

Baal, or Bosheth

By Nathaniel Hille
of Caldwell, Kansas

Jeremiah 11:13

I had thought of titling this sermon: "What is so wrong with Baal Worship", but decided to use the words in Scripture. We live in a day when very little, if anything, is looked upon as wrong, sinful, evil, or wicked in the eyes of man. However, God's Word has not altered one bit, including Baal.

Jeremiah prophesied against his own nation (Jer. 1:1-3; 2:1-2). We read in II Chronicles 36:15-17—that God sent them messengers, but they refused them, till it was too late and He raised up the Chaldeans to carry His own people away.

We read of nearly the same rendering in Hosea 9:10. Hosea was a prophet to the northern 10 tribes as they worshipped Baal and were prepared for being carried away.

FOREWARNED OF GOD

The Lord had previously warned the Israelites, even before entering into the land to not commit the abominations of those before who had inhabited the land before Him (Lev. 18:2-4). The LORD God

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Christians and Prosperity

By Curtis Pugh
of Poteau, Oklahoma

Does the Bible promise health and prosperity to the child of God? A good number of radio and TV preachers seem quite sure that it does. Multiplied thousands of their followers are convinced of this teaching and positively affirm it to be the truth at the slightest opportunity. Many of them delight in some measure of personal health and wealth while others are certain that their own perfect health and abundance of wealth are somewhere in their immediate future. Being free-willers, their idea is that if they do the right things God will heap upon them the things they desire. Everything to them is contingent upon their works – their bargaining with God. They were saved by works of decision and human faith and most of them think they keep themselves saved by their works of human effort at righteousness. Do such expectations and desires from such works-oriented persons spring from a heart totally absorbed in loving and serving God? Or do they flow forth from a subtle

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A Lying, Lascivious, and Lazy People

By Paul Stepp
of Indore, West Virginia

We spend a lot of time lamenting the sad and wicked times in which we live. It is apparent that the once great nation in which we live, has devolved into a republic that is ruled by the crooked politicians and evil men and women of our generation – to the point that personal and religious liberties and counsel are hardly regarded at all. When we decry the condition of our nation, we typically speak in general terms, and expect that the people that we are addressing will personally recognize the problems that exist in our society. But what about the direct and plain way in which we should cry out against sin? Should not we, the people of God, be everywhere in this land showing people the error of their ways?

To begin with, let me read a portion of the Ten Commandments to you. Due to time constraints, we will just

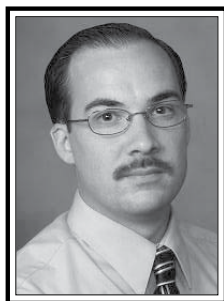
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What the Grace of God Teaches Us Is There A Judas Among Us?

By Shawn Berry
of Somerset, Kentucky

I would like to begin this article by examining Titus 2:11 through Titus 3:8 which reads, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority.



Let no man despise thee. Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

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By Roger Reed
of Mansfield, Ohio

"And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death" (Matt. 10:21).

"Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death" (Mark 13:12).

Have you ever meditated on these Scriptures? The Lord has brought them to my mind more of late that we cannot be at rest until we express to the reader how serious a matter this will be in our tomorrow and is probably brewing as



we type, possibly even now is at our doorstep.

In both of these verses we see the next verse recorded by Matthew and Mark that says the identical thing (sometimes we might see the wording a little different because of the writer's individual personality, but not here, they are the same exact words, spoken by Jesus), "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22). Now many have speculated what "he that endureth to the end shall be saved"

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A contented mind has a continual feast.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5).

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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.
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told them that if they committed such abominations that the land would spew them out (Lev. 18:24-30). One such abomination was the worship of Baal.

ISRAEL'S DEALINGS WITH BAAL

Baal was not unknown unto Israel. Israel had experienced first hand that God was not pleased with their worship of Baal, even before they had ever set one foot into the promised land. During the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, some of the Israelites had joined themselves unto Baal-peor (Baal of Peor) (Num. 25:1-5). It was at this time that Phineas, a type of Christ, who was zealous for his God, made an atonement for the people of Israel (Num. 25:7-13). This event is recorded in one of the "historical psalms" (Psa. 106:28). The people of God were not profited by their worship of Baal, yet they would turn to him again and again.

Shortly after Joshua, the son of Nun, died in the land of Canaan, Israel began to go after false gods, including Baal (Judges 2:1-3, 11-16). Yet God would raise up judges to deliver the people, even as Christ is our Deliverer. Israel was in a bad way and would yet turn again, after being delivered by God from Baal to Baal (Judges 8:33-35).

We might say that one of the high points of Baal's worship among Israel was under the reign of King Ahab. I am not aware of another time when Baal-worship flourished in Israel as it did at this time; yet even then Baal could not defeat Jehovah. In I Kings 16:28-33 we read of how Baal gained entrance, yet again, into Israel's religious life. From the instance in Numbers 25:1-5; I Kings 16:28-33 it appears that Baal's "foot in the door" was through unholy marriages. In I Kings 18 we have the great contest between Baal and Jehovah of which Jehovah shows that **"He is the God; the LORD, he is the God"** (I Kings 18:39). It had not rained for 3 years and 6 months (James 5:17-18) because of the worship of Baal. They had come to Mt. Carmel and there Jehovah proved that He was/is the God of Israel. Shortly after that it began to rain in Israel.

However, the worship of Baal had not been completely mortified, for under Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, it was resurrected (I Kings 22:51-53; II Kings 1:1-2).

Baal would infect the southern kingdom of Judah, as well. Upon the death of king Hezekiah, we find that his wicked son Manasseh, in the wake of the revival of Judah, would turn to Baal (II Kings 21:1-5).

Israel would continue to go back to Baal. As God had prophesied unto them **"..but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? Wherefore**

I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you" (Judges 2:2-3).

WHO IS BAAL?

In our text, Jeremiah 11:13, and in Hosea 9:10—he is called a shameful thing or "Bosheth," which as I understand means "shameful." In Jeremiah 3:22-25, Jeremiah speaks of Israel as hoping in vain for salvation from those "high places" of the hills where the altars of Baal were reared up.

The *Holman Bible Dictionary* states: "Baal is the lord of the Canaanite religion and seen in the thunderstorms, Baal was worshiped as the god who provided fertility. "Baal" occurs in the Old Testament as a noun meaning, "lord, owner, possessor, or husband," and as a proper noun referring to the supreme god of the Canaanites, and often to the name of a man."

The fact that his name means "lord, owner, possessor, or husband" shows the direct offence that He was to Jehovah! How abominable it was/is for God's people to worship such a false god as this. Is not Jehovah God all these things unto Israel His people, as well as unto us?

Lord (master): Gen. 15:2; Luke 6:46; Acts. 2:36—He is our Lord, our Master.

Owner: Exo. 12:12-13; Psa. 107:2; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14—we've been bought by the price of His blood.

Possessor: Ezek. 16:8; I Pet. 2:9; John 10:28-29

Husband: Jer. 3:20; Rom. 7:4

Baal was trying to take over as Master of Israel. He was trying to steal Israel from her rightful owner. He was trying to possess that which was not his; and Baal was wooing the wife of Jehovah. No wonder this was such a personal offence to the Lord God. And Israel was falling for Baal!

CONCLUDING REMARKS

We do not read much concerning Baal after that Israel and Judah were carried away. But he is still alive today in the confusion of so-called Christianity (Jer. 3:25). Don't you get "confused" and become "ashamed," but follow on after the Lord.



Christians and

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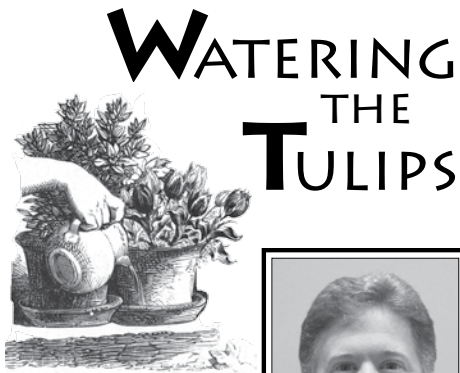
inner covetousness – a deceiving heart about which the prophet wrote: **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"** (Jer. 17:9). God knows.

One partial verse which advocates of the ever-popular health and wealth teaching often quote is John 10:10 in which Jesus said, **"..I am come that they**

might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John Gill wrote of this abundant life: "the words may be rendered, 'and that they might have an abundance:' besides life, might have an abundance of grace from Christ, all spiritual blessings in him now, and all fulness of joy, glory, and happiness hereafter." "Might" in the phrase "that they might have it more abundantly" does not mean the mere possibility of having it. Merriam Webster Online Dictionary gives the origin of the English word "might" as follows: "Middle English, from Old English *meahte, mihte*; akin to Old High German *mahta, mohta* - could." "Could" is past tense for "can" which means to be able to do something, NOT to have permission to do something. Jesus came to enable His poor lost sheep to have an abundance of life. He enabled them by His coming and the result of His coming is that they do have such a life. The life of God's true children – Christ's sheep – is not a mere extension of natural life into eternity. It is not the quantity of spiritual life (the length of it) that is spoken of here: it is the quality of it. The quality of their life is multiplied manifold times so that theirs is an abundant life for He **"hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"** (Eph. 1:3). It is a fearsome thing to note that those who are so greatly concerned with 'the abundant life,' as they speak, are not in the least interested in those **"spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."** Probably they have no interest in them because they have no part in them. This would seem to be their testimony inasmuch as their whole realm of concern seems centered on the things of this world.

That the abundance of life spoken of by Christ has nothing to do with earthly health and wealth is proven, surely, by the life of Christ Himself. Though He was its creator, the Lord Jesus owned practically nothing of this world's goods. No home was His! Luke 9:58 says, **"And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."** The reason He and His congregation were often found in the garden was because He had no home in which to sleep. When the Lord Jesus was hanging on the tree we read that, **"There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem"** (Mark 15:40, 41). In Luke 8:2, 3 we learn exactly what is meant by this 'ministering' unto Jesus. There we read: **"And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward,**

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By Todd Bryant
of
Northport, Alabama



The Crowd You Choose

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Prov. 13:20).

How often have you heard it said of someone, “He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time”? This is a common statement in our society. Yet, we do have some control over that, do not we? The Bible plainly states here that the company you keep will have an effect on you. Your friends will either bring you up or bring you down. It is just the way we are made. Peer pressure is not something that only affects school age children.

Children of God need positive Christian influences. We need Christian role models to follow. Paul told the Corinthian assembly, **“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”** (I Cor. 11:1). But, they had to know Paul to imitate him, right? Of course they did! That is common sense. And, we need to know some faithful believers to follow their example. Simply put, we need fellowship with other Christians. These believers need to be faithful in word and in deed (Col. 3:17).

The Jerusalem church set a wonderful example for us. Acts 2:42 says, **“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”** These believers continued to fellowship around the Lord and His Word. In fact, it says they continued **“stedfastly.”** They were very diligent in working out their salvation (II Peter 1:5-8). Oh that we would all be so diligent!

In contrast to a positive influence, a negative influence cannot benefit your spiritual life. If you are in the wrong place at the wrong time, would you not have been better to have never been in the wrong place at all? The answer is obvious. The **“companion of fools shall be destroyed.”** This has often happened. Many “good” people (humanly speaking) have died because they were hanging around the wrong people – young and old alike.

The company you keep as a servant of Christ is very important. Paul said,

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (I Cor. 15:33). If you think your wicked friends are not bringing you down, you have deceived yourself – or you deny that this Bible verse is true. Take your pick. Nonetheless, the Bible is correct and it has proven out again and again. **“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness”** (II Cor. 6:14)? Enough said...

If you are interested in serving the Lord and growing in Him, you must choose your friends wisely. Take a moment to consider if your friends are helping to “grow you up” in Christ...or not.



Christians and

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and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.” Jesus was dependent upon the monetary gifts of these women and others in order to have the absolutely necessary things of life. Think about that! God the Son was so poor as to have to take financial help from some of the women who believed on Him. Shall we conclude that the Lord Jesus the Messiah was somehow not right with the Father inasmuch that the Father could not bless Him with health and prosperity? (Isaiah 53 speaks of our Lord’s acquaintance with personal suffering and illness. See also Hebrews 5:2).

If the ‘abundant life’ imagined by the Pentecostals and the Charismatics consisted of an abundance of earthly things, not only did Jesus not enjoy such a life: neither did any of the apostles. Shall we conclude that they were all living so as to displease God? Is there something they did not know about? Did they miss something? We have no record that any apostle or other first century saint enjoyed such a life of luxury and plenty as is claimed to be the right of God’s children by the health and wealth proponents. The Bible specifically states that Paul, Timothy and Trophimus were liable to illnesses (II Cor. 12:8-10; I Tim. 5:23; II Tim. 4:20). Paul thanked the Philippian congregation for their “care” of him, stating that he knew how to “be hungry” and “to suffer need.” He commended this congregation for sending money to help him in his “affliction.” Philippians 4:10-14 tells us all this in these words: **“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to**

be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.”

But what about the first verses of John’s third letter? It is often cited as stating that God’s will for His children is that they might **“prosper and be in health.”** The use (misuse) of these verses is a classic case in **“which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction”** (II Peter 3:16). The health and wealth crusaders, free-willers all, quote and misinterpret these words of John to his son in the faith, Gaius: **“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth”** (3 John verse 2). These things ought to be noted: first of all, this statement is explicitly stated to be the wish of John. It is not stated to be God’s will at all. John does not claim that this is God’s will for Gaius who was a faithful member of the congregation in his place even though there were serious irregularities going on in that church. The next thing to notice is that Gaius was prospering spiritually. John said so. He said, **“even as thy soul prospereth.”** Gaius was prosperous in spiritual matters. His soul was healthy and wealthy. God had not sent leanness into his soul as He did the Israelites of old (Psalm 106:15). Gaius was believing the right things, living the right way and exercising hospitality to the right people – church-sent missionaries. Today’s health and wealth crowd claim that if you are right with God, full of faith, speaking in tongues, etc., etc., you will prosper and be in health, but here was a man, a true child of God, who was right with God and yet lacked health and prosperity. We must conclude that he did in fact lack these things for why else would John wish them for him? Obviously he suffered lack even though he was prospering spiritually! This fact shows the lies of the health and wealth crowd for they claim if you are right spiritually you will be well and prosperous. Reader, it just is not so! The Bible does not teach this either in precept or in example as we have demonstrated.

The Holy Spirit writing through Paul told us about such folk as these health and wealth people saying, **“If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing**

into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (I Tim. 6:3-8). This modern day crowd, like those in Paul’s day, think that **“gain was godliness.”** They are certain that because they are ‘blessed’ with natural things in abundance they must be pleasing God and even like God for that is the meaning of godliness. God set the matter in its proper light when Paul wrote, **“having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”**

In conclusion: Brethren, surely we are in **“the beginning of sorrows”** as our Lord spoke in Matthew 24:4-8. Christ listed signs which are common in our age. The first sign is prevalent right here and now in these United States of America. Others with great severity may be just around the corner for Americans who have been spared these many years. We may come to know firsthand what real poverty, hunger and suffering are. Will we be faithful? Baptists have not done well living prosperously: how shall we do under adversity? The prophet raised this question in Jeremiah 12:5, **“If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?”** Footmen have wearied the Baptists and most have caved in, compromised and are fast going the way of the Harlot and her daughters in these years of prosperity here in these United States. Shall God have congregations who can run with horsemen and do well in the swelling of Jordan? Christ listed the following signs: (1) preachers who say that Jesus is Christ, but who deceive many, (2) wars and rumors of wars, (3) famines, (4) pestilences, (5) earthquakes – these last three to take place in diverse places. All these events are to take place prior to the tribulation period, but are stated to be **“the beginning of sorrows.”** We see them around us now and they have been present in the earth for about 2,000 years. Both as individuals and as congregations we need to stay in the Book and stay with the Book so that we walk with God. Let us exhort ourselves and others continually with the words of the Holy Ghost through Paul as quoted above: **“... godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”** May God be pleased to strengthen His people both as individuals and as His congregations, so that each one will stand firm for the truth and glorify Christ in life and teaching, seeing things as God sees – that **“godliness with contentment is great gain.”**



What the Grace of

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Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."

In these verses of Scripture we learn that the grace of God teaches us some things and also produces certain fruits that should be seen in our lives. In Titus 2:15 the minister of God is commanded to speak these things, to exhort and to rebuke with all authority and to let no man despise him for doing so. The first eight verses of Titus chapter two reveals the reason for the minister of God to declare these things. The minister of God must teach these things to the people so that they can teach them to the next generation. If the minister of God fails to do this then we will quickly raise a generation that knows nothing about serving God.

Seeing the great importance of this issue, let us then examine some of the things that the grace of God teaches us. According to Titus 2:12 the grace of God teaches us that we should "deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts" and that we should "live soberly and righteously in this present world." This passage makes it clear that the grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness. Ungodliness is defined as, that which is disobedient to God. The grace of God continually teaches us to be obedient to God and to deny every thing that is disobedient to God. The grace of God teaches us to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. However, many of God's children are not denying ungodliness or worldly lusts and as a result they have become intoxicated by something that does not come in a bottle. They have become intoxicated by the world. Have you ever noticed how an intoxicated person never seems to realize they are impaired? They get behind the wheel of a car as if they were perfectly sober. This is because once you are intoxicated you cannot clearly see your own impairment, although every sober individual around you can see it.

