

The Berea Baptist Banner

"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth" Ps. 60:4

The Changing Years—the Unchanging God

By Arthur W. Pink
(1886 - 1952)

When we were young, the transition from December to January meant little more to us than the need for another calendar and registering the new date on our letters. There was no solemn realization that another milestone had been passed in the short journey of life, and that we were 365 days nearer a



never-ending Eternity—to spend the same, either as a regenerated soul in the Courts of holiness and everlasting bliss; or to be righteously cast by God as an abhorred sinner into the region of unutterable woe, there to suffer the due reward of our iniquities

forever and ever.

But since Divine mercy apprehended us and gave us the spirit of a sound mind, and as we grow older, the passing of each year impresses us more deeply with the mutability of all earthly things and of our own mortality. As each fleeting year witnesses the call hence of one and another, we are reminded that the same call may likely come to us before 1945 expires; and therefore, it

behooves us to see to it—that our own house is set in order.

With the changing years, come also the vicissitudes of life. True, that has been the case all through human history—but it seems to have been more pronounced of late. What alterations have been witnessed in every sphere during the last few decades! Probably most of our readers would have discredited anyone
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A New Year's Meditation

By John R. Gilpin
(1905 - 1974)

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved” (Rom. 10:1).

This is our last Sunday night of 1962. In just a few hours’ time you will be making your New Year’s resolutions, and getting ready in a few hours more to break them. I think we, more or less, come to the end of the year with the thought in mind, that if it pleases God we would like to do better, and be better, in the coming year than we



have in the past. There comes to my mind a little poem which I think is very appropriate at the end of a year.

He came to my desk with a quivering lip,

The task was done.

“I want a new sheet, dear teacher,” he said,

“I’ve spoiled this one.”

I took the sheet so stained and blotted

And gave him a new one all unspotted

And unto his tired eyes smiled,

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The Three Sons of Noah

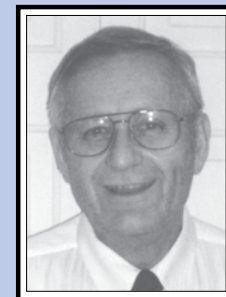
By William J. Stang
of Lexington, Kentucky

(Editor’s note: Bro. Stang has written a very in-depth article that should be read completely. It is a lengthy article, but full of “meat” for the Christian reader. For those who will continue to the end, it unfolds like a good mystery novel revealing truths from God’s Holy Word.)

THE GOSPEL TO THE
NATIONS or A REASON FOR
MISSIONS

(The Table of the Nations:
Genesis chapter 10)

I want to pick out one verse from Paul’s sermon on Mar’s Hill, which he preached at Athens during his second missionary journey. And if your reaction is what mine was when I first saw this, you will realize that you have never before pondered the full meaning of these words unless you have seen them in the light of what I will be writing about.



Acts 17:24
speaks of
“God that
made the
world and
all things
therein...”
This same
God “hath

made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation...” (Acts 17:26). Giving particular attention to both the “times” and the “bounds” there.

Because I want to give you some idea of the “bounds” of their habitation before appointed, each severally in their appointed “times” as each nation migrated to its final
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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 strength-en His churches in the most holy faith.
5. To motivate God's children to a closer fellow-ship around His Word.
6. To inform people of world events in light of Bible prophecy.
7. To condemn and expose error wherever it may rear its ugly head.
8. To stimulate Christian growth in grace.
9. To make the Devil and his demons as mad as possible.

Three Sons of Noah

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location geographically. And I want you to keep in mind the "one bloodedness" of all men there: we are all of "one blood." We are related. We are of the same "kind." And if you really get a hold of that, every time some government form asks you to put down what race you are of, you will put down that you are of the "Adamic" race, because that is all that there is.

So, keep this verse in mind now, as we turn back to Genesis chapters 9 and 10.

Genesis chapter 10: "THE TABLE OF THE NATIONS." There has "never" been a document like it in all the history of mankind.

Most people do not realize that the earliest written records (the secular records of man) do not go back but a few hundred years before Christ. The *Iliad and the Odyssey*, for example, is perhaps the oldest secular writing known. And it may have been written as early as 800 to 1,000 B.C., though the Greek alphabet was probably not invented until about 800 B.C., and the form in which we have the *Iliad and the Odyssey* was probably not written until perhaps around 400 B.C., and it reads like some fairy tale, with a golden fleece, a cyclops, a medusa with a head of snakes for hair; the Greeks themselves did not take it seriously! They tended to think of it as some kind of a fairy tale which only taught points of wisdom to be speculated upon. But "we" have a record that goes back four thousand years before that; a serious, somber, sober account of creation that cannot be disproved. In the table of the nations, almost 2,500 years B.C., a record of the ancestry and history of all mankind. A record that has

born the scrutiny of 1,000's of years and never been disproven, though it was written before it ever even fully happened, and it's fulfillment is still being unfolded even as I speak.

Let us start in Genesis 9:24. You will remember, after the flood, when Ham saw the nakedness of his father Noah, that Noah, in verses 24-27 pronounces the prophetic destiny of the nations. **"And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant"** (Gen. 9:24-27).

It would do us all well to sit and meditate upon this for a while ("Selah"); but you go back and see, if what I tell you is not the fulfillment of all this.

We see three families here:

Shem: forefather of the Shemites, or "Semites" (as we would say today). The Jews, for one, are a Semitic people, as are the Arabs.

Ham: forefather of the Hamites. The Canaanites, Egyptians, Africans, Asians, most American Indians. Japheth: forefather of the Japhethites. The Indo-European races. Most of us, for example, are all descended from Japheth.

Now listen, people use these verses to teach all kinds of things, and to justify all kinds of prejudices, but I want to show you the fulfillment of them here, in the hope of locking home to your heart what they actually teach; that the true teaching might forever guard you against the many false teachings that are

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Three Sons of Noah

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miss-launched from this passage, and that the truth of the outline of 4,500 years of human history, given beforehand, may unfold to you.

Do you remember in Genesis 1:28 when the Lord gave the command for man to be fruitful, and to multiply, and to replenish, (or that is, to “fill” the earth, and subdue it through learning about it, conquer the creation: take it over), that has been called “The Cultural Mandate.” God tells them that again in verse 7 after the flood. **“And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein”** (Gen 9:7).

In chapters 10 and 11 they rebel against that by gathering together to build the Tower of Babel, do they not? Instead of spreading abroad, they gather together in rebellion against God. And so God tells us He went down to confound their language. **“Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech”** (Gen. 11:7).

This was not said to the angels, else it would be “go ye” or “do ye confound their language.” This is a council of the Godhead; just like Genesis 1:26 wherein **“God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”** That “us” is in the plural in the Hebrew language 1,000’s of times. God refers to Himself in that number in the Old Testament.

This work was above the power of angels to do. None but God, that gave to man the faculty of speech, and the use of language, could confound it. Which was as great an instance of Divine power as to bestow the gift of tongues on the Apostles at Pentecost; and the

same God that did the one did the other.

The “us” here in Genesis 11:7, are afterwards explained of Jehovah Himself in verse 8. That is capital “L,” capital “O,” capital “R,” capital “D.” **“So the LORD (Jehovah Himself) scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city”** (Gen. 11:8).

The “us” of Genesis 11:7 is the antecedent pronoun, finding that which it answers to in the proper name “Jehovah” of verse 8; they are one and the same. A proof of the trinity. If not so, every time God does this, He did not know His grammar, and He lied. But God did not lie!

And He Who ‘gave’ man the gift of language knows its every function and every nuance and every meaning. Language is an exact science. If that were not true you could not diagram a sentence, write a contract, pass and enforce laws, label a can of beans, and have any expectation that what is in it is what it says is in it. God knows the Science. He knows the rules of grammar better than anyone else ever did. II Peter 1:20-21 says, **“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”** God said what He meant, and He meant what He said.

It is the devil that comes along and says, “Yea, hath God really said, yea well, is that really what He means?”

But it is inherent in God’s very being the ability to communicate. God did not have to learn, as you or I do. He is the Word incarnate. He “said” and it came to pass. To call into question, to slander His

Little Hills

By Nathaniel Hille of
Plant City, Florida



The New Birth #10 Evidences of Having Been Born Again—Part 3

Another evidence of spiritual life is a desire for the Word of God. I Peter 2:2 states, **“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”** Just as a new born baby desires his/her mother’s milk, unable to be satisfied with anything else; so, too, does the child of God desire the Word of God. The word “desire” means to intensely crave; to long for; to lovingly pursue. We are taught that those who are born again crave God’s Word, long for the pure milk of the Word. Do you crave after the PURE Word of God? Or will any preaching do? Do you lovingly pursue His Word? If not, then

you are evidencing that you are not saved.

Examine your life. Do you read your Bible in your home? Do you dread going to hear the Word of God expounded? Do you sleep at the teaching of God’s Word? —OR—Do you love the Word of God? Do you meditate/think upon it? **“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day”** (Ps. 119:97). Do you attend to the reading and teaching of God’s Word with an intense craving? **“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine”** (I Tim. 4:13). Is God’s Word directing your life? **“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”** (Ps. 119:105). Have you been born again? What is your evidence?

Word, to impugn His Word is to slander His very person. To say that He did not know what He was saying, that He does not know how to say it, that He can not communicate what He wants to say, is to slander and impugn the One of Whom it is said, **“Never man spake like this man”** (John 7:46). If there is ever a failure to communicate, it is on our part and not His. Our job is to figure out what He said, not to question it!

But what we have there in verses 26-27, is the single most important occurrence effecting the fulfillment of the curse upon Canaan in our passage in chapter 9 verse 25, **“Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.”**

Now that is a Hebrew hyperbole: a figure of speech. The Hebrew hyperbole: like “Lord of lords” and “King of kings,” these are Hebrew hyperboles. Such is also the phrase: “A Servant of servants.” The construction of the Hebrew hyperbole, in all of these cases, speaks of, or expresses, the idea of: “par excel lance.” Our Lord is a Lord above all lords, and a King above all kings: not only in position, but also in quality. That is the idea that is expressed there. Of course He is a King above kings in position. All the Word of God teaches that. But the Hebrew hyperbole has reference in particular to quality.

The NIV, which is a corrupt translation: the devils own,

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translates this verse (9:25) "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers." And that in fact is an absolutely false translation (of which the NIV is utterly prone to exhibit). But to the contrary, in the thinking of the far eastern mind, this would be like a man who had a thousand servants, and there is one who just excelleth them all: the best servant he had! As to quality: "a servant of servants!" He excelled them all. Not the lowest of slaves. But Canaan would serve his fellow man, in a way, far beyond the average servant. A servant, none the less, but a "servant of servants" "Par Excel lance!"

I find it very interesting though, that the liberal position, and their liberal translation: the NIV, supports slavery, and seeks to bring it about (though they raise a hue and a cry to try to pretend otherwise). They are either trying to cast aspersion upon the Word of God, or they are manifesting blatant hypocrisy in their politics! And today, they would in fact subjugate the whole human race to the bondage of socialism and totalitarianism if only they could. Liberalism has always been self contradictory. But Isaiah 32:5 says that there is coming a day when, "**The vile person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl said to be bountiful,**" but they will be seen for what they are. And we see that they are known for their works, even their wicked translations of the Word of God.

But I want you to notice here, Noah cursed Canaan, he did not curse Ham (the one who saw his nakedness), he cursed Ham's son. For in old Semitic tradition, if you curse a man, you, in effect, curse his father. If Noah had cursed

Ham he'd a been cursing himself! He cursed Ham's son: Canaan; and cursed Ham in the process... and cursed all their progeny as well...as the curse went out and was passed on. So there would be degrees of this curse as it went out through these men's descendents. And that is exactly what we find historically, as we shall see.

Now I want you to notice in chapter 10 that there are three divisions, so that we might outline it thusly:

GENESIS CHAPTER 10

1. The descendants of Japheth (verses 2-5). Including Russia and the Germanic peoples (and most all of the European nations) by their ancient names; the Indo-European peoples. What we would generally speak of as "Caucasians" today. Hitler fanatically and satanically singled out what he thought of as a superior strain of these and spoke of the Aryan races. Keep in mind our opening passage: Acts 17:26-27, that God "**hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us...**"

Modern man has unscientifically ascribed that term "races" to the different families of man; and by so doing they themselves have created "racial" strife and division. Again: the liberals own emphasis of wording, creating what they themselves pretend to decry. Creating "racism" by their unnatural division and by their constant emphasis upon differences that God's Word does not even recognize. We are all of the same race. We are all of the Adamic race. And we all

need to be concerned with our standing before God, and not our standing before our fellow man. We have all sinned in Adam, and need forgiveness in Christ. And all this constant reporting and emphasis upon false divisions and differences only serves as a diversionary tactic of the devil that seeks to keep men's attentions from this all important human need of finding peace with God in Christ. It is God Who Adam and all his descendents have offended.

