

# 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).*

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Ashland, Kentucky



Alexander Maclaren

*"Mark . . . is useful to me for ministering" (II Tim. 4:2 R.V.).*

The outlines of Mark's life are familiar — his relationship to Barnabas, his desertion of his post in Paul's first journey, the years of eclipse that followed, his reappearance with Paul during the Roman imprisonment, his presence with Peter when in "Babylon," wherever that is, and Paul's last affectionate commendation of him, which reinstates him in the very office which he had formerly given up.

His story suggests the possibility of overcoming and obliterating the memory of early faults.

Mark was probably a Cypriote, as Barnabas was, and would therefore be quite willing to go among known faces and on familiar ground; but when it was proposed to stretch further afield and to cross to the Asiatic mainland, his courage oozed out at his fingers' ends and he slunk back to his mother's comfortable house in Jerusalem. Paul's enthusiasm felt the ignominy of such dereliction, as the writer of the Acts emphatically

## JOHN MARK

Alexander Maclaren

(1826-1910)

shows, by the very order of his words, when he tells that the apostle *"thought not good to take with them (on the second journey) him that withdrew from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work."* Paul's severity was kinder than Barnabas's indulgent proposal. The best way of waking Mark's conscience was to say, "No, he would not do the work before, and now he shall not do it." That is often God's way with us. It brings us to our senses as it brought Mark to his.

How long it took we do not know, but the cure was thorough. The man that had shrunk from possible dangers and disagreeables in Asia became brave enough to stand by Paul the prisoner, and not be *"ashamed of his chain."* So far had he won his way to Paul's renewed confidence, and made himself indispensable by service and sweetness that the lonely apostle, with the headsman's sword in prospect, feels that he would like to have

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## The Rests of the Bible

Milburn Cockrell

(Preached on the Independent Baptist Hour March 16, 1980)

One of the most expressive words in any language is the word rest. Its meaning is well understood by all. How pleasant to come home and rest after a hard day at work. How cheering it is to enjoy refreshment and ease when we are weary and worn out. It is good for the body and the soul to have mental and emotional calm.

The Bible mentions many different rests. The word rest is employed by the Holy Spirit to describe peace within a nation following the cessation of wars. The word rest is used to explain the blessings of salvation and service to Christ. At death the believer is pictured as being at rest. The showers of blessings in the

Millennium are said to be the rest of the earth.

### Creation Rest

The first rest mentioned in the Bible is creation rest. In Genesis 2:1-3 Moses wrote: *"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made."*

God did not rest on the seventh day because He was weary from working, for *"the*

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## Ecumenical Folly

by the Editor

The National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches and many similar organizations are working day and night, backed by millions of dollars, to establish a oneworld church. The leaders of these organizations are more concerned about a physical church unity than a spiritual church unity. I believe that no power on earth will prevent the reality of this superchurch of the end of time. Ecclesiastical Babylon, the synagogue of Satan.

The unity that these liberals seek to bring about is a unity by association and affiliation, but there can be no lasting unification except *"the unity of the faith"* (Eph. 4:13). If all denominations would embrace the faith of the original Christians, believed and preserved across the centuries by true Baptist churches, there would be unity. But to suggest that Baptist churches yoke up with everything that trots down the road branded Christian is to recommend the destruction of the truth.

In our generation, people want to be identified with some big institution. They want to have big crowds. But let Baptists never compromise just to have a big crowd, for when Baptists compromise they lose. May we do things just like the Lord said regardless of crowds.

I feel sure that our Lord could have had large crowds by joining forces with Annas and Caiaphas in a mighty movement with the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Samari-

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## The Christian Crowns by the Editor



There are five mentioned in the New Testament which are promised to God's children upon certain conditions. They may be won or lost (Rev. 3:11). They are made of gold (Rev. 4:4).

1. The Incorruptible Crown (I Cor. 9:25). This crown will be given to those who are temperate in all things, to those who have not let "the cares of this life" interfere with their Father's business.

2. The Crown of Rejoicing (I Thess. 2:19). This is the soul winner's crown. Those who win souls for Christ, whether by personal work, by preaching the gospel, or by distributing the gospel in print, will receive this crown. (See also Phil. 4:1; Dan. 12:3).

3. The Crown of Glory (I Pet. 5:4). This is the pastor or elder's crown, given to those who have willingly cared for the flock of God as overseers

— not as lords and not for the sake of financial gain, but as a shepherd who cares for his sheep.

4. The Crown of Righteousness (II Tim. 4:8). This crown is given to all those who love the appearing of Christ. These dear people are not only trusting Christ for salvation, but they are looking for His soon return to the clouds of Heaven. Because of this blessed hope, they endure afflictions, fight the good fight of faith, and speak the truth in love. They are loyal and faithful to Christ at all times (I John 3:3).