Genesis 13:8-13 gives us a prime example of what happens to the child of God who does not deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. We find in this passage two saved men. One is sober while the other is intoxicated by the world. Lot looked at Sodom and saw a well watered plain that

was prosperous and rich. Why could Lot not see the wickedness and sinfulness of Sodom that God describes? Because Lot was not sober. He failed to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, therefore he became intoxicated by the world. The sad thing was that Lot became so intoxicated by the world that he could not see his own impairment. I think that is where many of God's children are today. Most of God's children have become so intoxicated by the world that they are no longer able to see their own impairment.

Titus 3:8 reads, "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." It is very important that these things be affirmed (emphasized) constantly so that all believers will maintain good works. The minister of God should be constantly reminding the believers to be obedient to God and to deny all disobedience to God.

What is the purpose of taking such care to maintain godliness in our lives? According to Titus 2:7-8 we are to maintain a pattern of good works in our lives so that those who are living in disobedience will become ashamed of their disobedience. God uses this pattern of good works to convict others of their disobedience. It is part of our witness and testimony to the world. Our lives should testify of the holy God that has called us unto salvation. I Peter 1:15 reads, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." The grace of God teaches us to be holy (pure and separate) in all manner of conversation. The word conversation as used in this passage means, behavior. So, our behavior should be pure and separate from the behavior of the world. Matthew 5:13 declares that the child of God is to be the salt of the earth. Salt preserves and God has put the born again believer here to preserve godliness in this world. However, most professing Christians preserve more ungodliness than godliness. If your way of dress is modest while the world's way of dress is immodest then you are preserving godliness. On the other hand, if your life shows forth a pattern of unfaithfulness, rebellion, and immodesty then you are helping to preserve ungodliness.

Titus 2:12 clearly states that the grace of God teaches the believer to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. The grace of God teaching us these things does not appear to be questionable, but rather it is stated as a fact. This should cause one to question whether or not the grace of God has really brought salvation to worldly, loose living professors or if such individuals are among those defiled, unbelievers who

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profess to know God, but in works deny Him (Titus 1:15-16).

Ephesians 2:8-10 states, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." These verses clearly state that we are not saved by good works, but it also clearly states that God has before ordained that the child of God should walk in them. Being obedient to the commands of God does not make one righteous, but rather proves that one "has been" made righteous.

"And here by 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" (1 John 2:3-4).

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3). To God be the glory.



Is There A Judas

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actually means. One thing we know that it does not mean is our salvation, because our salvation has been secured in Christ before the foundation of the world. Not that we would be dogmatic, but we believe if we do not waver from the truth we will be saved out of the Great Tribulation that will take place immediately following the rapture. We know that this answer is kind of vague but we do not want to take the time to focus on this point.

What we do want to focus on is Matthew 10:21, "And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death," and Mark 13:12, "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death." It is sad to think that because we preach the truth of God's Word that someone would turn us in to be arrested, but we should get ready and be prepared for that very thing. In our

early ministry, we have no doubt, that there were some who would have turned us in for preaching various subjects such as abortion, sodomy, and/or politics. We thank God often that He removed us from that situation. Yet, we can not stop thinking about those who will be the one(s) who will be our Judas.

To give you an example, allow me to share a story I have read about; "Randy Steel is the senior pastor of a church in Mount Vernon, Illinois. His sermon was dealing with a pastor who was arrested in Canada for comments he had made from the pulpit concerning homosexuality and abortion. Randy Steel told his congregation that Christians in America were under attack for preaching against homosexuality and abortion. He stated we were in a warfare and that far more Americans have been killed by abortions than any war we had ever fought. Not long after, two FBI agents visited him that had received an anonymous complaint concerning his topic, and that they need to talk to him about it. After Randy explained that he had stated Christians were fighting a different kind of fight concerning our freedom in America the FBI agents found no need to pursue it any further, thanked him, and left."

Another brief story was also mentioned; "The senior pastor Erwin Loutsir of the Moody Church in Chicago, Illinois had a gay and lesbian organization called The Gay Liberation Network stand outside his church protesting and yelling that the church was a house of hate, and called him a bigot and other names. This was all done for writing a book on same sex marriage."

Three people stand out in the account of the last hours of the Lord before Calvary: Christ Himself, Peter, and Judas Iscariot.

It is interesting to see how Peter and Judas are contrasted in this chapter; each one teaching us spiritual lessons by his failures. Judas is a warning against resisting the Word of God and rejecting Christ; Peter is an illustration of how a believer may backslide and lose his testimony. Note the different places where these events took place.

We first see at Bethany (Matt. 26:1-19). This is also given in John 12, where the woman who anointed Christ is definitely called Mary. While the

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“religious” Jewish leaders were plotting to kill Christ, the believers at Bethany were honoring Him! We do not know who Simon the leper was, but the Lord must have cured him, for the Jews would never feast in the house of a leper. This was not the home of Mary and Martha, although they were there and Martha served **“There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him”** (John 12:2).

We see that Mary’s act of love was accepted by Christ and criticized by the disciples, Judas being the chief accuser; **“Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein”** (John 12:4-6). John explains why Judas criticized her: he was a thief and wanted the money for himself! (The word **“bare”** in John 12:6 means he took out or stole what was in the treasury). It is sad to see Peter agreeing with Judas and walking **“in the counsel of the ungodly”** (Ps. 1:1). Soon he would be standing in the way of sinners **“And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself”** (John 18:18), and then sitting in the seat of the scornful **“And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them”** (Luke 22:55), where he would deny his Lord three times.

It is a dangerous thing for Christians to judge one another, for that judgment always comes back on our own heads (Matt. 7:1-5). Judas called Mary’s worship **“waste”**, but Jesus said it was a lasting memorial! This stinging rebuke from Christ made Judas all the more anxious to betray Him. He left Bethany and went to plot with the Jewish leaders how to arrest Christ. They agreed for thirty pieces of silver, as the Scriptures promised. **“And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver”** (Zech. 11:12).

Peter, on the other hand, went with John to prepare the Passover feast for Christ. **“And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat”** (Luke 22:8). With all of his failings, Peter loved Christ and trusted Him, while Judas went out from them, because he was not of them. **“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist**

shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us” (1 John 2:18-19).

I read something very interesting the other day that I want to share with you, dear reader. It was another reason for the burden I had to write this brief, but truthful, article. “When people act this way towards you, it is because your mere existence makes them reflect back on themselves, and they do not like what they see. They then attack you to make themselves feel better.” The writer here is referring to the problem with negativity; I would like to emphasize: especially people that have been negative about living a Godly life. I have found this to be true in my ministry as well. So if a person does not like your lifestyle, whether it is living for the Lord, how you dress, or what you eat, **“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”** (1 Cor. 10:31). If they are negative about it then it is them that have the problem, remember “the worst thing someone can say about you reveals a little truth about them.” This person also stated, (which I myself have dealt with), “I have looked back at the times I have been negative towards others and realized, even when my points were factual, or valid, there was always that tiny, lingering stench of jealousy, or whatever, I was being negative about revealed a hole deep within me. It brought light to one of my fears, or something I lacked confidence about. My negativity had always unmasked me. I am a long ways from taking negativity as a compliment, but it seems to sting less now that I have this perspective.” I feel the same way, it is sad but true. The next time someone is hostile or negative about you because you are trying to live a Godly life or whatever it might be (as long as it is for the Lord), remember this: “it is because your mere existence makes them reflect back on themselves and they do not like what they see. They then attack you to make themselves feel better.”

We can see that Judas was a negative person toward Mary, remember he called it **“waste”**! I asked a question one time when I was a young Christian and the reply I received then now makes me shutter...the question was “Can a Christian live too spiritual of a life?” The answer I got was yes, you can live too spiritual of a life! Wow! I learned after many years the reason I got that answer; those who answered me could not do it, so they felt if they could not do it, then no one could. Well, I learned they were wrong, **“For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and**

mother” (Matt. 12:50). Wow again! And what about this one; **“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him”** (John 14:21). There are other Scriptures. The point is, Judas did not have the love for Jesus like the other disciples, and therefore he betrayed Him.

Preachers, they are knocking on our door. Not everyone likes what we preach and teach whether it is the truth or not. So who is it going to be, one of your friends, a family member, or a church member? I will be very surprised if one day soon I am not looking out from the inside of a jail cell for what I preach. Paul even said after his departure grievous wolves would come in; not sparing the flock (Acts 20:29). Oh, church member, you are not exempt either if you are trying to live a Godly life. There are people who are jealous because they either can not, or will not, do the same!

As much as we have prayed about the upcoming election, I fear that our current president will be reelected. Why do I believe that? Because there are too many Christians, and even Baptist people in our churches who are diehard Liberals. They may be the very ones that call the authorities on us. **“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come”** (Matt. 3:7)? Oh, most gracious Father **“forgive them; for they know not what they do.”**

No matter how much we love them and care for them, they will not see it until it is too late. **“And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death”** (Matt. 10:21). May God help us to stand strong in this day of adversity. God Bless!



From the Pen of a Country Preacher

Milburn R. Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)



Remember God in the Morning of Life

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Eccl. 12:1).

This verse is a call to a young man to think of God and his duty to Him in the bloom of life. These words are equally applicable to a young girl. My text is from the writings of the wisest man who ever lived in the world. It has the wisdom of Heaven behind it. The wise men of all ages affirm that it contains the words of truth and soberness. He who hears and heeds these instructions is a wise young man.

Writing in his latter years, Solomon pleads with youth to give due consideration to the Supreme Being. Young people generally are so prone to forget God. Often in the midst of the love of mirth and the indulgence of sensual pleasure, young people fail to acknowledge the Creator. When one is young he is enjoying his best and choicest days. Hence King Solomon urges that the Creator be remembered before the inconveniences of old age and death.

REMEMBER WHOM---”THY CREATOR”

The language of my text implies that young people have a Creator. Some do not know this as they have accepted the theory of evolution. But God is the

Creator of all. There is a vast distance between God and one of His rational creatures. A creature is dependent upon God and without power to create anything. He cannot act before he is created by the Creator. Job said: **“Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about. . . Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay. . . Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews. Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit”** (Job 10:8-12).

The psalmist said: **“Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture”** (Ps. 100:3). It is the duty of the creature to reverence the Maker. A young person must recognize that his being and well-being is from the Creator. You are not your own. You are God’s by the sovereign right of creation. You are not self-made; you are God-made.

What a wonder the human body is! The eye with its window and lens; the ear with its paraphernalia and drum; the tongue with its countless operations and various functions; the lungs with their inhalations and exhalations; the heart

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throbbing with its ceaseless beats; the stomach with its gastric juice digesting the food; the lacteal nerves of the bowels with their assimilating power; the liver with its secreting power; the kidneys with their purifying power; the nerves, muscles, bones, sinews and the triple skin punctured by millions of pores, all present an appearance of mechanism that required a God to conceive as well as a God to create. David declared: **“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made”** (Ps. 139:14).

Man originally knew God as his Creator. Even after the fall man retains some knowledge of the existence of a Supreme Being. The visible creation declares the invisible Creator (Ps. 9:1-3; Rom. 1:19-20). Fallen man tends to reject the knowledge of God. He wishes to make him an idol to take the place of the true God. Paul wrote: **“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. . . And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things”** (Rom. 1:21-23).

HOW CAN YOU REMEMBER HIM?

Having seen the importance of remembering the Creator in the morning of life, I wish now to show some ways in which youth can do this. First, a young person can remember the record which God gave of His Son. I mean the gospel, the old, old story of Jesus and His love. The psalmist declared: **“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases”** (Ps. 103:2-3).

Second, God is to be remembered by thinking upon Him: **“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God”** (Ps. 20:7). By the name of God I understand God's nature and attributes. A young person should ever adorn that matchless name and never dishonor it by distrust or creature confidence. Remember the name of God brings satisfaction and success in life and death.

Third, youth should remember God's providence by which He rules the world: **“Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth”** (Ps. 105:5). Shame on us all! We should not let slip what it would seem is impossible to forget, but we do. It seems we can recall more evil and foolish things than we can retain in our minds the wonders of Divine Providence. When it comes to the works of God, we are all too many times

forgetful, thoughtless, and ungrateful. God help us!

Fourth, we can remember God by meditating on His Word: **“but the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them”** (Ps. 103:17-18). Young men, as well as young girls, must be thoughtful, careful, and eager to know the revealed will of God and prompt to do it. A life of obedience to the Word of God should be the desire of every young person.

Fifth, we can remember our Creator by belonging to His church and observing the memorial supper. The Lord's Supper is to be observed in remembrance of Christ (I Cor. 11:25). It is the duty of all church members to study His Word, to have fellowship, to pray, to sing praise, and to remember the death and resurrection of the Saviour.

REMEMBER WHEN---”IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH”

God should be remembered early and never forgotten along the whole journey of life. No age is exempt and no sex excluded. The religion of Christ is a religion of hope for the young. The Lord says: **“I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me”** (Prov. 8:17). It is never too early to seek the Lord. Even a few days estranged from God are too many. Every day a young person remains in a state of unbelief, he has lost a world of happiness. He has bound a chain of sin; he has taken another step toward Hell! Oh, young person, please remember God in the bud and bloom of life!

The Bible writers recommend early godliness. The psalmist said: **“Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD”** (Ps. 34:11). Religion is good for the young. God in the law required the firstborn and the first-fruits. Even so, He requires our first days to be offered to Him. Jesus said: **“Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven”** (Matt. 19:14). Here our Saviour makes it plain that children need to come to Him. He even went so far as to say **“forbid them not,”** yet some would forbid them to come to Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ was known for His early piety. At the age of 12 He was taking care of His Father's business (Luke 2:49). His entire youth is summed up by Luke in one verse: **“and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man”** (Luke 2:52). From this verse we see that as young people grow in stature they should grow in favor with God and man.

These instructions are often ignored by a careless and indifferent younger generation. The cry for youth is to be educated, famous, or rich. Seldom do you

hear that they need to remember their Creator. To the youth of our land Satan whispers: “Religion is something for old people who have nothing better to do. You are young and have your whole life before you. There is much pleasure and profit to be had by a life of sin. Before you come to die there is sufficient time to remember the Creator.” But to give ear to the Tempter's voice is to be deceived. It is to go over fool's hill. It is to finally discover that all of Satan's apples have worms in them!

Whatever needs to be done should be early done. Youth is a formative period. Impressions are most readily made and most lasting. Associations and friends are chosen for life. Hence the great importance of remembering the Creator while you are young. By doing so you can give to God the best years of your life.

It is a noble sight to see an entire life, from youth to old age, given to Christ. If you remember your Creator in your youth, you will not forget Him in later years. To know the Scriptures from childhood is to know more about them in later life (II Tim. 3:15). To come up in the way one should go is to continue in it until death (Prov. 22:6). How wonderful to see youth consecrating themselves to God. How pleasing to the church! Every Christian parent will say, “I have no greater joy” (II John 4).

REMEMBER WHY---”THE EVIL DAYS COME”

In Ecclesiastes 12:2-7 King Solomon describes in an allegorical way the troubles and inconvenience of old age. In all the writings of the world there cannot be found a more graphic description of old age. The body in old age and death is set forth under the figure of a decaying house with its inmates and furniture. There are 22 things which are mentioned in these few verses.

He begins by saying: **“While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened. . .”** (v. 2). This refers to dimness of sight, for old people have a problem in discerning colors and beauty. He may also mean the intellectual light, the mind and the memory, which also begin to fail in old age.



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“ . . nor the clouds return after the rain.” In April one shower follows another in quick succession. Even so, in old age one pain follows another pain in quick succession. Or, some understand it to refer to the eyes dropping water like clouds in a time of rain. This would speak of the sorrows of old age.

“In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble. . .” (v. 3). The head, the keeper of the body, shakes and shivers. The hands which also keep the body quiver and grow feeble.

“ . . and strong men shall bow themselves. . .” This points to the thighs, the legs, and the feet which have strong muscles to move the whole man. In old age they become weak and unable to give mobility to the man. Or, it may be this expression means that a person becomes humpbacked (Zech. 8:4).

“ . . and the grinders cease because they are few. . .” This is the teeth which we use to grind food. The teeth are rotten and broken in the evening of life. Many of them have been pulled and few remain. Hence it is hard to chew food and the digestion is very poor.

“ . . and those that look out of the windows be darkened.” The meaning is the eyes are dim like in the case of Isaac (Gen. 27:1). Sometimes the light of the eyes may go out before the light of life. We may suppose the windows are glasses through which the eyes must look to see, although spectacles were probably unknown in Solomon's day.

“And the doors shall be shut in the streets. . .” (v. 4). This means old people keep within doors because they do not feel like going places like young people do. Or, it may refer to the life, the doors of the mouth (Ps. 141:3), remaining closed due to a difficulty in speech.

