

The Berea Baptist Banner

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"That Blessed Hope"

By James M. Gray

(1851-1935)

Our text is the words of Paul in Titus 2:11-13: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

The second coming of Christ is the hope of the church. It is not death. It is not immortality. It is not the conscious felicity of the intermediate state, but the resurrection from the dead and the glorification with Christ, that shall take place in the history of the church when Christ comes "the second time without sin unto salvation."



James M. Gray

This hope God has set before us again and again in one way and another in the New Testament.

More than three hundred times is it mentioned there, oftener than any other doctrine of grace, with the exception of our redemption through the blood of Christ. This, therefore, shows us the importance it holds in the mind of God, and the importance it should hold in the minds of His saints.

And yet, strange to relate, there are

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The Year 2001 in Review

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"What hath God wrought!" (Num. 23:23).

The year of 2001 was one of unforgettable events! It was a year when God removed His protective hedge from America and allowed the emissaries of Satan to slaughter many Americans. It was a year of scandal in high places and a year of recession. It was a time of great doctrinal departures from the faith.

THE UNITED STATES

We began 2001 with the Clinton legacy. In his last hours President Bill Clinton (our impeached president) pardoned Marc Rich, billionaire ex-husband and big-money Democratic contributor, who fled the U.S. rather than face tax-evasion charges. Clinton staffers trashing the White House on their way out, taking everything but



the doorknobs and the kitchen sink. Even the "Ws" were removed from computer keyboards.

I, for one, will remember Bill Clinton for the harm he did to my country. From the election of Bill Clinton and Al Gore in 1992, our military forces were cut to the bone. Under this administration we lost 709,000 regular (active duty) personnel, 293,000 reserve troops, eight standing Army divisions, 20 Air Force and Navy air wings with 2,000 combat aircrafts, 232 bombers, 13 strategic

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People Need to Know More About Islam

By G. Russell Evans

Norfolk, Virginia



G. Russell Evans

It is time for people everywhere to know more about the Islamic faith and more about the Muslims who practice it worldwide. And certainly, it is time

for our leaders, who should know better, to quit misleading us with blandishments like, "their God is like our God," "Muslims love America just as we do," and "Islam is peace." So, let us look at the record.

TWO KINDS

There are two kinds of Muslims: the violent and the non-violent. Both quote the Quran. Both worship Allah and the Prophet Mohammad. And both are out to "conquer America." They are cunning.

They leveled the south end of

Manhattan Island, devastated the Pentagon and massacred thousands of innocents on Sept. 11th. Mastermind of this bloodiest day in America was

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The Succession of Truth

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him" (Acts 8:29-31).

You will note that I have chosen the

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any

strongest word of three: succession, perpetuity, and continuity. "Continuity" means "the state or quality of being continuous, a continuous or connected whole" (*Webster's American Family Dictionary*, p. 209). "Perpetuity" means "the state or character of being perpetual, endless or indefinitely long duration of existence" (*ibid.*, p. 706). "Succession" means "the coming of

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thing that is t h y neighbour's" (Ex. 20:17).

"Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the

things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

"Thou shalt not covet" (Rom. 13:9).

All of the previous commandments primarily concerned the overt act of transgression, the outward conduct of a person. This Tenth Commandment is different from the other nine. It concerns the inner man; it points to the emotions of a man and goes to the inward desires of the heart. It



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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).



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2001 in Review

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ballistic missile submarines with 3,114 nuclear warheads, 500 ICBMs with 1,950 warheads, four aircraft carriers and 121 surface combat ships and submarines. How much this may have contributed to the attack on September 11th only God knows.

After one of the worst election battles in the history of our country, finally President-elect George W. Bush took office and stocked his Cabinet with Colin Powell, Donald Rumsfeld, and other veterans of previous Republican administrations. President Bush takes his religion seriously. He prays and reads the Bible.

In mid January the *National Inquirer* reported that Jesse Jackson had fathered the 20-month-old daughter of a former top staff member of his Rainbow-PUSH Coalition. In 1998, Jackson had been a spiritual adviser to President Bill Clinton after his affair with Monica Lewinsky. Jackson was well qualified to counsel Mr. Clinton, seeing they both were violators of the Seventh Commandment. It appears

that Jackson's child was conceived about a month before Jackson began counseling Bill Clinton about his affair.

In February a U. S. nuclear submarine, performing an emergency surfacing maneuver, accidentally rammed a Japanese fishing trawler, the *Ehime Maru*, killing nine Japanese crewmen and students.

In March Andy Williams, 15, came out of a bathroom at his high school in San Diego and opened fire with a .22-caliber pistol, killing two students. Just a few weeks later, Jason Hoffman, 18, went on a shooting spree at a high school outside San Diego, wounding five people.

In April Mississippi voters decided to keep the Confederate Southern Cross as part of the state's flag by a margin of 2 to 1. A U. S. spy plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet and was forced down within China. Finally, China sent the spy plane back in a box, along with a bill for \$1 million.

In May former U. S. Senator Bob Kerrey admitted 32 years ago, his Navy SEALs squad killed more than a dozen women and children in Vietnam. President Bush announced the U. S. would pursue a missile defense system. On a trip to Syria, Pope John Paul II said Muslims and Christians should forgive each other "for all the times we have offended one another."

In June President Bush won a major victory when Congress passed his plan to cut taxes by \$1.35 billion over the next 10 years. During this month Timothy McVeigh was executed in Terre Haute, Indiana, for murdering 168 men, women, and children in the 1995 bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma City.

A DAY THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY

On the morning of September 11, a hijacked American Airlines 767 flew straight into the World Trade Center's north tower at more than 400 mph. Eighteen minutes later a second hijacked plane rammed the south tower. Americans watched on television and realized they had been thrust into the uncertainty of a terrorist war. Within 90 minutes, both towers collapsed, their steel supports melted by the 2,000-degree heat of the burning jet fuel. More than 3,000 Trade Center workers, firemen, and police perished in the line of duty. This is about the number of babies murdered each week in the U.S. Every week in the U. S. is a September 11th for unborn babies!

A third hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon, killing 189. A fourth plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania, short of its unknown target in

Washington, after four passengers rushed the cockpit.

Passengers on board United Flight 93 from Newark to San Francisco were able to contact people on the ground and find out what was happening. Unlike people on the other three flights hijacked by terrorists that day, the people on Flight 93 decided to do something.

Todd Beamer, a 32-year-old man from Granbury, N. J., was one of those passengers. "We're going to do something," he told a GTE Telephone supervisor from the plane. "I know I'm not going to get out of this." Beamer, who graduated from Wheaton College with his wife, Lisa, in 1991, asked the supervisor to recite the Lord's Prayer with him, and made her promise to call his pregnant wife and his two sons to tell them he loved them. Then he dropped the phone and said, "God help me. Jesus help me. Are you ready? Let's roll."

Flight 93 crashed in a lightly populated area about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, killing all onboard. Authorities believe passengers on the plane fought the hijackers to keep the plane from hitting its intended target. It is believed the plane was headed to Washington, D.C., perhaps to the White House or the Capitol. Beamer and other passengers on board the flight have been hailed as heroes for their part in the thwarting of the hijackers' plans.

U. S. Rep. Rush Holt, (D-N.J.), whose district includes Granbury, said, "Anybody who doesn't believe one person can make a difference should take a look at Todd Beamer."

WHERE WAS GOD?

Some have asked why did God allow such a thing to happen? Certainly God did not force the Islamic terrorists to attack and kill our people. These terrorists were demon-controlled fanatics, carrying out the Devil's work. But could God have prevented this event? If He is the Almighty God of which the Bible speaks, the answer is in the affirmative.

God punishes sinners, and He chastens even His own elect for holy ends. While America was founded by Christians and on Christian principles, the last few years we seem to have made an all-out effort to get rid of God in all public life. In 1966 prayer and Bible reading were banned from our public schools. Our leaders and courts refused to have the Ten Commandments put on the walls of our schools. Since the Supreme Court legalized baby killing in 1973 in *Roe v. Wade*, some 40,668,335 babies have died by abortion on demand.

To this may be added the anti-Bible ideas which we allowed the liberals, leftists, and liars to cause us to accept. I list a few of them: Pornography is okay. You can have sex without responsibility (the condom cult). You can have money without working for it (the welfare system). Crime does not deserve punishment. Money can solve the problems of education Teachers who can't teach kids to read in the Fourth Grade are somehow qualified to teach sex education in the Fourth Grade. Education, homosexual rights, minority rights, etc. are more important than national security. People who tell the truth belong in jail and sex offenders and potheads belong in the White House. We should deny the positive rights of the majority to protect the negative rights of a few.

God allowed the events of September 11th to give us a wake-up call. It was the worst thing since Pearl Harbor! The attack was on Americans regardless of race, color, or creed. It was an assault on our way of life. Osama bin Laden and the Taliban declared war on the United States!


On September 11th a giant awoke. But will he get up and destroy Islamic terrorists, or will he merely go after a few of them, and then go back to sleep. Time will tell.

JUDGMENT MINGLED WITH MERCY

We must forever deplore the death toll and destruction of property from the terrorist attacks on the United States. But with this judgment there was much mercy. The mainstream media has not reported much of this. About 50,000 people were employed in the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Taking the high figure of 5,000 people missing, that means that 90 percent targeted survived the attack. Some 23,000 worked at the Pentagon, but again over 90 percent survived the attack. This attack was a terrible tragedy, but a statistical failure.

Then consider the planes. The Boeing 757 that was flown into the outside of the Pentagon could have carried 289 passengers, yet only 64 were on board. This means 78 percent of the seats were empty. The Boeing 767 of American Airlines Flight 11 could have had up to 351 people, but it only carried 92. This means 74 percent of the seats were unfilled. Another Boeing 767 of United Airlines Flight 175 could have seated 351 people, but it had only 65. Fortunately it was 81 percent empty. Then the Boeing 757 of United Airlines Flight 93 had only 45 people on board out of a possible 289. This is 84 percent of its capacity unused. Out of the potentially 74,280

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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.)

The Purpose of the Death of Christ

IX. TO REDEEM HIS PEOPLE FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Gal. 3:13-14).

How glorious the words: "**Christ hath redeemed us. . .!**" The Greek word for "redeemed" is *exagorazo* which means "to purchase a slave with the view of his freedom" (See *Epistle to the Galatians* by Hogg and Vine, p. 133). A. T. Robertson says it means "to buy back, to ransom" (*Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol. IV, p. 294). John Albert Bengel declares it means that "He freed us by purchase from the state, in which we were held" (*New Testament Word Studies*, Vol. II, p. 354). *The New Bible Commentary* tells us of this expression: "'To redeem' means to deliver by payment of the cost of deliverance, i.e. a ransom, which is the death of Christ. . ." (p. 1098).

John Brown informs us: "The phrase, 'Christ hath redeemed us,' has often been considered as just equivalent to, 'He hath delivered us.' There can be no doubt that the word 'redeem' is often used in this general sense; but there is little doubt that its primary and proper signification is to deliver in consequence of paying a ransom equivalent. . ." (*Galatians*, p. 130).

"**From the curse of the law.**" Some ultradispensationalists contend this is Jews exposed to the Mosaic Law, and that it has no reference to the Gentiles. This is strange indeed since the Gentiles are especially mentioned in verse 14. I reject this idea. First, the members of the Galatian churches were mostly

Gentiles. Second, the Gentiles were, and still are, under the moral law of God (Rom. 2:14-15). If the Gentiles are not under the moral law of God, then they cannot be sinners, "**for where no law is, there is no transgression**" (Rom. 4:15). Also I John 3:4 tells us: "**For sin is the transgression of the law.**" Jew and Gentile are under the moral law of God that "**all the world my become guilty before God**" (Rom. 3:19).

How strong and strange the words: ". . . **being made a curse for us.**" This language is something like II Corinthians 5:21: "**For he hath made him to be sin for us. . .**" Christ being made a curse can mean no less than that He bore the wrath of God, or the divine displeasure, in the room and stead of those for whom He suffered. His sufferings and death were such that He paid the whole debt the elect owed to the justice of God. In the Jewish ritual the victim was regarded as bearing the sins of those for whom atonement was made. The curse was transferred from them to it. The animal became in a certain sense the impersonation of the sin and its curse. This is especially seen in the scapegoat.

What are we to make of the words: ". . . **for us. . .**" The Greek proposition is *hyper*, and it means "on behalf of" or "in the place of." Christ stood in the place of elect Jews and Gentiles who had broken the law, and Christ bare the penalty which they owed to the justice of God. This is a real atonement and for a particular people. Christ took our place, He bore our judgment, and He died our death. This is substitutionary atonement.

Oh, to think that Christ bore the dreadful curse for us! By doing this He delivered us from the punishment pronounced against us on account of our sins. He delivered us by paying the full price we owed to God's outraged justice. He bore our judgment and died our death vicariously, as our Substitute and Representative. He suffered death, as though He were a sinner, in behalf of those who were sinners. He paid the redemption price and secured our freedom from the condemnation of the law (Rom. 8:1). Those for whom He died shall never be cursed by the law here or hereafter.

I will briefly comment on verse 14: "**That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**" First, the blessing of Abraham is justification by faith. Second, the reception of the Spirit is through faith. The word "we" includes Jews and Gentiles, for justification and the promise of the Spirit is bestowed upon both. What the law could not secure is found in Christ. "Through Jesus Christ" can read "in Jesus Christ" (See Gill here),

meaning those chosen in Christ and represented by Christ in the covenant and on the cross. We receive the Spirit of adoption (Rom. 8:15), or the assurance of our sonship, by faith in the gospel (Rom. 10:16-17; Gal. 3:2; Eph. 1:13).

The death of Christ delivered those for whom it was intended from the curse and condemnation of the law. This cannot be all men without exception, for many bear the curse of their sins. To the goats Christ will say: "**Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels**" (Matt. 25:41). If Jesus Christ delivered all for whom He gave Himself from the curse of the broken law (Galatians 3:13 says He did), and some for whom He suffered the curse are accursed from God, then Christ failed in His redeeming work. The old prophet said of Christ: "**He shall not fail nor be discouraged**" (Isa. 42:4). You may be a failure and I may be a failure, but not so of Jesus Christ. As A. A. Luther well said in his beloved hymn:

Jesus never fails,

Jesus never fails;

Heaven and earth may pass away,

But Jesus never fails.

THE NAME BAPTIST

There are a number of Baptist (?) churches who are dropping the name "Baptist." The justifications for this go something like this: "We are not dropping the doctrine or the philosophy, just the name." "The word 'Baptist' is offensive and we can reach more people without it." "There wasn't any denominations in the New Testament." "While we do not go by the name 'Baptist' we are still Baptist." "

The plain truth is that such churches generally have ceased to stand for the doctrines of the historic Baptists long before they dare to drop the name. They drop the name because they are not Baptists and do not want to be known as Baptists. In honesty most of them should drop the name Baptist because they are not New Testament Baptist churches. To claim to be what you are not is to play the hypocrite. You can call a hog a horse, but that does not make him one.

What does the name "Baptist" mean according to the dictionary? *Webster's American Family Dictionary* says that a Baptist is "a member of a Christian denomination that baptizes believers by immersion and that is usu. Calvinistic in doctrine." Thus when a person wants to baptize some person not a believer (babies and unconverted professors of salvation), or by some mode of baptism other than immersion, he should drop the name Baptist. Also in the light of this definition, if a church has become Arminian in doctrine, they should drop

the name Baptist, for Baptists are Calvinistic in doctrine. By this rule many need to at once remove the name Baptist from their church signs, seeing they believe and preach the Arminian schemes.

The name Baptist is a divine name, for God called John "**the Baptist**" before he started preaching or baptizing: "**In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea**" (Matt. 3:1). Many Campbellite preachers know this, and they always refer to "John the Baptizer," carefully avoiding using the divine name of Baptist.

The name "Baptist" goes back to the New Testament. In about A.D. 200 some of our people were called "Anabaptists" (rebaptizers). During the Dark Ages this name was often tacked on to the Christians who were persecuted and murdered by the Catholic Church. About the time of the Reformation the "Ana" was dropped and we were called "Baptists." Across the centuries many martyrs and confessors died for this name. Thus the name Baptist identifies us with the trail of blood of our Baptist ancestors (although they were often called by a number of other names). Baptists they were, and it matters not what some men may have called them.

The name Baptist stands for a baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. It distinguishes those who baptize saved people from those who do not. It distinguishes us from heretical Baptists. Some must add a prefix to the name: "Reformed Baptists," "Primitive Baptists," "Freewill Baptists," etc. The name Baptist is a divisive name because it stands for the whole truth without compromise.

