

# The Berea Baptist Banner

XX, Number 2

Mantachie, Mississippi, February 5, 2000

Whole Number 251

## The Holy Scriptures

By Willard Willis

Monroe, Ohio

We are in complete agreement with the apostles Paul and Peter when they said, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the name of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16, 17). "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:20, 21).

The following are some of the statements made by our presidents relative to the Holy Scriptures.

"The first and almost only book



Willard Willis

deserving of universal attention is the Bible. I speak as a man of the world, and I say to you, 'Search the Scriptures.' The earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens of their country and respectable members of society" (John Quincy Adams).

"It is the rock on which our Republic rests" (Andrew Jackson).

"Almost every man who has by his

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## A Review of 1999

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

Most of us are now convinced the computer bug (Y2K) was a humbug. None of the terrible things happened which were predicted by the doomsday prophets. Preachers, given over to sensationalism, wrote and sold books on the subject. It seems Y2K helped sell many new computers and disaster supplies in stores. It caused banks to merge (our local bank merged four times in 1999), destroying local control. Our government printed extra paper money (enough so each person could have an extra \$2,000), setting the stage for runaway inflation. Some covered in bunkers fearing Y2K, while others traveled to the Mount of Olives to await Christ's return.

**SOME WORLD EVENTS**

In 1999 Christians suffered around



the world from their enemies. The persecution began early, when a Hindu mob attacked a Sri Lankan church on New Year's Day. Members of Calvary Prayer Center in Udugampola in the Gampaha district

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## The Church That Jesus Built

By David A. Shortt

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

The church that Jesus built. That seems like such a simple statement. But really, behind it is a question of the ages. Each and every organization that wishes to be affiliated with Jesus claims to be that church of Jesus Christ, from the Roman Catholic Church to the Protestant churches. (NOTE: When I say Protestant churches I refer to the churches that came into existence immediately after the Reformation and that made a deliberate separation from the shackles of Rome. In other words, the reform leaders were at one time Roman Catholic, then they separated from Rome in protest of their heresy and cruelty to those who did not attend to those heresies they believed in.) There are many "churches" that are not true Protestants according to this term in its true sense. Most of our "churches" and sects started up long after the Reformation, so they certainly are not

Protestants in the true sense.

There were also churches besides Roman Catholics in existence before the Reformation. They were small

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## How Christ Saves Sinners

By William Tyndale

(1494 - 1536)

The fall of Adam has made us heirs of the vengeance and wrath of God, and heirs of eternal damnation; and has brought us into captivity and bondage under the devil. And the



William Tyndale

devil is our lord, and our ruler, our head, our governor, our prince, yea, and our god. And our will is locked and knit faster

unto the will of the devil, than could an hundred thousand chains bind a man unto a post. Unto the devil's will consent we with all our hearts, with all our minds, with all our might, power, strength, will and lusts; [so that the law and will of the devil is written as well in our hearts as in our members, and we run headlong after the devil with full zeal, and the whole swing of all

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## Life in the Early Church

Part 1

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar

off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship,

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"THOU HAST GIVEN A BANNER TO THEM THAT FEAR THEE, THAT IT MAY BE DISPLAYED BECAUSE OF THE TRUTH" (PSALMS 60:4).



Editor: Milburn Cockrell  
Foreign Correspondent: Curtis Pugh

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## A Review of 1999

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were praying in the early hours of Jan. 1 when the crowd attacked them with stones. Portions of the church building were damaged and six children were injured.

Christians feared for their lives in Indonesia as religious violence on Indonesia's riot-torn Ambon Island escalated. In early March, outnumbered government troops opened fire on Christian and Muslim mobs battling each other with knives, spears and Molotov cocktails.

The U.S. State Department released its own "naughty or nice" list regarding religious persecution, the first of what will be a series of annual reports called for by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act. The 1,000-page report covers the status of religious rights in 194 countries. Afghanistan, China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Sudan were singled out as countries that severely repress the religious freedoms of their citizens.

Saudi Arabia led the World Watch Persecution List compiled annually by Open Doors. It was followed by Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, North Korea,

Laos, Vietnam, China and Brunei.

According to the World Evangelical Fellowship, there have been more people martyred for their Christian faith in the 20th century than in the previous 19 centuries combined. One estimate is that this number is in the range of 120 million people.

Israel elected a new prime minister, Ehud Barak, a Jew who is friendly with the Arab world. This liberal was elected with the help of President Bill Clinton's campaign managers. He seems determined to trade land for a frail promise of peace.

Another sad note in the Middle East was the death of king Hussein of Jordan at the age of 63. He was a symbol of endurance and a voice for peace in the region.

At the year's end Boris Yeltsin resigned as president of Russia. Prime Minister Valadimir Putin, a former KGB officer, quickly assumed control of the government.

The year ended with America turning the Panama Canal over to Communist China. This will go down in history as the greatest blunder of the U.S. in the 20th century.

The world witnessed large-scale cruelty as Kosovo's Albanian majority fled Serbs and government-approved terror. NATO's 78 days of bombing tried to stop it. Yet Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, indicted for war crimes by an international court, clung to power. Though most of the 850,000 ethnic Albanians returned, they still need the protection of peacekeepers.

The U.S. economy boomed. Unemployment was around 4 percent, a 29-year low. Inflation was under 3 percent.

There were earthquakes in different places. There were two in Turkey three months apart that killed 18,000 people. In Taiwan some 2,400 died as thousands of buildings crumbled.

The east coast of the U.S. was hit by five hurricanes. Floyd was the most destructive, damaging 12,000 homes and killing more than 50 people. It inflicted an estimated \$5-billion damage in North Carolina, where it choked rivers with sewage and agricultural chemicals.

#### EVENTS IN THE U. S.

In December of 1998 President Bill Clinton was impeached by the House of Representatives. In January of 1999 he faced possible conviction by the Senate on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice regarding his sexual activities with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. At the time of the trial many Democrats as well as Republicans knew he was also accused of rape and other high crimes, but none of these things were mentioned. The lying, leftist, liberal press

as to these other charges were as quiet as a church mouse.

Any person who heard the trial could tell most had decided the case before hearing the evidence. Some Democrats boasted of "sleeping" during the trial. None of this would have been allowed in an ordinary court of law. Few witnesses were called.

In reality better than 67 senators knew that President Clinton was guilty on both charges, but less than half voted to convict on Feb. 12. Having sworn to hear the evidence and to do their duty about half perjured themselves and obstructed justice—the same thing that the president did!

The statement on the Supreme Court Building which says, "Equal justice under law" now means except for bigshot politicians. The president was seen to be above the law. Thus we set the stage for a tyrant to rule over us. It is now clear that the liberals in Washington will not impeach a president regardless of what he does.

On March 4th Harry M. Blackmun, retired Supreme Court Justice who wrote the 1973 decision that legalized abortion nationwide, departed this life. He went to the court of the Most High to face 40,000,000 witnesses who were murdered by abortion.

In the fall of 1999 Jesse Ventura, governor of Minnesota and an atheist, said that organized religion is "a sham" that serves as "a crutch for weak-minded people." In an interview published in the November issue of *Playboy* magazine he said religion "tells people to go out and stick their noses in other people's business." He added, "The religious right wants to tell people how to live."

In a life-ranging interview that outraged people across the political spectrum, Ventura also said that the Navy's "Tailhook" sex harassment scandal was "much ado about nothing," spoke favorably about drugs and prostitution, said that he believes John F. Kennedy was killed by a conspiracy of the "military-industrial complex." Having learned from the Clinton trial that bigshot politicians are above the law, he boasted, in a dictatorial manner, saying, "There is no one in this state who can tell me what to do." He then boasted that he would not apologize for anything he said in the *Playboy* interview.

I fear for my country more than ever before in its history. I expect we will have more and more leaders of the moral and spiritual stature of Bill Clinton and Jesse Ventura. The leading contenders for the office of president in 2000 (Democrats and Republicans) are all global socialists. The few who are otherwise will not even have a dog's chance of being nominated by either party.

We can look forward to more executive orders from our president which circumvent the Constitution and put us in the hands of the New World Order (alias Communism and Socialism). We will continue hearing from our leaders the only way to peace is unilateral disarmament and nuclear freezes.

Americans are rapidly becoming moral morons. We are so stupid as to believe you can have freedom without moral responsibility. We do not vote for those who promise us more freedom and less governmental intervention. Rather we vote for those who promise to give us health care and Social Security. We foolishly think that a man who cheats on his wife will be honest with the taxpayers. We never seem to realize that the government has nothing to give us but what it has taken from us! We don't need the government to take care of us; we (the people of this Republic) need to take care of the government. Our government should be run for the good of the common people, not for the good of the politicians and special interest groups.


The U.S. is not ruled by the majority, but a very small minority. Homosexuals and lesbians make up no more than one to two percent of the population (the liberal press puts the number at 10 percent), yet they dominate the political scene. The Clinton Administration is saturated with them. We deny the positive rights of the majority to protect the negative rights of a few. You can't pray or read the Bible in public schools lest you offend the atheists. Never mind the denial of this right offends the vast majority. The silent majority needs to become the vocal majority. It is the squeaky wheel that gets the grease.

While I fear we are beyond the point of return I will continue to use my freedom to fight on for truth and righteousness. I am not so dumb as to think that Big Brother will not sooner or later stop such independent voices as this paper. Will it be the IRS or the ATF? I know not who or when. But he that does not use his freedom to defend his freedom does not deserve his freedom.

Let us not be like Martin Niemoeller, a Lutheran pastor who was sent to the Dachau Concentration Camp in 1938. He lamented: "In Germany, the Nazis first came for the communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up be-

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**Cockrell's**



**Corner**

*(The views expressed in this column are strictly those of the editor of this paper. They do not necessarily represent the views of supporters or readers.)*

## DID THE ISRAELITES EAT A DINOSAUR?

Psalm 74 sets forth the sovereignty of God. In verses 12-17 this is proved by two events: the Exodus and the creation of the world. Verses 13-14 are



a reference to the parting of the Red Sea so the Israelites could pass over: **"Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters. Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness."** I have been told by some that this means no more than a crocodile washed upon the shore, and the jackals of the wilderness ate it. This explanation does not satisfy me.

Strange things are said about leviathan in the Bible. I note here in Psalm 74:14 that he had more than one head: ". . . the heads (plural) of leviathan (singular). . ." He had two heads and maybe more. This is not true of a crocodile or a whale, for some try to make leviathan either a crocodile or

whale.

*Strong's Concordance* gives as one of the meanings of the Hebrew word (*livyathan*) translated "leviathan" to be "a large sea-creature." Looking at other verses where the word occurs we learn much about leviathan. It can be seen from Psalm 104:25-26 that he is a sea creature: **"So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein."** From Isaiah 27:1 we learn he is a sea serpent of some kind: **"In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon in the sea."** J. P. Green in *A Literal Translation of the Bible* renders "leviathan" as "sea-monster."

The most detailed description of leviathan is found in Job 41 where God Himself is the speaker to Job. I do not see how any person can read Job 41 and fail to see that God is telling Job about a sea-serpent and a plesiosaur-like creature in the ocean. The

description in Job 41 will not fit either the crocodile or whale. Humans could not capture or slay leviathan (Job 41:7, 9-10, 26). Humans have captured and killed both crocodiles and whales until they are now on the endangered species list. Leviathan makes the sea boil (Job 41:31). This sea-monster was something like the fire-breathing dragons of ancient times: **"By his neesings a light doth shine, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out. Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron. His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth"** (Job 41:18-21).

All things considered, it would seem leviathan was the fiercest of all

the aquatic dinosaurs—something like the Lochness monster. Seeing that Psalm 74:14 says that God gave **"him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness,"** it would seem in parting the Red Sea God broke the heads of a leviathan. Some two million Israelites ate him.

It is also plain from Job 41 that leviathan is a type of the Devil (Job 41:3-4, 9-11, 23, 33). Verse 34 leaves little doubt: **"He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride."** Only the Devil beholds high things and is the father of all the children of pride (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:11-19). Both leviathan (Isa. 27:1) and Satan (Gen. 3:1-2, 4, 13-14; II Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9, 14-15; 20:2) are called a serpent. There must be some comparison between this sea-monster and Satan; otherwise one would not be compared to another. While I would not go so far as to say Satan look like leviathan in Job 41, I would say that if we could see the form of Satan it would be a serpentine form. Satan is not called **"that old serpent"** without a good reason.

## A Review of 1999

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cause I was a Protestant. Finally they came for me, but there was no one left to speak up."

### YEAR OF THE SHOOTER

While the "shot heard 'round the world'" may have been fired at Lexington and Concord, the shots heard around the Christian world were fired April 20th, when seniors Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris killed 13 people and wounded others during a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. The bloodbath went on for four hours, during which the shooters attacked students and at least one teacher, planted bombs and booby traps (including a bomb rigged to a propane tank that failed to explode) then took their own lives.

On May 20th in Conyers, Ga., Thomas "T. J." Solomon Jr. opened fire at Heritage High School, wounding six. A judge ordered him tried as an adult.

On August 10th in suburban Los Angeles, white supremacist Burford Furrow Jr. opened fire on a Jewish community center, wounding three children and two adults.

On September 15th Larry Gene Ashbrook opened fire at Wedgewood Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, killing seven people. Ashbrook, wearing blue jeans and a black jacket and smoking a cigarette, entered the church as young people were listen-

ing to a Christian rock band play. After shooting a janitor and two others he entered the sanctuary and began cursing and making derogatory comments about Baptists. He taunted Christians saying, "What you believe is all bull \*\*\*\*."

Ashbrook fatally shot three adults and four teens. Seven others ranging in age from 12-41 were wounded, three seriously. He exploded a pipe bomb in the church, but no one was harmed by the blast.

As police entered the building, Ashbrook sat down in a rear pew and fatally shot himself in the head.

Wedgewood received strong support from Christians around the world. Within three weeks the church had received more than 13,000 e-mails, 20,000 cards and letters, hundreds of posters and banners, and \$100,000 in donations.

As expected the liberal media and the global socialists used these events to call for more gun control. They have never realized that guns kill no one, but people kill people. Nothing was said about evolution, secular humanism, and socialism being taught to young people in public schools which destroy all moral teachings. Nothing was said about the breakdown in the home. The media and the politicians would treat the symptoms, not the disease. There were no stories in the media about hate crimes by Satanists against Christians.

### RELIGIOUS EVENTS

One of the biggest developments in church unity came Oct. 31 when representatives from the Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican signed a "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification." Leaders from both churches hope this signing will end the rift between Lutherans and Catholics that dates from Oct. 31, 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the Wittenberg door. Another harlot daughter is going home to Mama.

The ecumenical movements saw more progress in August when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) approved full communion with the U.S. Episcopal Church. Here two harlot daughters got together to make it easier to go home to Mama.

Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention, was convicted Feb. 27 of racketeering and grand theft. Lyons stole millions of dollars from his denomination so he could afford to live "la vida loca" with his mistress—a lifestyle that included luxury homes, cars, travel and jewels. Lyons stepped down from the job only after being convicted by a court, not by his conscience.

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## A Review of 1999

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Still, Lyons was edged out from the "most embarrassing Christian" award for 1999 by Atlanta Falcons safety Eugene Robinson. On the day before the Super Bowl, Robinson accepted the Bart Starr Award from the Christian ministry Athletes in Action, which honored the outspoken Christian for displaying "high moral character." That night, Robinson was arrested after offering an undercover police officer \$40 for a sex act.

Lauren Stratford is anxious to be a victim, but *Cornerstone* magazine just keeps saying no. Stratford made news in 1989 when *Cornerstone* published an investigative article proving that her claims of satanic ritual abuse, torture, rape and infanticide simply weren't true. A decade later *Cornerstone* reported that Stratford was back with a new name and a new story. This time she claimed to be a Nazi death camp survivor who had been tortured by the infamous Dr. Joseph Mengele. Her story was horrifying, compelling—and completely false. The Christian publishing world's leading investigative publication made it clear that Stratford is a victim only of her own tortured imagination.

Most of us are still wondering what happened to outspoken atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair, along with hundreds of thousands of dollars from non-profits under her control. Though O'Hair was rumored to be having the last laugh somewhere in New Zealand, according to a March report in the *Washington Post* a growing body of evidence suggests that O'Hair and family members were kidnapped, forced to hand over \$500,000, then murdered. She didn't have a prayer.