“ . . when the sound of the grinding is low. . .” This means no appetite for food and unable to chew meats well.

“ . . and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird. . .” Little things disturb aged people, even the chirping of a bird in the early morning hours.

“ . . and all the daughters of music shall be brought low.” The tongue is not able to sing and carry a tune as it once did. Even the ear is unable to hear and appreciate music as it once did (II Sam. 19:39).

“Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high. . .” (v. 5). The thought here is the old man is afraid to go high on a ladder because of the dizziness of his head. He will not attempt to climb a steep hill for he lacks the breath to do so.

“ . . and fears shall be in the way. . .” They neither ride or walk in the comfort and confidence they once did. They find many boogerbears around the house both day and night.

“ . . and the almond tree shall flourish. . .” The hairs on the old head that remains become white like an almond tree which

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blooms white in early spring.

“ . . . and the grasshopper shall be burden. . . ” Locusts and grasshoppers were sometimes used for food in those days. Even this food which required very light digestion poses a problem upon an old man's stomach.

“ . . . and desire shall fail. . . ” Man's appetite for food, for bodily pleasures, and carnal delights is almost gone.

“ . . . because man goeth to his long home. . . ” This means the grave, which is the long home of the body, and the spiritland, which is the long home of the soul. No man knows how long his body will remain in the ground before the resurrection. Neither does he know how long his spirit shall remain disembodied.

“ . . . and the mourners go about the streets. . . ” This is the hired mourners of the East as well as the friends and relatives of the deceased person. This refers to a person's funeral service.

“Or ever the silver cord be loosed. . . ” (v. 6). This may point to the tongue, which scourges like a cord (Job 5:21) and is compared to silver (Prov. 10:20). In death the tongue lies silent. Or, it may be best to apply these words to the cord which binds the soul and the body together until death.

“ . . . or the golden bowl be broken ”--- the brain in the skull dries, shrinks, and empties itself of the water of physical life.

“ . . . or the pitcher be broken at the fountain. . . ” The heart, the fountain of life, is broken by death.

“ . . . or the wheel be broken at the cistern. ” This is probably a reference to the aorta, which is just above the heart, where it acts like a wheel and pumps the blood from the heart.

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it” (v. 7). In death the body becomes a lifeless lump of clay. It is buried in the earth to rot and return to dust. But the spirit does not die with the body. It returns to its Creator and Judge. In His presence it is sentenced to join either the spirits in prison or the spirits in Paradise.

CONCLUSION

Dear young friend, you need to consider these things. You are swiftly passing from youth to manhood. You are soon to discover that manhood is quickly followed by middle age and old age. Where then will be the gay and glorious morning of your life? How many joys will last when old age comes? How will it be when your eye is no longer bright, your hands without strength, and your feet no longer strong? Will not your face have lost its freshness and your enthusiasm vanished? How many pleasures will survive the passing of the years? One day before too long you will

find yourself worn and wearied of life's long journey.

Youth and old age are like a soldier who goes to battle. Youth is like a brave young soldier, riding into the field of battle, in all the freshness of morning strength, with military glee and brave banners, expecting a short battle to be followed by a great victory. Old age is like this same soldier returning, tattered and torn, wounded and weary, covered with his own blood and the dust of the ground, after a long battle which ended in defeat and disgrace! He who remembers his Creator in his youth will come home at last more than a conqueror through Christ.

The Creator deserves the prime of your being, the strength and energy of

your youth. Do not give Satan your best years! Do not give Christ the dregs of life! Do not offer to God the last inch of the candle that is burning down into the socket! Do not give the cream and the flower of your days to drugs and sex, and then in the Saturday evening of life present to God the bran, the chaff, and the trash. To do so is to bring the blind and the lame for sacrifice. God does not want an instrument worn out in the service of Satan!

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Eccl. 12:1).



- A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS -

By Timothy Hille
of Ashland, Illinois

Chapter Twenty-Two – Laws of Holy Things

The previous chapter having dealt with the priests and the holiness required of them, this chapter now deals with the offerings of the people, which were the care and charge of the priests, and were the priests' portion. God governs all aspects of true worship. He governs the worshipper, the means of worship, the manner of worship, the place of worship, the time of worship, and the substance of worship. The main emphasis of all the commands and guidelines which were here given to Israel is holiness. Repeatedly we read, **“I am the LORD;”** and, **“I the LORD do sanctify them.”** True religion still consists of holiness. **“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world”** (James 1:27).

Chapter Outline

- i. Holiness required of the priests in order to eat the holy things: vs. 1-9
- ii. Persons in the priest's house allowed to eat of the holy things: vs. 10-13
- iii. Trespass in the holy things forbidden: vs. 14-16
- iv. Laws of the offerings: vs. 17-30
 - a. Blemished offerings forbidden: vs. 17-25
 - b. The manner and method of acceptable offerings: vs. 26-30
 - v. The basis of worship – The holiness of God, His sanctifying of His people, and His redemptive work: vs. 31-33

I. VERSES ONE THROUGH NINE.

The priests are here given charge by God through Moses **“that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel.”** The **“holy things”** being referred to here are the offerings **“of the children of Israel”** unto the



Lord. The offerings were the duty of the priests to perform on the behalf of the persons who brought them, and a certain portion thereof became the priest's who offered the offering, and was his living. Because these were **“holy things”** being sanctified and consecrated to the Lord, the priests were to abstain, or **“separate themselves”**, from sacrificing and partaking of the offerings of the people when they themselves were contaminated by any ceremonial uncleanness. To do so would be to **“profane”** the **“holy name”** of **“the LORD”** (Lev. 7:28-34; 6:14-18; 7:6-7). The offerings were holy, and those who had to do with offering them were to likewise be holy.

Restrictions are given concerning those of the priesthood who were forbidden to eat the priest's portion of the offerings of the Lord. **“Say unto them, Whosoever he be of all your seed among your generations, that goeth unto the holy things, which the children of Israel hallow unto the LORD, having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall be cut off from my presence: I am the LORD.”** The same things which were previously described as making any person ceremonially unclean and barring him or her from the tabernacle and from the fellowship of God and God's people also barred any priest from offering and eating of **“the holy things”** offered to the Lord. The one who offers unto God and who eats the bread of God must be holy. As **“uncleanness”** here is a type of sin, we see that sin bars people from true worship of, fellowship with, and service to the Lord.

Those who, though they were **“of the seed of Aaron,”** but were leprous, or had **“a running issue,”** were not to **“eat of the holy things”** until they had been

healed and cleansed according to the requirements of the commandments already given. Likewise, those who were defiled by contact with things that were unclean, were **“unclean until even,”** and forbidden to **“eat of the holy things”** unless they were cleansed by bathing in water. **“And when the sun is down, he shall be clean, and shall afterward eat of the holy things; because it is his food.”** Contact with defiling things was to be avoided. Even so, God provided that priests contaminated by contact with unclean objects (such as any thing which had touched a dead body, or a ceremonially unclean person or animal) might be cleansed and eat of their portions from the offerings once the evening was come, because they had no other portion than that which came of the offerings. God has provided for His children that they might, when defiled by sin, be cleansed and restored to full fellowship with Him and be able to serve Him in sincerity and truth (I John 1:9-10; 2:1-2).

Persons who were **“of the seed of Aaron”** were also forbidden to eat that which died either of sickness or of being injured or slain by a wild beast. **“They shall therefore keep mine ordinance, lest they bear sin for it, and die therefore, if they profane it.”** To offer or eat the offerings which were sanctified to the Lord while unclean was to profane the holy name of God, and to incur His divine displeasure. We ought to regard God's holiness, and therefore keep His ordinances with regard to our own conduct and daily living, as well as to our worship, lest we profane His name (I Cor. 10:22; 11:29-32; Heb. 12:28-29). We ought to regard any sin in our lives as profaning God's name and incurring His displeasure, and therefore do all to avoid sin and employ every means God has given us to that end.

II. VERSES TEN THROUGH THIRTEEN.

God here gives commands as to those in the household of the priest who may or may not **“eat of the holy thing.”** This was the priest's daily food; but those who were not priests were barred from eating of that which was offered to the Lord. **“There shall no stranger eat of the holy thing: a sojourner of the priest, or an hired servant, shall not eat of the holy thing.”** Those who might visit the priest and stay in his home, or any servants hired for wages, were not to eat the holy food. Any bondservants, or slaves, which the priest bought, or which were born in his household, were considered part of his home, and were therefore permitted **“to eat of his meat,”** referring to the priest's portion of the offerings which he was permitted to share with his family. We may learn from these cases two invaluable lessons: (1) that those who come into our homes ought not to

♦ (Continued on page 228)

A Study in Leviticus

(Continued from page 227) ♦

hinder us in our service to the Lord, nor cause us to profane the name of our God; and (2) we ought to include and instruct those who are under our care, protection, and supervision in the things of God.

If a priest's daughter was **"married unto a stranger"**, or one who was not **"of the seed of Aaron"**, was not permitted **"to eat of an offering of the holy things."** If she was, however, by reason of various providential circumstances, **"returned unto her father's house,"** having no children of her own, then she was permitted to **"eat of her father's meat."** Once again we have a lesson in the teaching that spiritual precepts and principles overrule natural sentiment. The priest was to feed himself and his household according to the instructions of the Lord. His food came from God. Would that we recognized and acknowledged more that our food, physical and spiritual, comes from God, and that we ought to live by His Word (Num. 18:8-11)!

III. VERSES FOURTEEN THROUGH SIXTEEN.

God now gives instructions as to the case of a person who ate **"of the holy thing unwittingly,"** or ignorantly, not purposefully intending to eat of that which was consecrated to God and which belonged to the priest. This was a sin of trespass, in which a person took for himself that which belonged to God and was to be disposed of according to the divine ordinance. When this was done, a trespass offering was required, which included the payment of the value of the holy thing, with the fifth part of the value added as damages due for the trespass which was committed (Lev. 5:15-19).

The priests bore the responsibility of keeping themselves from profaning the offerings of the children of Israel, and of keeping others from eating of **"the holy things"** who were not fit to do so according to the commands of God. **"For I the Lord do sanctify them."** God sanctified the priests to offer the offerings of the Lord; He sanctified the offerings which were placed upon the altar; and He sanctified the worshipper who came to Him in the appointed manner. Unlawful worship which is not according to **THUS SAITH THE LORD**; unlawful behavior with respect to worship and the things of God, including His house; and unlawful participation in spiritual activities is still regarded by God as profaning, and as a trespass, and is worthy of divine punishment (1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 10:25-31; 12:25-27; 1 Cor. 3:17).

IV. VERSES SEVENTEEN THROUGH TWENTY-FIVE.

Concerning this section, God told Moses to **"Speak unto Aaron, and to**

his sons, and unto all the children of Israel." The commands which follow governed the condition and character of the sacrifices which were brought to be offered to the Lord; and so, these commands concerned both people and priest. Particularly under consideration here are oblations, or offerings, for **"vows"** and **"freewill offerings"**. These were likely the most frequently offered, and were offered by individuals who desired to praise God and experience His favor and fellowship. These were offered at the will of the individual, not by compulsion, and thus show that there is in worship that which is to be free and cheerful, from an heart that is both thankful to God and desirous to know God more fully (II Cor. 9:7). Notice that the Scriptures teach that there are both tithes and freewill offerings which are to be given to the Lord: there is that which is to be paid as an acknowledged, and yet also a lovingly-accepted, obligation, and there is that which is to be given, as a free gift from the heart. A servant knows only obligation, or duty. A son or a daughter knows both duty and free desire from a heart of thankfulness and love toward a parent. God is owed more than we can give; but He also takes pleasure in the willing and cheerful worship of His people.

The requirements of any offering that was offered for a vow or a freewill offering were that the offering be **"a male without blemish, of the beeves [bullocks/oxen], of the sheep, or of the goats."** The expression **"at your own will"** is sometimes rendered "that ye may be accepted," (American Standard Version). There is an acceptable manner, method, time, and place of worship; and there is an acceptable mode of worship. None can worship who are not born again by the Spirit and the Word of God (John 4:23-24; 3:6-7). God desires and delights in the true worship of His people. Many are teaching in this day that worship is according to the dictates of the individual. Each individual believer is to worship God according to God's commands and precepts. **"At your own will"** you who are saved and who have believed on Jesus Christ ought to worship God freely; and as His Spirit impresses upon your heart to do that which the Scriptures teach, so you ought to do it more and more. The children of Israel were not free to offer any kind of sacrifice, but only those which were appointed by the Lord. They were to observe the divine appointments of God; and they were to, as their hearts desired and were impressed to do by the Holy Spirit, offer up additional gifts and sacrifices unto God individually. Keeping the sabbath was not an option, but rather a command. Observing the annual day of atonement was not an option, but rather a command. In these New Testament times, assembling together in the house of the living God is not an

option for believers, but a command. Singing spiritual songs and hymns, and making melody in our hearts to the Lord is not an option, but a command. Paying tithes of all our increase is not an option, but a command. If any would do more, then let him or her bring the gift to the Lord freely as the Spirit leads and directs (Acts 4:34-37).

To be accepted, the offering which was brought to the Lord must be **"without blemish,"** or **"perfect"**. **"But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you."** There were not exceptions. **"And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein."** Whether an Israelite or a sojourning foreigner desired to offer unto the Lord, the offering must be without blemish. There were to be no physical deformities, injuries, or sickness in the animals that were brought to the altar of the Lord. These pictured sacrifices that were contaminated with sin, and showed in the heart of the offerer despite toward the Lord. Men today would offer to God that which is imperfect, their own good works and their own self-righteousness: and they shall not be accepted. There was to be no blemish, either in priest or in offering. These two things are only found in Jesus Christ, who, being a perfect High Priest unto God for us, offered Himself as a spotless sacrifice to sanctify us from our sins unto God (Heb. 7:26-27; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). Not only so, but Christ also freely and willingly offered Himself to God on our behalf (Ps. 40:7-8).

In worship we ought to give the Lord our best. That which is blemished by ill-will, tainted by half-heartedness, or mixed with despite and the spirit of envy ought not to be offered unto God. From a free heart (which He has freed) we ought to praise, thank, and bless the Lord; and from full hands (which He has filled) we ought to give for His honor and glory. Both heart and hands ought to come before the Lord full and free, to offer unto Him that which is well-pleasing in His sight. The only exception which was recorded here by Moses was that animals having certain **"superfluous or lacking"** parts, as perhaps one leg too short or too long, might be brought **"for a freewill offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted."** This was allowed most likely because in some cases these were the only kind which some persons might have, and so be able to offer **"for a freewill offering,"** which was one offered out of desire to bless the Lord and the Lord's work. God accepted the widow woman's two mites given for the maintenance of the temple services and regarded them more highly than the riches cast in by many because she gave all that she had (Mark 12:41-44; Mal. 1:8-14). If we

would honor God, then we ought to give unto Him the best that we have, both in substance and in effort.

V. VERSES TWENTY-SIX THROUGH THIRTY.

God here gives certain rules regarding when animals were to be offered in sacrifice under the Old Testament economy. Those animals which were offered by burnt sacrifice, as **"a bullock, or a sheep, or a goat,"** were to **"be seven days under the dam."** In other words, these animals remained for at least seven days with their mother, and beginning on **"the eighth day"** were acceptable as offerings **"made by fire unto the LORD."** A mother and its offspring were not to be killed **"both in one day."** Doubtless these regulations were set down to avoid any inciting to cruelty.

The regulation regarding the offering and eating of **"a sacrifice of thanksgiving"** is here repeated (Lev. 7:15-18). The teachings and precepts of the Lord are things which we are prone to forget and regard as "non-essential". The rule of all scriptural doctrine is, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip," (Heb. 2:1). Over all these precepts and statutes was this heading, **"I am the LORD."**

VI. VERSES THIRTY-ONE THROUGH THIRTY-THREE.

"Therefore shall ye keep my commandments, and do them: I am the LORD." There exists in this hour in which we are living an attitude of despite toward commandment-keeping. Men would be "free," by which they mean that they would be lawless where God is concerned. They would do as they will, rather than as Christ who said to His Father and God, **"Not as I will, but as thou wilt"** (Matt. 26:39) (1 John 2:4). To not keep the commands of God, and yet to identify oneself as His child, is to **"profane"** His **"holy name"**. God will be set apart and held in reverence in the hearts and lives of His people.

The ground upon which these commandments governing worship are laid is two-fold: (1) the relationship of God to His people as their Sanctifier – **"I am the LORD which hallow you"**; and (2) the redemptive work of God which His people have experienced – **"that brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God."** God did not save you who are here today and who believe on Jesus Christ to the saving of the soul only to go to heaven, but **"to be your God"** (Rom. 9:25-26; 1 Pet. 2:9-10). God saved you and has given you a new purpose for living, to worship and serve Him. Everything in the life of a Christian is based upon the truth of the Person and being of the living God. **"I am the LORD."**



END

My Husband Will Not Provide For Me

By Curtis Pugh
of Poteau, Oklahoma

"My husband is very rich and in every way able to provide the things that I need, but he will not do so. We get along really well and I know he loves me, but he just will not provide food, money for utilities, clothes, medicine and other really necessary things. He promised to look after me, but he will not do it. So I am appealing to all the people in my community to help me financially. If you cannot give me money, come buy something at my yard sale this next Friday and Saturday. The yard sale will be at One Baptist Church Road here in town. I am also going to have a bake sale that day with lots of goodies at reasonable prices. Later on this month I am planning on having a spaghetti dinner in our church family life center/fellowship hall. Please do for me what my husband can but will not do."