Now I want to go back to some of those reasons why liberals say we should drop the name Baptist. If one is not dropping the doctrine, then why drop the name? Do they want to be a hypocrite? Yes, the name Baptist is offensive, and so are the names "Christian" and "Christ." Are you going to drop the name Christian and Christ so you can reach more people? There is a denominational name of one of the Lord's people in the New Testament-- "**John the Baptist.**" Have you ever read of "John the Campbellite," or "John the Methodist," or "John the Lutheran," or "John the Presbyterian"? Pretty soon some of these liberals may translate a new version of the New Testament with either "John the Nothing" or "John the non-denominationalist."

If you are a real Baptist, don't be ashamed of your name. If you do not believe the doctrine of the Bible, then please do take the name Baptist off your church sign. Don't mislead people for money and members!

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Americans directly targeted by the Islamic fanatics, 93 percent survived or avoided the attack. That's a higher survival rate than heart attacks, breast cancer, kidney transplants, etc. This shows clearly that judgment was mingled with mercy.

The attack upon the U. S. united Americans like I have not seen in my lifetime. A wave of patriotism swept over our land. Wal-Mart sold 88,000 American flags in one week. God suddenly became important again. Our leaders (liberals and conservatives) prayed and sang *God Bless America* (something school kids are not allowed to do we are told).

But despite the new surge of patriotism by the majority of Americans, the politically correct bunch complained about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others. Broken Arrow, Oklahoma School officials removed *God Bless America* signs from schools in fear that someone might be offended. Channel 12 News in Long Island, New York, ordered flags removed from the newsroom and red, white, and blue ribbons removed from the lapels of reporters. Why? Management did not want to appear biased and felt that our flag might give the appearance that "they lean one way or another." Berkeley, California banned U. S. Flags from being displayed on city fire trucks because they didn't want to offend anyone in the community. In an "act of tolerance" the head of the public library at Florida Gulf Coast University ordered all "Proud to be an American" signs removed so as to not offend international students. If such people hate this country as much as they seem to, I suggest that they take advantage of one of our greatest American freedoms, the right to leave. I suggest a Moslem country somewhere in the world.

BEWARE OF MILITANT MUSLIMS

Many of the people in America learned some bitter lessons about Muslim militants. Before the World Trade Center attack, most of our citizens did not see militant Islam as much of threat. We had turned a blind eye to the thousands of Christians who are being slaughtered in predominately Muslim countries.

In Sudan the Islamic northern government continues its campaign of bombing Christian and animist civilians in the south. Sudanese government mujahidin troops continue to enslave children and women, killing men, and stealing

anything they please. Rescued slaves reported being gang-raped and physically abused by their Muslim captors.

Acts of terror against civilians in southern Sudan increased markedly after the U. N. Security Council lifted sanctions and the U. S. eased pressure in return for information on Al-Qaida and Bin Laden. Sudan's first vice-president, Ali Osma Taha, vowed that his government would continue to wage jihad in its 19-year campaign to subjugate the black, predominately Christian and animist communities of Southern Sudan. "The jihad is our way and will. . .keep its banner nigh," he proclaimed.

In Indonesia, terrorists with the Muslim group Laskar Jihad continued to attack Christian villages, setting fire to homes and burning churches. Throughout 2001 Sulawesi and the neighboring Maluku Islands in Indonesia were the setting of intense fighting between Christian natives and Muslim invaders. Since the fighting began in 1999, more than 8,000 people have died, and an estimated 500,000 Indonesians have been forced to flee their homes.

In the Philippines late May, Muslim terrorists with the group Abu Sayyaf took 20 people hostage, including vacationing missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham of Kansas. The New Tribes Mission workers were celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary at a resort when they were seized. As 2001 draws to a close, the Burnhams are still alive, but in deteriorating health.

It's possible that many of these examples of barbarianism at the hands of Islamic militants may have ties to Bin Laden. Already, there is strong evidence linking Indonesia's Laskar Jihad movement with Bin Laden. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Ja'far Umar Thalib, the 39-year-old leader of the Laskar Jihad movement, fought alongside Bin Laden in Afghanistan during the 1980s.

Paul Marshall, a senior fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom in Washington, D.C., said of Bin Laden,

"He's tied in with a lot of persecution. In many settings it's radicals within his network who are carrying out persecution. This is going on in the Philippines, Indonesia, and to some extent, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan—and of course, Afghanistan."

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Much of the world's religious persecution in 2001 came at the hands of Muslim governments. The U. S. Commission on International Religious Freedom named Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Sudan to the list of the world's worst religious freedom violators, along with Burma, China, Laos, Turkmenistan and North Korea.

Even some U. S. allies in the war against terror proved themselves to be no friend to the church during 2001. In Pakistan, Christians continued to face life sentences—or even execution—for trumped-up blasphemy charges. Saudi Arabia, which spawned Bin Laden and 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers, was cited by the State Department as a nation where religious freedom does not exist.

Laos cracked down on churches; new evidence linked the Vietnamese government to persecution of churches; and China launched an organized campaign against its growing underground church movement. Former Soviet republics attacked religious freedom. A judge in Russia attempted to dismantle The Salvation Army, and even France passed an anti-sect bill that severely jeopardizes religious freedom for minority denominations.

In the U. S. religious freedom fared better, but there were minor skirmishes even in the "land of the free." In May, a group of schoolchildren were asked to leave the White House after stopping to pray for President George W. Bush. The group of 11 children, two parents and a teacher were escorted out of the White House after holding hands and praying for the president. A Secret Service agent reportedly told them to "take it outside." School officials in Saddleback, Calif., were also

apparently under the impression that religious expression should be suppressed. Faced with court rulings forbidding discrimination on the basis of religion, the school district decided to eliminate all student clubs rather than approve faith-based clubs. The decision came in response to an appellate court decision giving the Fellowship of Christian Athletes the same legal status as other clubs.

In Madison, Wis. (motto: "Just to the left of Ted Kennedy"), the school board took back its Oct. 8 decision to ban the Pledge of Allegiance after receiving more than 18,000 e-mail messages and 2,000 phone calls. And around the country, schools were threatened with lawsuits for proclaiming "God Bless America" on school signs.

Around the nation, public displays of the Ten Commandments came under fire. In Grand Junction, Colo., display of the commandments at city hall led to a lawsuit by the ACLU. (It lost that bid in June). The Oregon Senate acted in May to kill a bill that would have permitted schools to post the commandments with other historical documents. In the small town of Reingold, Ga., city officials displayed the commandments and the Lord's Prayer in frames, accompanied by an empty frame. Mayor Joe Barger said the empty frame was for those who didn't believe in anything.

Vocal opposition to public expressions of faith was toned down a bit after the terrorist attacks. Bob Knight, executive director of the Culture and Family Institute, noted that the ACLU adopted a sort of "moment of silence" regarding its challenge to Virginia's law providing a moment of silence in schools during which students would be free to pray. "They know that if they speak out in their usual tones, Americans will see how radical they really are," Knight said.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

While U. S. lawmakers fought bitterly and unsuccessfully over an economic-stimulus package to kick-start the failing economy, they made

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MARK OF THE BEAST

Look at your name on the front page of this month's paper. If you see the mark 2-02, so detestable to a Baptist, wash it out by renewal of green-backs. If not your paper will stop next month. We are not able to credit. It is not a good plan.



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WJOR, Saint Joseph, TN	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	101.5	1,000 FM
WVSA, Vernon, AL	Sunday 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	1380	1,000 AM
WLZA, Starkville, MS	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	710	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS	Sunday 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	95.9	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	680	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	550	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	1050	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

2001 in Review

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sure they got a pay raise in the new year of \$4,900. The current \$145,000 salary for members of Congress, with fat pensions, insurance and other benefits, is far from chicken feed. With the country in recession and America at war with terrorists, this was a very unpatriotic thing to do.

An automatic cost-of-living raise enacted in 1989 already has boosted their annual pay nearly 50 percent in 10 years. Have you had such a pay raise where you work?

FROM THIS LIFE TO THE NEXT

Actress-singer Dale Evans, known best for her work with husband Roy Rogers in western films, died. She was a devout Christian who also wrote gospel songs. She appeared in 35 movies, recorded more than 400 songs, wrote 20 books, and in 1955 wrote the gospel standard, *The Bible Tells Me So*.

Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand, founder of *The Voice of the Martyrs*, departed this life in the year 2001. He was kidnapped by Romanian authorities and subjected to brainwashing attempts, physical and mental torture, and threats to his family. Political pressure from western countries led to Wurmbbrand's release in 1964. In 1967, he published the first issue of *The Voice of the Martyrs* newsletter and began to establish international offices which would assist him in his efforts to inform Christians everywhere about the persecuted church. By the mid-1980s his work was established in 80 restricted nations with offices in 30 countries. During his ministry Wurmbbrand wrote 18 books in English and others in Romanian; his books have been translated into 38 languages. His best-known book, *Tortured for Christ*, is about his prison experience.

Atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair did not die in 2001, but her body was found in January. FBI found three skulls and a metal artificial hip, and determined that they were the remains of O'Hair and two family members, who disappeared six years earlier after plundering the funds of various atheist organizations.

Among our preachers we lost only two in the year of 2001. Elder Don Epperly, Charneo, W. Va., departed this life on Sept. 7th. Elder David Phelps departed this life on Sept. 30th.

THINGS IN OUR RANKS

The matter of church organization has been frequently discussed and debated in papers, in Bible conferences, by phone and by e-mail.

We are now told there is no such thing as organic church succession. At first we were told by some, that for one church to start another church was a very good thing, but that it had no scriptural basis. Now we are being told that for a church to be scriptural it must be self-constituted. At first, some said there was no need for a mother church, but there was a need for the members constituting a church to be properly baptized. Now there is a strange silence on this point. The door has been opened by some, to make Protestants and community churches true churches. There is a new Whitsittism among us. Will these brethren go from self-constituting of churches to self-baptism? Will they become followers of John Smith, the Se-Baptist? Time will tell.

During much of 2001 the editor battled with a cancer in his left eye and a severe heart attack. Many people prayed for my recovery, and God answered their prayers. Despite these physical problems, I managed to keep the BBB in print each month. We also printed some small booklets here at the church, mostly outlines on books of the Bible. Also there was printed 2,000 *Berea Baptist Hymnals* (a third edition). Most of these have been well received by the churches who purchased them as they contain 405 songs. We also printed two tracts. One was my old tract *The Gate to Glory* (which has now gone out in about 10,000 copies). The other was *Crucifixion Day* by Henry A. Griesemer (1857-1926). Various problems delayed my new book, *Death and the Hereafter*, but I expect to have it ready by spring of 2002. We plan also to reprint *Three Witnesses for the Baptists* by Elder Curtis Pugh.

We have lost some support to our radio broadcasts, and I feel sure in 2002 some cuts will have to be made. We now do more work than we have ever done, and, I must hasten to add, with less help than ever before. Sheron and I are not as young as we used to be. I am having to operate with less vision than I had in the past. Chris, my son, has been sick all the year that is past, but he has been able to help us some. I wish we could use him full-time, but funds will not permit it. Please pray for all who work here at our church that we may have spiritual and physical health to continue in the work.

Welcome to 2002. In the words of Todd Beamer, "God help us. Jesus help us. Are you ready? Let's roll!"

(The editor took much material from various sources, especially the article by Doug Trouten of EP News Service).

"That Blessed Hope"

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many professing Christians who seek to explain away these references to the second coming of Christ. They associate them with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, with the progress of the Gospel in the earth, with the conversion of the sinner, and with the death of the believer. All these things, they say, are really the second coming of Christ. And to wander still farther away from the truth, I have heard Socialists say that the success of their principles in the world will be the second coming of Christ. Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy affirms that Christian Science is the second coming of Christ.

I. WHAT THE SECOND COMING MEANS.

But, my friends, when I speak of that event, I refer to His personal (in the sense of visible) reappearing on this earth. I mean what He himself means in Matthew 24, when He says to His disciples: "**Hereafter ye shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**" And what the angels mean when, in Acts 1, addressing the disciples on Mount Olivet after the ascension of our Lord, they say: "**Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**" "*This same Jesus,*" not His spirit, not His influence, not His truth, not His church, but Himself. Did they see Him as He went up? Then shall they see Him as He comes down? Did He go up in a body? Then shall He come down in a body. Did He go up in the clouds? Then shall He come down in the clouds. "**This same Jesus shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.**"

I mean what Peter means when, as recorded in Acts 3, addressing the multitude in Jerusalem and referring to the Savior as now being received into the heavens, he declares that He is retained there only until the times of restitution of all things spoken by the prophets since the world began. Hidden now is He, concealed from the view of His people, but the time is coming when He shall be hidden or concealed no more but manifested in glory, and they with Him.

A LITERAL ADVENT

I mean what Paul means when, in writing to the Thessalonians, he says: "**The Lord himself**"—mark the intensive pronoun!—"shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with

the trump of God." What John means when, in Revelation 1:7, he declares: "**Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him.**" Can anything be plainer? Can the English tongue express itself in clearer terms than these?

But I would call your attention to another feature of the proof. There are certain words employed in the New Testament to express the second coming of Christ like "presence," "revelation," "appearing," the meaning of which is always the corporeal or bodily presence of the object, or person referred to.

And why not? Did not Jesus come the first time personally and visibly? And which is the more likely, that He should come as an infant cradled in a manner, or riding upon the clouds of heaven in power and great glory? Do we not think the first advent less likely than the second? Do we not feel that if it were literal the other most certainly should be?

II. WHEN WILL JESUS COME?

But pass with me from the question as to what is meant by the second coming of Christ to another,—*When will He come?*

Were I asked to answer that question from the chronological point of view, I must say that I do not know. No man knows. Even the Son of man Himself said He did not know. It was hidden in the will of His Father.

There have been those who have attempted foolishly and sinfully, I believe, to set dates and fix times and seasons for His coming, and have brought disrepute upon this precious doctrine. They have awakened a kind of repugnance to it so that good men are afraid to teach it in the classroom or preach it in the pulpit lest they be associated with the fads and fanaticisms that have grown up around it. Behold, the adroitness of Satan! Thus has he got an advantage over us, and robbed us of our birthright for a mess of pottage. Shall we refuse to emphasize a truth which the Holy Spirit has so often emphasized, because Satan has sought to dishonor it? Nay, all the more should we bear witness to it, and give it its proper place in the Gospel scheme; and this, that the church may be in earnest expectancy for the return of her living Head.

—THE MILLENNIUM

But while I cannot answer the question of the time chronologically, I can answer it from the historical point of view. Let me explain my meaning. You know the Bible teaches that this earth is yet to see a time of peace and righteousness such as it has never seen. A period that will cover a

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“That Blessed Hope”

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thousand years, from which it takes the name of the “millennium,” which means a thousand.

But the Bible further teaches that Jesus is coming before that time, and that it is His coming which shall introduce and make the millennium a possibility.

There is, indeed, a difference of opinion upon this matter. There are good Christians who believe the second coming is postmillennial, that it will follow rather than precede that period. And because of this I would speak with modesty and without contention on the subject, but, nevertheless, I must witness to the truth as I see it, and as God has revealed it to my heart and understanding.

The premillennial coming of Christ was the teaching of the apostolic church, and the primitive church as well; and only when the latter began to decline in faith and practice did she lose sight of “**that blessed hope**” and the power of it. It was only then she began to think of it as an event afar off rather than near at hand, after the millennium, and not before it.

WITNESSES TO THIS TRUTH

Let me say further, that in our day almost all the Bible teachers of eminence who stand for evangelical truth, and almost all the successful evangelists who are winning souls to Christ, believe in and bear testimony to the premillennial coming of Christ. A few of them, living and dead, are C. H. Spurgeon, George Muller, Horatius and Andrew Bonar, Pastor Stockmayer, Andrew Murray, F. B. Meyer, G. Campbell Morgan, D. L. Moody, A. J. Gordon, R. A. Torrey, Charles Cuthbert Hall, A. C. Gaebelain, W. J. Erdman, J. Wilbur Chapman, W. G. Moorehead, C. I. Scofield, A. T. Pierson and many more. Not one do I know who does not believe in and bear testimony to it.

But “**to the law and to the testimony.**” What saith the Scripture concerning it? Take, for example, the use of the word “watch.” You remember how Jesus taught us to watch for His return. What is the significance of that word, if it does not involve an expectancy of His coming?

