

The Berea Baptist Banner

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Whole Number 267

The Resurrection of the Body

By Wendell P. Furlong

Burnside, Kentucky

In the Old Testament David expected to “**dwell in the house of the LORD forever**” (Ps. 23:6). Asaph at the end of life hoped to be received into glory (Ps. 73:24). Solomon wrote: “**Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it**” (Eccl. 12:7).

In the New Testament Christ took for granted that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, though long dead were still living, and in His historical account assured that dives and Lazarus still existed in the unseen world, although their bodies were in the graves (Luke 16:19-31).

He also assured the dying robber that when the anguish of the cross was over they would pass together into Paradise, and He counseled men gen-



Wendell Furlong

erally to be afraid of “**him who could destroy both soul and body in hell**” (Luke 23:43; 12:4-5). Paul also had no hesitation in writing that to be “absent from the body, meant to be present with the Lord” (II Cor. 5:8). None of these citations suggest that soul is simply a function of the body, or that it ceases to be when the body dies.

Continued on page 102

Hitler and the Rebirth of Israel

By John Osburn

Greensboro, North Carolina

The rebirth of Israel is essentially important to Bible prophecy. It would be impossible to have any prophecy without Israel being the center of it. Ezekiel 37:11 reads: “**Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.**” The whole chapter of Ezekiel 37 is devoted to the “birthing” or rising up again of the nation of Israel.

Millennial prophecy is hinged upon the existence of Israel. Israel is where Jesus Christ is going to set up His throne for 1000 years to rule and reign over the earth (Isa. 2:1-4, 11:1-16, Zech. 14:1-21, Ezek. 37:21-28, Rev. 20:4-6). It was essential that the nation of Israel be birthed into existence;



Adolf Hitler

it is the center of Bible prophecy!!! Our parents saw a great miracle take place on May 14, 1948. They saw a nation come into existence that would immediately become the center of attention to all students of Bible prophecy. Up until May 14, 1948, there was no nation that Christians could say was in existence that was “The Lord’s people.” All who read their Bibles, I am sure found a

Continued on page 105

The Second Commandment

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

“**Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments**” (Ex. 20:4-6).

“**God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things. . . Forasmuch then as we are the off-**

spring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device” (Acts 17:24-

Continued on page 106

Principles Policies & Practices Consistent with Biblical Baptist Doctrine

Adapted & edited by Curtis Pugh

Berzovia, Romania

We submit that IF the true Churches of Christ are NOT to be found among the people called Baptists, the Baptist Churches are guilty of schism and heresy and therefore have no Biblical or moral right to ex-

ist. Their Churches should disband and their members join with whatever Churches are in fact the true Churches of Christ. If, however, the true Churches of Christ are indeed to be found among those called Baptists, these Churches should obey the Bible alone, refuse to compromise with groups of divergent faith and order, and seek in all things to be consistent in practice with the teachings and practices of that Holy Book.

This Material Adapted And Edited From THE BAPTIST, Memphis, Tennessee A.D. 1867

(A weekly Baptist newspaper published by certain influential members of the Southern Baptist Convention of those days.)

Six Important Doctrines

1. There is one Lord, one Faith, one Immersion, Eph. 4:5. A Scriptural immersion is the profession of that one faith in the burial and resurrec-

Continued on page 108

The Empty Grave

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

“**And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay**” (Matt. 28:5-6).

Whether a place is occupied or vacant is sometimes a matter of great significance. During the 2000 presidential election in the United States, many of us for some weeks wondered

who would be our next president. In military operations we can see the advantage and folly of holding and abandoning certain places. Of all the unoccupied places in the universe, I know of no teaching lesson so important as the empty grave of Jesus Christ. That grave held the body of Jesus for 72 hours, but from then until now it has been empty.

In my text the angel said, “**Come,**

Continued on page 112

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



Editor: Milburn Cockrell
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Resurrection of the

Continued from page 101

RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

Let us consider the resurrection of the body of Jesus. In Psalms 16:10 there is a prophecy. It is quoted in Acts 2:27: **"Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption."** This prophecy concerned Jesus and it is affirmed as having been fulfilled by Him. Then Acts 2:32 reads: **"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we are all witnesses."** Here is the stated fact of the resurrection of the body of Jesus by eyewitnesses. The most competent ones to judge evidence affirm that the resurrection of the body of Jesus is the best-attested event in history.

The body of Jesus never saw corruption. The body that was raised was the same one that was put in the tomb with one exception, in it was no blood.

A note of interest is this: When the soldiers came to break the legs of Jesus, He was already dead, so all the soldiers did was pierce His side with a spear and straightway came out blood and water (John 19:34). Blood

and water does not pour forth from a dead body. John is recording something that normally is impossible. The pouring forth of blood from the riven side of Jesus tells us that He who died there was not a sinful man. For man does not shed blood after death. It proved that the body of Jesus had not gone to corruption, as does that of man.

Of His risen body Jesus said: **"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have"** (Luke 24:39).

RESURRECTION OF THE BODY IN FIGURE

"And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham, And he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me" (Gen. 22:10-12).

Now hear the Holy Spirit's comment on this incident: **"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac; and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure"** (Heb. 11:17-19).

When the stroke of the stretched forth hand holding the knife that would have slain Isaac was arrested, Abraham had already passed through the agony of his son's death. Just as much so as if literally true. But faith accounted that God would raise him up and he would receive him back. Herein is resurrection in figure.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY IN GENERAL

"Marvel not at this: For the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).

Paul in his defense before Felix reminds his accusers that it is "written in the prophets that there should be a resurrection both of the just and the unjust, which they also themselves looked for" (Acts 24:14-15).

These passages removed all doubt that the bodies of all dead shall be resurrected. However, if must be noted, and it shall be pointed out later in other passages of the Word, that the

just and the unjust (believers and unbelievers) are not raised at the same time.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY OF BELIEVERS

There is the resurrection of the bodies of all believers, the blessed and holy ones over whom the second death has no power (Rev. 20:6). This takes place in three stages.

First, resurrection of the bodies of the saints that soon followed the raising of the body of **"Christ the first fruits."** After Christ the first fruit was raised **"the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many"** (Matt. 27:52-53). These saints are now with the Lord.

Second, the resurrection of the bodies of the believers when caught up to meet the Lord in the air. When the Lord descends from Heaven He brings with Him them **"that are fallen asleep (died) in Jesus."** Raises their body first, before changing the bodies of the living believers, then together they are **"caught up together with him into the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air"** (I Thess. 4:13-14).

This is the next and imminent event in the plan of God at which time the declaration of Jesus is verified when He said: **"He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?"** (John 11:25-26).

Third, the resurrection of the bodies of believers martyred in the "great tribulation." After believers are with the Lord tremendous events take place on the earth. The ever-increasing movement toward centralization and unification of the political, commercial, social and religious schemes of men culminate in a One World Order.

"The man of sin, the son of perdition" is revealed (II Thess. 2:3). He is the Antichrist. It is of him Jesus was speaking when He said: **"If another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive"** (John 5:43).

He is given the rulership over this One World Order, for forty and two months. (The last half of his rulership). The Beast (Antichrist) is given authority to continue (to do his work), over every tribe and people and tongue and nation" (Rev. 13:5-7). Sitting in the temple of God, he setteth himself forth as God (II Thess. 2:4). Furthermore an edict is issued for all to worship his image or to be killed (Rev. 13-15). **"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or**

the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Rev. 13:17).

It was of these days Jesus said: **"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: But for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened"** (Matt. 24:21-22). Those days are shortened by the coming of the Lord Jesus followed by the armies (of saints) in Heaven (Rev. 19:11, 14). The Beast (Antichrist) is taken and cast alive into the lake of fire and brimstone: and the rest (armies of the One World system) are killed with the sword of Him (the Lord Jesus) that sat upon the horse (Rev. 19:19-20). **"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ: and he shall reign forever and ever"** (Rev. 11:15).

Of the multitude of believers that were put to death in the great tribulation it is written that they lived, their bodies were raised from among the dead ones. This is the third and last stage of the resurrection of the bodies of believers. It completes the first resurrection (Rev. 20:6).

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY OF UNBELIEVERS

"The rest of the dead (unbelievers) lived not (their bodies not raised) again until the thousand years were finished" (Rev. 20:5). Then the sea and death (the graves) give up their bodies and Hades their soul, and in body and soul they stand before the great white throne (Rev. 20:11-13). This is the last resurrection recorded in the Scriptures. It is the resurrection of unbelievers only.

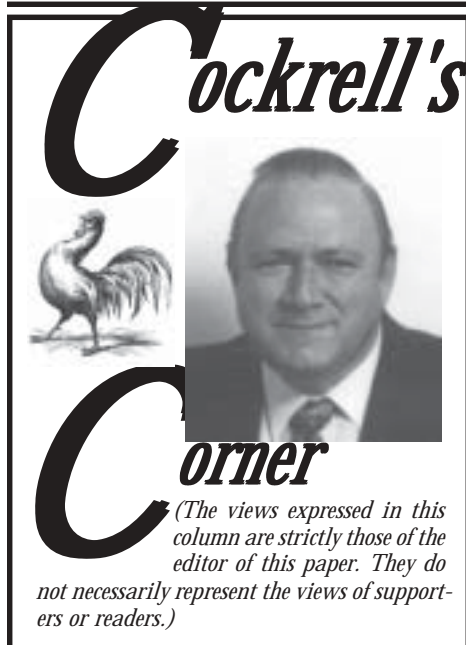
BEHOLD A MYSTERY (I Cor. 15:51-54)

A mystery in the New Testament is something known only to God until revealed at His appointed time.

THE MYSTERY

The mystery reveals the process of resurrection and transformation of the bodies of believers. There is a widely proclaimed and accepted teaching among the people that *all* men must die based upon Hebrews 9:27 which says, **"It is appointed unto men once to die."** Death is not appointed to all men, absolutely. Death is limited to men of one birth, who are by nature the descendants of Adam. Of believers the mystery reveals, **"we all shall not sleep (die), but we shall all be changed. For this corruptible (the body of the living one) must put on incorruption (resurrection), and this mortal (the body of the living one) must put on immortality (transformation). But when this cor-**

Continued on page 104



THE TRUTH AT LAST!

Mississippi has become a hot topic in the national and international liberal media. On Tuesday, April 17, 2001, Mississippians rejected a new flag design that would have replaced the Confederate battle flag with a cluster of 20 stars. This was by a 2 to 1 margin. Now Mississippi is the only state to prominently feature the Confederate battle flag.

USA Today (4-20-01) said: "Mississippi voted to cling to its corrupt emblem. . ." Blistering editorials have appeared in the *Atlanta Constitution* and the *Washington Post*, two voices of the far left. Even many of Mississippi's own papers blasted our state, warning of economic boycott and how bad it would be for business. Nearly all of our state leaders were for the new flag. Perhaps Mississippians will be intelligent enough to remove such people from office in the next election.

Other southern states have bowed knee to the politically correct crowd and the black militants. Since last July the Confederate battle flag no longer flies atop South Carolina's statehouse. Georgia has relegated the Confederate emblem to be a part of a display of historic flags. Alabama struck the flag from the state capitol seven years ago. Earlier this year, Florida removed the Confederate flag from a display of several flags on the grounds of the state capitol. But our Mississippi red-necks bucked the crowd.

The Confederate battle flag (there were many other flags of the South) has on it St. Andrew's cross, a Christian symbol. Under this flag my ancestors were persecuted and murdered in England and Scotland. Therefore I guess I should have voted against this Confederate battle flag, but I did not. As one who is part Indian I could say we ought to change the American flag because my people

were persecuted and murdered under it, but I have no plans to do so.

The great cry today is "let the people decide" (this was the cry in the last presidential election) and "let the majority rule." Evidently, this rule applies every place except in Mississippi. According to the liberals, someone from another state should dictate what piece of cloth represents our state! The majority of Mississippians have spoken! The vast majority decided to keep the 107-year-old flag that features a Confederate battle emblem. The vote was 65 percent to 35 percent to keep the old flag.

Much voting was along racial lines, but not in every case. Issaquena, Quitman, Sharkey, and Tallahatchie counties (population more than 60 percent black) went for the 1894 Confederate flag. Madison County (more than 60 percent white) went for the new banner. For some reason the liberal media did not report this. Guess why?

Our multicultural diverse society can tolerate anything except Mississippi's flag. We are entitled to no voice and no history. Mississippi's black congressman, Democrat Bennie Thompson, refuses to fly our flag in his Washington office. The NAACP has vowed to work to remove all historical markers of the Confederacy from our state. Don't be surprised if the liberals in Washington pass a law which makes it a "hate crime" to display our state flag.

Contrary to popular opinion, the War Between the States was not fought over slavery. Abraham Lincoln fought the war to preserve the Union. Lincoln told the abolitionist Horace Greeley: "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery" (Cited in *The Washington Times*, July 10-16, 2000, p. 30).

The real issue was states' rights. Slavery was brought in after the war had started. The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves in the southern states (where Lincoln had no authority), but it kept slavery in all of the United States (where Lincoln did have authority). The state of Maryland had slaves, and some from this state fought with the South.

The South had the right to secede, or Jefferson Davis would have been hung after the war as a traitor. This Mississippian was never tried and no charges were brought, lest the real truth come out. The Confederate soldier was not a rebel, but a patriot.

Only about 7 to 10 percent of the people in the South owned slaves. Over 80,000 Mississippians (many white and some black—the liberals are still trying to explain this if the war was about slavery as they say) fought

under the Confederate flag. Less than 20,000 of these brave men were accounted for at the war's end. Most of these men and boys went to war to protect their home and state from northern invaders who raped, murdered, and burned their homes and farms to the ground. Over 54,000 non-slave holders from Mississippi gave their lives in defense of Mississippi and our flag. Some were my relatives. I, for one, am not ready to forget these brave men of valor and virtue.

I cannot speak for all Mississippians. I know there are some radicals on both sides of the issue. I am not a racist, for I know that God made all nations of one blood (Acts 17:26). Racism grows out of evolution which teaches that one race advances above another. More than anything else this is the cause of racism, but it goes largely ignored by citizens and Christians. I don't care for racist organizations such as the KKK and NAACP.

But I am glad Mississippians voted to preserve our heritage, for our 107-year-old state flag represents values and virtues that exist independently of the institution of slavery. No one in the South owns any slaves, and no black man in the South is a slave. Let northern liberals and race demagogues say what they will. Let them make Mississippi the most lied about state in the Union. Our state flag represents a military heritage of the patriotic South who furnished more than its share of the military that threw back Adolf Hitler. Not surprisingly, given the South's military pride, General Colin Powell remarked that he received his strongest support to run for president from "White Southerners."

The Civil War demonstrated the courage of Southerners. The Federal fleet reached Vicksburg, Miss., and demanded its surrender. The city refused and was bombarded for two months. A Confederate ram, *Arkansas*, came out of the mouth of the Yazoo River and singled-handed attacked the whole Federal fleet. This attack has been characterized as "one of the most brilliant naval feats recorded in the annals of naval warfare."

Nathan Bedford Forrest, a major general in the Confederate army, was outnumbered three to one at the battle of Brice's Crossroads, Miss. Forrest defeated the Federal force of 8,000 on June 10, 1864, a feat unequalled during the war.

The southern foot soldier went to war against great odds. The number of troops raised by the South was about 600,000. The northern army was 2,326,168. Of this number 1,325,297 were whites from the North, 316,427 whites from the south (Ky.,

Mo., Md., W. Va.), 186,107 Negroes, 3,520 Indians, and 494,909 foreigners. The foreigners and Negroes element of the Northern army were greater than the entire army of the South (See *Our Republic* by Riley, Chandler, and Hamilton, p. 348, 1912 edition). To fight against such odds took great courage on the part of a soldier of the Confederacy.

What was the real reason some in Mississippi wanted to change the state flag? The first new flag they proposed looked almost like the battle flag of North Korea. When this was pointed out, the liberals quickly changed the design. None of this was reported by our pro-communist press. This whole mess was carefully designed to bring back the racism of the 1960s and to make a state in the Bible belt (a state who has more Baptists than any other denomination) look black in the eyes of the world. Things don't happen; they are planned!