What would you think if you read or heard such a statement as above? If true, shame on that husband! What kind of low-life person is he? My grandmother used to express herself this way: a man who is able to do so, and yet will not provide for his wife and family is not worth the salt that goes in his bread. Better said by the Holy Ghost through Paul: **"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel"** (1 Tim. 5:8). Now then, there is a lesson in the foregoing – not just for husbands – but for all the Lord's people. Did you notice that we all immediately thought ill of the man who could, but would not provide for his wife? Rightly so, for the Bible says, **"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"** (James 4:17). Here is a man who could do good to his wife and surely knows that he should, but will not. We censure him for his neglect. Worse than neglect, we think it is calloused and downright sinful that he fail to do what he ought to do. We think that it is a shame that his wife must depend on the charity of other men and women to do for her what her own husband ought to do.

Having presented the above information this question must be considered: what is to be said when a church asks the world to provide for her all the while she presents herself Christ's bride? When a church has rummage sales, yard sales, fireworks sales, spaghetti suppers, bake sales and other similar fund raising projects is

this in essence not the same thing as saying what the wife said above in the first paragraph? What does the world think when they see a sign, or handbill, or a newspaper ad that says, "Help us pay our bills. Attend our Brunswick Stew Supper, or our Indian Taco Sale, or our Annual Fish Fry?" Such signs of this type are all too frequent! Many Pentecostals, Charismatics, Methodists, Roman Catholics, etc., and even some "Baptists" engage in such fundraisers. Youth groups have car washes to raise money for their church projects. Then there are the musicals! "The West Texas Baptist Hand-bell Choir and Cowboy Bob with his wonder horse Big'un will be at the Worldly Street Baptist Church Friday night at 7 o'clock. Admission \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under." What is wrong with such things? Churches are essentially doing the same thing that the money changers and animal sellers did in the temple. Remember, Jesus said, **"...Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise"** (John 2:16). All clear-thinking persons know that the meeting house of a congregation is not the same as was the temple of God in Jerusalem, but the similarity exists and in the minds of worldlings the church has gone into business. She is not being cared for by her Bridegroom and so must descend from her spiritual calling into carnal activities to accomplish His will in the world. So churches ask the world to pay for their own evangelism! "Buy from us so we can preach to you!" "Hey! Children of the devil: buy from us so we can do the work Christ left us to do." Because of such activities Christ is classed with those who have "denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel," is He not? He is presented as not providing for His own!

Then there are the discounts! "Is there a ministerial discount? I'm a preacher you know." "Our church is short on cash right now, can you cut that price down and help us out?" Why even God's national people, the Jews, now famous for close financial dealing, did not ask for free passage when going through Edom on their journey from Egypt to Canaan. Moses sent word to the king of Edom saying, **"Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's high way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders. And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt**

not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword. And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without doing any thing else, go through on my feet" (Num. 20:17-19). If Moses and those carnal Israelites were willing to pay their own way, surely God's spiritual children ought to say "We want nothing from the devil and his fleshly children. We are the children of promise. Just give us elbow room to pass through this world. If we use any of your water, we will pay for it. God will enable us!" Is not Christ able to see to it that His younger brethren have enough? In the story of the prodigal even the **"hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare"** (Luke 15:17). How many businessmen speak ill of preachers and churches who constantly try to wheedle discounts, cut-rate prices, and outright donations from them and their businesses? How many employees hear such comments of shameful conduct on the part of professed saints of God who, in essence, are saying "My husband could, but will not provide for me."

And so the churches say to the world: "We are the bride of Christ, but He will not provide for us." He is able to do so. Professing Christians tell people every day that Christ is able to save them and supply all their needs – with words. But when it comes down to where the rubber meets the road, many of these same professing Christians tell them by their actions – by having such fundraisers – that Christ does not supply all their needs. So they must appeal to the world and engage in business ventures so as to keep God's house open and functioning. What a shame it is when we disgrace our Heavenly Bridegroom by such carnal tactics! Do sound Baptist congregations engage in such shameful practices? This writer knows of none who do – thankfully. But the temptation is always around, especially when many, if not most, religious groups have adopted such wheedling as their policy. Let each of the saints of God and the Lord's true Baptist congregations corporately ever look to our Heavenly Friend, Brother and Bridegroom to sustain us. In that way we will not shame Him before the world. Let us always remember the promise our Lord Jesus made: **"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"** (Matt. 6:31-33).



The Rantings
and Ravings
of
Brother
Ritechus
N.
Dignation
by Joseph Harris



Politics in the Pulpit

Now it is time to deal with one of the most sacred of cows: politics in the pulpit. It is high time this sacred cow was made into hamburger. Now first of all, let me be clear: I do not believe in political rallies, gatherings and such at any church. The house of God is not for such inventions of man. That includes a lot of other gatherings that take place under some steeples. There are plenty of other places to take our necessary business in the community or town. Politics, in this setting has no place in the church.

However, this do not mean the preacher can not address issues of politics that affect decency, morality, and the family, and other such related areas. If any politician runnin' for or holding office is a scoundrel who lives, supports and speaks for ungodliness, then the preacher should take aim and fire with a full load, whether Democrat, Republican or whatever label is on the can. Politics is not the issue in this case. And if some of those rascals called politicians try to legislate their ungodly ways down the throats of we the people, then calling a scoundrel a scoundrel and calling a communist a communist is in order.

Some preachers are afraid to speak the truth because they have been beat down by some powerhouse in the church who will cry foul if the preacher dares to tell folks they should support righteousness at the polls. If the preacher doesn't do it, then no one will. Most preachers stopped crying aloud against sin and corruption in society and politics long ago and you will note that no one else has taken up the mantle. Also take note of the shape we are in today.

Party has nothing to do with how a Christian should vote. Principle is supposed to be the guiding light. I once had an old carnal church member tell me he was a democrat because his Daddy was a democrat. What foolishness! He turned red and got so mad he could pop when I told him it was a good thing his Daddy had not been a drunk or he would be in trouble.

The answer to our problems in life is not government, but God. We should spend more time tending to the things of God than anything else, but that doesn't do away with our obligation to speak up and vote when the time comes. So vote right. If folks would start checking out their local candidate as close as they do when calling the preacher, then things might start looking up the day after the election.



The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. **"Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice"** (Ps. 51:8). Did King David break any bones physically because of his sin with Bathsheba (II Sam. 11 & 12)? If not, what does David mean by **"the bones which thou hast broken?"** - Virginia

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No, I do not see any thing that would indicate in Scripture to the actual breakage of David's bones because of his adulteress affair. I once heard someone say that David was a great sinner, and a great repentor. The force of the word broken indicates the severity of sorrow and pain David felt for his sin.

In another verse he uses the same word broken, but the translators used another word to express the same thought. **"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise"** (Ps. 51:17). Contrite is the same word as broken in verse 8 it means to smash, or for our southern brothers and sisters, to mash.

If you look at it this way, imagine crushing the bones of your hand, not just breaking them but smashing them to little pieces. The pain of a crushed hand would be immense. David's pain over what he had done to offend his Holy and righteous God caused him such sorrow, that it was as if he had crushed bones. Note the fact that David attributes the pain to God. God, and God only, gives repentance. God, and God only, is able to heal and when healed David once again rejoiced.

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The more I study the Word of God, the more I am amazed at the depth and poetry that is found in the Hebrew language. So many times I try to decipher a passage in our KJV from the original tongue, only to discover there is no word in the Hebrew for it. For instance, there is no real word that has been specifically created for the direction, "South." They use the word for "parched" because of the

desert to the "south" of Palestine! Or else they use the word that means "to the right of me," assuming that one would be facing East... Of course the word used primarily for East, is the word for "in front of me"! Then to throw a twist to the matter, there is no word for North, but a word for "dark and unknown"! It is supposed that the root of this etymology is because the North is where the cold winds come from. Lastly, to avoid anyone having to get out their Hebrew dictionary, West is simply the ethnic word meaning "roar of the sea"! Of course, the Mediterranean would have something to do with that!

The reason I bring that to your attention, is because the word translated here and throughout the Old Testament as "bones" is not an exclusive "bone" word. It is a Hebrew word that has the thought of "strength" within oneself. It is translated numerous times as "selfsame" and is translated as "strength" in Job 21:23, **"One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet."** Selah! Think about it!

So when David speaks of **"the bones which thou hast broken,"** yes, he is speaking poetically or metaphorically of God's judgment upon him because of his sins surrounding II Samuel 11 & 12. His very "strength of self" has been damaged or broken! God has struck at the very core of David's mortal strength and has crushed the defenses of self, opening the hidden things to the view of the whole world! Job further the picture of utter abasement of any strength in man by portraying the destruction of his own bones under the hands of the Almighty. **"My bones are pierced in me in the night season: and my sinews take no rest. ...My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat"** (Job 30:17, 30). This passage is not unique in David's writings, either... **"For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed"** (Ps. 31:10).

As we think about the inner strength that our skeletal system gives us, we can see how a man can only stand if his bones, or inner strength are intact. David literally felt like he could not stand before the Almighty when judged concerning his works! Nothing broken on the outside, but inside- no strength! No righteousness, I think we need to see- Selah! Think about it!

So, here is where a good picture of

Christ our Redeemer and Intercessor would come in- the One who stands as OUR righteousness! At least two Messianic Psalms prophesy that the one that will be cut off for His people; mutilated, crushed, bruised and crucified at the behest of His Father for a ransomed elect - will NOT have a single bone broken! Beautiful picture, eh? **"He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken"** (Ps. 34:20). **"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. ...I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me"** (Ps. 22:14, 17). Selah! Think about it!

Even in the picture of the Passover Lamb, the unbroken bones are required to make it an accurate type of the coming Messiah. **"In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof"** (Ex. 12:46).

May the Lord help us to realize that we need to have our bones broken when we sin against God, that He might mend them again and our inner man may rejoice with David, as we stand, not in our own strength, but in the might of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Selah! Think about it!

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It is certainly possible that David received physical injuries at the hand of God's chastisement, though we have no definite medical report in Scripture to affirm this. The context would seem to suggest that he is referring to the pain of sin and the spiritual chastisement he received from God. David is found openly confessing the sins that had broken his soul and is pleading for restoration and forgiveness. He is likening indwelling sin to the pain and disfigurement of broken bones. When we sin against God we are like bones out of joint, crushed with guilt, broken with remorse, and painful with chastisement. When God allows us to come before the throne of grace, openly confessing and forsaking our sins, we rejoice in His restoration and healing.

I like Spurgeon's comment on this passage:

"He was like a poor wretch whose bones are crushed, crushed by no ordinary means, but by omnipotence itself. He groaned under no mere flesh wounds; his firmest and yet tenderest powers were broken in pieces all asunder; his manhood had become a dislocated,

mangled, quivering sensibility. Yet if He who crushed would cure, every wound would become a new mouth for song, every bone quivering before with agony would become equally sensible of intense delight. The figure is bold, and so is the supplicant. He is requesting a great thing; he seeks joy for a sinful heart, music for crushed bones. Preposterous prayer anywhere but at the throne of God! Preposterous there most of all but for the cross where Jehovah Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the tree." (The Treasury of David, Vol. 1b, p. 404)

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"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Ps. 139:14).

No, I believe that King David did not have any of his bones literally broken, but because of his sin (his backslidden condition) he felt like they had been broken. The first part of the verse **"Make me to hear joy and gladness"** tells us David was in misery and his bones felt like they were out of joint, bruised, and broken spiritually and he was seeking relief.

When we sin and are in a backslidden condition we are oh, so miserable. We have no peace, and we feel trodden down. If you have ever been in any type of auto accident and you did not break anything, but for days and maybe weeks you are so sore (like you did break something), well that is how David felt spiritually. He was so distraught he could only pray for relief.

If the reader would look at the rest of the verses in this Psalm you will notice several things that will show the spiritual condition King David was in. But before we look at them, allow me to bring something to your attention.

As a teenager, I had made an off colored statement to a couple of girls walking down the hall at school. The one just happened to be the sister of my cousin's wife. Well, I never thought anymore about it, so we could say I got off scot-free. Well, I came home that Saturday after hunting with a friend and my Mom was at the kitchen table crying and my Dad met me at the door guns a blazing. Now I was in a good mood and excited to tell my Dad what I had seen hunting until he lowered the boom, "Did you say this and that to my cousin's wife's sister?" Well I was caught, not near like David was, but for me it was pretty severe. Well to make matters worse, I lied and said no,

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. Could you please explain the meaning of Revelation 8:12? Also, what is the significance of the continued use of thirds in the verse?

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An honest question deserves an honest answer, and I must apologize to the questioner and reader because I do not feel I can answer this question to your satisfaction. I have studied this portion of Scripture and read after those who have written about it, and even the ones who are honest seem to have a difficult time with it. I even have tried to teach on it the best I can. But I do not feel comfortable enough to give an intelligent answer.

My hopes and prayers are that my other three Pastor Brethren will be able to answer the question to the reader's satisfaction. There are three books I would recommend: "Let's Study Revelation" by E. G. Cook; "Revelation an Expository Commentary" by Donald Grey Barnhouse; "Things to Come, A Study in Biblical Eschatology" by J. Dwight Pentecost. There are many others. We have at least thirty books alone on the Book of Revelation in my library. Again I give my sincere apology. God Bless!

ROGER REED

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Revelation 8:12 declares: "And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise." This is a description of judgments that will be poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth during the Tribulation period. The seals, trumpets, and vials of wrath in the Book of Revelation all provide pictures of the systematic judgments upon the wicked during the most horrific time in all of earth's history. When the fourth angel sounds his trumpet the greater and lesser luminaries in God's creation will

be smitten by thirds. Many prophetic writers and commentators also believe there is a spiritual application to the sun, moon, and stars as it pertains to the judgment of world rulers during the Tribulation.

TOM ROSS

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"And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise" (Rev. 8:12).

At this point in the seven year Great Tribulation, the Seven trumpets are being sounded. Each brings a new specific judgment upon the ravaged Earth, where great multitudes have already perished. One quarter of the world's population has died in the first four seals, alone! -with one-third yet to succumb in the sixth trumpet. Certainly a terrible time to live on this world! A time when God will judge those that did not believe the truth proclaimed by the saints of His churches during our current age. **"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth"** (Rev. 3:9-10). In the Words of Christ, **"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened"** (Matt. 24:21-22).

Examining the damage done by the first three trumpets, I believe the smoke and fall-out will create atmospheric obstructions that will fill the sky and create a kind of "greenhouse effect" similar to that of major volcanic eruptions. This will block or "diminish" the power of the sun, moon and stars by one-third. God could certainly just "smite" the lights and

cause them to be blighted and the earth would suffer from its loss of both heat and light, but many times He is pleased to use observable causes. However He accomplishes this act, I believe that is the major premise of verse 8- that the world becomes a colder and darker place as yet more severe judgments continue to be unleashed like clock-work from the hand of God Almighty...!

As to the use of thirds in this chapter, I believe that, too, is the purpose of God. Sometimes we make too much of numerology and try to fit everything into our proposed theories about them, and that is wrong. But it is equally wrong to dismiss the numbers that God has ordained for us to understand and recognize. Some numbers are even Scripturally defined- **"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six"** (Rev. 13:18). Conversely, the number seven is often used as the number of completion or perfection.

The number three is probably the most commonly used number in both prophecy and typology. It seems to be the number of "Trials, Testing and Tribulation". Christ and Jonah were both buried for three days/nights. Three times Peter both denied and affirmed the Lord! Three times Pilate tried to acquit our Saviour and the crucifixion started the third hour of the day, with three hours of darkness climaxing this great time of suffering by our Lord. We could multiply these instances, as the beloved reader can affirm by doing a word search for this number in the Bible- used 560 times!

I believe that the thirds of judgments found in Revelation Chapters 8 & 9 in particular show forth the equitable judgment of a Thrice Holy God. The book is building a crescendo of condemnation upon this wicked Earth pointing toward the Battle of Armageddon, where a complete judgment of the nations will occur (Rev. 16-19; Matt. 25:31-32). **"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb"** (Rev. 14:10). But God has mercy at this point, still yet! I believe a great multitude will be saved during Daniel's Seventieth Week, the Great Tribulation. So the one-third chorus in our text verses, speak of God judging **"IN MEASURE"**. Certainly we are all worthy only of the full, unmitigated wrath of our Creator, but He is gracious beyond measure in applying the blood of His Son upon every single elect sheep He has named before the foundation of the world! They will NEVER be judged **"without mixture"**... Selah! Think

about it!

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If I knew all that was contained in God's Word I would not be finite. The use of thirds indeed is very interesting, I must say. I do not know why the use of thirds is used other than maybe, it has something in demonstration of who is controlling the light emitted from these orbs in the sky.

