

The Berea Baptist Banner

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

Heeding the Advice of Elder Christians

By Todd Bryant
of Northport, Alabama

"And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye me to return answer to this people? ... But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him" (II Chron. 10:6, 8).



There is much to be learned from this passage today. God has given us a blessed truth that is ignored in most churches today. I see assemblies that are being run

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A Message to the Graduates

By Nathaniel Hille
of Caldwell, Kansas

"And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come" (Acts 24:25).

The day of graduation is a very important day. While some of you will continue your scholastic education, others may not. Regardless of whether you attend a formal school, or not, you will always be learning. However, there is one school I plead with you to attend, yea that you are all in need of attending—"the school of sitting at Jesus' feet" (Luke 10:39). For it is this school that you will never graduate from for His ways are "past finding out" (Rom. 11:33).

There are a great many benefits of sitting at the feet of Jesus. The psalmist David, wrote, "I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation" (Ps. 119:99). It is at the feet of Jesus that one will learn true wisdom as opposed to



live" (Deut. 8:3).

The curriculum at the school of Jesus is that of "Righteousness," "Temperance," and "Judgment To Come." Paul reasoned with Felix of these great subjects and now you are called upon to reason of them amongst yourselves. The word "reason" means to "to think within one's self; to ponder; to meditate and discuss." The Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah saying, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa.

man's wisdom. It is at the feet of Jesus that one will be made to know "that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man

1:18).

The very first subject is that of righteousness. It is here you will learn of your own worthless self-righteousness which God describes as "filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6). You will learn sitting at the feet of Jesus of His own righteousness for He is "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer. 23:6). You will learn that righteousness does not come by being a good person, or by works, but by faith in the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world (Rom. 4:1-8; John 1:29).

After coming unto the knowledge of Jesus Christ as your only Savior and hope, you will then be taught of temperance. It is in this class you will learn of self-control; that sin will no more be your master, but that Christ will (Rom. 6:11-18). Here godliness, fruitfulness, and glorifying God are the main and key subjects. You will study the grace of God, which teaches us to deny ungodliness,

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Christ In The Old Testament

By Milburn Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)

The Lord Jesus Christ appeared to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus and spoke to them about the prophecies about Himself in the Old Testament. Luke 24:25-27 relates: "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

These words from the Savior Himself show that the Old Testament was concerned with the Person and work of the Messiah. There were revelations of Him scattered throughout all the Old Testament Scriptures which testified of

Him (John 5:39). The law, the psalms, and the prophets bore witness to the coming Messiah. Those who ignore or play down the Old Testament miss much valuable information about the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

TITLES OF CHRIST

The titles given to Christ constitute an important aspect of the total revelation of Christ's person. Some of these have to do with His preincarnate state; others with His incarnate state.

A comparison of the Old Testament and the New Testament passages prove that Jesus Christ is the Jehovah of the Old Testament. While this title belongs equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit and the Trinity as a whole, we cannot fail to see that in most cases it is applied to Jesus Christ. Those Scriptures which link Christ with Jehovah prove beyond any question the deity of our Lord

Jesus Christ, especially since Jehovah is never applied to any but God in the Old Testament.

Those of us who read the King James Version never see the word "Jehovah" very much. The translators of our version translated the Hebrew "Yahweh" by the word "LORD." They always spelled the word in capital letters. Thus when we see LORD in the Old Testament, we know the reference is to Jehovah. The American Standard Version more properly translates the word "Jehovah." When the New Testament writers quoted the Old Testament passages containing the word "Jehovah" they used the Greek word "kyrios" which means "Lord."

In Zechariah 12:10 Jehovah speaks: "They shall look upon me whom they have pierced." Revelation 1:7 describes Christ in this manner. In Jeremiah 23:6

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Jesus is Lord

By Donnie Burford
of Irvine, Kentucky

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say" (Luke 6:46)?