Many black voters did not feel compelled to go to the polls in great numbers to vote against the old flag. Nevertheless, the leftist media will continue to beat the drum that Mississippi's state flag is an emblem of slavery, lynching, and Jim Crow laws. The majority of blacks and whites in Mississippi think the vote was a waste of 2 million tax dollars, which could have been better spent on more important things. This majority is determined to work together to improve our state in every way possible.

Americans had better wake up! Behind the changing of a few state flags in the South is the plan to change the American flag. We will hear that our flag is offensive to blacks, Indians, and Japanese-Americans who were mistreated under Old Glory. It is true that black Africans warred against one another for slaves, which were sold to Arab slave traders. These slaves were then brought to America by the slave traders of the North on Clipper Ships to be sold to Southern plantation owners to provide a work force. Slavery was practiced much longer under Old Glory than it was under the Confederate battle flag. The American Indian was cruelly treated by the white man under our American flag. It is also true that Japanese-Americans spent years in internment camps during World War II under the American flag. Therefore the politically correct (I like to have said "incorrect") crowd will tell us we must get rid of the American flag to erase our racist past.

What flag do you think the liberals will propose to replace our American flag? Did former Vice President Al Gore give a hint some time ago?

Continued on page 104

Cockrell's Corner

Continued from page 103

When some of our troops were killed in battle he said: "they died for the United Nations."

With the exception of an article in *Time* (2001) and *The Wall Street Journal* (1994), our state gets only negative publicity. Most people have formed their ideas of Mississippi from the movie "Mississippi Burning." For some time our state wisely banned the showing of this movie. When did Hollywood ever get their facts straight?

Northeast Mississippi is a magnet for international business investment with plants from 16 countries besides the U.S. We have almost no unemployment.

The International Ballet Competition regularly rotates among four citadels, where there is a sufficiency of sophisticated art appreciation. These four places are Varna, Bulgaria; Helsinki, Finland; Moscow, Russia, and Jackson, Miss.

Mississippi has made some good contributions to famous people: William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams, John Grisham, Elvis Presley, Tammy Wynette, Jimmy Rodgers (the father of country music), Trent Lott, and Oprah Winfrey.

The Natchez Trace Parkway (most of which is in our state) is the second most-traveled parkway in our nation.

We are now second (some say number one) in manufacturing upholstered furniture. We also test space shuttle engines for NASA and build rocket motors.

The first heart transplant in 1964 was in Mississippi, and so was the first lung transplant in 1963. The most widely used medical textbook in the world, *The Textbook of Medical Physiology*, reprinted in 10 languages, was written by Dr. Arthur Guyton of the University of Mississippi. And, the Case Method of practicing law, the basis of the United States legal system, was developed at the University of Mississippi.

THE PURPOSE OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST

"He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law" (Isa. 42:4).

The context, as well as Matthew 12:18-21, informs us this is a prophecy of the Messiah. The Coming One would not fail in His redemptive

work. He would never be weak, feeble, or disheartened. Though sin, Satan, and the world rise up against Him, Christ in His purpose would not become like a smoking, flickering, dying flame of a lamp. With the weight of all the sins of His people upon His back and suffering the whole punishment due them, He endured all and satisfied the justice of God.

All men are failures (Ps. 12:1). In many things we are all failures (Jas. 3:2). But such can never be said of Christ our Redeemer. Christ came to do the Father's will: **"For I came down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day"** (John 6:38-39). Before Our Lord ascended back to Heaven He said: **"I have glorified thee on earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do"** (John 17:4). Still again on the cross our Savior declared: **"It is finished"** (John 19:30). Anyone who holds the redemptive work of Christ is "almost finished" denies Isaiah 42:4 and dispute the very words of our Redeemer. Such a person makes Jesus Christ a failure.

In this study I shall not concern myself with the Old Testament which contains much truth. I want only to examine the New Testament texts as to the purpose of Christ's death. In this study I am not examining books of theology, but I want to look at what the Bible actually says was the design of His death.

TO PAY THE RANSOM PRICE

In Matthew 20:28 it is written: **"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."** These are the very words of Jesus Christ Himself, and they must be carefully examined. The Greek word (*lutron*) translated "ransom" is a payment made in order to set another free (the word being derived from *luo*, "to loose"). A. T. Robertson says of this word: "The word translated 'ransom' is the one commonly employed in the papri as the price paid for a slave who is then set free by the one who bought him, the purchase money for manumitting a slave" (*Word Pictures in the N.T.*, Vol. I, p. 163). Hence Jesus Christ paid the ransom price for the slaves of sin with the idea of setting them free. If any for whom He paid the price are not set free, then Jesus Christ would be a failure.

The preposition rendered "for" (*anti*) means "instead of." A. T. Robertson says: "There is the notion of exchange also in the use of *anti*.

Jesus gave His own life as the price of freedom for the slaves of sin" (*ibid.*). John Broadus says on this: "The preposition rendered 'for' (*anti*) necessarily means 'instead of,' involving substitution, a vicarious death" (*Matthew*, p. 418). What is meant by "substitutionary atonement" and "vicarious death"? A "substitute" is one who "takes the place of another," or who "replaces another" (See *American Family Dictionary*, p. 932). The word "vicarious" means "to suffer in the place of another" (*ibid.*). In the sense of the Bible it means to suffer in the place of another to the extent that the person suffered for does not have to suffer for his own sins.

I might best explain the word "substitute" by what happened when I used to play basketball years ago. I can well remember when a substitute took my place I did not have to play ball. Jesus Christ took my place and suffered in my stead; therefore, I will not have to suffer in Hell for my sins. He paid the ransom, or according to William Tyndale's translation of Matthew 20:28, Christ paid the "redemption price." He paid the whole price and I am set free of my sins.

Thus it was the design of Jesus

Christ in giving His life to redeem His people from sin and spiritual death. Those He redeemed are called **"the ransomed of the Lord"** (Isa. 35:10). He paid the price instead of us having to pay it. He paid the redemption price in such a way there is no further satisfaction or price to be paid for any for whom Christ gave His life.

Those for whom Christ made a substitutionary atonement are said to be **"many"** (compare with Rom. 5:13, 18; Heb. 9:28; Isa. 53:12). **"Many"** may be a great multitude, but **"many"** is not all men without exception. If the blood of Christ was the ransom price for all mankind, then all mankind would be redeemed, or Christ must have shed His blood in vain. If a great multitude perish for whom Christ paid the redemption price, then He is a failure. Yet the Bible says of Christ: **"He shall not fail."**

(To Be Continued)

Resurrection of the

Continued from page 102

ruptible shall have put on incorruption (resurrection) and this mortal shall have put on immortality (transformation), then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." It is at this time a shout of triumph goes up from the saints. **"Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."**

In this mystery is revealed:

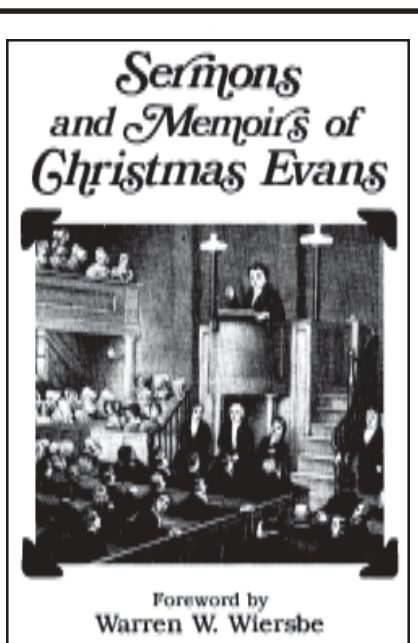
SALVATION IN HOPE

This salvation is of the body. The redemptive price was paid when Jesus shed His precious blood on the cross. All believers, the living ones on earth and the dead ones now with the Lord, wait in patience for the coming of a Savior from Heaven Who shall fashion anew (change outwardly) their bodies of humiliation, and conform (change them in nature) to the body of His glory (Rom. 8:24-25, Phil. 3:20-21).

THE SOURCE OF COMFORT IN SORROW

The Holy Spirit wrote by the hand of Paul: **"For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven. . . and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"** (I Thess. 4:16-17). These are words we are directed to speak one to another about love ones gone to be with the Lord. They are words of comfort beyond compare. We are assured that our loved ones are with the Lord and that we are to meet and rec-

Continued on page 105



Sermons and Memoirs of Christmas Evans

Christmas Evans (1766-1838) was a Welsh Baptist preacher of great eloquence. This is a great book and should be in the home of every Baptist, especially preachers. We have some of these which retail for \$12.99 and \$13.99. We are cutting prices on all of these. You can have one of these for \$11.00 which includes postage.

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Resurrection of the

Continued from page 104

ognize them again. We sorrow not as the ones who have no hope.

FUTURE LIKENESS TO THE LORD

In I John 3:2-3 we read: **“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear (seen visibly) what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear (seen visibly), we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”** Our likeness to Him shall need no proof, for when we see Him it shall be evident that every one that has his hope on Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure. **“Purifieth”** is in the continuous sense. This hope, the imminent coming of the Lord at which time our likeness to the Lord shall be complete, provides the stimulus to the children of God to live soberly and righteously and godly in this present evil age (Titus 2:11-14).

Hitler and the Rebirth

Continued from page 101

new excitement when the nation they had read about for so long in the scriptures came into existence in 1948!

HITLER – THE INSANE KILLER

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) was I believe a “son of Satan.” If there was ever a reprobate of the 20th century, it was Hitler. This man was a power-hungry, cold-blooded killer. Hitler spread death unlike any other human being. One of Hitler’s sayings was: “Close your eyes to pity! Act brutally!” He would say this to his soldiers. This man was colder in nature than the great komodo dragons (fierce 200-400 pound lizards), that kill in the most gruesome manner.

Hitler’s strong conviction for nationalism (Germany) is what got the fires of Nazism burning. He was angry that Germany was defeated in World War I, and he vowed to raise Germany back to her former state before its defeat. He made the statement that Germans were of the highest species of humanity. They were to avoid marriages with the Jews and the Slavs. He blamed the Jews for all the troubles that were in the world.

He took over the press and promoted any propaganda he wished to. Sounds a little like our press who always sides with the Democratic Party and their socialist ideas like gun control, one size fits all welfare system, abortion rights, can’t discriminate against sodomites, attacking Christian freedom, etc. . . If you do not think

we are close to socialism, look how they are attacking John Ashcroft who is now our US Attorney! The left-wing radicals (socialists) such as the Kennedys, Schumers, and Clintons of Washington are doing their best to rip this Christian man apart because of his beliefs! Yes, dear friend, they hate the Christian faith just as Adolf Hitler did. Hitler said: “Christianity is for weaklings.” I am sure Hitler would be sitting beside all those liberal politicians in Washington who were attacking John Ashcroft. Do not rats nest with rats?

According to the information I have studied, Hitler was a mad man. He took the corpses of the Jews and made soap out of them. He had the women’s hair cut off to stuff mattresses; teeth were extracted for their gold fillings, and the bones of those he murdered, he ground into meal to be used for fertilizer. He even made lampshades out of the skins of those he killed. This “son of Satan” not only killed many of the Lord’s people, but he found out ways to profit from the corpses as well. Doesn’t that sound like our abortionists who want to use the aborted babies for medicine, or as an ingredient for some lotions and other products—for the love of money? America today is no different than the Germany of the 30’s and 40’s! We will murder baby Jews and Gentiles!

Hitler and our children’s rights advocates had much in common as well. He and the Nazis trained children to spy and tell on anyone who opposed them. Are you aware that Hitler had a youth organization started to train all German children to learn his doctrine? I wonder where now Senator Clinton got her concept for her book: *It Takes A Village To Raise A Child?* Hitler had his village, and Senator Clinton wants hers! HRS has led children to lie on parents, and then put them in jail—at the word of a child! HRS would have been a good partner of Hitler. It was made public how HRS would get children to lie on adults just a few years ago.

DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN AND THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

Dr. Weizmann who was a British scientist, made a very important discovery during World War I. He discovered a synthetic acetone that helped Britain develop smokeless gun powder. The British were so thankful, that they allowed Weizmann to make any request that he so desired. He requested that His people Israel be allowed to have their own “home.” Lord Balfour and Lord Lindsey both believed in a literal interpretation of the Bible, and therefore believed that a home for the Jews was not only right,

but Biblical.

Therefore, Lord Balfour made a declaration which said in part: “His Majesty’s government view with favor the establishment of Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object. . .” That all sounds good, but the sad thing is, is that after World War I the Arabs were very upset with how the land was divided, and Great Britain needing the Arab’s oil passed what was called “White Paper of 1930,” which was to ban Jewish immigration into Palestine.

During the time the Balfour Declaration was being made, a young man by the name of Hitler (18 years old), was fighting in the war, twice decorated for bravery. But, he never rose above the rank of corporal! Can you imagine being the commander of the world’s strongest military, and never rising above corporal? This proves that Hitler was a very intelligent and persuasive person.

After the war, Hitler and all the Germans were very angry with those who made peace to end the war. He immediately began to form his own group which eventually became the Nazis!!! He was bound and determined to make Germany the world’s strongest and most feared military, and world power.

THE HOLOCAUST AND THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT

Up until the Holocaust, the Jews were pretty much content with their lives in Europe. They had no desire to go back to the land of Israel, where the comforts they had grown to love in Europe could not be found. If it were not for the Holocaust, the Jews would still be in Europe. The Holocaust took every thing away from the Jews. They lost their homes, property, bank accounts, and many of their loved ones. When the Holocaust was over, the Jews left Europe and began to flock back to the land God gave Abraham. The Jews do not go back in their genealogy no further than Abraham: **“Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren”**

(Matt. 1:2). Therefore, they had a desire to go back to the land that their father Abraham received from God (Gen. 15:18-21). What other reason can be given as to why the Jews chose Palestine to be their home after the Holocaust?

THE HOLOCAUST MADE THE JEWS THE COURAGEOUS PEOPLE THEY ARE TODAY

The surviving Jews came out of the Holocaust with a determination that they would never go through what they did in Germany ever again. The Holocaust molded the mind of the Jews to the point that they will fight no matter what the odds are! On May 15, 1948, the day after Israel is declared a nation, 5 heavily-armed and well-trained Muslim armies (thanks to Great Britain), attacked Israel out numbering them 100 to 1! But because of the Holocaust, these Jews were “hard as rock” in their beliefs and convictions of having the right to exist as a nation, and faced overwhelming odds—and won! When this battle started, there were some Jews that had no weapons, and went, expecting to get their weapons from the fallen Arabs.

There were announcements made on the Arab radios that the “war of Annihilation” had begun. The Arab Legions were very confident that they were going to win, for the Arabs were told to leave their homes for awhile, and then they could come back to their own homes, and even the homes of the defeated Jews. There was only one problem—they lost!

I was watching an N.R.A. show on television and they were showing how that over in Great Britain the government had taken away almost all their guns. All I can say to that is pay day came to Great Britain! In Genesis 12:3 God said: **“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”** The guns being taken out of Great Britain as far as I am concerned is God paying them back for supplying guns to Israel’s enemies.

Continued on page 106

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WFTA, Tupelo, MS	Sunday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	101.9	3,000 FM
WJOR, Saint Joseph, TN	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	101.5	1,000 FM
WVSA, Vernon, AL	Sunday 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	1380	1,000 AM
WLZA, Starkville, MS	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	710	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS	Sunday 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	95.9	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	680	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	550	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	1050	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	783 Khz	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	1494	16,000 AM

Hitler and the Rebirth

Continued from page 105

AMERICA NOT SO FRIENDLY TO THE FLEEING JEWS?

On May 13, 1939, a ship by the name *St. Louis* had some 930 Jews who were fleeing Germany and the coming Holocaust. They had documents that gave them the right to some land here in America. Cuba allowed 22 of these Jews to get of the ship and find refuge there. Do you know how many of these Jews America received? NONE! That's right, not one Jew was permitted to get off that ship which lingered off the coasts of Florida for some time. The ship turned around and took these poor Jews back to the Nazis who were going to exterminate them!