5. The Crown of Life (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10). This is the martyr's crown which is given to those who "loved not their lives unto the death" (Rev. 12:11). Many such as Stephen, James, John, Peter, Paul, Tyndale and countless others will receive this crown.

# A REPORT ON THE WORK . . . by Milburn Cockrell

Divine Providence has smiled upon the work of Berea Baptist Church. Hundreds of brethren and churches have taken a stand with us in our new endeavors. We have already mailed out our first issue of the paper — a thing our enemies said could never be done. Our opponents predicted that our new church and its work would come to nought. However, our sovereign God has ruled otherwise.

We now have an addressograph and a graphotype to cut the metal plates and to address our papers with. Numerous other supplies have been donated or secured by others for us. One of the greatest needs of our paper is a good typewriter which would cost about \$800. Many churches have sent us the names of their members with a contribution to the printing ministry. We hope

that others will join in this effort to enlarge our mailing list. We do appreciate the good contributions to this work which have made possible a monthly paper, and it would seem soon a paper twice a month. We would pray that someday we may have a paper that is weekly again, if it is the Lord's will.

We want a good paper in printing quality and materials. We are most concerned with having writers who are of a good moral character and who practice what they preach. We will do our best to keep rascals, racketeers, radicals and rebels out of our paper. We will never promote one missionary to the neglect of others. All will be treated alike so as not to make one rich while others suffer.

In the Berea Baptist Church all checking accounts require the check to be signed by two persons in different families. A disclosure of how all money is spent in our radio work and publication work will be given to supporters. A financial report will be given each month to the church of all operations. Each year we will ask three brethren to come and examine our records and report their finds to the churches. All of this is being done to prevent a Jim Jones type operation ever happening in our church. The churches will receive their money's worth in what we do as we will operate on a Scriptural and business-like manner. We welcome questions, and all our financial records can be examined at any time by any supporter. No warning is required. Come any time without telling us you are coming.

God has abundantly blessed our radio work. We have already constructed another recording studio in the basement of my house. Due to a generous offering from a church we were able to purchase a 6100 Teac Recorder like we did have. This new recorder and another

loaned to us by the Indore Baptist Church has enabled us to make professional quality tapes. We have both the equipment and the know-how to go on as many stations as God may be pleased to put us on in the future. Doors are open in Australia and England to us now. We believe that God's truth should be broadcast to the ends of the earth. We are Missionary Baptist, not Hardshell Baptists!

The Lord has added four by baptism and twelve by letters to our church since the last paper. The presence of the Holy Spirit can be felt in our services and the fellowship is very good. We are starting a new book store. See the details in an add in this paper. I am giving all my books on SACERDOTALISM AND THE BAPTISTS to the new book store — about \$1,000 worth of books. I have loaned the church enough money to buy a small supply of books. I believe in the circulation of good books enough that I have cleaned out my bank account to see these offered again to people at a reasonable price.

I doubt that any church as small as we are has ever organized and immediately began a paper, radio work and a book store in about three months. The owner of the property where my house is and where the church presently meets has agreed to sell us some land and the house I live in. No doubt the price will be high. Then there is the expense of building a church building on this land. Presently, all the operations of the church are carried on in my house. If any church or brother would care to help us in this expensive endeavor, we would appreciate their help.

God's blessings be upon all that have prayed for us in these trying times, and the many who have helped us financially to get all of these new projects going. We plan to move ahead, for there is plenty of room in that direction.



The O'Kasional family said they would be back sometime next month. Mr. and Mrs. Faint Hearted have given up again. They come and go, but mostly go. The Plez R. Seekers were at the park on a picnic and got home just too late to come to church last Sunday evening. Mrs. N.O. Excuse didn't have a thing to wear to Sunday school, but she made it to work on Monday. The Spineless sisters had someone to drop in at 6:00 p.m. and they didn't want to tell them that they were on the way to Training Service. Mr. and Mrs. T.V. Addick and children couldn't miss the special program Sunday evening. Mr. Spas Modic didn't feel like coming to prayer meeting Wednesday night. Of course, the D.E. Pendable family were in all the services.

## Hidden Books of the Bible

In these remarks are hidden names of 15 books of the Bible. It's a real lulu. Kept me looking so hard for facts I missed the revelation. I was in a real jam especially since the names were not capitalized. The truth will come to numbers of our readers. To others, it will be a real job. For all it will be most facinating search. Yes, there will be some easy to spot; others hard to judge. So we admit it usually results in loud lamentations when we can't find them. One lady says she brews coffee while she puzzles over it. (One book is underlined to help you start. Can you find the other 14? ? ?)

him at hand once more, and bids Timothy bring Mark with him, "for he is useful to me for ministering"; he can do a thousand things that a man like me cannot do for himself, and he does them "all for love and nothing for reward." So he wants Mark once more. Not only Paul's generosity, but Mark's patient effort had pasted a clean sheet over the page that told of his desertion, and he became useful for the very service which he had petulantly and with cowardice flung up.