If we were to ask most any Baptist today, "Is Jesus Lord?" without any hesitation or doubt the response would be by most, "Of course Jesus is Lord." Yet, when we get to the real issue concerning His Lordship, there are some questions that need to be confronted, for the real implication of his Lordship is to be a most personal one. Is Jesus really your Lord? Is He Lord of all you have, Lord of all you are, is Jesus really Lord of your life?



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*He who falls in the dirt, the longer he lies the dirtier he is.
Quick repentance comes none to soon. This is the mark of a child of God, that
he may fall into the mire, but he will not lie there.
The sheep slips, and is up again; the sow lies down and wallows.*

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The purpose of the *Berea Baptist Banner* is as follows:

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

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office charges us \$.50
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Graduates

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and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, & godly in this present world (Titus 2:11-12).

Lastly, you will learn of that grand subject, Judgment to come. We must all remember that we are appointed unto death and after that—the judgment (Heb. 9:27). For every born-again child of God, there is the “bema-seat of Christ” (II Cor. 5:10). There, every redeemed person shall give an account of every single act and thought committed in his or her body. Oh the need for righteousness and temperance. To those who are ignorant of the righteousness of God, seeking to go about and establish their own righteousness, there is another judgment seat at which you will appear: the Great White Throne Judgment. It is there that you shall be judged according to your evil works of unrighteousness. Here Jesus Christ will mete out your punishment for all your wicked conduct (Rev. 20:11-15).

I pray that you will attend the school at Jesus' feet and reason with Him of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. AMEN!



Heeding Advice

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by the young believers; churches that are controlled by those with little experience. Maturity has given way to immaturity and experience to inexperience. Is there any doubt that this is why so many have given up the truth for fables (II Timothy 4:4)?

God has said that we need to seek the “old paths” (Jer. 6:16). We can't ask the young for the old paths because they did not tread on them. A generation has taken over that believes we should grow at all costs. Many believe the worldly methods employed by them to “reach the lost” are working because they are “growing.” A wise man once said, “If you use worldly methods, you will draw in the world.” This proverb has been proven by many of today's largest congregations. Many judge themselves to be “rich” and “wealthy” and do not know that they are “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:17).

Often churches find themselves growing in numbers, but losing ground financially. Why is this? A generation has arisen that believes churches are funded by bake sales and garage sales. However, this is not God's way of funding the church. God set up the tithe to fund His house. Many today don't understand the importance of sacrificing for the Lord. Health and wealth is the “gospel” of the day. So, many keep their funds to

themselves and wait for somebody else to pay. And who does? The elders in the church, in most instances.

Rehoboam didn't heed the advice of the elders, and he split the nation of Israel in half. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, the nation remained divided. The same thing is happening today. Churches are being split by trying to please the youth. Programs to keep them involved are being introduced because God's Word is not enough to keep them. What a sad state Christendom is in!!

“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder” (I Pet. 5:5). They are the ones that God used to build the church. They are the ones that were there when the foundations were poured. They are the ones that sacrificed. They are the ones that knew the truth. They are the ones that understood that the Gospel was sufficient without all of these added impurities. Seek their advice. Ask for their counsel. Beg for their help. They are more experienced than you are. Thank the Lord today for faithful brothers and sisters in Christ that made the way before us.

(This short article is taken from a weekly section called *Watering the Tulips* that is published in the *Northport Gazette* and the *West Alabama Gazette* by Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Northport, AL.)



Christ in the Old

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it is written: “The Lord (Jehovah) our righteousness.” In I Corinthians 1:30 Christ made the believer's righteousness. We hear Jehovah say: “I am the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he” (Isa. 41:4). In Revelation this is said of Christ (Rev. 1:8, 17; 22:13, 16). Compare Psalms 68:18 with Ephesians 4:8-10, and also Isaiah 8:13-14 with I Peter 2:7-8.

We are distinctly told in Malachi 3:1 that Jehovah will come to His temple. The New Testament reveals that Christ is the Jehovah of the temple (Luke 19:46). The temple could not be Christ's unless He is the Jehovah of the Old Testament. The Sabbath was Jehovah's day (Ex. 20:10-11). Christ styled Himself: “Lord (Jehovah) of the sabbath” (Mark 2:28).

