## By William J. Stang of Lexington, Kentucky

I would like for us to consider the 22nd Psalm together for just a moment. I will not read the Psalm here; I will leave that for you to do upon your Christian honor, once we have finished discussing it. You will see my reason for this once we have finished and once you have read it in the end. But you may want to have it open before you as I discuss several points in preparation for your reading, for there are several things that I would like to put in your minds before it is read.

First of all, we are all familiar with John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him...," now that qualifies it. It is distinctly restricted to a limited atonement in John 3:16 alone. From the very start it is limited to "whosoever **believeth in Him.**" We could take the word "world" as "For God so loved the world..." and we could go to John 17:9 and show where Jesus prayed: "...I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me..." (out of



the world!),
"...for they
are thine...
and thine
are mine..."
And we could
explain the use
of the word
"world" in the

Bible. And we could show that Christ did not die for every man, but He came to save His people from their sins, as Matthew 1:21 says it; but John 3:16 qualifies it in itself, "...that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Now that leaves out the vast majority of mankind, even in our day. And far-far more throughout history.

Whosoever believeth: Why do some believe? Think about that word "believe" for just a moment: I have talked with numerous Campbellites (men who are elders in the "Church of Christ"), they especially, but many other protestants as well: and I have repeatedly asked them a question. And it is a good question for anyone who believes in salvation by works. Ask them: "Why do some men believe and some men

♦ (Continued on page 2)

## They Know Not To Do Right

By Paul Stepp of Indore, West Virginia

"For they know not to do right, saith the LORD, who store up violence and robbery in their palaces" (Amos 3:10).

Our text verse describes the condition of the Nation of Israel in the time of Jereboam, King of Israel. I think the verse also describes others who have judgment pronounced upon them in the prophecies of Amos – including Judah (under King Uzziah), Edom, Moab, Ammon, the Philistines, Tyre, and other nations who did not fear the Lord, and who did not follow



His standard of right and wrong. I suppose, then, that it would be fair to apply this passage of Scripture to our place and time

as well – in particular, I suppose that we can see in our text verse a description of the United States of America. We are a morally bankrupt nation. We are a people who have not recently stood for "right," but have instead taken up the cause of the "wrong." So often now, in the sense of morality and \$ (Continued on page 11)

## Mark 14:72

By Roy Mason (1894 - 1978)

Mark, the 14th chapter, part of verse 72, "And when he thought thereon, he wept." The scene of this text is laid on the fateful night of our Lord's betrayal, and it concerns the denial of the Lord by one of the disciples who was privileged to be on the very inner circle of acquaintanceship with Jesus. It is sad to remember that Jesus was betrayed by one of His disciples, denied by another one of His disciples, doubted by another, and deserted by all in the hour when He was seized and taken into custody by his enemies. Just about all the failings that



the followers of Christ are guilty of was manifest among His disciples, and that is one reason why I know the

Bible to be the inspired Word of God. It tells the plain, bald truth about the greatest characters of whom we preach. If the Bible were a story cooked up by man, it would not do that. The Bible is like one of these candid cameras that snaps the picture of a person exactly as they are.

Man-made biographies are like photographs taken in a modern \$\(\circ\) (Continued on page 20)



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The purpose of the Berea Baptist Banner is as follows:

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

## Psalm 22

(Continued from page 1)  $\diamond$ 

do not believe?"

Now that is simple maybe, to you and to me; but I have never ever gotten any of them to answer that. Of the one or two who have tried, not a one came anywhere close to a Biblical answer. They will usually just stare at you and will not even try; for in answering that scripturally, they would condemn themselves along with their doctrine, and they know it. But "faith" is the gift of God! He gives it to whom He will: "...as many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48). "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

I have been told that every man has faith, it just needs to be rightly placed. NOT SO! The Bible distinctly says that "all men have not faith" (II Thess 3:2). And so, if you lack faith you need to be directed to the Faith Giver! If you lack faith, you will not find it in the waters of baptism, you are not going to find it in religious reformation, and you will not find it in church membership. We do not join a church to get saved; we want to be a part of the Lord's church because we are saved! This is where we get fed.

The same question can be asked about being justified. Why are some men justified and some men are not justified? Look and see how many times it says in the Book of Romans alone: 1). It says we are justified by faith. 2). It says we are justified by grace. 3). And it says we are justified by His blood. But never, ever does it say we are justified by baptism or by any of our works. Why are some men justified? They are justified by

grace through faith in His blood!

So why do some people believe and some people do not believe? Fig leaf religion has people looking within themselves trying to drum up faith. Do not look within yourself, LOOK TO GOD! God given faith is always rightly placed. God given faith is not a natural faith, it is supernatural.

There was a man who once came to Jesus in Mark 9:24 and said, "Lord, I believe..." He said: "with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." He looked to God. "Lord, increase our faith." (We look to God.) We direct you to the Faith Giver. God directs you to the Faith Giver. Truth directs you to the Faith Giver.

And so, where there is a lack of faith, honesty with the Faith Giver is the best policy there is. Saving faith comes from God. It does not come by obedience (as my Campbellite friends will sometimes tell me). Saving faith trusts in Christ's obedience on our behalf, in Christ's life on our behalf, and in Christ's death on our behalf. Our obedience was naught but disobedience before we were saved. And even now, our obedience is far - far too flawed to be considered for righteousness. What obedience there is, really, is the result of the faith that God has given us. It is He which worketh in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). Again, as contradictory as it is to what they had aforesaid, those same Campbellite friends will also tell me that "all men have faith." Which is wholly unscriptural; for the Bible says "...that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith" (II Thess 3:2). And that saving faith is the gift of God: Ephesians 2:8-9.

In II Corinthians 4:13 it says, (Continued on page 3)

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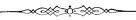
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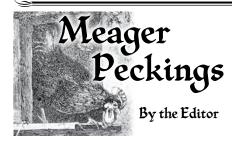
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#### WHEN THE WORD OF GOD WAS POSTED FOR EVERYONE

For many years now I have had a love of the old Victorian style of printing art. I find that the best (my preference) can be found from the late 1860's till the early turn of the next century. To me it was the golden age of religious publishing. There were many numerous publications during this time that were focused on spreading the Word of God both in printed word and picture. Some of the many illustrations during this time are masterful works of art. Most are not familiar that each printed picture was the work of two people; an artist and workman. The artist would paint or draw the picture and then the workman would transfer that image to a wooden block, which he then carved until only the image remained. That block would then be used for printing. Some of these workman became famous for their ability to do this and were highly sought after.

The old illustration to the right is one from this time period that gives a good example. The picture is of a group of people reading a poster posted for all to read. This was a common thing in England that posters of Bible verses and illustrations of Bible truths (usually dealing with working hard, being faithful, honesty in work and business, temperance, etc.) were posted on buildings and fences leading to and from the workplace, as well as in the workplace.

The workplace? Yes, the workplace. It is hard for most of us to imagine any present day employer posting large pictures and posters of Bible verses and truths so all those that are employed by them can see and read them. It was a different time indeed.

Also, during this time was when most all denominations were adamant on teaching the young the Bible. Sunday school was a large undertaking at this time and much work was put into the study materials that were used. Various forms of small printed cards with pictures and Bible verses were printed and distributed. Many weekly and monthly publications were available that were short

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OF THE GOSPEL

Bible lessons or short stories with wood cut illustrations showing the teachings of the Bible. There was an ever abundant supply of printed material that was focused on the Bible and its teaching.

Unfortunately, two world wars destroyed much of these old printings that were so prevalent in England and time and age has claimed many others. So occasionally when you see these old pictures printed in pages of this paper, remember there was a time when they were seen and read everywhere.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them

when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates" (Deut. 6:6-9).



## Psalm 22

(Continued from page 2) ⋄

"I believed, therefore have I spoken..." Paul there is quoting Psalms 116:10. He is quoting! He said: "according as it is written..." The Psalmist said: "I believed, therefore have I spoken." Then he says: "we also believe, and therefore speak..." He is teaching, if you will think about it: he is teaching that we are saved the exact same way as the saints in the Old Testament were saved (He is quoting the Old Testament). They believed, and made it manifest. We believe, and make it manifest (We make it known). Faith before obedience: faith produces obedience! God given faith brings

Well, those are real basic things to the child of God, are they not? Lot more in John 3:16 than they would have you to believe. We have only looked at part of it. But especially in John 3:16, one word: "so," "For God so loved..." His people. That word "so." "For God so loved..." The 22nd Psalm answers the question: "to what extent?"

Let us go over there now, to Psalm 22; and you might want to have your Bible open while I make comment upon it. For years I had never preached the 22nd Psalm. To be honest, I had just always been so much in awe of it.

BEHOLD the Lamb of God.

Which taketh away the sin of the world.

COME unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

and I will give you rest.

Let us go of Psalm 22; and to have your make comment. I had never Psalm. To be always been so

♦ (Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) &

I know that I shall not be able to do it justice even now, for when you come to the 22nd Psalm you come to the Holy of Holies of the Scriptures. For "this," is what was going through the mind of Christ, as He hung upon the cross of Calvary.

There are some other things that I would like to put in your mind before you read it. Now I do not know, I can not see them all, but I am told that medical authorities who have studied this Psalm, say that there are at least 30 different evidences of, or symptoms of death by crucifixion.

Some of them are very obvious like v:16, "...they pierced my hands and my feet." Look at it there: vv:16-17, "For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones ..." He feels them all. 'I can feel every one of them, as they are pulled out of joint. What stronger evidence of the incarnation could there be? But that Christ on the cross experienced the sufferings that He could only suffer in a human body, a body of this flesh, yet without sin.

V:14, "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels." The dehydration, the strain, His heart literally bursts asunder; as evidenced by the blood and the water gushing out of His side when He was speared in the side as He hung upon the cross. And the dehydration of v:15.

Listen! God foretold the death of the Son of God 4,000 years before it happened, in the Garden of Eden.

It was foretold in the offering up of Isaac about 2,000 years before it happened!

It was foretold by Moses in the lifting up of the brazen serpent 1,500 years BC! Jesus said: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." The serpent, a type of sin there. Jesus becoming sin for us, taking our place, that we might know the righteousness of God, by the lifting up on the cross of Calvary, of the Son of God. Look to Him and live: Look and live: that is the message of Numbers 21 there.

It was foretold in the Psalms (Psalm 22 especially here) about 1,000 years before it ever even happened. This Psalm written about 1,000 BC.

(Our nation has been a nation some 200 years, to give you some perspective. If you go back 700 to 1,000 BC in secular history, you have no secular written records whatsoever in narrative form; but we have a sincere sober account of everything God did, everything He is doing, and everything He will do thousands and thousands of years ago, in the Old Testament. We have a somber, factual account from 4,000 BC onward all in accord, all in perfect agreement. Telling the truth about man, as men would never tell it; and foretelling the absolute destiny of all of creation, which cannot be refuted.)

Again, it was foretold by Zechariah when Zechariah 12:10 foretold that when He comes again to the Nation of Israel, that they shall "look upon me (Him) whom they have pierced," on the cross of Calvary, "and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn." And in that day, all

Israel that are left shall be saved, in deep contrition and repentance. Approximately 2,000,000 Jews! And everyone of them, only looking at themselves, and only at their own sin. They will ask Him: "What are these wounds in thine hands?" as they look upon the still evident marks of crucifixion upon Him (Zech 13:6). Then shall He answer: "Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." And that Gospel message will cut them to the quick. Zechariah foresaw both the crucifixion and the end result at His 2nd coming 500 years BC, 2,500 years before its final fulfillment.

All of these foretold, long before the mode of crucifixion was ever even used as a mode of execution. It was a Roman mode, the form by which Christ was crucified: the method of execution of the Roman Empire. It was not brought to Palestine till 63 BC when Pompey took Jerusalem. The Roman Empire was not even in existence when all this was foretold.