THE DRY BONES HAVE SKIN AND SINEW ON THEM

If one was to take the subject of the valley of dry bones and break it down into different eras of time, I believe we could honestly say that in May of 1948, the dry bones had the sinew and flesh to come upon them. Israel today could be represented by the lifeless army that Ezekiel saw in his vision (Ezek. 37:8) which reads: **"And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them."** As there was no life in this great army there is no spiritual life in the nation of Israel as well. The body of the nation of Israel is visible just as the bodies in this great army; but there is no life in it for now.

THE ARMY STANDS UP: EZEKIEL 37:9-10, 13-14

Many say that God is done with Israel, but the Bible says differently. If God is done with Israel, then why is He going to come back with His armies from Heaven (Rev. 19:11-21) to land on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:1-4)? Is it not true that when He comes to the Mount of Olives, and Israel sees Him for whom He really is (Zech. 12:10), that spiritual life has come to the nation of Israel, and it will rise as an exceeding great army?

Did all of this concerning Israel becoming a nation happen just for God to have nothing else to do with it? Does not Romans chapter 11:1-36 teach us that God is not done with Israel? The nation of Israel was brought into existence once again because God's prophetic time clock reached the hour for the last days prophecies to begin to be fulfilled—literally!!!

So while it seemed to the world that Hitler and the Germans were out of control, God has proven once again that all leaders are in His control, and

that they are simply and permissively being used of Him to bring about His will. Daniel 4:35 reads: **"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"** Daniel 2:21 reads: **"And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding."** To God be the glory!!!

The Second Commandment

Continued from page 101
25, 29).

The Second Commandment reveals the proper mode in which we are to worship the true God, the pitfalls to avoid in our worship, and the blessing or penalty that comes to our descendants as a result of the way we worship God. The First Commandment concerns the object of worship; the Second Commandment the ordinances of worship. Or, to put it another way, in the First Commandment the worship of a false god is forbidden; in the Second Commandment we are forbidden to worship the true God in a false manner. The First Commandment forbids polytheism, and the Second Commandment forbids idolatry. The Second Commandment naturally divides into two parts. First, a Divine prohibition and then a reason for the prohibition.

THE DIVINE PROHIBITION

This command forbids all idolatrous representations of Deity. The Hebrews at the foot of Mount Sinai needed this command, having just emerged from Egypt which was wholly given over to image-worship. The Hebrews in later years often ignored this commandment to their peril. Scarcely a month after this command was given these same people demanded of Aaron that he should make for them a golden calf that they might worship it (Ex. 32).

Recall the story of Micah the Ephraimite who enshrined in his house a molten image and gods (Jud. 17); remember the account of Solomon who went after Ashtoreth, Chemosh, and Molech (I Kings 11); reconsider the narrative of Jeroboam who made Israel to sin by setting up his golden calves at Bethel and Dan (I Kings 13); keep in memory the history of Ahaz who filled Judah and the temple itself with imported idols (II Kings 20); recollect how Amaziah

brought the gods (II Chron. 25:14-15). Still in later times Ezekiel was transporter in the Spirit from Babylon to Jerusalem and beheld at the north of the temple gate the image of jealousy. Upon entering the sacred precincts he saw the seventy elders of Israel swinging their censers of incense before paintings of every form of creeping things and abominable beasts on the walls round about (Ezek. 18:3-12).

The Second Commandment forbids all worship of graven images: **"Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the LORD thy God hateth"** (Deut. 16:22). It prohibits all human traditions, precepts, and ordinances of men which God has not commanded (Isa. 29:13; Matt. 15:8; Col. 2:20-23). It condemns all unspiritual forms of worship (John 4:24; Isa. 1:12). It makes all aids to worship like pictures of Christ and God to be wrong.

WHY NO IMAGES?

First, the sin of idolatry is an attack upon the freedom and sovereignty of God. Those who make an image seeks to make the Incomprehensible (Job 11:7; Ps. 92:5; Rom. 11:33) comprehensible. But this cannot be. The tangible cannot express the intangible, nor can the material express the spiritual. Nothing which a fallen man creates can aid him in worshipping the God that created it.

He who fashions an idol wants to control and contain God, but there is no limit to who God is and what God can do. An idol can be picked up and thrown down at pleasure. Thus the idol can be used whenever desired or disposed of as one chooses. Thus the idolater would try to bring God down to size. The person who carries an idol controls his god, and he can put him where he wants him. If man controls god, then man is himself a god. Thus the idolater defies himself and become possessed of the spirit of Antichrist (II Thess. 2:4).

Even professed Christians seek to control and contain God in their theological systems. They would humanize God (Ps. 50:21). They would not make an image of God their churches, but they will make an image of God in their hearts. A person makes a mental image when he limits God and tells God what he can do. Beware of those who preach a benevolent God who is unable to accomplish His eternal purpose—a God who would do many good things if almighty man would only give Him permission to act! Such a God is not the God of the Bible!

Second, when one makes a material or mental image he attacks the majesty of God. Nothing is comparable to God (Isa. 43:10-11). His majesty is described under the metaphor

of darkness with which He is covered (Deut. 4:11; 5:23; I Kings 8:12; Ps. 18:11; 97:2). Also God is said to dwell in unapproachable light (I Tim. 6:16). Although these two things are opposites, they both express God is so majestic He cannot be brought within man's reach. An idolater mocks God's majesty.

Third, an idol detracts from God's image. Some pagan idolater made God to have the head of an ox, or lion, or crocodile. Such is the fruit of a totally depraved imagination. Puny man, instead of accepting himself as a being made in God's image, re-makes God in his own image, destroying reverence for the divine Being. Many in our modern world picture God as a celestial Santa Claus, or an old man with long white beard. To do such things is to deface God's image and lower one's appreciation of Jesus Christ (Col. 1:15).

QUALIFYING CONSIDERATIONS

The Second Commandment does not prohibit us from making a picture; or a photo, or even a statute. But it prohibits us from making any image in order to worship God through it as a symbol. Jehovah Himself commanded Moses to make and place two cherubims in the tabernacle (Ex. 25:18; I Kings 6:32; 7:29). These were placed in the Holy of Holies which was accessible to the high priest alone and to him but once a year. The common people did not see them. God commanded Moses to erect a brazen serpent on a pole that by looking at it those who had been bitten by the fiery serpents might be healed (Num. 21:9). But even this brazen serpent became an object of worship and the people bowed down to it and burnt incense to it. This prompted good king Hezekiah to **"brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made"** (II Kings 18:4).

Certainly idolatrous and vain forms of worship are condemned by God, but we must not conclude that God condemns all forms in worship. We have a body and a soul, a visible and invisible side. Our spirit manifests itself through our body. Because we have a body, our Divine worship must have an outward form. But since we have a spirit our worship must be spiritual. Our spirit must express itself in worship through forms. We must have a spiritual worship with an outward form.

WHAT IS REQUIRED

The Second Commandment requires that our worship of God be spiritual, suitable to the nature of God. His nature is spiritual and we must worship Him spiritually: **"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him**

Continued on page 107

The Second Commandment

Continued from page 106

must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). It must be Spirit-wise, not image-wise, for only what is spiritual in us can worship what is spiritual above us. The apostle said: **"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and have no confidence in the flesh"** (Phil. 3:3).

This commandment requires that God's people keep their worship spiritual in all of its parts. Prayer, praise, the preaching of the Word, the observances of the ordinances, church government and discipline must be so. Every detail must be observed just as delivered without any addition or subtraction (Deut. 4:2; I Cor. 11:2). It is a grievous breaking of this commandment if we neglect any of the ordinances of worship which God has appointed.

No person who walks with Christ and knows Him as his Savior needs an image to aid his worship. He needs no pictures of Christ to help him pray and praise His most holy name. He does not want any false concept to come into his mind when he thinks of Christ or prays, for they would separate him from Christ the object of worship. The true believer conceives of Christ by faith and not by fancy!

MAN AN IDOLATER BY NATURE

God made man originally in His own image. God endowed him originally with true spirituality through this image. He thus enabled man to worship God after a spiritual fashion. But man corrupted himself through sin and became an unspiritual being. He became carnal and unable to worship God in a spiritual fashion. Then in his folly man sought to make an image of his God in order that through it he might worship God. But this was a sin against the spirituality of God and a vain attempt at worship.

Man by nature worships as instinctively as he breathes. This innate sense of God is one of the few relics of Paradise. But this instinct of worship takes a perverted direction. Man is finite and always seems to conceive of the Infinite One under finite conditions, or limitations, localizing Him in time and space. This is the origin of image-worship. Man begins to make representations of God in order to aid him in worship. But nothing was easier than to glide from making these representations of God to the worship of the representations themselves. Thus man changed the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of

an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things (Rom. 1:23).

It is not possible to make an image of God, for God is an invisible Spirit. **"No man hath seen God at any time"** (John 1:18; cf. Deut. 4:15). Who can make an image of what he has never seen? Man cannot paint a picture of a soul or an angel for these things are spiritual. Even so, no man can make an image of God Who is an infinite, uncreated Spirit. Leviticus 26:1 declares: **"Ye shall make no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God."**

Despite all of this, the natural man wants something to help him in his worship of God beyond the things which are appointed. He desires some physical object to remind him of the invisible God, yet this is exactly what is forbidden in the Second Commandment. The instant a man sets up any representation of God, he insinuates that God has a body, whereas He is an infinite, incorporeal Spirit. Those who make an image of God change the truth of God into a lie (Rom. 1:25), for such an image is a **"teacher of lies"** (Hab. 2:18).

AIDS IN MODERN WORSHIP

Many professed Christians have pictures of Christ in their churches and even display them with pride in their homes. These pictures of Christ have no similarity whatever to the way Jesus Christ actually looked. The incarnate Son of God was a Jew (Heb. 7:14; John 4:9). The features in most of these so-called pictures of Jesus are not Jewish. They show Him with long hair, but Christ did not have long hair (I Cor. 11:14). They show Him with a soft feminine face and a sentimental, sanctimonious look in His eyes. The Scriptures present Jesus as a very masculine person (Matt. 21:12-13) and with a rugged, sunburned face (Isa. 53:2). These pictures of Jesus Christ are to be rejected as images. If we have a picture of Christ in our hearts, we do not need one upon canvas!

Some of our Catholic and Protestant friends worship images in their churches. They have images of God the Father as an old man on their church windows and on the walls of their buildings. They have an image of Christ on a crucifix. They bow down to images of the saints, of Christ, and of the virgin Mary. They say they give God the worship of the heart, and the image the worship of the body. They contend they do not worship the images, but they use them as a medium to worship God. But such practices are forbidden by the Second

Commandment!

Some Baptists will condemn in the strongest possible terms those who have images in their churches as aids to worship, and then turn around and put an evergreen tree up in their churches as an aid in commemorating the birth of Christ! The Bible condemns the Christmas tree in Jeremiah 10:1-8. The apostolic churches never had an evergreen tree in their churches as an aid to worship. This custom is borrowed from the devil worshippers of the Old Testament. The pagans of old worshipped Astarte and her infant son Tammuz. The Baal worshippers supposed that an evergreen tree sprang up overnight when Tammuz ascended to the sun. The tree was decorated and worshipped as a symbol of the sun on the fourth week of December, the time the sun was reborn. This was also the time of the year when the queen of heaven gave birth to Tammuz.

The worship of images was opposed by the saints of old. Josiah destroyed the groves and images in his kingdom (II Kings 23:6, 24). Constantine abrogated the images set up in the temple. The Christians destroyed the images at Basle, Zurich, and Bohemia. Oliver Cromwell marched here and there through Britain and mutilated with saber and gun the statues of this or that saint in the English cathedrals. When idols were forced upon the Christians by the pagans they chose death rather than to worship idols. They even in some cases refused to admit into their churches any painter or carver lest they might make an image of God. Oh, that modern-day Christians still had such strong convictions!

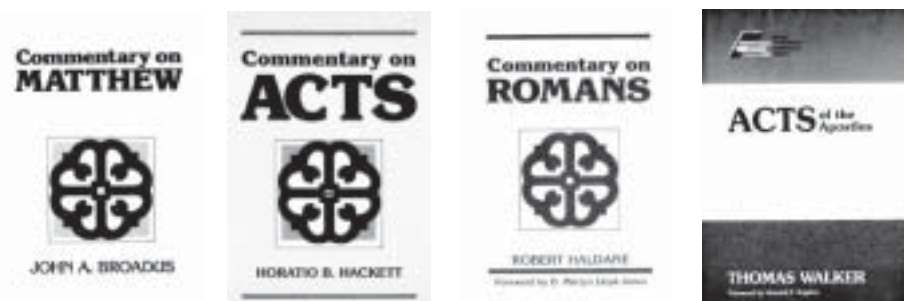
HERO-WORSHIP

I greatly fear that an accepted form of the violation of the Second Commandment in our day is hero-worship. More than a few are given to excessive reverence and admiration for important persons. Some of the younger generation have made idols of rock singers, country singers, or some movie stars. They have their pictures on the walls of their bedrooms. They carry their likeness in their billfolds and on T-shirts. They wear lockets around their necks. The average young person knows more about these than God and the Bible. There is in these youth a heartfelt admiration, a burning, boundless submission to this god-like man or woman. What is worse still most of these heroes are impure, godless, sensual, anti-American, infidels. Yea, in some cases they are Communists and Devil-worshippers! May God deliver us from such!

But let us not think that this hero-worship is limited to the young, for it is not. Nor can it truly be said that it is confined to the unconverted. Professed Christians have made idols of preachers. **"For while one saith, I am of Paul; another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?"** (I Cor. 3:14). It is not uncommon today to hear some church member say: "I follow Dr. John Gill." "I am a J. R. Graves man." "I believe all that the Puritans wrote." "If C. H. Spurgeon did not say it I won't believe it." "I stand in complete agreement with Elder A. W. Pink." "I fellowship only with those who follow Pastor Falwell." And, in all too many cases, those people know more about these men than they do what God said in the Bible. They are more loyal to these

Continued on page 108

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The Second Commandment

Continued from page 107

men than they are to Jesus Christ! May the Almighty deliver us from this hero-worship, this image worship, this out right idolatry!

REASONS FOR THIS PROHIBITION

The reasons for this prohibition in the Second Commandment are given in Exodus 20:5-6: **“For I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”**

Our God is a jealous God: **“For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God”** (Ex. 34:14). Our God is jealous of His people (Zech. 1:14). He hates idolatry and false worship. He will not give His glory to another. He will punish those who mock Him: **“They provoked Him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they Him to anger. . . they have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God”** (Deut. 32:16-22).

If a man persists in an idolatrous and vain form of worship, God says He will visit his iniquity upon his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. What a horrible judgment! Think of the great evil of transmitting false worship to our descendants which will wreck and ruin their souls! It is a terrible thing to pass on to our children a false concept of God. It is one of the most awful things a man can do (Job 21:19; I Kings 14:10; II Kings 5:27; 10:7). No one can sin against this command without punishment. God visits the sin of choosing another god. Parents can give a bad example and thus be the cause of children walking in a sinful way.

God visits the sin of idolatry only to the third and fourth generation, but He shows mercy unto the thousandth generation! God visits the reward of good fathers upon their children unto the thousandth generation of them that love Him and keep His commandments. This sets forth the glorious truth that mercy glories against and over judgment. What a superb illustration of this the story of Abraham and his posterity is (Gen. 18:19)! What a privilege it is to be the children of godly parents. God-fearing parents put a stamp on their children.

Here is a great encouragement for evangelism, a mighty stimulus to the missionary enterprise. It is the children of this generation who are to be

the ancestors of the coming generation and who will shape the coming history of the world. Let us make people at home and abroad disciples of Jesus Christ. According to God's own law of heredity, this is the hope of the world's future. The woes of the world will never be solved by legislation, nor by bureaus of reform, nor by education, but by taking advantage of God's great law of heredity. The hope of the world is in the Christian family institution! God help us to realize this!