The meaning of the verse is to be taken literally and that the literal judgment of God will be upon those that are godless and who refuse to repent. **"And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts"** (Rev. 9:20, 21). This is the purpose of the plagues, to yet heap upon the unbelieving the just judgment of God in increasing increments of severity for their unbelief and non repentance till all shall see Him in the Glory of the Father at the second advent.

MIKE DEWITT



Forum #1

(Continued from page 230) ♦

(oops, bad move), my Dad rushed right toward me and said do not lie to me (it is the first and last time I ever clinched my fists toward my Dad). He said, you might be bigger than me, (which I was, but not that big to take on my Dad) but I'll get a ball bat. I unclenched my fists real quick. I was no longer in a good and happy mood, and my stomach became one big knot. I said, no this other kid said it, which the boy I was with in the hall had said it first, I just repeated it a little louder. To get to the point, I was so tore up inside and told so many lies to get out of the mess (I just dug a deeper hole) that I was in turmoil and it was not until we were on our way over to see the girl's Dad that I confessed. Well I had to go back to school and tell both these girls I was sorry, and go tell my cousin's wife (which I had a lot of respect for) I was sorry. It costed me dearly let me tell you, and if I could have taken it back I would. That is how sin makes us feel. I am glad we have

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Forum #1

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forgiveness from above!

Now that I am saved and think about that, I am ashamed. King David, committed adultery, murder, and lied about what he did. II Samuel 11:1-2 says, **"And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon."** If the king would have been where he should have been, he would have never sinned. If I would have been in class and not in the hall, I would have saved myself a whole lot of trouble.

How terrible do you think David felt when the prophet Nathan said, **"Thou art the man?"** I bet he had a lump in his throat so big he could not swallow, and his stomach was one big knot, whether he was the king or not, he was caught. And as the days and nights went on, his bones felt like he was drug through a knothole.

Now let us look at some of the following verses as we mentioned earlier!

"Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities" (Ps. 51:9).

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Ps. 51:10).

"Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me" (Ps. 51:11).

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit" (Ps. 51:12).

"Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee" (Ps. 51:13).

"Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness" (Ps. 51:14).

Oh, the beauty of a repentant heart. Now pay very close attention to the next three verses and meditate on them:

"O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise" (Ps. 51:15).

"For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering" (Ps. 51:16).

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Ps. 51:17).

Wow! And there is your answer, God does not want a **"burnt offering,"** He wants a **"broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart..."** He wants our sins to feel like every bone in our body is broken,

so we can appreciate the forgiveness He will give when we repent. Have you asked God to heal your broken bones today? God Bless!

ROGER REED



Notes on Bible Translations

By Rosco Brong
(1908 - 1985)

Coming home on furlough in October, 1952, I quickly purchased a copy of the Revised Standard Version, called "the new Bible"...Daily newspaper. . . We are protesting a proposed burning

of the "new Bible." The editorials seemed to me excellent. I was repeatedly asked my opinion. I replied: "I am against it."

We never burned a Catholic Bible in Brazil, in spite of its Apocryphal additions to the real Scriptures, its wretched translations, its notes, which often deny at the foot of the page what the Word of God says in the text above, its many false teachings, and its abundance of pictures that are just as false. Rather we encouraged all Catholics to buy their own Bibles, knowing they will obtain better versions eventually if they get interested. As T. T. Eaton used to say: "Even a Catholic Bible is full of Baptist doctrine."

I would not burn even the version of the Jehovah's Witnesses, which banishes the word cross. It is the only version that correctly translates into English the Greek of Matthew 16 and 18: "Shall have been bound. . . Shall have been loosed," though C. B. Williams gives a similar translation and the same meaning.

KING JAMES CATHOLICISM

"Saint" Matthew. Who invented that? You never find it in the text of your Bible. The New Testament writers do not call each other or anyone else by that title. The older Greek texts do not have it in the names of our New Testament books. It reflects a dead apostasy from New Testament terminology and usage of words, of which a post apostolic Catholicism was first guilty.

The younger Roman and Greek Catholicism adhere to the misuse of the Bible word saint. From that ancient, but far too young, Catholicism, the new Bible frees us, going back to the original titles of New Testament books, as we find them in the oldest and best manuscripts. Dr. A. T. Roberson well says that preachers who go around saying Saint Matthew are



just clinging to that much Romanism, though Romanism has no monopoly or patent on the error. ALL BELIEVERS ARE SAINTS. . . .

PAGAN EASTER

Besides a lot of other erroneous notes and titles, many Romish inventions are written into the text itself of the King James version. Easter is a pagan word brought in by a false translation of Acts 7:38. Furthermore, there never was any Old Testament "Church in the wilderness." The connotations of the word church forbids its use in any but the Christian meaning of the Greek word it translates. In Jewish or civilian Greek connotations, its meaning is its inherent sense, congregation, assembly. So the RSV correctly renders the word congregation in Hebrews 2:12. . . .

KING JAMES ERRORS

(I Timothy 6:10). Think of this translation still appearing in a new Bible: "The love of money is the root of all evils." That never was true at any time in human history. Paul never wrote such folly. It was not the love of money that made Adam eat the forbidden fruit, nor Cain kill his brother, nor Moses smite the rock God told him to speak to, nor TRANSLATIONS IN THE KING JAMES VERSION.

Being able to read the original Hebrew and Greek is a real blessing to a devout Bible believer and student, and I wish that every Christian could have time and opportunity to learn these languages and thus be able to read the real Bible without depending on translations. Christians who cannot read the original Scriptures can be blessed by comparing different translations, but need to be on their guard against infidel or heretical so-called translators who prostitute their scholarship to the propagation of false doctrines.

The proper test of any supposed translation is not whether it agrees with some other supposed translation, but whether it expressed a possible and probable meaning of the original language. Even within these limits, there is often room for varied interpretations. Any competent language scholar will confirm these statements.



A Lying, ... Lazy

(Continued from page 221) ♦

deal with some of the practical and ethical aspects of the Ten Commandments today. **"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the**

LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's" (Ex. 20:8-17).

I know that the list of sins in which our country is involved, is far too long for me to list in your presence today. So I have decided that today, I will speak to you about only three distinct and noticeable problems that currently run rampant in our country: namely, "lying," "lascivious," and "lazy" people. And while we are addressing these sins (or vices) that are so rampant in our country, let me remind each one of the saved people that I am addressing today, that it is also apparent that many Christians are caught up in these sins as well.

LYING

In the country in which we are living, I think that we can safely say that "honesty" is hardly ever the best policy. In the land in which we live, dishonesty, lying, and deceit are everywhere. Now some people might say that the Ten Commandments do not really contain an admonition against lying. We read in the Ten Commandments that God gave to the people through Moses, **"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour"** (Ex. 20:16). To me, this is the same as saying "You shall not lie." Whether in a judicial matter; whether in a governmental matter; whether in a societal matter; even in a personal matter – lying is forbidden. We read in Leviticus 19:11, **"Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another."**

But people today will say, "lying is not that big of a deal; why worry about the occasional 'white lie' or the occasional 'convenient falsehood.'" Well, the Lord Jesus Christ put it this way, **"He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself"** (Matt. 19:18-19). It seems to me that the Lord Jesus is letting His disciples (and us) know that any sin that we commit, is a sin that is committed against God. The same God that said **"Thou shalt not steal,"** also said, **"Thou shalt not bear false witness."** So in the eyes of God, even what we might consider to be "just a little sin," is still yet a sin. And consequences must be paid for each of those sins. Think

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A Lying, ... Lazy

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about it this way: though the world – and even many Christians – might consider the occasional lie to be a small and insignificant thing, Jesus Christ must pay for those sins if any of His people are to enter into Heaven. The next time you tell a lie, or the next time you consider lying to be small or insignificant, remember that Jesus Christ's blood was shed for your sins, even sins that men think lightly of.

And yet, despite the fact that lying is obviously a sin – and the Bible declares it so – in the society in which we live, it seems that no one tells the truth anymore. It has become evident that the only way to advance one's career in business, in life, and especially in politics, is to tell as many creative lies as possible. Paul told the Ephesians, **"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another"** (Eph. 4:25). As neighbors of each other; as members of the same society; as citizens of a common country, why can we not be truthful and honest with each other? I know the answer to my rhetorical question is simply that we are all sinners in the flesh. And fallen and unregenerate mankind cannot be expected to be honest and truthful with each other. But in our society should not honesty be extolled, and deceit condemned? Would not our lives be easier if we told the truth to each other?

Sadly, in our place and time, truth is not rewarded nor is it encouraged on any level. It is accepted and condoned that men would deceive each other. In fact, today in our nation, lying is encouraged, and even rewarded. I thought of three synonyms for lying that I think would apply to our Nation today: "falseness," "fraudulence," and "faithlessness." I think all three of these are evident in the United States of America today.

First, what is portrayed as truth, is very often "false." Mostly, what we are taught to be true, is simply a mirage that the world utilizes to imitate truth. For example, our education system, and our scholars, and our scientists portray evolution as truth – when in fact the science of evolution as the means by which life has been produced in this universe, is simply a lie, and a falsehood that has been perpetrated on our public for the last couple of centuries. Without a doubt, if you tell people something long enough, they will begin to believe it. This is what has happened in the case of our education system and its infatuation with "evolution." We have been taught this lie for so long, that eventually people become so used to it, that it becomes accepted as fact – even though the entire idea of evolution is still only man's theory.

Second, it is also evident that our world is full of "fraud." Governments,

companies, and individuals spend much of their time simply seeking to take advantage of one another and seeking to defraud each other. They use tricks, misrepresentations, and even outright lies to accomplish their ends, and to deceive others into some action or reaction that furthers their own agendas. Paul told us in Colossians 3:9, **"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds."** I know that it becomes easy for us – even as Christians – to imitate the world, and to perpetrate fraud on others. Maybe sometimes we even do so unwittingly. But I hope that each of us would seek to live a life that is upright, honest, and fair in our dealings with each other and with the world.

Third, I think that there are very few people or nations in this world that are "Faithful." The Lord Jesus said one time, **"...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth"** (Luke 18:8)? I know that the Lord is speaking primarily of faithfulness unto God. But it seems that hardly any person or nation is faithful to anyone any more. It seems that no one keeps their word, or honors their stated intention. For example, I am disappointed in the way in which the United States has essentially turned its back on the Nation of Israel, which we have promised to aid and help. And yet, how can we expect our government to be faithful in its promises and its responsibilities, when our country is full of people that do not keep their own word, or fulfill their own responsibilities and duties? Who can we count on today? I think that in reality, many of the people in God's churches are even undependable and faithless in many ways. We covenant together to meet together, to sustain and support one another, to pray and bless each other. And yet, how many truly follow through on these responsibilities and duties and privileges? It is a sad thing to consider the faithlessness that exists in our families, churches, and even our country! **"He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight"** (Ps. 101:7).

LASCIVIOUS

Let us move on to consider another of the ever-present sins that exists in our country today. In the seventh commandment, the Lord said, **"Thou shalt not commit adultery"** (Ex. 20:14). And yet, despite this commandment and the obvious nature of the sin being committed, our country is full of folks that think nothing of violating the sacred bonds of marriage, and indulging in their lascivious ways, with anyone who will be their willing companion. The Lord said, **"Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her"** (Lev. 18:20).

It seems that carnal desires amongst men and women run rampant in our society today. Men and women can hardly

think of anything else, other than their needs for each other – or, in many cases their evil needs for others of the same gender. Everything on TV and in our society revolves around men and women and their fleshly lusts for each other – regardless of any other circumstances or consequences that might pertain to their condition. What a lascivious society we live in! And if our society will not judge this sin, then we can be sure that God will! **"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge"** (Heb. 13:4).

Our children are told that they have to look a certain way in order to attract the members of the opposite sex. Our children are told (or at least they are taught on TV and in the media) that they should have boyfriends and girlfriends at extremely young ages. The society that we live in constantly bombards each of us with reminders of what we ought to be doing and what we ought to be pursuing in regards to human lusts. And we are told what beauty is, and how we should desire that beauty.

Then after society has demonstrated that men and women (and even boys and girls) need each other, we are shown limitless ways in which we can satisfy our fleshly lusts and consume them upon each other without any moral or lawful consequences at all. Indeed, far from there being consequences, it seems that the members of our society that are the most lascivious are rewarded and maybe even lifted up as heroes or icons in our society. And yet, this is what God has to say about such behavior: **"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God"** (Eph. 5:3-5).

As you can see from the passage that we have just read, this sin of "lasciviousness" does not only apply to adultery and fornication. And it is not just about the evil and carnal intentions and desires that men and women have amongst themselves; it is also about the greed and the lust that exists in others areas of the mortal realm. In fact, when I first outlined this sermon, I intended this portion of the sermon to mainly focus on the sin of "covetousness." Though you or I might not find much in common with "whoremongers" and "adulterers," I feel that we can find quite a lot in common with "coveters" and "idolatry."

Quite plainly, it seems that not a single person in our nation is ever satisfied – be it fleshly lusts for one another, or money, or power, or earthly possessions. We always want what the other

person has. We always want the newest, best, and greatest. In the last of the Ten Commandments, our God told the Israelites (and us today), **"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's"** (Ex. 20:17). And then, Paul warned the Colossians this way: **"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them"** (Col. 3:5-7).

I think that greed in our country has risen to a new level. We are now engaged in class warfare, where those who are lazy and do not want to work, are envious and jealous of others who have something that they want. Now folks want what others have, and if necessary, they will take from the "haves" in order that the "have-nots" can have whatever it is that their greedy souls can desire. The description of the Israelites in the time of Micah the prophet, is eerily similar to the description of the United States today: **"Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand. And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage"** (Micah 2:1-2).

It is a dangerous thing to combine covetousness and laziness! And this leads me to my last point.

LAZY

People do not work like they used to. Our society is generally lazy and slothful. Our nation was built upon the work ethic and the strength and resolve of men and women who wanted to improve their lives, and wanted to provide something better for their children (See II Cor. 12:14). Now our nation is full of people that want the government to provide for them. In general, people are willing to have others provide for them, rather than raise a finger to help themselves. The Apostle Paul told the Thessalonians, **"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread"** (II Thess. 3:10-12).

Instead of wanting something better for their children, the citizens of our country are teaching their children how

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to work the system, and how to be lazy and still get by. A sense of entitlement reigns supreme in our country. People seem to think that because they are in America, all of us (and our children) are entitled to homes, health, provision, and even riches. However, not many folks are willing to consistently and diligently work for these things.

I think that the problem really does begin in our families (or what passes for family today), where our children do not have a desire and need to work impressed upon them. In the fourth commandment, the Lord God commanded the children of Israel, **“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it”** (Ex. 20:8-11). You might argue that this fourth commandment is merely a requirement to set aside a day of rest and worship of God. But I will argue that the commandment also clearly states, **“Six days shalt thou labour...”**

I know that our country hardly recognizes Sunday as a day of worship anymore. But did you ever wonder why nobody seems to have any regard for Sunday as a day of rest? The reason could well be that the vast majority of folks do not have anything to rest from! I know there are a lot of people that do work hard. And I know that you and I can name quite a number of hard workers

that we are familiar with. But you have to admit that the vast majority of folks in our country today, do not know how to do a lick of manual work, and are largely unfamiliar with the concept of “sweating out a day’s work” (See Gen. 3:19). Therefore, when Sunday comes around, they have no need of rest – at least not physically speaking.

I believe that we need to instill into our children and into our church members and into our society as a whole, a real work ethic, and a real desire to work hard and improve our mortal conditions. I am not saying that we covet and desire those things that we do not need to have. But I am saying that it is commendable to work hard to provide for our families and to give them the best that we can. I pray to God that at least the Lord’s people will never be accused of not providing for our own households. **“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel”** (I Tim. 5:8).

CONCLUSION

We could go on and on about the sins and the practical and ethical problems in the United States of America. But I want you to know that this is still the best and greatest country on the face of the earth. And I hope that you will join me in praying to God that this nation and this people will turn to God. I know that God is able to put the fear of Him in our hearts. I pray that each of us will be the example that we ought to be – that we would abstain from lying, lascivious, and lazy behavior. And, that we would proclaim salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Really, in the end, the gospel is the only hope for this nation. Only when souls are saved and converted to follow after Christ will we see any sort of change for the good in the society in which we live.



THE

BIBLE AND FAITH 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.

NEW SEASON BRINGS INCREASE IN HOMOSEXUAL CHARACTERS TO TV

(WNS)--The number of gay and bisexual characters on scripted network television programs will be at its highest-ever level ever during the upcoming season, according to a study released last week from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). The total on cable television is also rising. The 17th annual “Where We Are on

TV” report found that 4.4 percent of actors (31 of 701) appearing regularly on 97 scripted prime-time network drama and comedy series during the 2012-13 season will portray homosexual or transgender characters. That is up from 2.9 percent in 2011, which saw a dip in what had been a growing annual trend. Five years ago, 1.1 percent of regular TV characters were homosexual. ABC leads with 10 out of 194, or 5.2 percent, of its regular characters identified as lesbian, gay,

bisexual, or transgendered (LGBT). After leading last year, Fox ranks second with six out of 118 total series regulars.

