indicate that it will not follow the U.N.'s failed example. If we are asking only democracies to join, and rejecting participation by other nations, that sets us on a path that the U.N. could never take.

"We should be prepared to propose a charter for the new organization and in it establish the principles the organization will be based on. Let's start with the membership.

"There should only be one criterion for

membership: *Freedom*. If a nation chooses its government democratically and allows its citizens the basic inalienable rights enumerated in our Bill of Rights, it's in. If it doesn't it's not." (*Freedoms Foe* by Jed Babbins, Green Hill Publishers, Inc.).

### AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITIES

America's responsibilities do not include surrendering our sovereignty such as the U.N. We have tried for sixty years to work within the U.N. to achieve peace, encourage democracy, and protect human rights, and while we were doing this, the U.N. tried, year after year to ensnare us in treaties that would serve only to reduce our freedoms, burden our economy, and reduce our ability to protect our own interests.

"President Bush has started us down the right path, the one that leads us out of the U.N. and into a new organization of democracies that at least has a chance to succeed where the U.N. has failed. It is our duty as Americans to stick to that path (*Freedoms Foe*)."

(Excerpts are from previous writings of Capt. Evans who lives with his wife Anne in Norfolk, VA).



## Appeasement

(Continued from page 239) ♦

just claiming some of the moral ethics of Christianity; just going to church on Sunday (if you do), does not make one a Christian.

We may safely draw an end-days analogy here. When the angel of death (Sennacherib) comes, if *your* god is nothing more than one of "the gods of the nations"; on equal footing with the other 'world religions'; he will not deliver you from the eternal death of Hell. Notice the temporary promise of Sennacherib to the people in v. 32, "**Until I come and take you away to a land like your own**

land," but which in reality is not a land like that which God has promised to those who trust Him.

Will you trust Him and commit to Him now?



### BEREA BAPTIST BANNER

#### Financial Report

10-1-2005 to 10-31-2005

Beginning Balance .....\$2,556.74

#### RECEIPTS:

Arthur D. Richardson, Cedarville, WV .....100.00  
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....1,100.00  
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL .....60.00  
Berea M. B.C., Mansfield, OH .....50.00  
Berea M. B. C., Westpoint, TN .....150.00  
Bethel M. B. C., Pasadena, TX .....100.00  
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV .....300.00  
Cedar Grove B. C., Millport, AL .....50.00  
Central Avenue B. C., Tamps, FL .....385.00  
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL .....25.00  
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME .....20.00  
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....100.00  
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC .....50.00  
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL .....25.00  
Harold Flynn, Craigs ville, WV .....25.00  
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC .....50.00  
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN .....10.00  
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....50.00  
New Testament B. C., Leivasy, WV .....100.00  
Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA .....40.00  
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL .....100.00  
Sovereign Grace B. C., Burghill, OH .....65.50  
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL .....100.00  
Sovereign Grace B. C., Wake Forest, NC .....100.00  
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA .....25.00  
Subscriptions .....246.00  
Anon .....180.00  
Dividing Checks .....225.50  
Sub Total .....\$3,832.00  
TOTAL .....\$6,388.74

#### EXPENDITURES:

Printing .....629.00  
Postage .....959.86  
Supplies .....108.25  
Wages .....2,600.00  
FICA .....198.85  
Dividing checks .....350.50  
Total Expenditures .....4,846.46  
.....1,542.28  
Bank Charges .....20.02  
ENDING BALANCE .....\$1,522.26

### BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST

#### Financial Report

10-1-2005 to 10-31-2005

Beginning Balance .....\$3,617.51

#### RECEIPTS:

.....0.00  
TOTAL .....3,617.51

#### EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time .....410.00  
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....410.00  
.....\$3,207.51

Interest .....+.54  
.....3,208.05  
Less Corbin, KY fund balance .....- 171.52  
ENDING BALANCE .....\$3,036.53

### CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance .....\$331.52

#### EXPENDITURES:

WCTT .....160.00  
ENDING BALANCE .....\$171.52



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Grace Baptist Church of Stanleyville, NC will be holding a revival beginning on Wednesday December 7 through Sunday December 11. Services Wednesday through Saturday evenings will begin at 7:30 PM and on Sunday at 9:45 AM with lunch provided by the ladies of the church and an afternoon service beginning at 1:30 PM. Elder Rick Perdue will be preaching. All are invited to attend.

For information contact Pastor Gene Kiger at (336) 377-9808 or visit the church website at [www.gbcbstanleyville.com](http://www.gbcbstanleyville.com)

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The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Northport, AL will be having a meeting December 9<sup>th</sup> thru the 11<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker will be Missionary Raymond Bennett of Ithaca, NY. Service times are: Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday (which is the area fellowship) at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday services at regular time. For more information contact Pastor Todd Bryant at (205) 242-8466 or email [ToddBryant@charter.net](mailto:ToddBryant@charter.net).

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The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, KS will be holding their Sixth Annual Bible Conference on December 2<sup>nd</sup> thru the 4<sup>th</sup>. Services begin on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. with an evening meal provided at 5:00 p.m. All noon and evening meals will be provided by the church women. Scheduled speakers are: Elders Bill McDaniel, Arthur Blevins, Daniel Pope, Jack Green, David O'Neal, Orville Heath, Roger Dohrer, Royce Smith, Larry Wilson, Jerry Dodson and Tom Horn. For further information contact Bro. Edwin Roberts at (620) 845-2164 or email [Roberts@kanokla.net](mailto:Roberts@kanokla.net) or Bro. Gale Wyckoff at (620) 845-6624 or email [pm67022@kanokla.net](mailto:pm67022@kanokla.net).

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The Windsor Baptist Church in Windsor, IL is searching for a pastor. Their pastor of twenty-six years has recently resigned. They are a small church in number but strong in the Doctrines of Christ.

If any brother would be interested in more information contact John Gregory at 2 Oakmount Dr., Sullivan, IL 61951 or telephone (217) 728-9966.

### BACK IN PRINT

We are pleased to announce that the book is back in print and available for purchase.

### Death and the Hereafter

by Milburn Cockrell

Retail Price \$6.95

Please add \$2 P/H.

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