There are exceptions to this general rule. A miracle of grace can take the son of an infidel father and make him a trophy of sovereign mercy. A wicked father does not in every case spell doom for all his descendants (Ezek. 18:1-23). Neither is it always true that godly parents have godly children. Godly Jehoshaphat had a godless son named Jehoram (I Kings 22:43; II Kings 8:16-18). Pious Josiah was succeeded by three godless sons and a godless grandson (II Kings 22-23).

CONCLUSION

Let men take heed to all forms of idolatry, for idolatry is Devil-worship. **“What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils”** (I Cor. 10:19-20). Shun the company of any person who is an idolater. I Corinthians 5:11 says: **“But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man is called a brother be. . . an idolater. . .”** Image-worshippers enlarge the population of Hell, for

Hell is a place for idolaters. Revelation 21:8 declares: **“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”** Don't join in marriage with them (Neh. 10:30). For a Baptist to marry an image-worshipper is to be unequally yoked (II Cor. 6:14). There is more danger that the Catholic will corrupt the Baptist, than hope that the Baptist will convert the Catholic.

Israel always had a tendency to lapse back into idolatry. Christendom has the same problem. In the early centuries of Christianity converted pagans had a hard time dispensing with their paganism. “Formerly they prayed to the virgin goddess Minerva; now they could pray to the virgin Mary. Formerly the sick took refuge in Apollo; now saint Sebastian could bestow healing. Formerly the image of Pan was carried across the battlefield; now the same could be done with an image of Christ. Formerly the images of gods were kissed in the temple; now people longed to do the same in the church, with images of Christ and the saints” (*The Ten Commandments* by J. Douma, p. 59).

God cannot be restricted to an image, or a shrine, or a church building, or to some nation. God is a Spirit, and He can be worshipped in every place on earth at any time. We must come to know God by spiritual experience, not by any outward form. God must be understood by the revelation He has given us in the Bible, not by some vain and foolish imagination. We are to listen to God and obey Him rather

than try to see Him (Ex. 33:20).

“Nevertheless there is a divine image whom we must all worship: It is Jesus Christ, the image of the invisible God, the effulgence of His glory, the very impress of His substance. And just because He is the sufficient image of God, we need no other image; indeed, for us to undertake to make another, would not only be to disobey the Second Commandment, but also to be guilty of the sacrilege of pronouncing Christ's mission into the world a failure. No; Christ's power in the world is largely owing to the fact that He is the visible image of the invisible God. And Christ's power, as God's image, is ever growing. And when the Eternal Father shall again bring in the Firstborn into the world, as He will in the Second Advent, then will He say, Let all the angels of God worship Him” (*University Lectures on the Ten Commandments* by George D. Broadman, p. 78, 1889 edition).

God sent Christ into the world to make true worship possible for us. He gave us Christ Who is the Son of God and truly man. As the Godman Jesus Christ is the perfect image of God. In us the image became corrupt by the fall, but in Christ it is regained. Now the believer is linked to Christ and has eternal, spiritual life. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. Our renewed spirits can now worship God in the Spirit and in the truth. Regeneration has made us Christlike and Godlike. Thus true worship is possible for us through Christ our Savior.

*Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all.*

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Principles Policies &

Continued from page 101

tion that one Lord. Rom. 6:4-6; Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 15:29; 1 Peter 3:21.

2. The Grace of God is the only foundation of hope and faith in Christ whom Himself is the only medium of justification before God. To trust in one's self righteousness, religious rites, religious experiences, prayers or other good works for salvation is to fall from grace. Rom. 3:24; 4:16; 5:17; 11:5; Eph. 2:8, 9; Gal.5:4.

3. The Word of God and the Spirit of God are the agents in regeneration. 2 Thess. 2:13; Jude verse 1; John 3:6-8.

4. Each true Church of Christ is a company of Scripturally immersed believers only (not of believers and their unconverted children and seekers on probation), associated by vol-

Continued on page 109

Principles Policies &

Continued from page 108

unitary covenant to obey and execute all the commandments of Christ, having been organized by an ordained man or men having authority from a pre-existing Church of Christ of like faith and order with the Jerusalem Church, believing in the same organization, doctrines, officers and ordinances of the Church at Jerusalem, independent of all others, acknowledging no lawgiver in Zion but Christ, and submitting in spiritual matters to no law He has not enacted. Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1-5; Acts 2:41, 42; Matt 18:20-28; 2 Cor. 7:6-19; Rev. 2:23; Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 5:122, 13; Acts 13:1-4.

5. The "Lord's Supper" is a positive and commemorative ordinance to be observed only by a Church of Christ as such (that is, in Church capacity), not as a test of Christian fellowship or personal feeling of one communicant (partaker) toward another, as Pedobaptists erroneously teach, but only to show forth Christ's death till He comes again; and being a Church act it becomes, incidentally, a symbol of Church relationship, being forbidden to those outside the fellowship of a Church by reason of discipline or membership in another Church. Consistency demands that only those subject to the discipline of a true Church of Christ be allowed to partake, thus only the members of an individual Church can properly partake together. Each Church being independent, each has been made the guardian of the purity of the sacred feast and each is invested with the authority to discipline those whose relationship to the Church is offensive. 1 Cor. 11:17-34; 1 Cor. 5:9-13

6. Christian or Scriptural Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water by a Scripturally qualified administrator, acting on the authority of a true Church of Christ. The act is to be carried out in the Name of the Trinity, in representation of the burial and resurrection of Christ, and profession of a death to sin, union with Christ and consecration to His service. One mode only, therefore, can answer this design, and the profession of baptism cannot be made by children, except they be *"the children of God by faith."* See Matt 3:16; 28:17; Mark 16:16; John 3:2, 3; Acts 8 to the close, Rom. 6:4, 5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:26, 27.

Burying in water of one dead to sin is the only action; since the burial of a dead man is the only *"likeness"* or representation of death in the world, for it is called the *"likeness of his death"* Rom. 6:5.

Six Important Principles

1. The Bible, and the Bible alone, unmingled with human devices or tradition, is, and ever has been the religion of Baptists.

2. Positive laws (as baptism, the subjects of baptism, the Lord's supper and those qualified to partake of it, etc.) are not left to be inferred, but in all cases require positive and plain commands or examples in the Scriptures.

3. To divide the positive requirements and examples of Christ into essentials and non-essentials, is to decide how far Christ is to be obeyed, and in what points we may safely disobey Him. But to refuse to obey one of the least of His positive requirements or to teach others so involves one in the guilt of violating all.

4. Every positive law, ordinance, or practice in the Churches, not expressly commanded or exemplified in the Bible, is positively forbidden, since the specification of one thing is the prohibition of every other. These are all human inventions and traditions, as infant baptism, sprinkling, pouring, and other changes in the ordinances, etc., now practiced for religious rites, for which no Scriptural warrant can be found, are contrary to the Scriptures and, therefore, sinful.

5. Christ gave no man, group of men, society or Church the authority to change the ordinances or organization of His Churches, as to make or change His laws, and substitute one thing for another. To surrender what He has established is treachery – to change them is treason.

6. Principles can neither be conceded nor compromised.

Six Important Facts

1. All scholars, critics and lexicographers of any note, unanimously declare that the primary (that is, first) and leading meaning of "baptizo" is to dip or immerse, while some of the very best scholars of any age affirm that it has no other meaning.

2. Standard historians unanimously agree that primitive and apostolic baptism was administered by the immersion of believers (not unconscious babes) in water, in the name of the Trinity.

3. Nearly all standard Pedobaptist commentators admit that the Bible does not furnish one plain command for, or example of infant "baptism," and there are the utmost disagreement and contradictions among them on what grounds, or for what purpose, infant "baptism" is to be administered.

4. All standard historians unanimously affirm that the government of the apostolic Churches was purely democratic, (that is, vested in the people or membership) and all the Churches independent congregations. All merely man-made religious societies have presumed to take unto

themselves legislative powers and clerical or aristocratic governments, (that is, in the hands of the clergy or a few select individuals) which are unknown to the Scriptures, and are, therefore, anti-Scriptural and freedom-hating tyrannies which no Christian can lawfully countenance, and which no freedom-loving individual ought to support; consequently, all the acts and ordinances of such unscriptural bodies are illegal, and ought not to be received by us (Baptist Churches); nor should such societies be, in any way, recognized as Scriptural Churches, or their preachers, priests, etc., recognized as official ministers of the Gospel since only a Scriptural Church can administer Scriptural baptism and Scriptural ordination. The Baptist Churches are the parents of democratic ideas and free governments and members of Baptist Churches ought to be the best and most peaceable citizens of their respective countries, obeying all civil ordinances which are not contrary to the Word of God.

5. No society whether called a "church" or not, organized upon principles different from those of the apostolic Churches, having a different origin, a different Gospel, or different qualifications for members, or different ordinances, or different orders in the ministry, etc., can justly be called a Gospel Church, or true Church of Christ, for "things equal to the same thing, are equal to each other."

6. Protestant historians frankly admit that Baptist Churches are the only religious communities that have stood since the Apostles, and as Churches of Christ have preserved pure Biblical doctrine and the true Gospel of the grace of God through all ages. Modern liberal interdenominational scholars deny this continual existence of Christ's Churches, but older, conservative and recognized historical scholarship supports it. More importantly, the promise of Christ in Matthew 16:18 demands such a succession.

Twelve Corollary Principles

1. There is no true Church but a body of immersed believers - immersed by a duly appointed officer of a Scriptural (Baptist) Church - believing and teaching only those doctrines taught in the Sixty-six Books of the Bible. To admit otherwise is to say that Christ's Churches have not the *"one Lord, one faith, and one baptism"* of Ephesians 4:5.

2. There are no Scriptural ministers but those who have been called by the Holy Spirit and duly authorized by such a Scriptural Church. To admit otherwise is to say that Christ has for His ministers those who teach

diverse ways of salvation and service and to say that truth is neither knowable, nor absolute, nor essential.

3. Since nothing is more evident than the fact that we teach more effectively by example than by precept – therefore, so long as we require of our official ministers that they have been Scripturally baptized and ordained to the ministerial office (both baptism and ordination by authority of a Baptist Church), it is equally evident that it is improper for us to invite religious teachers to occupy our pulpits when we know they are neither Scripturally baptized nor Scripturally ordained, and especially since they claim to be, and construe such an invitation on our part into a recognition of their claims, and thus confirm their followers in error and confuse our own people as to the nature of the Lord's true Churches.

4. Nothing can be more inconsistent than to admit those preachers into our pulpits who hold and teach doctrines on account of which we would exclude from both our pulpits and our Churches any minister in our own Baptist family if he taught such doctrines.

5. To join in union meetings, evangelistic crusades, etc., with man-made religious societies (whether called "churches" or not) which are not of like origin, faith and order with us is to admit their claim to equality with true Churches of Christ, the ordinations and administrations of their ministers to be Scriptural, to deny that the Great Commission was given to Christ's Churches alone, and to say that Christ's Churches do not have *"one Lord, one faith, and one baptism."*

6. That a body of immersed believers (a Scriptural Church) is the highest ecclesiastical authority in the world, the only tribunal for the trial of cases of the discipline of her members; that the acts of a Church are of superior binding force over those of an association, convention, union, council, or presbytery – and that no association or convention, etc., can impose a moral obligation upon the constituent parts composing them.

7. That since each Church of Christ is an independent body, no one Church can expect any other to indorse its acts, except so far as they are in strict accordance with the laws of Christ.

8. Whenever any Church of Christ willfully abandons Scriptural doctrines and practices and thus acts in violation of the directions of her only Lawgiver, as found in the New Testament, she becomes rebellious – and her acts null and void; and all other Scriptural Churches should withdraw their fellowship from her until she

Continued on page 112

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

Is the temple in Ezekiel 40-48 a literal temple since it mentions burnt offerings? --- Maine



Jimmie B. Davis
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100 James Street
Fulton, MS 38843

It is my opinion that Ezekiel 40-48 is prophecy of a literal temple, which will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. I agree with Merrill F. Unger's statement in "The Temple Vision of Ezekiel," in which he says: "Ezekiel's temple is a literal future sanctuary to be constructed in Palestine as outlined during the Millennium."

I fail to understand how one can spiritualize the details of the temple given by the prophet. It appears to me that it would take an endless course in fantasizing to spiritualize the gates and courts surrounding the temple (Ezek. 40:5-47). It presents great difficulty, for me at least, to place some private interpretation on the outer courtyard where the people gather (40:6-27) or the wall enclosing the temple (40:5).

I believe that the burnt offerings (blood sacrifices) are based, not on the Mosaic covenant in any degree, but upon the covenants God made with Abraham, David, and with Palestine. The Mosaic covenant was conditional, and in my view, has no place in the intent of eschatological teaching. The sacrifices of the temple described in Ezekiel 40-48 does not in any way question or downplay the perfect offering of Jesus Christ.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS



David O'Neal
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The temple in Ezekiel chapters forty through forty-eight is a literal temple that is to exist during a literal one thousand year kingdom in which the Lord Jesus Christ will reign on this earth. It is to be built on mount Zion with the help of all nations (Zech.

6:15). Isaiah tells us that all nations shall flow into it, and that all nations will worship the Lord at Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-3). In Zechariah 14:16-21 we see that every one must go up to Jerusalem "to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles."

This temple is to become the center of the one-thousand-year reign of Christ. Ezekiel describes this temple with such detail that it would be impossible to give it a spiritual meaning. This temple will be difficult from those of the past. There are differences in its structure from either of the other temples built by Israel. There is no mention of the ark, of the mercy seat, of the cherubim above the mercy seat, or of the veil. The only furniture that is described is the altar of wood, or table, that is before the Lord (Ezek. 41:22). This appears to be in likeness to the table of shewbread (I Kings 7:48). It is where the priest will come before the Lord and serve Him (Ezek. 44:16). There is no Holy of holies where only the High Priest could enter, and there is no High Priest to offer an atonement to take away sin. Their High Priest will be with them and they will no longer need to have one enter the Holy of holies to make intercession for them.

God will cleanse the nation of Israel from their sins (Ezek. 36:33), restore them as a people (37:11-12), and make the two kingdoms one again (37:16-22). They will dwell in their land, and Christ will be king over them (37:23-27). The glory of the Lord will once again fill the temple, and He will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever (43:7).

Christ will reign on the earth and there once again will be a distinction between Israel and the Gentiles. The Christian of this age is said to "sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6). We are in His spiritual kingdom, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 4:17; 13:11-52); therefore, having an high priest over the house of God, we draw near to Christ who is at the right hand of God in the heavens (Heb. 10:12). Ezekiel describes the earthly reign of Christ and the sanctuary that is suited for His earthly people. The offerings are not with the view of obtaining salvation, but to commemorate God's salvation for Israel. This worship is particularly

planned for a redeemed Israel.

DAVID O'NEAL



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Pastor
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I do believe the temple described in Ezekiel 40-48 is a literal temple and also that there will be sacrifices and offerings made during the Millennium.

I believe the literal temple and sacrifices in the Millennium establishes the fact that the Millennium is not being fulfilled in this present age by the church taking the place of Israel. The worship of the temple was designed specifically for Israel and will be so carried out with some things of the old Mosaic and Aaronic ideas and covenants changed.

The Millennium is of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants not the Mosaic.

There are certain similarities between the Aaronic and Millennial systems but there are many differences.

In the Millennial system there are deletions of some of the Aaronic system.

In the Millennial system there is no Ark of the Covenant, no Pot of Manna, no Aaron's rod to bud, no Tables of Law, no Cherubim, no Mercy Seat, no Golden Candlestick, no Showbread, new Veil, no unapproachable Holy of Holies where the High Priest alone could enter and offer atonement to cover sins.

All of these deletions from the Aaronic system were fulfilled in Christ for all believers both in the old and new economies.

Ezekiel gives detailed descriptions of the temple and offerings expressing the literalness of them.

The various sacrifices and offerings will be restored to express by saved Israel as the people of the Abrahamic covenant their faith in Jesus Christ as their Messiah, Lord, and Saviour as a separate people from the believers of the church age. These sacrifices and offerings will be memorial rather than anticipatory.