2. The descendants of Ham (verses 6-20). Cush is Ethiopia, Mizraim is Egypt, then you see the Canaanites there in verse 7 are the peoples that populated the whole Arab peninsula at one time, the same Sheba and Dedan who are allied with us in the Middle East today as seen in Ezekiel 38: all those rich Arab Emirates; who have since become overrun by the descendents of Ishmael and of Esau, but are still named after the first inhabitants. There is also the first Babylonian Empire: the Old Babylonian Empire, verses 8-10. There it was Hamitic. But the Neo-Babylonian Empire later on would be Semitic, as the Semitic peoples displaced the earlier Hamitic tribes. Then there is the Assyrian Empire there in verse 11. Ludim in Lybia (v:13); and, as I said, Mizraim is Egypt. The Philistines are in v:14 (Philistim); and notice especially (because we are going to see it again later) I want you to notice Caphtorim in verse 14, this is Minoa, Minos, or the Old Minoan Civilization on the Island of Crete as they came to be called after their first great king: King Minos. But then, as they expanded onto the Greek mainland, it became known as the Mycenaean Civilization, that was later conquered and pushed out by the Hellenistic Greeks or sons of Javan, as we had in verse 4

(during the later expansion of the sons of Japheth, these will come down, over 1,000 years later, but still almost 1,000 B.C. to us). But I want you to remember that the first people who lived there on the Greek mainland were these sons of Ham, the Caphtorim that we see in v:14. And then, you have the Sidonians of Sidon in verse 15 (That by verese 19 is seen as it will become: a city. The city of Sidon. This is the beginning of what will later be seen to be that great seafaring and trading people: the Phoenicians; who in all likelihood sailed as far as even to the new world, possibly even becoming the beginning of the earliest Mesoamerican civilizations). And then you have Heth in verse 15: the Hittites. You know, archeologists did not even believe that there ever was a Hittite Civilization, though it is mentioned in the Bible some 26 times, no one believed it existed! Until lo, and behold in 1872, archeological proof of its existence was found throughout Asia Minor. You know, archeologists can be right, if they will just go by the Bible. And then, I believe that the Sinite in verse 17 may very well be the originator of a people who have been known throughout history by the prefix "Sino," as in "Sino-American" relations, or as in the "Sino-Japanese" war. We are speaking of China are we not? I believe everybody who is on the face of the earth today is descended from one of these names in Genesis chapter 10.

3. And finally: the descendants of Shem (verses 21-31). There, you have "Eber" in verse 21; and that, in fact, is where the name "Hebrew" comes from. This is where the Hebrew people derive their name. And then most all of the names associated therewith

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in the following verses are people who inhabit the Arabian peninsula or other areas of the Middle East today.

You see many of these names throughout the Bible are still recognizable today. And verse 32 says: **“These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.”**

Now then, here in verses 9-10, Nimrod, a descendent of Ham, took the lead in the building of the Tower of Babel. And history shows us, that they also took the brunt of the curse: the confounding of their language. Which is evidenced by the fact that in Africa, for example, you can have two tribes on two different sides of the same river, their languages seemingly totally unrelated. Obviously, both of them Hamitic. Both descendants of Ham. But mass confusion reigns in the Hamitic tongues, because they received the brunt of the curse. Verses, for example, the Romance languages (that is not romance, as in love; but that is Romance, as in “derived from the Roman or Latin tongue:” as in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Rumanian, etc. They are all obviously related - with relatively little change (as compared to Hamitic tongues, which are wildly varied or changed).

But I would have you to know also, that not all Hamites are black men. The word “Phoenician” for example, in the Old Testament. Etymologically, the word “Phoenician” originally meant: “red skin.” That may not be a politically correct phraseology today, to call someone a “redskin,”

they say that is degrading today. But once there was a people who openly acknowledged and owned themselves as that, and called themselves: “Phoenicians” or “red-skins.” And I can prove by the record of history that they were originally of Hamitic origin.

And history shows that most of the Hamitic families were driven out of their original homelands and pushed along before following conquering hordes of: 1st Semitic families, and then 2^{ndly} Japhetic families. So that their original homelands became overrun, and they became so intermarried, and heavily influenced over a 2,000 year period, that they eventually took on a strong Semitic character, till even the language they ended up with in some cases is considered by most to have become mostly Semitic by the end of the history of some of their earliest civilizations. Such was the fate of the transition from the Old Babylonian Empire (Hamitic) to the Neo-Babylonian Empire over a thousand years later on (Semitic). Such was also the history of empires in Egypt between the old kingdom and the new kingdom when Egypt was overrun by the Hyksos, a Semitic people from across the Sinai. And I believe this pattern also played out in the area of the Assyrian Empire. And meanwhile, worldwide, the Hamites kept “serving” their fellow man by settling a region, just to be pushed out; thus fulfilling the prophecy of becoming **“a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren”** (Gen. 9:25). They served as the original conquerors of the land, the original inventors of the agriculture and the industry which was necessary to do so. The original innovators of all the basic inventions of man.

And that is what we will see

throughout history, over and over again = a supplanting of peoples; 1st, a settling of a land by the descendents of Ham. Ham develops the land, subdues it (the first to be pushed out on the frontier because of his confusing language, his bad language, if you will. No one can understand him). But as he moves on: he is the first to develop the land, the first to cultivate it, dig or establish wells, shelters, trails, and the tools and attire necessary to endure whatever climate it happens to be. Just as the white man had to live like the Indian here in America when first he came to this new land. Then came the Semites, and then the Japhethites to (quote) **“dwell in their stead”** (as the Bible itself says it over and over again). Even as the Hebrew people pushed out the Hamites that were in the land before them when the Lord gave them the land. It said repeatedly, they **“dwelt in their stead,”** as it says repeatedly in the second chapter of Deuteronomy.

Let me give you an example of what I am talking about: Let me start by telling you, I took a course down at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee, 30 some years ago. It was on the historical root of the English language: as derived from the Indo-European tongues, as seen through comparative linguistics and the etymology of words in our language; or that is: their historical roots. It was taught by the late Professor Edwin Irwin, perhaps one of the foremost professors of language throughout the South at that time.

We studied language etymologically, again: referring to the history of words, but in their historical setting. That was the emphasis. Now, you can study the history of a language and the migration of a people all at one

and the same time, by the place names that they give to things. Again, this was the central theme of the course: English came through the Germanic branch of the Indo-European family. The Germanic Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britain took place between 450 and 600 AD, but it goes back way before that, as it traced its way across all of Europe. And you can trace the migration paths that they took by the place names they gave to geographical features as they came across the European continent. So we know that the same people who named this mountain range (for example), in South Eastern Europe, were the same people, same language, which later on a few centuries further on named such and such a river, or a lake (from the same language you see: demonstrating only a few centuries of change in the language). And thus we can see how the language develops as time goes on. But here then is the evidence therein, that these were the same peoples, and that this was just the known course of the development of our language, and proof of their migration from all the way back to the Fertile Crescent traced through the language. And in the course of all this it is freely admitted that the linguists all believe that all the languages of man do in fact go back to a common language that had its origin somewhere in the Fertile Crescent, a grand daddy Sanskrit of all time, which has since been lost to mankind. But Oh how they love to speculate on it! But what are we talking about here? We are talking about a pre-flood language, are we not? A pre-tower of Babel language.

Now I got along with that professor famously. That is, until he decided to have us give an

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oral report on any aspect of the course that we so choose; and he would count that as our term final. And so, I chose to tell about how everything that we had studied in that course perfectly fits the outline of history as it is recorded in the Bible; but it was diametrically opposed to the theories of the origin of man, as is taught in that same institution just down the hall in their science classes. And all those pop quizzes that I had maxed, all those A's on everything I had turned in up to that point - they all got averaged out to a C (for one reason and one reason alone: that was a preparatory class in which the student was required to get a B or above if one wanted to go on to do doctoral level work at that institution. And with my views, though they did adroitly sum up the gist of that class: the truth that the evidence pointed to was there for all to see; but that I called attention to it, was not in the least bit appreciated. And I was effectively being kept out of the inner circle, by being given a C. He saw to it that I would not be allowed to go on and get a PHD. But that is alright, I had no intention of entering that circle anyway.

But you see, it can all be traced back to the Tigris-Euphrates valley. Up over the Caspian Sea, through southern Russia, and all the way across Europe. In the Indo-Aryan or Indo-European languages we see the sons of Japheth, migrating from the Fertile Crescent, and then northwards: till some went south into India, and some went Northwest through Europe. That course was a course on the languages of the sons of Japheth, though they knew it not.

In that course we again spoke of a "sub-planting," wherein someone else was coming along and dwelling in ones stead, even as we have herein Biblically observed before. For example, I believe that the Celts, which originally populated England, were all Hamitic, all descendents of Ham, all following that exact self same pattern as befits the prophecy of the sons of Noah in Genesis 9:25-27, and all of chapter 10.

Even so, the Germanic tribes broke down and divided, coming across Europe in the course of two thousand years; first the Normans, and then the Anglo Saxons overran England and displaced the Celtic tribes; even to the extent that today it is called "England" "Land of the Angles" or "Anglo-Saxons." We can trace them by their language (of course, this is closer to our history, and we know what happened there), but then, too, when we speak of Indo-European Aryan languages: and they talk about the Aryan invasion into India. (Some of these Germanic tribes went north, some went south.) Thousands of years before Christ Hamites had settled in India. And yet, mere hundreds of years before Christ - Germanic tribes, or Aryan tribes pushed down through India, pushing them out; driving them across the Pacific to become Polynesians, and the Indonesians, and the Aborigines of Australia. And you yet see where they came from in those words: Indonesia, and Indochina. They came from India. And there was yet preserved, in the cast system of some parts of Southern India—a people that yet bear a strong family resemblance to the Aborigines of Australia. In fact, I have recently seen a study where this has been verified by DNA analysis. The Aborigines are

the descendents of the original inhabitants of India.

And some of them are still in India; they could not get them all out, though they would have if they could. In the prejudices of these Aryan tribes, they formed the "Cast System" the worst form and longest lasting form of apartheid that there ever was (for they developed a whole religious system to justify its existence!). That is what Hinduism is! Nevertheless, as they slowly mixed races the highborn lighter skinned peoples subjected the darker ones as they blended into modern India.

Nevertheless, Hamites also populated China, Korea...they came across the Bearing Strait into Alaska, down the coast of North America long before they ever spread across the continent. They took the path of least resistance first: down the west coast...all the way to the tip of South America.

When I was a pastor in Anchorage, Alaska there was an Eskimo brother who was a member in the church there. Highly educated, with a PHD in geology, he worked for the oil companies. But he had an interest in languages. He had heard the Korean language, as well as other Asian languages. And he had a tape of the Araucanian Indian language of the tribes of southern Chile and Argentina at the southernmost tip of South America. He told me that he was convinced that this was distinctly descended from his native language, and that his was obviously descended from the Korean.

Tierra Del Fuego, the modern language equivalent of the Araucanian Indian language name for that "end of the earth" region, means just that "end of the earth!" Whatever else those migrating

peoples might have known by the time that they got there, they understood at least this, that they were fulfilling some old cultural mandate to spread abroad and to **"Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion..."** over the whole creation, as God had given them command to do so in Genesis 1:28 and also in chapter 9 and verses 1-2. They knew that they were fulfilling that same cultural mandate; and they knew when they got there, that they had gone as far as they could.

I myself have heard the affirmative expression "yes" in many of these languages, as well as in many of the languages of the North American Indians. They are all either a variant of "ha!" or "aha!" As the affirmative is pronounced in Japanese and Chinese. All obviously related. All obviously from the same historical source.

And so time and time again we see, that what we know about the history of language is diametrically opposed to all this silly "scientific?" speculation that is going on about the origin of the species. What we know overthrows the speculation of men.

Today, it is becoming popular and extremely politically correct to teach that the cradle of life was in Africa. I am afraid that they do that to appease the racial political activism that is so prevalent today. There is no real evidence for it. A few shards of puzzles cast to fit the preconceived opinions of a few men who have been put forward to cast doubt upon mountains of known truth. It is being used to bolster black pride. But they would not need that, and would not even want it, if they only knew their own history. All of those early Civilizations of

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man were Hamitic in origin. The Old Babylonian, the Egyptian, the Hittites, the great Mycenaean's, the astounding Phoenicians. They were the first explorers and colonizers of the old world. These were the first to cultivate the land; but then only to leave it to others.

They were the first inventors of all the most basic inventions of man: the scythe, the wheel, the water wheel; they first developed the art of fabrics, sewing and weaving; the first to domesticate animals; to develop the basic food crops, such as corn, potatoes, beans, and cereals; they were the first to begin a system of banking and commerce; record keeping, accounting such as are seen in the clay tablets we dig up out of the mounds that are left of their cities. Basic plumbing, porcelain and glass. Both paper and gunpowder were of Chinese, Hamitic origin. Hamites were the beginners of the so-called "bronze age" after the flood. The first to use most all the metals.

Listen closely and understand: today, as you look out upon the so-called "primitive" peoples of the world: Hamites are not primitive races; there are no primitive races. There are no Pre-historic peoples. There is only degenerate man! The so-called "primitive" tribes that are found today are what is left over after a civilization has degenerated to the point of collapse and beyond.

Anthropologically, the anthropologist likes to classify the races as: 1. Negroid, 2. Mongoloid, and 3. Caucasoid. That is a false division. Utterly misleading! Negroid and Mongoloid are both Hamitic. Then they lump both Japheth and Shem under Caucasoid. They have all kinds

of problems with this kind of classification system. It just does not fit! It would be amazing how well it would fit, if they would just recognize and use God's outline of it all: Hamitic, Semitic, and Japhetic.