We need set no limits to the possibilities of curing old and ingrained defects and faults. Hope and effort should be boundless. There is nothing that a Christian man may not reach in the way of victory over his worst self, if only he will be true to Jesus and use the renewing grace which He gives. We sometimes feel as if yesterday must set the tune for today, and as if we had been so often baffled that to try again was useless.

But the field on which Israel reared "Eben-ezer," the Stone of Help, to commemorate decisive victory, was the field on which Israel had before fought the same foes and been utterly fouted. We too may conquer on the ground where we have been beaten. A spar, broken and lashed together with spun yarn tightly drawn and well tarred, is stronger at the point of fracture than it was before. Christ with us will make anything possible for us, in the way of restoration, of cure of old faults, of ceasing to repeat former sins.

Mark's history may teach the greatness of small service. He was no apostle or evangelist. His business was much humbler than these had to do, being simply to attend to Paul's comfort, and to look after the thousand and one trifles which someone had to be burdened with, if the apostle was to do his great work. And he kept to his role, never wishing that the apostle would send him to

Crete to ordain elders as he did Titus, or bid him stay behind at Ephesus to deal with teachers of false doctrine, as he did Timothy. He did his entirely "secular" work as Paul's private attendant, amanuensis, factotum and sometimes perhaps valet, with no hankering after more conspicuous service.

All sorts of work which contribute to one end are really of one sort. When he had not Mark to look after him, the great apostle left cloaks behind him here and books and parchments there, and sorely needed some one to keep things together. So Mark helped to diffuse the Gospel as much as if he had been its preacher. The organ-blower who took credit for the grand performance because "I blew it," was not so far wrong. If it had not been for him at the bellows, the artist at the keyboard would have made little music. Jesus Christ said, "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet, shall receive a prophet's reward."

Mark's subsequent career may remind us that enlarged service rewards small service faithfully done. He ended as the writer of a gospel, and so became an evangelist in the noblest sense. No doubt his years of faithful service in the

humbler capacity moved Peter to take him as his "interpreter" in preparing that oldest record of our Lord's life. "He that is faithful in that which is least" will have the opportunity given in due time of being "faithful also in much." The tools do come to the hand that can wield them. The reward for work is more work.

It is so, as a rule, in this world; sometimes too much so, for, as they say is the case at the English bar, so it is sometimes in God's Church: "There is no medium between having nothing to do and being killed with work." But the law will be exemplified most blessedly when Christ shall say, "Well done! good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."

So the story of the renegade, who came back and toiled so well, bids us be of good cheer, because it is possible for us, as he has proved, to recover ourselves after any fault or failure. Christ is not less generous than Paul was, and even we may be declared by Him to be "useful to Him for ministering."

(LEAVES FROM THE TREE OF LIFE, pp. 226-230, 1899 edition)

## Bits of Wisdom

The only way to build love between two people or two groups of people is to be so related to each other as to stand in need of each other.

AD. 1979

## Church Membership

The Roman Catholics dropped by 233,144 last year to 49,602,035—the largest decline of the century.

General Church membership increased by 7 percent to a total of 132,812,470 representing 60.8% of the U.S. population. In 1965 the percentage was 64.3.

—Source: 1979 Year Book of American and Canadian Churches.

## SACERDOTALISM AND THE BAPTISTS

By Milburn Cockrell

Price \$3.00

This book was written to reply to the New Light Movement which limits God's priesthood on earth to Landmark Baptist Churches. The book traces the history of the movement and sets forth its principle teachings. The writer shows the New Lighters have neither the Bible nor Baptist history to back up their new teachings. The book is paperback and contains 66 pages. Please include \$1.00 for postage and handling.

Berea Baptist Church

P.O. Box 390  
Ashland, Kentucky 41101

# The Rests of the Bible . . .

Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary" (Isa. 40:28). Nor are we to suppose that His rest was total inactivity. Jesus declared: "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work" (John 5:17). God must continually work for the preservation of His creation (Ps. 104: 23-29). We are to understand that the Creator rested from His work of creation (Ex. 20:11; 31:17; Heb. 4:3-4). On the seventh day God paused from the creation of new kinds and orders of beings.