The temple and offerings will separate the nation of Israel as covenanted by God to Abraham from those saved under the new covenant or economy but both will glorify God through Jesus Christ.

GARNER SMITH



Tom Ross
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Yes, I believe that the Temple referred to in Ezekiel is a literal, physical Temple that will be used in worshipping King Jesus during His Millennial reign upon earth with His saints. I find no difficulty believing that the burnt offerings will be offered merely as a memorial to the sacrifice of Christ. Before Christ came in the first Advent the offerings were used to point to the future sacrifice of Jesus. During the Millennial reign the burnt offerings will be used to point back to the sacrifice of Christ, much like the manner in which the Lord's Supper is observed by the Lord's churches today.

TOM ROSS

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 3-31-2001 to 4-30-2001

Beginning Balance	\$1,941.75
RECEIPTS	
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	100.00
Livingstone B. C., Barboursville, V	231.36
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	165.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	75.00
Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR	50.00
Calvary Ind. B. C., Everson, WA	150.00
Dividing checks	575.00
.....	1,446.26
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3,388.11
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	1,122.00
Postage	18.50
Dividing checks	575.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,715.50
.....	\$1,672.61
Bank Charges	-10.00
BALANCE	\$1,662.61

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$1,413.32
RECEIPTS	
Total	1,413.32
EXPENDITURES:	
WCTT (Apr)	160.00
Total Expenditures	160.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$1,253.32

MARK OF THE BEAST

Look at your name on the front page of this month's paper. If you see the mark 6-01, so detestable to a Baptist, wash it out by renewal of greenbacks. If not your paper will stop next month. We are not able to credit. It is not a good plan.

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

If one of God's churches calls a new pastor, and a member of that church doesn't like the new pastor, is it right for that member who still comes, who doesn't consider the pastor as his or her pastor, to designate his or her tithe to a missionary? -- Kentucky



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Absolutely not! If the majority of the church voted a pastor in, it is the responsibility of every member to support the new pastor financially with tithes and offerings. The member who does not want to tithe because he/she does not like the new pastor is in rebellion against the authority of the church. The only way that the disenchanted member can scripturally not recognize the pastor as their pastor is to move their membership to another true church. I am troubled by a question like this. The person who is unsatisfied with the new pastor believes that the church is one of the Lord's true churches, yet he/she refuses to acknowledge the man that the church voted to call. Every church calls a man according to the leadership of the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28). So the person who refuses to acknowledge the new pastor is in effect not only refusing the church's authority to call a pastor, but also the Holy Spirit's appointment to the office as well. That is treading on dangerous ground. I Corinthians 3:16-17 declares: **"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."**

TOM ROSS



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It is no secret that the calling of a new pastor by one of the Lord's churches often results in one or more members being disappointed. There

are numerous reasons given by people who do not like a new pastor, but in most cases it is over some picky or unimportant matter. The new pastor does not do things exactly like the departed pastor, or the new pastor does not appear to give proper honor to the departed pastor, and the like.

No church member, whether liking the pastor or not, has the right to tell the church where to use their tithe. The Lord's money (the tithe is the Lord's money) is to be used by the church in accordance with biblical instruction with the agreement of the majority of the membership. The church is not some conduit for members to funnel money into whatever suits their fancy. When a person gives money to a church it does not remain his/her money, but belongs to the church to be used according to the vote of the body.

Too many people have the conception that they are to have control over funds which they supposedly give to a church. It is sad, but often true, that some people attempt to use their money to control the pastor, or to push their own religious agenda, or even in an effort to get rid of a pastor.

The Lord's tithe does not belong to us in the first place, and when brought to the Lord's church is no longer under the personal control of the person bringing it.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS



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"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10).

There are two things that I find in this question that I feel should be considered.

First, it appears that the majority of the church was in agreement when

the pastor was called. It does not matter how one might like or dislike the man, for our personal likes and dislikes are most often wrong. The church extended the call; therefore, each member must work with the new pastor. If there is some scriptural reason that this man should not be pastor, then it should be addressed before the church. Each member of the church must accept the new pastor. It would not be in agreement with the Bible to consider the pastor as not his or her pastor. A member who would cause this kind of division in the church should be disciplined. A church cannot serve God and receive His blessings if it is so divided (I Cor. 11:18-22).

Second, no one member of a church has the right to dictate how their tithe is to be used. The tithe belongs to the Lord and it is to be placed in the store house (Mal. 3:10; I Cor. 16:2). It is the church that is to support the missionaries and it is the church that has the authority over the Lord's tithe. When one designates their tithe to be used as they see fit, they are robbing the church of its authority and the Lord of the glory that He receives in the church (Eph. 3:21).

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When a church by the majority of the membership calls a pastor he is the pastor of every member. He is the one the membership is to be taught by. God speaks to His church through His pastors (Rev. 2:1). The Holy Spirit leads the pastor in what to preach and teach the membership; therefore, each member is responsible to listen to and practice what the pastor teaches from the Word of God. Whether a member likes the pastor or what he teaches, if the member cannot prove the pastor wrong by Scripture, the member is to follow the pastor (I Cor. 4:16; II Thess. 3:7; I Cor. 11:1).

The tithe is the Lord's and He is the one and only one who can designate where the tithe goes, Leviticus 27:30. God tells us where He has designated the tithe to go (Mal. 3:10). This is not just an Old Testament doctrine but also in the New Testament faith (Heb. 7:1-9). The New Testament shows us where the tithe is to be placed. The church is the Lord's storehouse, and she is to decide how the tithe is to be used (I Cor. 3:16-17, Eph. 3:21, I Tim. 3:15).

I do not believe God recognizes any offering as a tithe unless it is given through a New Testament Baptist church. This keeps individuals from getting praise for the offering and gives all the glory to God through the church (Eph. 3:21).

Tithing is God's plan for financing His work so that churches do not have to beg or have sales to carry on church work and be financed by worldly means, which dishonors our Omnipotent God.

GARNER SMITH

**BEREA BAPTIST BANNER
Financial Report
3-31-2001 to 4-30-2001**

Beginning Balance	\$2,223.52
RECEIPTS:	
BC of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	22.55
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	200.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	50.00
Berea M. B. C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX	20.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	125.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL	25.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL	20.00
Faith B. C., Seffner, FL	50.00
Faith M. B. C., Clarksville, TN	100.00
Gerald Price, Johnson City, TN	25.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Grace B. C., Georgetown, KY	35.00
Grace M. B. Mission, Marion, IL	25.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	25.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
Landmark M. B. C., Moncks Corner, SC	125.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	75.00
Letson Farrell, Long Beach, MS	220.00
Meadow Branch B. C., Millport, AL	100.00
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM	300.00
Mt Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
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Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR	50.00
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South Park M. B. C., Seattle, WA	25.00
Temple B. C., Appalachia, VA	25.00
Vicky Mills, Richmond, KY	8.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	100.00
Subscriptions	76.00
Anonymous	175.00
Sub Total	\$3,299.50
TOTAL	\$5,523.02

EXPENDITURES:	
Wages	2,420.00
Printing	521.00
Postage	733.85
FICA taxes	181.31
Supplies	514.11
Total Expenditures	4,370.27
.....	1,152.75
Bank charge	-15.96
ENDING BALANCE	\$1,136.79

Principles Policies &

Continued from page 109

repents and rectifies her disorder. If the other Churches do not, they become the partakers of her sins.

9. That no association, convention, or council, or other man-made organization etc., is a "court of appeal" or has any authority over the Churches, but can only claim to exist as an advisory council; therefore it can claim no right to dictate to the Churches, or to demand support for any project or scheme which it has originated, but may only recommend, advise, and urge to performance of Scriptural duty in subservience to the great Baptist voluntary principle.

10. When any Church of Christ departs from the faith or violates the order of the Gospel in the judgment of any association, etc., it can only and should withdraw its fellowship from her and leave her to herself until she repents. This is not interference with her internal regulation.

11. Baptists are not Protestants nor are they Neo-protestants, having existed since the days of the ministry of Jesus Christ, if not in name, in principle and practice. Since the Baptists never had any ecclesiastical connection with the Papacy, they are now, and have ever been the repudiators of the principles and practices of Papacy, whether these principles and practices are found in Rome, Orthodoxy, or in the Protestant and Neo-protestant sects that came out of Rome.

12. We regard Protestantism and all those descended from the Reformation of Luther and all subsequent "reformations," as based on the assumption that the prophecies and declarations of Christ touching His Church are false, thus making Christ an imposter and the Reformers and not Christ, the saviors and preservers of His Church. Thus while we admit that individuals within these groups may indeed be saved, we regard all these other "churches" as man-made societies and not true Churches of Christ.

Axioms

1. All un-immersed groups or societies of believers are not Churches even though they are so-called, nor are any privileged companies of them "the Church"; hence all Pedobaptist bodies or groups are only man-made religious societies as are all those more modern groups which have their origin in them.

2. That baptism and an official relation to a Scriptural Church of Christ are prerequisite to a regular Gospel ministry; hence all ordinances administered by an un-baptized and un-or-

dained, although immersed ministry, are null and void of any Heavenly recognition and out not to be so recognized by Baptist Churches.

3. No Church has a right to hear a case brought before it in violation of the law of Christ. The specification of the order to be observed is the prohibition of any other order.

4. No member of a Baptist Church should submit to an arraignment or trial brought and conducted in violation of the laws of Christ. Each member is individually responsible to Christ for the faithful observance of His laws.

5. Since right only, not might, is right; in a Church disputation a minority that is Scripturally right is in all cases the Scriptural Church (that is, has the moral right), and carries the authority and commission of Christ.

6. An unconstitutional or disorderly majority of Church members acting contrary to the laws of Christ cannot properly or Scripturally exclude a member or members of a Scriptural Church.

7. No Church of Christ should receive the letters of dismission from, or the members baptized by, a disorderly Church of Christ or any man-made society purporting to be a Church of Christ. Nor should She in any way countenance or uphold its disorder; She should keep no company with it that it may be ashamed.

Baptist Policies

1. That our Churches will seek to be in all things consistent with our principles as taught in the Bible, whether we gain or lose numbers or popularity.

2. That our Churches will seek to fulfill our peculiar mission – which is to be the witnesses of Christ's truth against every system of error, and those who originate or advocate such errors, and above all, by no act to countenance, recognize, aid or abet those who teach error or to confirm those who are in error.

3. To employ all the energies of our Churches for the true conversion of sinners and the up-building of Christ's present kingdom, through the most effectual and Biblical means.

4. That our Churches will seek to occupy every village and city in the world with a suitably qualified, faithful, energetic and devoted Baptist minister of the Gospel.

5. That our Churches will seek to furnish a pastor to every Church and missionaries (evangelists) of the cross for every destitute region and land, at home and abroad, under the whole heaven – and to sustain them by means of our interest, prayers, and financial support.

6. Remembering that the commission to evangelize the nations, hav-

ing been given to the Churches, no Church can delegate her authority or her responsibility to a body, as a Board, outside of her. The Churches, as Churches, should seek the mind of God in selecting, sending forth, and sustaining the missionaries of the Gospel of the grace of God.

These are not new ideas, but are consistent with Biblical, Baptist doctrines that we believe are taught in the Word of God and have historically been embraced by sound Baptists. Historically, Baptists have always been blessed the most when they have stood firm for Biblical policies regardless of the opposition and attacks of other religious groups. Let us determine to be consistent in our policies and practices with the teachings and examples of the Word of God in these last days. Amen.

The Empty Grave

Continued from page 101

see the place where the Lord lay; that is, where He did lie, not now is. In this message let us mentally approach and see where the Lord was once lying. From the emptiness of His grave we may learn many truths.

I. THE EMPTY TOMB IS A WELL ATTESTED HISTORICAL FACT.

No historical event is more corroborated by more than 500 human witnesses. To the Corinthians Paul said, "**For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once. . .**" (I Cor. 15:3-6). Every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses (Deut. 17:6), and so 500 witnesses would be accepted by any court in the land.

Some of these witnesses were not easily convinced of Christ's resurrection. Even when the women told the apostles "**their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not**" (Luke 24:11). Peter and John did not believe it until they ran and examined the empty tomb. When they found the grave clothes in two neat piles they knew this precluded the possibility of Christ's body being stolen (John 20:1-8). Thomas refused even to believe the other disciples who had seen the risen Christ, and he declared: "**Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will**

not believe" (John 20:25). Shortly after this Thomas saw the living Christ and was fully convinced (John 20:26-29).

The testimony of over 500 human witnesses was strengthened by an elect angel. When the women entered the tomb an angel from Heaven said: "**Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen: he is not here: behold the place where they laid him**" (Mark 16:6). The steadfast word of an angel cannot be easily gainsaid (Heb. 2:2).

Even the enemies of Jesus Christ did not deny His resurrection. The chief priests paid the soldiers stationed at the tomb large sums of "hush money" to tell that Christ's disciples stole His body while they slept (Matt. 28:11-15). This was not a very good lie, for, if they were asleep, how did they know what happened to His body? People do not have to be paid to tell the truth, but they do require large sums of money to tell a lie.

The main purpose and the first duty of the apostolic ministry was to witness to the fact that Christ was risen. The apostles did not teach the resurrection of our Lord as a revealed truth like they did the doctrine of justification. They taught Christ's resurrection as a fact of experience, a fact which they themselves had experienced.

These eye-witnesses of the risen Christ saw Him not as a common man, or some ghost risen from the grave, but as the Son of God with omnipotent power. They saw Him as the true Messianic King and the eternal Son of God. They recognized clearly and fully His Divine nature, and they were convinced He was the Conqueror of Hell and death.

Jesus Christ is not in the garden; He is not on the cross; He is not in the tomb; He is not on earth. He is in Heaven at the right hand of God. There is but one place, and only one, in which Christ is not to be found—His grave. As the angel said: "**He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.**"

II. THE EMPTY TOMB PROVED THE DIVINITY OF OUR LORD.

During His ministry on earth, Christ foretold His coming resurrection. "**From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day**" (Matt. 16:21). "**And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into**

Continued on page 113

The Empty Grave

Continued from page 112

the hands of men: and they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again (Matt. 17:22-23). **"Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death. And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again"** (Matt. 20:18-19).

Not only did our Lord affirm He would rise again the third day, but He also declared He would rise by His own power. **"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. . . he spake of the temple of his body"** (John 2:19-21). **"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. . ."** (John 10:17-18).

No created power could take His life. He died on the cross by His own choice, and He rose from among the dead by His own choice. Life and death were the absolute servants of Jesus Christ. This is why He declared: **"I am the resurrection, and the life"** (John 11:25). Only One who was God could bring a dead body back to life (Acts 26:8). If Jesus Christ raised Himself from the dead, He was God. The empty grave is sure and undeniable proof of Christ's deity. When our Lord vacated the garden tomb the angel announced: **"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said, Come, see the place where the Lord lay."**

III. THE EMPTY TOMB VERIFIED HIS MESSIAHSHIP.

Old Testament prophecy forecast that the coming Messiah would be crucified: **"For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet"** (Ps. 22:16). This pointed to the sufferings of Christ and the kind of death He should die on the cross when His hands and feet were nailed to the tree (Matt. 26:35). Zechariah relates how the returning Messiah will say to Israel: **"And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced"** (Zech. 12:10; cf. Rev. 1:7).

The Old Testament predicted that the Messiah would die. Of Christ, the Servant of Jehovah, it is written: **"For he was cut off out of the land of the living"** (Isa. 53:8). Still it is written: **"He hath poured out his soul unto death"** (Isa. 53:12). The Prophet Daniel said: **"And after threescore**

and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off" (Dan. 9:26). In Zechariah 13:7 we heard God the Father say: **"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered."** Every time the priest killed a lamb, or a bull, they declared in typology the Messiah would die as the sinner's Substitute.

Old Testament prophecy not only foretold His crucifixion and death, but it also predicted His resurrection from among the dead: **"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption"** (Ps. 16:10; cf. 110:1). Peter in Acts, chapter 2 verses 29-31, applies this prophecy to Jesus Christ's resurrection.