WATCHING FOR FATHER

I have a friend who was passing a summer vacation with his family in the country. One day he said to his little children, to their regret and his: “I must go into the city today, but I will return again and I want you to keep watching for me.” As a result, the children came to their mother

several times a day to wash their faces and comb their hair, that they might go to the station to meet their father, expecting him on every train. Never had they shown such friendship for soap and water before, nor given their mother such pains to keep them clean.

But suppose it had been different! Suppose the father had said: “I am going away and many not return for a long while.” Do you think the children would have been looking for him, or continually preparing for him? Would they have kept themselves as clean as in this case?

Is it not something like this Jesus had in mind when He used the word “watch”? Would He not keep His church in daily expectancy of His return? And because of the expectancy would He not stimulate us to holy living that we may not be ashamed before Him when He comes?

Then take the parabolic teaching of Christ. To refer to but one of His parables,—that of the nobleman in the 19th of Luke, who went into a far country to receive his kingdom, and to return. When he departed there were two classes of persons whom he left behind him—his “servants” and his “citizens,” and when he returned he found the same two classes awaiting him. His servants were glad to welcome him, but the citizens would not have him to reign over them.

The nobleman is Jesus; the servants, His disciples; the citizens, the people of the world who do not believe in and are unwilling to submit themselves to Him. When Jesus went away He left these two classes of persons behind Him, His disciples and the unbelieving world. And when He comes back, according to the parable, He will find them still here, thus indicating clearly that it is not a millennial condition He will find when He returns, but the very opposite.

THE APOSTASY IN THE CHURCH

And, take the words of Paul in II Thessalonians 2:3, referring to the “**falling away**” or the apostasy. He tells us that it had already begun in his own day, and would continue from century to century, increasing in strength, until at last it would be developed and headed up in the “**man of sin,**” the “**son of perdition,**” whom the Lord would “**slay with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the brightness of His coming.**” We thus see there is no opportunity between the apostolic age and the time of Christ’s return for a millennium, since the whole period is filled up with the development of this apostasy.

Recall what was said in a previous

lecture that this apostasy is not limited to Roman Catholicism by any means, but is in Protestantism as well. Roman Catholicism, underneath all its error, believes in the inspiration of the Bible, but many in Protestantism do not. It believes in the Deity of Christ, and in the efficacy of His blood, but many in Protestantism do not. The apostasy is in the one as well as in the other, and each is doing its share to bring about the development of the “**man of sin.**”

And so one might proceed through the other parts of the New Testament, bringing witness after witness to bear upon the truth that we have not to wait a thousand years from now, or until the close of the millennium before Jesus comes, but that He may come at any time, certainly in any generation.

III. THE EFFECT OF THE SECOND COMING.

The third and last question is, What will be the effect or the consequences of Christ’s second coming in the history of the earth and the human race?

In answering this, let me premise that the great event is not limited to a single point of time, but in a sense, covers a long period of time. The second coming, in other words, might be spoken of as a drama with several acts, or as an act with several scenes.

The first scene will be the translation of the church to meet Christ in the air, according to the words of Paul already quoted in part: “**The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ**”—not *all* the dead, but those who have fallen asleep in Christ—“**shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air**” (I Thess. 4:13-18).

Some think too strange, too mysterious to be possible, the translation of the church into the air! But God has shown us what it means. In the antediluvian age “**Enoch walked with God and was not; for God took him**”; or, as the New Testament says: “He was translated, having never seen death.” In the Mosaic age we have a demonstration in Elijah. Walking with Elisha across the Jordan, dry shod, when they reached the other shore the chariot of fire came down, and took him in a whirlwind into heaven, having never seen death. What God can do with one He can do with a million when the time comes.

ALL MEN WILL NOT DIE

It is written in the Scriptures: “**It is appointed unto men once to die,**

and after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27); and I have heard it rendered as though it read: “It is appointed unto *all* men once to die.” But this is not true. There is one generation of men that, living on this earth, shall never see death. That generation is the one just referred to, who, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and waiting for His coming, shall be caught up to meet Him in the air when He comes.

People wonder about the air, and the church dwelling in the air! But Scripture enlightens us on this subject also. It speaks of “**the prince of the powers of the air.**” It speaks of evil principalities that inhabit the air now over whom Satan rules, and from which vantage-ground he controls this world as the god of it. But we see in Revelation that a day is coming when Satan and his hosts shall be out from the air, and it shall be made ready for Christ and His glorified church to live and reign in through out the millennial age. We have only to read the Bible, and compare scripture with scripture to understand what the secrets of the Lord are, and to get the comfort from them that He would minister to us.

But what about the second scene in this act? While the church is with Christ in the air, and He is inquiring into the faithfulness of His disciples, and they are having their places assigned in the coming kingdom, events are transpiring here such as were referred to a week ago. The nations of the Roman Empire are coming together in that federation under the “**man of sin.**” Events are transpiring in Jerusalem also, and hastening that crisis of iniquity which will bring the Lord Jesus Christ personally to the earth.

ISRAEL RESTORED

While the Roman earth is federating under its powerful but wicked leader, Israel is going back to her land again and reestablishing the Jewish state in Palestine. She is rebuilding her temple, and beginning to worship the God of her fathers once more. But as yet she is not converted to Jesus, nor has she received Him as her Messiah. She is ready, however, in her sin and blindness to accept the false Messiah, who is to make a covenant with her in Jerusalem for seven years. In the midst of the seven years that covenant is broken and he no longer permits her to worship the true God, but sets up his own image to be worshipped “**the abomination of desolation**” spoken of by Daniel.

Then it is that the second scene in this great act takes place, and Christ and His church, thus far in the air, come to this earth in glory. Then it is that “**His feet shall stand upon the**

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"That Blessed Hope"

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Mount of Olives," as the prophet Zechariah says, and His saints with Him. Then it is that He shall come **"in flaming fire with His holy angels, taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel."** Then it is He delivers the faithful remnant of Israel from the persecution of the man of sin, whom He destroys with the nations, over which he reigns.

We need not suppose by any means, that all the people on the earth will be slain. A remnant of faithful Israelites will be preserved, and a remnant of faithful Gentiles as well, kept faithful in the tribulation through which they will have passed, and these two remnants will form the nucleus of the nations of the millennial earth.

The Bible teaches that the great missionaries in the coming age will be the tribes of Israel. They will go through all the nations proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and bringing them into subjection to the Messiah as their king.

Ah! there are more things in heaven and in earth than we have dreamt of in our philosophy! Would that we came to the Bible to find out these things concerning **"the Jew, the Gentile and the church of God"** (I Cor. 10:32). If we knew what God was doing—and we might know, if we studied His Word with the illumination of the Holy Spirit—we would come into harmony with Him in the doing of it, and His work would not be the burden to some of us that it is, but a delight as we saw His purpose revealed in the history of men.

IV. THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF THE HOPE.

Sometimes I am asked: "What is the practical value of the teaching of the second coming of Christ?"

In reply, let me say, that there is not a single virtue or grace revealed in the New Testament as incumbent upon Christian believers that is not in some way associated with that hope.

Is it a question of our salvation? Paul writes to the young Christians at Thessalonica, **"ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and**

true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven" (I Thess. 1:9, 10). To those heathen people one of the first doctrines he preached was the second coming of Christ, and he evidently used it to bring them to Christ.

Is it a question of sanctification? The apostle John says, in I John 3:2 and 3: **"Now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."** It is the second coming of Christ, in other words, that furnishes the motive and stimulus to a holy life.

Is it a question of service? Listen to Jesus, as addressing His disciples, He says: **"What shall it profit a man, though he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father, and then shall he bring his reward with him."** It was well worth while to serve Christ, to suffer for Him and wait for Him when we consider the meaning of that word "reward."

Is it a question of solace? Hearken to Paul again: **"The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, . . . and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."**

HOW GOD COMFORTS US

You have been called to stand by the open grave, you have looked upon the loved face for the last time, you have joined with the mourners in the funeral train, but how often have you heard this comfort ministered to the hearts torn and bleeding? Yet these are the words God puts upon our lips for just such times as these. Nor is the solace adapted merely to the bereavement caused by death, but to the trials and testings that come to us in other ways. Take the words of James to the working men of his day, those who had their hire kept back by greedy and covetous employers, and whose cries had reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth; **"Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord,"**—no mobs, no strikes, no boycotts; **"stablish your hearts; for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."** Only Jesus can make our wrongs right.

BRINGING BACK THE KING

You remember the story of David, king of Israel, when his ungrateful son, Absalom, whom he loved best, rebelled against him and drove him

from his throne. The rebellion was soon quashed and Absalom himself slain, but David was an exile beyond the Jordan still. And one day the men of Judah, David's tribe, came together and began to talk about it. Their consciences were smiting them, and they said one to another, "Why say ye never a word about bringing back the king?" And when they began to think and talk about it they began to act, and they crossed the Jordan and brought him back.

I ask you,

Why say ye not a word of bringing back the King?

Why speak ye not of Jesus and His reign?

Why tell ye of His glory and of His praises sing.

But not a word about His coming back again?

How many in our churches today are testifying to the second coming of Christ? What are we doing to hasten His return? When we become conscience-smitten upon this matter and begin to talk about it, we will begin to act, and to live and witness for Him in such a way that the day shall be hastened. God give us the grace to do it, and the love and the power!

ANDREW BONAR'S FAREWELL

That dear old Scottish saint to whom I just referred, Andrew Bonar, visited this country once, sad for us he could not have visited it oftener, but on that occasion, as he was about returning home, New York friends gave him a farewell meeting. One of them, in closing an address, applied the words of Paul to Timothy to him, saying: "There is a crown of righteousness laid up for him which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give him in that day." But Mr. Bonar, coming forward and holding up his hand for silence, concluded the quotation, adding: **"And not to me only, but also to all them that love his appearing."**

Ah! there is no respect of persons with God! Do you love His appearing? Are you longing for His coming? Are you ready should He come today?

Funnybone

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



Sadie Smith was discussing the Ten Commandments with her beginner's class. After explaining the commandment: **"Honor thy father and thy mother,"** she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat little Jimmie Johnson answered, **"Thou shalt not kill."**

Seven-year-old Jane Brown admitted calmly to her parent that Jimmie Johnson had kissed her after class.

"How did that happen?" gasped her mother.

Jane replied, "It wasn't easy, but three girls helped me catch him."

Jimmie Johnson was sitting and watching his mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. He suddenly noticed his mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette hair. He looked at his mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?"

His mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

Little Jimmie thought about this revelation for a minute and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

Joe Johnson was teaching his lesson on circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, he said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know would run into it and I would turn red in the face."

"Yes, sir," the class said. "Then why is it that while I am standing in the ordinary position, the blood doesn't run into my feet?"

A little fellow shouted from the back of the room, "Cause yer feet ain't empty."

Our Lord Prays for His Own

By Marcus Rainsford

\$15.99

This is an exposition of John 17 which is the true "Lord's Prayer." An old classic. Add \$3 for postage.

More About Islam

Continued from page 261

Osama bin Laden, a devout Muslim of the violent variety, ecstatic in success and crying, "Praise be to Allah and Allah is great." Nothing here about "Islam is peace."

It is wrong for President Bush to praise "millions of good Americans who practice the Muslim faith who love their country as much as I love the country, who salute the flag as strongly as I salute the flag." All this is nice, but it is very misleading. And very incomplete!

WHAT THE QURAN SAYS

The Muslims holy book is called the Quran, or Koran. It was promulgated by the 7th century Prophet Mohammad from revelations, at various times, from Allah (their God supreme) through the Angel Gabriel. The Quran has many chapters, called Surahs.

Mohammad is reported to have suffered epileptic fits and, at times, periods of depression and ecstasy. His goal was to reform the world with the perfect religion. He founded Islam, first in Mecca, and developed it in Medina. Mohammad craved power; so, let us see what he wrote in the Quran:

In Surah 2, verse 193, Allah tells Mohammad to kill whoever rejects Islam: "Kill them until there is no persecution and the religion is Allah." But in verse 256, Allah tells Mohammad not to impose Islam by force, saying, "There is no compulsion in religion."

Another contradiction in the Quran is in Surah 29:45 where Allah tells Mohammad to be nice to Christians and Jews, "Say that we believe is what has been send down to us and to you. Our God is the same as your God." But in Surah 9:29, Allah tells Mohammad, "Fight those who do not believe in Allah. . . those who do not accept the religion of Islam."

WHY THE CONTRADICTIONS

What caused the drastic change from peace to violence? Mohammad claimed Allah did it and made those revelations to him. Quran scholars claim otherwise, as follows: Mohammad's Islam religion was weak and conciliatory in Mecca where it originated. But, after moving to Medina, Mohammad changed his personality and adopted the sword and violence, along with followers seeking plunder, to spread Islam through the Middle East, mostly by Jihad (holy war). This suggests change for expediency, rather than religious faith.

Even so, Islam embraces both violent and non-violent tactics.

Obviously, President Bush is being influenced by the Islamic stage of weakness, or "preparation," as Mohammad did in Mecca where Islam was born. The second stage of Islam is Jihad, the holy war of violence and conquest. According to the Muslims, Jihad is coming and Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda terrorists are part of the Jihad.

Egyptian author Mohammad Hassanein Heikal in his book *Autumn of Fury* (Random House, 1983) explains the two separate stages of the Muslims: (1) The first stage is the "preparation" stage of love and conciliation, the weakness stage, to soften up the infidels. (2) The second stage is the Jihad stage (holy war) of violence and conquest. The Prophet Mohammad in the 7th century AD experienced these two stages: the first in Mecca and the second in Medina.

MUSLIM STRATEGY

It is wrong to teach that Muslims love America just as we do. They want America to be an Islamic state and, at this time, are softening up Islamic

critics of the West. Now, they claim to believe in Moses and Jesus and no longer call us "infidels" in their literature.

They say, "God bless America" and display the flag, the same flag they burn in daily rituals in Iran, calling us "The great Satan." They use Christian terms like "love" and "salvation" and change the Quran's translations from the Arabic to hide Islam's hate for all non-believers. They are hypocritical.

They want to be accepted in religious, social and political activities so they can gain power so they can gradually change things toward Islamic beliefs. They are sly.

THE BISHOP MISLEADS

It is wrong for the Catholic Archbishop of Washington, Theodore E. McCarrick, to say the Islamic God Allah is the same God Christians worship, as he did on NBC-TV's "Face the Nation" program on December 23rd. The Christian God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is not the Allah of the Muslims.

Bishop McCarrick went on at great

length about how Osama bin Laden's talents could have benefited mankind if properly used. We can say the same for Al Capone, Adolph Hitler, Saddam Hussein, Joseph Stalin—even Satan himself—but what we've got is the cowardly cruel bin Laden with no mercy, no conscience, no soul and no care for anything but power.

We have the cruelest of tyrants and that's what we have to deal with. So, why speculate on what might have been?

Unfortunately, many of our political leaders, media and entertainment giants are ignoring, or do not understand, the nature and true goals of the Muslims—and, like President Bush, praise the "good Muslims" and mislead the people.

MOHAMMAD ALI

For example, Hollywood is about to exploit the great boxing champion, Mohammad Ali, for a public service announcement explaining that America's war is on terrorism—not Islam, with Ali saying, in effect, "Islam

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DOWN IN FRONT

There once was a man
Who was really quite a teacher,
Most simply referred to him
As our grand old preacher.

A scholarly sort of chap
He was very well versed,
A heart-felt message he delivered
As he was always well rehearsed.

Faithfulness, Godliness, and revering our Lord
Who is so precious and dear,
Was always part of his message
Which he delivered succinctly and clear.

He belted out the commandments
Preaching never to lie, cheat, or steal,
But the Gospel was his real bag
The focus of his pulpit driven spiel.

He often gave an invitation
To give the lost a jump-start,
But only the "Holy Spirit"
Can truly touch your heart.

Calling out to sinners
As he was always on the search,
To bring people to the Lord
By coming in front of the church.

Four verses of *Just as I Am*
Can conjure up human emotion,

But only Christ can see
If we truly have devotion.

For the Bible is clearly written
Salvation is divinely given
To put on a public display
Is self-centered and man-driven.

Salvation he very well knew
Was part of God's ultimate plan,
But often omitted election
Which is not brought forth from man.

But those who are not Calvinist's
Are baffled by the thought of election,
For they cannot seem to understand
They had no part in their selection.

But God has no formula
In which He brings us to Him,
Simply what the Bible offers
Only He can draw us in.

So is it really necessary
For a believer to go down front?
Or is it for the pride of man
And simply a pastors want?