Something more about the order of the 22nd Psalm: and I want all this to be in your mind before you ever even read it. Something more about the order of it: The 22nd Psalm is a perfect graphic portrayal of that that took place upon Mount Calvary. The next Psalm, Psalm 23 is the Good Shepherd Psalm as the Good Shepherd shepherds His sheep as they walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Death is an ever present reality. It is the present Christian walk. The next Psalm, Psalm 24 is Mount Glory. It is Mount Zion. It is Kingdom Come.

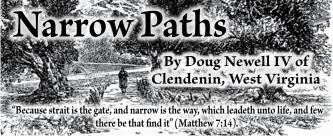
So, from Psalm 22, Mount Calvary, as you look back across the massive geological plains of time, the next mountain that you

had better be aware of is Mount Sinai, where the Law was given. And there it is with its black burnt crown, and its rumbling threatening of judgment upon every violator of any of the Laws which were engraved thereon. And everyone of us is a lawbreaker! And the only place to hide is in the shadow of Psalm 22. Outside that shadow every son of Adam that there has ever been will be taken in an instant by that pyroclastic flow of Mount Sinai when it erupts across all the plains of creation. And there has never been more evidence of the nearness of that eruption than

If you are in the shadow of Psalm 22 you are safe. It is the only place of safety there is. It is the only place you can survive Mount Sinai's eruption. And only if you are protected by Mount Calvary: only then do you have Mount Glory ahead of you; Psalm 24 is Mount Glory. There is no mistaking Psalm 24, "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof..." "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place" (Ps. 24:3)? He that shall receive "righteousness from the God of his salvation" v: 5. In v: 7 that eastern gate that has been blocked in for hundreds of years by the Muslims, who by doing so would have kept our Lord from entering therein if only they could..... But "none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" On that fast approaching day, according to Ps. 24:7, 9 the very bricks that are blocking in that gate shall fly wide open as if of themselves, and our Lord will enter into the city and into the temple, and there shall be a coronation service there that day, the likes of which there has

♦ (Continued on page 5)





#### **HATING GRACE**

A lot of people hate the gospel. Do you? Timothy was called to suffer for the sake of the gospel, because the good news of salvation is rejected by the world. Timothy was persecuted for telling people that God saves sinners by grace through Jesus Christ (II Tim. 1:8-9). Jesus does not try to save us, or give the opportunity for salvation, but does save us, finally, fully, and freely. Mankind naturally hates the grace of God. Those who are saved by Jesus Christ are called by the Holy Spirit and those who are called are saved. God does not save and not call, nor does he call and not save. Do not mistake this holy calling as God looking for and calling men unto salvation who live holy, and act holy. On the contrary, it is a holy calling despite our works, as Paul says, "not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." Grace.

Do you rejoice in God's grace or recoil? If you are saved, it is not because you are a good person. If you are a Christian, it is not because of how much you work, how much you deny yourself, and how unspotted from the world you remain. If you are going to Heaven, it is not because you are a decent person who tries their best and goes to church as much as you can. If you are redeemed, it is not because you are a member of a church, because you were baptized, or

even because you said the sinner's prayer the preacher told you to repeat. Christians are not saved by their works, but according to God's "own purpose and grace." If you are saved by works, you are not saved by grace and vice versa. Grace is an undeserved gift. If you work 40 hours a week, your boss does not give you a gift on payday. He pays you what he owes you. If God saves because of your choice, your works, or you good deeds, then you are not saved by grace. And, if you are not saved by grace, you are not a Christian. Salvation is in the work of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world, purposed in God, to save His elect, from all of their sin. We are the recipients of God's grace in Christ, Whom we receive, not by works, but by faith alone.

Do you recoil at sovereign grace? There is no other gospel. The Bible, from beginning to end, tells of the sovereign God, doing as He pleases, saving undeserving sinners by His grace. There is no goodnews in being saved by works, because the law cannot justify you, it only condemns. God saves sinners by grace through faith. We do not need help, we need saved. We do not need reformed, we need regeneration. The pride of the human heart hates the confession of our inability, thus it hates grace.

(Doug Newell IV is pastor of the Buffalo Valley Baptist Church of Clay, West Virginia.)



#### Psalm 22

(Continued from page 4)  $\diamond$ 

never been, which every child of God that has ever been shall bear witness to. We shall all be there!, in the air if we have come with Him in the air; or in that newly created valley on the ground, if of the number of those 2,000,000 Jews saved in a day (Zechariah chapters 12 thru 14). Every child of God shall witness these things. That earthquake on that day shall open up a natural amphitheater like as has never been in the Kidron valley between the Mount of Olives and Jerusalem.

We see God's hand in the very details of the very construction of His Holy Book. Today, for all we who are still here: death is but a shadow for us. We are in the valley of the shadow of death. He has conquered death for us. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" But if you are not in Psalm 23, in the shadow of Psalm 22, with its shadow protecting you; you are yet exposed to an eruption of judgment that is imminently certain. I implore you to fall on your face before God seeking His mercy on the only basis He will accept: on the basis of the shed blood of His own dear Son.

In Psalm 22 we see the GOOD Shepherd, giving His life for His sheep. Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

In Psalm 23 you see the GREAT Shepherd leading and guiding and caring for His sheep, in this present Christian walk, Hebrews 13:20.

And in Psalm 24 you see when the CHIEF Shepherd shall appear, being revealed at His 2nd coming, to Whom all His under shepherds will give an account. This is all

over in Hebrews chapter 13 and in I Peter 5:4. None of this is by accident!

And so, from another aspect: you have got the past, present, and the future for the child of God. If Psalm 22 is behind you in your behalf, that is past, you are covered in the blood and in the shadow of Mount Calvary. Then you are right now being led by the Great Shepherd through the valley of the shadow of death, that is present. That is experiential, you are experiencing that! And then you have got all the assurance of Mount Glory ahead of you. That is future. That is sure!

But if all that is not true for you: then there is only one other mountain that controls your fate. No, that is not the right word. There is no such thing as fate. We who believe in the sovereignty of God and His providence do not believe in fate. Our future is not in the hands of the fates. It is in the hand of God. And for those who know Him not, it is Mount Sinai that controls their future, and it is just as sure "the soul that sinneth, it shall die." "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). Yet, death never meant a cessation of being in the Bible. As to eternity, it means eternal separation from God and from His blessed presence. Thus: eternal corruption is what is in store for those, who in this life, would not have Christ rule over them; as those who are ruled by the prince of darkness and their own evil natures and selfish desires instead. Hearken and let us warn all that we can. For why should we not bow before the One Who created us, cleansed us in His own precious blood, and has promised us eternal blessing in His presence

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) &

forevermore, if we would only rightfully seek His mercy for a life of open rebellion against Him? What other sovereign has ever been so merciful and beneficent as He? There is no such counterpart in any of the religions of man. None of them has a Savior. None of the gods of the minds of men have ever so loved man, nor written such a Book as the Bible to send us the message of that love so freely given.

Let me tell you a story that happened to me and my family some thirty years ago when the Genome Project was underway, when men learned that they could map the genome of man to decipher our genetic code. We lived in Denver, CO and were involved with a mission work in Fort Collins, CO under our dear recently departed brother Ken Johnson. Every Sunday we drove some seventy miles north to Fort Collins, and one Sunday as we were driving home we were hit with the worst snow blizzard in the history of my seventy years. In fact, I do not believe there had been anything like it in all our recorded history, unless for one blizzard I had heard about back in the latter 1800's perhaps. And God had a purpose in it. We could not drive any faster than idling speed for miles, just trying to stay in one lane following the car ahead as long as we could just make out their tail lights, we hoped to stay on the road. It was a total white out, visibility no more than about five to ten feet. At that distance we could still make out the tail lights we were following, hoping that the leader up there somewhere would not go off the road. One car had gone off the road. It was a genetic engineer on

loan from Tokyo University to Colorado State University, as they endeavored to map the genome. This nice Japanese gentleman had gone off in the ditch and his wife, a friend's wife and her two young children were still in the car. He was at the point of fearing that they would all freeze to death. He had been standing on the side of the road for quite some time hoping to flag down another car, but nobody could even see him there. They would just drive on by. Trying to even get their attention by knocking on the windows of cars as they drove by did not stop anybody. They were all afraid that they would lose sight of the car ahead. Finally, in his desperation and in the providence of God, he stepped in front of my car of all cars; he literally flung himself on my hood. There he was staring at me through my windshield, his face two to three feet from mine!

We had been going so slow that he was not hurt. Fortunately, we had one of those old huge Lincoln Mercury station wagons and we were able to pile all of them in the car: their five and our seven. I thank the Lord that we were somehow able to catch up with the wagon train without going off the road. Actually, the extra weight helped us to plow through the snow, but we could have also easily driven off the road. Only well traveled roads could be easily driven upon. Less traveled roads had three to four feet of snow and were almost impenetrable. But when we got to Denver, the extra weight helped even there. There was absolutely no stopping at red lights or anything, we would not have been able to get started again. But with the weight we were able to keep plowing all the way home to end up in a running start and a sideways lurch up into our driveway when we did finally

get home.

Well, they stayed with us for about three days till the government handlers showed up in two big black Cadillac SUV's to gather them up. During that time we had many wonderful discussions. At one point he was trying to convey the wonders of his work. He said that from what they had already known they figured that they could just look into man's genome and that it would be quick work to map its many twists and turns. But when they actually got into it, he said that it was much more intricate and elaborate than they would have ever dreamed. He kept saying, "you would not believe the design..." And I finally stopped him and said: "You know, that word "design" speaks of a Designer! You can not have a design without a Designer." And of course, that just floored him, for he was an avowed evolutionist. Their friend with the two children was a professing Christian and it may have been all for them that we met. She lived in Kobe, Japan and my wife corresponded with her for years. But the genetic engineer kept saying: "The design of it! You just would not believe the design!"

Design and order comes from intelligence! A Supreme Being! But listen, more thought, more effort, and more purpose went into the Word of God and work of the Son of God, then went into the design of every gene of every species in the whole world! Because the Bible says: ".the fashion of this world passeth away" but "the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever"!!!

Pictures within pictures, outlines within outlines; like a many faceted gem: throwing light in every direction.

The Psalm itself is in three major

divisions:

I. Verses 1-10, or v:11 perhaps (verse 11 being the transition point): A most pitiful cry for help: an appeal, based upon His relationship to the Father. What He sees and considers as He looks to God the Father.

II. Then vv:11 thru 21 - An equally earnest plea, in consideration of the trouble about Him. This is what HE REALLY EXPERIENCED, IN HIS PRESENT CONDITION! In these verses we are given a glimpse of what He suffered physically. It is what He sees as He looks about Him, as He hung upon the cross.

(So, vv:1-10 = what He sees as He looks to God the Father. Then v:11 thru 21 = what He sees as He looks about Him.)

III. Then vv:22 thru 31 = the Triumph! What He sees as He looks ahead. By faith! By faith! He looks ahead!

Buell H. Kazee wrote that book Faith is the Victory. Faith is the victory? It was so for the Son of God. He was still on the cross as He looked ahead!

Verse 22 on, we enter into the 3rd section of the Psalm, as Christ, upon the cross. (Still on the cross) LOOKS FORWARD to His exceeding great reward, to spend eternity with His people, whom He has purchased unto Himself, by what He suffers here.

Just a little more, before we read it. But remember that. The outline is important! But just a little more:

Let me point out a few things in just a couple of verses before we read it (to clarify). Those words in v:1 "...why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?" Brethren, this thing did not happen in an instant! Our Lord Jesus Christ spent hours upon the cross! By

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## Small Drops

By Joseph M. Sidders of Temperance, Michigan

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



#### DO NO HARM

Like most young boys, my grandpa was my hero. The stories he told, the rules he set, the hobbies and habits he clung to were but rays of guiding light shining through a glass window that had been stained by colorful years of wisdom. I lived each day for another opportunity to bask in the warmth of his attention.