*Virtue* magazine, a Christian women's magazine, ceased publication after its December/January 2000 issue. *The Baptist Examiner*, Ashland, Kentucky, a strong paper in defense of sovereign grace, Landmarkism, and premillennialism, ceased publication in May of 1999.

With the exception of Gov. Jesse Ventura, the "best Christian-bashing" award goes to Ted Turner, the estranged husband of Hanoi Jane. Turner stuck his foot in his mouth during a Feb. 16 address to the National Family Planning and Reproductive Association. Turner, now the vice chairman of Time-Warner, said the Ten Commandments are "out of date," and added, "If you're only going to have 10 rules, I don't know if (prohibiting) adultery should be one of them." He also said his pro-abortion audience should be able to prevail because their opponents are "a

whole bunch of dummies." Asked what he would say to Pope John Paul II, who heads the Catholic Church which opposes abortion and birth control, Turner responded with an ethnic slur, saying, "Ever seen a Polish mine detector?" then showed the crowd his foot. Turner then suggested the Pope should "get with it. Welcome the 20th century."

But unlike Ventura who lacks the moral courage to admit he is wrong, Turner later extended his "heartfelt apologies" for having been caught saying what he really believes.

On Oct. 24th Jerry Falwell, who is known for supporting the Bible's teaching that homosexual activity is a sin, brought a message of God's love and forgiveness to 200 homosexuals invited into his church. The conference was organized by Falwell and Mel White, an author who ghostwrote Falwell's autobiography before revealing his own homosexuality. Jerry's moral Fall continues very well.

The American Bible Society launched the most ambitious Bible distribution program in its history, a \$90 million project that will distribute Bibles in over 60 countries where Bibles are in short supply.

Gideons International celebrated its centennial year in 1999 by announcing plans to give away a total of one billion Bibles by the end of 2002. In 100 years, the group has distributed 850 million copies of the Bible through hotels, prisons, military installations, hospitals, schools and airplanes. The Gideons are currently distributing Bibles in 172 countries at the rate of 45 million per year.

### EVENTS AMONG OUR PEOPLE

How a Baptist church is to be organized continued to be a very hot issue among our people in 1999. Some have been showing their true colors by glorifying the doctrine of a universal, invisible church. The King James Bible debate continues to rage. Some brethren now declare in print that Jesus Christ came in A. D. 70, and this fulfilled all prophecies about the second coming of Jesus Christ. This teaching is not coming from the Bible, but from the book, *The Parousia*, by J.

Stuart Russell.

On Sunday morning, April 11, 1999, Elder Curtis Pugh and his wife, Janet, joined our church on promise of a letter from the Beverly Manor Baptist Church, Washington, Ill. On May 10th the Beverly Manor Baptist Church granted their letters to our church. The money sent to Beverly Manor earmarked for Bro. Pugh and Romanian missions was returned to the churches by Beverly Manor Baptist Church. This created a problem for Bro. Pugh who planned to leave for Romania on May 18th. Most of the churches sent the money on to our church with great speed. Others forwarded it within a month. Some churches and brethren sent extra money and with some money from our own church the Pughs were able to leave on time. In the change-over Bro. Pugh lost some support due to the manner of his departure from Beverly Manor and due to some supporters not being in doctrinal agreement with our church. However, I am glad to report that the Pughs are in language school in Romania and doing well. He suffered almost no loss of funds. Although some withdrew support, a number of new churches started to support the work and some increased their offerings.

In the early part of 1999 my book came out on *Here Comes the Bride!* It has sold reasonably well—about 700 copies to date. Those favorable to the Baptist bride have praised the book, and, as expected, anti-Landmarkers and weak Landmarkers do not care for the book. Also I put out my book on *The Song of Solomon*. It was printed in limited edition, but we have sold about 100 or more. And as promised, I brought back into print my book on *The Doctrine of Hell*.

In 2000 we plan to reprint *Rethinking the Atonement* by T. P. Simmons and perhaps even his *Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine* (the 1,500 we printed are now all sold). This year I want to print my commentary on Matthew 24-25. Also I want to reprint my old tract on *The Gate to Glory*.

On our church web page we are beginning to put my outlines on various books of the Bible. These will be

scanned in as they are and errors in them will be corrected as we can get the time. It will be called "Outlines for Country Preachers by a Country Preacher." These may be of help to some young country preacher, but I am sure they will be of no interest to the great scholars of our time.

In 1999 we upgraded our recording equipment. We now record on a mini-disk which is then put on a master cassette tape. We now also have a new master cassette tape recorder. It is a Tascam 112MKII. It will give us a better quality original tape. Some of my radio messages have been put in textbooks in some of the Christian schools in Canada. The total offerings for the Broadcast for 1999 were \$13,437.07, of which almost all was used to pay for radio time.

I shall remember 1999 as a year of hard work for the Cockrells. My work load increased some and my wife's a hundredfold. Most of this was due to Marsha Kiser (my daughter) leaving our church staff to work with our Christian school. We hope to secure new help in 2000. We cannot hire just any person, for we handle much money. We must have a person with some abilities who works cheap. What we really need is one person in charge of each of the following things: the bookstore, the library, bookkeeping for about eight different funds, the paper etc. This is not possible; therefore a few must try to do it all. My wife and I often now have a day and night shift until the work is done.

Another problem is, much is now being done by computers. Except for my two sons, Christopher and Derek, the rest of us have very limited knowledge of computers and their work. We are trying to learn as much as we can. Christopher now lays out the paper entirely by computer. No more old-time paste up like we did years ago. By a little work this week (first week of 2000) Derek changed our old computer in a few minutes for the new millennium. He will do the same for the old computers in the school. If it were not for the knowledge of computers which my two sons possess, we would have to close down in one week's time.

We try to answer all letters and e-mails which come in to us. I fear last year we failed at times due to heavy work. There is something like 5 to 10 e-mails a day and almost that many letters which require a response. But keep them coming. We will try to do better this year.

It was a good year for *The Berea Baptist Banner*. Offerings to the paper totaled \$46,127.22. At the end of 1999 we purged our mailing list of expirations and some on the church plan

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## Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS .....	Sunday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. ....	101.9 .....	3,000 FM
WJOR, Saint Joseph, TN .....	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. ....	101.5 .....	1,000 FM
WLZA, Starkville, MS .....	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. ....	710 .....	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS .....	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. ....	95.9 .....	3,000 FM
WYWY, Barbourville, KY ..	Sunday 7:30 - 8:00 a.m. ....	950 .....	1,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA .....	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. ..	550 .....	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines .....	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. ....	783 Khz ...	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines .	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. ....	1494 .....	16,000 AM

## A Review of 1999

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who have not paid in some time. We have no desire to send our paper where it is not wanted. One of the great works done by our friends is their sending the BBB to other people who enjoy it. We appreciate all those on the church plan.

It has not been a very good year for the Berea Baptist Bookstore. We sold only \$11,184.47 worth of books. We no longer have one person in charge of it. We have to get help here and there. However, we have no plans to close it down. We expect a good year in 2000. We hope soon to put our bookstore catalog on our church web page by spring. We will continue to print some listing of books in the BBB.

Considerable progress was made by the Berea Baptist Library in 1999. We did receive some new books from our friends and some old ones as well. There is still much work to do, but we have nearly filled our present building with books. With limited funds, I purchased some reprints of old books for the library. Various supplies are needed. If any person has some extra money, the Berea Baptist Library could use it. We have no source of revenue.

The Itawamba Christian Academy operated by our church lost some students to homeschooling and two back to public school. We presently have 13 students and two good teachers. All students for the first semester had an "A" average. Praise the Lord!

Welcome to the new millennium.

(Many of the news items in this report were taken from EP News Service by Doug Trouten and various other sources).

## The Holy Scriptures

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life-work added to the sum of human achievement of which the race is proud, of which are people proud, almost every such man has based his life-work largely upon the teachings of the Bible" (Theodore Roosevelt).

In other words, those who know their Bibles will receive the benefits as recorded in the following passages of the Holy Scriptures.

**"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doth shall prosper. The ungodly**

**are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away"** (Psalms 1:2-4).

A person can live and die without any knowledge of English, arithmetic, history, geography, etc., but one cannot afford to live and die without knowing something about the Holy Scriptures, especially knowing the Christ Jesus of the Bible and His work in our behalf.

Men have searched and are still searching relative to the source of our being, but if they would consult the Holy Scriptures, their search would end.

All other books are in constant need of being changed, or updated, but the Holy Scriptures, as is true of their author, are the same, yesterday, today and forever.

Other books appear and then disappear from life's scene, but the Holy Scriptures have not lost their message or their flavor. One can chew chewing gum for a few moments and its flavor is gone, but the flavor of the Holy Scriptures increases as one chews, or meditates upon them. In fact, our Lord has said, **"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"** (Matt. 24:35). We also read from Psalm 119:89 that **"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."**

The machines built by man eventually lose their power. Worn pistons result in the loss of compression, but the power of the Holy Scriptures is always the same. In fact, we have read and will always read that **". . .the Gospel of Christ. . .is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. . ."** (Rom. 1:16).

The Bible, through the Holy Spirit, has the power to make the drunk sober, the harlot pure, the liar truthful, the thief honest, the proud and self-righteous humble and the covetous and greedy, generous.

The Holy Scriptures, through the Spirit, also have the power to strengthen weak believers who apply themselves to the reading of them. Especially do the Holy Scriptures have the power to comfort those who have lost those that they dearly love.

The Old and New Testaments of the Holy Scriptures mean, "covenant." The Old being written by Moses and the prophets while the new has been written by Christ and His apostles. The Old was given to Israel while the New is addressed to the Lord's churches.

The Pentateuch makes up the first five books of the old Testament and contains laws and precepts (rules of action). There are twelve historical books which give the history of God's chosen people Israel. There are five poetical books which are books of

principles. There are seventeen prophetic books which cover the teachings and predictions of future events.

As is true of the Old Testament, the New Testament also has a fourfold division. These divisions are made up of the four accounts of the Gospel, Acts, the Epistles and Revelation.

The accounts of the Gospel are books of precepts while the Acts is a book of practice. The Epistles are books of principles while Revelation is the book of prophecy.

These facts show that the Old and the New Testaments are in the same order as that of human life. First, as children, we learn precepts. Later, we put the precepts into practice which result into principles by which we govern our lives. At the close of our lives, we become prospective, that is, we look to the future.

These facts clearly show that the Bible is a book of unity. In other words, it has come to us as a well defined plan. The Bible's plan of development can be clearly seen from the beginning of Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21. The beginning books are germs of truth. The later books develop these germs of truth into well developed systems of truth. These facts show very clearly that Holy Scriptures are not the contrivance of man's brain, but are of Divine origin (II Peter 1:21).

On numerous occasions Satan has tried to remove the Holy Scriptures from the face of the earth, but they are still with us today. In fact, the very letter of the Scriptures has been preserved even to the point of the preservation of the jots and tittles.

Our Lord Jesus believed the Holy Scriptures to have been preserved in their original tongue. He proved such to be true when He admonished the Jews to **"Search the Scriptures."**

The matter which is contained within the Holy Scriptures also shows that they are from God rather than being the contrivance of the brains of men. For example, no man or angel could have known that He who thunders in the heavens would one day cry in a cradle. Men or angels could not have known that the Prince of Life would die and that after being dead for three days and nights, He would be raised from the dead. In fact, there are numerous proofs set forth in the Bible which confirm the fact that it has come to us from God.

Since the Holy Scriptures have come to us from God, we can rest assured that it is pure. **"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times"** (Psalm 12:6). **"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it"** (Psalm 119:140).

The Bible is so pure that it acts as a means of purification to all whose eyes the Spirit opens to the understanding of it. In fact, we read: **"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth"** (John 17:17).

The numerous fulfilled prophecies predicted in the Holy Scriptures also confirm the fact that they are from God.

Proof that the Holy Scriptures have come to us from God is also proven by the impartiality of the men who wrote them. For example, what man who writes history would condemn himself by writing about events that stain his own reputation? Yet this is exactly what the writers of the Bible did. For example, David has informed us of his adultery and his shedding of innocent blood. Jonah informs us of his own passions. Those who were inspired to write the Holy Scriptures did not sweep under the carpet those things that would stain their reputation. As is man's nature, he would have hidden his blemishes if he had originated the Bible.

The power which the Holy Scriptures have over the lives of people is also a definite evidence that they have come to us from God himself. For example, one can be warned by reading books written by men and women, but the Holy Scriptures go beyond the point of warning to that of transforming those who read them. When relating to this matter, Paul said, **"And be ye not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"** (Romans 12:2).

Unlike other books, the Holy Scriptures are a means of great comfort to the weary, the sick, the dying and to those who have lost loved ones. In fact, I Thessalonians 4:18 says, **"Wherefore comfort one another with these words."**

Let us go a step further and note that the miracles recorded in the Holy Scriptures also confirm that they are of God. In fact, God enabled Moses, Elijah and numerous others to perform feats beyond the capability of men. Consider the many miracles performed by our Lord Jesus Christ. All of these miracles show that God has set His special seal upon the Holy Scriptures.

The Holy Scriptures are correct relative to science when saying, **"The life of the flesh is in the blood"** (Lev. 17:11). They are also correct when advising us that the earth is round rather than flat (Isa. 40:22). They are also correct when advising us that the earth is suspended in space (Job 26:7). They are also correct when

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## WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE A HOME

A bride and groom with hearts of love  
With faith in God, in Heaven above,  
With fond affection for each other  
Completely matched, they'll walk together.

A Christian father, a Christian mother  
Ready to reason with each other,  
Willing to give, willing to take  
Ready to see their own mistakes.

Ready to smile, ready to weep  
Faithful their promise to always keep,  
True in poverty, true in wealth  
Patient in sickness, thankful in health.

A home is more than a dwelling place  
It takes two hearts filled with grace,  
Though it may be on the finest street  
Without little children it is not complete.

The laughter of children with faces bright  
With songs of cheer on a winter's night,  
With an open Bible at the close of day  
Where father and mother kneel and pray.

'Tis not always a mansion fair  
Adorned with silver and gold,  
But if only a cottage, filled with cheer  
It's wonderful to behold.

Just an humble cabin by the side of the road  
With two hearts true and sweet,  
Ready to share each others load  
Will make a home complete.

A castle or a cabin can be a home  
If love there reigns supreme,  
There is no place like home sweet home  
Where nothing ere comes between.

— W. B. Cumbie

## The Holy Scriptures

*Continued from page 265*

advising us that the earth rotates (Luke 17:34-36). These passages of Scripture in essence, inform us that in some parts of the world it will be night while in other parts it will be day. They also inform us relative to the laws of nature (Gen. 1:24). For example, who ever heard of a cow giving birth to a pig, or a stalk of corn producing beans? The Holy Scriptures are also correct when advising us that all people, without exception, die (Hebrews 9:27). Well did Patrick Henry say: "The Bible is worth all other

books which have ever been published."

Without any apology to anyone, we may all boldly declare that the Holy Scriptures are the one solid foundation upon which we can rest our hopes and our dreams for tomorrow. This is because the Bible, as is true of the earth, rests upon nothing that is human. It is the voice of God which waits for no defense, or endorsement. It simply states, "**He that believeth not shall be damned.**"

Since the Holy Scriptures are from God, they are, as is true of the sun, self-evident. For example, the sun simply shines what it is and who would dare deny its existence? In like man-

ner, God has said, "**The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.** . . ." (Psalm 14:1).

Proof that the Holy Scriptures are from God is evident from the fact that they meet our most supreme needs. They do so by dealing with three infinities, namely, infinite holiness, infinite guilt and infinite atonement.

How can we who are infinitely sinful be reconciled to our God who is infinitely holy? The following Holy Scriptures provide us with the answer. "**And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, rec-**

**onciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation**" (II Cor. 5:18-19).

The blood of Jesus Christ has provided an infinite atonement for all who believe on Him as their Savior from the infinite penalty of their sins.

Adam lies dead in his grave and we are all dead in him, or because of him. On the other hand, Jesus Christ, the second Adam, stands on resurrection ground after having represented us in his death, burial and resurrection. In other words, we are alive because He is alive.

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## The Holy Scriptures

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The positive approach of the Holy Scriptures also makes it evident that they are from God. The literature of the world is pessimistic in that virtue (moral goodness) suffers and is always struggling. Circumstances and fate eventually overcome, or defeat her. On the other hand, the Holy Scriptures teach that evil will not prevail; that Satan will eventually be cast down. They inform us that David, while fleeing into the mountains, was actually on his way to the throne. They inform us that unutterable triumph awaited our suffering Savior. In other words, the Holy Scriptures make the future of those who trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, a glorious and shining way that **"shineth more and more."**

The Holy Scriptures informs us that **"weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."** They inform us that God will wipe all tears from our eyes; that He will bring light out of darkness, meat out of the eater and water out of the rock.