Salvation does not require works or riches
Or take stock in your successes or strife,
It started before the (Foundation of The World)
With inscriptions "In The Lamb's Book of Life!"

by Brent Ehm

More About Islam

Continued from page 268

is peace and against killing and murder, and people doing that in the name of Islam are wrong.”

What’s wrong, however, is misleading the public and keeping people ignorant of Islamic methods. America’s war is against both terrorists and militant Muslims, just as World War II was against aggression and the Nazis and imperial Japan. Islam is *not* peace, and its second stage includes violence.

Ali converted to Islam when he was about to be drafted for the Vietnam War and refused to serve because of what he called “religious beliefs.” Perhaps he converted to the Stage One Muslims of peace and not the Stage Two of violence—or perhaps he just didn’t want to go.

MILITANT MUSLIMS

President Bush’s conciliatory remarks about the “good Muslims” may soothe the nerves, but they do not diminish their ambitions and atrocities. Here are a few of many examples:

* Muslim gunmen in Pakistan murdered sixteen Christians in church in retaliation for American bombing of Afghanistan.

* Professor Sami Al-Arian of the University of South Florida has raised money for terrorist groups, and has said that Allah curses Jews and Christians, and “Let us damn America.”

* Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, now in jail for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, calls on Muslims to “conquer the land of the infidels.”

* Iman Siraj Wahaf, who once delivered a prayer in the U. S. House of Representatives, has boasted, “If 6-8 million Muslims unite, America will come to us.”

* Muslim Chaplain Zaid Shakir of Yale University argues that “Muslims cannot accept the existing order” in America.

* Author Shamim A. Siddiqi in his book about establishing “Islamic rule in America” calls for a “strong lobby in Washington to promote Islam.”

* The International Institute of Islamic Thought aims for “the Islamization of the humanities and social sciences” in the American education program.

* A delegate at a recent convention of the American Muslim Alliance, a militant Islamic group, announced, “By the year 2020, we should have an American Muslim president of the United States.”

ETERNAL VIGILANCE

All these grand designs and big talk

by Muslims cannot be ignored. Certainly, “eternal vigilance is the price of liberty”—for all threats, whether remote or not. There’s no sound reason to fear that Islamic law will ever replace our Constitution, but this goal is very much alive among fundamentalist Muslims.

More and more shocking revelations are coming out. Misleading conciliatory statements by our political and religious leaders and media should be challenged with the truth at every turn—or, we will be lulled into a sense of false security.

Muslims organizations should be monitored. Special privileges should be denied. Of course, runaway immigration should immediately be controlled to close that gate for terrorists. To repeat Daniel Pipes of the *Jerusalem Post*: Many Muslims in America share the suicide bombers’ hatred of this country and want to change it into an Islamic state. History proves that where Muslims gain a beachhead, they have brought havoc and sometimes, utter ruin.

The threat from the militant Muslims is bad enough, but soothing platitudes and uncalled-for cordiality we can do without. We need eternal vigilance and the truth about Islam.

There is nothing so powerful as truth—and often nothing so strange. (Daniel Webster, April 6, 1830)

(Captain Evans is author of *The Church and the Sword* (St. Thomas Press, 1982). He lives in Norfolk, Virginia.)

Tenth Commandment

Continued from page 261

reaches to all the motives of all the acts of man in his inner most being. It prohibits concupiscence, or an unlawful lusting after what belongs to our neighbor. It concerns man’s relation to man. The force of the commandment lies in these words: **“Thy neighbour’s. . . thy neighbour’s. . . his. . . his. . . his. . . his. . . thy neighbour’s.”** Here is a sevenfold guarding of the interests of our neighbor.

This commandment does not forbid the desire for worldly things. It is not forbidden to lawfully desire a house, or a wife, or an ox. The emphatic words in our commandment are **“thy neighbour’s.”** The verse does not say, “Thou shalt not covet a house, or an ox, or an ass, or anything.” It does say: **“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house. . . wife. . . ox. . . ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour’s.”** What is forbidden is not accumulation, but unrighteous

accumulation, or acquisition at another’s expense. The prophet said: **“Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his!”** (Hab. 2:6). All inordinate and unrighteous desires are disapproved in the Tenth Commandment.

THE SPECIFICATION OF IT

Let us examine the details of this commandment. **“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house. . .”** Don’t desire his real estate, whether houses, lands, tenements, or otherwise. Ahab was a king and had a king’s treasures, yet he coveted Naboth’s vineyard. By such unrighteous lusts he violated the Tenth Commandment. Micah spoke of some violators thusly: **“Woe to them that. . . covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage”** (Micah 2:1-2).

Second, it says: **“. . . thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife. . .”** We must not ever covet our neighbour’s domestic joys, his household peace, his home life. In our day some not only covet their neighbor’s wife, but they take them to be their wife. King David desired the wife of Uriah and took her to be his wife (II Sam. 11:2-5). This was a violation of the Tenth Commandment.

Third, it says: **“. . . thou shalt not covet. . . his manservant, nor his maidservant. . .”** Faithful servants are valuable treasures (Gen. 24). We must not covet our neighbor’s skilled labor, his accomplished craftsman, his clerks, his computers, nor his machines used in productivity.

Fourth, it says: **“. . . thou shalt not covet. . . his ox, nor his ass. . .”** This is another person’s estate or property. We must not covet his horse, or cow, or sheep, or tractor, or his automobile.

Fifth, it says: **“. . . thou shalt not covet. . . anything that is thy neighbour’s.”** We must not have an unlawful desire for anything which belongs to our neighbor, whether luxury, or money, or clothes, or office, or rank, or what not. In brief: We must not covet anything which belongs to our neighbor.

DISCONTENTMENT CONDEMNED

The Tenth Commandment forbids all uneasiness and discontent in our present circumstances. We are not to be all the time fretting and envying what others have. How often have you heard some person say, “O that such a man’s wife were my wife.” “O that such a man’s bank account was mine.” This is the language of discontent at our own lot, and this is the sin forbidden. **Psalm 37:7 reads: “Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because**

of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass” (Ps. 37:7).

Our desire must be pure at all times. The Tenth Commandment forbids, not merely to attempt to get for ourselves by illegitimate means what belongs to our neighbor, but even the desire that it should be ours rather than his. The way to avoid covetousness is to learn to be content with what God has given us. The apostle said: **“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content”** (Phil. 4:11). Again he said: **“And having food and raiment let us be therewith content”** (I Tim. 6:8). Jacob learned this lesson well. He once said: **“I have enough”** (Gen. 33:11). He who has enough will not covet what belongs to another.

THE ROOT OF ALL SIN

The origin of all sin is the evil desire in the corrupt heart, indwelling sin. Sin starts with an evil thought in the heart. This leads to a sinful desire and a resolution of the will to do evil. James so well put it: **“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death”** (Jas. 1:14-15). The Tenth Commandment forbids all irregular desires which are the firstborn of the corrupt nature, the first risings of sin that dwells inside us, and the beginning of all the sin that is committed by us (Rom. 7:7).

Covetousness is a universal and long-lived plant, having its roots deep down in the soil of our fallen nature, the subsoil of selfishness. Covetousness is born of laziness (Prov. 21:25-26), of discontent, of envy, of ambition, of love of show, of craving for position, of passion for power, of the greed of gain (Prov. 15:27). It is seen in our modern world in the greed for prosperity and power. It is seen in the fraudulent transactions of countless kinds, the grasping, merciless, conscienceless thirst for monopolies, and in many other ways.

A SOCIETY BASED ON LUST

The average person today is wholly given over to “keeping up with the Joneses.” High-pressure advertisement constantly causes people to lust after as many material things as their neighbor owns. Men are “getting all they can and canning all they get.” The effort to compete with others and get ahead is born of the demon of covetousness. It is the real cause of much physical and mental illness. It is the reason so many are in financial trouble. **“For every one from the least even unto the**

Continued on page 272

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Is it wrong for women to say "Amen" during the preaching? None of the men do. --- Louisiana



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I believe it is plain enough in these verses that the woman is not to "speak" in public worship that anyone cannot honestly deny it.

Just as other scriptures place prohibitions on certain groups, such as pastors and deacons (I Tim. 3:1-13). So also has the Holy Spirit placed this prohibition on women in public worship.

There are other prohibitions placed on women by the Lord. They are forbidden to teach men (I Tim. 2:12), praying in public worship (I Tim. 2:8), to usurp authority over man (I Tim. 2:12).

There are reasons for these prohibitions. The priority of man over woman in the creation (I Tim. 3:13). The deception of Eve in the fall (I Tim. 2:14). God has put things in order as it has pleased Him, not us.

This is not a matter of inferiority but of God's ordained plan. We were created by God to serve and honor Him, and therefore are obligated to yield to His rules of order.

Therefore it is wrong for women to say amen regardless of what the men do or not do. Saying amen is not necessary to have a worship service.

GARNER SMITH



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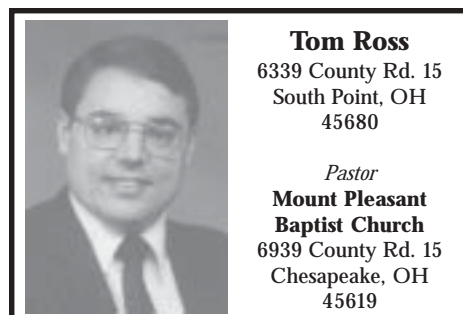
"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church" (I Cor.

14:34-35).

The Greek word that is translated "silence" is defined as, "holy one's peace, be concealed" (Strong). This same word is used in Romans 16:25 and translated "kept secret." The word "speak" is used both in verse 34 and 35. This word is defined as, "to utter a voice or emit a sound" (Strong).

There are times that I would be glad to hear a good amen, but it is clear that the Word of God forbids the women from doing so in the church services. It is not permitted unto them to speak (emit a sound), for it is a shame (dishonorable) for women to speak (emit a sound) in the church.

DAVID O'NEAL



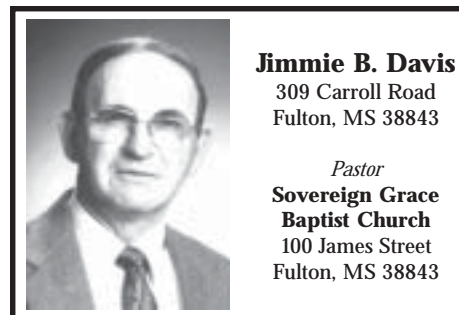
Tom Ross
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Yes it is wrong for women to say "Amen" during the preaching. I Corinthians 14:34-35 declares: **"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church"** (cf. I Tim. 2:11-14). Just because the men of the church do not feel led to say "Amen" during preaching, it does not give the women the right to disobey the command of Scripture. In fact, I see no expressed command that requires men to say "Amen" during preaching. I pastor a relatively quiet church where very few "Amens" are ever spoken. However, this does not bother me in the least. While preaching I really don't take much notice of who is saying what. "Amens" do not bother me in the least as long as they are spoken in moderation. However I have been in some church services where there were so many "Amens" flying around you couldn't understand what the preacher was saying. I am more concerned that the people are listening attentively and

determining in their hearts to obey the truth.

TOM ROSS



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I don't believe that we should permit our vanity to lead us to encourage women to disobey I Corinthians 14:34 in order to have someone give an expression of concurrence to what we say.

The Hebrew word which is translated amen in the Old Testament mean, so be it, so it is. The word is found 21 times starting with Numbers 5:22 through Jeremiah 28:6. The Greek word for amen conveys the idea of being steadfast, and appears some 50 times in the New Testament. The word amen is used in worship as an expression of ratification or agreement. When closing a prayer with the word amen we are asking the Lord to let it be so.

It is interesting to note our Savior's limited use of the word during His ministry, and we do not find Him commanding His disciples to use the word amen after He had spoken truth. The same can be said of the apostles. Then the word is used in the New Testament it shows the steadfastness of some prophecy or statement of biblical fact.

I have heard people abuse and misuse the word amen so many times. It is pathetic when preachers use the word amen, or encourage others to use it, when declaring something not supported by scripture. I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that I have heard some preachers use the word amen in one thirty minute discourse more times than it is found in the Bible.

I would not in any way discourage a Christian brother giving a hearty amen to the preaching of truth. I suppose that all preachers of God's Word are encouraged when the brethren concur with them by saying amen, but we must be true to the

Word of God even when no Amen are heard!

JIMMIE B. DAVIS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Some have raised questions as to why the Forum questions of Elder Tom Ross and Elder Garner Smith were not in the last paper. There were two reasons. First, the editor was late in sending out the last set of questions. I thought the last two still remained. Had not Bro. Davis and Bro. O'Neal called the editor on the phone about the questions on the very same day, I guess there would have been no Forum in the last paper, as there would have been no questions submitted. Late questions meant late answers. Added to this was an early printing date due to the holidays (this is always true of November and December issues). The BBB had to be printed at 7:00 a.m. on December 20th. Unlike some brethren, I still make mistakes (Phil. 3:12-14).

Second, the answers of Bro. Ross did not come until the day the BBB was printed (several hours too late). Bro. Smith's came in the mail the next day after we printed the BBB. A good observer would have noticed that the Forum space was filled out quickly by other things at the last minute.

I have heard various rumors about why these answers were not in the BBB. I understand the phones and e-mails were busy about this. But to date no one called the editor to find out the problem. I am disappointed that some brethren who are careful about many things are not more careful about lying. Since the Bible says love **"thinketh no evil"** (I Cor. 13:5), I am not left in doubt as to the feeling of some brethren toward me. It takes no brains or talent to sit in the seat of the scornful.

Seeing some like to use the phone, I suggest they use it some more. Call any of the Forum writers (present or past) and ask them how many questions I have ever censored. I will take their word on the matter.

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In prayer what is meant by "vain repetition"? -- Louisiana



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I believe the context of this scripture explains the meaning of "vain repetitions." It speaks of the much speaking as repetitions and vain in the sense that the much speaking was of no consequence.

Here we have the idea of a form of praying but not from the heart. Real prayer must originate from the heart with faith that God hears and cares enough to intervene and help in our need.

Vain repetitions are demonstrated by using prayer books or memorized prayers, praying by using a rosary etc. with the idea that the form or ritual is what has the power rather than God. The power of prayer is in God not in our saying words. Repetition simply means doing something over and over many times and vain means it is to no avail. The Pharisees tried to show how pious they were by saying religious words many times but they only impressed people not the Lord.

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Matthew 6:7 is the only place where the word repetitions is used in the Bible. When Jesus was instructing His disciples as to how they were to pray, He said: "**But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.**"

Vain repetition is to speak empty. In the model prayer Jesus did not use empty or meaningless words. He does not mean that the disciples were to repeat what He said every time they prayed, but that their prayers were not

to become meaningless, routine formalities.

He taught that reverence toward God's name is paramount in true prayer, with a sincere desire that our Father's will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. He warns against repeating empty words, which are uttered as mere formality without any consideration of godly desires from a new heart.

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Matthew 6:7-8 declares: "**But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not yet therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.**"

Vain repetitions are form prayers or chants that are said over and over again by the supplicant. Heathen religions, Roman Catholicism, and many of the Charismatic persuasion are fond of chanting and saying the same thing over and over, vainly thinking that God will hear them if they say the same thing enough times. Jesus condemns such practices. Prayer is not to be spoken in forms in a ceremonial manner. Rather, it is an act of worship born out of a heart that is hungering for fellowship with Almighty God. If you read the prayers in the Bible you will find that they are not of great length. It is not the amount of words a person utters in prayer that counts with God, rather it is the attitude of their heart. There must be a sense of reverence and awe as we approach the Holy throne of grace to speak to the most important person in all the Universe. Yet at the same time we can come with a sense of familiarity because God is our Heavenly Father. What a privilege it is to come before the Lord! Oh, that God would enable us to order our words aright as we come to Him in

prayer! Perhaps the best guidelines for praying aright are found in Psalm 19:14 which states: "**Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.**"

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"**But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking**" (Matt. 6:7).

The word for "vain repetitions" is defined as, to repeat idly. "Meaningless and mechanically repeated phrases, the reference being to pagan (not Jewish) modes of prayer" (W. E. Vine).

This appears to condemn much of the worship services of the Catholic church, and many of the Protestant churches, in their use of mechanically repeated phrases. The model prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13 becomes "vain repetition" when it is repeated over and over again. God's people should be careful to pray to God with reverence, for we are addressing the Most High God. Our prayers should be from our hearts and should never be to impress those around us who might hear them.

One should never just pray for the sake of prayer. When we pray, we approach God for the things we need. We should make our requests with thanksgiving and place all our care in His hands (Phil. 4:6).