One day when I was young we were sitting at a picnic table; he sent me to grab him a small stick he had spotted in the yard. Once in his hand, he pulled out a small, very used, pocket-knife and began to reveal the use this stick was to have. He alternated between carving and picking the bark off of the stick with his aged fingers. I was in awe when I saw the finished product: a toy sword! All the time I had spent running past and stepping on these small works of art, I had no idea this was a possibility. After a while I was ready to take a shot at this skill, and I asked how to get started. This was when my grandpa dropped knowledge so profound that I continue to share it to this day. He said, "Joey, always whittle away from yourself and you will never get cut."

Medical professionals take the Hippocratic Oath "primum non nocere" which means "first, do no harm." It is a reminder to stay focused on the welfare of those who seek help in the first place. In work and play, school, and worship, people young and old are asked to apply the wisdom gleaned from those who walked before them and

be willing to share any personal wisdom gained to perpetuate good going forward.

In Philippians 2:14-16 Paul wrote encouragement to those at the church in Philippi. "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

It is important to recognize that, like a blade, knowledge can be used for both good and evil. Lessons passed down from our parents and grandparents often seem obvious, but at the core, they promote good practices that can yield good results. Appropriate application of knowledge is wisdom, and true wisdom is of the Lord. Dear readers, seek the Lord in all things that you may be blameless and harmless perpetuating good through your testimony to the world.

(Joseph Sidders is pastor of the Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Temperance, Michagan.)



#### Psalm 22

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the time we reach even v:1, He had already been dehydrating and struggling to breath, till He was hoarse! That is the meaning of the word "roaring" there: till

He was hoarse, His throat raw from rasping to get His breath. This thing did not happen in an instant. Our Lord suffered long, and held up faithful through it all.

And there was more to it, than just the physical suffering. We see the separation from God the Father. He suffered the separation. Here is One Who was ever in communion with God. He had said: Father, I know "thou hearest **me always."** Yet we see Him here, in the separation, longing for that communion. vv:9-11, "But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly. Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help."

Listen, He did not have to come to know the Lord as you and I do. He always knew Him, as He was Him. And in His humanity, from His mother's belly, He worshiped the Father.

Now, I do not understand all that. I do not have to understand it. I believe it! Even here, in these verses, His humanity and His Divinity are shown, and clearly stand out. And He is manifest: Emmanuel: God with us. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (I Tim. 3:16). If you do not believe that Christ was in God, reconciling the world unto Himself, ye are yet in your sins. What does it mean that He was reconciling the world unto Himself if God was not Himself reconciling sinners? God Himself was manifest in the flesh as even the verse says. Philippians 2:6 says that He was not stealing anything

from God by claiming to be God Himself, to say that He was equal to God. "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God" (Phil. 2:6).

Then, down in verse 20: "Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog." "My darling" there, may be translated: "my lonely" or "solitary one." He speaks of Himself there, as a lonely or forsaken soul. Have you ever cried out: "LORD, I have no one, if I have not you; for I am alone and forsaken of all?" I have oft so done. My family, my friends, mine acquaintances: all those with whom I grew up. I know: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19). But listen, none was ever so forsaken as my LORD. And He was forsaken for me! Each and every one of us needs to be able to answer that question He poses in v:1. For our sake He poses it: v:1 "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" I know why. He was forsaken for me!

V:6 "But I am a worm,..." Is not that something! The Lord Jesus Christ, calling Himself: "a worm,..." The Hebrew word אוֹלְלֵי ' toh lah' gath: the Coccus worm. The Coccus worm: the worm used in dying scarlet cloth (there was a whole industry built upon it - like the silk worm industry today). But the Coccus worm: it was the scarlet worm, that was crushed, and used to make the scarlet blood red dye upon which the scarlet cloth industry of the middle east was built.

The Coccus worm, in its natural state (unhindered by the hands of man); the Coccus worm would crawl into a tree, have offspring,

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and die in so doing. And in death, it stained both the offspring and the tree BLOOD RED! Now Who do you think made the Coccus worm to picture that? In the very creation, God made that worm just that way, to picture what Christ would do upon the tree. And He knew He would use that as that picture, right here in Psalm 22. That is no accident! I tell you, God purposed beforehand that it picture that. There is blood stained offspring in the death of it. Just the way God made it. Man did not have to touch it to make it do that. You know, that is like Moses; when the LORD told him to take off his shoes for the place he stood was on Holy Ground. You know why? Because nothing made by the hands of man; no one trusting in the work of man shall ever be able to enter into His presence.

Then, towards the end of it v:22 and on, as we come to the end of it: we see those offspring: v:30, "A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a **generation.**" It shall be counted as such. Isaiah 53:10 says: "...He shall see His seed,.." He shall see it! "... **He shall see His seed,.."** "It shall be counted" as such. Think about this for a moment: "It shall be counted." "It shall be counted to the Lord,.." Think with me: - You take a man, any man (we were created in the image of God): so take a man, any man. This man may have children; maybe 3, maybe 5, maybe 10. They are all his children. All his children - are one generation.

Some other man, somewhere else, some other time; some other man have a family, have children: that is a different generation, different man. All any one man can have is one generation.

Now, that word "generation" speaks of generating, producing, "giving birth to."

All that the LORD ever gave new birth to (all the born again ones) shall be counted to Him, as one generation. And you know what they will be called? "The Family of God."

That is a different family. We are not talking about the family of man now.

Listen, God is telling you, and He was telling those people in the Old Testament this: He is saying: you need to be born again; you need to be born of God; it is a birth from above! It was taught as clearly here in the Old Testament as it is in the New!

The new birth taught Old Testament and New. To generate means to "quicken," to regenerate: "made new." The New Birth brings forth new life and instills faith in the Savior. That is the evidence of it: faith in the Savior. That is a different generation.

But listen, the LORD's days are not as our days. He has been giving people new life, spiritual life, throughout the ages of man. He is yet bearing children, if yet but for a short time. He was cut off from the land of the living, without children, in the prime of His life; but He shall yet see His Seed, and it shall be "counted" to Him for a generation. They are His seed.

Look here at Psalm 24 and v:6 when He rules and reigns with His people, v:6; and they are made manifest who they are. It says, "This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek thy face,.." This is where they are revealed, they are made manifest, and displayed before Jacob. "This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah." "Selah" means:

take pause and think on this. And they will take pause and take note. He will stand, and He will display them, and He will say "This is the generation...." It is a theme throughout the Scriptures: there are a people born of God, with a new birth, and it is not all mankind! We are truly a chosen generation.

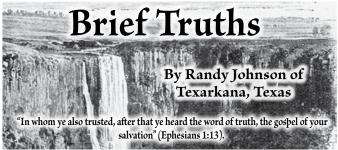
Then look here, He is called "the King of glory" vv:7-8, Psalm 24, "the LORD mighty in battle" That is "Jehovah." Notice the all capital "LORD." And it is talking about the LORD JESUS CHRIST! The battle is over, it has already been won. "The LORD of hosts," v:10 (He is already come and done battle with His heavenly host by His side). And He will soon be coming, as the LORD of Lord's and King of Kings, the LORD mighty to reign, coming in all His glory. Yet, this is the same One Who is seen in His humility in the 22nd Psalm. His humility stands out in Psalm 22. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8). Of Whom 22:24 says: "For He hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard." And having suffered what He suffered, the New Testament tells us: He can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. Brother, that is not like a man, who would lord it over you, just to lord it over you (now that is the history of man); but brother, HE IS LORD! But He is a Lord Who cares! There has never been such a Lord as this Lord.

Just a few last words upon His humility. His humility, is what this Psalm shall display throughout eternity. The title of the Psalm is "The hind of the morning": Ah-yeh'-leth Shachar. It is the formal title, as was put on by David himself, incorporated in V:1 in the original: "The hind of the morning." Now, that seems odd, at first. But there is more there than meets the eye. The "hind" was a small, graceful, timid animal: a small roebuck or deer. A metaphor, found about a half dozen times in the Scriptures. But here, rather strangely applied to the LORD Himself.

We are familiar with the few passages where it says "He maketh my feet like hinds' feet and setteth me upon my high places," applying to all believers. The sure footedness of the creature, as we walk with God. He causes us to walk circumspectly, being careful where we step. Many analogies are there. But here, it is applying to the LORD Himself. And certainly, He, too, was careful how He walked, more careful than we. But I believe something more is alluded to here: for this is a particularly timid creature; as of any deer, especially timid in the morning. And all of that is what is in this title: "the hind of the morning." Certainly our Lord is also called "the bright and morning star" as well, in other places. But here: "the hind of the morning." So, for the deer, this is the time of the hunt! And as we look through this Psalm, we see His many manifold and cruel huntings, do we not? His adversaries see Him as the prey to be taken.

Throughout the 22nd Psalm we see them hunting His soul. V:16, the dogs have compassed Him. Look at them there, if you will. V:16 "For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my

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#### WHAT A BLESSING AWAITS US

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

The Lord has said much about our life on this earth, but He has also said much about our life to come. We who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ shall not see death but have life eternal. I wished to God there was something I could say or do to make people repent and turn to Jesus Christ, but God did not give me that power. Paul also had this passion for Israel. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Rom. 10:1).

The only power we have as believers is the spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ. If one will hear and believe the gospel it is because the Holy Spirit has quickened their spirit, caused them to hear the gospel, and brought them to the understanding of the gospel. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:14-15). Nothing else will bring you to Christ for salvation, ever! Paul wrote this, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your

hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ" (Gal. 4:6-7). Salvation is only possible in Jesus Christ, and none other, if your salvation includes anything else then you are not saved. Paul also told his beloved Israel, "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Rom. 10:2-4). And as Christians we must also have this understanding, no matter what else is said only God the Father can draw a lost sinner to Christ, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44).

No matter how much zeal one has, only God can make a lost sinner a believer in Jesus Christ. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:10). The reason Paul said this is because he understood the blessings of being saved, Paul looked ahead to the blessings that await us.

Now Paul had already said in verse 9, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Dealing with life's troubles are not easy for the believer, but with God's grace we can do all things.

Job wrote these words, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). But look here folks, this life is temporal, the hurt of it is temporal, our blessings are ahead and eternal. James wrote these words, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12). What a blessing our eternal life will be when God gives us our crowns for our troubles in this world. Look at this crown, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II

See beloved, it is a blessing that awaits us to suffer for the Lord's sake here on this earth. In remembering that God's blessings await you, keep this in mind while on this earth. "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:2-4).

(Randy Johnson is pastor of the Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Texarkanna, Texas.)



#### Psalm 22

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feet." Ps. 22:12, "Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round." Ps. 22:13, "They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion." And Ps. 22:21, "Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns." Cruel huntings, numerous verses, there are even hints of the powers of darkness circling the prey; for hours and hours, and here was One Who was as a timid creature, with no place to run, nailed upon the cross! I do not think we fully appreciate the meek and lowly character of His nature; the timidness and the tenderness He possesses. Listen, for 30 years we hear almost nothing of our Lord. I suspect He was rather timid before a brazen world. Quiet, humble; and we are told that about Him, are we not? That He was humble, yet no doubt sure of Himself and the Father He represented. But no boasting in Him, though He had much of which He may boast. And He is compared to a very timid animal here, the hind of the morning.

We hear of His confounding the teachers at Jerusalem at 12 years old, and think of that as a quite bold thing to do; but, in fact, there was nothing bravado or braggadocios in that. He was simply telling them the truth as He alone knew it! Questioning them, showing His understanding of simple truths that had utterly escaped them. There was no bluff or bully about Him, but there was an utter confidence in truth! To be sure, submissiveness and respect for authority was evident even there, for He submitted unto His parents and went home with

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them, and was subject unto them we are told.