May we all say with all our hearts, "O Divine book, O precious revelation!"

Those who have set themselves up to judge the Holy Scriptures, will one day find that they will be judged by them.

We believe we should study the Holy Scriptures so as to show ourselves approved unto God. **"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"** (II Tim. 2:15).



## The Church That

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and insignificant, and therefore ignored, but they were there. After all, it is estimated that the Roman Catholics put to death some 50 million "heretics" in a 1200 year period. (No wonder there was so few of them.) So there must have been people other than the Catholics calling themselves Christians all that time, the Catholics just want to discredit them by calling them heretics. So they too, would not be a true Protestant, because they never did belong to Rome, and never separated from them.

So what church is the one that Jesus built? A fair question, and a very important one. From what I said above I think we can eliminate all Protestant churches, and any church started up since the Reformation, they just do

not have a valid claim to their claim of being the church Jesus built. That leaves only the Roman Catholic church and all these smaller insignificant churches that have come down through the ages. The claim that the Roman Catholic church did come down from the time of Christ is valid. However, it is not hard to prove to an honest inquirer that the Roman Catholic church could not be Jesus' true church now because its candle (the term "candle" as used in the Bible symbolizes the authority Jesus gave His church - also can mean the "life" of that church - so removing the candle means losing the authority, or status as Jesus church) was blown out long ago due to heresy in its teachings. That leaves only those many small, insignificant churches that were scattered about and persecuted by the Roman Church, and by the way these small individual churches were later persecuted by the churches that came out of the Reformation too. The Roman Catholic church claims to be the faithful, and these other smaller groups the heretics. In fact the reverse is true.

Let's consider the commission to the church: **"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"** (Matt. 28:19-20). **"Upon this rock (Himself) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"** (Matt. 16:18).

This commission and promise of continuity had to be given the apostles as an organization—the church—since the promise was to be with them until the end of the world. Since the apostles have been long gone He could not have been talking to them as individuals but as His Church. If there has ever been a time since Jesus started His church that a direct physical descendant of that church at Jerusalem He started has not existed, then Jesus' promise of continuity and protection from the gates of Hell has failed and Jesus Himself failed, and He has lost all credibility on anything He has ever said. You see, Jesus led the church personally while here in the flesh, then transferred that leadership to the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, and that leadership of the Holy Spirit still exists today.

Jesus also gave His church the authority to continue His work on earth until He returns. There has to be a continuous passing on of authority from one church to another, each succeeding church mothering a new offspring—or creating another church—

giving it the same authority Jesus gave His original church and passed down the same way from church to church all down through the ages. Life begets life. The "life" of the church is that authority from Him to carry on in His name, to baptize, and carry out the Lord's Supper, all the things He commanded His church to do.

Thus, passing on this "life" from one church to a succeeding church is as important as keeping mankind's "life" alive. If every last man died, then mankind would be wiped out, would he not? and could never be restarted again. This is happening all through the animal kingdom. Note the Dinosaurs for instance, every last one of them died off, and they can never be replaced because their continuity was cut off. The same as the church. If continuity is cut off, the church ceases to exist. "Life" must pass from a "mother" to an offspring of that church. A church started by man without the authority of a church that already has the authority is in fact not a church of Christ, but a church of the originator of that "church." It has no passed on authority and is acting on its own, without God's approval, and therefore does not have any promise of God of continuity and protection. Although it may start off with the best of intentions, and teach a good deal of truth, it inevitably will apostatize and go into error. It was never a true church so never had a candle, so it would never be blown out. That is what some of these other churches that existed all the time through the ages beside the Roman Catholics were, Christ's church. And just like today, not all of them would be accepted by Jesus as His church. Some probably were at first, but drifted off into heresy and had their candle blown out. Each church, in those days, as well as these days must be looked at individually to judge whether they could be accepted as Jesus' church.

Baptists believe the churches we now call Baptist churches, or Missionary Baptist Churches, are Jesus' church—but not every one of them is—because so many, in fact the vast majority of them, has fallen into heresy, and has had their candle blown out. To distinguish true churches from the fallen ones, the added name "Missionary" Baptist Church was put onto our name. Now, so many of these have fallen into heresy we have added another name "Landmark Missionary" Baptist Churches. This is to separate our selves from those who call themselves Baptist, but are not in their teaching. People like being called Baptist, after all, this is what God Himself called the man who baptized Jesus—John the "BAPTIST". But

they do not like holding to the doctrines he or the ones he baptized taught.

Now to get down to the reason for this article, to compare the doctrines taught by Jesus' Baptist Church with others who call themselves Baptist, but in reality do not teach Baptist doctrine. Up to 40 years ago the word Baptist meant something—different—it distinguished us from all other churches because of the different doctrines we taught compared to even Protestant churches. Now, because of heresy in most Baptist churches the name does not stand out as different. That's why we have added those two names, to maintain that difference.

Remember, I am not writing a history here, just a few comments of what we believe and comparisons between what different churches believe, if you want a history of Baptists, many good books can be obtained from most Baptist church bookstores.

Maybe before I get down to comparing heretical Baptists with Missionary Baptists I should explain a few terms first. First, the two difference systems of theology in salvation. We have the system called "Arminianism". This belief states that God offers to man His Grace—salvation, free, but that we have to accept that offer, we can make a decision whether to say yes and get to spend eternity in Heaven as a reward for accepting Jesus, or say no and go to Hell. It is entirely up to us. Even after we say yes, at a later date, we can change our mind and say no, I want nothing to do with God, Jesus, or Heaven. This is manifested in many ways by the teaching—"God is knocking on the door of your heart, but you have to open the door to let him in"—or, "God has put in a vote for your soul so He can take you to Heaven - but the devil has too, for himself—and now you have the deciding vote." And of course there is the preachers that just pleads with sinners to "give their heart to Jesus, let Him in because He wants you so bad, but can't do a thing until you let Him."

The above is the belief of the natural, unregenerate man. You see it in every religion where there is no spiritual life, from the most primitive religion like the Indian hunting ground to the most sophisticated church such as the Roman Catholics or Anglicans, or Judaism, and all religions in between whether within the "Christian" religion or outside of it like Muslims, etc. And note very closely who gets the glory when one is saved. Great, almighty man and his "free will" does because he controls God by the decision he makes.

The other system of salvation is

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## The Church That

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called "Calvinism" by the world. In this system, man is lowered to the created, whereas God is the Creator and is in charge all the time. It teaches that man is totally depraved—unable in any way to come to God or think a positive thought in God's favor or do a good work pleasing to God or carry out any kind of obedience to God or responsibilities we think God has for us unless God gives him the ability to do so through the quickening (making alive a new nature) of that individual. It is that new nature that God has just planted in that saved one that believes, is obedient, puts in our mind to do good or meet our responsibilities, the natural, human mind still rebels, and always will as long as we are in the flesh. A Calvinist believes that God must take the initiative in salvation (referred to as unconditional election). He did the electing of His people before the foundation of the world by electing certain ones to be saved, then ordained those He elected, then in time sought out and made alive those He chose. This gives us limited atonement. Jesus' atonement is only for those God chose to be saved and no one else. A Calvinist believes that when God is ready to call His elect He calls them with an irresistible grace—that is, no one will say no to God. God makes them willing in the day of His power through the Holy nature God has "born us again" with (Psalm 110:3). And then when an individual is saved, God keeps that one saved by His power—or by that same Holy nature working within us, (called perseverance of the saints). In other words Calvinists believe that salvation is of the Lord, the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our faith, just like the apostles did (Hebrews 12:2). And note who gets the glory for a person's salvation. It goes to almighty God, where it should go to.

I would also like to explain the different types of church systems in Christian theology. There is a third—the Roman Catholic universal Catholic church—but I won't go into that because I do not think that is an issue here. As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, in order for churches to have Christ given authority to carry out His work, this authority must be passed from church to succeeding church. The Roman Catholic church has no problem here. They were part of the numbers of churches that came out of the church that Jesus started in Jerusalem, but as time went by many of these churches apostatized into error and had their candle blown out. So they went their way, and eventu-

ally organized into one big church, or denomination, instead of staying all independent churches, and it became known as the Catholic church. Meantime, other churches stayed faithful to God's Word, never organized into a single conglomeration, and stayed independent of each other. They were allied by different names in different places, but all held to essentially the same doctrines.

With the above in mind, when the Protestants came along, they knew they could not claim to be in direct physical link back to the church Jesus started, so they had to come up with an excuse for their existence. That excuse is the universal invisible church.

According to those that believe in the universal invisible church, a person becomes a member of that church on being saved. There is not too much one can say about this heresy, because every thing else about the church is done by a local church, it has to be so, because we humans are physical so what we do has to be done in the physical. The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are practices the church was to carry out. Which one? the local or the universal invisible church? The former naturally. The Bible gives no hint of two churches—a local body made up of real people and a universal invisible church—it has to be one or the other. The other type of church is strictly the local body. Jesus started His church—a body (group) of people just like you and me, with Himself as the pastor and the disciples as the first members and at the time of Pentecost there was 120 members in that church/body. It was this church (body) that Jesus said to look after each other, disciplined and passed His authority to through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, gave the ordinances to etc., and it is still churches/bodies made up of people just like them that carry on this work today. Missionary Baptists believe in this type of church, and we believe that one joins a church through baptism.

## How Christ Saves Sinners

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the power we have; as a stone cast up into the air comes down naturally of his own self, with all the violence and swing of his own weight.] With what poison, deadly, and venomous hate hateth a man his enemy! With how great malice of mind, inwardly, do we slay and murder! With what violence and rage, yea, and with how fervent lust commit we adultery, fornication, and such like uncleanness! With what

pleasure and delectation, inwardly, serves a glutton his belly! With what diligence deceive we! How busily seek we the things of this world! Whatsoever we do, think, or imagine, is abominable in the sight of God. [For we can refer nothing unto the honor of God; neither is His law, or will, written in our members or in our hearts: neither is there any more power in us to follow the will of God, than in a stone to ascend upward of his own self.]

And [beside that,] we are as it were asleep in so deep blindness, that we can neither see nor feel what misery, thralldom, and wretchedness we are in, till Moses come and wake us, and publish the law. When we hear the law truly preached, how that we ought to love and honor God with all our strength and might, from the low bottom of the heart, [because He hath created us, and both Heaven and earth for our sakes, and made us lord thereof;] and our neighbors (yea, our enemies) as ourselves, inwardly, from the ground of the heart, [because God hath made them after the likeness of His own image, and they are His sons as well as we, and Christ hath bought them with His blood, and made them heirs of everlasting life as well as us; and how we ought to] do whatsoever God bids, and abstain from whatsoever God forbids, with all love and meekness, with a fervent and a burning lust from the center of the heart; then begins the conscience to rage against the law, and against God. No sea, be it ever so great a tempest is so unquiet. For it is not possible for a

natural man to consent to the law, that it should be good, or that God should be righteous which maketh the law; [inasmuch as it is contrary unto his nature, and damns him and all that he can do, and neither shows him where to fetch help, nor preaches any mercy; but only sets man at variance with God, (as witnesses Paul, Rom. 4) and provokes him and stirs him to rail on God, and to blaspheme him as a cruel tyrant. For it is not possible for a man, till he be born again, to think that God is righteous to make him of so poison a nature, either for his own pleasure or for the sin of another man, and to give him a law that is impossible for him to do, or to consent to;] his wit, reason, and will being so fast glued, yea, nailed and chained unto the will of the devil. Neither can any creature loose the bonds, save the blood of Christ [only].

This is the captivity and bondage, whence Christ delivered us, redeemed and loosed us. His blood, His death, His patience in suffering rebukes and wrongs, his prayers and fastings, his meekness and fulfilling of the uttermost point of the law, appeased the wrath of God; brought the favor of God to us again; obtained that God should love us first, and be our Father, and that a merciful Father, that will consider our infirmities and weakness, and will give us His Spirit again (which was taken away in the fall of Adam) to rule, govern, and strengthen us, and to break the bonds of Satan, wherein we were so strait bound. When Christ is thuswise preached,

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## F u n n y b o n e

"... A time to laugh..." (Eccl. 3:4).

The other Sunday morning during church Deacon Jones sat in the pew scratching and scratching. Pastor Brown stopped his sermon and asked, "Deacon, why are you scratching like that?"

The deacon replied, "Cause I'm the only one who knows where I itch."

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Billy Joe, a boy from Possumtrot, went to the Korean War. He became badly frightened during a heavy barrage and machine gun fire. His captain sought to calm his fears with the following explanation: "Billy Joe, stop your trembling. Only one bullet can harm you and that's the one with 'Billy Joe' written on it. Those other bullets labeled Bill, Tom, Henry and John can't possibly hurt you and if that bullet arrives labeled 'Billy Joe' there's nothing you can do about it."

Billy Joe replied, "I agree with all you said and those other bullets do

not bother me a bit. But, Captain, what does trouble me and scares me to death, is all these bullets whistlin' over these trenches labeled, "To whom it may concern."

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Pastor Brown was just about to conclude his sermon the other Sunday morning when a large over-ripe tomato caught him right between the eyes. As he dug the pulp and juice out of his eyes and carefully wiped his face with his handkerchief, he announced very methodically, "Brothers and Sisters, I have three important announcements to make. First, Bro. Smith will lead in singing the closing hymn. Second, Bro. Jones will pronounce the benediction. And then if all you Brothers and Sisters will gather outside the church door, you are going to see the biggest fight you ever saw in your life."

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## How Christ Saves Sinners

*Continued from page 268*

and the promises rehearsed, which are contained in the prophets, in the psalms, and in divers places of the five books of Moses, [which preaching is called the Gospel or glad tidings;] then the hearts of them which are elect and chosen, begin to wax soft and melt at the bounteous mercy of God, and kindness showed of Christ. For when the evangelion is preached, the Spirit of God entereth into them which God hath ordained and appointed unto eternal life; and opens their inward eyes, and works such belief in them. When the woeful consciences feel and taste how sweet a thing the bitter death of Christ is, and how merciful and loving God is, through Christ's purchasing and merits; they begin to love again, and to consent to the law of God, how that it is good and ought so to be, and that God is righteous which made it; and desire to fulfill the law, even as a sick man desireth to be whole, and are an hungered and thirst after more righteousness, and after more strength, to fulfill the law more perfectly. And in all that they do, or omit and leave undone, they seek God's honor and His will with meekness, ever condemning the unperfectness of their deeds by the law.

Now Christ stands us in double stead; and us serves, two manner wise. First, He is our Redeemer, Deliverer, Reconciler, Mediator, Intercessor, Advocate, Attorney, Solicitor, our Hope, Comfort, Shield, Protection, Defender, Strength, Health, Satisfaction and Salvation. His blood, His death, all that He ever did, is ours. His blood-shedding, and all that He did, does me as good service as though I myself had done it. And God (as great as He is) is mine, with all that He has, [as an husband is his wife's,] through Christ and His purchasing.

Secondarily, after that we be overcome with love and kindness, and now seek to do the will of God (which is a Christian man's nature), then have we Christ an example to counterfeit; as saith Christ Himself in John, "**I have given you an example.**" And in another evangelist He saith, "**He that will be great among you, shall be your servant and minister; as the Son of man came to minister, and not to be ministered unto.**" And Paul says, "Counterfeit Christ." And Peter saith, "Christ died for you, and left you an example to follow his steps." Whatsoever therefore faith hath received of God through Christ's blood and deserving, that same must love shed out, every whit, and bestow it on our neighbors unto their profit, yea, and that

though they be our enemies. [What faith receiveth of God through Christ's blood, that we must bestow on our neighbors, though they be our enemies.] By faith we receive of God, and by love we shed out again. And that must we do freely, after the example of Christ, without any other respect, save our neighbor's wealth only; and neither look for reward in the earth, nor yet in Heaven, for [the deserving and merits of] our deeds, [as friars preach; though we know that good deeds are rewarded, both in this life and in the life to come.] But of pure love must we bestow ourselves, all that we have, and all that we are able to do, even on our enemies, to bring them to God, considering nothing but their wealth, as Christ did ours. Christ did not His deeds to obtain Heaven thereby, (that had been a madness;) Heaven was His already, He was heir thereof, it was His by inheritance; but did them freely for our sakes, considering nothing but our wealth, and to bring the favor of God to us again, and us to God. And no natural son, that is his father's heir, does his father's will because he would be heir; that he is already by birth; his father gave him that ere he was born, and is loather that he should go without it, than he himself has wit to be; but of pure love doth he that he does. And ask him, Why he does any thing that he does? he answers, My father bade; it is my father's will; it pleases my father.