DAVID O'NEAL

Planing a move? Please!
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The West Milton Baptist Church, 1070 S. Miami Street, West Milton, Ohio, and Pastor Mark Clark will have a seminar on "The Home" Feb. 16th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The speakers on the program are Elders Don Titus, Billy Holbrook, Gary Phillips, and Jerry Asberry. For more information call 937-698-6242 or Mdclarkzz@yahoo.com or www.wmbchurch.com.

Bro. Edwin Fountain, 311 Jarriel St., Apt. 4, Vidalia, GA 30474, has a book, *Election and Redemption*. He has about 30 left. If you would like to have one, please send him \$2 for packaging and mailing, and he will send you one.

The Philadelphia Baptist Church of Decatur, Ala., and Pastor Doyal Thomas have moved the meeting house location. The new location is 2902 Point Mallard Parkway (Hwy. 67), Decatur, Alabama. For directions and a picture of the new building click on the following link <http://www.tnweb.com/psc/servtime.htm>.



Walter Herin

Elder Walter Herin of Silsbee, Texas, departed this life at 4:45 a.m., on Jan. 7, 2002. Bro. Herin was for many years pastor of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Silsbee, Texas. He was a fine brother and a sound preacher of the gospel. I shall always remember him as the man when asked how he felt he would immediately answer: "Fantastic." In his lifetime he saw many new heresies come and go, but he remained in the old paths. He was for many years a good friend of the editor of this paper.

"**. . .thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty**" (I Sam. 20:18).

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Tenth Commandment

Continued from page 269

greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely" (Jer. 8:10).

Don't be so foolish as to think church people are exempt from this awful sin, for they most certainly are not. Churchgoers literally crave luxuries that were unknown a few generations ago. They spend more than they make and have too many installment payments. They want more expensive clothes, a bigger car, a new color TV set, a larger house, a longer and more costly vacation. Most are so busy getting things for themselves they have no time to serve Christ. Truly, many church people wear the "**cloke of covetousness**" (I Thess. 2:5).

One might assume that the prophet Ezekiel was an observer of the modern churchgoers when he wrote: **"And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness"** (Ezek. 33:31).

No doubt God looks upon the people of this age as **"greedy dogs which can never have enough,"** a people who **"look to their own way, every one for his gain"** (Isa. 56:11). Business men lust for more money than they can attain by paying a fair wage. Laborers lust after more money than they can honestly earn. Publishers of books flood the market with cheap paperbacks filled with obscenity because they are **"greedy of gain"** (Prov. 1:19). Women sell their bodies to the lustful desires of men for **"the hire of a whore"** (Deut. 23:18). Millions of the children of men are in a hurry to have a good time, to get rich quick, to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. It seems the more they get, the more they want. **"Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!"** (Isa. 5:8).

COVETOUSNESS IS IDOLATRY

The insatiable desire to have more than enough is idolatry, the violation of the Second Commandment as well as the Tenth Commandment. Colossians 3:5 declares: **". . . covetousness, which is idolatry."** If your mind and heart lusts for something more than to obey Christ and receive His blessing, that thing has become an idol to you. You must

never give the love and regard which are due to God only to creature-comforts. To do such is highly provoking to God. Of all base passions this is the one that most dethrones God from the soul. **"For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth"** (Psalms 10:3).

Whatever you put before God, whatever you love more than God, whatever hinders you from the service of God, that is your little god. One young man had a habit of missing church for a football game. One day he became angry because his pastor told him that his god had become a football. This pastor did not lie; he spoke forth the words of truth and soberness. What is taking the place of God in your life? What is your idol? What takes up all your time and interests? Are you not in truth a vile idolater as much as the heathen in the jungles of Africa?

When a person begins to covet material things; he will end up serving them. He will spend his time, his money, his energy for them. In this pursuit for earthly things he has no time and place for Bible study, church attendance, witnessing, or the prayer chamber. He soon becomes selfish and stingy of even the money he owes to God to finance the work of the church. These material things become his god, for he worships and serves them nearly all of the time. The care of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the free course of God's Word (Mark 4:19).

VIOLATES ALL COMMANDMENTS

Covetousness tempts a person to violate all of the Ten Commandments. It tempts us into violation of the First Commandment by worshipping Mammon in addition to Jehovah. The prophet Haggai reproved the ancient Jews for taking more care of their own houses than the house of God. Divine judgment was upon them for serving Mammon more than Jehovah. In Haggai 1:9 it is written: **"Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house."** Well did our Savior say: **"Ye cannot serve God and mammon"** (Matt. 6:24).

It tempts into violation of the Second Commandment by worshipping the graven image on a coin. Colossians 3:5 says: **"Covetousness, which is idolatry."** This attitude is identified with idolatry because the lust for wealth puts things in the place of God. The inordinate

love and pursuit of material wealth are simply heathenish, and they are put by Paul on the same level as the worship of images. We do not need to go to heathendom in order to find worshippers of images; we can find plenty of idolaters of gold and silver, of bonds and realty, in the market of commerce in America.

Avarice tempts into violation of the Third Commandment by using the name of God in vain for unjust gain. Ananias and Sapphira were members of the Jerusalem church. They lied about the amount of money they gave to the church. They lied to God the Holy Spirit by so doing (Acts 5:1-10). Absalom sought to take the crown and kingdom from David because of his lust for power, yet when this evil was in his heart he paid his vows **"unto the LORD"** (II Sam. 15:7).

It tempts into violation of the Fourth Commandment by breaking the Sabbath. In Nehemiah's day the Jews were found **"treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bring in sheaves, and lading asses. . ."** (Neh. 13:15-19). Covetousness caused these people to do this. Possessed by this same spirit, men today operate their businesses on the Christian Sabbath. Some on this day, instead of reading their Bibles, are reading their accounts.

Covetousness tempts into violation of the Fifth Commandment by not honoring our parents. Jacob lied to his aged father, Isaac, in order to steal his brother's blessing (Gen. 27:1-46). Covetousness tempts the young to deride early parental counsels and the citizen to trample on civic enactments.

It tempts into violation of the Sixth Commandment by causing a person to commit murder. Judas's love of money lured him into the sacrilegious betrayal of his Divine Friend into the hands of murderers (Matt. 26:14-16). Covetous Ahab killed Naboth to get his vineyard (I Kings 21:13). Countless thousands have gained power and prestige in government by murder. How many have swam to the kingship or the presidency in blood!

Concupiscence tempts into violation of the Seventh Commandment, or adultery. David lusted for the wife of Uriah, and in order to obtain her, he had her husband murdered (II Sam. 11:2-17). The Bible also speaks of the **"hire of a whore"** (Deut. 23:18). Paul wrote to some who worked **"all uncleanness with greediness"** (Eph. 4:19). In Ephesians 5:3 he said: **"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints."**

Unlawful lust tempts into violation of the Eighth Commandment or theft.

Achan lusted for a goodly Babylonish mantle, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight. He stole them and brought ruin to himself and his household (Josh. 7). The demon of greed caused Eli's sons to take the flesh of the sacrifice (I Sam. 2:13-17) and bribes (I Sam. 8:3). It caused the Jews to exact usury of their brethren (Neh. 5:1-11) and to keep back the portion of the Levites (Neh. 13:10). Thieves and covetous people are put side by side in the Bible (I Cor. 6:10).

It tempts into violation of the Ninth Commandment, or the bearing of false witness. Covetous Ahab employed two sons of Beliah to bear blasphemous and fatal testimony against Naboth, saying, **"Thou didst blaspheme God and the king"** (I Kings 21:10, 13). What makes a perjurer take a false oath but covetousness?

THE FOLLY OF COVETOUSNESS

First, it is a subtle sin. Many commit it almost unconsciously. It may appear to be right in the eyes of the offender at the time he commits it. He who commits it pleads that he must provide for his family. Nevertheless, he is violating God's law and bringing trouble upon himself and his house. **"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house"** (Prov. 15:27).

Second, covetousness gives one an insatiable desire for more than enough. It causes a man to **"enlarge his desire as hell"** and this desire **"cannot be satisfied"** (Hab. 2:5). Every other desire of man is satisfied when it has once obtained the thing desired. If a man be hungry, he is satisfied when he has eaten. If he is thirsty, his thirst is quenched when he has drunk to his fill. But covetousness is a disease of the mind which has an unnatural thirst and crave which cannot be quenched. It is the thirst of a fever; the more a man gets the more he wants. He never gets enough. His desire will increase much faster than his estate. The wise man said: **"He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase; this is also vanity"** (Eccl. 5:10; cf. 4:8).

Third, a covetous man is soon to die and leave all of his possessions to another. **"Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him"** (Ps. 49:16-17). The apostle Paul said: **"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out"** (I Tim.

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Tenth Commandment

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6:7). It is told of Alexander the Great that he gave orders that, when he should die, his hands be left outside his coffin, so that his friends might see that, though he had conquered the world, he could take nothing of his conquests into the hereafter.

Fourth, it brings the judgment of God down upon one's head. The Lord said: **"For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him. . ."** (Isa. 57:17). Again Ezekiel recorded Him as saying: **"In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD. Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain which thou has made, and at thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee"** (Ezek. 22:12-13). A covetous man shall not go unpunished.

Fifth, covetousness shuts one out from Heaven. **"For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God"** (Eph. 5:5). **"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows"** (I Tim. 6:9-10).

CONCLUSION

As Christians let us beware of the sin of covetousness. It may cause one to err from the faith. It brings upon the guilty **"many sorrows."** Heaven grant that when we come to lay down the responsibilities of life, we can give the same noble testimony that the prophet Samuel did: **"And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you. And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day. Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I**

restore it you. And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand" (I Sam. 12:1-4). Paul told the Ephesians: **"I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel"** (Acts 20:33).

A covetous man thinks of this world, he minds earthly things. He is far more concerned with gains on the stock market than he is gaining a crown in Heaven. He speaks the language of covetousness (John 3:31), which is forbidden by God (Heb. 13:5). Like the rich young ruler, he would part with Christ sooner than his earthly possessions. Is this your condition? In the hustle and bustle of this busy world have you forgotten God? Are you possessed by the demon of greed? If so you ought to say, "Take the whole world but give me Jesus. Christ alone can satisfy the soul." Flee to Christ and you shall have riches in Heaven.

Succession of Truth

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one person or thing after another in order, sequence, or in course of events, a number of persons or things following one another in order or sequence. . . a progressive replacement of one ecological community by another until the climax community is established" (*ibid.*, p. 933).

While the last word "succession" is the strongest and best, it must not be pushed too far, seeing individuals and institutions can co-exist for some period of time. I like the word because it suggests an organic connection between persons and communities. But the word "continually" also suggests "a continuous or connected whole." So it would not be wrong to use it.

I wish to convey by my use of "succession" two things. First, God has never been left without a witness for the truth. Second, there has been an organic connection between these witnesses for the truth. One person taught another person, and one institution begat another institution. By this means God has preserved His truth from one generation to another.

TRUTH IS INDESTRUCTIBLE

Truth is ancient, and its gray hairs connect it to Him who is the Ancient of Days. It is unerring, for it points to the One who said: **"I am. . . the truth"** (John 14:6). It is glorious and triumphant; it prevails and conquers all its foes. When all of its enemies lie dead, it keeps the field and sets up trophies of victory. Evil men and demons may oppose the truth, but they can never dispose of it. Truth is the same in all ages. It can live in the

region of death invincible, indestructible, incorruptible, and immortal. Neither the sword of the tyrant, nor the pen of an infidel, can destroy it. The truth is safe under the protection of its divine Author. The heavens shall be dissolved (II Pet. 3:12), but not the truth which came from Heaven.

NOT LEFT WITHOUT A WITNESS

Never in any age of human history has God been left without a witness for the truth. First, there is the ever-abiding witness of nature. The visible creation declares an invisible Creator (Rom. 1:18-20). It sets forth His eternal power and Godhead, and it leaves man without excuse for being an atheist. Nature declares His glory (Ps. 19:1-4), and it reveals His providing mercy (Acts 14:14-17; Gen. 8:22). While it is an incomplete witness of truth, it is still a faithful witness (Ps. 89:37).

Second, there are human witnesses of truth. From Adam to the flood, there were men like Enoch (Heb. 11:5; Jude 14-15) and Noah (Heb. 11:7; II Pet. 2:5). From the flood to the close of the Old Testament period, there were men like Abraham (Isa. 41:8; Heb. 11:17-19; John 8:56), and Moses (Num. 17:7-8; 18:2; II Chron. 24:6; Acts 7:44). The nation of Israel witnessed of the truth to the Gentile nations (Isa. 43:8-12). There were also the prophets and priests of the Old Testament (Acts 10:43). Even during the so-called "Four Hundred Silent Years" there were the Maccabees.

In the beginning of the New Testament period there was John the Baptist (John 1:7-8, 15; 3:26) and Jesus Christ (Isa. 55:4; John 3:34; 18:37; I Tim. 6:13; Rev. 1:5; 3:14). Just before leaving this earth, Christ appointed His church to witness for the truth (Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8). The churches will continue in this role until the rapture of the saints.

When the churches are removed from the earth by the rapture, there will be Enoch and Elijah (Rev. 11:3) and the 144,000 Israelites (Rev. 7:1-8; Dan. 12:8; Matt. 24:14) who shall bear witness to the truth. These will convert many Gentiles (Rev. 7:9-14) which will become witnesses (Rev. 20:4). Near the end of the seven-year tribulation period when many witnesses are dead and others in hiding, an angel will witness for the truth (Rev. 14:6-7).

In the millennium there will be many witnesses for the truth. Israel will witness to the living Gentile nations on earth (Isa. 2:1-4; 66:19), and many will be converted to the truth (Ps. 65:2; 72:8-11; Isa. 66:23; Dan. 7:27; Joel 2:28).

Never during the sweep of the ages

will God ever be left without a witness for the truth. **"For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth"** (II Cor. 13:8).

THE BIBLE CONTAINS THE TRUTH

The Bible is the only book in the world that contains the whole truth and nothing but the truth. This includes both the Old and New Testaments. Jesus Christ said: **"Thy word is truth"** (John 17:17). The psalmist declared: **"The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether"** (Ps. 19:9). Again he wrote: **"Thy word is true from the beginning. . ."** (Ps. 119:160). When I speak of the Bible I mean the Masoretic Hebrew Text and the Textus Receptus Greek text, and the faithful translations made from these texts. Any of these are **"the scripture of truth"** (Dan. 10:21) and **"the word of truth"** (II Tim. 2:15).

In order to understand the revelation of God in the Bible, we need someone to guide us into all truth. The Ethiopian eunuch was reading the 53rd chapter of the Book of Isaiah. Philip asked him: **"Understandest thou what thou readest?"** (Acts 8:30). And the eunuch replied: **"How can I, except some man should guide me?"** (Acts 8:31). The Lord did not send an angel from Heaven to teach the eunuch, but an evangelist from the church at Jerusalem. Neither did the Lord bore a hole in the head of the eunuch and pour in knowledge directly from Heaven.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN TEACHERS

We cannot learn without a teacher. He who seeks to be his own scholar in heavenly literature has a fool for a teacher. The eunuch was a man of high political office, and he valued a teacher of the Word such as Philip. He knew he could not profit from the Scriptures unless he in some measure understood them (Matt. 13:51; I Cor. 14:16-17). To have a right understanding of the Scriptures, he needed someone to guide him.

God's elect are teachable. They realize their ignorance and infirmities. **"That which I see not teach thou me"** (Job 34:32). **"Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning"** (Prov. 9:9; cf. Zech. 4:13-14). Apollos, though a man eloquent in the Scriptures, condescended to be taught in private by a man and his wife (Acts 18:26). It is written in Acts 11:26: **"And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people."**

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Succession of Truth

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

I believe the Bible teaches the need for religious education. This is one of the reasons I am a Missionary Baptist instead of a Hardshell Baptist. God's plan is for one person to teach another person the truth, and for pastors to teach whole churches (II Tim. 2:2).

In II Timothy 2:2 it is written: **"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."** Timothy had learned the truth from Paul (I Tim. 1:2). This truth had been learned **"among many witnesses"** which were other preachers and members of the church where Paul had preached and taught. Timothy was to teach other teachers, who would still teach other teachers. There is seen here four generations of teachers. There is the idea of a continuous process, or an organic succession of truth. There are no missing links here—no spontaneous generation of teachers who had to be jump started because the truth had died out and God had been left without a witness.