He was humble, yet we come to find that He was very courageous. We tend to think of courage (when we are young) as willingness to be bold and do outlandish things; when, in fact, we are more properly speaking of foolishness, are we not? It takes no courage to go along with the crowd to try to impress one's peers, as it were. Ah, but to go against the crowd is a good thing, and that for a timid person, now that is courage indeed! And our Lord did it so well.

In the 50th Psalm He foretells how He rebukes His own brethren, the latter sons of His own mother; the later end of which leads to their salvation. And I have no doubt that the conviction that bore down on them came from the memory and the realization that they had never known Him to do anything wrong! Certainly, if He had been anything other than what He was, His own brothers would have known it. But His own brother James, who had once told lies about Him according to the 50th Psalm; later, once he was saved, he was fully willing to suffer a martyr's death, knowing full well Christ was Who He is: God very God.

If one of your siblings claimed to be God, would you believe him? Would you be willing to seal that testimony with your own blood? James did so on both counts. If we are honest and of a sound mind about our own siblings, not a one of us would. Something to think about.

Then finally, v:6 again: "I am a worm, and no man;." "no man." Consider, in His humility (and the Hebrew seems to bear me out

from what I can gather from it): I am "no man" = I am nothing, I am nobody. Is not that something! The Creator of the universe!

Everybody in this world thinks they are somebody! That is the whole world system: Self esteem: be somebody! But our Lord said: I am nothing. I am nobody. (And He was not! In this world's eyes) I am nobody! But when He comes again, He will be the LORD of Glory! Puts a whole other aspect on Philippians chapter 2 where He humbled Himself, became a servant, and He took the lowliest place of all: The Condemned, condemned to death.

Look here at just a few verses in Philippians chapter 2; we do not want to miss this: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:5-11).

Men exalt themselves, but he who will abase himself will the Lord exalt. In that verse 8 there we see that humility is a key word in obedience.

The end of that passage is looking forward to the 24th Psalm. The rest of it is found in Psalm 22.

In His suffering and in His humility, He said: I am nobody, but brother, He is the LORD of Glory! And He will soon be revealed as such when He comes to take unto Himself His exceeding great reward.

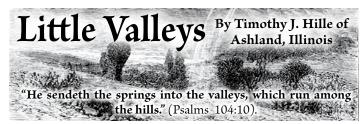
We usually read a passage and then expound upon it, I do not know, almost as if what we have got to say about it is more important than the Scripture itself. I just felt that I had to leave the reading of it till the very end that the Word itself might be left uppermost in your minds.

Remember, we are talking about what was going through the mind of Christ as He hung upon the cross; first, as He looks to the Father; then, as He looks about Him; and then finally, as He looks ahead. And can you answer the questions posed in verse one in the affirmative: was He forsaken for you? We see in all of this, the extent of His love, "for God so loved...."

To the chief Musician upon Aijeleth Shahar, A Psalm of David. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. But thou art

he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly. Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns. I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel. For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard. My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him. The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him:

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#### ISAIAH 45:22

"Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isa. 45:22).

God has spoken to mankind, and He has sent a message of salvation to every nation, language, kindred, family, and individual. The message which has come down from heaven and gone unto all corners of the globe is not based upon culture, ethnicity, skin color, background, language, or geographic locality. It is the same no matter who you are, where you live, how you were raised, or what you look like – the salvation of your soul from sin and death comes only from the one and only true and living God. Salvation is the exclusive work of God, "Look unto me and be ye saved." There is no work for you to do. Yours is only to look, to trust, to believe the God of heaven and earth. The majority of people "believe in God," which is to say they believe that there is such a thing as a god, but they do not believe Him who is God, look unto Him, trust in Him, desire and expect only what He alone gives; the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, peace that passes all understanding, and the revelation of divine truth in the heart and mind. To expect these things from anything or anyone else, be it baptism, religious observances, church attendance and involvement, so-called "good deeds," or "living right" is to disbelieve and disobey Him who says, "Look unto me and be ye saved ... for I am God, and there is none else." Are you ignoring God today? Are you substituting religion for saving trust in the only true and living God? Are you putting your own thoughts in the place of God's word? Are you practicing superstition instead of heart-felt, heavenly-given faith in the supreme God and only Savior? You cannot produce salvation and its effects - a clear conscience before God, divine peace in the heart, eternal assurance of God's love, and joy unspeakable; you can only receive salvation from God. "Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none

(Timothy J. Hille is pastor of the Pleasant Plains Baptist Church of Pleasant Plains, Illinois.)



#### Psalm 22

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your heart shall live for ever. All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations. All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul. A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this" (Ps. 22).



## They Know Not

(Continued from page 1) &

the objective sense of right and wrong, we promote the wrong at the expense of the right. Most of the leaders of our nation "know not to do right."

Our leaders are rich and powerful and they have palaces to live in. Those same leaders store up violence and robbery in their palaces, just as described in our text passage. It is nothing to those who are rich and powerful, to commit crimes against the law and the people. They justify their stealing, their bribing, their cheating, even their murders under the pretense of doing what is best for the people (maybe even deceiving themselves and others that it is for the greater good), when it is really only doing what they need to do in order to satisfy their own evil and lustful urges, and to make themselves richer and more powerful. "For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge" (Jer. 4:22).

We now are a nation that is run by a wicked and powerful elite, who have no realistic sense of what is "right and wrong." The leaders that we look to for leadership the elected and chosen few who guide this nation - are men and women who are chosen from amongst a selection of the vilest, the meanest, the most corrupt and powerful of our society. They have no conscience or at least their consciences are seared too much to know what is truly right and what is really wrong. They aim to destroy the family as an institution. They aim to build up the government as the support and sustainer of our society

and our people. They intend to develop their own selves as the answer to all of the problems of men. They aim to be the ones who are in control of the decisions that are made and they do not care if any of those decisions that are made, or rules that are legislated are based upon "good" or "right" at all. As long as they have their power and their wealth they will be more than happy to rule over a nation of people who are utterly ignorant of God's right and wrong.

## KNOWLEDGE TO DO GOOD

What is the answer, then, to the problems facing our country? What should be the course taken by those who do know right from wrong, and especially by those who do know God and are familiar with His ways? What should the people of God do in these desperately wicked times, in the face of evil and when wickedness rules in high places, and when the people seem to have no knowledge of how to do good, or even what good is? It seems to me that the answer is found in the Word of God. More precisely, the answer for our problems, the solution for the wickedness, the bad behavior, and the apparently lost and wayward people of our nation is the Word of God. Knowledge to do good is found in the Scriptures, the Word of God that He has delivered to men. The Word that proclaims God and reveals Him to men, will also reveal true goodness, and the right ways that men must travel.

"Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments" (Ps. 119:65-66). I believe that our courts, our judicial system, and our lawyers

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## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

#### 1. What is meant by "many masters" in James 3:1?

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Apparently there was a rivalry in the assemblies over who would teach, for James warns them, "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation" (James 3:1). According to John Gill, "The words may be rendered, 'be not many teachers'; or be not fond, and forward, and ambitious of being preachers of the word, but rather choose to be hearers of it"

The reason is those who teach will be judged more strictly than those who listen. It is a sad thing when immature Christians try to become teachers before they are ready. They think they have attained a great place of honor, when they have really asked for a more severe judgment from God!

Many do not realize the seriousness of preaching and teaching. As an ordained minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, when I stand before Jesus Christ at the Bema Seat (judgement seat) of Christ, I will be responsible for my actions, but also I will be responsible and held accountable for my congregation for the truth's sake. Many have told me I am direct and to the point, and this is why, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17). I "must give an account" of what I have said. I want to preach and teach the truth, I am not going to beat around the bush, nor am I going to pat one on the back and say, "that is alright we all sin." I am going to tell it like it is, and hopefully it is given and taken with love. There are too many out there trying to pull the wool over the preacher's eyes.

Gill pointed out concerning (v. 1) "Knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation": "should men enter into the office of teaching others without a call, or perform it negligently, or live not according to the doctrine they teach others, such would be judged out of their own mouths, and by their own words, and their condemnation would be aggravated; and should men judge rash judgment, they themselves will be judged at a higher tribunal; and should they be too censorious, and bear too hard on others, they will have judgment without

Too many times young men are pushed into teaching who are not ready, this can do great harm, and not only to him but those that he is teaching...we need to be cautious. Also, there have been too many young men pushed through the ordination process that are not ready. We older preachers need to make it a little harder when asking important questions, and not just push the man through for convenience sake. Too much damage has already been done by doing this! We older preachers

are actually doing them and the churches harm by not being tougher. God Bless!

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James 3:1 states: "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

The context of James chapter three is dealing mainly with the misuse of the tongue and the damage it is capable of producing. With that in mind, James 3:1 seems to be a rebuke to those who wanted to be leaders and especially public teachers in the churches.

The Greek word for master in this verse is didaskalos and is frequently applied to Jesus Christ as the Master-Teacher as used by Jesus concerning Himself (Matt. 23:8; John 13:13-14, or by others as in Matt. 17:24; 26:18; Mark 5:35; 14:14; Luke 8:49; 22:11; John 11:28). Jesus used the same word when referring to Nicodemus in John 3:10, identifying him as a leader and teacher in Israel. It is also used to describe the relationship of a disciple/learner to that of his master/teacher (Matt. 10:24-25; Luke 6:40). Thus the word "masters" in James 3:1 has to do with those who are in a position of authority recognized as teachers or instructors.

Evidently there were some who wished to be recognized as masters/teachers in the churches. Perhaps they wanted to dictate to and dominate their listeners by way of their position of authority. They wanted others to listen to

their instruction and obey it. No man should desire to be a public teacher just because he wants to be in the limelight, wanting to be seen and heard. In this case, it appears that some of these who wished to be masters were not qualified to teach and to lead. They were guilty of misusing their tongue and were even charged with hypocrisy in verses 9-11. Some were guilty of teaching falsehoods and error. Churches ought to beware of men who seek to exalt themselves and who teach falsehoods that are contrary to sacred Scripture.

James cautions those who were wanting to be teachers by reminding them that those who are in a position of authority as teachers will be judged in a stricter manner. A teacher has more accountability for his words because of his position and influence. He will have to give account at the judgment seat of Christ for what he taught, the manner in which he taught, as well as the sincerity of his life.

I must confess that I tremble when I read James chapter three and make application to my life as a Christian, a husband, a father, a teacher, and a pastor of one of the Lord's churches. How solemn a task it is to be in a position of authority charged to teach others the truth as it is in Jesus! Oh, may God purify my motives as I exercise this holy calling! May God grant me the grace to carefully study His Word and teach it to others in a spirit of humility, love, and compassion. May I daily reflect on how I am using my tongue. Is my speech and teaching seasoned with the grace of Jesus Christ? Am I guilty of any hypocritical speech or actions that may serve as stumbling blocks to others? Does

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## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. Is the passage in Ezekiel 37:1-10 speaking of an actual event or was it a dream or vision?

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"The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest" (Ezek. 37:1-3).

Ezekiel, was an honored prophet of the Lord, that served God while in captivity in Babylon, during the last years of Judah's existence prior to the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 588 The standard method of BC. Ezekiel's prophetic material being delivered to him was through visions. "And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy. And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain" (Ezek. 8:3-4). " ... And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall. Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about. And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up" (Ezek. 8:7-11). Selah! Think about it!

As in our own "dream-like sequences and scenes," Ezekiel is shown of the Lord actual places, but also some surrealistic effects, such as the sequence where Ezekiel is instructed to "dig now in the wall" and as he does so, a "door" is revealed. This door is for the focus of the dream/vision to see what was being done behind "closed doors" in the very temple of God. It is fascinating that an actual person Jaazaniah, the priest of God is mentioned and SEEN by Ezekiel in the vision of God. God KNOWS what people are doing.