As we have seen: there is only one race: but there are three families: 1. There was the Hamitic Civilizations (which ran their course). 2. Then there was the Semitic Civilizations (Asshur, 10:22, the Assyrian Civilization. Arphaxad: the Chaldean, or Neo-Babylonian (you will recall that the Old Babylonian Empire was Hamitic; but the Neo-Babylonian Empire, a different people entirely, were Semitic). Aram, V:22 again, the Syrian nation. Elam becomes Persia, and on and on. 3. The third round of civilizations are Japhetic, the ancestry of which, or in which, most Americans fit.

Again, another correction which is needed: is that, if you go to study history in a secular school or college you will study: 1. Ancient History. 2. And Modern History. 3. They may even throw in the Middle Ages in there somewhere (but in both their Modern History, and their middle history, you will be studying Japhetic History).

In reality, there is: 1. Hamitic History, when Ham was in the ascendancy (up until about 1500 B.C. inter lapping with). 2. Semitic History (from about 2000 B.C. to 500 B.C.) and 3. Japhetic History, starting with the Hellenistic Greeks on thru Rome and on to us.

The 1st two waves of civilization, from about 2,400 B.C. (after the flood) to about 300 B.C., was when the Hamitic civilizations had paved the way for and were being supplanted by Semitic peoples, that came along and **"dwelt in their stead."** That

is our chapter 9:26 in such a way: served they Shem. They prepared the way for them. Even as the Israelites came in (Semitic) - took the land of Canaan (Hamitic) - and dwelt in their stead.

And now, in more modern history, Japheth has been in the ascendancy. And again, he took from Ham whatsoever came to his hand. Not only in England, as with the Celts, as we have already seen. Not only in Europe; but even over in this hemisphere, the great civilizations of the Inca, and the Aztec, and the Mayan: they, too, were Hamitic in origin.

Even in North America. How did we settle this land? We took it inch by inch from the Hamitic Indians who were here before us. And they taught us how to plant corn, and how to fish the beaver ponds, and hunt the buffalo, and live off the land; and then we pushed them out, and took it over.

Listen, I am not passing judgment, one way or the other. God said that is the way it would be!

Today, Japhethites control everything from Europe to America to Australia. And in every case we took it away from the Hamites.

There has never been another document like the Table of the Nations in Genesis chapter 10! God foretold the complete history of man before it ever even happened!

In chapter 10 and verse 2 you have Germany (Gomer), Russia (Magog), the Medes (Madai), the Greeks (Javan), more of the people who populated Russia (Tubal and Meschek), and the Thracians (Tiras). Javan there: one of those first barbarian tribes to descend out of the Barbarian hordes of Europe from the north (as even others descended much later at the fall of the Roman Empire);

but Javan here, descended into the Greek Peloponnesus (that hand shaped peninsula that hangs down into the Mediterranean Sea just west of Asia Minor, that was the Greek mainland of Aristotle and Plato fame. Before Plato and Aristotle ever even lived: Javan, the Hellenists, took it away from the Mycenaean Civilization (that is that Caphtorim of Chapter 10 verse 14 in the Hamitic section). {And I will show you something else the Bible tells us about them in just a moment}. Nevertheless, all the great powers today are all Japhetic, with the exception of China (God has reserved them for a specific purpose as well, at the end of the Tribulation, at the battle of Armageddon). And the Semitic Jews are right where God said they would be in this, the last days. And so we see all the nations still represented here at the end as well. God's purpose is still being fulfilled in them.

But as to their strength, they have all come forth as a flower: to bud, and to blossom, and to bloom; each to fall to the earth just to be replaced by another. And they will not recycle again: the strength of the nations is spent!

These cocoa leaf chewing natives of Columbia and Peru are what is left, after the collapse of a civilization! These head hunter cannibals of Central America is what is left! There are no primitive tribes! There is only degenerate man.

The Table of the Nations! There is not another document like it anywhere in any library of man! Given before it ever even happened. Listen, we do not have to approve any of the atrocities of history. But we can not change it. Yet we better well believe it. It will be true whether we believe it

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or not.

I did a study on “slavery” in conjunction with this: bear in mind that there has almost always been slavery; but throughout most of man’s history men have enslaved people who looked much like themselves when one nation conquered a neighboring nation and enslaved them. Modern “gangland” slavery, “plantation” slavery, what is known as “racial” slavery, is of a rather more recent origin. In the 1400’s as the Portuguese prince known as Prince Henry the Navigator sent his expeditions exploring the coast of Africa, he received an exclusive franchise: a Papal concession, a Bull of authority from the Pope of Rome, granting the Portuguese all the gold and ivory and slave trade of Africa. On January 8, 1455 Pope Nicholas V granted to King Alfonso V of Portugal the exclusive right to all such trade. As quoted from Wikipedia: “In 1452, Pope Nicholas V issued the papal bull *Dum Diversas*, granting Afonso V the right to reduce “Saracens, pagans and any other unbelievers” to hereditary slavery. This approval of slavery was reaffirmed and extended in the Romanus Pontifex bull of 1455 (also by Nicholas V). These papal bulls came to serve as a justification for the subsequent era of slave trade and European colonialism.” Even secular history lays the blame at the feet of Rome. But it was not long before they found that there was not very much gold and there was not that much ivory either. Ah, but there were slaves a plenty. Before long the Spanish King demanded such an exclusive right as well. And it wasn’t very much longer till other Popes began dividing up

the New World between Spain and Portugal to which they might import those slaves to build their plantations: Pope Alexander VI, 1493; Pope Paul III, 1545. This is why Brazil speaks Portuguese and all the rest of South America speaks Spanish. It’s there for all the world to see.

It was almost a hundred years later (a full century later!) that the Dutch and the English, not being able to withstand the temptation of such wealth, entered into the slave trade as well. But originally these were the wares of Mystery Babylon. Having so long enslaved souls, it was not such a great leap for them to enslave the bodies of men as well. If you want to see it all foretold in the Word of God, just look over in Revelation 18:13. Many of us know full well who Revelation 17 & 18 is talking about. Many of us were saved out of this system and can claim Revelation 18:4 for ourselves. Many have been her wares throughout her incarnations, but the end of her wares are **“slaves, and the souls of men.”**

They think to trade in “souls” in their hellish doctrine of purgatory wherein they think that they can sell masses for the souls in purgatory. There has possibly never been a more satanically inspired doctrine than this, but Roman Catholicism was also the first to translate Genesis 9:25, “lowest of slaves” in justification of her enslavement of others. The Catholic Bible and the NIV show their true colors in being in agreement, in that both of them give this same utterly false rendition; and thus seek to conceal the glorious truth of which this paper is written, the truth of the fulfillment of these verses.

History has been a history of man’s inhumanity to man, because of sin, because of the fall of man

in the Garden of Eden. But there is a beautiful side to this as well; and that is the side that we want to consider now.

Look again at Genesis chapter 9 verse 26. It says: **“Blessed be the LORD God of Shem;...”** who was the forefather of Abraham. And verse 27, **“God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem;...”** Those of you who are true students of prophecy know this to be Messianic in nature: Shem would be especially blessed by being the natural ancestor of the Messiah, and Japheth would **“dwell in the tents of Shem.”** And by and large Christianity has found its way in Western Civilization amongst the Japhethites. But you and I both know full well that there is not a Hamite or a Semite who knows Christ that does not rejoice over this as well, and counts it a blessing just to know Him.

I want you to see today, that though God singled out Abraham of the family of Shem, and promised to him a seed, a most peculiar seed (singular), the Christ-line (through which would come the Christ); that seed was carried through Abraham. And yet, I want you to see that God never forgot any of the families of man.

Let us go ahead to the New Testament now to see the fulfillment there of Mark 15:21, and we will wrap this up with the blessing. (This is recorded in Luke 23:26 as well). In Mark 15:13-14, it is recorded that the Jews cried **“crucify Him... crucify Him.”** The Jews (the Semites) cried that. Then in verses 12-15, **“And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews? And they cried out again, Crucify him. Then Pilate said unto them,**

Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.” Pilate was a Gentile, a Roman governor, of the seed of Japheth!

Then verses 16-21, **“And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him. And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian (that is in Africa, this is a Hamite!), who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, (him they did compel) to bear His cross.”**

Every jot and every tittle, every word in the Word of God is there for a purpose. And so we see all three of the descendents of Noah there at the crucifixion. Today, the Catholics blame the Jews, and the Jews blame the Catholics as the descendents of Rome. But listen! If you do not take the blame, own the part, that He died for you, for your sins, then are ye yet in your sins.

We are getting ahead of ourselves here: but you might notice a center reference on “Rufus” in verse 21. Why are Alexander and Rufus even mentioned? The children of this “Simon the Cyrenian?” As

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I say, I do not believe that there is anything in the Word of God that is not there on purpose. Many believe that this is the same "Rufus" that is mentioned in Romans 16:13, "**Rufus chosen in the Lord.**" I do not know that for certain. But why does God tell us this here otherwise? Rome was a multicultural civilization as well. And those Roman roads were as much an innovation and encouragement to travel in that day as the automobile has been in ours. And all roads lead to Rome.

But here, the inerrant and inspired account does tell us that all three of the families of man were involved in the crucifixion and all three had a hand at Calvary. All three were guilty of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not a one abstained. Each was of service and each served each other. Each one was aiding and abetting in this atrocity of the murder of the Son of Man. In this picture, not a one of them would have this man, Jesus, to rule and to reign over them.

Let every reader who might question the Word of God seriously ask themselves the question: "In Whose plan and purpose, and under Whose hand, was painted the picture we are about to see?"

I wish I had time to develop this as well: 1. The Jews - the Semites - represented orthodox religion. 2. Simon the Cyrenian represented paganism - heathenism, in all its forms. 3. Pilate represented the religion of man - humanism, liberalism, and intellectualism: he who said: "Truth, what is truth?" looked Truth in the face - and did not recognize it - did not believe in any absolute truths - did not believe you could know anything

of eternal value - a liberal before his time. Pilate burns in hell today, without the slightest sliver of comfort to be found anywhere in any dark corner of all his power to reason. What sincere reader would honestly like to be in his shoes at this moment? All are in rebellion against God - you see - naturally speaking.

Then now, think with me and to save time: Acts Chapters 8, 9, & 10 (and it is my hope that you will study each thoroughly, but I will try to condense):

Acts 8:26-40 - God saves the Ethiopian Eunuch (a black man - a Hamite). I believe that this was the seed of the Donatist Revival throughout North Africa. "They of the black tents," as they were called in Benedict's *History of the Donatists*. For those of you who are familiar with the chart at the end of *The Trail of Blood*, Brother J. M. Carroll speaks of the Donatists as the first stronghold of the Anabaptists. In Benedict's *History of the Donatists* (1875), Brother David Benedict goes into great depth about them. When the Roman Catholic Church was just coming into existence 300 years after Christ, these were the first that this new church-state-religion wielded the sword of the state to try to eliminate during the fourth century. Emperor Constantine tried to force everyone who named the name of Christ to join his new abomination. He sent so-called "saint" Augustine of Roman Catholic fame to Carthage to interrogate them as to why they would not join in: 'why would you remain separate from us, why would you shun the spoils of church-state religion?'

Some of them walked as much as 1,000 miles across North Africa, "**ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh**

you a reason of the hope that is in you," as I Peter 3:15 says. And we have that famous Donatist quote in which they asked back: "What place hath the prelate in the palace, and what place hath the prince in the pulpit?" What were they saying? But "**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**" They plainly said that Caesar had no place in the pulpit, nor any place in dictating what men were to believe.

Today, there is a faction (Farrakhan, Mohammed Ali and the like) that would lead black people into becoming black Muslims. They would have them to think of that as their "roots!" And would lead them to trust in a religion that has only and ever tried to sell them into slavery. Why would anyone want to trace their roots to some 1200 years later when the Arabian Muslims marched into Africa...bought out whole tribes...pitted tribe against tribe to enslave tribes...that they could then march them out to the gold coast and sell them to some Portuguese or Spanish slaver... Why would you want to do that? Where are there any desirable "roots" in that? These people were not Muslim before or after that, until they were forced into it.

I could go back and identify with my ancestors, and stain my skin blue, and coat my hair with lye, and make it to stand straight up and back: running around worshipping Woden and Frigg and Baldar - and the spirit of every hill and dale. But by the grace of God we could identify with the Donatists, and the Bogomils, the Paulicians, the Waldenses and Albigenses; the Apostle Paul, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. These are worthy examples to follow after.

Well, did you ever wonder why

God saved first a Hamite, in Acts chapter 8? And why in this order?

First the Ethiopian Eunuch in chapter 8. Then, Saul of Tarsus - a Semite, in Acts chapter 9: renaming him the Apostle Paul. And then finally back to back, in Acts chapter 10, Cornelius, that Roman Centurion - a Japhethite, and all his household, as these sons of Japheth would " **dwell in the tents of Shem.**" These three, in the exact same order as Noah's prophecy upon his three sons there in Genesis chapter 9: Ham, Shem & Japheth; just in that order.