Why did God rest on the seventh day? Why did He bless and sanctify the last day of the week? I believe He did it as an example to man. He did it to show that one day out of seven belongs to God more than the other six. Exodus 20: 8-11 reads: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Jesus said: "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

## Sabbath Rest

God rested on the seventh day to set an example for man to observe a weekly Sabbath. The first Sabbath was kept by God Himself in celebration of his rest from creation. The Sabbath antedates all arts and sciences. It existed before Enoch built a city, or Jabel stretched a tent, or Jubal invented instruments of music, or Tubal-Cain became an artificer in brass and iron. The Sabbath was a companion of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. It was instituted in innocence and religiously observed by the people of God

throughout the patriarchal age.

Israel was commanded to keep the Sabbath before the Ten Commandments were given on Sinai. In Exodus 16:23 Moses said: "This is that which the LORD hath said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning." The Sabbath already existed before this as Moses spoke of it as "that which the LORD hath said." Exodus 16:28 reveals it was already a part of the moral law given to Israel. Hence when Moses received the Ten Commandments God said: "REMEMBER the sabbath day" (Ex. 20:8).

The civil law of Israel required the weekly observance of a day of rest: "Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed" (Ex. 23:12). Failure to observe the Sabbath meant death: "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death" (Ex. 35:2). The observation of the Sabbath was a sign between God and the nation of Israel (Ex. 31:14-17; Ezek. 20:12-24). Special blessings were promised to Israel for remembering the Sabbath Day (Isa. 58:13-14) and national judgment if they failed to keep it (Jer. 17:27).

## Cannan Rest

The third kind of rest mentioned in the Bible is Cannan rest. God promised Israel national rest after they conquered the land of Cannan: "For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you. But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the

land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when He giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety" (Deut. 12:9-10).

Following the wars with the Cannanites under Joshua, Israel did enjoy this rest promised to them. Joshua wrote: "And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that He swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them: the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass" (Josh. 21:44-45).

The Cannan rest was a delightful time in the history of Israel. They enjoyed rest from the fatigues of their wilderness journey. They were privileged to rest from their wars with the Cannanites (Josh. 23:1), for their enemies dared not to attack them. Their habitations were quiet and peaceful. This wonderful rest continued until Israel sinned against God and brought upon themselves Divine judgment in the form of numerous wars. During Israel's national history she enjoyed but brief periods of rest (II Chron. 14:7). The nation of Israel has no rest from her enemies at present, but she will have three and a half years rest in the first part of the tribulation period (Ezek. 38:11). This rest will be short lived because of the persecution of Antichrist.

## Death Rest

At physical death the believer rests from all his labors for Christ on earth. Centuries ago Job wrote: "There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest. There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor" (Job 3:17-18).

Job's language describes

the blessed state of the departed souls in Paradise. The grave is rest for the body of the weary pilgrim, and Paradise is rest for the soul. At death the soul of the righteous retires from the hustle and bustle of this noisy world to sweetly enjoy God for ever. This makes death desirable to a child of God, for it is escape from all the storms and tempests of this restless world to perfect and everlasting rest. The psalmist said, "Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest" (Ps. 55:6).

In Revelation 14:13 it is written: "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." Death is rest from all bodily pains. It is rest from all mental anxiety and grief. It is rest from all the disputes and the controversies that agitate the world and society at large. All disputes are settled on the confines of Paradise. Oh, blessed rest! No frost shall nip its flowers! No clouds shall darken its sky!

Death rest is not very far off from any believer on this earth. It is but one heart beat and one breath away. It draws nearer to him each hour. The tide of Jordan touches his feet; the waves of that eternal sea rises upon the sands upon which he now stands. Very soon what he calls life — that little isthmus between time and eternity — shall be covered by the river into which all mankind must enter.

When my friends gather around my bedside and gaze upon the face on which the last smile of life lingers, my spirit will have already been emancipated from its fleshy prison. In that second, if permitted by God to speak to my survivors, I would shout, "Weep not for me, but weep for



yourselves. I have laid aside the shackles of life. I have not left happiness, but I have entered upon it. I am not dead, I have just begun to live. Come speedily and share with me the rest which shall never be disturbed for ever and ever. Come up hither where the spirits of just men made perfect sing beside the throne of the Most High in endless day."

General Stonewall Jackson was a fine Christian gentleman. He was seriously wounded in battle at Chancellorsville. Upon his dying bed he said: "Let us pass over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees." These were the last words he ever uttered. His soul was reaching forward across the River of Death to the golden streets of the Celestial City. His spirit departed this life to go and rest under the shade of the tree of life.