The context alike back in chapter 37 is also obviously a vision/dream and does not lead any to think that it might have been an actual event, or a literal, physical valley of dry bones. Whether it was a pictorial

battlefield, a plague or some act of God in judgment, it certainly was sin that slew them (Ezek. 37:9- "... breathe upon these slain, that they may live"), but much time has passed for the "very many" bones to be "very dry." There is nothing in the vision, but even more so is absent in the epitaph anything that would make this a literal valley, but rather to the contrary, God states that "...these bones are the whole house of Israel..." Therefore, they are a very vivid picture of the "dry and dead" state of Israel, the people of God, in their natural state of "diaspora"- scattered throughout humanity.

The actual application of the vision of the valley of dry bones, is that the Lord is going to restore the nation of Israel from the apparent hopelessness and virtual death (of their sovereign nation) of their total and complete captivity at the hands of the Babylonians. But even further in chapter 37, the concurrent parable of the two sticks (Israel and Judah) being made one again (which will not happen until our century and more completely in the Great Millennial Tribulation and Reign) goes to the heart of the hopeless task of returning all the scattered Jews and Reubenites, Gadites and Benjamites, etc that are intermingled in the billions of global mankind in 2020. I will join their bones, saith the Lord. I will connect them with sinews, cover them with skin and breath life into my people, my peculiar nation of Israel, Abraham's direct lineage, hallelujah!

"Then did the cherubims lift up their wings, and the wheels beside them; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above. And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city. Afterwards the spirit took me up, and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to them of the captivity. So the vision that I had seen went up from me. Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the LORD had shewed me" (Ezek. 11:22-25). Amen! Selah! Think about it!

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Ezekiel 37 contains a vision in which God reveals to the prophet the spiritual regeneration of elect Israel and her future restoration to the land of Canaan promised by God as "an everlasting possession" (Gen. 17:7-8).

The regeneration and restoration of Israel will occur in the future as an actual event when the spirit of grace and supplications is poured out upon elect Israel. The nation of Israel that had been dispersed, viewed by many as dead and dried up, will be given spiritual life in the new birth. The dead, dry bones will be brought to life in a miraculous way by the power of the Holy Spirit and the application of the Word of God. God clearly identifies the bones as literal Israel in Ezekiel 37:11: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of **Israel...**" When God regenerates and restores elect Israel, He will also unite them under one Head and one King, the Lord Jesus Christ. The nation has been split since the end of Solomon's reign (I Kings 11:26-40). 10 tribes split off with Jeroboam.

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## Forum Question #1

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my speech unnecessarily offend others? Oh that God would fill me with His wisdom, and may it be reflected in the way I teach and speak as James 3:17-18 describes: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

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"And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour" (John 1:37-39). A common name for respected Jewish leaders was the word "rabbi" and it actually is still today commonly used for Jewish teachers. A great leap in reverence is shown by its usage later in the chapter, when Jesus opened Nathanael's eyes in amazement with His prescient knowledge- "Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel" (John 1:48-49). Selah! Think about it!

This word like few others, shows the changing of the guard from Jewish worship to Christianity. Rabbi's were the source of teaching in a nation, that had lost much focus, and there were MANY rabbis scattered across Palestine, and they taught MANY different things, by the time Christ came on the scene. John the Baptist was called rabbi, because he was yet another teacher (or master) of yet another discipline. That is evidenced in Mark 2:18, "And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples **fast not?**" Three sets of disciples, with three sets of masters/rabbis. "...My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat" (Matt. 23:1-2). Moses' seat is the position of authority for Jerusalem and Israel. It ought to be the focus of rabbinical teaching, and as long as the Word of God is read, no problem. But the teachings of the rabbis were not all following Scripture, as Jesus points out further in this chapter. "But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi" (Matt. 23:5-7). Selah! Think about it!

Jesus, as mentioned before, is the changing of the guard. No

more is Moses' seat the position of authority. The Lord's church will worship, not in physical temples, but in spirit and truth (John 4:24). "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites..." (Matt. 23:8-13).

- 1) No more rabbi's, but ONLY Jesus Christ. We are all brethren, now, at Big Creek Baptist Church.
- 2) None called father, now, but ONLY our Heavenly Father deserves that title (despite Roman Catholicism).
- 3) None called master, but Christ, the Master of the servants of the kingdom of God.

"My brethren, be not many knowing that we masters, shall receive the greater condemnation" (James 3:1). Two thoughts from this verse: 1) Presume not to be a master, but a brother, which we have obtained already from our study, but 2) Recognize the fallacy of MANY masters. The truth (and the Master) is ALWAYS singular. The adjective "many" connotes of errors, which alternate paths (and lifestyles) lead into abomination. ...Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: ...Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered (many masters) thy ways to the strangers under every green

tree... Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD...and I will bring you to Zion: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jer. 3:12-15). Many masters are an abomination that deny the singularity of Christ and His doctrine. If we would be a master that would teach something other than Jesus Christ, behold the increased condemnation, as those that are more responsible.

Pastors are not masters, but are rather under shepherds, under the authority of the good Shepherd. May our prayer be with the Apostle: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (I Cor. 11:1). Not "many masters," but in union with our "many brethren," His "many disciples," be found "many followers," following the one Master, Jesus Christ. Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP



## Forum Question #2

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The other two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, stayed with Solomon's son Rehoboam, and were known as Judah. They have never been united since 931 BC. The reuniting of all the tribes of Israel as one is set forth in Ezekiel 37 as two sticks becoming one and dwelling peacefully in their own land: "Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks wherein thou writest (see verses 15-17) shall be in thine hand

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## Forum Question #2

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before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling-places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God" (Ezek. 37:19-23). This reunification of the tribes of Israel under one Head, and the restoration to her land is also alluded to in Jeremiah 3:17-18: "At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers."

Elect Israel will be born again by the Spirit and justified by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ just as all of God's elect are. Elect Israel will be a partaker of the New Covenant of peace (Ezek. 37:26). They will have peace with God in Christ's justifying righteousness, and experience peace as they dwell in their land during the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. Paul the apostle even tells us when elect Israel will be saved in Romans 11:25-27: "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."

Ilike John MacArthur's summary regarding the future of Israel as revealed in Ezekiel 37: "37:21-23 God made three promises that summarized His future plans for Israel: (1) restoration, verse 21; (2) unification, verse 22; (3) purification, verse 23. These promises bring to fulfillment: (1) The Abrahamic covenant (cf. Gen. 12); (2) the Davidic covenant (II Sam. 2); and (3) the New Covenant (cf. Jer. 31), respectively." (The MacArthur Bible Commentary, page 932).

TOM ROSS



This is just another vision that God gives to Ezekiel. God does not change Ezekiel's location but gives him a vivid inward sense that he has been taken to a valley "full of bones." It appears to be a continuance of visions found in chapters 1, 8, 13, 40, and 43. Chapter 37 is part of a series of revelations received during the night before the messenger came with news of the destruction of Jerusalem.

I believe this is a picture that will

happen at a later date to the Jews, specifically the hundred and forty four thousand Jews that will be saved after the first three and a half years of the tribulation.

I would have to agree with John

Gill here and I would like to quote him concerning verse 10: "So I prophesied as he commanded **me**, The second time he prophesied to the wind, as he had done to the bones, as he was ordered: and the issue of it was, and breath came into them; or, "the spirit"; a spirit of courage in the Jews, to go up to their own land; the Spirit of life from Christ, which will enter into the witnesses slain, and revive them; and into the Jews in the latter day, and convert them; and which enters into dead sinners, and quickens them; and this he does while ministers are preaching the Gospel to them; see Rev. 11:11, and they lived; as men do spiritually, when the Spirit of God has produced a principle of spiritual life in them; they live by faith on Christ, in union and fellowship with him; they live in newness of life, and a holy life and conversation; and shall live and reign with Christ upon the first resurrection, and for evermore: and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army; as the Jews did when they returned from the Babylonish captivity; they were many, and in a posture of defence; and as they will be in the latter day, when converted, Hos. 1:10, and as the number of the saints will be upon the first resurrection, Rev. 7:9, so when men are quickened by the Spirit of God, "they stand upon their feet"; they stand in the grace of God, and on the foundation Christ; they stand by faith in him, and in the doctrine of faith, and in the house of God; and they stand firm against all their enemies: they are an "army"; they are in a military state; fighting against sin,

Satan, and the world; and though few in comparison of others, yet considered by themselves are very numerous; and as they will appear when the Jews will be converted, and the fulness of the Gentiles brought in; and especially when they will be all gathered together at the coming of Christ."

What a glorious day for the Jews, to have so many finally come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. They will stand firm in that day and preach the gospel to the people on the earth...Wow! What a revival that will be for them. Of course at the same time we that are Christians today, have already been caught up in the air when Jesus comes for us. "For 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 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: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thess. 4:16-17).

Also during this time, or close to it, we will all stand before Christ at His judgement and be judged. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Cor. 5:10). Then those that are of His Baptist Bride will be joined in marriage to Him the Bridegroom...oh blessed thought!

I am saddened today that some of our Baptist preachers do not believe this, but all I can say is that they are wrong, and I hope the Lord brings them back to the truth. We are truly living in the last days, may God help us. God Bless!

ROGER REED





## **Light Contemplations**

By Luke Austin of Cadillac, Michigan

"Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD" (Psalm 107:43).

#### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "ACCEPTING JESUS" AND "REPENTANCE AND FAITH"

"Testifying both the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus **Christ**" (Acts 20:21).

"Therefore leaving principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward **God**" (Heb. 6:1).

This may be a daunting task but after being questioned on this subject I will endeavor to use the Scriptures to illustrate the difference between "accepting Jesus into your heart" and "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

#### **ACCEPTING JESUS**

I recently posted on my "timeline" that "accept Jesus into your heart" does not appear in the Bible at all. This is true and I do not take it back or seek to soften the blow. Many today, whether knowingly against Scripture or in honest ignorance, teach men and women to accept Jesus or make a decision for Him, but as Jesus says in John 5:39 "Search the scriptures." I do not find, and neither will you, anywhere in your searching where Jesus Himself or His disciples taught men and women to accept Jesus or make a decision. Why is this wrong to do so then? For numerous reasons.

1. It is not found in the Bible. If Jesus did not teach it, if Paul did not preach it. then how can we teach it or preach it?

2. It props up mankind's ability. Today somewhere in the world someone will die in a car wreck. And in that instant before collision they will make every effort to avoid that collision. Their will is exercised but it cannot change the outcome. In other words we do not have the ability to save ourselves. Which acceptance and decisionism inadvertently teaches us. By my acceptance or by my decision I can avoid eternal consequence. But it cannot even affect temporal consequences. "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature" (Matt. 6:27).

3. It misrepresents our nature. By our nature we hate God. Ephesians 2:3 says by our nature we are the children of wrath even as others. Our nature determines our will. A pig desires the mud wallow because of its nature. A sinner desires sin because of his/ her nature. Why must a man be born again as Jesus says to Nicodemus in John 3? Because if left to his original nature he will not believe on the Son of God. He needs a divine birth to believe upon Jesus.

4. It gives people a false assurance. This is, in the author's opinion, the biggest problem of them all. It gives people a false hope and thereby places a huge roadblock in reaching mankind

with the Gospel. I thank God for His sovereign grace, that Jesus shall save His people (Matthew 1:21), and all that the Father has given to the Son shall come to Him (John 6:37). But humanly speaking, that is to say from the human perspective, I hate this accepting Jesus message. Because it hinders the true work of the gospel. These hucksters that have told people to make their decisions, repeat their prayers, and in a very Catholic tradition them "in Christ" because of their completion of decisions or prayers is sickening. What about "knowing them by their fruits?" What about the teaching of grace in Titus 2? "For the grace of God that salvation bringeth appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus **Christ**" (Titus 2:11-13).