SAME SEX MARRIAGE PASSES IN FOUR STATES

(WNS)--All four states that voted on the same-sex marriage question (Maine, Maryland, Washington, and Minnesota) rejected traditional marriage. Same-sex marriage advocates are touting the victories as a sea-change, but Brian Brown of the National Organization for Marriage said “all four of these states are the bluest of blue states.” He said homosexual rights activists picked these states to mount a challenge this year for a reason. Secondly, these votes do not undo the results of more than 30 other states that have voted in favor of traditional marriage.

THIRD PARTIES MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE

(WNS)—Some pundits suggested in the last weeks before the election that third parties might upset the balance of power. That did not happen. Constitution Party candidate Virgil Goode, a former representative from Virginia, had polled as high as 2 percent and could have hurt Romney there. But even if 100 percent of the third party votes went to Romney, Obama would still have taken the state. New Mexico, home state of Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson, paints a similar picture. Third party candidates got 4 percent of the vote there, but Obama beat Romney by such a wide margin (53-43) that even if 100 percent of the third party votes went to Romney, Obama would still have won.

HHS MANDATE LAWSUIT COUNT REACHES MILESTONE

(WNS)--The number of lawsuits against the Obama administration over a rule forcing employers to provide insurance covering contraceptives and possible abortifacient drugs reached 40 this week, when a medical supply company in Minnesota filed a complaint on Nov. 5. Stuart Lind, who owns Annex Medical, Inc., is a Catholic dedicated to “conducting business in a way that is pleasing to God and is faithful to Biblical principles and values,” according to court documents. He says the mandate is forcing him to violate his religious beliefs. The Obama administration gave secular businesses until this past August to comply with the mandate. Faith-based organizations, including Catholic hospitals, universities and ministries, have a so-called “safe harbor” extension that gives them until August 2013 to find a way to comply. Annex Medical refuses to adhere to the mandate and will drop its insurance plan altogether by Jan. 31, unless courts provide relief, the law firm stated.

MONTANA APPROVES PARENTAL-CONSENT LAW

(WNS)--Voters in Montana overwhelmingly approved a law Tuesday requiring parental notification before any

girl under age 16 can receive an abortion. Seventy percent of citizens voted for Ref. 120, compared to only 30 percent opposed to it. “Montana voters have wisely passed this common-sense law to ensure that parents can protect their daughters from abortionists who prey on vulnerable young girls,” said Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Counsel Steven H. Aden. “The voice of an abortionist should not be allowed more weight than the voice of parents when their daughter is pregnant.” Those who violate the law can receive fines of \$500 and/or six months in prison. Those who coerce a minor into getting an abortion could receive a \$1,000 fine, a year-long prison sentence, or both. To date, 38 states have passed laws requiring parental notification or consent before teen girls can have abortions, according to the Americans United for Life.

TENNESSEE CHURCH FIGHTS FOR TAX EXEMPTION

(WNS)--A Tennessee church challenging the government’s authority to make decisions about how Christian ministry is defined participated in a court hearing Wednesday morning. Christ Church Pentecostal in Nashville is appealing a lower court’s decision to deny tax exemptions for part of its property, finding that portions of the church’s facilities are not an integral part of the church’s ministry, even though they are used in outreach efforts. Similar facilities that are not church-owned are tax-exempt, according to state law. Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Legal Counsel Erik Stanley said churches shouldn’t be treated differently than other entities. “It is a widely known fact that churches across America effectively use facilities such as gyms and bookstores for clear religious purposes and are exempt from property taxes just like other organizations that serve the community — often at a loss,” he said. “Really what the state was doing was attempting to define what ministry was for Christ Church by telling them that they can not use their facilities to reach out to evangelize, to build up their own membership.”

MORE OBAMACARE LAYOFFS.

(WNS)--It is hard to separate the hype from the reality, but it does appear that Obamacare is having an impact on hiring decisions of major employers, especially companies that have large numbers of hourly employees. Obamacare requires employers to provide health insurance for employees working more than 30 hours a week. According to various news reports, Kroger, which employs more than 350,000 people, will limit part-time employees to 28 hours per week. FreedomWorks reports that Welch Allyn, a New York company that manufactures medical diagnostic equipment, announced in September that it would lay off 275 employees, or roughly 10 percent of its workforce over the next three years. The company said the layoff was a proactive response to the Medical Device

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Tax mandated by the new healthcare law.

TEMPORARY REPRIEVE.

(WNS)--A federal court ruled Friday that Tyndale House Publishers does not have to offer contraceptives and possible abortion-inducing drugs to employees. The publisher of Bibles and other Christian literature is a for-profit company that is part of a non-profit foundation. Earlier in the year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said Tyndale House had to offer contraceptive coverage or face huge fines. But the reprieve for Tyndale House is temporary. The court said the contraceptive mandate could not be enforced while Tyndale's case was ongoing. Currently, 40 lawsuits with more than 110 plaintiffs are challenging the mandate.

SECESH.

(WNS)--The White House's "We the People" webpage has a way to petition the president with ideas or grievances. It is kind of a 21st century, high-tech way of allowing citizens to exercise their First Amendment right to "petition the government for a redress of grievances." The website says President Obama, or one of his senior staff, would formally respond to any petition that gets at least 25,000 signatures. That staffer may be busy soon. All 50 states now have petitions to secede from the Union, and seven states—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas—have reached the threshold. Some signers say the petitions are an expression of frustration over the election, since the first secession petition went up on Nov. 7. Others say they are a way of showing President Obama that he may have won, but he does not have a "blank check" from the American people. Still others say the petitions are misguided. Several governors have issued statements emphasizing they are not promoting secession, including Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry. "It is silly," Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal told the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*. "We are proud to be part of the greatest country in the history of the world. Whatever our political differences, we are American first."

ABORTION CORRUPTION.

(WNS)--Former Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline was only doing what attorneys general are supposed to do: enforce the law. Between 2003 and 2008 he led criminal investigations against abortion providers in his state. For his trouble, he could get his law license permanently revoked on Thursday by Stan Hazlett of the Kansas Judicial Branch Office of the Disciplinary Administrator. According to LifeNews.com, this action is despite a finding by "two investigators working for the Disciplinary Administrator's office, which is prosecuting

Kline ... clearing Kline of wrong-doing and recommending that the case not proceed." So why is the case proceeding? "If ever there was a politically motivated case, this is it," said Troy Newman, president of Operation Rescue and Pro-Life Nation. "The entire case against Kline is evidence of deep political corruption that has protected the abortion criminals while brutally punishing those who attempt to hold the criminals accountable under the law."

TEACHING THE BIBLE, CLOSING THE EDUCATION GAP

(WNS)--Secular activists and public school administrators say that purging the Bible from curriculums and classrooms prevents students of other faiths from feeling marginalized. But according to a new study, their non-alienation crusade might actually cripple Latinos and African Americans - two of the nation's largest minority groups.

After combing through more than 1,000 studies on the achievement gap, researcher William Jaynes discovered two common denominators for academic success among minority students—an active personal faith and a strong family unit. Because of the importance faith plays in minority communities, taking the Bible out of the classroom actually makes it harder for minority students to succeed.

OBAMACARE FORCES SUPPORTER'S COMPANY TO LAY OFF WORKERS

(WNS)--A corporation whose part owner gave \$2 million to a group committed to re-electing President Obama announced this week that it will be forced to lay off more than 1,000 employees in lieu of the financial hardship imposed by the president's signature health care law. Stryker Corporation, a medical device and equipment manufacturer, will cut 5 percent of its global workforce, resulting in an estimated 1,170 layoffs, according to Freedom Works, a governmental watchdog group in Washington, D.C. Signed into law in March 2010, ObamaCare requires businesses to provide government-defined health care plans to employees who work 30 hours or more each week. Those who fail to do so face fines of up to \$3,000 per employee.

ATHEIST GROUP SUES IRS OVER CHURCHES ENDORSING POLITICS

(WNS)--After 1,586 pastors purposely broke the law Oct. 7 by endorsing political candidates from the pulpit, an atheist group has taken the bait and sued the Internal Revenue Service Wednesday for not taking action against these pastors' churches. Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) started Pulpit Freedom Sunday in 2008 to challenge the 1954 Johnson Amendment that prohibits tax-exempt churches from making political endorsements. ADF hoped the IRS would take action so that a lawsuit could be filed that would repeal the law. But the IRS has not taken action against the churches or pastors, so the Wisconsin-based Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF) filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Madison arguing that

the IRS is not enforcing the federal tax code. The FFRF claims that churches and other religious organizations have become more involved in political campaigns, adding that they are "blatantly and deliberately flaunting the electioneering restrictions." In the lawsuit, the FFRF says that not enforcing the law is a violation of the establishment clause of the First Amendment and a violation of equal protection rights, because the same preferential treatment is not provided to other tax-exempt organizations, such as the FFRF.

ARKANSAS PORN SHOP TO FIGHT CITY ORDINANCE

(WNS)--An adult store in Clarksville, Ark., may challenge the constitutionality of a city ordinance regulating sexually oriented businesses, the state Supreme Court ruled recently. According to the decision, the X-Mart Adult Superstore may fight the city's 2006 ordinance requiring pornography shops to be licensed and regulated. Violations could result in up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Bruce Wilson, Clarksville's city attorney, said the town stands by the ordinance. "It's been studied and passed in a manner that's proper, and as it comes back to the local court, we'll certainly defend it as vigorously as we can," he said.



Is Satan Now Bound?

by W. E. Dalling

The answer to this question must radically affect the believer's life and witness. It is no trivial matter, but one with far-reaching results. Whether or not a declared and powerful enemy is bound or free, determines whether one has to be on guard against him, or whether one may safely ignore him.

According to amillennialists the thousand years (Rev. 20:2-7) is to be taken neither as a literal period, nor as wholly future; but it is understood as a symbol of a period beginning at Calvary and ending at the Lord's second coming. In consequence of this view it is stated that Satan was cast out of Heaven (Rev. 12:9) and then bound (Rev. 20:2) at Calvary.

Millennialists understand the six-time repeated "thousand years" to be a literal measure of time, and not symbolic of either a shorter or a longer time.

One writer lodges an emphatic protest against these exegetes who find both literal and symbolic terms in Revelation 20:1-3. But his own exegesis demonstrates the weakness of this protest; for he, himself, finds both literal and symbolic terms in these verses. Thus in verse 2, "**He laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil,**

and Satan, and bound him a thousand years," the protester takes "Devil" and "Satan" as literal and "thousand years" as symbolical. If he is justified in taking "Satan" as literal, how can he logically sustain his objection to the taking of "thousand years" as also literal? Indeed, according to his protest, the taking of "thousand years" as literal is more in keeping with the arbitrary axiom of interpretation that he lays down, than his own. He may reply that he knows that Satan is a literal person; and in answer I submit that years, even a "thousand years" can be just as literal. There is no inherent or compelling reason why this period must not be taken as meaning exactly what it says.

In order to prove millenarians wrong, sweeping statements have been made as if they take every passage literally and deny the use of symbols and metaphors in the Bible. But all who read the writings of millenarians in *Watching and Waiting* at once know the value of such sweeping statements. It is very evident that at least "key" and "chain" are symbols of "authority" on the one hand, and of "restraint" on the other. (Actually, a good dictionary gives these definitions - Ed).

One writer, an amillennialist, shows the weakness of his case by the following statement: "There have been those, like Dr. Seiss, who insist on taking a grossly literal view. The book bears on the very face of it, a warning against such treatment. It speaks, for example, of 'a woman sitting on seven mountains,' but no female ever had such sitting capacity! It speaks also of a wonder in Heaven, a woman in birth-pangs, 'clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars,' and goes on to speak of this same woman as having 'the two wings of a great eagle.' Do not the very terms of description warn us against taking these statements literally?"

Frankly, this is a passage unworthy of the writer.

Dr. Seiss is accused of "taking a grossly literal view." The doctor cannot defend himself, but we can quote his words on this matter; words he uses when considering one of the symbolic passages referred to by the writer just quoted - that of Revelation 12. "This, the apostle tells us is a sign (Dr. Seiss gives the Greek word), a word which he here uses for the first time in the Apocalypse, and which serves to show that the apparition is not simply a 'wonder,' as our version has it, but a wonder intended to bring before us something beyond itself. I have repeatedly remarked, that when the Scriptures use figures or symbols, or speak in a way not intended to be taken literally, like all serious writings they always give some intimation of it, in one way or another. The text is a case

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in point. What is described, is said to be a sign, a representation or picture of something else - a symbol. And the fact that we are here told that this is a sign, goes far to prove that the Apocalypse in general is to be taken literally, except where indication to the contrary is given. It would be quite superfluous to tell us that this thing is a sign, and that certain other things, except upon the assumption that whatever is not to be so labelled is to be taken just as it reads, a woman for a woman, a star for a star, a mountain for a mountain, and so on."

As for the "mountains" in Revelation 17:9 Dr. Seiss writes, "These mountains, then, are royal or imperial powers." In neither of the instances to which the amillennialist refers does Dr. Seiss exercise gross literalism.

Did the writer who charged him with "a grossly literal view" read what Dr. Seiss wrote on Revelation 12 and 17? Let us hope not. For the charge of deliberately misrepresenting a writer's view is, I judge, even worse than neglecting to give adequate attention to his views. Whichever is the explanation of the amillennialist's charge, it gravely detracts from the reliability of his writings.

It has been necessary to meet this extravagant charge of gross literalism, for it has been put forward in an endeavour to persuade readers that all who take the "thousand years" in Revelation 20 are gross literalists who readily swallow such a preposterous idea as a woman with a sitting capacity to cover seven mountains! The setting up of an Aunt Sally for the pleasure of knocking her over, is the old dodge of those who find their opponents' views too difficult to refute. But few who trouble to think will be thus deceived.

For those who believe in the true inspiration of God's Word, an axiom to be observed in biblical exegesis is that no passage is to be explained in such a way as to make it conflict with any other. Our subject demands an examination of passages in the New Testament which refer to Satan's condition and activities (if any) since Calvary, the reputed time of his binding. Considering these passages objectively and in an unbiased manner (for it is more important rightly to understand God's Word than it is to maintain one's own views) we must determine whether they describe one who at Calvary was (a) bound, (b) cast into the bottomless pit, (c) shut up, and (d) sealed that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years should be fulfilled.

We read - Satan caused Ananias to lie (Acts 5:3); Satan had authority over the unregenerate (Acts 26:18); Satan was working in the church at Rome (Romans

16:20); Satan had power over the human body (I Cor. 5:5); Satan tempts (I Cor. 7:5); Satan can gain advantage over sinning believers; Satan exercises devices (II Cor. 2:11); Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (II Cor. 11:14); Satan sent Paul a thorn in the flesh (II Cor. 12:7); Satan seeks to make believers yield to him (Eph. 4:27); The wiles of the devil are to be resisted (Eph. 6:11,12); Satan assaults believers (Eph. 6:16); Satan hindered Paul (I Thess. 2:18); Satan will energize the wicked one (II Thess. 2:9); Paul delivered two persons to Satan for discipline (I Tim. 1:20); Satan sets snares (I Tim. 3:7); Satan is to be resisted (James 4:7); Satan as a lion seeks his prey; he is to be resisted (I Pet. 5:8,9); Satan had a synagogue (Rev. 2:9); The devil caused persecution (Rev. 2:10); Satan had a throne on earth (Rev. 2:13); Woe to humanity, because Satan cast into the earth comes with great wrath (Rev. 12:12).

These passages clearly show the activities of Satan between Pentecost and Christ's second coming. In them we see Satan's activity over the unregenerate and the regenerate. He deceives, ensnares, attacks, tempts, hinders, persecutes and destroys. Is this a description of one who at Calvary was (a) bound, (b) cast into the bottomless pit, (c) shut up, (d) sealed that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled? If so, then language has no meaning.

It is evident that this exponent of amillennialism finds some difficulty in reconciling this testimony of Scripture, as to the devil's present activities, with his view that he has been bound, imprisoned, shut up, and sealed since Calvary. He says "the binding of Satan, therefore, does not mean the complete cessation of his activities. His case is like that of Al Capone, the captured gangster, of whom it was said that he ruled Chicago from Chicago jail." But Revelation 20:1-3 knows nothing of Satanic influence going forth during the thousand years, nor does it know anything of Satanic activities in operation through ready and obedient messengers. We are distinctly told in Revelation 20:3 **"he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled."** this is unambiguous language, and leaves no room for the amillennialist's conception of Satan in captivity ruling the world. Let us accept the inspired Word rather than human theories.

Appeal has been made to Luke 10:18, the words of our Lord, **"I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."** It is stated that Satan's fall to earth actually then took place. But the fall of Satan and his angels from Heaven to earth is prophesied in Revelation 12:7-12, and John stated (Rev. 1:1) that he was writing about future events. More, if Satan was cast down to the earth when

our Lord made His declaration (Luke 10:18) and so, according to the theory advanced, this passage Revelation 12:7-12 began to be fulfilled, when did the increased Satanic activity depicted here take place? Note all the intense activity stated in these verses. According to the amillennial theory all this activity must have taken place between our Lord's statement of Luke 10:18 and Calvary, for the theory demands that at Calvary Satan was bound, imprisoned, shut up and sealed. If this is denied we are driven to the preposterous alternative that this activity is taking place while Satan is bound, imprisoned, shut up and sealed.