### Service Rest

In Matthew 11:29 Jesus spoke of service rest: "*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest to your souls.*" In Bible times a yoke was used in connection with oxen. To bear the yoke signifies to labor in the service of Christ. Those who bear the yoke of Christ find rest to their souls while they serve. They are unloaded by bearing His burdens, they are rested by running His errands. Here is spiritual rest in the observance of Christ's commandments.

The generation of Israelites who rebelled against Jehovah in the wilderness fell short of attaining service rest (Ps. 95:11; Heb. 3:11; 4:3). In view of the failure of the Israelites of old, the Hebrew writer urged the Hebrew Christians: "*Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief*" (Heb. 4:11). The Hebrew writer does not speak here of death rest, for our labors do not prepare us for Heaven but

follow after us there (Rev. 14:13). This is not salvation rest for salvation does not require any labor on our part. The rest in Hebrews 4:11 requires labor on our part; it is service rest.

Jeremiah 6:16 sets forth service rest: "*Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.*" The way of righteousness is the old paths of which the Lord has always approved. His written Word is the true standard of antiquity. It is the good old way the patriarchs and prophets travelled. Those who keep to the old paths of faith and practice find real rest for their souls. Although it may involve some effort to walk in the old highway, those who do so shall find an abundant recompense at their journey's end.

### Millennial Rest

The world as we know it is filled with unrest. Everything upon it tilts and changes. Its pleasures like the sea are constantly ebbing and flowing. The tears of today and the smiles of tomorrow — the joy of the morning and the sorrow of the night are ever changing. Sin has filled the earth with unrest. It has filled the mind with darkness, the conscience with uneasiness, and the heart with disquiet. Sin has sown the earth with briars and thorns, sprinkled it with tears, scarred and mutilated it with graves so that "*the whole creation groans and travaileth in pain together until now*" (Rom. 8:22).

One coming day this weary earth is to enjoy a millennial rest. Isaiah said of that time: "*The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet*" (Isa. 14:7). Jeremiah wrote: "*But fear not thou, my servant Jacob, and be not dismayed, O Israel: for, behold, I will save thee from afar off, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and be in rest and at*

*ease, and none shall make him afraid*" (Jer. 46:27; 30:10). Oh, wonderful day! Oh, happy time when "*the earth sitteth still, and is at rest*" (Zech. 1:11). In the thousand-year reign it may be said of Christ: "*His rest shall be glorious*" (Isa. 11:10).

Certainly we do have a few days even in this world of rest in trouble (II Thess. 1:7). But reason, conscience, and experience all say to us in our best state on earth: "Arise, this world is not at rest. Sin has polluted it." May no real believer ever set his heart upon this restless earth. Rather, let us view the world as a journey. Gather a few flowers as you pass through it and be thankful to God for them. Bow down and sip a little of the brook as it runs past, but only to strengthen you to pursue your journey. In all of this let your longing for millennial rest increase and grow brighter. Let earthly travels sweeten your expectation for the rest which is future for the people of God (Heb. 4:9).

### Soul Rest

Nothing in the world can satisfy the deep needs of the great soul that constitutes man. The creation itself is too poor to enrich the immortal soul of a man. Like a dove, man goes forth from the ark to seek some foothold of rest either in sunshine or shadow. But from Solomon to Socrates man has

found no place of perfect rest. The transient can never minister satisfaction to the eternal.

From the lowest to the very loftiest pinnacle of human greatness, there is no spot on earth where a man can enjoy perfect and permanent rest. Can any man honestly say at this moment, "I am the happiest man on earth. Let the clock of time stop. Let me be left where I am, nothing changed, nothing added, nothing subtracted. Let me be permanently fixed in the spot I am today." No man living can say this. We would all like something better. In times past we have all had too much flower and no fruit, rich expectations but no possessions. We are today looking to the future to find what we failed to find in the past.

The whole course of human history seems to indicate man's ceaseless search for a rest, a quiet spot of sunshine and flowers on which he can repose and say, "Here I would wish to live for ever." Day after day, night after night, a man comes home as the shades of night fall to blighted hopes and disappointed expectations. The old prophet said: "*The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt*"

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## BOOK SALE ON GILL'S WORKS

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## The Importance of Prophecy

Prophecy is the foretelling of future events by virtue of direct communication from God. About one-third of the Bible is prophecy. Some of the biblical prophecies have already been fulfilled, while many others are yet to be fulfilled. We can rest assured that the Lord will fulfill all unfulfilled prophecies at the times appointed. He has said: "I will speak, and the word that I speak shall come to pass" (Ezek. 12:25). Peter called prophecy "the more sure word" (1 Pet. 1:19).

Why is there so much prophecy in the Bible? God put it there not only to assure His children of His final triumph, but also to enable us to map out the details of the future. Prophecy is history written in advance. By reading and studying it we can know something about the future. A study of this important subject is like reading the headlines of a newspaper fifty years from now. Such knowledge will cause us to "occupy till He comes." The preacher or Bible teacher who does not study the prophecies of the Bible is lost in this unfriendly world without a chart or compass.