If God's amazing grace has saved a soul then it teaches that soul. It does not teach that soul to go home and remain in that same old life of sin. But these deceivers that lead mankind in accepting and decisions and prayers do just that, "if you prayed that prayer you are saved" they say and send you on your merry way. Then the evangelist comes along and not seeing any fruit of repentance, desires to share the gospel, but the hearer responds, "I am all set, I have already accepted Jesus in my

So in summary "salvation" and "accepting Jesus" are antithetical. Salvation speaks of a need of a rescue. Accepting Jesus teaches mankind to save themselves. If I can by my will or decision save myself then I am not in need of a Saviour. But if my will can not save me, and my nature is to hate God, then I am in desperate need of a Saviour. I must be saved from sin, I must be saved from the wrath of God, and I must be saved from myself.

#### REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD AND FAITH TOWARDS OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

So if you made it this far the logical question is "...what must I do to be saved" (Acts 16:30)? Jesus commands in Mark 1:15 repent and believe the gospel. To repent speaks of a conversion that first takes place in the inner man. It is a turning inwardly away from sin and to God. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (I Timothy 1:15) He did not come to accompany man in his headlong pursuit of sin, He came to save them from sin. If you have no desire to turn from your sin then you have no desire for Jesus. That is why the message is repent and believe. You can believe in the historical fact of Jesus. You can even believe in the deity of Jesus, but without repentance He is not your Saviour. If you want a scriptural illustration of repentance read about the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. Pay particular attention to the son when he comes to himself. He realizes his vile condition. He determines in himself to return to his father. And he does so. Repentance toward God. A turning back to God. Faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ will naturally follow. Many call repentance and faith "twin graces" because they always go together. If you have a desire to turn from sin then you have heard about the condemnation of your sin. You have heard how you have offended the Holy God of all creation. And

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## Light Contemplations

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you have heard about the Saviour Jesus Christ. Faith in Him follows real repentance. Some final points to show the validity of repentance and faith.

- 1. It is in the Bible. If Jesus taught it, and Paul preached it, so should we.
- 2. It puts man in his place. Man is a sinner. Man is a rejecter of God. Man does not deserve anything from God. God is not obligated to save anyone.
- 3. It provides a new nature. A man must be born again. The accept Jesus message offers a false salvation without the need of divine birth. The true gospel provides a new nature from God Himself.
- 4. It gives biblical assurance. "We know that we have passed from death unto life" (I John 3:14).

There is a real knowing that Jesus has truly saved my soul. It is not an "I hope so" or "I am pretty sure," but it is an "I know."

I pray this will be used to help some poor sinner to come to know Jesus Christ in reality.

(Luke Austin is a member of the Cadillac Baptist Church of Cadillac, Michigan.)



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and judges would do well to learn "judgment and knowledge" from the Word of God, and in the commandments of God, rather than in the law schools and the courtrooms of this nation. In God and His Word we, as a people, can find and learn true justice, deliver good judgments, and behave in a manner that displays an understanding of what is truly right and what is

really wrong. "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding" (Prov. 2:1-6).

This fountain of wisdom, this repository of goodness, this origin of truth and justice, should be widely and loudly proclaimed by the people of God. If we want to do our people and our nation good in these last days, then we need to be about the business of sharing the Word of God with the people around us, who are most desperately in need of a dose of truth and goodness from the Word of God. "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make **peace**" (James 3:13-18). Our good words and our good works will bring peace to the people, when the people will believe. Our

declaration of the "wisdom that is from above" will expose the world around us, even the violent world, and even the bitterest souls, to the purity, the peace, and the gentle nature of the goodness of God. The Word of God is our best recourse: this "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17), is useful on any and all occasions, as we seek to bring men to goodness, to justice, to righteousness, and to Jesus Christ.

A declaration of Christ and the Gospel, is, in fact, a declaration of wisdom, knowledge, and perfect goodness. The world needs to hear about Jesus Christ for salvation comes from Him, through Him, and by Him; but, goodness, and righteousness accompany the proclamation of His name as well. "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:2-3). We must declare the glory of Jesus Christ, in order that men would see their own despicable ways, and their own awful condition. We should warn the world at large and when the adults turn us away, we should continue to teach and implore the children. Maybe in them, the Lord will give us a consolation. Maybe in them, the world will find peace and goodness in the belief and trust in Jesus Christ, and in the obedience to the teachings and goodness found in the Word of God. "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them

and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth" (Deut. 11:18-21). Our children certainly will not find true and godly goodness in the world! The adult generations seem to have lost their way! Our examples for the children, at least in recent history, have not been good examples, and have not been exemplary in righteousness. However, in the Word of God the young folks can find good and God. A fear of God ought to be taught; and a love for God ought to be desired. This is the only hope for our country, and our only hope for the future of our people. Without a knowledge of God, there will be no lasting knowledge of good and right. It does not do any good to have laws that are not based upon "right." When laws do not have a rightness to them, then they begin to allow or even perpetrate "wrong." In such a place, and with such unrighteous laws, violence and robbery become the norm. This leads me to my next point.

when thou sittest in thine house,

#### IGNORANCE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS LEADS TO VIOLENCE AND ROBBERY

In the absence of God and goodness – in the vacuum that is created when we take God out of the schools, out of society, and out of the public sphere – there is most certainly a tendency to meanness, to cruelty, to wickedness, and (as our text verse reminds us) to "violence and

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## They Know Not

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**robbery.**" Why do you think there is so much bitterness, hatred, vileness, and generally impolite and selfish behavior in our nation today? It is because God is not in us. It is because the "rightness" that is found in His Word has been removed, for the most part, from the hearts and minds of the people of this great nation. When we are not taught about God and His Word, and when the people do not know about true goodness and the objective right and wrong that are taught in the Scriptures, then wickedness, open sin, and evil behavior will be the result. Without the edifying and restraining power of the Word of God, men will devolve to the lowest common denominator since sin is our basic and natural behavior. The societies of men will generally gravitate towards sin, when there is no power of good and knowledge of right to draw us away. In blindness, the people are inclined unto evil. "They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly" (Amos 5:10). Without a standard of right, the leaders of the people will promote the wrong, evil, wickedness, and sin. "Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth" (Amos 5:7).

Soon, the people are governed by evil, and know not to do right – there is not any good example, and there are only lesser of evil, and greater of evil. The people are foolish, full of sin, and are bound to have leaders who are sinners. In the current state of affairs in our country, it seems as if the choice of leaders in the local governments, on the state level, and certainly in the federal governmental positions, that there is only evil, less evil, and least evil. The end result will be the destruction of a nation. Our past values and our Christian traditions are cast aside in favor of new, subjective ideas of what is right and wrong. William Penn, the founder of the Pennsylvania Colony, said, "If we will not be governed by God, we must be governed by tyrants." The same man also said, "Right is right, even if everyone is against it, and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it." I believe that our American forefathers knew, for the most part, that God and goodness were profitable for our nation and for our people. John Adams once said, "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Our nation, our people, need the high and noble values that are taught in the Word of God, and that are put on display in the lives of Christians. Without God, and without Christian religion, there will be "violence and robbery" (as described in the times of the prophet Amos) in our nation; I suspect that time is upon us, even

"Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes

of the sea also shall be taken away. Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest. Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children" (Hosea 4:1-6). Judgment is near for our country. We are full of liars, robbers, killers, adulterers, and bloody and unjust men and women. Not only are these men and women allowed to continue in our society, without justice being administered - we even elect them to public office! Judgment is coming on such a place as ours where wickedness is rewarded, and rulers rule with violence and robbery. Thomas Jefferson said, "And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

#### THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE (JUDGMENT) THAT COMES FROM GOD

As we have noticed, and I have just said, it seems plain that our good and righteous God will not forever tolerate the robbery and violence of a people who are ignorant to do right and yet who have had the right proclaimed to them. We should know better, and yet we have forsaken what truths and "rightness" that we once stood for, and have replaced

the truth with hate, evil, and "wrongness." Our text tells us that there will be violence in such a place that is devoid of a knowledge to do good; and that violence is evident all around us today. However, in closing I want to think about and warn you about the violence that will come from God. The judgment that is impending upon such a wicked and depraved society as ours and is in danger of becoming. In a sense, the violence that we, as a people have stored up, will be poured out upon our own heads not unlike what the Lord has done to Israel of yesteryear. "And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith

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# Little Hills By Nathaniel Hille of Plant City, Florida "... and the little hills rejoice on every side" (Psalms 65:12).



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON - BIBLE SURVEY #10 DEUTERONOMY

TEXT: Deut. 10:12-20

DEVOTIONAL READING: Rom. 6:1-23

SUGGESTED HYMN: Trust and Obey

AIM: An Over-view of the Book of Deuteronomy

INTRODUCTION—A new generation was preparing to go in and possess the Promised Land (Deut.1:5).

I. AUTHOR: Moses—This is the final book which bears Moses as Author.

II. SUBJECT: Deuteronomy the second law. However, we should not think of Deuteronomy as a retelling of the same law. Rather, it is sermons of Moses, covering the period of a month, in which Moses instructs and expounds the law unto the next generation that would inhabit the land (Deut. 29:1). Observe Deut. 1:5—"...began Moses to declare [dig, explain, expound] this law." Deuteronomy contains the sermons of Moses. He expounds and makes clear what had already been written in His previous books.

III. DIVISIONS: There are 5 main divisions

1st Sermon: A Review of their wilderness sojourney (1:1 - 4:43).

2<sup>nd</sup> Sermon: Exposition of the law with Admonitions (4:44 - 26:19)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sermon: Blessing of obeying, Cursing of Disobeying (27-28)

4<sup>th</sup> Sermon: Covenant Renewed with new generation (29-30)

5<sup>th</sup> Sermon: Final Acts and words of Moses (31-34).

KEY CONCEPTS: Deuteronomy contains key concepts, themes, & principles.

- 1. Exaltation of God's Word: Deut. 6:7—God's Word is given a great place in that it is to be taught to our children. God commanded no other thing to be taught to them other than His Word.
- 2. Love of God: Deut. 4:37; 7:7-8; 23:5—These verses give us the great truth that God loves His people. However, the reason of His love remains a mystery. We can only say that He loves us because He chose to. And the reason He chose to was because He loved us.
- 3. Command—occurs over 40 times (KJV). This makes sense since in order to obey there must be a command.
- A. "Which I command thee" is a phrase used in almost all of the occurrences of "command." The "I" refers unto Moses in many of these of which Moses merely told them what the Lord had given him.
- a. MOSES & THE LORD JESUS—it should be noted that Christ commands us to keep the things He received of the Father (John 8:38; 14:10-15)
- 4. LORD your God: This phrase is said to occur over 200 times in Deuteronomy alone. LORD=Jehovah (Self-Sufficient One—Chief Name of Redemption); God=Elohim (Plural [Triune God], Covenant Keeping God, The Strong One). The LORD had become Israel's God by redemption (purchased by the blood of the Lamb). It was upon this

basis—that God had bought them with the blood of His Son, that God claimed a right to command them and they were to obey Him.