Bond-servants work for hire, children for love: for their father, with all he has, is theirs already. So doth a Christian man freely all that he does; considereth nothing but the will of God, and his neighbor's wealth only. If I live chaste, I do it not to obtain Heaven thereby; for then should I do wrong to the blood of Christ; Christ's blood has obtained me that; Christ's merits have made me heir thereof; He is both door and way thitherwards: neither that I look for an higher room in Heaven, than they shall have which live in wedlock, other than a whore of the stews (if she repent); for that were the pride of Lucifer: but freely to wait on the evangelion; [and to avoid the trouble of the world, and occasions that might pluck me therefrom,] and to serve my brother withal; even as one hand helps another, or one member another, because one feels another's grief, and the pain of the one is the pain of the other. Whatsoever is done to the least of us (whether it be good or bad), it is done to Christ; and whatsoever is done to my brother (if I be a Christian man), that same is done to me. Neither does my brother's pain grieve me less than mine own: neither rejoice I less at his wealth than at mine own, [if I love him as well and as much as myself, as the law commandeth me.] If it were not so, how saith Paul? "**Let him that rejoiceth, rejoice in the Lord,**" that

is to say, Christ, which is Lord over all creatures. If my merits obtained me Heaven, or a higher place there, then had I wherein I might rejoice besides the Lord.

Here see ye the nature of the law, and the nature of the evangelion: how the law is the key that binds and damns all men, and the evangelion [is the key that] looses them again. The law goes before, and the evangelion follows. When a preacher preaches the law, he binds all consciences; and when he preaches the gospel, he looses them again. These two salves (I mean the law and the gospel) uses God and His preacher, to heal and cure sinners withal. The law drives out the disease and makes it appear, and is a sharp salve, and a fretting corosy, and kills the dead flesh, and looses and draws the sores out by the roots, and all corruption. It pulls from a man the trust and confidence that he has in himself, and in his own works, merits, deservings and ceremonies, [and robs him of all his righteousness, and makes him poor.] It kills him, sends him down to Hell, and brings him to utter desperation, and prepareth the way of the Lord, as it is written of John the Baptist. For it is not possible that Christ should come to a man, as long as he trusts in himself, or in any worldly thing, [or has any righteousness of his own, or riches of holy works.] Then comes the evangelion, a more gentle pastor, which supplies and lessen the wounds of the conscience, and brings health. It brings the Spirit of God; which looses the bonds of Satan, and couples us to God and His will, through strong faith and fervent love, with bonds too strong for the devil, the world, or any creature to loose them. And the poor and wretched sinner feels so great mercy, love, and kindness in God, that he is sure in himself how that it is not possible that God should forsake him, or withdraw His mercy and love from him; and boldly crieth out with Paul, saying, "**Who shall separate us from the love that God loveth us withal?**" That is to say, What shall make me believe that God loveth me not? Shall tribulation? anguish? persecution? Shall hunger? nakedness? Shall sword? Nay, "**I am sure that neither death, nor life, neither angel, neither rule nor power, neither present things nor things to come, neither high nor low, neither any creature, is able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" In all such tribulations a Christian man perceiveth that God is his Father, and loves him even as he loved Christ when He shed His blood on the cross.

Finally, as before, when I was bond to the devil and his will, I wrought all manner evil and wickedness, not for Hell's sake, which is the reward of sin,

but because I was heir of Hell by birth and bondage to the devil, did I evil, (for I could none otherwise do; to do sin was my nature;) even so now, since I am coupled to God by Christ's blood, do I well, not for Heaven's sake, [which is yet the reward of well doing;] but because I am heir of Heaven by grace and Christ's purchasing, and have the Spirit of God, I do good freely, for so is my nature: as a good tree brings forth good fruit, and an evil tree evil fruit. By the fruits shall ye know what the tree is. A man's deeds declare what he is within, but make him neither good nor bad; [though, after we be created anew by the Spirit and doctrine of Christ, we wax perfecter always, with working according to the doctrine, and not with blind works of our own imagining.] We must be first evil ere we do evil, as a serpent is first poisoned ere he poison. We must be also good ere we do good, as the fire must be first hot, ere it [heat another] thing. Take an example: As those blind and deaf, which are cured in the gospel, could not see nor hear, till Christ had given them sight and hearing; and those sick could not do the deeds of an whole man, till Christ had given them health; so can no man do good in his soul, till Christ have loosed him out of the bonds of Satan, and have given him wherewith to do good, yea, and first have poured into him that self good thing which He sheds forth afterward on other. Whatsoever is our own, is sin. Whatsoever is above that, is Christ's gift, purchase, doing and working. He bought it of His Father dearly, with His blood, yea, with His most bitter death, and gave His life for it. Whatsoever good thing is in us, that is given us freely, without our deserving or merits, for Christ's blood's sake. That we desire to follow the will of God, it is the gift of Christ's blood. That we now hate the devil's will (whereunto we were so fast locked, and could not but love it), is also the gift of Christ's blood; unto whom belongeth the praise and honor of our good deeds, and not unto us.

(*A Pathway Into Holy Scriptures*, pp. 17-23).

### NOTE

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# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

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In Matthew, chapter 27, verses 52 and 53, please explain verse 53. ---West Virginia



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Up until the sacrifice of Christ for God's elect all believers who died went to what is referred to as Paradise or Abraham's Bosom (Luke 23:39-43; 16:22). When Christ died and shed His blood for the elect, according to Matthew 27:51, Christ opened the way into the very presence of God for the elect. The dead saints in the Paradise part of Hades were set free and now could go into the presence of God (Eph. 4:8-9).

The reason the dead saints came forth out of the graves after the resurrection of Christ (Matt. 27:52-53) was because Christ had paid their sin debt, and He was the first fruits of the resurrection (I Cor. 15:20). This was the results of Christ fully paying for their sins and the proof of God's acceptance of the payment is seen in Isaiah 53:1.

There was no possibility of anyone being able to stand in the presence of God until sin was paid for, and there could be no resurrection from the grave until sin, death and the grave were conquered by Christ (I Cor. 15:55-57).

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**"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming"** (I Cor. 15:20-23).

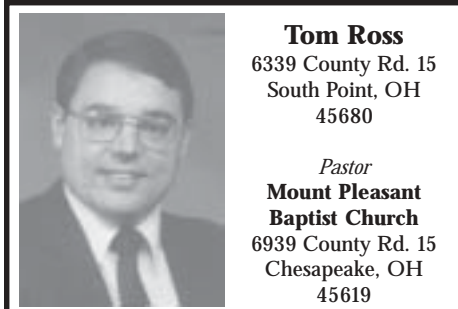
There are many who had died and

were brought back to life before the resurrection of Christ, but each one of these were brought back in a mortal body and had to die again. Christ was the first one to raise from the dead with a glorious body (Phil. 3:21); therefore, He is said to be the first-born from the dead (Col. 1:18). This is proof of His power over death and the grave. He abolished death and destroyed the one who had power over it. **"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil"** (Heb. 2:14).

All of the saints of God will not be raised at the same time. There is an order in the resurrection which is represented by a harvest. The firstfruits, the harvest, and the gleanings. The firstfruits at the time of the resurrection of Christ, the harvest at the time of the rapture, and the gleanings will be the tribulation saints at the end of the great tribulation.

When the children of Israel came into the promised land they were to reap the harvest and bring a sheaf of the firstfruits unto the priest. The sheaf was not just one stalk, but a bundle which was represented by a handful of grain. Those who came out of the grave and appeared to many in Jerusalem were a part of the firstfruits of the resurrection. I believe they came out of the graves with a resurrected body and appeared to the saints at Jerusalem in order for the truth of the resurrection to be established by witnesses. Not only the resurrection of Christ, but the future resurrection of all those who are in Christ.

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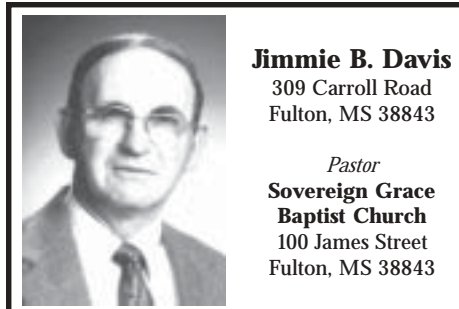
**"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and**

**appeared unto many"** (Matt. 27:52-53).

These are definitely difficult verses to explain but I will take a stab at it anyway. It is obvious from the context that several miraculous things happened in conjunction with Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. The veil was rent in two, the earth began to quake, and after Christ had risen from the dead it appears that several Old Testament saints whose bodies had been sleeping in the grave arose from the dead. I think that the key to verse 53 is the word **"after."** The Old Testament saints which arose from their graves did so after Christ had been resurrected. Christ is the first fruits of the resurrection, which simply means that since He rose from the dead we can be sure that the full harvest of elect saints will also be raised some time in the future. Perhaps the Old Testament saints who were raised on this occasion were a foreshadowing of what was to be in the future. Whatever the case, we can be sure that it must have been a wild time in Jerusalem after the resurrection. Can you imagine how astonished those in Jerusalem just have been when they saw these resurrected saints? Perhaps another reason why God raised these saints on this occasion was to validate the authenticity of Christ's resurrection. It proved that Jesus not only had power over death and the grave, but that He could also exercise that almighty power on behalf of His elect. We are not told what kind of bodies the saints who arose had, whether they were yet natural or glorified.

These Scriptures must be received by faith because they are in the infallible, inerrant Word of the Living God. We may not comprehend the depth and breadth of Scripture, but we can believe that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, however difficult they may be to understand.

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In all events that pertain to the res-

urrection of the bodies of the saints we must be careful to attach the events to the importance of Christ's resurrection from the tomb. The resurrection of Jesus is the focus of our faith. It is the confirmation of His sonship (Rom. 1:4). It is the cause for our hope of resurrection (I Cor. 15:12-19; I Pet. 1:3). Christ, the risen one is **"the first fruits"** (I Cor. 15:23) to be followed by those who are a part of the first resurrection (I Cor. 15:23; Rev. 20:6), all being in perfect eschatological order.

The resurrection in Matthew 27:52-53 should be sufficient evidence to displace the Jewish expectation of a general resurrection. The very nature of a general resurrection would include the righteous and the wicked, simultaneously. The resurrection in Matthew 27:52-53 does not include the wicked, only Christ and some of the saints.

Matthew 27:52-53 gives ample evidence of Christ's power over death, not only for Himself; but for the saints also. Those who came out of their graves came forth as trophies of His victory over the grave.

I believe the **"many bodies of the saints which slept"** were those of the O. T. days. It would appear from a close observation of these two verses that the graves were opened when Christ died. Perhaps it was the earthquake which God used to open their graves, but let us not suppose they preceded Christ in resurrection. They did not come out of their graves before Christ was raised (v. 53a).

It is my view that Jerusalem was the **"holy city"** in which they appeared unto many. This was done, I believe, that undeniable proof of a resurrection from the dead had already taken place—that in Christ **"Death is swallowed up in victory."**

JIMMIE B. DAVIS

## NOTE

We are considering reprinting the book *A Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine* by T. P. Simmons once again. If you would be interested in taking some copies please let me know. We do not want any money at present. Just send us a note telling us how many copies you would want. They will probably cost about \$12 to \$13 each. Send to Berea Baptist Church Bookstore, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855.

## NOTE

# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

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Is the "beloved" in Ephesians 1:6 Christ or the church? -- Washington



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**"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace"** (Eph. 1:6-7).

It is in the beloved that we are said to have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of God's grace. In Romans 3:24 we are said to be justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. In Ephesians 2:13, **"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."** Men are made accepted by the blood of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3, 5). It is by the preaching of the gospel that men are brought by the Spirit to a knowledge of Christ and to faith (Rom. 1:16; 10:13-16; I Cor. 4:15). The church can be used in bringing one to Christ by the preaching of the gospel, but a sinner can never be accepted because he is in the church. He is accepted in Christ who is the beloved (Matt. 3:17; 12:18; 17:5).

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I believe, considering the context of the first six verses of Ephesians one, it is obvious that the beloved spoken of in verse 6 is the Lord Jesus Christ spoken about in verses 2 through 5. These verses are referring to what we have been blessed with in the Lord Jesus Christ. The implication is that Christ is the beloved of the Father in verse three and of those chosen in

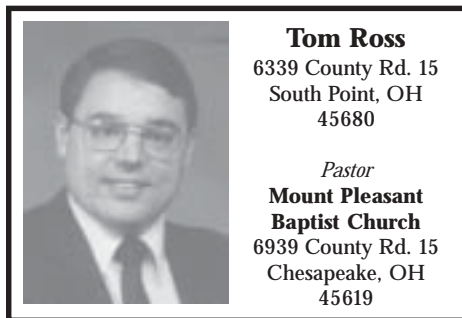
Christ.

The church of Jesus Christ is not what makes us acceptable to God, but the Lord Jesus Christ makes us acceptable to God, which is made plain in verses 3 through 5. We cannot even become a member of the Lord's church until first of all we are acceptable to God (Matt. 28:19-20). One cannot get into the church before baptism and only believers or disciples (those already acceptable to God) can be baptized into the Lord's church.

In verse 7 we are shown that the beloved of verse 6 is the One in whom we have redemption through His grace. The beloved in verse 6 is the same One in whom we have redemption in verse 7, and He is referred to in the masculine gender. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is always referred to in the feminine gender. I do not believe it is possible for the church and the beloved in the context of Ephesians 1 to be the same.

I believe that the Lord's church is very important as Ephesians 3:21 states, but the church can never take the place of our Lord and Savior. We must and will love the church if we are saved and know the truth, but we must never worship the church, but worship, praise, and honor the Lord of His church. The church can never save lost sinners. She can only glorify Christ as the only Lord and Savior of lost sinners.

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**"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved"** (Eph. 1:6).

It is obvious from the context that the word "beloved" in this verse refers to Christ and not the church. In the first ten verses of chapter one God reveals His purpose of grace in election, redemption, and regeneration. Before the world began God the Father chose the elect in Christ His beloved Son. In time God the Son came

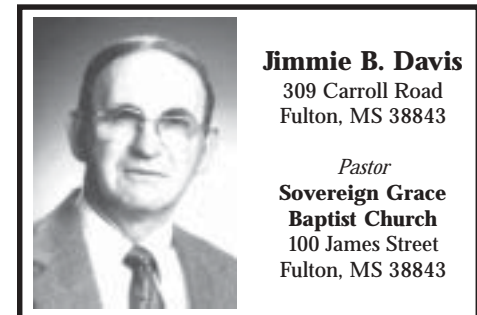
to the earth to redeem all those whom the Father had chosen through His perfect sacrifice on the cross. As a consequence of the Father's electing love and the Son's redeeming grace, the Holy Spirit enlightens the elect by His regenerating power enabling them to trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ. The elect are made acceptable to God by virtue of their vital union with Jesus Christ.

It is interesting to note that the word "beloved" is used in reference to Christ in Matthew 12:18 which states: **"Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased. . ."** Christ was quoting Isaiah 42:1 where the word "elect" is used instead of the word "beloved." God's soul is pleased only in the person and work of His beloved Son. Thus, our acceptance with God depends entirely on the perfect work of God the Son. Our salvation is entirely bound up in Christ alone.

If the word "beloved" in Ephesians 1:6 had reference to the church then we would have to logically concur that only those who are members of the Lord's church are partakers of His grace in election, redemption, and regeneration. Thus we would have to assume that everyone outside of the pale of the church is excluded from God's grace. We would also have to come to the conclusion that baptism is essentially what makes us acceptable to God since it is what initiates us into church membership. Such conclusions are preposterous and unscriptural. It is the blood of Christ that makes me acceptable before God, not the waters of scriptural baptism. It is faith in the finished work of Christ that justifies me and gives me a right standing in the sight of God, not my church membership. God's grace is for all His elect who have been chosen, redeemed, and regenerated, whether they are members of the Lord's church or not. It is a wonderful privilege to be a member of the kind of church that Jesus started and promised perpetuity too, but my church membership is not the basis of my acceptance with God. Only faith in Christ can make a sinner right with God. If you or anyone else is trusting in their church membership to make them acceptable to God they are sadly deceived and on their way to Hell. I am trusting in

Christ alone to take me all the way to glory as Jude 24-25 declares: **"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."**

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**"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved"** (Eph. 1:6).