The fulfillment of prophecy proves the Bible to be the

inspired Word of God. Only God could have foretold the events of the future for man is ignorant of what a day may bring forth. Fulfilled prophecy gives proof of God's power and foreseeing wisdom. It furnishes evidence that God actually saw the end from the beginning.

Some deluded souls say, "I preach Christ, not prophecy." But the truth of the matter is that if they preach Christ they preach prophecy. John said that the "testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Rev. 19:10). John meant by this that all prophecy points to, center in, and revolve around Jesus Christ. So all prophecy is about Jesus.

## Rests

(Isa. 57:20). This will ever be man's condition until he finds soul rest in Jesus Christ. In Matthew 11:28 Jesus Christ promised to give rest to all the restless sinners who come to Him: "*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*"

Those invited to rest by Christ are those who groan under the burden of sin. They are weary of being the servants of sin. They have known restless nights caused by sin in their conscience. To such heavy laden souls Christ gives rest from the terror of the law and fear of Hell. Are you laden with sin, guilt, remorse and fear of death? Are you laden with sorrow, slander, doubt, temptations and conflicts? Why do you remain in such a miserable condition when you can "*find rest unto your souls*"? Come to Christ for rest. Come to Him who has promised rest to every sinner who comes to Him in faith. Hebrews 4:3 plainly says: "*For we which have believed do enter into rest.*" No believer in Christ has ever failed to receive soul rest.

Rest is a most desirable commodity. Nothing on earth

# Special Announcements

Bro. Joe Martinez has published some sheet music which he has written. The three songs are "Vessel of Honor," "Holy Spirit," and "Tis Sweet To Die." These may be purchased from Bro. Joe at 75¢ each. He is also considering making these in smaller sizes so as to be glued in hymn books which churches already have. For more information on these songs write to Bro. Joe Martinez, 2100 Woodlawn, Granite City, Ill. 62040.

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We are pleased to announce the publication of a new book "Wines of the Bible." This book has been out of print for over 100 years. Its author, A.M. Wilson, examines and refutes the unfermented theory.

E.U. Manse in the Preface of Wilson's book says of Wilson: "Having been a teetotaler for

more than thirty years, his personal habits, associations, and sympathies have all been in favor of the unfermented theory; but the facts encountered in the present investigation, have constrained him, reluctantly, to conclude that, so far as the wine of the ancients are concerned, unfermented wine is a myth."

This will be a limited edition offered at a prepublication special of \$15.00 (which includes postage). After publication the book will sell for \$16.95. Expected date of publication is October 30, 1980. Order from our book store now and you will receive your copy at this low price. Books will be mailed as soon as they are off the press. Send order to Berea Baptist Book Store, P.O. Box 390, Ashland, Ky. 41101.

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can compare with a peace of mind and conscience. Christ alone can give lasting rest to a burdened conscience. The Saviour has the greatest power and the greatest will to bestow rest upon heavy laden sinners. Those who come to Him believing with all their heart will discover He can turn their storm into everlasting calm. Christ can give a rest that the world can neither give nor take from you. Sinner, you can never have true rest until your soul leans on Jesus for repose.

A missionary once asked a former Mohammedan, "Why did you become a Christian?" The new convert to Christianity replied, "There was one verse in the Gospel of Matthew which made me wish to become a Christian." "What is it," the missionary inquired. The man replied, "It is the words in Matthew 11:28 where Christ said: '*Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest.*' I know the book of Islam, but there is no promise of rest there; I wanted rest." Then he added, "I have believed on the Man who made the promise, and I have the rest."

## Conclusion

It is written in Hebrews 4:9:

"*There remaineth therefore the keeping of a sabbath to the people of God*" (margin rendering). This verse teaches that there remains for Christians a Sabbath to keep. The Christian Sabbath is on the first day of the week, not the seventh. It commemorates the work of the new creation, not the old creation. It is called in the New Testament "*The Lord's day*" (Rev. 1:10). It is to be a day of rest and public worship.

There is something so holy, beautiful and sweet in the observance of the Lord's Day that causes a believer to anticipate and covet his everlasting Sabbath. The Christian Sabbath is a fragment of Heaven set like a precious gem in the forehead of the world. By keeping it we are made to long for the day of all Sabbaths. The Lord's Day is the brightest day of the seven. More than any other day, it moves me to view the sunshine of the better land and to hear the chimes of earth's coming jubilee.

O land of rest, for thee I sigh!  
When will the moment come  
When I shall lay my armor by,  
And dwell in peace at home?