- 5. Obey—This idea is conveyed some 29 plus times with words as: "obey, do, obedient, observe" (KJV).
- A. Pleadings to obey God: Moses pleadings, beseeching to obey God were based on:
  - a. Israel belonged to God (Deut. 14:1)
  - b. God loved them (Deut. 4:37)
  - c. God's desire was to preserve and prosper them (Deut. 4:1).
- d. Obedience was the appointed way of showing gratitude (Deut. 4:7-8a).
- 6. Love For God—Deut. 6:4-5; 30:6, 16, 20—This is to be our response: LOVE. Love is the motive for obedience John 14:15—"If ye love me, keep my commandments."
- 7. Summarization of Deuteronomy's principles: The true motive for obedience is stated in Deut. 6:4-5. God's love for man is the motive for His government and the giving of laws. Man's love for God is the motive for his obedience. This is not the Gospel, but the principle of it is here. This is the pathway for blessing. It is likewise the answer to those who do not find love in the Old Testament. There is love in the Old Testament, and there is law [rules] in the New Testament.

V. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND DEUTERONOMY: The Holy Spirit recorded at least ten times in which the Lord Jesus, during His earthly ministry quoted from the book of Deuteronomy. It has been said that He quoted it more than any other book. There are over eighty references to Deuteronomy in the New Testament.

- 1. The Temptation in the Wilderness:
  - A. Power: Matt. 4:3-4; Luke 4:3-4; quoted from (Deut. 8:3).
  - B. Life: Matt. 4:5-7; Luke 4:9-12; quoted from (Deut. 6:16).
- C. Wealth: Matt. 4:8-10; Luke 4:5-8; quoted from (Deut. 6:13; 10:20).
- 2. The King: Deut. 17:14-20---The Lord requires them to set their king as the one He chooses; not as they choose. This is none other than His only begotten Son---King Jesus (John 1:49).
- 3. The Prophet: Deut. 18:15-19---The Prophet would be like unto Moses. This could be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ (John 6:14; 7:40).

VI. REVIVALS: It is believed that every revival during the time of the kings of Israel and Judah can be traced back to the reading, believing, and obeying of the Book of Deuteronomy. Compare: II Kings. 22:8 - 23:25 with Deut. 31:24-26.

(Nathaniel Hille is pastor of the Bible Baptist Church of Plant City, Florida.)

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the LORD. I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel. For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of

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the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name" (Amos 4:6-13).

"If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment" (James 2:8-13). Mercy does not exclude judgment. In fact, righteous, fair, and equitable punishment (judgment) that is meted out to deserving sinners, serves as the backdrop for the mercy that God shows to mankind so that we might say that mercy is the glory of God, Who is the Judge of men. But, where there is not mercy, there will be judgment poured out upon the wicked and unrepentant sinners.

#### **OUR ONLY HOPE**

The only hope of any nation or any people (if they will please God, and if they hope to avoid His judgment) is to turn unto Him and His ways. As a people we must proclaim the "right" – the right things of God, and the righteousness of His Word. Only then, and only if the people will observe Him and righteousness, will there be any hope for us to survive as a people or as a nation.

As the Lord God gave hope to Israel, even in the last days of their existence in the places of Samaria and Israel; even so, might our nation and our people take hope in the Word of God, and in His promises: "Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph" (Amos 5:14-15).

"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles" (Ps. 34:11-17).

(Paul Stepp is pastor of the Indore Baptist Church of Indore, West Virginia.)



#### Mark 14:72

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photographer's studio, where they work on the picture and tone it up, taking out the wrinkles and covering the moles, and removing the freckles.

Now there are professed followers of Christ today who, like Judas Iscariot, love money better than they love the Lord. That is the reason why people put their business ahead of the Lord.

There are professed followers of Christ, who, like Thomas, doubt the Word of the Lord. That is the reason why they do not tithe their income. They do not believe that God will keep His word when He says, "And I will pour out a blessing such that you shall not be able to receive it." There are professed followers of Christ who are like Simon Peter, who could not stand to be thought of as the follower of Christ in a crowd where the sentiment was against Him. And that is why people today, when they get among the enemies of Jesus, will slip right into the practices of the world that deny the Lord. Certainly the actions of those disciples are not very praise-worthy, and we ought to be able to learn a lesson from their failures. More and more does it take courage to stand for Christ, and for the kind of life He teaches that we should live in this day.

All over this world, there growing antagonism against Christianity---I mean Christianity---because Christianity is opposed to such high-handed dictatorship business as allows minorities no rights. And the time may come, it may come even in our own country, when it will mean the bitterest persecution for one to be a sure-enough Christian. And Jesus had warned the disciples beforehand that they would all get scared and desert Him, and He said that this must come to pass because it was so written concerning Him.

Let us note what is said recorded in the 14th chapter of Mark, beginning with verse 27, "And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all." For those disciples, they were not willing to confess that they would ever be like that. They thought that they could even defeat the words of prophecy, and set at naught predestination and election, and especially vehement in his denial of cowardice was Simon Peter, as I have just read to you. It has been my observation that the bravest acting people and those who make the biggest pretense, are the very ones who fall first.

But now let us follow the movements of Jesus and the disciples and note a lesson in human weakness. In the first place, we find Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane while part of His disciples stood at the gate, and three of them, Peter, James and John, wait in the Garden while Jesus prays. That was perhaps the bitterest hour in all the experience of our Lord. It is such that He cries out, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death."

We must never forget that the suffering of the body that Jesus endured the next day was not the worst of His suffering. Only one thing did He say on the cross that even made mention of His physical agony, and that was the cry, "I thirst," and He said that in order that the ancient prophecy recorded in the 22nd Psalm might be fulfilled. Ah, the worst suffering was of a spiritual

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nature, when He, Who knew no sin, was made to be sin for us. The worst of His suffering was when He sweat the drops of blood there in the Garden, as He realized what it would mean to bear the sins of the lost. The worst of His suffering came when He passed under judgment of God as our sin-bearer, and was led to cry, "Why hast Thou forsaken me?"

Let me draw an illustration. Back in pioneer days, a certain man was stricken with a dangerous illness, and a friend of hisrealized that unless medical aid was brought, the man was going to die, but the doctor was miles away and there was a blinding snow storm raging. Nevertheless, this friend started out through the storm and darkness, and after getting lost a number of times, and after running the risk of death, he finally reached the home of the doctor. The doctor had the medicine that was the certain cure for that disease. Together these two men battled the storm and the snow drifts and the darkness, until finally, in the early dawn, they reached the sick man's home. The doctor found the man in a very bad condition, and he told him that if he would take the medicine prepared for him, he would be relieved and would recover. But what happened? Why, the sick man absolutely refused to take the medicine at all. He resolutely gritted his teeth, clamped his jaws, and would not swallow a single drop of the medicine. Despite all entreaties, he held out against the doctor and against his friends, until finally there was a last gasp and he was dead. I ask you, whose fault was it that he died? Is he deserving of any sympathy? Is not his blood on his own head? My friends, are you determined to ignore what Christ did, and the offer of salvation through Him, in spite of everything? Oh, it seems to me that you must have a stony heart indeed. None of us, even the saved, can ever imagine just what the Son of God went through for our sakes and the sake of our souls. It was Sankey who wrote, "And none of the ransomed ever knew how deep were the waters crossed, how dark was the night that the Lord passed through ere He found the sheep that was lost."

But now following movements of Jesus and the disciples on that fateful night, we find the disciples sleeping while He agonized in prayer. Yes, and that has been a favorite pastime of the disciples of Christ down through the centuries. In this day of desperate crying spiritual need, when the Gospel is so needed in this world, we find whole churches asleep on the job. Hundreds of them do not give a nickel to missions, hundreds of them do not win a soul to Christ, and have no real excuse for existence. We read in history that the old Roman emperor, Nero, played his fiddle merrily while Rome burned to the ground. That reminds me of a modern church, men and women are asleep to their spiritual task and spiritual mission, doing little or nothing to win the lost at home or abroad, while they piddle and fiddle around with their little old socials and parties and things of that nature. We are in a world that is on fire, and we ought to act in the capacity of a rescue party, seeking to witness to just as many as we possibly can.

In the next place, we find Judas leading the mob against Jesus, and betraying Him with a "Hail, Master," and kiss of

treachery. That is exactly the way modernism comes today, pretending to honor Jesus, saying "Hail, Master," but denying His Lordship and His deity. I have more time for open-mouth infidelity than I have for a thing like that, and when the mob seized Jesus, those disciples became terror-stricken, and what happened? Well, they all skedaddled off through the darkness, that is what happened.

In the next place, as we follow this story, we find Jesus on trial and under oath. Let us see what it says here in Mark 14, beginning with verse 61, "But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned his to be guilty of death." When put on oath! Let me repeat that, when Jesus was put on oath and asked if He was the Christ, the Son of God, He said in plain, unequivocal terms, **"I am."** And right there, He plainly affirmed that He would come in the clouds of Heaven in power and great glory. We need to realize that Jesus uttered two great doctrines when He was under oath to tell the truth--the doctrine of His deity, and the doctrine of His second coming. And yet, those two doctrines are badly denied and badly denied also by the modernists of this day.

I had a letter from a radio listener back some years ago who lived over in St. Petersburg, and in this letter, the writer said that she was put out of her position as teacher of a group of 150 women in one of the largest churches in the city, because she taught the return of the Lord. Modernists attempt to say that Jesus was a great and good man, but not divine. I assert that if He was not divine, He was not a good man, for no good man will swear a lie, and that is what Jesus did, unless He was the Son of God, and unless He keeps His promise to return again.

And now in the next place, while Jesus was in the courtroom, we find Peter snooping into the courtyard where the enemies of Jesus were gathered. It was a chilly night, so we see Peter warming his hands there at the fire of the enemies of Jesus. I preached a sermon once using the title, "Warming your hands at the fires of the enemy." When we begin to do that sort of thing, we can look out for some backsliding. Out on the bathing beach amid the nakedness, you are not among the friends of your Lord and His cause. Out on the dance floor, you are just warming your hands at the fire of the enemy. In the beer joint, or the pool room or the bolero joint, you are warming your hands at the fire of the enemy. In the picture show, you are doing the same identical thing. These places are ideal spots for back-sliders, and there in the midst of the enemies of Jesus, three times, Peter is accused of being His follower, and three times, he denies it, the last time breaking loose into a string of profanity. But listen, what is that sound we hear? The gray dawn is creeping over the hills of Palestine, and out there somewhere a rooster crows, greeting the dawn with his cry. Then Peter remembered what

♦ (Continued on page 22)

#### Mark 14:72

(Continued from page 21) &

Jesus had said, "Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice." And that leads us to our text, "And when he thought **thereon, he wept."** What do you suppose Peter thought about? He must have thought about his loud claim, "Lord, if all the rest leave you, you can still count on me, I will not leave you." He must have thought about the shoddy way in which he had treated the Lord there in that trying hour when he had taken to his heels and run away like a coward. He must have thought about his cowardly denials, and Peter, being a saved man, did not do like old Judas Iscariot. He did not go and commit suicide as Judas did. He did like any other saved person would do---he repented. What did he do when the rooster crowed? The first thing he did, so one of the Gospels tells us, was to separate himself from the enemies of Jesus and to go outside. Listen, if you are a child of God and you get off among the enemies of Christ and get back-slidden, the first thing you are going to have to do if you return from your backsliding, is to break company with your associates. If you are not a Christian, and you get interested in the salvation of your soul, you get out of that giddy, giggling set of folks and let the Lord speak to you.

The second thing that Peter did was to weep. The crowing of that rooster in the distance sounded in the ears of Peter like a fire alarm. His conscience was aroused and his heart was melted. I dare say that as long as Peter lived, he never forgot that night. I see him out there in the grim, gray light of the dawn, standing

by the side of that building, his whole form shaking with sobs. Ah, well might he weep when he had failed his Master in such a critical hour! Well might I weep often as I realize how miserably I fall down in the doing of the things that He expects me to do, and as I remember this story of the cross and His love for my soul. "Tell of the cross where they nailed Him, writhing in anguish and pain, tell of the grave where they laid Him, tell how He liveth again, love in that story so tender clearer than ever I see, stay, let me weep while you whisper, Christ paid the ransom for me, tell me the story of Jesus, write on my heart every word, tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard." Oh, how I love to tell that story to others, how I appreciate the privilege that is given me of standing here by the microphone and telling you of the love of Christ for your soul. A privilege it is that the angels of glory covet, but are not able to enjoy, a privilege it is, your privilege of hearing it, that multiplied millions of this earth have never had. As I think of the millions in heathen lands who have lived and gone out into the blackness of eternal night without the Gospel, I feel like thanking God over and over again that I was born in a land where I was privileged to learn about Christ. And do you realize, unsaved friend, that when you reject Christ and the salvation that is offered in His name, you are rejecting the most priceless privilege that God ever placed before human beings? I warn you to be careful about what you do with Christ's invitation.