We are told that "in II Peter 2:4 we read God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment. Among the angels that sinned was Satan, and he is here described as cast down and delivered into chains. Yet the same Peter says, Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour (I Pet. 5:8). So it is perfectly clear that a fall and an incarceration of Satan may be quite consistent with his continuing restless activity among men."

The statement that Satan was cast down to Tartarus (Hell) is unadulterated imagination. The passage does not make such declaration. Indeed, in view of Peter's further reference to the activity of Satan, who as a roaring lion walketh about, such an assumption is utterly inconsistent.

But let us, for a moment, accept this hypothesis that Satan was included in the phrase **"the angels that sinned."** When were the angels cast into Tartarus? Was it when our Lord made His statement of Luke 10:18? Was it a Calvary? The passage suggests the answer. The reading of II Peter 2:4-7 shows that Peter's statements have a chronological sequence. The angels that sinned; Noah and the flood; the destruction of the cities of the plain, and the deliverance of Lot. This is a chronological list of divine acts. Were not the sinning angels cast down to Tartarus at the time of their rebellion? At least it is put in order as having happened before the flood. But Satan had sinned before the creation of man; was that when the angels were imprisoned? Was he in Tartarus when he tempted man in Eden? was he in Tartarus when gross sin brought divine judgment on Sodom? Is he spoken of as in Tartarus throughout the references to him in the Old Testament? Was he in Tartarus during the life of Job? Such questions show the emptiness of the claim that Satan was numbered amongst the angels that were imprisoned in Tartarus. And rejecting this view lays upon us no hopeless task of having to reconcile Satan's imprisonment in Tartarus with his walking about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour; amillennialists face that

problem.

A summary of the views that have led to the preposterous idea that Satan has been bound since Calvary will be helpful. They are:

1) That the casting of Satan out of Heaven was an historical event that took place during our Lord's ministry.

2) That **"thousand years"** must be taken symbolically.

3) A failure to differentiate between believer's appropriation, by faith, of Christ's victory over Satan, and the future binding of Satan, resulting in the wrong exegesis of Luke 10:18 and Matthew 12:28-29.

4) The assumption that Satan was one of the angels imprisoned in Tartarus.

When we accept the clear statements of Scripture concerning the future restraint that will be put upon Satan for the period of the Millennium, we find no conflict with Scripture. Hence there is no problem as to how a bound, imprisoned, shut up and sealed Satan can actively corrupt man, mislead the nations, and persecute the church.

It is clear that action predicted of Satan in Holy Writ makes it impossible logically to declare that he has been bound since Calvary.

A right appreciation of Satanic activity will not lull us into a sense of false security, but we shall pay necessary heed to the divine injunctions; we shall learn to recognize Satanic devices, wrestle against spiritual wickedness, and resist Satan in the Victorious Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Watching and Waiting, July/September, 1992, Essex, England, pp. 39-43).



What Christians Are

By Milburn R. Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (I Pet. 2:9).

The unity of the saints does not depend upon geography, or upon chronology, but on character, temperament, and spirit. Born-again believers are a privileged people. In Christ we have received many spiritual blessings. When these privileges and blessings are fully understood, Christians are caused to see our great responsibilities to God.

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What Christians Are

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CHRISTIAN PRIVILEGE

At the beginning of my text I see first of all Christian privilege: **“But ye are a chosen generation. . .”** A. T. Robertson renders this from the Greek: “An elect race (*genos eklekton*).” John Calvin gives it: “A race chosen.” Here the word **“generation”** does not mean just the people living at that time, nor does it mean a period of 33 years which we sometimes call a generation. In I Peter 2:9 **“generation”** (*genos*) means “a race” or “class of people.” Adam was the head of a race known as humankind. Christ is the Head of a new race, “an elect race,” known as Christians. This new race consists of all of those born again (I Pet. 1:23).

All believers are an elect race; they make up one great family. They are a species of people different from the common world. They have another spirit, principle, and practice. This is because God choose them to be a special people unto Himself. **“...the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth”** (Deut. 7:6). **“For many are called, but few are chosen”** (Matt. 22:14). **“...but for the elect’s sake, whom he hath chosen. . .”** (Mark 13:20). **“...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth”** (II Thess. 2:13). **“Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom?”** (Jas. 2:5).

The doctrine of unconditional election is taught in holy Scripture. Before the morning of time God chose certain individuals from among Adam’s race to be objects of His love and grace. These, and these only, He purposed to save by the atonement of Jesus Christ, and the effectual call of the Holy Spirit. God could have chosen to save all men without exception, for He had the power to do so. Or, He could have chosen to save none (like in the case of the fallen angels), for He was under no obligation to show His favor to any. But it was His sovereign will and good pleasure to choose some and to leave the others. **“What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded”** (Rom. 11:7).

Israel was for many years God’s elect nation. Isaiah 44:1 speaks of **“Israel, whom I have chosen.”** Christ came and they rejected Him, they hated Him, and they crucified Him. For this the nation of Israel was set aside. The Jews and Gentiles who received Christ as Savior are in this dispensation a chosen race. This rejection by the nation of Israel is only in part (Rom. 11:25) and during

the church age (Rom. 11:1-29).

Peter begins at the proper starting point, for God’s eternal election is the source and spring of all spiritual blessings. God’s elective purpose provided these blessings and secured them for the covenant people. All these good things are bestowed in connection with God’s sovereign election.

CHRISTIAN DIGNITY

Next we note Peter speaks of Christian dignity: **“...a royal priesthood. . .”** Peter follows the Septuagint Version of Exodus 19:6 here. Exodus 19:6 of our version reads: **“And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests. . .”** This verse in Exodus points back to the desire of the Lord that His earthly people should perform intermediary work among the nations, speaking to them for God and interceding, and, for the present time, they have forfeited that privilege. They will not regain this privilege until the millennium (Isa. 66:19-20).

In the New Testament all believers are priests. In his first epistle Peter addresses Christians in five Roman provinces (1:1-2), and then he says: **“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ”** (I Pet. 2:5). In Revelation 1:5-6 we see that every blood-washed believer is a priest: **“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father. . .”** **“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). Those washed in the blood of Jesus are a **“royal priesthood.”**

The word **“royal”** is used of these believer priests because they belong to the King of kings. They are royal in their relation to God and Christ. They wear the royal robe of Christ’s righteousness. They sit at the King’s table and feed on royal food. They are a royal priesthood because they are separated from sin and sinners, for I Peter 2:5 calls them **“a holy priesthood.”** This is a privilege denied to the elect angels.

True Christians are a kingly priesthood. Christ brought into being a new order of the priesthood. Like Melchisedek (Heb. 7:1-2), Christ is a King-Priest: **“Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both”** (Zech. 6:13). Those who constitute the royal priesthood in this age are king-priests. In a sense we are already like kings. We

have the power of kings, in that we have been given power over sin and Satan. We are rich like kings (Eph. 3:8), and we have angels as our servants (Heb. 1:14).

But believers are not yet reigning as they shall during the millennium. We are not yet reigning over the earth: **“Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you”** (I Cor. 4:8). Our reigning as kings over the earth awaits the first resurrection and the return of Christ: **“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witnesses of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years”** (Rev. 20:4-5). We must suffer on earth with Christ before we can reign with Christ on earth (II Tim. 2:12).

What dignity we enjoy being a royal priesthood! As the world would say, blue blood is in our veins. We are members of a royal family. Nobility brings responsibility. We must be careful how we live, lest we bring dishonor to our title and to our King. We also should have very high thoughts of all our brothers and sisters in Christ, for they are all kings and queens.

Believer priests are to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. This is the highest service into which we can enter in time and eternity. There are many spiritual sacrifices which we are to offer as the royal priesthood.

First, there is the sacrifice of self (Phil. 2:17; II Tim. 4:6; I John 3:16). Romans 12:1 commands us to offer our **“bodies a living sacrifice.”** We must lose our life for Christ and the gospel.

Second, there is the sacrifice of singing: **“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name”** (Heb. 13:15).

Third, there is the sacrifice of substance. Paul called the missionary offering he received from the Philippian church **“a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God”** (Phil. 4:18; cf. Acts 24:17).

Fourth, there is the sacrifice of service: **“But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased”** (Heb. 13:16). As

priests this surely includes speaking for God to the people.

Fifth, there is the sacrifice supplication: **“Pray without ceasing”** (I Thess. 5:17; cf. Rom. 8:26-27). We are to extend our prayers and entreat the blessings of God for others.

CHRISTIAN QUALITY

Then Peter calls attention to Christian quality: **“...a holy nation. . .”** This expression is taken from Exodus 19:6 and other Old Testament passages (Lev. 19:2; 20:26; Deut. 7:6; Isa. 62:12). The Israelites were a holy nation, separated from the heathen and consecrated to God’s service. But Israel of old became an unholy nation, and her holiness as a nation will not be restored until the millennium (Isa. 62:12; Zech. 14).

The nations of earth are separated by boundaries and borders. Languages and culture also separate them. But the holy nation Peter speaks of knows no such barriers. It overflows all languages and cultures. All Christians compose one holy nation. We are governed by one Lord and His laws. All believers are a holy nation, separated from the unsaved world and consecrated to God. We all have the **“sanctification of the Spirit”** (II Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2).

CHRISTIAN PECULIARITY

Peter continues by speaking of Christian peculiarity: **“...a peculiar people. . .”** The word “peculiar” does not mean “odd.” The Greek text might better be translated “a people acquired,” or “a people for God’s own possession,” or “a purchased people.” It is the same idea as in Ephesians 1:14 where we read of the **“purchased possession.”** The King James translators’ word “peculiar” is derived from the Latin word *peculium* (property). Believers are God’s possession, acquired through the redeeming work of Christ (Tit. 2:14; I Pet. 1:18-19).

John Gill says on these words: “They are a people for acquisition, purchased, and possessed, as the words may be rendered; whom God has obtained, procured, and purchased for himself, with the precious blood of his Son; hence the Syriac Version renders them. . .a redeemed company; the same with the church of God which he has purchased with his blood, Acts 20:28 and the purchased possession, Eph. 1:14” (*Gill’s Expositor*, Vol. IX, p. 547).

The elect are God’s by right of redemption (Isa. 43:1; I Pet. 1:18-19). If all are equally redeemed by Jesus Christ (believers and unbelievers as some say), then there would be no special reason for believers to serve God. The point that Peter is making is that the chosen generation are a special people because they have been purchased by the death of Christ. The elect race is God’s possession being acquired by the redeeming work of Christ, and in this sense the unregenerate are not God’s

♦ (Continued on page 238)

What Christians Are

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possession.

We must never forget we are not our own; we are God's possession: **"What! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"** (I Cor. 6:19-20). Sometimes, believers think they are their own, and they think they can do any way they please. We belong to the Lord and we must do His will and His work. Like the Apostle Paul, we should ask: **"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"** (Acts 9:6). Or, say like our Lord: **"Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done"** (Luke 22:42).

CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Having given a definite set of characteristics, Peter proceeds to stress the responsibility of the chosen race, the royal priesthood, the holy nation, and the purchased people. He writes: **"...that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."** These words are very much like Isaiah 43:21: **"This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise."** "Praises" in I Peter 2:9 would perhaps better be translated "excellencies" or "virtues." **"To show forth"** in the Greek has the sense of "send a message," or publish abroad His excellencies. The chosen race who are upon this earth are here for a purpose. We are to witness of the greatness of God to the world.

Some Christians spend much time publishing abroad their own virtues. This we should never do, for, at best, we are unprofitable servants. It is God's excellences we are to spread abroad. Those who spend their time spreading the excellencies of God will not lack material.

Darkness and light are often contrasted in the Bible. Conversion is passing from darkness to light. Those to whom Peter was writing were called out of the darkness of heathenism, and some most likely out of the midst of Jewish ignorance.

By nature man is in a state of darkness. He **"walks in darkness"** (I John 1:6), and he loves **"darkness rather than light"** (John 3:19). He is ignorant of spiritual things, of God in all His perfections, and of the claims of God's law upon him. He is ignorant of God's Son and the gospel (II Cor. 4:4). Spiritual darkness covers the hearts of the unconverted, however mentally great or learned, or however illiterate.

Note the light is called by Peter **"his light,"** meaning God's light. God only can create light. He declares in Isaiah 45:7: **"I form the light."** Hence we find

the psalmist saying: **"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"** (Ps. 27:1). **"...in thy light shall we see light"** (Ps. 36:9). **"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"** (II Cor. 4:6).

God chose them before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4; cf. I Pet. 1:2), but He called them in time by the effectual work of the Holy Spirit and the gospel: **"...because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel. . ." (II Thess. 2:13-14; cf. I Pet. 1:23-25). "Moreover whom he predestinated, them he also called. . ." (Rom. 8:30). Calling is what makes election sure: "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure. . ." (II Pet. 1:10).**

Consider also that the light is **"marvellous."** It is marvelous because many are left in the dark dungeon of sin. How wonderful to be among the few effectually called out of ignorance, slavery, and misery. It is marvelous because it comes from a God who is marvelous in the working of His grace and power. The recipients of this call are like a man kept in a dungeon where he never saw light. Then suddenly he is brought out into the light. What wonders seize upon such a man when he suddenly sees the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. How beautiful is the sight of this marvelous light! How glorious to come into the light of the matchless worth of Christ, of freedom from sin, of the joy of salvation, and of the hope of eternal life! Oh, let us act like the children of the day and walk in the light (Eph. 5:8-9).

CONCLUSION

1. The true state of a lost sinner before God is one of spiritual darkness, a darkness associated with all that is wretched and woeful. Reason, without the Spirit, in spite of its natural powers, is spiritual darkness. It cannot apprehend what faith is. Such a person gropes as one without eyesight, stumbling from one thing to another, not knowing what he is doing.

2. What a privilege to be called out of darkness into marvelous light! Oh, to be reckoned among the chosen race, the royal priesthood, the holy nation, and the purchased people! Oh, to resemble the priests under the law and to enjoy kingly dignity! Let us keep our distance from the man whose portion is in this evil world. May we never live a day in this world without showing forth the wisdom, love, mercy, power, sweetness, and faithfulness of our God (Phil. 2:15-16).



The Blood of Jesus Christ

By Frank B. Beck
(1921 - 2007)

Scripture
reading: Exodus
12:1-14



It is said that more than half the flowers in the world are red, or some shade of red. It is hard to find any doctrinal

flower blooming in the garden of sacred Scripture that is not bloody red, or at least shaded with the color of Christ's atonement. The unbelieving modernist minister who walks through the garden of Scripture plucking up the doctrinal flowers of Christ's blood atonement soon creates a barren wilderness void of any spiritual life or faith. Remove the Old Testament types and shadows and promises and prophecies pertaining to the salvation of the sinner by the shed blood of Jesus Christ; remove the New Testament parables and doctrines related to the same, and you have very little of the Holy Bible left.

"The life of the flesh is in the blood" (Lev. 17:11). A person cannot live without blood. Take the blood out of the body and it is dead. A denomination, or religion, or pulpit that withdraws the blood of Christ from its theology is dead. It ought to be buried in the burning caverns of Hell. It ought to be cremated.

Why is the shed blood of Jesus Christ so important?

FIRST, CONSIDER THE NATURE OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.

What kind of blood did Jesus Christ have in His body, as He sojourned here among men?

First, let me say that He had physical blood, human blood. He is called the Son of Man (Luke 19:10), and, even now is designated as, **"The man Christ Jesus"** (I Tim. 2:5), though risen from the dead, and ascended to Heaven. Now, if He was, and is a real man, then He must have human blood coursing through His veins.

Second, Christ had pure blood, though He had physical blood. Though He had human blood, yet it was holy blood. Of this we are certain, for of Him it is written, that He was **"without sin"** (Heb. 4:15), and also that **"in him is no sin"** (I John 3:5). Had Christ a human father His blood would have been tainted with Adamic sin. He would have been a sinner, as all other men. But by means of the virgin birth, the body and

the blood of Jesus Christ were created in the womb of the virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 1:18). It was prepared of God (Heb. 10:5). Therefore, it was holy (Luke 1:35). And thus it was with His blood, as with His body. No wonder Jesus' blood is called **"precious"** (I Pet. 1:19).

Third, Christ had powerful blood. Of this, I shall speak more later. It is more powerful than the blood of the best of men. In Genesis 4:10 the blood of the martyred Abel cried out for punishment, for vengeance. But in Hebrews 12:24 **"Jesus. . .and to the (His) blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than that of Abel,"** for it cries out for pardon! Reject the blood of Christ, and you reject pardon.

That precious blood of Jesus is the **"blood of the new testament,"** or covenant (Mark 14:24). Yes, it is the **"blood of the everlasting covenant"** (Heb. 13:20). Reject that blood and you reject the only covenant God has made with sinners whereby they may be forgiven. **"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"** (Heb. 10:28-29).