### Berea Baptist Banner Financial Report June - 1980

Brought forward	
from May, 1980	\$1,081.00
Receipts for June	2,059.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,140.40</b>

#### EXPENDITURES:

Printing	\$756.11
Postage -	
2nd Class permit charge	\$120.00
Trust Fund Account	100.00
	\$220.00
Supplies	422.93
*Dividing checks	111.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,510.04</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$1,510.04</b>
<b>BALANCE JUNE 30, 1980</b>	<b>\$1,630.36</b>

\*This is done when a person sends one check to go half in the radio fund and half in the paper. It is always best for our bookkeeping if you send a check for each fund. This eliminates our having to put money from one fund to another.



# Religious News in Brief . . . by the Editor

Most of us are familiar with Anita Bryant's national crusade against gay rights. We also are mindful of her crusade against the disintegration of the American family. Now the press reports she has filed for divorce from her husband, Bob Green, of nearly 20 years. Anita's reasons for the divorce was because her husband was too eager to make a fast buck on her name and because the two got into a struggle over who was boss.

Anita says her experience with the church has convinced her it emphasizes the submissive role of women — while ignoring other Biblical teachings on how men should love and treat their wives. "What happened to me makes me understand why there are angry women who want ERA passed," she said. She also describes her marriage as "hell for 20 years."

While I do not know all the details of her case, I do believe that as an independent observer I can put my finger on part of the problem. It appears she could not bring herself to be dominated by her husband, although the Bible commands a women to submit to her husband as the head of the home (Gen. 3:16; Eph. 5:22, 24; Tit. 2:5; Pet. 3:6). No home is big enough for two bosses.

Anita has spoken in mixed assemblies containing men. She spoke before the Southern Baptist Convention with her Bible in her hand. She conducts "the Anita Bryant Ministries." God prohibits a woman to teach men in public (I Cor. 14:34; I Tim. 2:12-15). If she is a spiritual woman she should acknowledge the things which Paul wrote by inspiration are the commandments of God (I Cor. 14:37). While her zeal for truth was commendable, she was out of her Godgiven place. It is always best to stay with the Word of God, for no one, famous or infamous, is exempt from God's law.

I believe she has been wrong in calling herself Anita Bryant all these years. She really has been Mrs. Bob Green since 1960. Evidently she wanted her own name, not her husband's. Furthermore, she has now gone to law before the unjust to obtain a divorce from the husband that God joined her to some 20 years ago. The Bible condemns this (I Cor. 6:1). Her actions in the divorce have ruined her words in her books and lectures. She has given the enemies of the Lord a great occasion to blaspheme, and she has hurt the name of Baptists throughout America.

Granting there were some serious problems between her and her husband, it would have been wisdom on her part to have separated and hoped for reconciliation (I Cor. 7:10-11). I am sure that her husband was not blameless as it takes two to tangle. Let Baptists everywhere pray that God will yet save the marriage of Bob and Anita for the sake of their four children and the cause of Christ. I say pray because as it stands now it would appear Anita has joined Ann Landers and Bob Harrington.

Anita Bryant is a classical example of how rebellion against the Word of God can ruin your testimony for Christ. Her divorce has cancelled her concerts throughout the country. But for the sovereign grace of God, all Christians would have their testimony ruined by sin and Satan.

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MADRID, Jan. 26 (Reuters) — The Spanish Government has approved a new law that will allow couples who have lived apart for at least two years to begin divorce proceedings.

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Couples living together without being married since 1970 have doubled. The proportion of women between 25 and 29 who have never

married climbed from 10.5% in 1960 to 18%. Since 1970 the number of families headed by a woman rose 43%, from 5.6 million to 8 million. Divorce is now so common that nearly half of all children born today can expect to spend a meaningful portion of their lives before age 18 in single-parent families.

One of every five households now consists of just one person, up 54% since 1970.

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An article recently sent us from North Dakota (GRAND FORKS HERALD, March 13, 1980) describes the Mormon ranching operation in Florida.

The 300,000 acre ranch — 40 miles from north to south with 200 miles of private roads criss-crossing its interior — 3,000 miles of fences around its perimeter — 500 square miles — valued 15 years ago at \$100,000,000.00 makes the LDS Church the "largest private owner of contiguous land in the state of Florida.

The article says 35,000 Mormons live in Florida, more than any other state outside the West.

## Folly continued from page 1

tans and Herodians. Think of the prestige if He had had Pilate on the platform with Him. But He was altogether too negative and Biblical for the religious leaders of His day. So ought we to be.