One cannot give a proper exegesis of this verse by changing the references to Christ in this chapter to an abrupt reference to the church in verse 6. If our acceptance before God is in the church we, in order to be consistent, would be forced to say that we were chosen in the church, predestinated in the church, receive redemption and forgiveness of sins in the church. Some teach that the church is where we find the above things, but the Scriptures clearly say that we have them in Christ—on the merits of His life, death, and shed blood.

It appears to me that it would require an almost fanatical belief in the theory of "church salvation" to even suggest that the word "beloved" in Ephesians 1:6 has reference to the church. I know many people who believe you must be a member of their particular church in order to be saved, but I don't remember them ever giving such a weird interpretation of this verse. However, I can understand a person taking this position if he does not see the sufficiency of Christ.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS

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## Life in the Early Church

*Continued from page 261*

**and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 10:37-47).**

On the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ Simon Peter preached a powerful message on the subject of Jesus both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36). This sermon was delivered to people from seventeen nations (Acts 2:7-11). What we see in Acts 2:37-47 is the results of this discourse. Here is a most glorious picture of what life was like in the early church.

### HOW GOD SAVED SINNERS

Peter’s sermon was preached to people who had not repented of their sins (v. 38) nor had they believed in the Messiah. His words were addressed, not to saved sinners, but to lost sinners. His hearers were not pagans. They were religious Jews who had come to Jerusalem to worship. Peter’s message was Christ-centered (Acts 2:22-24, 32-33, 36). Men cannot hear about Christ without a preacher, and he cannot preach except he be sent (Rom. 10:14-17).

While Peter preached about Christ the Holy Spirit convicted sinners: **“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart. . .”** (v. 37). They were troubled in their hearts because the Spirit had worked upon their heart. Jesus said that the Spirit would convict unbelievers of their sins: **“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me”** (John 16:8-9). The Spirit convicted through the preached Word: **“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word”** (Acts 10:44; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). The gospel must come to sinners, not in Word only, but in the Holy Spirit, if they are to experience salvation: **“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as**

**ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake”** (I Thess. 1:5).

What does the expression **“pricked in their heart”** mean? In the Greek it means “to be sore pricked as by a sharp point.” This expression refers to the emotion of pain produced in their hearts by Peter’s words (See Joel 2:13; Ps. 51:17). They were convinced that Jesus whom they had crucified was indeed Lord and Messiah. They felt they had put to death Jehovah’s anointed, and hence they were filled with remorse. They suddenly realized they were completely in the power of Him they had murdered. Hence they were alarmed under a sense of danger. This is the experience of every sinner when he sees his sins put to death the Lord of glory (Zech. 12:10).

A convicted sinner at first does not know what to do: **“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”** It is a sign of the working of the Holy Spirit when men feel the weight of their sins and seek relief (Acts 16:30). These people had murdered the kindest, the holiest, the greatest person who had ever appeared on earth. What was done could not be undone. Their moral and spiritual anguish was intolerable. They wanted to know how to escape the punishment to which their crime had exposed them.

Simon Peter commanded them to repent: **“Repent”** (v. 38). In the original language of the New Testament the Greek word for repentance denotes afterthought, reflection, and then a change of mind, including both the judgments and feelings. Sorrow for sin is only one of its ingredients (II Cor. 10:10-11). It is a change of mind that results in a change of conduct. Those who truly repent will save themselves from this untoward generation (Acts 2:40). Repentance in its widest sense is an entire revolution of the principles and practices of the heart and life.

Repentance is the first gospel commandment. Without a change of mind, heart, and behavior, salvation is impossible. No profession of faith, no baptism, nor church membership is valid unless based on a complete change of heart (Ezek. 36:26). Peter told these Jews they must completely change their views concerning Jesus Christ. They must not regard Him as an imposter or false prophet, but as the true Messiah. They must submit to Christ as Lord of all.

Although Acts 2:38 does not say they believe in Jesus Christ, it is clear from what follows that these people did. In verse 44 it is written: **“And all that believed were together, and had all things common”** (Acts 2:44). Acts 2:41 says that they received the words Peter spoke about Christ: **“Then they that gladly received his**

**word were baptized. . .”** To receive the words about Christ is to receive Christ (I John 5:10-11). Not all who heard the Word that day received it. These Pentecostal converts had personal trust in the living, exalted Lord Jesus Christ. The fact they **“gladly”** received the Word shows the distinguishing grace of God. To receive the Word was a customary New Testament phrase for believing the gospel of Christ (Acts 11:1; 17:7; I Thess. 1:6; 2:13).

In Acts 2:41 the Syriac version adds: **“and believed.”** By what authority I know not.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

Those whose mind and heart had been changed and who had believed in Jesus Christ were commanded to be baptized: **“. . .and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. . .”** (Acts 2:38). The Greek word (*baptizo*) transliterated here “baptized” means “to immerse, to dip, or plunge,” and it leaves no doubt as to the mode of baptism. These people were buried with Christ in baptism.

Acts 2:38, as well as other Scripture, reveals that there is a connection between baptism and repentance. This is why baptism is sometimes called **“the baptism of repentance”** (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; Acts 13:24; 19:4). John the Baptist refused to baptize people unless they had evidence they had repented of their sins: **“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? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance”** (Matt. 3:6-8).

Some push Acts 2:38 to the point of baptismal regeneration. This is wrong, for salvation is mentioned in other places upon repentance without baptism (Luke 13:3; 15:7; 24:47; Acts 3:19). Also the word **“for”** can mean “because of” as it clearly does in Acts 2:38, for these people already had a changed heart.

While Acts 2:38 does not teach the water gospel plan of salvation, it most assuredly does teach that there is a connection between repentance and baptism in water. Failure to emphasize this has caused some to neglect and despise the ordinance of baptism. This is equally wrong, and one error does not excuse another. A willingness to be baptized is the evidence of a new heart—the proof of real repentance of sins. Peter said that these Jews must make a public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ as the Messiah in baptism, as an evidence of the reality and sincerity of their repentance.

There is also a connection between faith in Christ and baptism. These people had believed on Christ (Acts 2:44) and would receive “believer’s baptism.” Those who have believed on Christ to the saving of their soul (I Pet. 1:9) will give evidence of their faith by being baptized. Jesus said in Mark 16:16: **“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned”** (Mark 16:16). The Apostle Paul taught those who had become the children of God by faith should put on Christ by baptism: **“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ”** (Gal. 3:26-27).

We hear much today about people who are saved and who have no desire to be baptized. This is contrary to the apostolic pattern. In the early church when a man repented he was baptized. When a man believed in Christ he was baptized. There was not the widespread neglect of the ordinance of baptism as we now see. Any person who professes to have repented of his sins and to have believed in Christ and refuses to be baptized is not a friend of Jesus Christ. He commands believers to be baptized in water, and He said: **“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you”** (John 15:14).

### EFFECTUAL CALLING

The effectual call is seen in Acts 2:39: **“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”** This verse is often neglected by some commentators and abused by others who seek to prove baby baptism from it.

What is the promise in this verse? I believe it looks back to Acts 2:33: **“Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”** This was the power of the Spirit promised by Joel (Acts 2:16-21; Joel 2:28-32). It was also promised by Christ Himself: **“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high”** (Luke 24:49; cf. Acts 1:4-5). Acts 2:4 says: **“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”**

The promise in Acts 2:39 was the Spirit empowering some people to speak in a foreign language without previously having studied it. This is the gift of the Spirit promised after water baptism: **“Then Peter said**

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**unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**” The gift of the Holy Spirit is the gift of tongues (Acts 8:20; 10:45; 11:17).

Much heated debate has been waged over the gift of the Spirit in Acts 2:38. Many Arminians contend you get the Holy Spirit after you repent, believe, and are baptized. This leaves the Holy Spirit completely out of the regeneration and conversion of lost sinners. Other Arminians are just as wrong in making the sinner to receive the Holy Spirit only after he repents and believes. Those who know their Bibles know that the Holy Spirit begins to work upon a sinner before repentance, faith, and baptism. Left to himself no man would ever seek God: **“There is none that seeketh after God”** (Rom. 3:11). The Holy Spirit works before conversion, controlling events in the life of those who are to become heirs of salvation (Ps. 139:13-18; Jer. 1:5; Gal. 1:15-16).

The gift of the Spirit in Acts 2:38 is the gift of tongues after water baptism in the case of the Jews. The gift of the Spirit has nothing to do with regeneration, conversion, or salvation. Acts 2:38 proves nothing as to whether the Holy Spirit is received by the sinner before conversion or after conversion. That question is not dealt with in Acts 2:38. This verse merely shows that the power to speak in a foreign language not previously known came upon these Jewish believers after water baptism once the day of Pentecost was fully come.

Next in Acts 2:39 comes the words: **“...for this promise is unto you and your children.”** Pedobaptists seize upon these words, and say these words mean their children were to be baptized with them. This idea must be read into the text, for it is certainly not present in it. No babies were ever baptized in the whole New Testament. Infant baptism is a mere supposition without one single clear New Testament text to prove it.

Baby baptism must be rejected in Acts 2:39 for a number of reasons: (1) These **“children”** are the sons and daughters who prophesy in Acts 2:17. Only adults have visions and prophesy. (2) These **“children”** could be effectually called by God as the last part of the verse declares. They were the children of promise, which the children of the flesh were not (Rom. 9:6). (3) **“Children”** may very well mean their posterity. The promise is

to Israelites now present and who shall live in the future.

What is the identity of **“all that are afar off”**? Some say this means the Jews scattered to distant lands. All the Jews were included already in **“you,”** since many of them addressed were pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. The words surely point to future Gentile converts. In Ephesians 2:13-17 the Gentiles are described as **“afar off.”**

Some objectors will say, “Peter did not think the Gentiles could be saved (Acts 11).” Peter’s error was that he thought Gentiles must become Jews before they could become Christians. Knowing the Old Testament, Peter knew that Gentiles would be saved (Gen. 12:3). Also Christ had already commissioned His church to preach the gospel to all nations (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 2:47). Peter was not ignorant of this commission.

Acts 2:39 concludes with the words: **“. . .even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”** The context reveals that these people have been called externally by the gospel and internally by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit uses the gospel as a means to call God’s elect to obtaining of the glory of Christ: **“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ”** (II Thess. 2:13-14). Some speak of God calling His elect without the gospel, but II Thessalonians 2:13-14 speaks of God calling them by the gospel. Those who do not obey the gospel are the non-elect. When Jesus Christ comes back He will take vengeance **“on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power”** (II Thess. 1:7-9).

The effectual call depends on God who calls Jews and Gentiles. None come to Christ except those God effectually calls. These are denominated **“the called of Jesus Christ”** in Romans 1:6, and they are said to be made **“partakers of the heavenly calling”** (Heb. 3:1). In other places in the Bible they are said to be the foreknown, the predestinated (Rom. 8:30), and the elect (II Pet. 1:10). These are all **“called according to his purpose”** (Rom. 8:28).

Note once more the words **“as many as the Lord our God shall**

**call.”** The **“many”** in Acts 2:39 are the **“many”** to whom Christ came to give eternal life (John 17:2). These are the **“many”** ordained to eternal life (Acts 13:48). **“Many”** is a great multitude, but **“many”** does not mean all men without exception. Not all are effectually called by God.

### ADDED TO THE CHURCH

In the early church when a person was converted and baptized he was added to the church: **“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls”** (Acts 2:41). While it is true that God set every member in the body as it pleases Him (I Cor. 12:18), He is pleased to add to His church by profession of faith in baptism as we see in Acts 2:41. It is by water baptism that we enter the body of Christ: **“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit”** (I Cor. 12:13).

The people in Acts 2 were not added to the church, universal and invisible, by Holy Spirit baptism. They were added to the Jerusalem church by water baptism. There is only one kind of baptism in this age—believer’s baptism (Eph. 4:3-6)—water baptism. Without water baptism you cannot be added to the Lord’s church.

Today when a person professes salvation in some evangelistic crusade he is told to “join the church of his choice.” Peter did not make any such foolish statement as this, nor should any minister of the gospel. A person has no choice but to join the church

which was founded by Jesus Christ. I freely grant that the Jerusalem church exists no more, but there does exist churches which descended from her of like faith and order. These churches should be sought out and joined, and no others.

It is plain from Acts 2:41 that there is a connection between baptism and church membership. The Pentecostal converted were baptized and added to the Jerusalem church **“the same day.”** Those who would divorce baptism from church membership have departed from the New Testament pattern, for baptism is a church ordinance and you cannot get it except from His church.

Today some Baptists teach that when you are converted you should go out and find some free-lance preacher and get baptized. Then sometime after baptism (maybe a week or month) you should seek out a church and ask for membership. This idea cannot be reconciled with the three thousand who were baptized in one day and all added to the Jerusalem church **“the same day.”** I believe we ought to stick with the apostolic pattern presented in Acts 2.

These 3,000 were added to the 120 (Acts 1:15) who were already members of the Jerusalem church. Christ had organized this church some three years earlier out of the material prepared by John the Baptist. No church was started at Pentecost. You can only add to what already exists.

Some one will ask, “Who baptized these people?” The passage does not say, but it does make it plain they all were baptized and added to the church that **“same day.”** Most likely the 12 apostles and the 70 missionaries (Luke 10:1-16) administered this baptism. These 82 administrators could have baptized the whole group in about an hour and a half. Elder Dan Stepp and I baptized 300 in the Philippines in the sea in about 25 minutes. The idea they had to be sprinkled because of the scanty supply of water in Jerusalem is unwarranted. The Greek word (*baptizo*) means “to immerse” or “dip.” There were plenty of baths and pools in the city of Jerusalem in the time of Christ.

Another would inquire, “By what authority were they baptized?” By the authority which Christ gave His church (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 13:34). This is also confirmed by the fact they were baptized **“in the name of Jesus Christ”** (v. 38). Some contend this expression means no more than for the sake of the salvation accomplished by Christ, or into a belief of the doctrines which He taught. This is no doubt true, but **“in the name of Jesus Christ”** means more than this. **“In**

### DOING A DEADLY THING

Nothing either great or small  
Remains for me to do;  
Jesus died and paid it all—  
Yes, all the debt I owe.

When He, from His lofty throne,  
Stooped down to do and die,  
Everything was fully done—  
Yes, “finished” was His cry.

Weary, working, plodding one,  
Oh, wherefore toil you so?  
Cease your doing—all was done—  
Yes, ages long ago.

Till to Jesus’ work you cling  
Alone by simple faith,  
*Doing is a deadly thing—*  
All doing ends in death.

Cast your deadly doing down—  
All down at Jesus’ feet:  
Stand in Him—in Him alone—  
All glorious and complete.

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the name of Jesus Christ" is not the baptismal formula (Matt. 28:19). "In the name of" means "by the authority of." A local official might knock on your door and say, "Open in the name of the law."

J. A. Alexander, at one time a teacher at Princeton University and a non-Baptist, says this expression means "by his authority, acknowledging his claims, subscribing to his doctrines, engaging in his service, and relying on his merits" (*Acts*, p. 85).

John Gill says on this expression: "They are to be baptized in his name, by his authority, according to his command; professing their faith in him, devoting themselves to him, and calling on his name" (*Gill's Expositor*, Vol.

VIII, p. 160).

H. A. Ironside says of "in the name of Jesus Christ": "So the apostle says, 'Be baptized by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,' and the past will no longer be held against you" (*Acts*, p. 71).

**Acts 2:47 declares: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."** The Greek word translated "church" is *ekklesia*, and its literal meaning is "assembly." We can see from the context that Luke uses it to denote the assembly of baptized believers who met in the city of Jerusalem. These other new converts were being added as those in Acts 2:41. This is the only way the Lord adds to His church. Those who repent and believe on Jesus Christ are baptized in water are added to His church. This was the practice of the mother church.

(To be continued)



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.

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### RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION AGAINST CHRISTIANS CONTINUED DURING CHRISTMAS SEASON

**KHARTOUM, Sudan (EP)**—Many Christians around the world spent Christmas, the season of peace, fearing for their lives. Christmas is a popular time of year for escalated persecution against Christians.