There is also abundant evidence in the Old Testament that Christ was called “Elohim,” the Hebrew word for “God.” In Isaiah 40:3 Christ is spoken of as Jehovah and Elohim, or Lord and God. In Mark 1:1-3 this verse is quoted and applied to Christ. This expressly teaches Elohim in the Old Testament is God in the New Testament. In the New Testament Christ is called “theos” which is the Greek word for “God.” If Christ is the Elohim of the Old Testament, then He is seen in Genesis 1:1 as the God of creation, for God in this verse is Elohim.

Various other names are applied to

Christ in the Old Testament. He is called Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:22), Branch of Righteousness (Jer. 33:15), the Root of Jesse (Isa. 11:1), Child (Isa. 9:6), Desire of all nations (Hag. 2:7), Immanuel (Isa. 7:14), Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6), Commander (Isa. 55:4), Counsellor (Isa. 9:6), King of glory (Ps. 24:7, 10), King of Zion (Ps. 2:6), Redeemer (Job 19:25), Righteous Branch (Jer. 23:5), Righteous Servant (Isa. 53:11), Seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15), Shiloh (Gen. 49:10), Son of God (Dan. 3:25), Star out of Israel (Num. 24:17), Sun of Righteousness (Mal. 4:2), Sure Foundation (Isa. 28:16), Tried stone (Isa. 28:16), and Wonderful (Isa. 9:6).

ANGEL OF THE LORD

One of the most significant titles given to Christ in the Old Testament is the Angel of the Lord. A study of the passages where this title is found will convince one that the Angel of the Lord is the Lord Jesus Christ.

I myself am convinced that every theophany was really a Christophany in the Old Testament. I hold this view because of two statements in the Gospel of John. The first is found in John 1:18: “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” The other is found in John 5:37: “And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.”

It appears to me from such Scriptures, Christ must have been the Person of the Godhead Who appeared in the different forms and shapes in the Old Testament. The Spirit and the Father did not reveal themselves in those times. It is only logical that the same Person of the Trinity should appear in bodily form in both Testaments. There is no mention of the Angel of the Lord after the incarnation of Christ. Thus the Angel of the Lord became incarnate.

When the Angel of the Lord spoke to Hagar, He was identified as the Lord (Gen. 16:6-13). The same is true in the account of the sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22:15-18). The terms Angel of the Lord and God are used interchangeably: “And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life unto this day, The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads” (Gen. 48:15-16).

It is worth noting that this Angel is revealed as a distinct Person from Jehovah which proves the doctrine of the Trinity. In Zechariah 1:12-13 the Angel of the Lord addressed the Lord: “Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years? And the LORD answered

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Christ in the Old

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the angel that talked with me with good words and comfortable words.” Other Scriptures affirm the deity of the Angel of Jehovah without Trinitarian personal distinctions (Jud. 2:1-2; II Kings 19:35).

Meditation upon the many Old Testament passages reveals a remarkable breadth to the work of Christ for His people. Micah 5:2 informs us that Christ or the Angel of Jehovah had been eternally active before His incarnation. Christ was exceedingly active in the Old Dispensation calling men to service (Ex. 3:2; Jud. 6:11-24), guiding His people (Gen. 21:17-19; 22:11-18; 31:11: 48:15-16; Ex. 13:21; Jud. 13:3-23), judging sin (II Sam. 24:14-17; I Chron 21:11-30; II Kings 19:35), and executing the providence of God (I Kings 19:5-7; Dan. 3:28; 6:22). Thus we see the Angel of the Lord was engaged in the continual ministry of God to His people during these Old Testament times.

CHRIST AS THE SAVIOR

God has never had but one way of saving lost sinners. The salvation of the Old Testament is the salvation of the New Testament. The only distinction is the Old Testament presents a prospective Christ; the New Testament introduces a retrospective Christ. All salvation stems from the Son of God and His saving work on the cross.