Now let me give you an illustration that may help you to see more clearly God's way and plan, and with that, I must

close. In Kansas City, there is a Christian doctor by the name of Wilson, Dr. Walter Wilson. I reckon he is still living. He is a man who has done much personal work through the years, and sometimes he has preached. He tells of a Christian nurse who was interested in the souls of those to whom she ministered, as well as their bodies. Upon one occasion, when Dr. Wilson was to speak at a church near this hospital, this Christian nurse induced another nurse, a friend of hers, to go and hear this Christian doctor speak. The doctor saw the two girls, and knowing one of them, he spoke to them after the service. The Christian nurse of his acquaintance made him acquainted with her friend, and thinking immediately of her spiritual condition, the doctor said, "Are you a saved nurse or a lost nurse?" "Oh," said the girl, "I'm a Christian, I joined the church twelve years ago. "It is certainly a pleasure to hear you say that, but do you know that there are two kids of church members?" "No," she said, "what are they?" "Saved ones and lost ones," replied the doctor, and that statement seemed a bit disconcerting to the nurse, and she dropped her head. Presently, she looked up and said, "Really, doctor, I do not know whether I am saved or lost. I am not at all clear on the way of salvation, and I feel I ought to know more about it." "Did you ever sing that song, 'Jesus paid it all'?" "Why yes," said the nurse, "That song is in almost every song book to be found anywhere." "Well, tell me, nurse, did Jesus pay it all for you or did He not?" Again the nurse bowed her head, for she was not the kind of person to be hurried into a statement that she did not understand. Finally, she said, "I

wish I knew whether He did pay it all or not. I do not feel that He has." "Would you prefer to go by your feelings in the matter, or would you be willing to believe what the Word of God says about it?" "I do not want to be fooled, I want to know the truth," she said, "What does the Bible say about it?" "Listen, nurse, the Bible tells that Jesus on the cross said that it is finished. If He said it is finished, surely it must be finished, do you not think so? Again, let me ask you, did Jesus finish the work of salvation for you? Did He pay all your debt?" They had been standing there by the pulpit, and when she heard those words and that question, the nurse turned and stepped over a little to the row of front seats, and knelt down with her head and arms on the seat. Quickly the doctor stepped over to where she was and knelt down near her, that he might hear what she was saying, and this in substance is what he heard her say, "Lord Jesus, I never knew before that you paid my debts on the cross. I knew that You had died for sinners, but I did not know that it was for me. You did pay my debt, Lord, and you said that it was finished, and I thank you for it, Lord Jesus. I believe that my debt is paid, and oh, what peace you have given to my heart." The saved nurse had also knelt beside her friend, and as that simple prayer of faith was ended, both the doctor and saved nurse said "Amen." It was some days after that, the doctor was in the hospital where those two nurses worked, and as he passed down the hall, he looked into the room where trays are assembled and he saw the nurse that I have spoken of, getting a tray ready. He stopped and called out to her this question, "Nurse, tell me, did

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#### **Mark 14:72**

(Continued from page 22) &

Jesus pay it all, or did He fail in the attempt?" She stopped her work, smiled, and said, "Doctor, Jesus did pay it all. He paid it all for me, and Heaven is in my heart because I know Him." Is not that the greatest thing that you can realize, sinner, that Jesus Christ paid in full the sin debt of everyone who will believe on Him? If you do, then you will be able to get up from your radio singing, "Jesus paid it all, all the debt I owe, sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow."

Our Father, those that may be in doubt, although church members, may they take this step also, that they may settle once and forever the question of their salvation in such a way that hereafter they will always know how they stand. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Beauty Mountain Baptist Church of Edmond, WV invites everyone to attend their Spring Revival Meeting, March 16th-20th with Elder Joseph Sidders pastor of Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Temperance, MI.

Services will be at 7:00 p.m. each evening. There will be a fellowship meal at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 20th.

The Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Temperance, MI, and pastor Joe Sidders would like to announce Revival Services for May 28th -31st.

Service times are Thursday thru Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday

Fellowship meal at 5:00 p.m. followed by services, Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Speakers are: Thursday, Elder Michael Jackman; Friday, Elder Justin Meier: Saturday, Elder David Green; Sunday, Missionary Nathan Long and Elder Matthew Stepp.

Should you need accomodation options or more information please contact pastor Sidders at (567) 686-7853.

The Beauty Mountain Baptist Church of Edmond, WV is in need of a pastor. Any available candidates may contact Brother Jonathan Bailess at 681-208-0517.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Cortland, Ohio, is in need of a pastor. The Church believes and teaches the doctrines of grace and local church truth. If any man is interested please contact Brother Bill Davis at 330-770-1610 or Wayne Waddell at 330-979-8828 or Sean Fellows at 330 638-0269 for additional information. Please remember this church in your prayers.

The Grace Bible Baptist Church of Denham Springs is in search of a

pastor.

For a statement of faith you can visit the church website at http:// GraceBibleBaptist.webhop.org http://gracebbc.dyndns.org:81/.

You may contact any of the following for more information: Keith Laurence (225) 664-3557, Lucien LeSage (225) 803-9710, or Charlie Andrews (225) 200-1171.

The Grace Landmark Baptist Church of Buckhannon, WV, is seeking a pastor. The church is Sovereign Grace and Landmark in doctrine and practice. Any

interested called pastor of like faith may contact Brother Brad Butcher at (304) 669-4738 or (304) 745-6226.

The Stephens Branch Baptist Church of Martin, Kentucky is in need of a pastor. They are an Independent, Sovereign Grace, Landmark, Missionary Baptist church holding to the doctrines of grace and the King James Bible. If you are interested in being considered or would like more information on the church you can call Brother Lonnie Edwards at (859) 629-1413 or write the church at: Stephens Branch Baptist Church, 1025 Stephens Branch Road, Martin, Kentucky 41649.

The Berea Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact (662) 282-7794 or Email:request@ bereabaptistchurch.org.

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

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

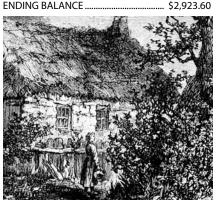
2431.

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

#### **BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report** 12-1-2019 to 12-31-2019

Beginning Balance ......

RECEIPTS:
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS 300.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL60.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX 50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV 200.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY 150.00
Carol Willett, Cottonwood Shores, TX 60.00
Citrus M. B. C. Inverness, FL
Eve Knowles, Scarborough, ME 100.00
Faith B. C., Lynn, AR 12.50
Grace B. C., Gladwin, MI 100.00
Grace B. C., Rural Hall, NC 50.00
Grace Missionary B. C. Tulsa, OK 50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV 100.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC 50.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH 100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN 50.00
Parkway L. B. C., Springfield, OR 100.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL 100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR 50.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS 50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Hazard, KY 100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX 30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Wellington, KS 100.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA25.00
Subscriptions16.00
Anonymous 220.00
Dividing checks 150.00
Sub Total\$2,398.50
TOTAL\$6,580.40
EXPENDITURES:
Printing 490.00
Postage 540.84
Wages 2,300.00

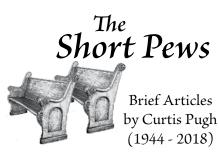


Dividing checks .......

Total Expenditures .......

#### BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST **Financial Report**

12-1-2019 to 12-31-2019		
Beginning Balance	\$2,517.71	
RECEIPTS:		
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	225.00	
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	100.00	
Calvary Ind. B. C., Sumas, WA	200.00	
	525.00	
TOTAL	3,042.97	
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
Radio Time	363.98	
Program production	195.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	558.98	
	2,483.99	
Interest	+.02	
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,484.01	



#### **SEDUCERS**

The word "seduce" can be defined as "to lead astray usually by persuasion or false promises." While the word is often used regarding immoral acts, it is used in the Bible of the attempt to lead people away from the truth: false teachers. Paul wrote "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (II Tim. 3:13). That statement means that in our day we can expect to find more of these "evil men and seducers" than existed in the time of Paul's writing. Today these deceivers are worse: more plenteous and more outrageous in their false teaching.

Paul, in another place, describes the evil character and greedy motivation of these seducers. He wrote, "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly [base desires]; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple [trusting]" (Rom. 16:18). Unsuspecting people are deceived by the "good words and fair speeches" of individuals who appear to be ministers of righteousness, but who in reality serve the devil. He made that clear in II Corinthians 11:15 saying: "Therefore it is no great thing if his [Satan's] ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." The promoters of hellish doctrines end in eternity in hell.

Doubtless Paul was criticized for his plain speech against the enemies of the truth. Criticism did not stop him, however, for he was absolutely clear that his preaching everywhere included "warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom" (Col. 1:28). Warnings and teaching the truth are the two means of combating these seducers and their deceptive words. John also addressed the seducers with whom he contended saying, "These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you" (I John 2:26). It does matter what you believe!

Paul also described the methods employed by the seducers in his day: methods still in use today. Not only are these seducers capable of "good words and fair speeches" both in the pulpit, in books, on TV, and in interviews, etc., they make use of human philosophy and the teaching of men. These seducers are men and women capable of reasonable sounding arguments that appeal to the natural inclinations of lost sinners. Paul's words regarding their methods are these: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Col. 2:8).

Seducers may quote the Bible here and there, but build upon a false foundation. They all teach from the same basic premise: that lost sinners by human effort can please God and so secure the new birth. Paul destroyed that idea and forever showed these seducers to be liars when he wrote: "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Rom. 8:8). Mark those who teach contrary to this verse as seducers for theirs is a false and damning message.

#### WHAT JESUS WILL NOT FIND

Jesus told His hearers what things would be like in the time before His return to the earth to set up His kingdom. He did not speak of the time before His catching away of His bride and her friends for there are no signs given for that event, but rather He spoke of the time of His coming in judgment. Here are the Lord's words: "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:26-30). We may sum up Christ's words by saying that when He comes in judgment He will find the majority

of people concerned with natural worldly things. That is the way it was in the day of Noah when God judged the world with the flood and in the days of Lot when God judged Sodom and the cities of the plain.

But what will Christ not find when He comes in judgment? He told us that also, saying, "... Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth" (Luke 18:8)? A more literal translation of this phrase is "shall he find the faith on the earth?" The definite article "the" is indicated by the original language. When He comes to judge sinners and set up His thousand-year kingdom, will Christ find "the faith" present among men? The question is asked, but not answered, indicating that there will be little if any people knowing and believing the truth at that time.

Any unprejudiced observer can see that things in the religious realm are almost to that point even now. Most so-called Christian ministers are no longer spokesmen for God. Rather they are motivational speakers promising a feel-good religious experience to people. Neither they, nor their members are concerned with regeneration by the Holy Spirit, nor do they demand the fruit of the Spirit from the members of their mutual admiration societies which they call churches. When is the last time you heard of a modern church excluding a sinning member as Jesus taught? (See Matthew 18:17; I Corinthians 5:13).

Counterfeit Christianity says do this or that – usually something easy – and you will please God by your works, and as a result He will be gracious to you and overlook your sins. But the Lord said, "...strait [tight fitting] is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:14).