Sudanese Christians, who face war, slavery and religious persecution every day, faced more uncertainty this Christmas as the Sudan government made groundbreaking changes during the month of December. On Dec. 12, Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir declared a state of emergency and dissolved the parliament. El-Bashir cited the new U.S. law pledging food aid to southern Sudanese rebels and the recent attacks on Sudan's oil pipelines as justification for his recent decrees. Critics claim that el-Bashir's concern is for his political longevity rather than the good of the country.

Uncertainty about the leadership of the Sudanese government still plagues the country. Christians wondered if el-Bashir's closest political rival presidential candidate Hassan al-Turabi, would institute an aggressive Islamization policy if elected into office. Their concerns were eased slightly when al-turabi's home was surrounded by police and military vehicles after the state of emergency was

declared.

Christians reported that el-Bashir has made positive overtures toward the Christian community in Sudan, including the absolution of two priests held on charges of terrorist activity. Christians said they are anxious that the end of the Ramadan holiday (the Muslim festival of repentance) will mean an eruption of violence between pro-Muslim groups and the government.

Violence between Christians and Muslims is also a concern on the island of Ambon during the Christmas season. The Uniting Church of Australia reports that about 800 Christian and Muslims have died in religiously motivated attacks in Ambon since January. Rioters have destroyed 9,000 homes and over 100 churches and mosques. Nearly 84,000 people have fled the area.

Christians reported that agitators walked the streets with high-powered weapons, rather than the homemade guns and spears they used in the past. Snipers attacked anyone else who dared to walk through the streets. Before the holiday, Protestant churches pleaded with international relief agencies for help, especially for those left injured and homeless. At present, there is no indication that peace will come to the troubled island of Ambon.

Religious trouble of a similar kind was threatened over the Christmas holiday in Gujarat, India. Hindu fundamentalists

planned the dedication of a Hindu temple, located next to a Protestant church, for Christmas day; last year, Hindu mobs attacked Christian churches and other ministries after a similar meeting. Hindu groups distributed a pamphlet in Gujarat which says Christians are part of a demonic army trying to divide society.

Religious persecution of missionaries and Indian Christians escalated in 1999, beginning with the murders of Australian missionary Graham Staines, and his two sons in January. Government officials, including India's state home minister, promised that Christmas would be a safe and peaceful holiday. History indicates otherwise.

**"As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long: we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter"** (Rom. 8:36).

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### VERMONT, THE FIRST SODOMITE STATE

The Supreme Court of Vermont ruled Dec. 20, 1999, that the state must provide same-sex couples with benefits equal to married couples, but stopped short of insisting that the state legalize same sex-marriage.

The court, ruling in *Baker v. State of Vermont*, said the Common Benefits Clause of the Vermont Constitution requires the legislature to provide benefits equal to marriage to same-sex couples, but did not specify how the legislature was to accomplish this. State lawmakers could legalize same-sex marriage, or could pass the most sweeping domestic partners law in the nation.

Democratic Gov. Howard Dean predicted the Legislature will pass a domestic partnership law. Lt. Gove. Douglas Racine and the speaker of the Vermont House have said they favor same-sex marriages.

One interesting aspect of the ruling was the court's assertion that advances in reproductive technology have made same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples equal in the eyes of the law with regard to child-bearing. The court argued that for this reason, the state's desire to protect marriage for the sake of the procreation and nurture of children did not justify denying same-sex couples the benefits that go with marriage.

Then, to our surprise, the court acknowledged that under Vermont law, marriage is clearly intended to be seen as a relationship between a man and a woman, so same-sex couples have not statutory right to a marriage license. The Vermont court, in violation of the separation of powers, has dictated to the people and their elected legislature a social, legal and moral policy.

I marvel how gays and lesbians who make up no more than one percent of the population can influence a state and a nation. Their goal is the destruction of the

family. One gay newspaper (*Quicksilver Times*, Washington, D.C., Nov. 24-Dec. 4, 1970) reported on a lesbian workshop in Philadelphia that demanded the "destruction of the Nuclear Family," calling it "a microcosm of the fascist state, where the women and children are owned by, and their fates determined by, the needs of men, in a man's world."

The Democrat-controlled Vermont legislature will now be faced with the task of either creating "domestic partnerships" or allowing homosexual couples to "marry."

In a related story, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that a case that attempted to legalize same-sex marriage in moot. A 1998 amendment to the state constitution, approved two-to-one by voters, gives the state the authority to enforce a 1994 banning of a gay marriage. As a result, the court no longer has the power to force gay marriages on the state. A 1993 ruling by Hawaii's high court opened the door for same-sex marriage, and set off a flurry of legislation around the nation, with at least 30 states passing "Defense of marriage" laws denying recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions.

It is worth noting that Hawaii is a Democratic and liberal state.

The liberals have learned that you do not have to gain control of all of the people. All you have to do is put liberal judges on the high courts who will ignore the state or U.S. constitutions and rule according to liberal political correctness. Under this plan a few liberals can control the entire state or nation. Then there is no longer a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Under this plan you have a few ruling the many.

Homosexual marriage is not an alternative, nor is such equal to heterosexual marriage. History reveals that without the enforcement of morals at some level no nations can continue to exist. The U.S. is ignoring the facts of history. Hence she is certain to repeat history.

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

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### JANE FONDA A CHRISTIAN?

According to some information being put out by ASSIST Communications, Garden Grove, Calif., it is reported that Jane Fonda has become a believer in Christ through the witnessing of her chauffeur. She regularly goes to Bible studies and church, and Joseph Farah in his *World Net Daily*says her faith is "very real, very deep." Her outlook is changing, friends say.

A year ago, Jane's husband, media mogul Ted Turner, told his marriage counselor that she was "trying to make him a saint." This comment was reported but not followed up by the major media who cannot bring themselves to believe the queen of liberalism could become a Chris-

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tian. This is not the sort of story they like to print.

Ted and Jane announced Jan. 4 that, while they are committed to the long-term success of their marriage, they "mutually decided to spend some time apart."

To date I am not convinced that Jane has become a real Christian. I would like to have more corroborative evidence. But I would point out as a sovereign grace Baptist it is in the power of God to make a radical political activist a Christian. Even Christ-hater Ted Turner is not beyond the reach of God's grace.

Several years ago Ted Turner told Woodstock Baptist Church in an apology for some anti-Christian comments, that, in his youth, he accepted Jesus Christ at a Billy Graham Crusade, but then rejected Jesus when his sister died and his father committed suicide.

**"But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound"** (Rom. 5:20).

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### GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves money from the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with a result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by dictatorship. The average of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years" (Fraser Tytler, *The Decline and Fall of the Athenian Republic*, c. 1810). The U. S. is 224-years-old.

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In a primary state that could make or break his candidacy, John McCain may have stumbled. His recent statement that an open homosexual may serve as President—although not in the military—elicited howls of protest among Republicans in South Carolina (*Human Events*, 12-31-99).

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Asked during the Iowa Republican presidential candidate debate "what political philosopher or thinker do you most identify with," George W. Bush shocked the liberal press when he unhesitatingly replied: "Christ, because he changed my heart." MSNBC's Chris Matthews, a Catholic, expressed shock, wondering why Bush didn't name someone else. Would Christ have been upset about a Jew or Muslim who professed his faith? Why is the mass media not upset over an apostate like Bill Bradley? Or a convenient Christian like Bill Clinton? Let the liberals give the answer.

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"Hundreds of Communist rebels rained homemade missiles and machine-gun fire on a Navy base on Colombia's border with Panama, killing at least 34

Colombian marines, one policeman, and a civilian," reported Reuters on December 14th. The terrorist attack which occurred on the 12th, came two days prior to the ceremonies in Panama for the Clinton administration's early "symbolic" turnover of the U.S. Canal to Panama (*The New American*, 1-17-00).

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According to a lengthy article in *Human Events* (12-17-99) by Terence P. Jeffrey, Murder and sectarian purging of Roman Catholics and evangelicals is taking place today in Kosovo, under the protective dominion of NATO forces. It is being done by NATO's de facto ally, the Ushtrian Clirimtare e Kosoves, or UCK, that is often referred to in the U.S. press as the KLA, the acronym for its English name, the Kosovo Liberation Army. The surviving Christians of Kosovo now find their native land like Nero's Rome. Martyrdom is at their door—as NATO stands a silent watch for the self-righteous moralists of a New World Order.

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The idea that 50 percent of American marriages are doomed to divorce is a specious piece of statistical nonsense. The 11-27 *World* said this legend began when the Census Bureau one year reported that there were 2.4 million marriages and 1.2 million divorces. Someone did the math without calculating the 54 million marriages already in existence (*Calvary Contender*, 1-1-00).

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The U. S. anti-gun lobby will not be content until only criminals have access to guns. The UN is seeking to mandate a three-stage global disarmament plan. Just as domestic gun control does not mean the total elimination of all firearms, neither does global disarmament mean the total elimination of all armies and weapons (11-22 *New American*). With both, what is really being proposed is the transfer of control over all weapons to an all-powerful central police-state government (*ibid.*).

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DALLAS (RNS) - A Texas federal grand jury has indicted an ex-convict on charges he plotted to kidnap atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair, who has been missing for four years. Gary Karr, 51, was charged Dec. 7 with conspiring with others to plan and carry out the 1995 extortion and kidnapping of O'Hair, her son Jon Garth Murray and adopted daughter Robin Murray O'Hair. Authorities said they believe the three were killed but have not located their bodies (*Western Recorder*, 12-14-99).

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(Jerusalem) - The corridor linking Gaza to the Palestinian Authority "West Bank" is a tough problem as Arabs press for Jerusalem to be the capital of their future Palestinian State. It seems to be an important point in Arab demands, if

peace is to be achieved. Yasser Arafat recently stated, "The holy city of Jerusalem belongs to us and is the key to peace." Meanwhile, the opening of a land link for Arabs between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was delayed because of differences in its operation, since Israel wants assurance that it will not be used to endanger the lives of Israeli citizens (*The Jewish Post and Opinion* via *The Everlasting Nation*, Jan.-Feb., 2000).

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Yet another illustration of the fact that Bill Clinton's Presidency should bear a "Made in Red China" stamp came on December 3rd, when it was announced that the administration was planning to allow the sale of an IBM RS/6000 SP supercomputer, which was ostensibly intended for use by China's Meteorological Administration, could be used "to improve the targeting of (China's) nuclear warheads" (*The New American*, 1-3-00). Lenin predicted: "The capitalist will sell the rope to hang himself with if he can make a profit on it."

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. (EP)—A painting showing Jesus as a dark-skinned man is the winner of the *National Catholic Reporter's* contest which challenged artists to update the image of Christ for the year 2000. The magazine described the image as a "more gentle Jesus. . . modeled on a woman." The painting, created by Janet McKenzie of Island Pond, Vt., was the top choice from among 1,678 entries from 1,004 artists in 19 countries. McKenzie said, "'Jesus of the People' simply came through me. I feel as though I am only a vehicle for its existence."

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NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—One out of three schools in the U.S. offers abstinence-only sex education, according to surveys conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Allen Guttmacher Institute. The survey found that 34 percent of secondary school principals and 35 percent of district superintendents report that their schools teach sexual abstinence as the best option and do not emphasize birth control. Most schools teach "abstinence plus," which discourages sexual activity but also emphasizes birth control for sexually active teens. The 1996 Welfare Reform Act provided \$50 million to states which teach abstinence.

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HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (EP)—A new Antonio Banderas film rejects the notion of the bodily resurrection of Christ. In *The Body*, Banderas plays a Roman Catholic clergyman whose vows of celibacy and belief in Jesus are tested after a young Israeli archaeologist stumbles across the body of Christ. Banderas told Reuters he doesn't expect the film to create controversy. "You never know with these kind of things, but we are just trying to be honest," he claimed. "This is not a movie done to create any kind of controversy."

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IRVING, Tex. (EP)—The Exxon Mobil Corporation has decided to discontinue granting "domestic partner" benefits to unmarried partners of employees. Exxon Mobil officials explained employees already receiving the benefits would not lose them, but the benefits would not be given to new employees. The policy was intended to benefit the unmarried partners of homosexual employees. Exxon Mobil officials said their reason for changing the policy was due to logistical enforcement problems. It was too difficult to determine who really was a current domestic partner without visiting homes for proof of residence. Exxon Mobil explained the legal status of marriage was the only clear way to determine benefit eligibility. Before the November 30 merger between Exxon and Mobil, 94.1 percent of Exxon shareholders voted at their annual meeting to reject an amendment to corporate bylaws that would have granted the domestic partner benefits. Before the vote, corporate directors also supported defeat of the amendment.

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LOUISVILLE, KY. (EP)—The trial of a Presbyterian minister in South Dakota who is charged with killing his wife of 30 years has been scheduled for Jan. 10. William Guthrie, a former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Wolsey, S.D., and of the Bonilla Presbyterian Church nearby, is being held without bond in Huron, S.D., on a charge of first-degree murder. Sharon Guthrie, 54, drowned in the bathtub of her Wolsey home on May 14. An autopsy revealed that she had taken an overdose of sleeping pill Temazepam, according to the Associated Press. The drug was prescribed for her husband. Beadle County State's Attorney Michael Moore told reporters last August that he thinks the minister slipped the contents of the capsules into his wife's chocolate milk.

\*\*\*\*\*

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—The National Council of Churches has recovered nearly 70 percent of the \$8 million it invested in fraudulent securities issued in the name of the Prague-based Banka Bohemia. The New York-based ministry has agreed to forgo further legal action in the case. The final settlement ends a six-year effort that included legal actions in England and the U.S. "We've been fortunate to recover as much as we did," commented Joan B. Campbell, NCC General Secretary, who noted that other investors have lost everything in similar schemes. Banka Bohemia, once the seventh largest in the Czech Republic, collapsed in 1994 after trying to sell \$1.2 billion in fake securities abroad.

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## Catechised by the Crew

(Studies in the Book of Jonah)

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

### Jonah 1:8-13

In our last study I left Jonah right after he was awakened by the skipper of the ship enroute to Tarshish. The crew had drawn lots and the lot had fallen on Jonah. These heathen sailors and the skipper believed this mighty tempest had come upon them because of the prophet's guilt. This conviction has not caused the storm to cease. The restless waves still roar and the wind continues to blow fiercely. What could they do to improve their plight? Jonah was a stranger to the master and the mariners. They personally knew nothing about him good or bad, although the lot had pointed him out as the guilty party.

Ordinarily, the crew did not interrogate their passengers. To meddle with someone's personal life was unnecessary and imprudent. But the present distress seemed to justify their examination of the prophet. When a person's conduct endangers the lives of others he forfeits the right of unquestioned conduct. The seamen desired to know what he had done that had created these dangerous surroundings. From their point of view it seemed that Jonah himself was competent to counsel them on this matter. Clinging to the ropes on the tossed ship, the crew shouted questions while the waves blew in their faces and the wind seemed to snatch away their words from their mouths.

A number of questions were put to him by the sailors. But there were three great questions put to him. Jonah answered the first and the last, but not the second.

### A VOLLEY OF QUESTIONS

**"Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?"** (Jonah 1:8). These questions may not have been consecutively. The sailors may have shouted them at him almost simultaneously. They wanted to know why the anger of the Lord followed him. They were earnest and respectful in these questions: **"Tell us, we pray thee."** Did the lot fall on you rightly? Are you the occasion of this tempest?

These sailors were men of self-restraint and good manners. They did not fly outrageously upon him. Rather they mildly and calmly inquired into his case. They believed a measure of compassion was due even to offenders. There is a great lesson for us here.

We must kindly deal with those who have injured us by maligning our reputation or blighting our hopes.

Jonah might have remained silent, or plead the Fifth Amendment, or called his attorney. He might have severely rebuked the semen for casting lots when they should have been manning the ship in this storm. He might have lied and endeavored to persuade them that he was entirely innocent of any wrong doing. He could have cursed them in anger. Some men would have done so but not Jonah. He was not a bad man, although he had badly behaved in the last few days. He did not dare to speak falsely or unkindly to men whose lives were imperiled by this storm. A true confession would be humiliating, but he will make it.

They not only asked about him being the culprit, but they also wanted to know what business he was engaged in: **"What is thine occupation?"** Are you operating a sinful business? Does your work have the approval of the gods? They also inquired of his country: **"And whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?"** By the bombardment of all these questions they sought to draw forth the answer they sought. They wanted to know all about him.