You see, God never forgot about the three families of man. He shows that they are all guilty of the blood of Christ at the crucifixion; but then, He shows that He applies the benefits of that sacrifice to some from all three families as well (whosoever will repent and believe the Gospel: for them Christ has paid it all).

And these men become one in Christ (the only way men will ever be one!). When the Pope came to Denver in 1993 (at the time I was living in Denver), they had their world youth day, and they had this little emblem: a row of stick figure people joined all in a row, joined hand to hand, hand in hand, on and on across the page. They are trying to get everyone to join hand in hand in their unholy cause, but God long ago foretold it. For Proverbs 11:21 warns of it, "**Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.**" And Proverbs 16:5 perfectly describes their modern attempts to ensnare men's souls, "**Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.**" I believe that this verse depicts

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the spirit of antichrist that is behind this ecumenicalism, while the previous verse depicts the people that are joining hands verses the Lord's people who remain separate. But they are the ones who are choosing those symbols as trademarks of their unscriptural ecumenicalism. Where in the Word of God does it say that the Lord's churches are to join with the world's churches? Nowhere! **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty"** (II Cor. 6:17-18). And the verses that go before perfectly describe their cathedrals and churches that are filled with idols! An idol is an idol is an idol.

You know, our Acts chapter 10 here is where the Catholics and the Protestants try to get their "household salvation." They try to say that if you are saved (and by that, they mean "baptized" or part of some church-state covenant, or church covenant as a church member; they have never understood true scriptural salvation); but if you are "saved" your children will be saved. But that is not what Acts chapter 10 is teaching at all. In Acts 10 they were all evidently old enough to believe, and all that believed and were thus saved already, were baptized (10:43). And God gave visible manifestation, affirming, that the Gospel was now gone out unto the Gentiles (unto Japheth here in large measure). But this "household" bunch come up with "godmothers" and "godfathers," totally unscriptural terms: people

who are supposed to see to it that these "children" which they have imagined into this context, will be brought up in that vain faith (something which they are in no way able to assure; seeing: "salvation is of the Lord"). But they would enlist one generation to enslave the next if you will let them. Dealing in the souls of men.

If they would just preach, "Except ye repent and believe the Gospel, you will perish in the eternal flames of hell!" If they would just do that and believe that, they would quit trying to import the pagan beat of the music of Africa into our music, that is destroying our young people. They would quit trying to import the paganism of my forefathers into the environmental political agenda that is trying to get people to hug trees and worship mother earth and the like. And they would stop creating the racial class warfare that they themselves are the authors of. They are trying to create a common cause upon which to build a new world order, and all they are doing is creating hyphenated-Americans. Afro-Americans; Anglo-Americans; Spanish-Americans; Latin-Americans: they are "celebrating" diversity and causing division. Their own leaders empower themselves, keeping their own people in poverty, dependent upon government. And their message is: 'you have all been done wrong: the black man has been wronged, the red man has been wronged; everyone has been done wrong; and by God, we ought to be indignant about it!

Let me tell you God's Kingdom is built upon another message entirely. "We have all done wrong, and we ought to be ashamed and repent of it."

In Acts 8, 9, & 10 God saves individuals from each and every

one of the three families of man. Saves them for time and eternity. And there they are but a sample, of the fullness of that which they represent: the fullness of the family of God.

I would like to direct your attention now to Acts chapters 24, 25, & 26; where the Apostle Paul stands before three other men, to witness and to testify before them. Think with me for a moment on these three men in Acts 24, 25, & 26. Now, working backwards: I have known for a long time that Herod Agrippa the II, in Acts 26 was a Semite: an Edomite, a descendent of Esau, son of Isaac, son of Abraham. A Semite more closely related to the Jews than most of the sons of Shem. And I have known that Porcius Festus in Acts 25, as the Roman Governor, was a Japhethite, a Roman. I suspected for a long time that the preceding Roman Governor: Felix in Acts chapter 24, was a Hamite; but it took some time before I had proof.

I read in Josephus (Josephus, the 1st Century Jewish historian). He wrote and spoke of Felix, the brother of Pallas. Of how that they were both ex-slaves, and that Felix had become the Procurator of Judea through the influence of his brother Pallas. Josephus tells how Felix ruled with the appetite of a slave, but the authority of a king. He considered himself licensed to commit any crime or cruelty. I eventually learned that his brother Pallas had gained for himself a position of prominence as one of the three highest Civil Servants at Rome. It turns out: Emperor Claudius had appointed ex-slaves to administer the government of Rome. He figured that they would so owe him their allegiance that he could safely wine and dine himself to death without worry of adversaries.

And it worked, he did. But Pallas had finagled himself into being in charge of the bread supply. He determined who ate or not. And by clever manipulation of this power he was able to secure the popularity of the masses. Not only so, but he became filthy rich. Yet, in all my study I could nowhere find the ancestry of these two brothers.

Josephus, now and again, mentions one Tacitus, another 1st Century historian: a Roman historian. So it came to pass one Saturday afternoon, my daughter and I spent the whole day down at the Main Denver Public Library. Our nation's public libraries have long been in the process of relegating serious study materials into storage and onto electronic storage files; that, unless you know about them, nobody will ever even see them anymore. They are not physically there, to be seen, and to spark a young mind's curiosity. Even the new architecture of our modern libraries is an architecture of open and empty space: large voids of airy nothingness. But this was back in the day when all this was in the process of coming to pass. And that day I kept finding books in the card catalogs that were not to be found on the shelves. I would make inquiry and the librarian would have to unlock the basement and run down and rescue some book that was being readied to be discarded or sold off, find whichever book I had requested, and bring it back up that it might be perused one last time. After quite a number of trips up and down those stairs the librarian finally got tired of all that and just gave me the key and told me to lock up when I was done. Oh, what a sight to behold! It was like some futuristic movie where the lead actor just finds out

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that there once happened to be such a thing as a real library with real books, serious, sincere books! We spent the whole day down there.

Turns out, Tacitus wrote 16 annals of the history of Rome. Sixteen books (7, 8, 9, & 10 are missing. Nobody has them today). He wrote 5 histories of the wars of Rome, a biography on Julius Agricola (a Roman General), a book on Germany and its tribes, and a dialogue on oratory. Remember, he is a 1st Century historian; contemporary of the time we are speaking about in the Book of Acts. He was alive at the time that Luke was writing the Book of Acts.

In the 12th Annul of Tacitus (translated by Alfred John Church & William Jackson Broadribble), in section 53 it says: "Among the various items taken care of during the proceedings of a session of the Senate, in one item was offered "to Pallas" "on the motion of Barea Soranus, counsul-elect, the decorations of the praetorship and fifteen million sesterces. Cornelius Scipio added that he deserved public thanks! For thinking less of his ancient nobility as a descendant from the kings of Arcadia than of the welfare of the state, and allowing himself to be numbered among the emperors ministers. Then his representative Claudius assured them that Pallas was content with the honor, and that he limited himself to his former poverty. A decree of the Senate was publicly inscribed on a bronze tablet, heaping the praises of "Primitive frugality on a freedman, the possessor of three hundred million sesterces."

That last, was a little bit of Tacitus's ridicule - in a sardonic

comment about: "heaping the praises of primitive frugality on a freedman, the possessor of 300 million sesterces." Because, you see, for example: in Donald Dudley's commentary upon Tacitus on this very passage, he says: "Thus - an ex-slave worth 300 million sesterces was thanked for showing old-world frugality..."willingly" limiting himself to 300 million sesterces! (He had plundered that amount, from the treasury, and here - they have to buy him off and bribe him to step down - with 15 million more!)

A sesterce was worth of a denarius. It is easy to compute: 300 million sesterces = 781,250 lbs. of silver. At today's rates he was worth billions and billions of dollars!

It was what? It was politics as usual, was it not? But when Emperor Claudius died, Nero came in, and he wanted him to step down: Nero feared Pallas! Apparently, that was what the bribe was all about: to get him to step down. Nero hoped that he would die, and that all that wealth would revert to the state. I do not know how long he lived, but he apparently lived in luxury till the day he died.

But I have started all of that because, listen, Acts 24, Felix was Pallas's brother. In fact, Felix evidently acquired his position as procurator of Judea with Pallas's influence. Felix was a cruel and wicked man. Felix crucified 1,000's of Jews. He had enticed this "**Drusilla**" in verse 24, at sixteen, to leave the king of Odessa and come and become his 3rd wife. The Jewish nation was in turmoil because of Felix. He was eventually called home in disgrace.

But when Tacitus tells us of that bronze inscription in which Pallas

was the descendant of ancient Arcadian kings, he thus tells us Felix's ancestry as well, because they were brothers.

Arcadia, was a highland on the Greek Peloponnesus just north of Sparta. It was a holdover, or a remnant district of that old Mycenaean civilization that was on the Greek mainland (a protected mountain stronghold area); and they were left there from before the sons of Javan, before the Hellenistic Greeks ever showed up, there was this enclave of the descendants of Caphtorim (remember: "Caphtorim?" In Genesis 10:14, of the sons of Ham). That is where the Mycenaean civilization came from, through king Minos on the Island of Crete; and then in their next stage of growth as a civilization they were settling on the Greek mainland. They were descendants of the sons of Ham.

By the way, when they were being pushed out of the Greek Peloponnesus, they fled south, into the land of Canaan. This is where all the Philistines came from in abundance in the days of King Saul and King David. Were they coming out of the woodwork? No! They were coming by sea out of Mycenaea, which was being overrun by the sons of Javan. Amos 9:7 says: God brought the Philistines out of Caphtor, this is where they came from. Jeremiah 47:4 speaks of the Philistines, the remnant of the country of Caphtor. About 1100 B.C. the Dorians, the Ionians, and the Achaeans (sons of Javan, son of Japheth, came down from the north after having migrated north of the Caspian Sea, around the Black Sea, and through Europe; they came down and sacked the Mycenaean civilization in the first barbarian invasion from the north. Even as other Germanic

tribes will do later: the Gauls, the Lombards, the Goths, the Huns, and the Vandals will later sack Rome. But these sons of Javan, even in their time, created their own civilization: that of classical Greek fame. Conditions were right for it, and they were subsequently able to send forth Alexander the Great, who conquered all the then known world. But there was a whole lot of the world that was not known...listen,... the sons of Noah were migrating to India and China, and across the Bering Strait...and throughout the New World long before Columbus, even long before the Vikings.

But the sons of Ham had left a pocket there: in Arcadia: Hamites! And in the providence of God there was left a record of them there in the writings of Tacitus, that I might prove whereof I speak: And it is amazing what we can prove in ancient history if we will just believe the Bible. For example, I could prove where all that cocaine, that is being found in the bones and hair of all those Egyptian Pharaoh's mummies, came from, a product of Mesoamerica in the bones of Pharaohs! All that trace cocaine that is driving the archeologists crazy. It would be easy to prove and understand to anyone who believes the Bible and knows the history of the Phoenicians. But that is for another time.

Anyway, now we have a handle on it. Take the time to meditate upon it, and put the picture together.

Ask yourself, Who painted this picture that we are now able to behold? And Who providentially saw to it that the 12th annual of Tacitus's "History of Rome" was preserved? Who led me to find it? Would you have us to believe that Luke, the writer of the Book of

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. Could you please describe what is a worldly Christian?

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This is a very thoughtful and searching question that could no doubt be the subject of a book. It is a question that is definitely worthy of our devout attention in light of I John 2:15-17 which states: **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”** We may glean from these verses that worldliness is marked by sinful lusts, fleshly pride, and an antagonism for the revealed will of God. A worldly Christian is someone who in some measure is in agreement with a philosophy, an attitude, a system of belief that is contrary to God, His Word, and His will. A worldly Christian is one who has in some degree allowed his or her affection and desire for God to be misplaced by ungodly thoughts, attitudes, or people. James warns: **“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”** (4:4). To have affinity

for a system of belief that despises God, His Truth, and His people is the worst sort of betrayal likened to the horrific sin of adultery!

Worldliness creeps into the lives of Christians inwardly by catering to fleshly lusts in our thoughts, attitudes, and affections. Worldliness starts in the heart and the mind before it is ever manifested outwardly. This is why God’s children must daily pray with the Psalmist: **“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer”** (Ps. 19:14). The antidote for worldliness is a constant attitude and desire that seeks to please the Father by thinking, speaking, and doing what is pleasing in His sight! Oh that God would fill our hearts with sincere love and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ that motivates us to strive for likeness to His image. Jesus said **“...I do always those things that please him (the Father)”** (John 8:29). Every day we should prayerfully ask ourselves: “Is what I am about to do, think, or say more in line with God and His Word or the world of the ungodly that hates Him?” Do I have more sincere love for God that prompts me to love what He approves of or do I have a love for my sinful lusts that prompt me to wander from Him? When a Christian starts wandering from God in his heart and mind he will disregard God’s Word in favor of the opinions and philosophies of the world. He will find himself more attracted to sin and those who delight in it rather than communion with the

Living Christ and His people. The scourge of worldliness in a believer will deplete him of spiritual strength and leave him open to the attacks of sin and Satan who is **“the god of this world”** (II Cor. 4:4).