While walking upon this earth, clothed in human flesh, Jesus plainly declared He was the Messiah. **"The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he"** (John 4:25-26). **"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee"** (John 9:35-37). Jesus Christ, on trial for His very life and under oath, told the high priest He was the Messiah. **"And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said"** (Matt. 26:63-64).

Jesus of Nazareth died upon the cruel cross. After three days and three nights He arose, fulfilling the sign of the Prophet Jonah: **"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"** (Matt. 12:38-40). This was the only sign Jesus ever gave the scribes and Pharisees to prove He was the glorious Messiah.

The resurrection of Jesus proved His Messiahship to Jew and Gentile: **"Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the**

seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:3-4). His resurrection did not make Him the Son of God (He was that by an eternal generation); it declared Him to be such. The Father, by His omnipotence, effected the resurrection of Christ from the dead (Eph. 1:19-20). The Father would not have endorsed the character of an impostor.

A voice from Heaven comes from the empty grave of Jesus and proclaims in trumpet tones that He is the glorious Messiah of which the Old Testament prophets wrote. A false messiah could not rise from the dead. Remember the angel avowed: **"He is not here: for he is risen as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."**

IV. THE EMPTY TOMB ATTESTS THAT HIS SACRIFICE WAS ACCEPTED BY GOD THE FATHER.

I believe the Bible teaches the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was sufficient and efficient for all for whom it was made. In the grave of Christ we see the curse of the broken law buried, and the wrath of God finally and effectually appeased in relation to every one who enjoys an interest in a risen and glorified Redeemer. The Father was satisfied with the sufferings and death of our Lord. **"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied"** (Isa. 53:11).

Satisfaction is the central truth of the atonement. Christ made full satisfaction to God's outraged justice. He died the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God. He suffered and died for His people in such a way that the Father is more satisfied with the believer in Jesus than the damned in Hell to all eternity. The inmates of

Hell are never able to discharge the debt they owe to the justice of God, but every believer by his Surety has paid the uttermost farthing.

An aged saint was asked what was the gospel she believed, and how she believed it. Her simple reply was: **"God is satisfied with the sufferings and death of His Son, that is the gospel I believe; and I am satisfied with His sufferings and death, that is how I believe it."**

Had Jesus Christ not rendered satisfaction to the Father, there would have been no resurrection nor empty tomb. **"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification"** (Rom. 4:25). The resurrection of Christ was for the purpose of justifying His people. Our Lord arose that He might present His blood to the Father in the heavenly tabernacle as our great High Priest. **"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us"** (Heb. 9:12).

As long as Christ lay in the grave there was no assurance that His redemptive work had been accepted (I Pet. 1:21). If Christ is still under the power of death, we are under the power of condemnation. **"And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins"** (I Cor. 15:17). As surely as He is risen, so surely we can know we are saved (Rom. 5:10).

Well did the angel assert: **"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."**

V. THE EMPTY TOMB SUBSTANTIATED THAT ALL THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST SHALL RISE AS HE ROSE.

Jesus Christ never acted more

Continued on page 114

Funnybone

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

Deacon Jones asked Bill Tightwad what he thought about Communist China's military aircraft having an aerial collision with our EP-3E Aries II electronic surveillance plane.

Bill said, "Well, it was a sad event. It did not help our relations with Red China."

Deacon Jones said, "Do you think the Reds got any military secrets from the plane when they went on board it?"

Bill replied, "I doubt if they got much. Nearly every thing probably said, 'Made in China.'"

On a Pastor's Monument

*Go tell the Church that I'm dead,
But they need shed no tears;
For though I'm dead I'm no more dead
Than they have been for years.*

Joe Doe, the funeral director of Possumtrot, called Deacon Jones for further instructions about his mother-in-law's body.

"Do you want her embalmed, cremated, or buried?" he asked.

"All three!" the deacon shouted promptly. "Don't take any chances."

The Empty Grave

Continued from page 113

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

The first ripe of the wheat in Palestine was immediately brought into the Temple and waved before the Lord, as a pledge that every stalk of wheat growing should be safely gathered into the storehouse. Even so, the resurrection of Christ demonstrates that all His people will be raised again. In John 14:19 Christ stated: **"Because I live, ye shall live also."** The spirits of the dead in Christ now in Heaven, whose bodies sleep in the ground on earth, will come back with Christ at the Rapture to get their resurrection bodies (I Thess. 4:13-18).

How comforting these words are to those who have departed friends and relatives. When we go to the graveyard to attend the remains of departed relatives and friends, and stand before their bones, which are in the grave, we ask ourselves, "Can these bones live? Can the dead live again?" As surely as the tomb of Christ became an empty sepulcher, so surely the graves of His people shall become empty sepulchers. Just as Christ rose to life and immortality, so surely shall His people come out of the graves the morning of the first resurrection. How beautiful the Prophet Isaiah expressed it: **"Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead"** (Isa. 26:19). **"And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power"** (I Cor. 6:14). **"Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you"** (II Cor. 4:14; cf. Rom. 8:11).

The empty grave of Jesus Christ is prophetic of the emptiness of the graves of all His followers. These graves may be on land or sea, but they are destined to become empty. Christ will never be fully satisfied until we are completely conformed to His image (Rom. 8:29). In Philippians 3:20-21 it is written: **"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence**

also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." As believers we will never be fully satisfied until we are like Him: **"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness"** (Ps. 17:15; cf. I John 3:1-2).

Thank God for the empty grave of Jesus! Thank God one day all the dead in Christ shall be in the likeness of their Lord. Soon the graves of the departed saints will be as empty as the grave of their covenant Head. **"He is not here: for he is risen as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."**

VI. THE EMPTY GRAVE CONFIRMS THAT WE HAVE A LIVING ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER IN HEAVEN.

The resurrection of Christ was necessary to His being our everlasting High Priest: **"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us"** (Rom. 8:34). Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven to defend those for whom He offered a sacrifice. His intercession consists in the perpetual application He makes to His Father of the blood He shed on the cross for the salvation of the elect. By the perpetual efficacy of His blood our sins are removed as far as the east is from the west. This never-ceasing intercession of our ever-living High Priest not only procures the remission of our sins, but also all spiritual blessings.

A dead high priest could not intercede for any person. Unless Joseph's tomb is empty, we have no Intercessor, no Advocate, no Mediator. Thank God Jesus Christ ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25). Our High Priest is not in some grave in Palestine. Listen again to the words of the angel: **"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."**

VII. THE EMPTY GRAVE ESTABLISHED A FUTURE JUDGMENT DAY.

Our Savior had to be brought back from the dead in order to be the Judge of all the earth. In the before-time covenant the Son agreed to execute the office of a judge. **"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son"** (John 5:22, 27). The risen Christ will occupy this office primarily in the future: **"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus**

Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom" (II Tim. 4:1).

A dead man upon a cross could not be the Judge of all the earth. But our ever-living Lord Jesus Christ can do this. He is **"ordained of God to be the Judge of the quick and dead"** (Acts 10:42). It is written in Acts 17:31: **"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."** The Father has given assurance of a future judgment day by raising Jesus Christ from among the dead. God would not have worked a miracle in favor of an impostor.

Do not be deceived by the Devil. The God who made the world will judge it. That day is fixed in the counsel of God, and it cannot be altered. The Father will judge the world by the Lord Jesus Christ to whom all judgment is committed. Christ is not in the grave. He has been raised up to judge the world. The angel declared: **"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said, Come, see the place where the Lord lay."**

VIII. THE EMPTY TOMB ARGUES FOR THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

To the church at Thessalonica Paul wrote: **"And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come"** (I Thess. 1:10). If our Redeemer did not arise from the dead and ascend back to Heaven over 1900 years ago, He cannot come a second time. A dead Christ in Joseph's tomb could not come or go any place. Because He is presently at the Father's right hand, we can be fully persuaded that one day before too long **"the Lord himself shall descend from heaven"** (I Thess. 4:16). Before leaving this world our Lord said: **"I will come again"** (John 14:3). We can be certain the Father **"shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you"** (Acts 3:20). Therefore we should be eagerly looking forward to the

coming of One whose arrival is anticipated at any time.

The resurrection of Christ is the ground and guarantee of His return. Had He not risen from the dead, there would be no hope of His coming again to rescue us from future wrath (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 19:15). The angel proclaimed: **"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."**

IV. THE EMPTY GRAVE AFFIRMS THAT IT IS SAFE TO TRUST JESUS FOR SALVATION.

How could we trust in Christ if His grave were not empty? With the empty tomb before us, we know who He is and what He has done. It is safe to trust Him with your eternal salvation: **"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them"** (Heb. 7:25). We trust in a living Savior who was once dead (Rev. 1:18), but is not dead now. His grave was once occupied, but it is now empty. Nothing is safer than trusting Christ, and the safety is indicated by His empty grave. Oh, sinner hear the words of the angel: **"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."**

CONCLUSION

1. Study these lessons carefully, for they are profitable. The more they are understood, the greater our joy in Christ.

2. Christianity depends on the empty grave of Jesus Christ. Its origin, existence, continuance, extension, and moral power rest on: **"He is risen, as he said"** (Matt. 28:6). If Christ be not risen, there is no resurrection of the dead, our preaching is vain, our faith is vain, and we are false witnesses before God and yet in our sins (I Cor. 15:12-18). If the grave in the garden in Palestine is not empty, we are the biggest fools this side of Hell!

3. Praise God! Christ arose! He will never die again. He lives to save sinners who come to Him.

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION VOTES AGAINST U.S. AND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS

GENEVA, Switzerland (EP)—For the first time since its inception in the 1940s, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) will not include a representative from the U.S.

According to a release from the UNCHR, the United States did not receive enough votes from the body's member nations for another term of service on the Commission.

During a press briefing May 8, the White House expressed regret at the UNCHR decision and concern that the Commission's decision will weaken its investigation and prosecution of human rights abuses worldwide.

"The real losers here are people around the world. . . whose human rights need to be protected," said spokesman Ari Fleischer. "They're the ones affected by this vote. It's not the United States."

Current members of the international human rights organization include some nations that are notorious for human rights abuses within their borders. Those nations include China, Pakistan, Sudan, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam. The U.S. government, along with international human rights groups, have condemned these nations as active persecutions of religious groups.

According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), the membership of these nations, and the loss of a representative from the U.S. has severely damaged the commission's credibility. "It is clearly ironic to have the international community's foremost body examining human rights include on its membership states which. . . deny respect for basic principles of human rights, and even refuse to co-operate with the United Nations and the Commission's own mandates on human rights."

According to CSW, the U.S. was the only member of the commission representing the appalling civil rights violations in Sudan. Since the 1980s, over 2 million people have died in Sudan's civil war between the Muslim north and the Christian and animist south. Millions more are homeless, starving or enslaved. According to documented reports, the northern military routinely bombs civilian villages, hospitals and humanitarian aid centers in the south.

With the U.S. gone, the commission will employ a "cloak of silence" around these issues and others, says CSW. "It is disturbing to see repeated occurrences of states with egregious human rights records prevaricating and blocking consideration of genuine human rights issues. Many of the States most active in the Commission are not legitimately elected or representative of their nations, but are successful in blocking effective action on human rights."

"To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice" (Prov. 21:3).

GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

YORKTOWN, Ind. (EP)—Jay Scott Ballinger, a self-described "missionary of Lucifer," pleaded guilty April 13 to setting five Georgia church fires, including one that killed a firefighter. Ballinger is already serving a 42 1/2 -year sentence for a string of church fires in eight states, and has been ordered to pay \$3.6 million in damages.

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. (EP)—While the 24 American aviators detained on China's Hainan island for almost two weeks have been returned, the Chinese government is holding onto many other "hostages," says Voice of the Martyrs (VOM). "Thousands of Chinese Christians are held hostage by Beijing everyday, simply because they refuse to deny their faith and submit to the Communist's brand of Christianity," said VOM spokesman Gary Lane. Many Christian prisoners have been tortured, starved, and denied medical treatment while in jail for their beliefs. Pastor Li Dexian, a house church leader in Guangzhou who has been arrested numerous times, says that during one detention jailers tied his arms and legs together and chained him to a bedpost for three days. Li reports that other imprisoned Christians have been tortured so badly that their buttocks bled through their clothing. Knowing first hand the harsh methods of Chinese jailers, Lane said that members of VOM had been praying for the safety of the American airmen and women.

BOSTON, Mass. (EP)—An attorney for the family of Jeffrey Curley, the boy who was raped and killed by two men, is seeking damages from the North American Man-Boy Love Association under a

racketeering law. Lawrence Frisoli will argue that the pedophile group trained members to rape children. One of the two men convicted in the killing allegedly had looked at the group's web site and had some of its literature. The lawsuit claims that NAMBLA is a "criminal organization" whose activities contributed to Curley's death.

GENEVA, Switzerland (EP)—The plight of persecuted Christians in several nations was brought to the attention of the United Nations in late April. Representatives of the Jubilee Campaign, a Christian human rights group based in England, testified to the UN Human Rights Commission regarding the persecution of Christians in several nations, particularly those living in Islamic countries. "It is appalling that in some Islamic countries Christian are being forced to convert to Islam," said Wilfred Wong, a researcher for the Jubilee Campaign. "This is just one of the numerous attacks which Christians in some parts of the Islamic world have to endure. It is a form of religious apartheid which is still widely unacknowledged by the international community so it was very helpful that we were able to raise this issue at a high level forum." Jubilee also drew the Commission's attention to the ongoing genocide against the 642,000 internally displaced Karen, Karenni and Shan people in Burma. Many of these ethnic minority groups are hiding in the jungle from the Burmese army who kill them on sight. Jubilee called on the Commission and all its member states to put strong pressure on Burma's military regime to stop its atrocities and to set up an international commission of enquiry to investigate the allegations against Burma's military regime of genocide.

LONDON, England (EP)—It's the Pope's fault. That's the position of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, which blames recent disasters in Britain on Queen Elizabeth's visit to the Vatican last October. According to *The Times* newspaper, the church insists that Britain has been visited with Old Testament-style curses ever since the visit, including an epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease, floods and train crashes. The church urged the Queen to call a national day of humiliation and prayer to end the plague.

A letter to the Queen written by John MacLeod, clerk to the Outer Isles Presbytery in Stornoway, said, "Since Your Majesty's visit to the Vatican, our nation has passed through difficult times and, for our part, we cannot but see the hand of God, for instance, in the floods that have caused so much distress in the areas affected, in the train crashes and the lives lost as a result of them and, not least, the present epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease with so many animals slaughtered."

MacLeod sent a similar letter to Britain's First Minister Henry MacLeish

about a meeting with the Pope in December. In the letter, MacLeod noted that in 1649 the Scottish Parliament ratified the Westminster Confession of Faith identifying the pope as "that Antichrist."

TBILISI, Georgia (EP)—A mob ambushed a truck on March 10 and severely beat the driver and three men inside who are members of the Georgian Bible Society. According to Keston News Service, a mob of 60 people attacked the truck on the road outside the former Soviet republic's capital of Tbilisi, destroyed many of the books the truck was carrying and terrorized the man. Local police managed to break up the group during the attack. However, the truck and its contents are still in police custody. The attack was allegedly led by defrocked Orthodox priest Vasily Mkalavishvili who, with a band of followers, has carried out previous attacks against religious minorities in Georgia. Mkalavishvili defended the latest attack, saying that the U.S. and Europe are attacking "the soul of the nation" through books that are viewed as heretical by the Russian Orthodox church. No legal action has been taken against Mkalavishvili as of yet. Witnesses say the former priest and his followers are rarely prosecuted by local authorities for their crimes.

LONDON, England (EP)—A proposed law that would lower England's age of consent for homosexual sex to 16 would cause more cases of abuse, say challengers. Businessman John Gouriet told Patrick Goodenough of CNSNews.com that "Pedophiles know how to manipulate young boys into giving their consent. Young people need the protection of the law and responsible guidance." Gouriet and two other men, an Anglican priest and a Catholic layman, are challenging the proposed law before the High Court in London. The Christian Institute, a charity that has been leading a campaign against the lowering of the consent age, told CNSNews.com that "the focus of the debates on the government's bill has been on 'gay rights.' The problem is that the same law which allows 16-year-olds to commit homosexual acts together also allows a 40-year-old man to manipulate a 16-year-old boy."