The Lord passed over the sins of Old Testament saints (Rom. 3:24-26) with a view to Christ's redemption (Heb. 9:15). Salvation has always been by grace through faith in all dispensations of time (Rom. 4:1-16; Eph. 2:8-9). The Old Testament saints by faith looked forward to the coming of the Seed of the woman. They believed the promises of God as far as they were revealed.

Under the legal age, God provided an outward means of manifestation of faith in the coming Redeemer. This was by annual sacrifices. These sacrifices did not save (Heb. 10:4), but they declared the faith of those who truly expected salvation by the coming sacrifice of Christ.

From the time of Adam and Eve, Abel and Job, Abraham and David, Isaiah and Malachi, there was a remnant who believed in salvation by the coming Seed of the woman. Many Old Testament saints spoke plainly about the way of salvation. Job could say: **“I know that my redeemer liveth”** (Job 19:25). Jeremiah wrote: **“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is”** (Jer. 17:7).

The book of Psalms often makes a reference to salvation by faith in the coming Messiah. In Psalms 2, verse 12, we are told: **“Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”** Psalms 37:39-40 speaks in no uncertain sound: **“But**

the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.”

CHRIST IN TYPOLOGY

One finds in the Old Testament an inexhaustible supply of types of Christ. Typology contributes much to the Christology of the Old Testament. We must beware of making too little of those types. On the other hand, we must avoid making too much of them. Such persons as Adam, Abel, Aaron, Boaz, Benjamin, David, Isaac, Joseph, Joshua, Melchisedek, Moses, and others were certainly types of the Lord Jesus Christ. Such things as Noah's ark, the rock Moses struck, the manna in the wilderness, Aaron's rod that budded, the brazen serpent, and other things pointed to Christ. The tabernacle, the temple, the sacrifices, the priesthood, the feasts, and the cities of refuge represented Christ.

Taken as a whole the typical ceremonies and institutions of the Old Testament had as their major theme the Person and work of Jesus Christ. They formed an important part of the progressive revelation of salvation by Christ's redemption. These wonderful types are exceeded only by the Antitype in the New Testament.

MESSIANIC PROPHECY

In the Old Testament there are numerous prophecies of the coming Messiah. Many of these predictions were fulfilled at Christ's first advent; other prophecies await His second advent. But ultimately all prophecies will have a literal fulfillment. The Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament are legions. Space will permit me to call attention to only a few of these.

The Old Testament presents Christ in every book. In Genesis He is the Seed of the woman. In Exodus He is the Passover Lamb. In Leviticus He is the Prophet. In Joshua He is the Captain of the Lord's host. In Judges He is the great Deliverer. In Ruth He is the heavenly Kinsman. In the six books of Kings He is the promised King. In Ezra He is the Restorer of the Temple. In Nehemiah He is the Restorer of the nation. In Esther He is the Advocate and Propitiator. In Job He is my Redeemer. In Psalms He is the Shepherd and the King. In Proverbs He is my Pattern. In Ecclesiastes He is my Goal. In the Songs of Solomon He is my Satisfier. In the prophets He is the coming Prince of Peace.

HIS BIRTH

Much was written about the nativity of Christ. The Messianic line is traced from Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:15), through Seth (Gen. 4:25), through Noah (Gen. 6-9) to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3). His lineage goes through Isaac (Gen. 17:19), Jacob (Gen. 28:14), Judah (Gen. 49:10), through Boaz, Jesse, and David (II Sam.

7:12-13). Then the accounts in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 complete what is lacking in the Old Testament genealogies.

There are prophecies about the Messiah's birth which are very detailed. Micah 5:2 discloses that Christ would be born in Bethlehem of Judah. Isaiah 7:14 makes known He would be born of a virgin from the royal family of King David. Genesis 49:10 indicates His birth would occur before the destruction of the Jewish government. Daniel 9:24-27 reveals the Messiah would be crucified after 483 years from the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem.