Faith and love for Christ will enable the believer to overcome the world (I John 5:4-5). Therefore we must feed the new man with the bounties gleaned from the Word of God. We must daily rely upon the work and strength of our Great Saviour if we are to conquer worldliness! As we rely on Christ we are responsible to deny worldly lusts that war against the soul (I Pet. 2:11). Let us pursue purity of thought and holiness of heart so that we may aspire to live the truth of James 1:27: **“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the Fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”**

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Worldly here is the adjective, while Christian is the noun. So that means a Christian that is acting like the world? **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”** (I John 2:15). A worldly Christian has divided loves, and cannot truly love the Lord, until they evict the love of the world out of their lives. Selah! Think about it! **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...But lay up for yourselves**

EDITOR’S NOTE: Elder Mike Dewitt has resigned his position on the forum. Bro. Mike mentioned that as a forum writer, “I have learned a great deal and matured as a child of God because of it.” We wish to thank Bro. Mike for his years of service as a forum writer and pray that the Lord continues blessing him in his ministry.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Elder Roger Reed is having eye problems plus other issues and feels it necessary to take a break from the forum. Lord willing, we pray he will be able to continue in the future.

treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ...No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matt. 6:19-24).

A worldly Christian is a child of God that is putting down roots in this world and no longer considers themselves to be a pilgrim. **“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. ...But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city”** (Heb. 11:13-16). This passage is referencing the life of Abraham and Sarah, and as we contrast them with Lot and his wife, we see a striking difference! Although both had riches in this life, Abraham did not build his life around them, while Lot’s

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. What should be a Christian's New Year resolution?

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"I am resolved what to do..."
(Luke 16:4). Top Ten New Year's Resolutions for a Christian!

#1- Love God more! Draw closer to Him and His Person this year. Repair the damaged breaches and faults in our life that keep us from connecting closely to Jesus Christ. Let nothing come between our God and us! **"And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good"** (Deut. 10:11-12). (Mark 12:30, Deut. 13:1-5, 30:19-20).

#2- Be more faithful in matters of worship, prayer, church participation this year. **"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"** (Rom. 12:1-2). (Heb. 10:25, Micah 6:8, I Thess. 5:11-28).

#3- Hate the sin in our own lives, more and more this year. **"Judge not, that ye be not judged. ... And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye"** (Matt. 7:1-5). We NEED to hate sin every time it shows up in our life! (Isa. 6:5, Luke 5:8).

#4- Daily we need to seek repentance from our Heavenly Father in deep humility and godly sorrow. **"...when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more. ... Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner... For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter"** (II Cor. 7:7-11). It will work wonders in our life, as we purify ourselves into the likeness of Christ! (Eph. 4:11-32).

#5- Read our Bible more this year, with real allotted study time each day. **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a**

workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). Look for Christ in EVERY passage and doctrine! **"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me"** (John 5:39). Structured Bible time is an essential element for growth.

#6- Be a real and vibrant witness this year and martyr yourself to the cause of Christ! **"Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel"** (Mark 5:19-20). (John 4:39, Acts 11:20-21).

#7- Pray for others more often and more vigorously this year. Pray for the sick, the lost, and your nation! **"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God"** (Luke 6:12). (Num. 21:7, Neh. 1:6, Luke 22:32).

#8- Resolve this year to fast and pray regularly for godly requests and personal burdens. **"...And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth"** (II Sam. 12:15-16). (Matt. 5:23-24).

#9- Forgive others quickly this year and show an attitude of reconciliation always. **"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and**

then come and offer thy gift" (Matt. 5:23-24). Forgiveness is the most divine of all Christian attributes! (I Cor. 7:12-16, Matt. 5:38-48).

#10- Do not procrastinate! Do not wait until January 1st to resolve to be about the work of God more diligently and zealously! Every day that the Holy Spirit convicts you of deficiencies in your ardor for God, make a new resolution that very moment! (Matt. 4:18-20, Gen. 24:45-46, Ex. 34:8, Luke 19:5-6).

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Believe it or not there are some folks who say we should never have to make New Year's resolutions. In a small way I agree with their philosophy. Why limit our resolutions to one day or week out of the year? Why not make resolutions to serve God more faithfully, read His Word more fervently, obey more cheerfully, draw nigh to Him in prayer more earnestly, witness to the lost with greater zeal, worship with greater love and devotion, and lead our families in the way of truth and godliness on a DAILY BASIS? Read Psalm 119 and you find numerous resolutions made by the man after God's own heart connected to the power of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit working in him. If you read the journals of Jonathan Edwards you will find that he wrote down resolutions often on a daily basis. In every resolution let us remember that the flesh profiteth

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Forum #1

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family became immersed in the things of the world. **“Remember Lot’s wife,”** (She did not want to lose her old life in Sodom with the grandbabies!) **“Whosoever shall seek to save his (worldly) life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it”** (Luke 17:32-33). Saving and losing our lifestyles will show what kind of Christian we are: dedicated pilgrim, or worldly resident! Too late now for Lot and his wife to teach their children to be pilgrims! Selah! Think about it!

“And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds)” (II Peter 2:7-8). If it was not for this inspired verse using the words **“just Lot”** and **“righteous soul”** we would never know for sure from the Genesis accounts whether this man was saved or not! He “looked” like the world, he “smelled” like the world, he “sounded,” “tasted,” and “felt” like the world! Must be a worldly duckling! How awful if our men have long hair; women have shorn hair; if alcohol, divorce and drugs are present in our houses, too. Scantly clad women and tattooed men call themselves Christian? Derogatory remarks, filthy jokes and cussing come from both worldly Christians and Christian worldsters. Watch who comes out of “R” rated movies, Sunday sports arenas and Democratic polling booths! Can you really tell the difference between the modern “Christians” and the world? If you can not, they are worldly Christians!

King Saul lost his kingdom for

“partial obedience” (I Sam. 15:16-23). How many Christians today are living in that same partial obedience of God’s Word? Surely we would never be like King Jehoiakim of old (Jeremiah 36) and use a penknife to cut out the parts of God’s Word that we do not like, but so many worldly Christians in reality are wielding that same “penknife” when they purposely ignore entire passages of God’s Word concerning their responsibilities to tithe, observe the Sabbath, attend church, women wearing the headcovering; by changing the commandments of God and substituting the “ministries of men”... Selah! Think about it!

“And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men” (Mark 8:31-33). Hard to believe that immediately after one of Peter’s greatest confessions earlier in the chapter, that now he is found rebuking his Master! Yet that is what Arminianism does, taking so many shallow Christians with it, turning churches of God into assemblies of Satan! **“And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the**

gospel’s, the same shall save it. ..Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:34-35, 38). When we find ourselves loving the world, may God send us a sermon, a witness, or a Scripture to send us scurrying back into the arms of our Saviour and OUT OF THIS WORLD! Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP



Forum #2

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nothing, and that without Christ we can do nothing. We must rely daily on the power of God as Ephesians 6:10-11 exhorts: **“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”**

I have tried to live by a simple philosophy that revolves around the following disciplines: 1. Bible Before Breakfast (BBB), I read a portion of God’s Word before I eat anything trying to follow the model of Job who stated that he desired God’s Word more than his necessary food (Job 23:11-12). 2. Spend time with God in prayer and meditation (Psalm 91:1-7). 3. Lead my wife, children, and grandchildren by precept and practice in the ways of truth and godliness on a daily basis (Deut. 6:4-9; Prov. 23:22-26). 4. Seek out opportunities to witness to lost people in my sphere of influence by sharing the Gospel of the grace of God (Mark 16:15; Rom. 1:16-17). 5. Determine to be faithful to the Lord’s church in attendance,

worship, service, love, tithing, and giving (Psalm 122:1; Heb. 10:22-25). 6. Strive to daily please the Lord in my thoughts, words, and deeds (Psalm 19:10-14) and confess my sins and failures by exhibiting true repentance.

As I reflect on my answer I am convicted of how many times I have failed the Lord in these simple but difficult resolutions. I must say with the beloved apostle: **“Oh wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord...”** (Rom 7:24-25). Let us enter into a New Year with a holy resolve to serve the Lord on a daily basis with the following verses to guide us: Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 26:3-4; Romans 12:1-3; I Corinthians 10:31 and Philippians 3:8-14. Holy New Year!

TOM ROSS



Is There Any Harm in the Making of New Year Resolutions

By Roy Mason
(1894 - 1978)

Some erroneous things:

1. To make no new resolutions at all. Because so many resolutions are broken, some decline to make any. That really means, “I will just go on in my ways without even trying to do better.” The person who makes a number of resolutions and breaks some of them, is better off in the keeping



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Is There Any Harm

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of some, than the fellow who does not make any. It certainly is not wrong to make good resolutions at any time---and the new year is a convenient time to start afresh.

2. Another erroneous thing is for people to make resolutions hurriedly. If you make a resolution, make it deliberately and with the intention of keeping it. (See Psa. 76:11 on this.) What foolishness to resolve to smoke no more cigarettes, when you let a package of "Camels" stay right in your pocket. The Lord does not like for people to say that they are going to do something and then not do it. (See Acts 5:1-11).

3. Another wrong thing is to resolve and to expect to carry it out in your own strength. "He is able to deliver thee." People fail because they look to the energy of the flesh and the flesh is weak.

4. Another wrong thing is to have less sense in your spiritual life than the ordinary business man has in business. (See Luke 16:8).

Thousands of business concerns take inventory. If they see that they are losing out by pursuing their present policy they will make some changes. Yet --- many people who know that their present habits and manners of life are ruinous, will keep right on.

The truth about resolutions:

1. It is all right to make them at new year or any other time, if they are made in all sincerity.

2. The best resolution for the unsaved is this: "I will NOW turn unto the Lord, and will receive His Son as my own Savior, and I will serve and live for Him this new year."

3. What are some good resolutions for Christians? Suggestions:

(1) What about family worship? It would be a good thing to introduce the practice of Bible reading and prayer in the home.

(2) What about your church attendance? How many Sundays have you missed the worship of your church? (See Hebrews 10:25). How many Sundays have you missed when the Lord knew that you did not have to miss? Suppose everybody else had stayed away at the same time?

(3) What about the prayer service? Why should we have such fluctuation in attendance? It would be a great thing to set yourself to attend every Wednesday evening, unless providentially hindered. (And your will miss mighty few.)

(4) What about the number won to Christ? What? "Ain't won nobody," did you say? Can you not beat that this coming year?

(5) What about your giving? Have you robbed the Lord this past year? Most of you have spent everything, and you might far better have invested that tenth in the Lord's cause. If you had done so, it would not all be lost. It will mean a lot to you to resolve to tithe---and to keep the resolve.

(6) What about your personal habits? If they are harmful, it would be a fine thing to quit them.

(7) What about your fellowship with God---your spirituality? Are you as cold as an iron wedge spiritually? It is a good time to renew vows and draw nigh unto God.



Three Sons of Noah

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Acts, would so conspire with all the other Gospel writers to contrive that all these pieces and pictures would so fit? Or did they together conspire with Moses, who wrote

the Book of Genesis, but was now long with the Lord for 1,500 years when the New Testament was written? In fact, I do not know that anyone else before has ever even realized that these families are here so represented these four times, so exactly, so precisely and so meaningfully here in the Word of God!

I believe that all these scriptural writers were inspired; but did they even know what they were writing here? Did they understand at the time just how well this internal evidence bears testimony that this is the hand of God, the mark of God, the signature of God upon His Word! Note well, these three families so represented, these four times, and the consistency of the teaching that is hereby expressed. These are jewels, to be dug out of God's Word!

Mankind splits into three different families and the history of each family proves in itself that man is born altogether in sin, and in need of a Savior. Almost 2,500 years after the fact, God brings representatives of each family together at the cross and lets them demonstrate that not a one of them would have the Son of God to rule over them; and their universal expression is "away with Him" as it were. They each participate in murdering the Savior. Yet God, in His grace, brings representatives of each one of these families to salvation through repentance and faith in Acts 8, 9, & 10. And even though Romans 11:5 is specifically said of the Jewish nation, it could as well have been said of each of the families of the three sons of Noah in those three chapters. **"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace"** (Rom. 11:5) Note well, that in every case, it is a very small remnant. Relatively

speaking there are few that be saved throughout history. Yet, over time, it will be a number that no man can number (Revelation 7:9).

And then, as per the picture, these three men at the end of the book of Acts (at the end of this age, as it were, because that is what the book of Acts foreshadows the whole of the age of the Gentiles); that men from all three of these families of man (thus the fullness of mankind in general) rejects the Gospel message and dies lost and undone to suffer eternal damnation. We have the history of all three of these men, and not a one of them ever came to know Jesus Christ and the free pardon of sin. Festus, who considered himself too smart for the Gospel and of too sound a mind to ever see the need of a Savior. The Bible records in Acts 26:24, **"And as he (Paul) thus spake ..., Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad."** And history records that he ended up going home to Rome where he died lunatic insane.

King Agrippa, in chapter 26 was just too religious to ever see his need of salvation. He, as all the Herod's before him, was always seeking to meddle in Jewish religious affairs; always trying to woo them, desirous of popularity with them in order to advance his political career. But this Herod Agrippa was even more unsuccessful at this than his ancestors, and in the end had to side with Rome in the final deportation of the Jewish nation in 70 AD, utterly alienated from God's people. In Acts 26:28 after listening to Paul's defense, we have his famous quote, **"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."**

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Three Sons of Noah

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From which we have that famous hymn *Almost Persuaded* that adeptly expresses his end: “Almost” cannot avail; “Almost” is but to fail! Sad, sad that bitter wail—“Almost—but lost!”