Paul was an ordained missionary of the church of Antioch (Acts 13:1-4), and Timothy was an ordained pastor (I Tim. 4:14). Thus II Timothy 2:2 can mean no less than that there would always be a link chain of faithful elders in faithful churches across the centuries. The truth would be preserved by these unimpaired from one generation to another. The term **"others"** naturally includes the rising generation of ministers in the churches, but it needs not to be restricted to ministers, since the entire congregation must be the recipient of their teaching. This line of true churches and true ministers would come down in a link chain unbroken from the days of Jesus Christ until the rapture.

Each church is responsible to ordain only faithful men who are able to teach the truth to the ministerial office. If a man lacks these qualifications, the presbytery has no right to recommend that he be ordained to the church, and the church has no authority to ordain an unfaithful man. The Lord has doubly guarded the ministerial office from intrusion of heretical and incompetent men, by requiring that he be not only selected by the act of the church, but also that he be approved by the act of the presbytery (Acts 6:1-6; 13:1-4; 14:23; I Tim. 4:14; 5:22; II Tim. 1:6; Tit. 1:5; Heb. 6:2).

Attention must be given to the

raising up of a new generation of dedicated spiritual leaders. This is why we have churches, Bible schools, and Christian colleges. Well trained ministers in well taught churches carry on a continuous process of spiritual reproduction until the Lord's appearing.

Some brethren see no need of this. They brand any person who sees such a need as a heretic and a fool. Possessed by the spirit of the historical critical method of interpreting the Scripture, they say, "This would require a link chain of valid baptisms, scriptural ordinations, and true churches. We do not have the historical records to prove this back to the apostolic age."

To this objection I would say that the Lord promised to preserve His truth by true ministers and true churches. The Lord did not promise to preserve the records of all of these to convince all skeptics and critics. Men either believe what the Bible says, or they do not. I cannot trace by historical records my ancestry back to Adam. Am I therefore to assume I have no organic connection with Adam and that my great grandmother was an ape? I do not have in my possession the original copies of the Bible in Hebrew and Greek. Am I therefore to assume that my King James Version has no organic connection with what Isaiah and Paul wrote? I could go on, but I will not, for such is not necessary.

BAPTIST BEGINNINGS

One's view about the succession of truth determines which view he holds as to Baptist beginnings. I can do no better than to quote from the Southern Baptist historian, Albert W. Wardin, Jr. He writes: "There are at least three different views on Baptist origins. One position, which may be called, 'Baptist Successionism,' begins with Jesus Christ and the first church in Jerusalem, if not with John the Baptist. It traces a succession to the modern Baptist denomination through groups of various names which existed outside the Roman Catholic Church, claiming that each group held to basic Baptist beliefs. A second view, a modification of the first position, may be called, 'Anabaptist Spiritual Kinship.' This position maintains that various groups, holding common spiritual principles but not necessarily organically related, have existed from Apostolic times to the period of the Anabaptists and modern Baptists. A third position, 'English Separatist Descent,' believes that Baptists developed from the Protestant Reformation, separating themselves from English Congregationalists who in turn had separated from the Church of England" (*Baptist Atlas*, p.

5).

To the best of my knowledge, there is not yet many among us who hold to the third view. Hence I shall concern myself with the first two views. The successionist sees an organic connection by a link chain of churches perpetuating themselves under various names. They trace their history through Montanists, Novatianists, Donatists, Paulicans, Albigensess, Petrobrussians, Henricans, Arnoldists, Waldenses, Anabaptists and modern Baptists. The spiritual kinship man sees in these group basic principles and practices of Baptists, but no organic connection between them. When the Montanists died out in Phrygia God jump started the Donatists in Africa by direct authority from Heaven. This idea resembles the "Big Bang" theory of the evolutionists.

Successionism is a chain of true ministers in true churches reproducing themselves across the centuries. Spiritual kinshipism is a succession of principles and practices, popping up here and there in different countries of the world. There is clearly an organic connection between churches in the first view, but no organic connection in the second. Spiritual kinship men hold that as the devil destroyed the Donatists, God, to get Himself out of an embarrassing situation, opened up a man's head in another part of the world and poured the truth into his head. Then "bang" and you had a New Testament church with direct authority from Heaven!

The spiritual kinship theory leaves many unanswered questions. How did a solitary man in Europe hear the gospel of truth, if there was no organic connection between him and a true New Testament church? Did his baptism and church come down directly from Heaven? Can you have a scriptural church without Bible baptism? Will self-baptism do? If churches can be started by direct authority from Heaven, why send out missionaries to establish new churches? Are the hardshell brethren right about missions? If churches are self-constituted by the direct authority from Heaven, are Protestant churches true churches? What about community churches and Bible churches? How can we be sure such organizations did not have direct authority from Heaven, seeing there is no need of a succession of true churches?

Thomas Treadwell Eaton once said: "If Baptist succession be the bad thing some brethren say, then certainly it ought to be given up. There should be no more of it. The churches now in existence ought to have no succession. When a new

church is organized, it should have no sort of connection with other churches, or relations to them. Let churches be organized anywhere, anyhow, by anybody. Just let the people be believers, and let them baptize each other, and start a church. This does away with Baptist succession. And if it be the bad thing that is charged, it ought to be done away with at the earliest moment. Those who oppose Baptist succession have no logical ground to stand on in organizing a church out of material furnished by other churches and with those baptized by regularly ordained ministers. If Baptist succession be sacerdotalism and sacramentalism, then surely we ought not to think of practicing it, and thus keep up the dreadful isms" (Cited by J. B. Moody in *My Church*, pp. 189-199).

The spiritual kinship theory holds that for God to have preserved His churches by a succession of true churches, valid baptisms, and scriptural ordinations, would put too great a strain upon the omnipotence of God. But to preserve principles and practices among men would not overpower Almighty God. The kinship brethren do not tell us how you can have Baptist principles and practices without having Baptist churches to carry out these principles and practices.

Call me what you will. I am a Baptist Successionist and always have been. I believe the work of the apostles of Christ remains (John 15:16) as Jesus promised. Their work remains because there has always been true ministers, valid baptisms, and true churches upon earth, just like the ones they founded in the first century. These churches have preserved the truth as it is in Christ and the Book of Truth (the Bible). How could churches preserve the Bible without any organic connection with each other? Let the spiritual kinship brethren give the answer.

THE SUCCESSION OF TRUTH FROM AGE TO AGE

In the patriarchal age the teaching of truth was mostly confined to home (Job 1:4-5). This was continued into the Mosaic dispensation (Deut. 4:9-10; 6:7-9; 11:19-20; Ps. 78:1-7). This teaching of truth in the home continued even into the New Testament dispensation (II Tim. 1:5; 3:15; Tit. 2:3). As father and mother taught son and daughter the truth, God's truth had a succession from one generation to another.

The nation of Israel had priests who publicly taught the people (II Chron. 17:7-9; 35:3; Neh. 8:9; Mal. 2:7). There was a succession of truth in that nation. There were also special

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Mini Edition

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IT'S NOT WHETHER YOU WIN OR LOSE. . . YEAH, RIGHT!

It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game. Ever heard that before? It's usually the statement of a team that has just lost. A losing team should focus on why they lost, while a winning team focuses on their win and why it occurred. Winners get to gloat a little (C'mon, they deserve it) and losers learn a valuable lesson in good sportsmanship and resolve to try a little harder next time. One bad thing about being a good sport is, you have to lose to prove you are one.

It has been reported in a British newspaper that a football league (That's soccer for us Yanks) in England has prohibited it's teams from announcing final scores or which team won or lost, when reporting to papers. Two reasons were mentioned: (1) It embarrasses the losers, and (2) It hurts their feelings. This policy is in effect for teams with boys under age ten.

Why, that's bloody ridiculous. I mean, it's preposterous old chap. Losing can be just as important as winning. It can set the determination to improve, and there's always room for improvement. Even the great Apostle Paul said, "**I have not yet apprehended**" which was his way of saying he had not yet arrived. The no-win, no-lose policy diminishes personal responsibility for the losers and discourages incentive to win. The agony of defeat makes the victory of winning taste sweeter when victory comes.

I might could understand this policy. . . for kindergartners, given their immaturity, but boys between the ages of 7 and 10 are at their competitive edge. Ask any Sunday School teacher of junior age boys. When a team loses, they should be encouraged to evaluate themselves as a team. They should seek out their weakness, which could be lack of team unity, poor game plan, etc. It places the responsibility back on the players, and if there is one area in society where we are lacking today, it is in the realm of personal responsibility and accountability. Sporting activities can be used to teach valuable life lessons.

This policy is an indicator, once again, of a society (in Great Britain and the USA) divorced from the

absolute standard of scripture. Relativism teaches there is no right or wrong. If that's true, there can be no winners and losers. Why the next thing you know, people will begin to say there is no God and devil, no heaven and hell, no good and evil, etc.

Winning is not everything, BUT it is necessary. If you don't believe me, ask George W. Bush and Al Gore as we approach the one year anniversary of a major win-lose situation.

THE BLAME GAME

Have you ever played the blame game? You probably did when you were a kid, and you probably have as an adult. Placing blame on others is a sign of immaturity among kids and a sign of depravity among adults. We dodge and duck at every chance to get away from being responsible when we get caught.

It usually goes something like this: "Your honor, my client cannot be considered responsible for the horrible crime of decapitating and filleting his family members. His dad yelled at him and took away his toy trucks when he was five and he has been in trauma ever since." Or "The Arabs hate America because the great Satan has oppressed them" (Go figure that one out). Or "The reason unwanted pregnancies continue and AIDS is still spreading is because moralists do not want sex education and condom distribution." And then there is the original classic, "**The woman thou gavest me. . .**" When all else fails, blame God, as Adam did.

Whatever happened to persona, individual responsibility? Scapegoating is easier and hurts less. Being responsible means facing up to our own sins, failures, and weaknesses, but exposure through truth is necessary. Admittance of guilt is a must for salvation. Our own sinful state of depravity reveals our desperate need for God. Atheists exist because it is more comfortable for them to not believe in God, because if there is a God, they must one day face Him, and that means accountability. Solution? Get rid of God by denying His existence.

When we ignore or reject the truth or place blame on someone else, the sin or the crime doesn't go away, and the real problem remains. The problem is ME. I choose to lie or tell the truth. I choose to be faithful or

unfaithful to my spouse. I choose to steal or be honest. And so on. I realize this is novel approach for some and may sound too simplistic to the humanistic psychologist, but if everyone began to shoulder his or her own responsibility for his or her own choices, the world might be a lot different tomorrow.

PROPHETIC RUMBLINGS

The Euros are coming, the Euros are coming! Actually, they are already here. Beginning today, January 1, 2002, twelve of the fifteen countries in the European Union have switched to a common currency of bills and coins called Euro money. One news report stated this was the first time Europe has used one currency since the Roman Empire. Gone is the franc, mark, lira and drachma, all replaced with the brightly colored printed bills.

I'm not one to have the Chicken Little philosophy of yelling "The sky is falling, the sky is falling" or "Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming", but surely this event must at least be a prophetic rumbling of events to unfold, according to biblical prophecy. This event is a hint of the revived Roman Empire and the role she will play in end time events. And speaking of Roman, I read where the Pope gave his blessing to the unified Europe at the New Years Day mass, pronouncing peace on the European Union and its goals. He of course would like to see a revival of the historical Holy Roman Empire, joining a one world church with a one world government for it's one world currency.

As I said, I'm not one to take every current event as a prophetic fulfillment, and then begin blowing the trumpet. Others have done so to their own detriment, so I move with caution. God has not directly, divinely spoken to me on this matter. Yet, I must think it cannot be ignored. I believe it is, as I like to say, a tremor, or a rumbling of things to come.

And then there's Israel. I see many such rumblings when I look at modern Israel. Only someone with prejudice would deny the working of God among His earthly chosen people. It's true, she did reject God's Messiah, but I have to concur with the great Apostle/writer Paul—God has not cast away His earthly people. He is working, restoring, and setting up the stage for last days events by His wonderful, divine providence, and Israel has the starring role. There are still many promises made to Israel that God must keep.

When Israel became a nation on her own piece of dirt in 1948, it was the first time she had sovereignty without a dominating gentile power in over 2300 years. 1948 was no

accident or coincidence. As my Dad used to say, watch Israel and you'll know what time it is prophetically, by God's clock.

Whether it's Euro money or Mid East tension, I sense rumblings that speak of a great moving of God in the future. I have no idea when the second coming of Christ may occur, but I know the year 2002 is one year closer to His coming than 2001.

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theological schools for the prophets at Naiioth (I Sam. 19:20), Bethel (II Kings 2:3), Jericho (II Kings 2:5, 15), Gilgal (II Kings 4:38), and most likely Jerusalem (II Kings 22:1-4; II Chron. 34:22). Individual believers taught other people the truth (Ps. 51:12-13; Dan. 12:3).

In the New Testament we see Christ as the Master Teacher who practiced what He preached (Acts 1:1). "**And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. . .**" (Matt. 4:23). "**Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught**" (John 7:14; cf. Luke 24:27).

Before leaving this world, Jesus Christ committed the public teaching ministry to His 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. Amen**" (Matt. 28:19-20).

John Gill comments on the words, "**I am with you always, even unto the end of the world,**" thusly: ". . . meaning, not merely to the end of their lives, which would be the end of the world to them; nor to the end of the Jewish world, or state, which was not a great way off, though this is sometimes the sense of this phrase; but to the end of the present world, the universe: not that the apostles should live to the end of it; but that whereas Christ would have a church and a people to the end of the world, and the Gospel and the ordinances of it should be administered so long, and there should be Gospel ministers till that time; Christ's sense is, that he would grant his presence to them, his immediate disciples, and to all that should succeed them in future generations, to the end of time. . ." (*Exposition of New Testament*, Vol. I, p. 377).

In the Book of Acts and the epistles

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we see the churches doing what Christ commanded them (Acts 5:42; 21:28; Gal. 6:6).

CONCLUSION

1. God has preserved His truth from generation to generation in the homes of true believers, by a God-fearing nation, and by New Testament churches. There has always been true churches with God-called ministers who taught the next generation. This is why we have true churches today, who continue to hold up Jesus Christ who is the Truth. It will continue to be so until Jesus comes.

Evolutionists speak of "missing links" between man and beast. Some Baptists speak of missing links in the chain of our Baptist succession. These anti-successionists say, "You cannot connect the European Anabaptists with the English Baptists," or "You can't get Baptists across the English Channel." Let these followers of William H. Whitsitt hollow and shout there is no such thing as Baptist succession back to Christ. Notwithstanding all the efforts of our foes, there is no break in the chain of the succession of true churches and true ministers since the time of the apostles. Baptists are the only people on earth who reach all the way back to John and Jordan. The gates of Hell have never prevailed against our churches which existed across the centuries independent of the Church at Rome.

Why has God preserved the truth in the Bible? Because it has been preserved and propagated by true churches and true ministers in every age since the ministry of Jesus Christ. Christ said He would preserve the truth in His churches. I had rather take His word on the matter than the critic of Baptist succession. If Christ has failed to preserve true churches and true ministers on this earth, then He lied and there is no truth on earth today!

I wish to conclude this article with the words of two Baptist successionists of the past. The first is D. B. Ray. He wrote: "No point in history has been found, this side of the days of Jesus Christ on earth, where the Baptist denomination had its origin. Notwithstanding all the efforts of bitter foes, no break has yet been discovered in the chain of Baptist succession. There has been no point of time since the apostolic age, when it can be said, in truth, there was no witnesses for Christ on earth holding the faith and practice of Baptists. . . . The Baptists are the only people on earth who claim as succession from

the apostolic age, independent of the Church at Rome; and as Jesus Christ has a church against which the gates of Hell have never prevailed, which has existed independent of the Romish hierarchy therefore the Baptists are really the only claimants to this succession" (*Baptist Succession*, p. 406). I agree totally with this statement from Bro. Ray, notwithstanding the fact that W. A. Jarrell disputed it (See *Baptist Church Perpetuity*, p. 2).

James Alfred Shackelford stated: "Baptists have never held to the doctrine of apostolic succession but have generally believed in church succession, and have always claimed that all authority is vested in the churches as the executives of Christ"

(*A Compendium of Baptist History*, p. 122).

My last witness is Robert Barclay, a Quaker historian. He wrote: "We have strong reasons for believing that on the continent of Europe, small hidden societies, who held many of the opinions of the Anabaptists, have existed from the time of the Apostles. In the sense of the direct transmission of divine truth and the true nature of spiritual religion, it seems probable that these churches have a lineage or succession, more ancient than the Roman church (*Inner Life of Religious Societies of the Commonwealth*, p. 12). Any man who denies Baptist church succession is more poorly informed than a Quaker.