It was tragic for heathen to have to ask a prophet of God his profession. The proof of his calling should have been always manifested. No one ever asked Elijah or Elisha, "What is your occupation?" Their connection with the Almighty was stamped upon their every action and word. If people have to ask us if we are Christians, after being in our company for a time, it is proof enough we are backsliders.

### JONAH'S CONFESSION

In verse 9 the prophet made a full confession of his guilt: **"And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land."** He rightly said: **"I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD."** He was of the privileged race which sprung from Abraham. He held to the religion of his fathers. He worshipped Jehovah, the God Who made the sea and the dry land.

The seamen may have reasoned, "If you fear Jehovah, why have you not been calling upon Him during this storm? We have called upon our gods, why have you not called upon yours?" The answer was simple: Jonah had sinned and had not yet confessed his



Jonah being cast overboard by his shipmates during the tempest.

sin to God. Unconfessed sin shuts the mouth in prayer. This is why multitudes of Christians do not pray much. Sin is in their conscience, they will not confess it, so they are unable to pray.

Jonah is to be commended for witnessing to these heathen about his God. He did not say within himself, "If I knew they were God's elect, I would give the gospel to them. Seeing I have no proof they were chosen of God, I cannot speak to them about their souls, for God sent me to feed the sheep." He rather tells the mariners about his God. He would cause them to forsake their idols and turn to the only true and living God. Here is a lesson for us. When we are among those who are strangers to our God we have a duty to acquaint them with our Sovereign.

Jonah's confession shows how a child of God may degenerate until sin mocks his religious profession. Jonah stands in the midst of a heathen crew, fleeing God's presence, and yet he says, **"I fear the LORD."** Poor old Jonah! He stands there in bitter grief, recalling his former piety. He remembered the joy he once had when he obeyed God. Now he stands upon the deck of this ship in a storm as a runaway prophet.

Many of us are like Jonah. We make great pretense, but how little this is worth. Our Christian profession is contradicted by our conduct. We profess to believe in god, but in works we deny Him. We claim to be alive when we are dead. We confess to be concerned about the souls of men and often we are little concerned about our own immortal souls. We affirm our belief in the church and then forsake its services for the most trivial things. We use church membership as

a cloak for sin. When suspicion falls upon us, we piously cry, "We fear the Lord." The unsaved ought to know that we are Christians without having to be told. If our lives were what they ought to be we would not have to tell men we are Christians.

### THE SEAMEN ARE AFRAID

The mariners were already afraid because of the mighty tempest. Now they are in greater fear, knowing that the God that made the sea and the dry land is angry. **"Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them"** (Jonah 1:10). Perhaps they reasoned that if the Lord was so severely punishing Jonah for this one sin, what would He do to them who had done many wrongs? Before they had feared the tempest. Now they fear God. They felt it would be a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

At first the sailors had felt the cutting wind upon their faces and been splashed with the crested billows. They had hoped the hurricane would soon go away. But the storm grew more fierce until it exceeded anything as yet known to the oldest seaman. They were terror-stricken and their faces were pale. Jonah's testimony about the God of the sea had caused them to see that they had been paying homage to dumb idols; their religion was a myth; their deities mere phantoms; they worshipped a delusion. For a moment they stood there without a god! The dark clouds, the streaks of lightening, the roar of the sea, is the true God showing His power and anger at sinners.

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## Catechised by the Crew

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### THE PIERCING QUESTION

Knowing that Jonah had made a flight from God, they say to him: **“Why hast thou done this?”** The prophet gave no answer. Maybe he was overwhelmed with confusion and shame at having been exposed. This question was an awful rebuke, suggesting that Jonah as the prophet of Jehovah should have known better than to have acted this way. **“Why hast thou done this?”** Why have you disobeyed the true God? How could you be so foolish as to think you could escape from the God of the whole earth? How terrible is your sin! A servant fled from his Master, a son from his Father, a man from his God, a prophet from his divine calling!

Why had Jonah done this? The answer is not given here, but I believe it is later in the Book. In chapter 4, verse 2, I read: **“O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.”** Jonah did not anticipate the destruction of Nineveh so much as its deliverance. He was afraid the Ninevites would repent and the city would be delivered. He feared if he went out and preached that the city would not be destroyed. This would be injurious to his professional pride. He evidently thought more of his glory than God’s.

Jonah would have preferred to be the instrument of Nineveh’s destruction rather than its deliverance. If God destroyed Nineveh it would be good for Israel, for they were enemies. It was doubtless a patriotic motive that prompted him to flee from God’s presence rather than to be the means of averting the doom of the great city. Are we sometimes like Jonah? Do we talk about the “balance of power” and pray that other countries may fall to the advantage of our own? I greatly fear that we do at times.

**“Why hast thou done this?”** How do you excuse your conduct? Do you not see your folly? Why was not the grace of God sufficient to keep you from the sin of rebellion? Why did you become a runaway prophet, a backslidden preacher? The mariners could not understand his inconsistency.

Christians are often inconsistent. The inconsistency of older believers is the marvel of young believers, and it confirms lost sinners in their sins. If men really believe in eternity, how can they be immersed in the things of

time? If they truly believe Christ died for them, how can they treat Him as they do? If they actually think there is a judgment day coming, why do they live as if they shall never be judged? Faith without works, profession without possession, knowledge without obedience, conscious dependence and rebellion, to be favored by God and yet despise His favor, are the strange marvels of Christendom. All nature and the unsaved host seem to cry out against unfaithful believers, **“Why hast thou done this?”** And what a “why” this is! What answer can a backslider give to this question? Alas! the lives of so many bare the mark of Cain, the mark of those who have gone out from the presence of the Lord!

### THE VITAL QUESTION

**“Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous”** (Jonah 1:11). I marvel at the kind treatment Jonah received at the hands of these heathen sailors. How bright is their moral character in such dark surroundings! Their religious privileges in that day were few and far between. They did not want to harm the Lord’s anointed. They respected the God behind the storm. Although he is a delinquent prophet, he is now a penitent one. These heathen shame modern-day Christians who have little or no respect for the man of God.

The lots had fallen on Jonah, and he admitted he was the cause of the storm. They have allowed him to be his own judge, as they felt he knew best how to appease his God. They wanted him to solve the problem of their woe. They knew him to be God’s prophet. They assumed that they must do something to him, but they were uncertain just what to do. Anxious to do right, they would do nothing recklessly even though the storm grew worse.

The storm has reached its peak by this time. Their plight was more perilous. **“For the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.”** Literally, the sea was going and whirling—acting like a thing alive and obeying its Master’s will. It was keeping rank, marching like a battalion, marshaled, arrayed for the end for which it was sent, pursuing and demanding this runaway prophet of God! If was moving as it was bidden by its Sovereign. Greater and greater surges were rising, showing the judgment of God cannot be delayed.

### THE PROPHET’S REPLY

**“And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you”**

(Jonah 1:12). Please note the prompt, prophetic and plaintive character of this reply. It was manly. He was a convicted criminal. He had been his own judge and jury. He now pronounces his own sentence and appoints the sailors to be the executioners. Jonah felt these heathen had discharged their duty better than he had discharged his own. They were more fit to live than he was. It would be well to save their lives by the sacrifice of his own. Jonah was willing to die that these men might be saved.

We are not to understand by this that he had rather die than go to Nineveh. It is not a request of defiance or despair, but of holy resignation to the will of God. He told the sailor to pursue a course which would result in his immediate death. Here we see him rising to the demands of the hour in heroic fashion. He will sacrifice his life for the safety of others. More than ever before, He realized that his life was not his own. Jonah has repented of his flight from God and urges these men to open the portals of eternity before him. He is ready to go into the spiritland and to face his God.

Jonah had not intentionally planned to harm these seamen. But his presence had caused them to lose their cargo and almost their lives. He knew he was the medium of injury to others: **“For I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.”** He has the moral courage to confess his guilt and to advise the only remedy for its removal. He knew the storm would not get better until they threw him overboard.

Better than anyone else, the prophet knew the storm was the hand of Divine vengeance. As a man of God he could read the hand of Providence as few others could. He is willing to offer himself as a sacrifice to the God of the sea that his companions may be saved. He now realizes that self-sacrifice is the way to true service. What a lesson to us. Let us, like Jonah, be cast out for God that we may be a blessing to others. If we are guilty of bringing others into trouble by our lack of faithfulness to God, let us not add sin to sin by denying it. Let us have the manliness to bear our guilt and to suffer for our sin.

### A NOBLE ATTEMPT

These sailors have heard Jonah’s confession. The prophet had pronounced sentence against himself, and he had displayed the desire to save their lives at the expense of his own. But they dared not to lay a hand upon this holy prophet. His heroic conduct has charmed them, and they are struck with awe in his presence. They were weary with the work they had already done, and we might have expected

them to throw him overboard that they might obtain rest, but they did not. Rather they exerted themselves and risked their lives to save the man who had almost brought them to a watery grave. **“Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them”** (Jonah 1:13).

The mariners set to work in an attempt to save themselves without sacrificing their passenger. What noble conduct! What humane self-restraint! Never was a finer group of sailors gathered together. It is a noble thing to risk life in an attempt to save the life of another. Heaven be praised for the services of the Coast Guard and other rescue squads that help people in distress. All honor to firemen who brave scorching heat and suffocating smoke to effect the rescue of some woman or helpless child. A round of applause for those brave men who venture into the mines, after an explosion has taken place, in hope of aiding the survivors! Three cheers for doctors and nurses who work around the clock to preserve human life!

While the effort of these men was commendable, it was futile for it was opposed to the will of God. They put their oars well and firmly in the sea and turned up the water, but it was all in vain. This was well-meaning but ignorant zeal, for they rowed against the winds of God’s displeasure and the tide of His counsel. It is always vain to contend with God (Prov. 21:30). God always has a way of getting His way!

### PRACTICAL POINTS

1. Have you ceased to pray to God? Do you no longer habitually read and study the Scriptures. **“Why hast thou done this?”** Why have you forsaken the house of God? Why have you withdrawn from the fellowship of the saints? I know you have your excuses, but these are the Devil’s lies dressed up to meet the general public. Your own conscience is not satisfied with these excuses. Fellow Christians are not satisfied. Worst of all, God is not satisfied.

I may be speaking to someone who has turned aside from the path of virtue. You were honest once, now you practice fraud and downright theft. You were sober once, now you have become a social drinker. You were chaste once, now you have become a whore. **“Why hast thou done this?”** You have fled the presence of the Lord. Come back to Christian virtue and service. Return to fellowship with God and His saints. Don’t wait till you are called back by storm and tempest.

2. The sailors rowed hard to bring the ship to land. Their hard rowing

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## Catechised by the Crew

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did not suffice when God demanded a sacrifice. All the striving of men will not overtake the tempest of God's wrath against sin, there must be a sacrifice. We cannot defeat or change the purpose of God. Many would rather give God the sacrifice of their hands than the sacrifice of a broken heart. If you are seeking to pull your soul to Heaven apart from the sacrifice of Christ, you are rowing in vain.

3. Jonah was willing to die that these men might be saved. He was a type of Christ Who gave His life as a ransom for many. The greater than Jonah died that sinners might be saved with an everlasting salvation from death and destruction. It is this blessed truth which has melted the hearts of a multitude of sinners across the centuries. Does it move you to the tears of repentance and the sigh of faith? To gratitude and devotion of your life to Him Who gave His life for you? **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"** (Rom. 5:8).

## GLEANINGS



I have read with much interest the prophecy series by Dale Moody, and while I do not agree with some of his conclusions, I do respect his outstanding scholarship and feel that he has made a splendid contribution in presenting his views and interpretations. Perhaps others will wish to present other views on the subject. I have no purpose in doing so in this letter.

I do, however, wish to add what might be called a "sidelight" to one of the statements made by Dr. Moody. He listed B. H. Carroll as a postmillennialist, which, of course is true. One has only to read his books on Revelation or on Daniel to see that this is the position which he espoused. However, I wish to add a note to that fact, a note which might be lost to history if someone did not write it down.

While I was pastor at East Church, Paducah, from 1932-1943, the late W. H. Horton was pastor of First Church, Mayfield. Dr. Horton spoke at East Church and at other Paducah meetings, but I heard him most often at the West Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference, which during those years met regularly once a month at the

Mayfield church. One of the subjects discussed from time to time in this conference was prophecy, and Dr. Horton often was asked to lead in these discussions. He was premillennial in his position, and was an able preacher and teacher of the Bible. On more than one occasion I heard him relate the following story:

During the last years of Dr. Carroll's life Dr. Horton was pastor in Palestine, Texas, a city located about 100 miles east of Waco. Dr. Horton said that he had numerous occasions for fellowship and conversation with Dr. Carroll during those years. Dr. Carroll died in November, 1914, about five months after World War I had begun, and before his death Europe already was aflame. Moreover, for some years before the War there were evidences that one was coming.

Dr. Horton said that he discussed the dangers of war and the war itself with Dr. Carroll, and that he (Dr. Carroll) stated that he wished that he could live long enough to rewrite his books on Revelation and Daniel, since he had been mistaken in his position. He had believed that the preaching of the gospel and the growing influence of Christianity would bring a warless world and usher in the millennium. (One can see this conviction as he reads Dr. Carroll's commentaries.) When the threat of war, and then the war itself, came, Dr. Carroll evidently saw that he had been mistaken in his position.

Dr. Horton also related an experience of Dr. Carroll, in those late years of his life, supplying for one of his former students, and announcing in advance that he was going to speak on the Second Coming. The pastor, who was evidently premillennial in his position on the Lord's return, told his former teacher that he would be glad for him to speak on this subject, but that he reserved the right to answer him in a later message. When Dr. Carroll spoke, however, his message evidently was much like the premillennial position, if not that, that the pastor told Dr. Carroll that what he had preached was not what he had taught in his classes. The old preacher and teacher is reported to have replied that he was preaching the Word as he understood it then.

There is nothing in Dr. Carroll's books (I have his commentary and a number of volumes of his sermons) to corroborate such a change of position, but I am reporting what I heard Dr. Horton tell, and I am sure he was reporting it as he remembered it. It is an interesting sidelight in Baptist history.

Of course, many theologians at the beginning of this century, believed

that the 20th Century was about to usher in the millennium. They believed that it would be brought about by the work of the churches and the preaching of the gospel. There are few who hold this position today, and I wonder what these men of that day would say now as they looked back on what some have called "the bloodi-

est century of history."

God does promise a world in which "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord," but it is not to be brought about by the work of the church but by the return of the Lord Himself.

Joe T. Odle, Jackson, Miss.  
(*Western Recorder*, March 24, 1977)

## Carter Should be Careful about Name-Calling

By G. Russell Evans

Norfolk, Virginia

Jimmy Carter should be careful about name-calling; someone may call him names or worse—with documentation. The former president, in Panama December 14th to celebrate the Canal surrender, called American patriots "demagogues" for resisting the unconstitutional Carter-Torrijos Treaties and the loss of the "world's most strategic waterway" to Panama with Communist China poised in control ports at both ends of the Canal and ready to move into defense sites.

Perhaps Mr. Carter does not understand these violations of the Neutrality Treaty by the 1977 Panama Law No. 5—nor the official documents calling the US "China's main enemy"—nor Section IV of *The Communist Manifesto* calling for "overthrow of existing conditions." Perhaps he *does not want* to understand. Perhaps he's caught up in the New World Order to phase out US sovereignty and beef up the United Nations. What he *does* understand is his own manipulations to "ratify" illegal Treaties.

### 'NAIVE' AND 'SELF-RIGHTEOUS'

These words come to mind in assessing Carter's pious sweet-talk about the Canal—and no matter how many nails he drives for Habitat for Humanity or how many two-by-fours by plumbs, the documented facts forever prove his shameful manipulations and unconstitutional procedures in ramming the Treaties through a slavish Senate afraid of "embarrassing the President."

It's not nice to smear "demagogue" on such patriots as Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Chairman Howard Phillips of The Conservative Caucus, President Richard A. Delgaudio of the National Security Center and their thousands and thousands of supporters. These heroes took time to find out Carter's trickery and President Clinton's *quid pro quo*: silence as payoff for China's cash donations to the Clinton-Gore 1996 reelection.

Neither is it nice for Cater to bad-mouth his country on foreign soil as he did before the world at the

Miraflores Locks extravaganza.

### HE FOOLED US

Perhaps the most charitable thing to say about Mr. Carter is: "He fooled us." So did Adam Clymer in the *New York Times* (Dec. 15) and the *Miami Herald* editorial (Dec. 14)—both mum about the above dangers and both overjoyed at "justice for Panama" and the "end of American colonialism."