History again records that he spent his remaining years at Rome pandering for the favor of Nero. Second fiddle to a mad man.

And then finally, what needs to be said of Felix? The man who lived only to please his flesh. He made such a mess of things in Palestine with his bloodthirsty cruelty and his passion for sex and alcohol, that he was called home to Rome in disgrace and probably only had his life spared by the wealth and influence of his brother Pallas. But when he was yet procurator of Palestine when he heard the appeal of the Apostle Paul....well, we will let the Word of God speak for Itself here. **“And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him. But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix’ room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound”** (Acts 24:24-27).

Here is a man who just refused to turn from his sin. And the Bible tells us that anyone who

proceeds on that path is doomed to an eternal hell.

Felix obviously represents the flesh, does he not? Man given over to his fleshly lusts. Festus represents the intellect. He is just naturally too smart for these things, as many today vainly pride themselves into believing. And again, as Paul preached Christ and Him crucified for the sinners sin; and man’s need of repentance and faith towards God, **“Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad”** (Acts 26:24). To which Paul responded, **“I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness. For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.”** And we might say that even today, these things are openly known.

And what does Herod Agrippa II represent, but the spiritual part of man? Man is body, soul, and spirit. And even when a man is dead spiritually; eating, drinking, and walking around physically: he yet has a spiritual nature. Only, it will not seek after God. It is dead to God. If the lost get religious, it will always be a false religion that will not be according to the Bible. To be of God’s Spirit **“ye must be born again.”**

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20).

“But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him” (John 11:10).

He needs to be **“born again.”**

Made alive towards God spiritually.

The family of Herod was always and anon fascinated with the Jewish religion, and they always had the Scriptures. If they would only read and believe what God had given them - any one of them could have been saved at any time. **“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me”** (John 5:39).

But these were men who just wanted to be Jews outwardly “To be seen of men.” And what does the Apostle Paul, that great theologian that he is, what does he do, what does he give them? He gives them the strongest thing that he has: he gives them his own testimony of salvation. You can read it there, as he recounts his own salvation on the road to Damascus in chapter 26. It is the story of a risen Christ Who will make Himself known to any who will turn to Him in spirit and in truth, seeking the mercy which only He gives.

But what a Book, what a Bible! In the histories of men you cannot find agreement. Just in the history of America, from just 200 years ago till today, in the writings of men there is little agreement on anything. But here we have 66 Books, written over 1,000’s of years and there is such harmony and perfect agreement in all. For thousands of years nations rose and fell in a time when we have no man made record of anything. The earliest secular narrative that we have comes from about the time of Homer’s *Iliad and the Odyssey*. And the copies we have of these are at best only a few hundred years BC, copied from a source about 700 BC or so. And nobody questions that! And it is just a silly rambling fairy tale at best.

But we have a sober, sincere record of the entire history of man that has never been disproved in the least. The Table of the Nations in Genesis chapter 10 tells us where all the families of man came from and went. This is the only source Book on man that is honest with man about man, and the only one that gives the solution. The only faith in all the world that offers a Redeemer. The only one that speaks of salvation. None of the religions of man even see the need! None of them answers the question of sin. None of them tells where it came from and what it did when mankind fell in the Garden of Eden.

But God’s Word consistently shows that it affected the whole family of man and every division thereof. And God alone points to the answer of Christ crucified, the free pardon of sin.

And then finally, in Revelation 22:4 God has brought all the saved of all three families before Him to **“see his face;” “and his name shall be in their foreheads.”** Signifying that in Him we are no longer of the families of men but of the family of God. He and He alone can make of three: one.

Is not that great? I do not know about you, but seeing all that just gives me all that much more confidence in the Word of God. It thrills my soul!

“And (God) hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds (or borders) of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us” (Acts 17:26-27).



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who, a generation ago, was able to forecast the principal conditions now prevailing in the world. Even the few who had sufficient discernment to see the coming events, which were casting their dark shadows before them, were unable to foresee more than the general outline of what is now before them in detail.

Whether we view the situation in the military, the political, the social, or the religious sphere—things have deteriorated and degenerated more than even the pessimistic conceived likely. Nor can the most experienced and sagacious, prognosticate with any degree of certainty, how much further the downward trend will go, how much lower moral and spiritual values will sink, nor how much that which is still prized by the godly, will be sucked into the maelstrom of destruction. Yes, the changing years are bringing with them great changes in living conditions—changes which are solemn to contemplate, and fearful to experience.

But if there was nothing more to be said, we would not have penned the above. Yet, what has been pointed out needs to be considered, if we are to really appreciate what follows. That which most impresses the writer by the changing years—is that we have an unchanging God. **“Thy years,”** said the Psalmist, **“shall have no end”** (Ps. 102:27). He is unaffected by the flight of time, uninfluenced by all the mutations of things and creatures here below. **“Semper Idem”** (“always the same”) is inscribed upon his brow. **“From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God”** (Ps. 90:2).

This perfection of the Divine

character does not occupy the place in our hearts and thoughts which it should. It is one of the choicest jewels in the diadem of God’s attributes. The immutability of God is the guarantor of His fidelity: “The eternal of Israel will not lie nor repent; for He is not a man, that He should repent” (I Sam. 15:29). Likewise, the immutability of God guarantees the security of His people: **“For I am the LORD I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed”** (Mal. 3:6).

God’s immutability is one of His incommunicable perfections. He imparts life to the lower creatures, wisdom to man, holiness to the angels—but immutability unto none. To speak of an immutable creature would be a contradiction in terms: if immutable, it would not be a “creature,” instead of being dependent, he would be independent, and therefore a God; instead of a subject, he would be Sovereign. God did not bestow immutability upon Adam at the beginning, when He pronounced him **“very good”** (Gen. 1:31), for he had been incapable of falling, had that been imparted. The archangel possesses it not; nor will the saints in Heaven. Immutability is entirely peculiar to God Himself. There is no growth or development in Him. He is ever the same: the self-existent, all-sufficient, eternal, unchanging God. **“I AM THAT I AM”** (Ex. 3:14), is His glorious name, and that which expresses His nature. What a truly marvelous and awe-inspiring Being! Nothing can be taken from, nothing added to Him. With Him, there **“is no variableness, neither shadow of turning”** (James 1:17).

“But he is in one mind, and who can turn him?” (Job 23:13). None can sway Him or induce Him to alter His eternal purpose. A clear

and most solemn demonstration of that was made in Gethsemane, when the incarnate Son on His face, in an agony, cried, **“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt”** (Matt. 26:39).

God would not change His mind: the terms of the everlasting covenant must stand! It is this perfection of God’s, which supplies the most conclusive proof of the error of Universalism, which predicates that after certain “ages” the wicked will be released from Hell. Not so, and why? Because those whom the Lord abhors, He abhors forever! That **“I am the LORD: I change not”** (Mal. 3:6) has a two-fold bearing: a blessed and a solemn one. Unto the saved, it is unspeakably blessed, **“having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end”** (John 13:1); but those whom He hates, He will hate for all eternity. Before the wicked could be released from Hell, the very nature and character of God must change—be reversed.

“Thou art the same” (Ps. 102:27). Not “thou hast been” nor “thou wilt be,” but **“Thou art the same.”** The same in nature and character, the same in will and purpose; without fluctuation within or alteration without. Though His works of creation decay, though the operations of His providence vary, and though even the activities of His grace differ from time to time, yet the Lord God Himself is ever **“the same.”**

How blessed that He is so! What strength, calmness, and comfort does this bring to the heart which has a believing apprehension of the same. What a sure foundation does this provide for faith to rest upon! That He who never failed the patriarchs, the prophets, the

apostles, our own fathers who trusted in Him—is just the same now unto those who turn to Him in the present upheaval. “When heaven and earth shall flee away from the dreadful presence of the great Judge, He will be unaltered by the terrible confusion, and the world in conflagration will effect no change in Him” (C. H. Spurgeon). The Christian may lose his dearest earthly friends, but not his heavenly Friend. The years of those clothed with mortality are but few at most—but those of Him **“who only hath immortality”** (I Tim. 6:16) are without beginning and without end.

Because the Holy Scriptures are inspired by God, they, too, are immutable. **“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven”** (Ps. 119:89). That was Luther’s sheet-anchor amid the fierce gales that for so long burst upon him. Resting on that “impregnable Rock” his heart was kept in perfect peace, and thereby he was enabled to wax strong and very courageous. We, too, are living in stormy times, but thank God the same sure Anchor is available for us. While everything is crumbling around us, the monuments of the centuries being reduced to rubble, the thrones of kings being overturned, the plans and policies of men cast into the melting pot, the Divine Oracles are unaffected, unimpaired, unchanged, for the Word of God, like its Author, **“liveth and abideth for ever”** (I Peter 1:23). His own infallible promise is **“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”** (Matthew 24:35).

Because the Redeemer is God the Son, He also is immutable: **“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for**

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ever" (Heb. 13:8). He is the same merciful Savior as pardoned the dying thief. He is the same long-suffering Master as bore so patiently with the dullness of His disciples. He is the same sufficient One as multiplied the loaves and fishes and thereby provided for a great multitude. He is the same Physician as healed the leper and gave sight to the blind. He is the same faithful Intercessor as prayed for poor Peter. He is the same compassionate One as wept by the grave side of Lazarus. When His forerunner was murdered, we are told that His disciples "went and told Jesus" (Matt. 14:12). Why? Was it not because they would pour out their grief unto One whom they knew had a sympathetic ear, who could be touched with the feeling of their infirmities, and who would comfort and strengthen them?

If then your heart be torn with anxiety or bowed down with sorrow, go and do likewise. Let our New Year's resolution be to make more use of Christ in this year than we ever have before.

This blessed truth of the Divine immutability is many-sided in its application. Because God changes not, His promises are unfulfilling and may be relied upon at all times: "**Thy testimonies are very sure**" (Ps. 93:5). For the same reason, we know that His threatenings must be fulfilled. "**God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good**" (Num 23:19)?

Because He changes not the mediatorial throne is forever one of grace. It was there that He received us when first we came to

Him as empty-handed beggars; it is there He still welcomes us when we swallow our pride and humbly but boldly, seek fresh supplies "**to help in time of need**" (Heb. 4:16). Even in the eternal state, it will be "**the throne of God and of the Lamb**" (Rev. 22:1).

Then make use of this Divine attribute: plead it in your prayers. Amid all the fluctuations and vexations of the new year, remember that God changes not. Remind yourself of that blessed fact each day.



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"Do better, now, my child."

*I came to God's throne with a quivering soul,
The year was done.*

*"Hast thou a new sheet, dear Father," I said,
"I've spoiled this one."*

*In place of the sheet so soiled and blotted
He gave me a new one all unspotted*

*And into my tired heart smiled,
"Do better, now, my child."*

I am certain that every person within this service would rather that his life, and our church be a more conspicuous example for our Lord in 1963 than it has been in 1962, and in all the days that have gone by. It is with this thought in mind that I bring to you my message tonight. I have some few Scriptures that I want to read to you, and I think each of them might be taken as a good key verse for us in 1963. Each of them might be considered as a slogan or a Christian motto. Each of them might furnish us with a goal for 1963.

I.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable

unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

The little word "**therefore**" is a sort of hinge connecting the first eleven chapters of Romans to the last five chapters. In fact, if you will notice closely, all that has gone before in these first eleven chapters has to do with great doctrinal truths, whereas, all that follows, beginning with the twelfth chapter, has to do with practical Christian living. The little word "**therefore**" seemingly connects the first eleven chapters to the last five chapters.

In these first eleven chapters the Apostle Paul has discussed at length four great outstanding doctrines: depravity, justification by faith, the security of the saved, and the one doctrine that underlies all the rest--the doctrine of the sovereignty of God, and His election. Other doctrines have been discussed briefly, but in these eleven chapters he has specifically discussed these four great truths. Then growing out of these great doctrines which he has discussed in these eleven chapters, he says, "**I beseech you therefore, brethren, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice.**"

In the last five chapters he talks about how children of God ought to live. In this twelfth chapter he says that we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice. In the thirteenth chapter he says that we are to make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof. In the fourteenth chapter he says that every knee shall bow in God's presence. In the fifteenth chapter he talks about our missionary responsibility, for he says, "**So that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.**" Then in the sixteenth chapter you have that great overflow of love where he greets

individuals one after another with Christian felicitation. You can see, beloved, that in the first eleven chapters you have a great doctrinal presentation as to what Paul would have us as God's children to believe, and in the last five chapters he gives to us a great practical application as to how he would have us as God's children to live.

All through my ministry I have said that there is a tremendous relationship between what a man believes, and what a man does. There is a tremendous relationship between a man's creed and a man's deed. What he believes will determine what he does. What his creed may be, will determine what his deeds will be. Thus the Apostle Paul says in Romans 12:1: "**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**"

I am sure that there is no church any place that is any better grounded in the faith than Calvary Baptist Church. I am likewise well pleased with the way in which you have put into expression in the practical way your faith in God. I am not complaining at all about what you believe or what you do, but I will just say this, I wish we would all believe more deeply, and I wish we would be more faithful. I wish so far as you and I are concerned that our creed might be stronger, and our deeds might be better. As we come to the end of a year, and as we face a new year, it will be my prayer that God would take this great Scripture and burn it into our hearts and enable us to strive for a greater application of our creed expressing itself in the

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deeds of our lives.