TULSA, Okla. (EP)—Ja'Marc Davis of the Christian dance band Raze was recently arrested on sex-related charges involving a 13-year-old girl, according to the *Tulsa World*. Davis, 25, is alleged to have had a sexual relationship with the former backup singer in 1998 and 1999. He was arrested following the band's concert in his hometown of Tulsa, Okla., on the opening night of a planned 30-city tour. Teresa Davis, sister-in-law of the accused and manager of the group, said Davis had come forward two-years ago to express

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 115

"a need for restoration" and had been working with management and a pastor. The group's debut album, *Power*, sold more than 150,000 copies and has been nominated for three Dove Awards.

TAMPA, Fla. (EP)—Former officials of a Florida church were found guilty of conspiracy and fraud by a federal jury March 12. Gerald Payne, founder of the Tampa-based Greater Ministries International, was convicted on 19 counts of conspiracy, wire fraud and money laundering. Payne's wife and three church officials were convicted on similar charges. The church operated a "double your money" pyramid scheme, and enticed some 18,000 people to invest almost \$500 million between 1996-1999 before the scheme collapsed. Investigators described the program as a classic "Ponzi" scheme, in which early investors are paid with funds from newer investors.

STUTTGART, Germany (EP)—A survey published in a recent edition of the German *Reader's Digest* found that one in five of all Europeans have lost faith in Christian churches. The results, reports Idea News Service, also show that 44 percent of Europeans "hold churches in high esteem." Finland had the highest percentage of people satisfied with their churches (67 percent) while Belgium and the Czech Republic had the lowest percentage of satisfaction, 26 and 23 percent respectively. In Germany, 36 percent of people surveyed said they held the nation's churches in high esteem, down 15 percent in the last decade.

ORONO, Maine (EP)—School officials in Orono, Maine, forced a third-grade student to turn her sweatshirt inside out because it bore the inscription "Jesus Christ." School officials also made the girl change a T-shirt with the same inscription. The Thomas More Center for Law and Justice, a legal organization which defends religious freedom, contacted school officials promising a lawsuit unless the girl's constitutional right to express her religious faith was honored. On March 2 the school, through its attorneys, backed away from its policy and provided written assurance that students would be permitted to wear clothing that reflects their religious views. Richard Thompson, chief counsel for the Thomas More Center, said, "Unfortunately, Christians across the country are being discriminated against, and the public school system has been a primary culprit. I am thankful that we were able to help this young girl who was witnessing for her faith."

SAN JOSE, Calif. (EP)—Yahoo! Inc. recently reversed its decision to feature

pornographic videos and DVDs on its shopping pages. Now the popular Internet site has gone further, quietly reconfiguring its sex-oriented online clubs, message boards and chat rooms. Members say the changes make sexually explicit material harder to find, and may lead to the ultimate disappearance of the material altogether. Yahoo! spokesman Jackson Holtz confirmed that the company made several changes as "part of the evaluation of adult content across the network."

BEIJING, China (EP) —Legislation that makes gender-selective abortions a crime is currently being considered by the Chinese government. The proposed law would forbid the practice of identifying the gender of a fetus by ultrasound or other equipment for non-medical reasons. Notorious for its "one-child" population control policy, forced abortions and stringent birth-control measures, China also has an inordinate number of male births over female births when compared to worldwide statistics. Due to a cultural preference for boys, female babies are more often aborted, killed after birth or abandoned by their parents. Chinese officials recently reaffirmed their "one child per family" policy, saying that population control measures by the government had succeeded in reducing the birth rate and increasing living standards.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (EP)—Last year, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. suffered its worst decline in membership since 1994. The number of Presbyterians dropped by 34,871 members to 2.53 million. The number of churches also fell to 11,178 after the denomination lost 38 congregations. "There's not much good news in there," a top denominational executive told the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (EP)—A major homosexual group has taken credit for getting the "Dr. Laura" TV show cancelled and plans a more extensive campaign to silence "anti-gay" opinions, according to a report from Family News in Focus. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is encouraging its members to lodge protests against radio programs which criticize the homosexual agenda. The campaign is called "AM/FM Activism." During the campaign against Laura Schlessinger's TV program, a GLAAD spokesperson said, "we are going to nag, pester, and pressure every sponsor on this television show until there is not a single one left."

President George W. Bush has named an open homosexual to direct the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. The appointment of 38-year-old Wisconsin native Scot Everts to direct the AIDS office is just one of the several signs "of a warming trend between gays and the GOP" under George W. Bush's leader-

ship, noted the April 17th *USA Today*. "Bush named four openly gay people to help with his transition, and aides are interviewing more than a dozen for key jobs," continued the report. And while Bush has reversed or modified several of Clinton's executive orders dealing with abortion and other issues, "He has left in place a 1998 order banning discrimination against gays in 1.7 million civil service jobs" (*The New American*, 5-21-01).

Senator Phil Gramm (R-Texas) has sponsored legislation that, if enacted, would open a loophole for military technology transfers to potentially hostile nations. According to the Center for Security Policy Communist China "will be one of the principal beneficiaries" of the measure (*ibid.*).

Joe Sobran gave a lecture at Christendom College in Front Royal, Va. Speaking on Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Sobran told his audience that Lincoln was not opposed to slavery itself, rather "he opposed the spread of slavery. Lincoln was not only no abolitionist but was willing to represent a client who was seeking to recover a fugitive slave." "Lincoln's opposition to the spread of slavery resulted in his belief in colonization," and sending the former slaves back to Africa would spare the United States what Lincoln called "the troublesome presence of the free Negroes." This idea of colonization, Lincoln believed, would have been just to both races. Mr. Sobran quoted Lincoln as saying, "Freed Negroes would not be allowed to vote, to serve as jurors, to hold public office, or to intermarry with whites. We cannot make them our equals" (*The Washington Times*, May 7-13, 2001).

Mormons claim that they have more converts from Baptists than from anybody else (4-16 *Christian News*). SBC's Paige Patterson says it could be partially true because "we have not taught our people the truths of the Word of God. If we had, they wouldn't be sitting ducks out there on the pond for every 'ism' that comes along" (*Calvary Contender*, 5-15-01).

To pay for the vast operations of government, the Feds are raking in revenue at record rates. According to the Massachusetts-based American Institute for Economic Research, the current tax burden is at record peace-time high. Federal tax receipts in fiscal 1999 totaled \$1.8 trillion, or 20 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The only other time in this nation's history that they were as high as they are now was during World War II. This 'revenue bubble' owes mainly to a sharp increase in income taxes paid by individuals. These payments have increased from 7.8 percent of GDP in 1995 to 9.8 percent of GDP this year. This is the highest they have ever been" (*Straight Talk*, 4-19-01).

The federal government is spending \$70 million of your money on Pell Grants for prisoners: that is, outright grants of money so convicts can get a college education behind bars. One courageous Congressman, fighting for fiscal sanity, points out: the child of a police officer can't get a Pell grant, because he or she is deemed ineligible, but a criminal the police sent to jail can get one (*ibid.*).

Slavery in West and Central Africa has been expanding since 1995, when plantation owners became more and more desperate for cheap labor. Children are sold into servitude from poor countries, such as Benin, Togo, Mauritania and Mali, to wealthier African nations, such as Ghana, Ivory Coast and Babon. This modern slavery differs from the notorious Transatlantic slave trade of the 16th to 19th centuries: Victims are not kidnapped and delivered to European traders, but are lured by friendly traffickers (sometimes a relative or a family friend), promising lucrative salaries abroad. They are then held captive, forced to work 12-hour days on plantations or as domestic servants, given little food and inadequate shelter, and subjected to repeated beatings or sexual abuse. Escaped slaves recount horrifying tales of how they lost their freedom, lost their childhood and sometimes even lost the will to live (*The Washington Times*, May 7-13, 2001).

When Temple University student Michael Marcavage protested against a theatrical depiction of Jesus as a homosexual, he was subjected to Soviet-style behavior modification: handcuffed and committed to a psychiatric ward. Objecting to the portrayal of Jesus as the "king of queers" in the highly controversial play "Corpus Christi," the student received permission from the school to stage a counter-production based on traditional Christian teachings. A week before the productions, Temple cancelled the traditional play, allegedly for lack of money. According to Marcavage's attorney, Brian Fahling, when Marcavage began to leave a meeting on the plays, thinking it was over, he was "pushed to the floor, then handcuffed and taken to the Temple University Hospital psychiatric ward. . . and committed." The doctor evaluating him "saw no reason why he was committed," Fahling said, and discharged him. Marcavage filed suit against Temple in November 2000 (*Human Events*, 4-30-01).

As lawmakers muse over whether China's seizure of Americans and continued refusal to return our property means that the PRC should not receive favored trade status, the Cardinal Kung Foundation reported April 23 that the Chinese government has arrested a bishop, seven priests, and 13 lay Roman Catholics for

Continued on page 117

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 116

not belonging to the government-run "Patriotic Catholic Church" (*ibid.*).

When abortion was declared legal in the U.S., one of its staunchest supporters said it would "usher" in an era when every child will be wanted, loved and properly cared for; when the incidence of infanticides and battered children would be sharply reduced" (2-24 *World*). On the contrary, in the years following 1973, abuse, neglect, abandonment and even infanticide skyrocketed. Since then, our media and social elites, to justify abortion, seem to presume that unwanted children would be better off dead. And they say destroying "unwanted" children right up until a moment before birth, is enshrined as a sacred constitutional right (*Calvary Contender*, 5-1-01).

The International Planned Parenthood Federation says it has received, spread over five years, an \$8.8 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundations (3-30 *Sword of the Lord*). These funds will help the British-based IPPF promote abortion and "family planning" (*ibid.*).

The Clinton Administration virtually stopped prosecuting obscenity cases, allowing pornography to become mainstream. The Justice Department prosecuted the worst offenders during the Reagan-Bush years, but under Clinton the floodgates were opened. Larry Flynt is quoted: "We've had eight years of lack of prosecution of a sex industry." So the film industry has gone from 1,000 porno films eight years ago to 10,000 last year. . . plus all the Internet stuff! The Internet is now the sexual medium of choice, offering pictures, videos, and web cams for every perversion (Gene Veith 4-7, *World*). Porn now take in more money than rock and country music combined. It is a type of adultery, in that imaginations (lusts) are the moral and spiritual equivalent of actions (*ibid.*).

"Belief that the Bible is literally true has dropped from 65 percent of U.S. adults to 33 percent over 40 years Gallup polls report (McAlvany Intelligence Advisor).

A record of 1.3 million babies were born out of wedlock in 1999, marking the first time that a full one-third of all U.S. births were to unwed mothers, the federal government said on April 17 (*The Washington Times*, April 23-29, 2001).

A Christian Science nursing facility that relies on prayer instead of conventional medicine for treatment can receive federal payments through Medicare and Medicaid, according to a ruling left standing April 2, by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Without comment, the high court turned away an appeal that claimed the payments violate the separation of church and state. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals previously ruled that laws governing the federal payments are constitutional (*The Western Recorder*, 4-10-01).

A Southern Baptist bioethicist said new research showing the potential for human fat to produce tissues of different kinds demonstrates why experimentation on human embryos isn't necessary. An April 10 report in the journal *Tissue Engineering* stated scientists have grown cartilage, muscle and bone cells in the laboratory from cells found in human fat. "The study demonstrates again that human embryos are not needed for significant research," said Ben Mitchell, a consultant for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (*ibid.*, 4-17-01).

NEW YORK - "The world of today is in desperate need of a mother," whispered Professor Mark Miravalle as he sat at his desk at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, carefully fingering a

string of rosary beads. Half a world away, inside the Vatican, yet another enormous boy arrived filled with petitions asking Pope John Paul II to exercise his absolute power to proclaim a new and a highly debated dogma: That the Virgin Mary is a co-redeemer with Jesus and co-operates fully with her son in the redemption of mankind. Miravalle, 41, began the petition drive four years ago from his obscure position as a professor of Mariology—the study of Mary—at one of the most conservative Catholic universities in the U.S. Since the Pope has received more than 6 million signatures from 148 countries asking him to give Mary the ultimate promotion. In addition to ordinary Catholics, Miravalle has received support from 550 bishops and 42 cardinals, as well as from Cardinal John O'Connor and Mother Teresa. Along the way, his movement has laid bare a deep-seated conflict between wildly popular devotion to the Virgin Mary and the efforts of the established church to keep that devotion in check (*The Toronto Star*, 12-23-01).

God's Word and Hemingway's Writings

By Philip C. Parks

Lexington, North Carolina

A column about a recent event was published¹ far and wide and the event is touted as being very important to the literary world. A collection of Ernest Hemingway's writings have surfaced and were put on display. Any one who is remotely interested in literature is familiar with the Hemingway name. He is one of America's most favorite writers and his writings are cherished worldwide. Hemingway died some years ago and is now awaiting his eternal fate whatever it may be. Some would say "known only to God." But a study of his life and lifestyle will raise many questions regarding his spirituality and holiness. Yet many people have a greater in-depth knowledge of Hemingway's writing than they do of God's Word.

A great contrast can be made between God's Word and the writings of Hemingway or any other famous writer past or present.

Regarding Hemingway's writings, the article states, "Some of the pieces. . . have never been seen or studied by scholars." It would be interesting to know how long these most recently discovered Hemingway documents will hold the attention of the average examiner. I dare say that the majority of the public, at best, have little more than a passing interest in them. Reading these documents won't change the examiner in any deep and significant way. At the most, the ex-

aminer will read the documents, compare them to Hemingway's other writings, become very familiar with them, catalogue them, and then put them away in protective storage until an in-



Philip Parks

terest is aroused again.

Now consider the Bible. Finite man can examine the writings which come from the infinite mind of the infinite being. The Bible is written to all mankind. Our modern times have proved to be a great blessing to all of the world's inhabitants. For almost without exception, man has access to God's Word. Man is not only commanded to read the Bible, but he is also commanded to "**hide it in his heart.**" Those who are not interested in the contents of God's Word will smart for it one eternal day.

The Bible is given to us to be absorbed—it must become more familiar to us than any other writing. The Bible is known to have startling effects upon its reader by changing his life, his behavior, and his inward motives. The Bible calls this change "regeneration." Those who have been changed by the writings contained in the Bible

become personally acquainted with its Author and perpetuates a sanctifying relationship with Him throughout the remainder of their lives. Try doing that with Mister Hemingway. Few men can claim Hemingway's writings have had such an effect upon them in such a manner. Even if they say it has changed them in such a way, the Bible condemns such change.

Another statement in the article regarding one of the documents written by Hemingway invokes more thoughts by stating, "the letter provides insight into the author's relationship" with another prominent writer of Hemingway's day. Let it be emphasized that Hemingway and the other prominent writer are both dead. Their relationship is ended and the character of that relationship no longer matters. The fact that it existed at all matters nothing if it was void of holy spirituality. Those interested that the relationship existed at all can now only make passing and speculative comments about it.

God's Word also provides an insight into the relationship of its recipient. It provides more than an insight. The Bible contains sixty-six books and letters describing the relationship between God and man in every detail. The Bible also makes it very clear that rewards or condemnations will be executed to all men depending on their relationship to the Holy Author. The core of man's relationship with God is love. God loved the elect so deeply that Apostle John wrote, "**But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him**" (I John 2:5). Try getting Mister Hemingway to relate to you in any such manner, especially with love.

At least one more statement requires comments. "A literary professor. . . helped acquire the collection for \$900,000." The "collection" refers to the Hemingway documents. Nine hundred thousand dollars! Repeat, Nine hundred thousand dollars!—Spent on a collection of documents written by a man of suspect moral character. This purchase is almost inconceivable. It is practically obscene to even consider spending that much money on earthly objects that will prove to be an eternal and spiritual vanity. One could wonder how much of a price these "scholars" would place on one of the Bible's original manuscripts if one were to be found today.