The blood of Jesus Christ is like the body of Jesus, it is incorruptible, it is eternal (Acts 2:31). Where, then, is that blood now? Actually the blood was poured out on the cross and fell to the ground at the foot of the cross, and soaked therein. Legally it "sprinkles now the throne of grace" and covers our sin (Lev. 4:6). Spiritually it continually cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7).

Is there blood in the body of Jesus Christ now? In the face of much popular scholarship I must confess that I am forced to believe from what I read in the Holy Scriptures, that Jesus Christ does have a resurrection body of blood, as well as **"flesh and bones"** (Luke 24:39). The fact that blood is not mentioned in Luke 24:39 is probably due to the fact that blood cannot be felt, as could the body, and the bones of the risen Redeemer. The argument that **"flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God"** (I Cor. 15:50) means that it cannot do so in its present, mortal condition. That is proved from the context (see vv. 47-54). It must be **"changed"** (v. 51). I believe Christ has physical blood in His body of glorified flesh and bone, human blood and sinless, because He is still a Man, as well as the eternal God (I Tim. 2:5). And He is coming again as the Son of Man (Matt. 25:31) to judge the quick and the dead (John 5:27-29).

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Blood of Jesus

(Continued from page 238) ♦

SECOND, CONSIDER THE NEED OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.

What does that precious shed blood of Jesus do? Upon the altar it makes atonement between God and the sinner (Lev. 17:11). By that blood we are purchased by God (Acts 20:28); we are justified, or made righteous (Rom. 5:9); we have redemption (Eph. 1:7); we are made nigh to God (Eph. 2:13); have peace (Col. 1:20); have remission, or forgiveness (Heb. 9:22); enter into the presence of God in worship, and prayer (Heb. 10:19); are sanctified (Heb. 13:12); and cleansed from all sin (1 John 1:7); washed from our sins (Rev. 1:5), making our garments white in its crimson flow (Rev. 7:14); and by that blood we overcome the devil (Rev. 12:11).

My friend, apart from this blood you are a complete stranger to these eternal blessings. The gospel bells sweetly chime, but they are all tuned to the keynote of Calvary. These joys I have just mentioned are precious jewels indeed, and rich is the one who possesses them, but these precious pearls are strung on the red cord of blood atonement (Leslie Greening). Listen, "The best robe, and the only robe to cover a sinner, was made in the loom of Calvary" (Winifred Sterett). Martin Luther was never more right than when he said: "The Cross is a pulpit from which the Father preaches repentance and remission of sins unto a fallen race."

What good is all this if you do not appropriate it? If you do not believe it? The blood must be applied. Let me illustrate. You are in a darker Egypt than the children of Israel were ever in (Ex. 1-12). Also the warning goes forth without end, over pulpit, radio, and press; death is coming! (Ex. 12:12; Heb. 9:27). But God has a remedy for His people. An innocent lamb is to be taken and slain. Its blood is to be poured out into a basin. That blood is to be sprinkled upon the door post of the house, and God said: "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you" (Ex. 12:13). Sinner friend, the Lamb has already been slain. Christ was that Lamb (John 1:29). The blood has already been shed. BY FAITH PLACE YOURSELF UNDER THE PROTECTION OF JESUS' BLOOD! Believe God's Word, when He says; "When I see the blood I will pass over you" in the judgment. But I warn you, the blood must be applied!

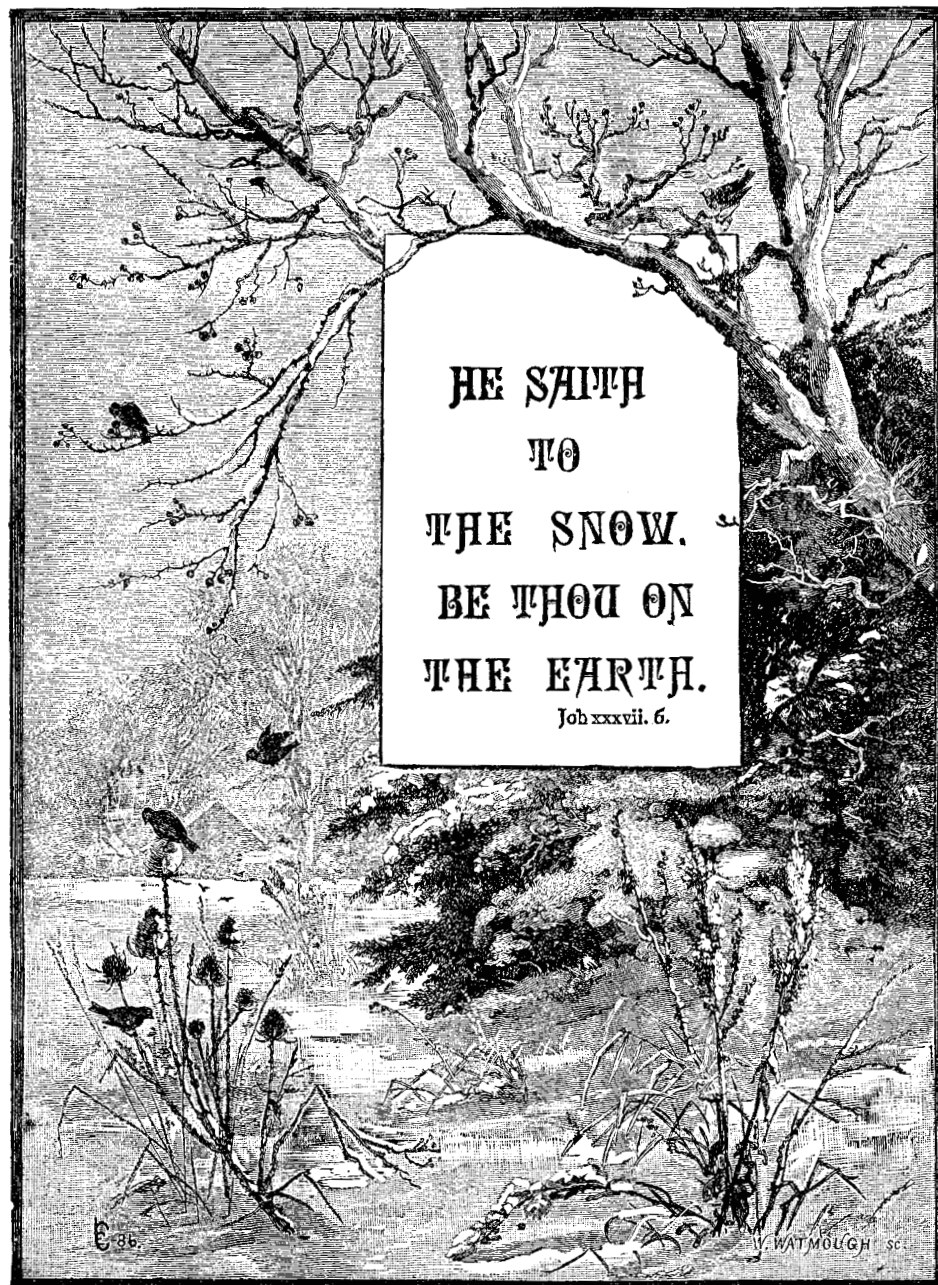
Read Joshua chapter 2, and see how Rahab the harlot of Jericho received the messengers of Israel, and also their God

(Heb. 11:31). Warned by the two spies that her city was doomed she had only ONE HOPE of escape. She was to hang a scarlet thread (Joshua 2:18), or cord (V. 15) in the window of her home. She and all she had who hoped to be saved must remain in that home shielded by the scarlet thread. That is all she had to depend upon. The word of those men, and the scarlet thread. Read Joshua 6, and see how Rahab and her people were saved (6:21-25).

I hardly need tell you that this world, like Jericho of old, is condemned. If you will not believe the Word of God, believe your newspapers, believe your scientists. Read the Book of Revelation. Read II Peter 3. Is that no hope? Yes, there is a scarlet thread of blood that runs from Genesis to Revelation. It is the blood of Jesus Christ. Believe in His blood, and God will be merciful to you in propitiation (Rom. 3:24-26). Trust in the scarlet thread of Christ's redeeming blood, and when this world falls at the last trumpet, though you be as great a sinner as Rahab you shall sing with those who stand before the Lamb in the holiness and the happiness of Heaven (Rev. 7:9-17).

In an old German city there is a sight that attracts the attention of every passer-by. Way up on the top of a certain house there is a statue of a lamb. A curious story is connected with it. When the owner was building the house, he lost his balance and fell from the roof. He would have been dashed to pieces except that he fell on top of a pet lamb grazing on the grass below. The man fell with his whole weight upon the lamb. It was crushed to death, but he arose with little hurt. He found the little lamb at his feet in blood and death. Therefore, he raised this statue on the roof as a memorial of the lamb that died for him. Friends, I want to turn your eyes, as I close, up to the throne of God. There is the Lamb Who willingly died in my place (Rev. 5:6). I had lost my way. I was slipping, falling fast into Hell; but, that precious Lamb stood in my place. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Friend, will you trust the blood of Jesus Christ to wash your sins away now? Will you do it now? Remember, you can never go to Hell trusting in the blood of Jesus Christ! Amen!



BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 10-1-2012 to 10-31-2012

Beginning Balance.....\$5,130.58

RECEIPTS:

Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS225.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 100.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY 200.00
Calvary Ind. B. C., Everson, WA 200.00
..... 725.00
TOTAL.....5,855.58

EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time 450.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$450.00
..... \$5,405.58
Interest + .04
..... 5,405.62
Less Corbin, KY des. -843.72
ENDING BALANCE.....\$4,561.90

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance.....\$1,043.72

RECEIPTS:

.....0.00
TOTAL..... 1,043.72

EXPENDITURES:

WCTT200.00
ENDING BALANCE.....\$843.72



BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 10-1-2012 to 10-31-2012

Beginning Balance.....\$1,540.80

RECEIPTS:

Amazing Grace B. C., Stockdale, TX 50.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS300.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL..... 60.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX 50.00
Bible Believer's B. C., Naples, ID 50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV313.45
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY 300.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL..... 25.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 100.00
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC50.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL.....50.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK.....35.00
Harold Flynn, Craigsville, WV 50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV 100.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM.....100.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC 50.00
Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY 20.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH.....100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN50.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR..... 50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL.....100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX 30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Warren, OH 75.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA 25.00
Subscriptions76.00
Anonymous \$2,200.00
Dividing checks 315.00
Sub Total\$4,824.45
TOTAL.....\$6,365.25

EXPENDITURES:

Printing..... 550.00
Postage 685.97
Wages 2,300.00
FICA 175.90
Dividing checks 300.00
Supplies 122.16
Total Expenditures \$4,134.03
..... 2,231.22
Bank charge Oct. -13.00
ENDING BALANCE..... \$2,118.22

Hymn Histories and Scriptures

By Nathaniel Hille
of Caldwell, Kansas



Joy To the World

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise" (Ps. 98:4).

Joy To The World by Isaac Watts

Unbeknown to most in our modern day, this hymn was not originated as a "Christ-mass" hymn. If one will look at the words of this hymn, one would find a lack of any references to shepherds, angelic choruses, wise men, manglers, birth, etc. This hymn is based upon the 98th Psalm, which I implore the reader to at once take up his/her Bible and commence reading thereof and compare the words of the Holy Spirit with those of Bro. Watts'. The true rendering is that this is an anthem for the Messiah's 2nd Coming and Kingdom. However, let me point out before going further, that even if the writer had intended this as a *Christ-mass* hymn, is there anything unscriptural about this hymn? I have actually heard some "Baptists" refer to this hymn as "unscriptural." This was said because of pure willful ignorance. This hymn is not "unscriptural," but blatantly and transparently Scriptural. A simple perusing of the words declares forth the Biblical accuracy of the hymn so many callously and unabashedly refer to as a "carol."

"*Joy to the World*" was originally titled "*The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom*." It originally appeared in Watt's hymnal of 1719. The music that is commonly used for this hymn today was arranged by Lowell Mason, a well known American church musician in the 19th century. Watts wrote this rejoicing psalm for the praise of Jehovah for His protection of His people and the anticipation of His glorious return ruling and reigning upon the earth. Watts' intention, mind, and heart set was always looking to the return of Christ in the air for His people and the setting of His physical kingdom upon the earth.

In a day of such sinfulness and unrighteousness in which we live, we ought to sing this song to the praise and glory of Jesus Christ our King in anticipation of His coming again for us, and the setting up of His kingdom of righteousness and peace. **"Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity"** (Ps. 98:9). Amen. Maran-atha.



**The Rantings
and Ravings
of
Brother
Ritechus
N.
Dignation
by Joseph Harris**



Sowin' and Reapin'

Many a church and many a Christian have sown seeds that brought a bitter harvest. The Bible is dead on when it speaks of sowin' and reapin'. The law of the harvest is so ingrained in us that it is hard to believe folks think they can sow seeds of unrighteousness and reap righteousness. Yet it happens every day. I call it God's gardening law, and it is absolute.

This law is so important that God started teaching it to us while we were still young'uns. Every kid raised on a farm grew up watching the seeds that were planted in the ground sprout up and grow and produce fruit or vegetables. Any kid with plantin' experience is not foolish enough to think that if you plant corn, you will get watermelons. They know that whatever goes in the ground, that's what's comin' up. Period. Peas give you peas and okra gives you okra. That fact is so bedrock, only a fool would question it. Yet unholy gardens are planted every day.

So why do people try to mock God and make a fool out of Brother Paul. He said that **"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."** If it's true in the gardening world, then brother it's even more true in the spiritual world. You plant goodness, you will reap mercy. If you plant compassion, someone will be kind to you. If you plant forgiveness, then you will be glad you did when someone forgives you of some sorry thing you did or said to them. If you don't believe in the law of the harvest, smile at someone when they pass and they will smile back. Growl at them and you'll get the same.

We also learned growin' up that the

harvest is multiplied. When you plant one little kernal of corn in the ground, it grows up into a great big stalk and then produces one or two ears of corn with hundreds of kernels. So if you plant unforgiveness, you reap not only unforgiveness, but the gall of bitterness. However, if we plant purity and morality, we will reap a clear conscience and be able to stand proudly in the presence of others unashamed.

Maybe the most important sowin' and reapin' we do is how we treat God. If you live a lifetime of rejecting God and die in your sins, then brother, you will reap rejection from God with an eternity in the lake of fire forever separated from God. If you don't want God in this life, then you won't have Him in eternity. But if you plant the seed of acceptance, repent and accept God's way of salvation in Jesus Christ, then after death, you will reap acceptance with God and He will say, "Enter thou into the joys of my kingdom." You really do reap what you sow!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Elder Deryl Merritt would like to announce his willingness to come and speak to any of our churches on the importance of the local assembly. He can be contacted by phone at 315-371-6935, or by mail at 801 53rd Ave. W, Lot 3-D, Bradenton, FL 34207-3428.

The Amazing Grace Baptist Church of Stockdale, Texas is in need of a pastor. The church believes in preaching and teaching the doctrines of grace and the Lord's church. Any interested brother my contact Bro. Charles Reddin at (830) 401-0310, if there is no answer please leave a message.

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The Landmark Baptist Church of Collinsville, IL is in need of a pastor. Any interested Elders may call (618) 288-4236 for more information.

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

The Liverpool Independent Baptist Church of Liverpool, New York (north of Syracuse) is searching for a sovereign grace pastor. The church believes in the doctrines of grace, the local church, and is pre-trib and pre-mil. Interested brethren should contact Bro. Greg Sigworth at (315) 677-3819.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Galena, OH is in need of a pastor. Any interested candidates possessing the qualifications and traits concerning the office as found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 are asked to contact either of the following: Bro. Randy Coffey at (614) 871-2406 or email recoffeypot@aol.com, or Bro. Joe Vass at (614) 846-8699 or email jamijoe@wowway.com.

The Bethel Bible Baptist Church, PO Box 85, Mansfield, LA is in need of a pastor. Any interested Elder should call Connie McMellon at 318-872-1647.

The Glade Creek Baptist Church, Summersville, WV, is in need of a pastor. This church believes and preaches the doctrines of grace and church truth. Any interested Elder should call Bro. Rodney Perkins at (304) 742-3050 or Bro. Allen Frame at (304) 742-5775.

The Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Marion, IL is in need of a replacement pastor. Elder Raymond T. Ellis is the current pastor, but due to his age, is needing to resign. The church believes and preaches the doctrines of grace and the local church. Any interested Elder may contact Elder Ellis at (618) 983-8697 or Bro. Gary Ratley at (618) 841-0228.

The Twinbrook Hills Baptist Church of Hamilton, OH is prayerfully seeking a pastor. Organized in 1938, the church holds to historic Baptist truths, including the Doctrines of Grace. Please visit the church's website at <http://twinbrook.net> to view the Church Constitution and other items that describe our beliefs and show what the church is doing today. Please contact Bro. Chris Willis at Elohimfirst@gmail.com or more information.

Any church that is without a pastor, please feel free to send your information in regards to the pastoral position for publication in these announcements.