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.

CC

FATE OF CHINESE PASTOR UNCERTAIN AFTER PROVINCIAL COURT SENTENCES HIM TO DEATH

HONG KONG, China (EP)—The fate of the pastor of a large Protestant church in Hong Kong is uncertain because of conflicting reports regarding his legal status.

On Dec. 18, Gong Shengliang, head of the 50,000-member South China church, was sentenced to death by Chinese court officials of Hubei province after he was found guilty of leading an "evil cult." The court in Hubei Province declared Gong guilty of using an "evil cult" to "undermine the enforcement of the law." He was also accused of "complicity of rape."

Fifteen other members of the South China Church also received prison sentences ranging from two years to life. Gong's niece and co-founder of South China Church, Li Ying, was sentenced to die after a two-year prison term for printing and distributing a banned publication.

The Supreme Court of Hubei granted Gong an appeal. According to Christian advocacy group Voice of the Martyrs, the appeal is an acknowledgment by the court that some of the allegations against Gong may have been fabricated. While the extent of the charges and the total evidence is unknown—because Gong's trial was held in secret—this is not the first time a leader of a religious group has been sentenced to death on such charges. In a similar cause in 1999, the leader of a large

religious group in Henan province was executed after he was found guilty of rape charges.

House church leaders in Hubei claim that Gong is innocent of the charges. A missions researcher told the Baptist Press that Gong's church "practices fundamental evangelical Christian doctrine." House church leaders said that if Gong's group was a cult, "then we all are" (cult members).

Gong's church is one of many underground organizations that operate without government permission. For their refusal to follow the governments prescribed doctrine, these organizations have been labeled "cults."

Christians watching the case say that prayer for Gong and his followers has made a difference. "We think God for His divine intervention in this case," said Gary Lane, spokesman for Voice of the Martyrs. "The prayers of Christians around the world along with calls, faxes and e-mails of protest to the Chinese government made the difference."

Gong's fate was still uncertain at press time, but one Christian prayer organization, Jericho Walls International (JWI), declared that Gong's death sentence had been suspended. "We have received news from our sources in the field. According to their latest information, the Supreme Court of Hubei province suspended the execution of Brother Gong—a very unusual event given the current circumstances," said JWI in a news release. "There has been a great deal of intercession and activity around this

circumstance, and we ask you to continue to keep Brother Gong in your prayers."

In a similar story, Christian advocacy groups are also calling for the release of Lia Guangqiang, a Hong Kong businessman, who was arrested in May 2001 for allegedly "using an evil cult to undermine law enforcement." Lia, member of a church in Hong Kong known as the "Little Flock," allegedly helped smuggle more than 30,000 Bibles into China. He also faces the possibility of execution if found guilty of the charges. His high-profile case, which was mentioned by President George W. Bush Jan. 7, goes to trial during the second week in January.

"This is a very significant case, and we'll be watching it closely," Lane said. "Mr. Lia is the first prominent Hong Kong businessman to be arrested for allegedly 'using an evil cult to undermine law enforcement' since China regained control of Hong Kong in 1997."

"I became also a reproach unto them. . ." (Ps. 109:25).

ANALYSIS: BULGING TEMPLE WALL MAY COLLAPSE HOPES FOR PEACE IN JERUSALEM

By Clyde Billington, Ph.D.

JERUSALEM, Israel (EP)—The retaining wall under the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem has developed a 35 foot-wide bulge. This huge bulge in the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount is about 50 feet above ground level. Engineers who have studied this bulge say that the wall is in danger of collapsing. If this ancient retaining wall falls, Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is directly above it, will also fall. If Al-Aqsa Mosque should fall, the nearby Dome of the Rock Mosque might also be damaged.

If Al Aqsa Mosque should collapse, so would any hope of peace in the Middle East. Radical Muslims would undoubtedly blame Israel and call for holy war.

The Temple Mount is the most dangerous piece of real estate in the world today. Nearly all Jews and Jewish archeologists believe that the Muslim Dome of the Rock Mosque sits directly over the site where the ancient Jewish Temple once stood.

For Jews, the Temple Mount is their most holy site. One group of radical Jews, called the Temple Mount Faithful, wants to destroy the Dome of the Rock Mosque and to build a third Jewish Temple on the Temple Mount.

Muslims believe it was from the rock inside of the Dome of the Rock Mosque that Muhammad ascended into heaven for a visit. For this reason, the Temple Mount is considered by Muslims to be their third most holy site after Mecca and Medina.

In other words, the Dome of the Rock

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Mosque is an essential holy site for both Judaism and Islam. Religious strife over control of the Temple Mount is further compounded by both Jewish and Palestinian nationalism.

The issue of who controls or will control the Temple Mount has the potential for igniting a major war in the Middle East. Various Israeli governments have in the past been very careful not to do anything to upset the Muslim Waqf's [i.e. religious council's] spiritual control over the Temple Mount, even though the Temple Mount area is under Israeli military control. When Jerusalem fell to the Israeli army in 1967, the Israeli government left the Temple Mount under the spiritual control of the Palestinian-dominated, Muslim Waof.

In the past, non-Muslims—including Jews—were allowed to visit the top of the Temple Mount, although few Jews did so. I am a Christian, and I have been in both the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa mosques on the Temple Mount. Today the Waqf will not allow non-Muslims to visit either mosque, or even to go on top of the Temple Mount where both of these mosques are located.

: Unfortunately, the Muslim Waqf seems to go out of its way to offend the Jews and to reject their historic and religious ties to the Temple Mount. The Waqf could do a great deal to lessen tension between Jews and Palestinian Muslims by making a few minor concessions to Jewish concerns over construction work on the Temple Mount and by recognizing historical Jewish ties to the Temple Mount. Failure by the Waqf to do so could have dire consequences, as the relationship between the Jews and the Palestinians continues to deteriorate.

Meanwhile, Israeli Jews and Palestinians are blaming each other for this huge bulge in the Southern Wall, and nothing is being done to keep it from growing larger. Jewish archaeologists blame this bulge on Muslim construction work now being done to convert an area of the Temple Mount known as Solomon's Stables into a new, third mosque on the Temple Mount. This new mosque has been named Al-Marawani Mosque.

Palestinians, on the other hand, argue that this bulge was caused by Israeli archaeological excavations that were carried out several years ago long the side of the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount.

Jewish sensibilities are being rubbed raw by Muslim construction work on Al-Marawani Mosque which Israeli archaeologists claim is destroying Jewish archaeological remains on the mount. Jewish scholars say these remains date from First and Second Temple Periods.

As a result of Palestinian construction

on the Temple Mount, U. S. Congressman Eric Cantor (R-Va.) recently introduced a bill in the U. S. House of Representatives, which he has named the "Temple Mount Preservation Act." Cantor's bill would ban future American aid to the Palestine Authority, if Muslim construction work continues to destroy Jewish archaeological evidence on the Temple Mount.

The bulging section of the Southern wall was built in the Eighth Century A. D. by Muslim Arabs and sits on top of an earlier wall built by the Jewish King Herod the Great, who ruled in the first century B. C. This bulging Southern wall is attached to the famous Western or "Wailing" Wall, which is deemed sacred by the Jews. There is no indication that the Western Wall is in danger of collapsing, only the Southern Wall is bulging.

The great irony of the bulging Southern Wall is that it is a Muslim wall built on top of an older Jewish wall. While this wall was built by both Jews and Muslims, if it collapses both Jews and Muslims may suffer the consequences of its fall.

[Clyde Billington is associate professor of ancient history at Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and managing editor of Artifax Magazine. He wrote this article for the Autumn 2001 edition of Artifax, a quarterly newsletter published by Scribe Media.]

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem" (Zech. 12:9).

GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—A New York trial court judge ruled Dec. 6 that Joseph Gray, a former New York police officer accused of killing a pregnant woman while driving drunk, can be tried for manslaughter charges for the death of the woman's unborn baby. The child was delivered by cesarean section after the crash. The city medical examiner ruled that the child was stillborn, but New York Supreme Court Justice Anne Feldman held that the fetus was legally alive because the infant's heart had been "jump-started" by chemicals, causing the heart to beat "for a period of time" after the crash—evidence of a live birth under New York public health laws.

PALU, Indonesia (EP)—New Year's Eve wasn't a night of celebration for Christians on Sulawesi, an island in the Indonesian archipelago. Four churches in the capitol city of Palu, two Pentecostal churches, an Adventist church and a Presbyterian church, were bombed allegedly by radical Muslims who are trying to stir up religion tensions. According to one witness, a policeman was killed when he tried to remove an explosive device from one of the

Pentecostal churches. The other Pentecostal church, known as the Ekklesia Church, was filled with worshippers attending New Year's Eve service when the bomb went off at 11:53 p.m. No one was killed in the blast, and, worshippers remained afterward to thank God for sparing their lives. In comparison to years past, this Christmas holiday was relatively calm, a missionary in the capitol of Jakarta told Baptist Press. The year before, 19 people died in attacks on churches in several cities.

NAZARETH, Israel (EP)—The peace enjoyed between the Christian and Muslim populations of Nazareth has been jeopardized since a fundamentalist Muslim group illegally started construction of a mosque near the Basilica of the Annunciation Nov. 12. Tradition states that the basilica stands on the spot where the angel Gabriel announced the coming birth of Jesus Christ. International protest against the mosque has been directed at the Israeli government from Christian groups, including the Vatican. In November, the Vatican released a statement saying that the construction of the mosque put the Christian site "in a permanent state of siege." The groups consider the construction of the mosque on the doorstep of the basilica to be a deliberate provocation on the part of the Muslims. A court order to stop the construction was made by the Regional Commission for planning Regulation in December and reaffirmed by Israel's federal security cabinet on Jan. 9. Muslims supporting the Nazareth mosque said the construction will continue.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (EP)—The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that homosexual relationships can lead to parental rights. The decision sets a precedent for non-biological parents seeking custody rights of children they helped raise. In its 5-2 decision, the state Supreme Court ruled in late December that a lesbian had the right to seek shared custody of a child born to her former lesbian partner. Lou Sheldon, Chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition, said, "The Supreme Court totally has done a 180 degree turn on parental rights in making this decision. I think that they have incurred the anger of a lot of people, and I think that people do not want the family unit tampered with."

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—Lisa Beamer, whose husband Todd helped foil Sept. 11 hijackers on a plane that crashed in Pennsylvania, was named one of People magazine's "25 Most Intriguing People of 2001," for the way she has spoken "eloquently of the need to move on in life without hatred." Beamer, who met her husband at Wheaton College, an evangelical school in Illinois, has spoken openly about the strength she draws from

her Christian faith. "Just because I have faith in God doesn't mean that He is going to prevent every horrible thing from happening to me, or take me away from the difficulties that this world brings to us, but that He is going to screen those difficulties and only allow those in that He wanted to allow in," she told interviewer Larry King. "I don't know what it means for the big picture of my life right now, but I do just trust that God was in control that day and that He is taking care of me and loving me through this right now."

WILMORE, Ky. (EP)—President George W. Bush has been named "Layman of the Year" by Good News magazine, which features the country's most well-known United Methodist in its January/February cover story. The magazine's editorial team cited Bush's leadership in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. "Few political leaders have been required to respond to such traumatic and dreadful moments," the magazine said. "Fewer still have shown such moral courage, political deftness and Christian virtue as has this president." The magazine is published by the Good News organization, an unofficial United Methodist evangelical group.

The September 11th Fund, which was established by the New York Community Trust and the United Way to aid victims of the 9-11 terrorist attack on New York City, is coming under close scrutiny for some very troubling fund dispersals. In November the National Legal and Policy Center, a watchdog group based in Fall Church, Virginia, charged that funds from a \$171,000 grant from the September 11th Fund to the Legal Aid Society of New York were being used to provide free legal assistance to Arabs detained after the attack on immigration violations. . . . Other grants from the September 11th Fund that should be cause for investigation include \$56,000 given to Asian Americans for Equality (AAE) and \$39,000 to the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). The groups' names may sound relatively benign to the uninformed, but both organizations have extremely radical records. The AAE is a split-off branch of the Communist Workers Party. Among the veteran revolutionaries services on the board of directors of AAE is Spring Wang, the owner of a large construction company specializing in HUD construction and renovation contracts. Ms. Wang, who lives in a mansion in fashionable Scarsdale, New York, has been involved in radical circles for many years, including the terrorists Black Panthers, of which her former husband was a member. She remains active with Red Chinese officials. The extremes who staff the AALDEF have included among

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their ranks hardcore Reds from the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA), which, like the AAE, is a spin-off from the Communist Workers Party. These CPA loyalists call themselves "Red Guards" and "Boxers" and have distinguished themselves as street thugs in roughing up anti-Beijing demonstrators. They have also been visibly associated with Chjina's consulate and UN officials in New York (*The New American*, 1-14-02).

The Cariboo (Anglican) Diocese in British Columbia was to close Dec. 31, facing \$63,000 (US) in monthly legal bills. This is Canada's most visible loss relating to thousands of suits charging sexual abuse (1-7, *CT*). The government offered to shoulder 70 percent of out-of-court legal settlements for physical and sexual abuse claims at church-run residential schools for natives. Some estimate it may cost \$1.26 billion to settle suits from over 8,000 plaintiffs (*Calvary Contender*, 1-15-02).

Democrats, in the name of tolerance, plan to demonize conservative Christians as being like the Taliban, according to an article in *Newsweek*. Democrats "are planning a daring assault on the most critical turf in politics: the cultural mainstream," political correspondent Howard Fineman writes. "The theory goes like this. Our enemy in Afghanistan is religious extremism and intolerance. It's therefore more important than ever to honor the ideals of tolerance—religious, sexual, racial, reproductive—at home. The GOP is out of the mainstream, some Democrats will argue [this] year; because it's too dependent upon an intolerant 'religious right,' "This is an incendiary battle plan—essentially comparing the GOP right with the Taliban— designed to draw an outraged response from the president. Then Democrats would have Bush just where they wanted him: in a firefight at home" (*The Washington Times*, Jan. 7-13, 2002).

This probably won't come as a surprise to anyone, but the *New York Times* appears to be working off the same page as the Democratic Party. In a recent front-page story, the newspaper referred to Islamic radicals as "the religious right." Foreign correspondent Douglas Jehl, in an article on how the Saudi royal family has dealt with radical Islam, said: "Choosing accommodation over confrontation, the government shied away from a crackdown on militant clerics or their followers, a move that would have inflamed the religious right, the disaffected returnees from other wars [besides the one in Afghanistan] and a growing number of the unemployed" (*ibid.*).

The far left is always saying that we need more money for public education (they mean, of course, in government run schools). In the past 10 years government expenditures on public education have risen 50 percent to nearly 650 billion a year, yet test scores in most states remain stagnant. Conditions in inner cities schools is shameful. Money and education is not the answer to all social ills. In 1999, the Clinton administration sent more than \$70 million in assistance to the Afghan people. We were assured that the Taliban made sure the money got to the "poor folks." Or, did it end up in Mullah Omar's compound in Kandahar?

Pat Buchanan predicts that America as we know it will be kaput in 50 years. Ditto for the rest of the Western world, and there's no political way to head it off because of legal and illegal immigration, declining birthrates and the defeat of traditional values in the cultural wars. "America will be a Third World nation by 2050, and most of the other First World will have begun to vanish," he told *The Washington Times*. That prophecy may seem far-fetched, but Mr. Buchanan says he is merely documenting well-established facts (*The Washington Times*, Jan. 14-20, 2002).



GLEANINGS FROM THE HILL CLIFFE CHURCH

The Baptist church in Cheshire, England, is an ancient Baptist Church. How long the church has been in existence, there are no written records to testify. A tombstone has been found that bears the date 1357. The origin of the church is assigned to the *Baptist Manual* to the year 1523. At this ancient Baptist chapel, a mile and a half distance from Warrington, Oliver Cromwell attended services, and one of his soldiers occupied the pulpit. It was from its earliest beginning a sovereign grace Baptist church, or what was called "a Particular Baptist Church" (meaning the atonement of Christ was for a particular people—the elect).