II.

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Cor. 6:19-20).

Paul says, **“Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price.”** If I could make it personal, I would like to take each of you by the hand, look you in the eye, and ask you this question, do you realize that you are bought with a price? Do you realize that the price that was paid for your redemption was the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the Son of God gave His life on the cross of Calvary to pay for your sins? I ask, have you been bought? If that be true, then the application is to glorify God in your body.

I tell you, beloved, God does not want people who profess to be saved to be spiritual drones. Do you know what a drone is? He is the bee that does not work. He is the bee in the hive that does not do anything. God does not want any spiritual drones. If you are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body.

I do not believe that there is one who would say that he has done all that he could have done in 1962. Have you ever tried to glorify God in your body every day? I fear that if we would be honest before God, every one of us would admit we stand before God as absolute failures. Would to God as to face a new year that we might have the resolution in our hearts, and that we might pray for the grace to carry it out in our

lives, whereby we might glorify God in our body throughout the entirety of the new year.

III.

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal. 6:14).

So far as we are concerned, there is one way above all others whereby we are to glory. That one way whereby we are to glory is in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I tell you, beloved, if you depend upon organization, you get what organization can do. If you depend upon the flesh, you get what the flesh can do. If you depend upon your own energy, you get what your energy can do. Beloved, when we depend upon the cross of Jesus Christ and seek to glory only in Him, we get what God can do. God forbid that I should glory in anything in 1963 except the cross of Jesus Christ.

Some folk glory in their living---the fact they are doing better than they used to. When they speak, it is always to magnify themselves. Many of our songs are of this type, in that they glorify man, such as, “I’ll Fly Away.” Such individuals boast of their goodness---how long it is since they sinned. What they need is to glory in the cross of Christ.

Others glory in their priest and the confessional. Others glory in the mourner’s bench while many others glory in the baptistery. May God help us to put all glory where it belongs---in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I can think of a number of things that I want to do in the coming year. I can think of a number of goals that I have already set which I hope I will be able, in a measure, to reach. I can think of a number of things that I desire to try to put my shoulder to the wheel in the

accomplishment thereof. Beloved, if I accomplish any of these, if I do anything in 1963 that will please my God, it will be because I fall back upon this text: **“God, forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

IV.

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called” (Eph. 4:1).

The vocation Paul refers to is the calling God has given us in our Saviour. Are you a saved man or a saved woman? Well, if you are, you have been called of the Lord. Back yonder before you were saved, before you became a child of God, God called you. To be sure, that was even preceded by His election, but in time God called you, and if you are saved tonight, you are saved primarily because of the effectual call of the Lord. Now the Apostle Paul says, **“I beseech you that you are worthy of the vocation, wherewith ye are called.”**

You say, “I am not worthy of salvation.” I know you are not. There is not one of us who is worthy of salvation. But, beloved, He saved us, and we ought to seek to walk in a manner worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called.

In our walk, many of us are absolute failures. How poorly we represent Him! What a shabby Christian walk the world sees on our part! Our talk, our walk, and even our “balk” ought to be for greater than it is---it ought to be worthy of our heavenly calling.

I grant you I do not deserve to be saved. I am ready to grant that not one of us deserves the salvation we have to enjoy tonight. But I am ready to grant you, or demand of you, that you and I walk worthy of that vocation wherewith we are called. God wants you, my

brother, to live like a saved man ought to live. God wants you, my sister, to live like a saved person ought to live. As we face this new year, it is certainly my prayer before God that He will enable us to live and to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called.

Is it not marvelous to be a Christian? I think of that old song the children used to sing, “Isn’t it grand to be a Christian? Isn’t it grand? Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and all day Sunday? Isn’t it grand to be a Christian? Isn’t it grand?” My brother, it is good to be a Christian every day. If you are saved tonight, God wants you every day and all day on Sunday to walk worthy of the calling, or vocation, wherewith you are called.

V.

“And he gave some APOSTLES; and some, PROPHETS; and some, EVANGELISTS; and some, PASTORS and TEACHERS; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” (Eph. 4:11-15) (emph. JRG).

Paul says there are five orders in the ministry. He says there are apostles, and prophets, and evangelists, and pastors, and teachers: and all five have the

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same work. God never gave an evangelist for one purpose and a pastor for another. All the orders of the ministry are for one purpose, and what is that purpose? Some four or five things: first, for the perfecting of the saints; second, that we all might come to the unity of the faith; third, that we might mature into the measure of the perfect stature of Christ; fourth, that we be not children henceforth tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine; fifth, that we may grow up into Him in all things.

Beloved, that is God's program for you in 1963. God wants you to be perfect---and mature---more perfect and mature than what you are now. God wants you, if you are a saved person, to have unity one with another. God wants you to grow up unto the measure of the fullness of Christ. God does not want you to be a child tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. God does not want you to remain a babe. Rather, He wants you to grow up unto Him in all things.

I ask you, are you as much of a man or woman as you would like to be, or have you grown as much as you would like to have grown? Is there as much unity between you and others who love the Lord as you would like? Are you still a child in that you believe everything that you are told? Are you growing like a Christian ought to grow? Beloved, I say to you, the majority of professing Christians in this world are just like a bunch of babes. You know how children will accept anything that they are told. You can tell a child anything in this world and he will accept it; he will believe it right now. There is an awfull lot of babyhood in Baptist churches.

People just do not grow. Paul says in this Scripture that he wants us to grow up so we will not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine.

I know people, regardless of what they hear, who just jump at it; they take for granted it must be so. I know individuals who have been professing Christians for many, many years, that regardless of what comes along that is new, that they have not heard before, they just "grab" it and swallow it immediately. Paul does not want us to be like that. Paul wants us to grow. He wants us to become mature Christians.

I am not satisfied with my growth. I am not satisfied with remaining as I am. I want 1963 to be a year of greater spiritual solidity or greater solidarity. I want 1963 to be a year when we will stand more for the truth of God's Word than ever before.

VI.

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:10-14).

Somebody might think that Paul was not even saved, for he said, "It is my prayer that I might know Him." Paul knew Him as a Christian. He knew Him as

a saved man. But he wanted to know Him better. Paul said, "I am not quite up to the mark," for in the fourteenth verse he said, **"I press toward the mark."**

I ask you, have you reached the mark, the goal, that you might have been aspiring toward? God help you if you have. Oh, may God pity you if you have already reached the mark, and if you have gotten as far as you would like to go in His service!

Beloved, Paul was not quite up to the mark. He had been a saved man for nearly thirty years. For nearly thirty years he had been a preacher of the Lord---ever since he had met the Lord on the roadway to Damascus, but he was not quite up to the mark.

Beloved, I will let you in on a little secret. I have been preaching the Gospel for forty years---ever since the Lord saved me, and I, too, am not quite up to the mark. In fact, I think I am a long piece away from the mark. Sometimes I wonder if I am making any progress at all. Paul says, **"I press toward the mark."**

Brother, sister, let me ask you, are you up to the mark? I am sure I can answer for you and for myself. We are not up to the mark. Paul says, "If I am going to press toward the mark, there is something I must do---I must forget these things that are behind."

What is there to forget in a Christian's life? Everything that has happened down to this hour. I say it reverently, it would be a good idea if you could forget the good and the bad, forget the triumphs and the failures, forget the successes and the defeats--just forget those things which are past. Paul says, "There is something to forget. I am not to live on my past successes nor lament my past failures and defeats, but I am to press toward

the mark, and to reach forth unto those things which are before me."

Beloved, if God gives me the grace, I want this to be true of me in 1963. I would that He would enable me that I could forget the things that are past, and that I could reach forth to the things that are before. I would that I might press on toward the mark as I face a new year in 1963.

VII.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (II Tim. 4:2, 3).

I have a desire for tomorrow and the tomorrows to come and that is that I shall live in the light of this text and preach the Word. Some months ago a man said to his father, "You know, dad, Brother Gilpin has not moved an inch from his position when we came to know him twenty-five years ago." If I move in 1963, beloved, it is that I want to move closer to the Word. I do not want that there shall be any veering away from it. Paul says, **"Preach the word."** Beloved, there is nothing else for me to offer you but the Book.

Paul also says that the time is going to come when folk will not hear the Word, and I think, generally speaking, that time is here now. I think it gets more and more that way every day, and shall be more and more in the days to come that people will not hear the Word. If I have a desire for my life in the days that are out before me, it shall be that I shall preach the Word.

As preachers get older sometimes they compromise. In

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fact, when men get old the majority of preachers compromise. I make that statement after thinking this past week seriously about it. There are a great number of men that I know who were good men, but as they got older they compromised. That is pathetic, and it is increasingly tragic when you remember that the majority of younger preachers today are compromising the Word. Compromising as they are today, I wonder what they will do, and what they will be like when they get old.

Beloved, if it pleases God, I would rather God would reach down and take me now away from this sphere of activity than that He would allow me to get one day older, if to do so would mean that I would compromise God's Book. If I have a desire as I go on through life, it is this, in spite of the fact that men do not care for sound doctrine, and though the majority of professing Christians will not endure sound doctrine, and though the majority of church members would rather have somebody who would merely scratch their ears, and tickle their fancy, and amuse them a little when they come to the house of God--though that be true, my prayer is that God will enable me to faithfully preach the Word to you in 1963.

CONCLUSION

I come back to my text and hear the Apostle Paul say:

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved” (Rom. 10:1).

God has some “Israel”---some elect people, and my prayer to God is that every one of them shall be saved. I know they will be.

At the same time, it is my prayer that God will enable me to feel a responsibility of doing my utmost in the light of these texts that I have read to you tonight. Like Paul, I want to feel this responsibility that the Israel of God might come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless you as a saved

man and a saved woman. May God help you to leave this place desiring that your life shall be a better life, a different life, and a greater life for God in the year that is out before us.

May God bless you!

(The Baptist Examiner, January 12, 1963)



THE

BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

Readers of the BBB are urged to submit religious news items which they may read in their local paper or some other publication. In sending these please give the name of the publication as well as the date it was printed. We will not be able to print all which are submitted, but we welcome any item you may feel we should read.

Send them to The Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855-0039.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OKS ASSISTED-SUICIDE BILL

(WNS)--Washington, D.C., City Council members advanced a measure to allow terminally ill residents to get lawful help to kill themselves. “While I still have religious reservations as to the ending of a life, I have an even greater reservation telling a terminally ill resident that he or she must continue to fight while knowing that to the best of medical ability there is no recovery,” said Councilman Brandon Todd, who voted Nov. 1 to legalize assisted suicide. The 13-member Council voted 11-2 to legalize the Death With Dignity Act in a public hearing room packed with advocates from both sides. The law allows terminally ill adults given six months or fewer to live to obtain lethal drugs from their doctor that they can self-administer. The measure must still pass a final vote and be signed by Mayor Muriel Bowser, who has indicated her support for it. Five other states—California, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Vermont—allow physician-assisted suicide.

MEDICATION ABORTIONS SOAR AFTER FDA EASES REGULATION

(WNS)--More women than ever in the United States are choosing to end their pregnancies at home with a two-step prescription abortion, according to a recent Reuters analysis. Marketed as more private and less invasive than surgical abortion, the drug duo mifepristone (RU-486) and misoprostol work in tandem to shed a women's uterine lining and induce labor, killing the baby.

Restrictions on the drugs have kept their use lower in the United States than in Western European countries, where they often account for the majority of abortions. But the self-administered abortion drugs now rival surgical abortions in this country, partly due to loosening restrictions. At Planned Parenthood alone, medication abortion comprised 43 percent of all abortions in 2014, up from 35 percent in 2010. Those numbers soared this year after the Food and Drug Administration eased regulation of the drugs in March to allow prescriptions up to the 10th

week of pregnancy instead of the seventh.

EUTHANASIA ADVOCATES CELEBRATE VICTORY IN COLORADO

(WNS)--Coloradans voted to legalize physician-assisted suicide on Nov. 8, a decision critics call a “dangerous step for Colorado's medically and socially vulnerable citizens.” Nearly 65 percent of voters said “yes” to the measure with almost all votes counted the next morning. The controversial initiative will allow terminally ill adults with six months or less to live the right to access a physician-prescribed lethal drug. Colorado joins Oregon, California, Montana, Vermont, and Washington in legalizing assisted suicide. All six states modeled their measures after Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, passed in 1997. Advocates, backed by Denver-based Compassion & Choices, the nation's largest pro-assisted suicide advocacy group, raised over \$5 million, more than double the money raised by opponents.

OREGON OFFICIAL WHO TARGETED CHRISTIAN BAKERS LOSES ELECTION

(WNS)--The Oregon labor commissioner who went after bakery owners Aaron and Melissa Klein for their refusal to bake a wedding cake for a lesbian couple lost his race for Oregon secretary of state to a Republican. Brad Avakian fined the Christian owners of Sweetcakes by Melissa \$135,000 in 2015 and waged an all-out war to elevate sexual orientation over religious liberty. He carried his progressive politics into a heated race for secretary of state, a position held by Democrats since 1984. Avakian lost to Republican Dennis Richardson, a trial lawyer who piloted combat helicopters in Vietnam. A Republican win is rare,

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Bible & the Newspaper

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with Democrats deeply embedded in Oregon politics.