Why? The truth is out there prime time in my two thoroughly documented books: *The Panama Canal Treaties Swindle* (Signal Books, 1986) and *Death Knell of the Panama Canal?* (National Security Center, 1998)—available to all and backed by over a dozen constitutional scholars, such as Charles E. Rice of Notre Dame, Alfred J. Schweppe of American Bar Association fame and James McClellan, preeminent Senate counsel.

### LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

I say Mr. Carter fooled us. He fooled us big time. Let me count the ways:

\* *Promised* voters in 1976, "I'll never give up control of the Panama Canal and I'll never lie to you." His first official act as president was to sign the order to negotiate surrender of the Canal: National Security Defense Memorandum No. 1 on January 21, 1977.

\* *Appointed* Sol Linowitz as Treaties negotiator for six months to avoid Senate confirmation and disclosure of his conflicts of interest: Director of Marine Midland Bank with its \$115 million loan to Panama and his long-time advocacy of surrendering the Canal.

\* *Secretly* told Panama's Dictator Torrijos to "write your own reservation" about US Canal defense under the DeConcini Condition—proudly boasted in Carter's book, *Keeping Faith*, page 173. This became Panama's counter-reservation, never approved by the US Senate and violating Art. II of the US Constitution.

\* *Violated* Art. IV of the US Constitution requiring both Houses of Congress to transfer US property. The

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# Carter... Name-Calling

*Continued from page 278*  
House was shut out.

\* *Violated* Art. VI of the US Constitution by not requiring both Houses to terminate the 1903 Hay-Banau-Varilla Treaty—since treaties are equal to laws. Hence, the original 1903 Treaty legally remains in force.

\* *Accepted* violations of Panama's Constitution: Art. 163 requiring the president to sign treaties; Dictator Torrijos signed. Art. 274 requiring plebiscite; none was held for six major US changes.

There are other irregularities—all documented in my two books and ignored by big media, sympathetic to Carter and Clinton. Ignored, yes, but what big media cannot deny are the proper names for Mr. Carter's department: *dishonesty - hypocrisy - betrayal*. Isn't it time to say so?



Dear Brother Cockrell,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We would like to thank you for "Studies in Genesis" by Elder Ron Crisp. It has been a blessing to this family. We use it every day in our family studies. We are all learning a lot. We thank the Lord for the *Banner* and His precious Word. May the Lord bless you in your work.

Dear Brethren,

Just to say, thank you very much for your paper (BBB). God used it many times to bless my heart.

I am receiving your papers for almost four years now. I believe Bro. Gene Flynn sponsored me to receive your wonderful paper. Thank God for him and to you all who labor to make the *Berea Baptist Banner* a blessing to me and to my ministry.

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

I would appreciate you sending whatever book list you have. We enjoy receiving the *Berea Baptist Banner* each month.

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Just a short note to let you know how much we appreciate all that you do. Truly the Lord has greatly blessed you and the Church. We remember you in prayer and know that the Lord of Glory will as always up hold His people.

Keep up the good work. Again we appreciate BBB.

Dear Bro. Cockrell,  
Greetings to you in the name of our Redeemer.

Though it took me several months before sending you this letter, yet our church here in Davao City is continually praying for you and the Berea Baptist Church and her ministries. I'm always looking forward of the arrival of your paper in my mail box.

Thank you for the BBB.

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

I would like to renew the *Banner* for 2 more years. Sorry I let the time get away from me. Your paper has many good spiritual messages. Thank the Lord to have access to the truth.

Dear Sir:

Please find a check in the amount of five dollars and renew my subscription for two years.

I have been a Baptist pastor for forty-two years and find *The Berea Baptist Banner* scriptural and very informative.

Bro. Milburn,

This old 80-year-old had a little extra so thought I ought to send you some to help where ever it is needed. God bless you and the work.

Dear Pastor and Church,

Please find enclosed the monthly mission offering for Bro. Curtis and Sis. Janet Pugh in the amount of \$. We continue to keep the Pughs in our prayers, as well as you all, as we know there is much involved in overseeing the mission work being done.

Continue contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints, and the Lord shall reward you at His appearing and His kingdom with an heavenly reward which no man taketh from you.

Dear Bro. Milburn,

Greetings in the name of our Blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. I hope these few lines find you doing well. I've tried several ways over the past few years to locate you and finally did so with the help of the computer.

What I'm writing for Brother, is to try to find if you still have a paper in publication or how to subscribe. If not, do you have any papers you would so kindly recommend. Hope to hear from you soon.

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Our church has decided to support your ministry even though we are small in number. We expect the Lord to do

some great things in this community. I enjoyed your article on Jonah and I think we believe alike here. I can hardly wait for the next issue.

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

It was a joy to talk on the telephone and to hear that you are doing well these days. Thank you so much for the gift of using your hymnal and permission in making copies for our church. We look forward to using it in worshipping the Lord in song. The announcement was made at our Wednesday evening service and I thought everyone there was pleased to know it would soon be here.

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*by Milburn Cockrell*

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Beginning Balance .....	\$ 3,780.28
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	100.00
Grace B.C., Corbin, KY .....	100.00
Livingstone B. C., Barboursville, WV .....	304.56
Oakvale B. C., Danese, WV .....	50.00
Berea B.C., Westpoint, TN .....	132.00
Briar Creek, B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	75.00
Calvary Ind. B. C., Everson, WA .....	150.00
Dividing checks .....	375.00
.....	1,286.56
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS .....</b>	<b>5,066.84</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Radio Time .....	819.55
Postage .....	18.50
Tapes .....	30.00
Dividing checks .....	275.00
Total Expenditures .....	1,143.05
Sub Total .....	3,923.79
Bank Charge .....	- 1.21
<b>ENDING BALANCE .....</b>	<b>\$3,922.58</b>

#### CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance .....	\$1,888.32
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Total .....	1,888.32
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
WYWY .....	140.00
Total Expenditures .....	140.00
<b>ENDING BALANCE .....</b>	<b>\$1,748.32</b>

#### 1999 YEARLY REPORT

Beginning Balance .....	\$2,989.13
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Total .....	\$16,426.20
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Radio Time .....	\$10,296.40
Tapes & Supplies .....	1,031.93
Postage .....	315.63
Dividing Checks .....	900.00
Total Expenditures .....	\$12,543.96
.....	3,882.24
Bank Charges .....	-34.66
.....	3,847.58
Check#1068 never cleared .....	+75.00
<b>Ending Balance .....</b>	<b>\$3,922.58</b>

#### BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 11-30-99 to 12-31-99

Beginning Balance .....	\$1,907.60
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....	60.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV .....	300.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL .....	25.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX .....	30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Fulton, MS .....	100.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	125.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR .....	50.00
Berea B.C., Mansfield, OH .....	50.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	200.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA .....	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS .....	50.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL .....	100.00
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM .....	50.00
Mt Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH .....	100.00
Temple Baptist Mission, Johnson City, TN .....	30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL .....	100.00
South Park M. B. C., Seattle, WA .....	25.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN .....	20.00
Grace B. Mission, Marion, IL .....	25.00
Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA .....	40.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC .....	100.00
Faith B. C., Seffner, FL .....	100.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN .....	50.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM .....	100.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX .....	15.00
Letson H. Ferrell, Long Beach, MS .....	300.00
Bethesda B. C., Odessa, FL .....	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Warren, OH .....	75.00
Landmark M. B. C., Moncks Corner, SC .....	25.00
J. B. Wild, Flint, MI .....	40.00
Joseph Jurzec, Lake-in-the-Hills, IL .....	125.00
Northland M. B. C., Delaware, OH .....	50.00
Berea B. C., Stoning, IL .....	120.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV .....	200.00
Grace B. C., Georgetown, KY .....	81.00
Meadow Branch B. C., Millport, AL .....	100.00
B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL .....	49.56
Philadelphia B. C., Aztec, NM .....	50.00
The Lord's B. C., Goose Creek, SC .....	100.00
Howard Soffel, Muney, PA .....	64.00
Grace B.C., Tulsa, OK .....	90.00
Jack Farmer, Mobile, AL .....	50.00
Charles E. Burt, Hendersonville, NC .....	38.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC .....	50.00
Randy Coffey, CGrove City, OH .....	25.00
Timothy J. Hille, Ashland, IL .....	7.00
Edgar E. Roberts, Walker, LA .....	100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....	50.00
W. P. Furlong, Burnside, KY .....	12.00
Charlene Redding, Tucson, AZ .....	250.00
Bible B. C., Sullivan, IL .....	20.00
Temple B. Mission, Johnson City, TN .....	30.00
Anonymous .....	401.80
Subscriptions .....	217.00
Sub Total .....	\$4,817.36
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$6,724.96</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Wages:	Milburn Cockrell .....
	Sheron Cockrell .....
	Christopher Cockrell .....
	Derek Cockrell .....
Total Wages .....	1,975.00
Postage .....	758.50
Printing .....	537.14
FICA taxes .....	151.09
Supplies .....	280.59
Total Expenditure .....	3,702.32
.....	3,022.64
Bank charge .....	- 5.60
<b>ENDING BALANCE .....</b>	<b>\$3,017.04</b>

#### 1999 YEARLY REPORT

Beginning Balance .....	\$1,525.26
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Total .....	\$47,652.48
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Printing .....	\$6,340.26
Wages .....	23,075.00
Postage .....	8,833.14
FICA .....	1,758.15
Supplies .....	2,065.67
Dividing Checks .....	2,441.61
Total Expenditures .....	\$44,513.83
.....	3,138.65
Bank Charges .....	-116.92
.....	3,021.73
Mistake on check#1554 .....	- 3.20
Canadian check charge .....	- 1.75
Mistake on check#1702 .....	+ 2.26
<b>Ending Balance .....</b>	<b>\$3,017.04</b>





# World Scene

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

## Glorious Celebration Marks Canal Surrender



The glorious day for celebrating the surrender of the Panama Canal—December 14, 1999—has come and gone, but etched in memory is the sight of former President Jimmy Carter relishing once again “one of his proudest moments” as he sits with Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso at Miraflores Locks, beaming joy unrestrained.

What we remember most about Mr. Carter is his 1976 pledge to voters “I’ll never lie to you and, if elected president, I’ll never give up control of the Panama Canal.” But, he did lie and he sold out his country with unconstitutional treaties. In any language, this is dishonesty, hypocrisy and betrayal.

Now, our media and Washington experts, and those of yesteryear quoted by the media, assure us that the Canal surrender is magnificent, despite Communist China’s beachhead and vault into control positions (political and physical), and there’s nothing to worry about. We Americans are magnanimous. President Clinton “trusts China” and welcomes his campaign benefactor as “trading partner and strategic ally.”

Many patriots disagree vehemently and totally with this hypocritical facade and warn how much harder to retake a strategic asset once surrendered. They are waking up to the unconstitutional aspects of 1977 Panama Canal Treaties and conflicts with the new Panama Law No. 5. Some say “We can go back in.” Not legally, because Panama’s secretive counter-reservation requires *mutual cooperation*. That’s not unilateral!

### ADMIRAL MOORER

We have many patriots in America, but perhaps none wiser or more far-sighted than Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, distinguished former Chief of Naval Operations and former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, who warns in a blockbuster piece on the Internet that we risk a nuclear Pearl Harbor with Red China’s foothold at the Canal and ready to move into defense sites. He further warns:

“The notion that a US president and Congress could allow this Canal—built and defended by the United States at an incredible cost in treasure and blood—to fall under the control of an avowed enemy, the Red Chinese—without a shot being fired—is incredible.

Strategically, the Canal is a “choke-

point,” one of our places in the world where a small area can block an entire continent. The other three are the Suez Canal, Straits of Gibraltar and the Malacca Straits.

Now Bill Clinton has America abandoning the Canal. Unless the American people raise a terrific outcry, Communist China on December 31 will take control of the Canal and occupy US military facilities.”

### REAR ADMIRAL GERHARD

Another patriot to speak out is Rear Admiral H. E. Gerhard, former operator, planner and international specialist, whose letter to the *Wall Street Journal* called the editor’s hand for misleading readers:

13 December 1999

Mr. Robert L. Bartley, Editor  
The Wall Street Journal  
200 Liberty Street  
New York, New York 10281

Dear Mr. Bartley:

Having read Carla Anna Robbins’ CANAL article published 10 December, I am appalled that a publication as noteworthy as yours would sanction an article of that sort which would more profitably have seen the light of day in the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

The author and her cohorts exhibit noteworthy journalistic skills for an article with such a commercial bent. It also seems that Ms. Robbins has consulted a Gina Marie Hatheway who at one time was a staffer of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who labeled the turn-over in Panama as just another business deal. Time

will tell, since neither of these women are able to carry the label of a strategist or an intelligence analyst.

However, what has been published is rather shallow as regards national security, strategy, and capabilities. Too much is involved here and too many errors have been covered-up for this to be passed off blithely as “just a business deal.” Ms. Robbins quotes someone regarding a “two ocean navy.” We have not had a two-ocean navy since before Mr. Clinton gutted it. The “slightly more than 300 ship” fleet she quotes is nearly the size of a Fast Carrier Task Force in the Pacific of WWII days. All her stated interocean transfers reflect non-emergency movements, and without even an estimate of escalation.

Nowhere in her article does she or her cohorts inform the public that seven U.S. companies had outbid the PRC company, but had lost when an unorthodox third round of bidding made Hutchinson Whampoa a shoo-in because they were allowed to double their original bid in a secret deal with the then Panamanian President. Oh, yes. Hutchinson-Whampoa is directly connected to the PRC and the PLA, despite “no knowledge” pleas by the USG.

This Carter-instigated “giveaway” was done illegally, was not reviewed and approved completely by either Government, and the treaty terms have been violated by the new 1977 Panama Law No. 5.

The Clinton Administration accelerated the turn-over this fall. Why?

Irrespective of Ms. Robbins’ words, Mr. Clinton declines to attend the ceremonies, as does Ms. Albright—leaving only Mr. Carter to do the “honors.” Also, Fidel Castro rejected just recently Panama’s announcement in September that he would be the honored guest at the ceremonies.

By-the-bye, there seems to be a large number of uninitiated about. I

commend to these folks a serious reading of China’s greatest general, SUN TZU, who states very clearly, inter alia: “THE SUREST WAY TO DEFEAT AN ENEMY IS TO SO ARRANGE MATTERS THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GO TO WAR WITH HIM TO WIN, FOR YOU WILL HAVE MADE IT SO THAT HE CANNOT DEFEAT YOU. YOU RENDER HIM UNABLE TO SUSTAIN THE BATTLE, AND SEE TO IT THAT HE KNOWS HE CANNOT. THEN, SINCE HE CANNOT DEFEAT YOU, YOU ADVANCE YOUR POSITION FORWARD AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS.” The PRC has already been blunted in the Philippines and in Guam by far-sighted authorities. They are not our allies! We are their declared enemies!

I also commend to the uninitiated a serious reading of the MONROE DOCTRINE

which we seem to have put aside.

In the words of an old China-hand friend of mine, “Where there is smoke; There are Chinese.” The day will come when we shall gag on all that smoke because we have paid scant attention to national security business today. It is this last category we concern ourselves about—NOT in any way shape or form a psychological barrier or upheaval.

Very truly yours,

H. E. Gerhard

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)

(Captain Evans is author of the *Death Knell of the Panama Canal?* (National Security Center, 1998), available on the Internet at Amazon.com for \$7.00.)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Bill DeRossitt departed this life on January 13, 2000, at 2:15 p.m. The funeral was held at the Grace Baptist Church, Georgetown, Ky., on Jan. 18th. If the editor of this paper ever had a true and lasting friend in this world, it was Bro. Bill DeRossitt, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Georgetown, Ky. “. . . **thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty**” (I Sam. 20:18).

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The Northside Baptist Church, Oakdale, La., and Pastor Larry Wilson will have a Bible Conference March 17-19. Meals will be served by the church. Speakers on the program are as follows: Elders Jerry Dodson, David O’Neal, Walter Herin, Keith Kennison, Arthur Blevins, Doyal Thomas, Bill Lee, G. L. Burr, Homer Laurence, and Milburn Cockrell. For more information call (318) 335-4967 or e-mail LWWilson1@aol.com.

### Coming in the next issue . . .

*Repentance and Faith* by Willard Willis  
*Life in the Early Church Part 2* by Milburn Cockrell  
*"Man Overboard!"* by Milburn Cockrell

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