In a *History of the Baptist Church at Hillcliffe* by James Kenworthy I find the following information:

"We have given these minutes particulars of this interesting two owing to the circumstance that the first Baptist minister in it held a lectureship belonging to the abbey, the duties of which he performed, and the salary of which he received. The

message and orchard purchased by Mr. Fishbourne's legacies would likewise be possessed by him. The name of the individual was Mr. Thomas Tillam, 'a messenger,' as he styles himself 'of one of the seven churches in London.' He appears to have been originally a Catholic, and had traveled on the Continent, but afterwards seems to have been converted to the Protestant faith, and to have united himself with the Baptists. He was selected by the church to which he belonged to be a minister of the gospel, as he gives himself the designation of minister. The nature of his work may be known from what is said of another individual who lived in the same period in Ireland, namely, Mr. Thomas Patient. Of him it is affirmed that he had, by the Baptist Church in Dublin, 'been appointed an evangelist to preach up and down in the country.' Such appears to have been the work of Mr. Tillam. We are informed to what church Mr. Tillam originally belonged, or by what church he was first appointed to ministerial labour; but when he came to Hexham he was married, and Mrs. Tillam is said to have been a member of the Church in Cheshire, probably Hill Cliffe, as afterwards noticed; and we find also that Mr. Tillam, soon after he came to Hexham, went to Cheshire to itinerate for a short time. From those considerations it seems probably that Mrs. Tillam was a native of Cheshire, and he himself had before his coming to Hexham, been a resident of that country, and had preached the gospel there.

"It was the church in Coleman Street, London, then under the care of Messrs. Hansard Knollys, John Perry, and William Howard, that sent Mr. Tillam as their messenger to Hexham.

"1653. In the beginning of March the church at Hexham wrote to the church in London soliciting them to allow Mr. Tillam, to whom they refer in the most affectionate terms, to become their pastor. They say 'Although as a general officer he hath laboured amongst us, yet our hearts' desires are for a nearer interest in him, if, by the will of God, this grace may be ministered unto us by you.' Every church, it would appear, at that period, seems to have claimed a special right in its members and the ministers it ordained, so that none of these, without their sanction, could unite with any other church, either as members, ministers, or pastors. When a pastor was wanted by any church, application was made, not the minister himself, but to the church with whom he was connected, and if he did anything without their

concurrence, he was either suspended or dismissed" (pp. 43-45). I can hear some brethren who would say of such a historical account, "This is too much church authority for me." Any amount of church authority is too much for some.

The record continues: "On the 19th March three females were baptized. One Charles Bond, a member of Dr. Chamberlain's church, London, was admitted to communion on 3rd April, and on the same day a member named John Hudspen was excluded, and Mr. Tillam also, at this time, was solemnly commended to the grace of God (like Paul when he left Antioch) in proceeding to Cheshire on a missionary or evangelist tour. It is called 'the work in Cheshire,' and it is said, 'The church sent their deacon with their minister (like John surnamed Mark, with Paul) in much love, by which many were added to the church in Cheshire.' When this church was formed in this country we are not told; but from its being the church in Cheshire, we may conclude that it was the only church in the whole country at that time.

"On the return of Mr. Tillam and the deacon from their mission, it is said that 'it caused great joy to the church at Hexham'" (pp. 45-46).

Here are some other items of interest: "Baines' *History of Liverpool* says: 'The original Calvinistic Baptist congregation in Liverpool was a branch of a Society at Hill Cliffe, near Warrington, and came to Liverpool about the year 1700. . . ." (p. 61).

"In the year 1714 the Liverpool portion of the church was formed into a separate body, under the ministry of Mr. Peter Davenport. . . (p. 61).

"We thus see that, seven years after being formed into a separate church, the Liverpool people ceased giving their usual assistance to the mother church. . . (p. 63).

AFTER ITS KIND

By Gail E. Terrell
Dean of Academic Affairs &
Chair of Business Department
Temple Baptist College
Cincinnati, Ohio

Have you ever seen a dog-snake or a rat-horse? The Bible indicates that we need never worry about such monstrosities.

Genesis 1 reveals that the "kind" brings forth "after his own kind." This is the distinguishing character of a "kind;" that is, any members of a kind could cross and the product or hybrid would also be according to the kind to which the parents belonged. For example, the horse and the donkey are two species or races of the

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Gleanings

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horse kind and produce the mule which is truly a horselike offspring.

We commonly overlook the full implications of the Genesis statement, **"after his own kind."** Actually, the world would really be a gigantic mess if God had not instituted this biological law. We just take for granted when we cross-breed dogs that we will get dogs without remembering that this is exactly what the Bible teaches. Can you imagine the horrible possibilities of a dog-snake animal.

When I was a boy, I delivered newspapers in order to obtain spending money. On numerous occasions I was bitten by a dog, but I continued delivering papers because I knew that the pain of the dog bite would be gone in a few days. However, no amount of money would have persuaded me to deliver newspapers if I had to worry about a poisonous dog-snake bite. What if a lion and crow could mate resulting in a flying lion-bird creature that could fly into our cities and devour our children. What if a rat could mate with a horse producing a huge fast-running rat-horse. Mosquitoes are a stinging nuisance, but what if they could combine reproductively with a rattlesnake and become flying deadly poison needles. No, this will never happen because God does not permit such horrible monstrosities.

We are protected by God's Word which clearly states that the "kind" brings forth **"after his own kind."** This is certainly one of the most important facts in the world of living things, the world of biology, and one of God's great blessings to man.

You can believe all of the Bible from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, and you can trust the Bible to be your guide to daily living.

I HAVE GLORIFIED YOU ON THE EARTH

**By Robert Hill
Steilacoom, Washington**

Jesus spoke these very words in His prayer found in John 17:4: **"I have glorified thee on the earth."** He had done all His Father had given Him to do as the rest of the verse states: **"I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."** Jesus spoke to all believers through this age in John 15:8 saying that we too should seek to glorify our Father.

Fellow Christians, such a statement from our Savior to us should flood our very hearts with joy and great desire to finish the work which our Father has given us to do. Jesus said in verse

8: "Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

Submission, beloved, submission must be our passion. That which drives us must be abiding in our Savior's love. Jesus has loved us as our Father has loved Him, verse 9. In this same verse He gave us a commission, **"...continue in my love."** Someone may ask, how do I abide in Jesus' love? The sovereign Lord knows our very thoughts before we have them. Verse 10 says: **"If ye keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my fathers commandments, and abide in his love."**

A dedicated Christian will seek God's grace by the power of the Holy Spirit, being led by God's Word to put to death all sinfulness as it is revealed to him. As the believer commits to obedience, less of self is seen and more of Christ comes forth. Self or works of the flesh is very evident and Christ when manifest in a believer's life is very evident and either is easily seen. The Christian who is living for self will show works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21). If the Christian by submission to God's Word, walks in the Spirit, this Christian shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal. 5:16).

The Christian who seeks to glorify his Father as Jesus said, must bear fruits unto righteousness. This fruit must come forth by the Holy Spirit who is working in a soul that is abiding in Christ's love. Obedience to God will replace the works of the flesh for fruits of the Spirit, (Gal. 5:22-24), which will glorify God on the earth.

Jesus said in John 15:4 that we cannot bear fruit unless we abide in Him, and in verse 10 that abiding in Him is obeying Him. We must obey His commands to abide in His love. We must abide in His love to bear fruit, we must bear fruit to glorify Him.

Let us remember that God's word says in Ephesians 2:8, 9 that salvation is not to be worked for, but is by grace through faith in Jesus' shed blood; though saying faith is evidenced by works of the Holy Spirit in the believer, through abiding in Christ's love. God's grace can easily be seen in the death of Jesus on the cross for sinners, and is just as easily seen in the life of the believer who is submissive to Christ as a servant to their Master. It is by faith we must come to so great a salvation—the forgiveness of sins. Romans 5:6 says that Christ died for the ungodly. All who are without faith in Christ are what the Bible calls ungodly, and under the wrath of God. Romans 10:9 says that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in

your heart that God has raised Him from the dead you will be saved. It is also important to remember that this very text says Lord Jesus, not just Jesus. One must by the Holy Spirit and God's Word become a servant to Christ. Lord in this text implies Master. By confessing one must agree with God that Jesus is Master, which means obedience to Him.

A strong mature Christian who abides in Christ's love from a heart filled with love for Him will by the Holy Spirit manifest Christ's character, not a character of the flesh. He will have a great desire to seek to glorify God with much earnestness.

May our Father be glorified in our lives as we learn and grow in submission to His will and finish all the work the Father has for each of us to do. And like Jesus, say: **"(Father) I have glorified thee on the earth."**

Editor's note: This article was written December 1, 2001, by an inmate confined at Washington State Department of Corrections. He has often written to the editor of this paper and he is a precious brother in Christ.

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 11-30-2001 to 12-31-2001

Beginning Deficit	\$168.82
RECEIPTS:	
A. D. Richardson, Cedarville, WV	100.00
B.C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	28.02
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	200.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	50.00
Berea M. B.C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV	1,300.00

Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	125.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL	25.00
Charlene Redding, Tucson, AZ	250.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL	20.00
Donald James, Aztec, NM	20.00
Esther Thorne, Fayetteville, AR	200.00
Faith M. B. C., Clarksville, TN	100.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR	25.00
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME	20.00
Gene Kiger, Rural Hall, NC	40.00
Gerald Price, Johnson City, TN	20.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Grace B. C., Georgetown, KY	70.00
Grace B. C., Tulsa OK	45.00
Grace M. B. Mission, Marion, IL	25.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
Joseph Jurzec, Lake-in-the-Hills, IL	25.00
Landmark M. B. C., Moncks Corner, SC	25.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	75.00
Letson Farrell, Long Beach, MS	190.00
Lois Ehm, Hutchinson, KS	20.00
Meadow Branch B. C., Millport, AL	100.00
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM	300.00
Mt Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00
Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA	40.00
Philadelphia B. C., Aztec, NM	25.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	50.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR	50.00
Solid Rock B. C., Kenedy, TX	20.00
South PArk M. B. C., Seattle, WA	25.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Fulton, MS	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Galena, OH	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL	200.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX	30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Warren, OH	75.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC	100.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	200.00
William P. Anderson, Grove City, PA	3.00
Subscriptions	166.00
Anonymous	100.00
Dividing checks	225.00
Sub Total	\$5,567.02
TOTAL	\$5,398.20

EXPENDITURES:	
Wages	2,375.00
Printing	502.00
Postage	958.76
FICA taxes	181.70
Dividing Checks	225.00
Supplies	71.00
Total Expenditures	4,313.46
.....	1,084.74
Bank charge	-20.78
ENDING BALANCE	\$1,063.96





WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

School Prayer May Be On the Way Back



The spectacle of the U. S. Congress singing the praises of our Lord on the Capitol steps right after the September 11th assault on our sovereignty and freedoms may, in the short term, be enough to shame them into common sense and elementary brain-power in returning voluntary prayer to our schools.

There they were, like the hypocrites many of them are, singing "God Bless America" and calling on the Almighty for protection and guidance in our hour of peril. In the front row, we see Barney Frank (D. Mass.), Sheila Lee Jackson (D-Tex.) and Cynthia McKinney (D-Cal.) singing their little hearts out and looking ever so holy.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The congressman from Oklahoma did a lot more than sing. Ernest Istook Jr. ® introduced a *constitutional amendment* to cure the hypocrisy and double-speak against school children for praying in school when virtually everyone else could pray all they wanted to and wherever they wanted to.

The President could, so could Congress, judges of all our courts, mayors, city councilmen, sheriffs and dog-catchers—but not school children, the ones most needing prayer and most deserving by far.

Even *Time* magazine noticed, "Tens of millions of Americans broke the law on September 11th and in the days that followed. . . Kids prayed in school." (Oct. 22, 2001)

OPPORTUNE TIME

Rep. Istook's amendment comes at a most opportune time. People are thinking of more than prosperity and fat pocketbooks; they want security and consolation. The Istook amendment to the U. S. Constitution would explicitly allow schools to set aside time each day for public school children to pray, if they wish. Jews, Buddhists and Muslims could pray too—even in Arabic.

Moreover, this amendment would also allow children to carry and read Bibles in schools and protect freedom of religious expression for school children and teachers. Even the Ten Commandments could be posted—just like the nine justices do in their United States Supreme Court, and presumably could never declare a constitutional amendment unconstitutional. But, let's not bet on

that.

NOBLE LAWMAKERS

How noble our legislators would then be—even letting our precious children post the Ten Commandments, just like the big boys do.

The First Amendment to our Constitution explicitly protects freedom of religious expression:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or *prohibiting the free exercise thereof* (emphasis added). . . ."

Thomas Jefferson in his famous letter to John Adams used the phrase "separation of church and state." Thereafter, today's radicals in the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and in Barry Lynn's Americans United for Separation of Church and State seized upon this unclear term, along with the anti-Christian judges, to remove every vestige of religion from public life.

Who's to say precisely what Jefferson meant? Article I does not say "separation." It says "free exercise." For 171 years, our nation did just fine with Article I's "free expression"—until 1962 when the Supreme Court banned school prayer (*Engel v Vitale*) and in 1963 banned the Bible (*Abington School Board v Schenpp*).

DECLINE IN CHARACTER

Since then, our country and school children steadily declined in morality and character: divorces and teen suicides tripled, out-of-wedlock births shot up and child abuse and use of illegal drugs sky-rocketed.

The ACLU and Americans United groups are not our friends. They hire

expensive lawyers who bamboozle weak judges with flamboyant and pernicious arguments. They demand a secular society and utterly refuse America's religious foundations.

They want God outlawed in the public domain: no prayer or Bibles in schools, no grace-saying over school lunches, no religious jewelry in school, no tax exemptions for churches, no pledge of allegiance that mentions God, no religious symbols in military cemeteries, no "In God We Trust" on our coins—and on and on. But, it's OK to pass out condoms and teach sex.

ISLAM OK IN SCHOOL

It's also OK in California in the Byron School District of San Francisco to teach the fundamentals of the Islam faith and for school children to play Jihad (holy war) games, according to spokesman Ibrahim Hooper of the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations—expostulating on January 14th on the Fox-TV Hannity and Colmes Show.

Mr. Hopper, a tough-looking hombre in white skull cap and interrupting every criticism of Islam, said its OK for school children to wear Islamic robes, take Islamic names and "play games" as they learn that Islam is a faith of love and kindness. He was not very convincing and said not a word about the violent side of Islam—so expertly demonstrated by militant Muslims on September 11th in New York and Washington.

The fired-up opposition to the Hooper hoopla was Radio Talk Show Host Melaine Morgan of KSFO who told of the militant side of Islam and challenged the double-standard that excluded teaching Christianity. Of course, the answer was "educational"—but that's hypocritical. Christian "fundamentals" would never be allowed in such detail as are used in the San Francisco school Islamic program.

So, where is the American Civil Liberties Union (SCLU), Barry Lynn's Americans United for Separation of Church and State and Norman Lear's People for the American Way while the Muslims expand? Imagine the thunder and lightening if public schools taught about the birth of Jesus and His Sermon on the Mount—and used a crucifixion cross in a school play.

Anti-Christian is still No. 1 bigotry in America—but still violently taboo are the other bigotries: *racism* and *anti-Semite*, and fast-growing *anti-Muslim*.

TIME FOR ACTION

The hypocrites and radicals were quiet right after the September 11th massacres of innocents, but are now coming alive. The arrogant ACLU radicals are attacking President Bush for calling for a "National Day of Prayer and Mourning." Our President operates as a Christian. He told school children, although they were not permitted to pray in school, "There are prayers that can last through the day, and endure the night."

Admiral Tom Moorer, one of our nation's most respected leaders, has a word for Washington, ". . . (T)he liberal Democrats who are now on TV strutting their patriotism were the same ones who defended Bill Clinton's destruction of our country last year."

Rep. Istook's proposal (HJR81) has 76 co-sponsors. 85 percent of Americans want school prayer—but they'll never get it without a *groundswell* of support, meaning it is our duty *today* to tell our two senators and congressman we want it!

(Capt. Evan's columns are distributed by the Americanism Educational League.)

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 11-30-2001 to 12-31-2001

Beginning Balance \$15.61

RECEIPTS

Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR 25.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 2,100.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS 200.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN 165.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY 150.00
Calvary Ind. B. C., Everson, WA 100.00
Dividing checks 175.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS 2,915.00
TOTAL 2,930.61

EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time 802.00
Dividing checks 175.00
Order of checks 10.98
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 987.98
..... \$1,942.63
Bank Charges -10.00
BALANCE \$1,932.63

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance \$253.32
RECEIPTS
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 2,000.00
Total 2,253.32

EXPENDITURES:

WCTT (Apr) 160.00
Total Expenditures 160.00
ENDING BALANCE \$2,093.32

Coming in the next issue . . .

The Conflict of Power at the End of this Age by G. Wilbur Smith
The Preeminence of Christ by Milburn Cockrell
The Doctrine of Rewards by Milburn Cockrell

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