Why any church that calls itself a Baptist would have any desire to unite with the National Council of Churches is more than I can understand. The NCC and WCC are both composed of pacifists, heretics, modernists, pinks, scoffers, higher critics, false prophets, indidels and communists. Any Baptist church seeking to join either the WCC or NCC wants to

The ranch is ½ the size of Rhode Island (THE UTAH EVANGEL, 6-80).

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Britain has only 10,000 Communist militants, but they have infiltrated key positions in the Labor Party and the trade unions. They organize strikes that cripple the country. Their strikers behave like wild animals, overthrowing lorries, sticking nails in tires, and in general creating chaos. Unfortunately it is conceivable that this small minority could take over the country even though they cannot win one single Parliament seat (JESUS TO THE COMMUNIST WORLD, 6-80).

Before you criticize this report, or jump up out of your seat with astonishment, you might consider that the number of Communists in America is estimated to be from 25,000 to 50,000. These Red conspirators are in key positions in our government, labor unions, schools, colleges, and churches. The threat of a Communist takeover in America is far greater than any of us really want to think about.

roost with buzzards, and so it is that birds of a feather flock together. By your company you are known, and certainly the company of some is extremely bad.

**PLANNING A  
MOVE?**



**Please let us know  
your NEW address**

# DEDICATION

Arthur W. Pink  
(1886 - 1952)

*Continued from our  
June issue.*

Again; it is only as we thus completely dedicate ourselves unto the Lord that a joyous life is possible. Why do so few Christians retain their first love? Why is it many so quickly lose the "joy of God's salvation?" Why is it that few have settled peace and full assurance? The answer is not far to seek: it is because they have failed to definitely and unreservedly "give themselves unto the Lord." We need hardly say that the man of the world has an altogether erroneous idea of both the nature and source of happiness. He supposes it lies in the possession of things, in the gratification of selfish desires. The Christian knows better: he has learned that all under the sun is "*vanity and vexation of spirit.*" But he also needs to learn that satisfaction and joy are only to be found in Christ, and they, to the fullest extent, only through entire consecration to Him.

Let us also remind the reader it is failure at this point which constitutes the principal stumbling-block to unbelievers. I cannot commend Christ to others if I am miserable and wretched myself. But if I am "*always rejoicing*" (2 Cor. 6:10), if my life is an anthem of praise unto God, those around will want to know the secret of it. Has the reader ever pondered the implication of 1 Pet. 3:15, "*Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you?*" Are you ever "asked?" Ah, my brethren, just so far as we are living for

self, we are misrepresenting our Saviour, who "*pleased not Himself*" (Rom. 15:3). Just to the extent that we find our pleasure in the world, are we denying the sufficiency of Christ to fill the heart. Just so far as these things are true of us, are we a stumbling-block, a hindrance, a curse, to those around us.

Finally, we ought to "give ourselves unto the Lord" because His second coming is imminent. Each year that passes brings His return that much nearer: "*For yet a little while, and He that shall come, will come, and will not tarry*" (Heb. 10:38). Ah, if you knew for certain that ere 1929 expired the Lord Jesus shall have come again to receive us unto Himself, how would you live? Would there not be many changes made in your daily life? Would you not be more devoted to Him, more zealous in His service, more faithful in witnessing for Him? Well, He may come even before this month has run its course! Then let your loins be girded, and your lamps trimmed and burning. Do you wish to see a look of grief in His eyes at His appearing, or one of joy as He says, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant?*" O may His love constrain us to "first give ourselves unto the Lord."

Take my life and let it be,  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Keep my life and let it be,  
Glorifying, Lord, to Thee.  
(STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, Vol. VII, January, 1929).

## Berea Baptist Church Berea Baptist Banner

Financial Report  
May, 1980

Receipts .....	\$1,081.00
Expenditures .....	-----
Balance - May 31, 1980	\$1,081.00

## Berea Baptist Church Radio - Fund

May 15, 1980 to June 14, 1980

Receipts .....	\$1,556.00
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio WFTO-WFTA, Fulton, MS (May) .....	\$ 100.00
Radio WKNG, Tallapoosa, GA (June) ..	112.50
Radio WFTO-WFTA, Fulton, MS (June) .....	125.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 337.50
Balance June 14, 1980 ..	\$1,218.50

## TUNE IN TO THE BEREBA BAPTIST BROADCAST

Station	Time	Dial	Watts
WFTO, Fulton, Miss.	Sun. 1:00-1:30 p.m.	1360	2500 AM
WFTA, Fulton, Miss.	Sun. 1:00-1:30 p.m.	101.7	3000 FM
WKNG, Talla'sa, Ga.	Sun. 1:00-1:30 p.m.	1060	5000 AM

**Berea Baptist Church**  
P.O. Box 390  
Ashland, Kentucky 41101