WASHINGTON HIGH COURT HEARS FLORIST'S RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PLEA

(WNS)--Flower shop owner Baronelle Stutzman championed religious freedom at the Washington Supreme Court Nov. 15 in a lawsuit charging she discriminated against a gay customer. *Ingersoll v. Arlene's Flowers* represents one of a handful of cases making their way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which will determine whether business owners can operate according to the constitutional guarantees of free speech, free exercise of religion, and freedom of expression.

In a 2015 ruling against Stutzman, a lower court judge determined a private business owner's free speech and free exercise rights must be subordinate to Washington's nondiscrimination law. Kristen Waggoner, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom and Stutzman's attorney, called the decision unconstitutional and "ludicrous."

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS CANADIAN COURT: LAW SOCIETY MUST ACCEPT CHRISTIAN ATTORNEYS

(WNS)--The Law Society of British Columbia must recognize Trinity Western University's (TWU) future law school graduates, according to a unanimous opinion the British Columbia (B.C.) Court of Appeals issued Nov. 1. "The TWU community has a right to hold and act on its beliefs, absent evidence of actual harm," a five-judge panel wrote. "To do so is an expression of its right to freedom of religion." The decision is the latest chapter

in TWU's years-long battle to open Canada's first Christian law school. In December 2013 the provincial law society approved the university's plans, but a 2014 members referendum revoked it over concerns that the TWU community covenant—which holds students to orthodox Christian behavioral standards, including heterosexual marriage—is discriminatory. The B.C. appeals court ruled it was the law society that discriminated.

THOUSANDS PROTEST SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILLS IN TAIWAN

(WNS)--Thousands of demonstrators filled the streets in front of the Legislative Yuan on Nov. 17 to protest a set of bills that would make Taiwan the first Asian government to recognize same-sex marriage. By the end of the evening, the protesters had gained a victory: The legislature decided to allow two public hearings before voting on the law. Wearing white shirts and carrying signs that read, "Let the people decide on marriage and family," and, "Stand up for the happiness of the next generation," the protesters—including families with young children—showed up at 7 a.m. to express their dismay that legislators were pushing the law through without a public hearing or allowing the people a chance to participate. The protest remained mostly peaceful, with demonstrators singing, giving impassioned speeches, and praying. Yet at 3 p.m., as legislators still refused to hold a public hearing on the issue, protesters stormed the gate surrounding the Legislative Yuan. About 60 people were able to get in and hold a sit-in outside the assembly hall before police blocked off the gate.

CHRISTIAN HOSPITALS OPT OUT OF CANADA'S

EUTHANASIA LAW

(WNS)--Two Christian hospitals in Winnipeg, Manitoba, have opted out of the assisted suicide law passed by Canada's liberal government in June. Concordia Hospital, a Mennonite institution, and St. Boniface Hospital, a Catholic facility, announced they will not kill patients but agreed to refer those seeking assisted suicide to other groups that will. On Nov. 16, Concordia hospital ran a response to Canada's Medical Assistance in Dying law, known as MAID, in a local newspaper. After consulting its doctors and staff in June, it adopted a policy against MAID. "We are committed to providing respect and dignity in care to every person throughout his or her life from conception to natural death," the ad said. "Concordia believes that providing healthcare is a ministry assigned to us by Christ and is expressive of our Anabaptist faith, values, and ethics."

ONTARIO TURNS PARENTING INTO A GROUP AFFAIR

(WNS)--Children in Ontario, Canada, may now have up to four legal parents, none of which must be birth parents, under a bill passed by the legislature on Nov. 29. Under the All Families are Equal Act, same-sex couples or a group of up to four adults who agree to have a child, whether through a surrogate mother or artificial insemination, will be legally viewed as parents without any adoption process. They simply must sign a contract to co-parent before the child is conceived. The bill also changes existing code in the Children's Law Reform Act and the Vital Statistics Act to "use gender-neutral terminology, where possible," according to the attorney general's office.

Nevertheless, for David's Sake

By Nathaniel Hille
of Plant City, Florida

"Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem: Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life..." (I Kings 15:4-5).

Oh, soul, what things has the Lord done for you because of the sake of someone else? Here is Abijam, David's great grandson, yet the Lord was still doing things for David's sake. Contemplate what things God has done for you that have been merited by others. Was not Ishmael blessed because of Abraham? **"And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed"** (Gen. 21:13). Meditate for a moment, oh soul, those inestimable blessings God has showered you with for the sake of another.

I cannot but think of how much I owe for the faithfulness of those before me, my grandfather, and my earthly father, who were not sinless (nor ever claimed to be), but did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. What has the Lord done for me because of their sake? I am impressed to ask this question to my own soul. What will God do to my posterity for my sake? Will it be good or will it be evil brought upon them for my sake?

Ah, church of the Lord what blessings has the Lord graciously bestowed upon you because of the faithfulness of one member, or one family, or the pastor, or Sunday school teacher, or a deacon? What of the house of Stephanas' who

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Nevertheless, for

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addicted themselves to the ministry (I Cor. 16:15-16)? Are there any Stephanas houses in your church? What for their sake is the Lord doing unto your church because of them? And what of Antipas who was the Lord's faithful martyr? Do you not suppose that there are those faithful to the Lord in your local church whom the Lord does for their sakes?

Take a minute and examine that man for whom the Lord did bless for David's sake: Abijam. We are told that Abijam walked in the sins of his father; that his heart was not perfect with the Lord (I Kings 15:3). Behold, oh sinner, is this not a description of thee and of me? Are we not found walking in those sins of our carnal nature of which we have received of our fathers? Is not our heart "desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9)? "Nevertheless!" Notice that word, "Nevertheless." 'Tis a glorious word meaning "without preventing it." Ah, beloved, Abijam's evil ways did not prevent the Lord from blessing him because it was done for another's sake. Abijam had not earned any of this. Yet, it was done. "Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him..." (I Kings 15:4). Does the Lord not bless us as well? Why? Not because God "winks at some sins," but rather for another's sake. That word "sake" means "on account of." Beloved, it was done on account of Christ Jesus! Oh soul, what marvelous things the Lord has done for you for Christ's sake. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

Now, why was this done for David's sake? "Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from anything that he

commanded him all the days of his life..." (I Kings 15:5). Can you, soul, say that this is true of you? No, I cannot. All of self that I can boast of is "filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6). But there is another who has done "right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life." And it is for His sake that the Lord has given unto me oh so many things, chief of which is the forgiveness of my sins and my sinful nature. Take thought, dear soul, of all that you are and yet, nevertheless, for Christ's sake, who did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, and turned not aside from anything that He commanded Him all the days of His life.

Has the Lord God given unto you life eternal, forgiveness of sins, redemption, deliverance, justification, salvation, revival, and restoration?

To the praise and glory of His grace!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

On September 21, 2016, Elder Raymond F. Bennett went home to be with the Lord. Bro. Bennett served as a forum writer for the *Banner*, a pastor, and missionary for many years.

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

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

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.



'A New Leaf'?

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and set up and raised up the Last Adam who will stand forever!

It is not possible for a man out of Christ to "live a better life" for he is absolutely without life. "He that hath the Son hath life, he that hath not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

Life is in the Son and only they who are in Him have life. O man out of Christ, you have been turning over a "new leaf" long enough, now receive "eternal life" as a gift from God.

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

A "new life" is better than a "new leaf."

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

(TBE - Jan. 28, 1961)



BEREA BAPTIST BANNER

Financial Report

11-1-2016 to 11-30-2016

Beginning Balance	\$1,747.54
RECEIPTS:	
Amazing Grace B. C., Stockdale, TX	50.00
B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	25.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	300.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV	313.45
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	150.00
Carol Willett, Edgewater, FL	50.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL	25.00
Emmanuel B. C., Oldtown, KY	100.00
Faith B. C., Lynn, AR	25.00
Gail Knowles, Portland, ME	20.00
Grace B. C., Rual Hall, NC	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK	35.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
Landmark B. C., Moncks Corner, SC	100.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC	50.00
Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY	35.00
Morris Floyd, Haysville, KS	40.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	500.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00
Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR	100.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR	50.00
Providence B. C., Tupelo, MS	200.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS	25.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX	30.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	25.00
Subscriptions	201.00
Anonymous	1,210.00
Dividing checks	150.00
Sub Total	\$4,369.45
TOTAL	\$6,116.99
EXPENDITURES:	
Printing	490.00
Postage	804.00
Wages	2,300.00
FICA	175.96
Dividing checks	150.00
Bank charge	13.00
Total Expenditures	\$3,933.02
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,183.97



BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST

Financial Report

11-1-2016 to 11-30-2016

Beginning Balance	\$6,495.29
RECEIPTS:	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	225.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	100.00
Calvary I. B. C., Sumas, WA	200.00
.....	525.00
TOTAL	7,020.29
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	907.96
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	907.96
ENDING BALANCE	\$6,112.33

'A New Leaf'?

By W. L. Tucker

On the first day of January we hear a number who know nothing of Christ say: "I am going to turn over a new leaf. I am going to live a better life."

A very noble purpose to be sure, but impossible to perform, for you cannot find a "new leaf" in the old life and you can not do better with the old nature. The Scriptures are very plain concerning the condition of man apart from Christ and to such they offer no hope for a "new leaf" or a "better life."

"They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh" (Rom. 8:5).

Suppose you do turn over a "new leaf," you can not turn over the old flesh and when the very best is done to control and conduct the old life, we read: **"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God"** (Rom. 8:8). The carnal man cannot do spiritual things.

"To be carnally minded is death" (Rom. 8:6). **"The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be"** (Rom. 8:7).

Man may do "better" and stand

improved before his neighbors but he cannot stand approved before God. A "new leaf" will not do. What the sinner needs is a "new life," not a better life but the best life, and the only life. This is found only in Jesus Christ. It is not the work of human betterment but of Divine impartation. The old creature has nothing "new" and thanks be to God the new creature has nothing old.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17).

There is nothing here of a "new leaf" but a new life. This is the only possible escape. It is God's way. Some say this is a doctrine which at the present day is considered obsolete. Perhaps so, but if we read our Bible aright it is absolute.

If a man in his old condition turns over a "new leaf" it is as black, blotted and blurred the day after. He has nothing but the output of his old nature to put on it.

Why try to turn over a new leaf? Why not receive a new life? So many are trying to set Old Adam the First on his feet again. This cannot be done. He has fallen never to stand again. God has cleared him forever out of the way

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Quotes from Brother Ritechus N. Dignation

by Joseph Harris

CHURCH BONES

There is one subject I have always wanted to preach on: bones. I have heard a few scattered thoughts on church bones over the years, but now offer my wisdom on this matter. There are lots of bones. There's chicken bones, ham bones, lazy bones and bones of contention. Then there's neck bones, jaw bones, nose bones, tail bones, wish bones, funny bones and knuckle bones. And don't forget "dem dry bones" of Ezekiel. Just as every human body has a skeleton of bones inside, every church body has many different kinds of bones, with some more valuable than others. The following is a partial list of church bones, some of which are honorable, others not so honorable.

(1) JAW BONES- In every church, there always seems to be some Jaw Bones. They are always a jawin' about something. With a tongue that runs faster than the Mississippi River, these jaw bones slander, hurt, tear down and destroy just about everything the church tries to do for the Lord. Samson used the jawbone of an ass to slay the Philistines, and the devil sometimes uses the same to kill the character of good people, especially the character of Godly preachers.

(2) FUNNY BONES- Then there are the Funny Bones. These bones are not a detriment as the Jaw Bones, but help to keep things together in the church. They are happy believers, full of the joy of the Lord. They spread joy and

sunshine and make the bad bones bearable. These good folks always look on the "Sonny" side of life, refusing to be discouraged and encouraging those who are down, binding the wounded, and lifting up the fallen.

(3) TAIL BONES- The Tail Bones are next, sometimes known as the Lazy Bones, cause they usually just sit on their tail and don't do nothin'. These bench warmers make great pew quarterbacks, always able to tell how things should be done, but with 'nary a bit of participation on their part. If left up to these goldbricks, the church would close its doors in a month from lack of workers, tithers, and participation.

(4) NOSE BONES- These bones are found in every church. They are snoopers who can't keep their long noses out of other people's business. They are tale toters and busy bodies, volunteering their advice when not asked and always eager to hear and tell the latest bit of news, with no regard to truth. They traipse up and down the community and keep the phone lines hot with their malicious tales and hurtful words and accusations.

(5) BACK BONES- Well, my Pappy taught me that it's always good to end on a positive note, if possible, so I have saved one of the good bones for last: the Back Bones. Just as you can't stand up without the support of your backbone, so churches must have the backbones for strength to carry on the Lord's work. These Back Bones, take a stand for God, show up faithfully, tithe, love, pray, forgive and win souls to Jesus. They go the extra mile, seldom complain (and repent when they do), sacrifice for the Lord's work and support their preacher. God bless these Back Bones.

Now which bone are you?

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