Most Bibles on the shelves of so-called "Christian" book stores are very inexpensive. One could dare say that the greatest majority of Bibles carried in the arms of today's churchgoers cost less than fifty (\$50.00) dollars. Most who are contemplating

Continued on page 118

God's Word and

Continued from page 117

spending money on a copy of God's Word would consider the price exorbitant. One could be convinced that the overwhelming majority of people sitting on the benches of the world's churches will read no more of the Bible than what they read along with the preacher as he reads the text of his sermon. So why would the inconsiderate spend a high price for a book they hardly appreciate. This Sunday morning will require most church members searching high and low to find their Bibles because they just tossed it aside after last Sunday morning's meeting.

What is the value of God's Word to those who appreciate it? Its value is far above \$900,000. Men have been persecuted for placing value on the Bible. Men have spent the ultimate price—their very lives—just for owning

and appreciating God's Word. The Psalmist summed up the high value one should place on God's Word: **"The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver"** (Psalm 119:72).

Men will gladly spend \$900,000 for Hemingway's writings. After all, its only money. But will they DIE for them?

What will be the ultimate prize gained by those who place more value on the writing of sinful men rather than that which God writes? There is no prize! Only disappointment, loss, and ruin! Jeremiah quotes God regarding this matter: **"Thy substance and thy treasures will I give to the spoil without price, and that for all thy sins, even in all thy borders"** (Jeremiah 15:13).

¹ "To Have and Have Not"; *Winston-Salem Journal*; Winston-Salem, NC; Thursday, Feb. 1, 2001; Page A2, Columns 2-3

Students Jeer Kissinger as Chancellor

By G. Russell Evans

Norfolk, Virginia

Williamsburg, Va. — Another honor for Henry Kissinger was his installation as 22nd chancellor of the prestigious College of William and Mary on Charter Day, Feb. 11th.

The aging former secretary of state, 78, sat quietly on stage, as protesters yelled, "war criminal and power-hungry liar," referring to Kissinger's role in the Nixon policy of bombing civilians in Vietnam and later, in undermining the peace.

'DIG' FOR TRUTH

Kissinger told students of the hard choices he and President Nixon made on contentious policies about the Vietnam War—often with imperfect information. He urged critics to "go out and research and dig for the truth."

Graduate student Mark Tyndall agreed in his piece in the *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* (Feb. 12), condemning "unfounded accusations and cruel personal attacks," adding "I choose to find out the truth for myself."

Me too! That's the reason for this column. Kissinger and all chancellors should be models for our future leaders. Exemplary!

BACKGROUND

Kissinger was born in Germany in 1923, fled the Nazis and became a naturalized US citizen in 1943, soon rising to national prominence as a protégé of the Rockefellers: three Harvard degrees up to PhD, Harvard professor; trusted adviser and confidante of presidents and faithful participant in goals of internationalists of the Council on Foreign Re-

lations and the Trilateral Commission.

HIGH-LEVEL POLICIES

Early on, he was involved in high-level US policy planning in the State and Defense Departments, the CIA, the White House and arms negotiations. He had influence as National Security Adviser to Presidents Nixon and Ford and later, as Secretary of State to President Carter:

- * Helped seat Communist China in the UN and oust Taiwan.

- * During the Cold War, allowed American wheat to the Soviet Union and supply of US technology, canceling an \$11 billion debt too.

- * Called for appeasement with the Soviets and promoted negotiations that gave the Soviets missile superiority over the United States.

- * Supported boycott of Rhodesia (later Communist Zimbabwe).

- * Alienated Greece and Turkey, thereby weakening NATO.

- * Argued for reconciliation and trade with Communist Cuba.

Kissinger's deals and policies suggest appeasement and defeatism in many instances—often against the best interests of America.

VIETNAM

A prime example of defeatism is Vietnam which won Kissinger a Nobel Peace Prize. Some peace. As US forces withdrew, the communist armies overran the countryside, pillaging, raping and murdering—and Kissinger, the US and Peace Accords be damned.

DÉTENTE

Kissinger was the foreign policy expert who presided over a détente policy which gave the Soviets technology and grain while bread prices soared at home; the Helsinki Accords that doomed Eastern European nations to enslavement; a SALT Treaty that gave the Soviets superiority; and the loss of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Angola.

Moreover, he toadied up to Fidel Castro on many occasions, pursuing normalization—all a part of détente and appeasement.

PANAMA CANAL

As secretary of state, Kissinger had a paramount role in surrender of the Panama Canal. His "Statement of Principles" with Panama's Foreign Minister Juan Tack in 1974 incorrectly alleged in three out of the eight "principles" that the Canal Zone was "Panamanian territory"—totally contrary to a 1907 US Supreme Court ruling and a 1972 ruling by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Moreover, his "Statement" pompously surrendered the most vital US bargaining chips for negotiating the Panama Canal Treaties three years later: sovereignty, unilateral Canal defense and perpetuity. This was typical Kissinger defeatism and internationalism.

CENTRAL AMERICA

In 1983, Kissinger was President Reagan's envoy to help settle the turmoil in Central America caused by the Sandanistas, Soviets and Cubans. Not so, said Kissinger who apparently saw no urgency for a communist defeat. "Kissinger revels in ambiguous statements and uncertain trumpet calls" (*Human Events*, editorial, July 30, 1983).

MAN OF DESTINY

Proponents of a new world order via the United Nations, and other admirers, see Kissinger as a man of destiny. Sovereignty and nationalism and passé to them.

A discussion between Secretary Kissinger and former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo Zumwalt Jr. included this shocker:

"Kissinger feels that the United States has passed its historic high point. . . is on the down hill. . . He states that his job is to persuade the Russians to give us the best deal we can get. . . and that the American people have only themselves to blame because they lack the stamina to stay the course" (*San Francisco Chronicle*, March 4, 1976.)

Henry Kissinger will now be doing the honors as distinguished chancellor of William and Mary, a star among the elites of academe and still darling of the media—but his record remains: the product of his own challenge to "dig for the truth."

(Captain Evans's columns are distributed by the Americanism Educational League.)

THE NEW HYMN BOOKS

The new hymnbooks are now with the printer. When they are finished, the printer will ship all orders of 50 or more directly to the church or individuals. They will come by UPS ground service directly to you. Orders of less than 50 will come to us and have to be shipped to you. They could be completed in about two months.

We did not quite get orders for 2,000, but our church made it out to that. The additional number of books did not cut costs much (a little over \$200 was saved on the last 1,000). One of the reasons is the good cover that I am requiring. Hence there will still be shipping fees.

We were able to add a good number of songs at no extra charge. The book will have 404 songs. Some of the new songs are as follows: *The Love of God* (revised by us), *There was a Night in Israel, Since the Savior Came and Saved Me, He Elected Me, Christ is the Joy of My Life, I'm So Glad that Jesus Bought Me, Jesus is Coming for Me, By the Crystal River, I'll Sing You a Song, The Old Fashioned Way, Precious Promise, Holy is the Lord, Verily, Verily, The Sands of Time, He Ransomed Me, Security, Through the Love of God our Savior, Thanks Be to God, Where the Gates Swing Outward Never, Were You There, The Last Mile of the Way, Great is Thy Faithfulness, Where We'll Never Grow Old, Zion's Hill, Moment by Moment, Blessed Redeemer, He is So Precious, Under the Blood, His Precious Blood, What If IT, Were Today, The Unseen Hand, When I Make My Last Move, He's A Wonderful Savior to Me, Yield Not to Temptation, His Chosen Ones, Beautiful, All for Jesus, Jesus Never Fails, I'll Be Satisfied, Leave It There, I Fell Like Traveling On, The Crucified One, Open My Eyes That I May See, Hide Thou Me, Follow On, Lead Me Gently Home, She'll Be His Bride Some Day, and The Darkest Day.*

This will be our biggest and best book yet. I feel that the churches will be blessed by its use in years to come. Watch the BBB for an update on it.

We have not sold the entire two thousand books yet. We have about 200 books yet for sale. These are \$10 each plus shipping. They will be sold to those who are the first to make payment for them.

THE NEW HYMN BOOKS

Pictures from the work in the Philippines



Photos above and below are pictures of an ABA congregation in Lagumit, Malita, Davao del Sur during our doctrinal revival last Feb. 9-10.



Above and below are pictures of the mass baptism of four ABA congregations in Lagumit, Malita, Davao del Sur on April 8th assisted by Pastor Dan Stepp.



Above is a picture of Landmark Missionary Baptist Seminary faculty and students.



Above is a picture of the baptism of seven ABA preachers in Digos City last Jan. 24 who joined to our fold.



Above is a picture of the sovereign grace summer youth fellowship on April 2-6 held at Guihing Landmark Missionary Baptist Church.



WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

Truisms Fit Chinese Piracy on U.S. Plane



Two truisms fit the recent Communist Chinese piracy against the U.S. Navy reconnaissance plane in the South China Sea: (1) Feint in one direction, then slip into your opponent's back yard. (2) Soft-pedal insults in order to save corporate profits.

Of course, these "truisms" are not profound enough for any "Book of Aphorisms" but they ring true for the bold Chinese insults and the less-than-firm American responses.

WHAT HAPPENED?

First, the Chinese fighter crash into the Navy EP-3C got the world's attention while China's Dictator Jiang Zemin slipped into six Latin American countries for thirteen days of solidifying relations in the Western Hemisphere—while his henchmen in Beijing blamed the Americans for the plane collision.

Second, nothing will be allowed to scuttle the on-going juicy U.S. - China trade, whose 84 billion dollar surplus builds up China's military and "keeps Wall Street humming with the grease of greed," quoting *Washington Times* editor Wesley Pruden.

Corporate America, far-removed from a hot war and well-protected by Washington power brokers, relishes profits to warm the cold war, i.e., greed is the creed.

Even so, let's look at these two truisms, seriatim:

BLAME AMERICA

While China's Jiang was quietly making his rounds in Latin America and wrapping up some 20 agreements along the way, the world media were focused on Hainan Island, where the 24 American hostages were held amid Beijing's all-out blame-America propaganda.

It was effective, because, a month later, the Associated Press was still saying, "the Navy plane collided with the Chinese jet." Not so, AP, the Chinese pilot, Wang Wei, known for his "cowboy" tactics, whipped into the propeller and nose of the Navy plane whose pilot, Shane Osborne, heroically righted his plane and made an emergency landing at China's Lingshui Air Base, 80 miles away. The incident occurred in international air space.

CHINESE DISTORTIONS

The Communist Chinese military grossly distorted and complained, as follows: U.S. spy plane rammed and destroyed our fighter; U.S. spy plane failed to get permission to land at our

base; U.S. bears "full responsibility" for the collision; U.S. must make "formal apology" for ramming our plane and violating air space.

U.S. Ambassador Joseph Prueher's "very sorry" letter, ten days later, was no apology, but did the trick and the captives were released.

After the collision, Wang Wei was seen parachuting into the South China Sea, 20 minutes away from a Chinese air base with rescue helicopters. U.S. offers to search were declined and Wei became a martyr—more valuable dead than alive.

Thereby, the issue became China's "loss" instead of piracy and hostage-taking—and Dictator Jiang continued his tour of Latin America which he began a few days after the hostage-taking.

THE JIANG DIVERSION

The crisis at Hainan Island was the catalyst for Jiang to begin his Western Hemisphere tour where the media would largely ignore him and play up the American hostages.

Jiang's goal was to "intensify cooperation between China and Latin America," including Communist allies in Cuba and Venezuela and friends in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and Brazil.

THE CORPORATE PRIORITY

The second truism that fits these insults is the "business-as-usual" priority so important to corporate America and, unfortunately, to our "corporate" Congress, many of whose members depend on "corporate" donations for reelection.

Thus, real campaign finance reform belies reality. What also belies reality

is rescinding permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with China and blocking China from the World Trade Organization (WTO), as sanctions for China's latest arrogance. "Corporate" profits take priority. And the Communists know this fundamental extremely well.

President Bush's national security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said as much, "trade will eventually make small democrats out of the Communist Chinese and any day now the old men in Beijing will wake up as compassionate conservatives," adding that "an entrepreneurial class in China is an important goal."

Meanwhile, Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Cal.) warns about "sending American trade dollars to a nation that displays such hostility towards the United States." Added Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-Ala.), "The Chinese didn't act in a normal way, so that brings the trade deal under greater scrutiny." But, let's not hold our breath until Congress hurts corporate profits that generate such juicy corporate campaign donations.

TRADE ON SHORT LEASH

The People's Republic of China which calls America "China's main enemy" can never be our "strategic ally," as offered by President Clinton with his transfer of top secret missile technology, apparently as a *quid pro quo* for campaign donations—but perhaps a "trading partner" on a short leash, and then, only after basic human rights are in place and honored in that totalitarian land.

Now, that's a better goal than "an entrepreneurial class in China." But, will "corporate" America allow such a goal that will hamper corporate profits? And will President Bush? We should ask!

(Captain Evans is author of *The Panama Canal Treaties Swindle* (Signal Books, 1986)).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Grace Bible Baptist Church, Denham Springs, La., and Pastor Jerry Dodson will have a Bible Conference June 8-10. Various speakers are on the program. For more information contact Pastor Dodson at (225) 664-3223 or e-mail him at jdodsonsr@aol.com.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Galena, Ohio, and Pastor Chester Powell will have a Bible Conference June 30, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Various speakers are on the program. The church will serve the noon meal. For more information contact Pastor Powell at (330) 772-6323.

The West Milton Baptist Church, 1070 South Miami St., West Milton, Ohio and Pastor Mark Clark will have a Bible Conference June 28-30. Meals will be provided at the church Friday through Saturday. Speakers are Elders Dan Gordon, Roger Jones, Mark Clark Jr., Parvin Hall, Irving Cummings, Clarence Grigsby, Garner Smith, Don Titus, Jerry Asberry, and Clyde Hancock. For more information e-mail Pastor Clark meclarkzz@yahoo.com.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, 100 James St., Fulton, Miss., and Pastor Jimmie B. Davis will have a special service June 3. Elder Garnett Brown of Gordo, Ala., will speak at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. For more information contact Pastor Davis (662) 862-4902.

The Friendly Baptist Church, 39 Kimberly Lane, Ethelsville, Ala., is seeking a pastor. The church has 12 members and a meeting house paid for. Contact Bro. Paul E. Brown at (662) 327-1383, or peb@cablone.net, or write 262 Hildreth Rd., Columbus, MS 39702.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Mansfield, Ohio is seeking a pastor. This is the church where Bro. Oscar Mink was pastor for many years. Any interested elder should e-mail Bro. Ray Blakley at Rblakley@gormanrupp.com, or call (419) 755-1434 days or (419) 589-3003 evenings.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Martin Road Spur, Northport, Ala., and Pastor Todd Bryant will have special services June 8-10. Services will be at 7:00 p.m. Friday night, and 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Saturday, and at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. The speaker is Elder Roy Mitchell, Corbin, KY.

The Berea Baptist Church, Mantachie, Miss., and Pastor Milburn Cockrell will have special services June 11-15. Elder Roy Mitchell, Corbin, Ky., will speak each night at 7:00 p.m.

Coming in the next issue . . .

U. S. Kicked Off UN Human Rights Panel by G. Russell Evans
The Third Commandment by Milburn Cockrell
Faith Establishes the Law by Milburn Cockrell

INDEX

Bible and the Newspaper	p. 115
Cockrell's Corner	p. 103
Forum	pp. 110 - 111
Funnybone	p. 113
<i>God's Word and Hemingway's Writings</i> by Philip C. Parks	p. 117
<i>Hitler and the Rebirth of Israel</i> by John Osburn	p. 101
Pictures from the work in the Philippines	p. 119
<i>Principles Policies and Practices Consistent with Biblical Baptist Doctrine</i> by Curtis Pugh	p. 101
<i>Students Jeer Kissinger as Chancellor</i> by G. Russell Evans	p. 118
<i>The Empty Grave</i> by Milburn Cockrell	p. 101
<i>The Second Commandment</i> by Milburn Cockrell	p. 101
<i>The Resurrection of the Body</i> by Wendell P. Furlong	p. 101
World Scene: <i>Truisms Fit Chinese Piracy on U.S. Plane</i> by G. Russell Evans	p. 120