HIS PERSON AND LIFE

Old Testament predictions reveal much about the Person and work of Christ. There is evidence of His deity and His humanity. His humanity is seen from Genesis 3:15 where He is called “the seed of the woman.” His deity can be discovered from His supernatural birth in Isaiah 7:14. The same Scripture tells us He would be **“God with us.”** The two natures of the Messiah are seen in Isaiah 9:6 in the expressions **“a child is born”** and **“a son is given.”** This same Child is called **“the mighty God”** in this same verse.

Prophecies in the Old Testament concern the life of Christ. These generally foretold that He would fill the threefold office of prophet, priest, and king. Moses predicted the Messiah would be a prophet in Deuteronomy 18:15-18. His priestly office is seen in I Samuel 2:35 and Psalms 110:4. Zechariah 6:13 combines His priestly and kingly offices.

The kingly office is the most prominent in the Old Testament prophecies. It is first presented in Genesis 49:10. In Numbers 24:17 the prediction is made more definite. II Samuel 7:12-16 reveals the King will be of the house of David. Psalms 2 discloses the Messiah will be the King of Zion. In Isaiah there are numerous verses which deal with His reign as King of Zion (Isa. 2:1-4; 4:1-6; 9:6-7; 24:23; 32:1; 49:7; 52:15). There is in chapter 11 of Isaiah a picture of the rule of the coming King. Jeremiah 23:5-6 adds light to this future kingdom and its King.

The Saviorhood of Christ is frequently presented in the Old Testament. Isaiah 53 is the classic passage on the saving work of Christ. Psalms 22 pictures His suffering and death. Zechariah 13:7 shows the Shepherd being smitten. Psalms 16:10 predicts the resurrection of Christ (Acts 13:34-37).

DO YOU KNOW CHRIST?

The Old Testament Scriptures presented Jesus Christ as the Savior of sinners. Of Timothy it is written: **“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”** (II Tim. 3:15). The reference is to the Old Testament here, for the New Testament was not

written when Timothy was only a child. Timothy could be brought to salvation by faith in Christ by reading the Old Testament, because all the prophets preached that through Christ's name **“whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins”** (Acts 10:43).

The New Testament was written to point sinners to salvation by faith in Jesus Christ Who has already come in fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures. John 20:31 declares: **“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”**

Sinner, do you believe that He came and died for sinners? Have you repented of your sins which crucified the Lord of glory? If so, then you have eternal life. If not, you are spiritually dead in your sins and into Heaven you shall never enter.



Jesus is Lord

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It is apparent that in the realm of professed Christianity today, particularly among those who call themselves Baptists, that there should be great concern over the way people who profess Jesus as Lord are living. It is believed that one of the great reasons for this is the redefining and thus lack of true understanding of what Biblically the Scriptures define and reveal the Lordship of Jesus Christ to truly be all about. Culturally, the word “Lord” today is a life-less word. It holds in our minds and experience little of what it originally meant to the Saints of days gone by. In our day, what is a lord may be a title that is placed on one to symbolically imply some position of respect and honor. But this is not fully what the Lordship of Jesus meant in days gone by, or what it should mean today to us as the children of God.

In hopes of seeing and coming to a better understanding of the true meaning of the Lordship of Jesus Christ, let us first consider what it meant to the first Christians, especially the early church saints:

To the early believer it was the first profession of their faith, Romans 10:9-13. It should be apparent that there is a difference between one believing in Jesus and one believing in the Lord Jesus. This in itself may be the greatest reason many who profess Jesus today are indistinguishable from those in the world. They profess Him, but do not truly have any idea of who He is. Jesus is Lord!

For a Gentile believer, to profess the Lord Jesus was a public profession that Jesus was their only King. Caesars of that day thought themselves to be more than mere monarchs. They, in most

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Jesus is Lord

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cases, thought themselves to be gods and deserving of complete obedience and worship. To a Jewish believer, it was a profession that the one, only true Lord and God of the Old Testament was, in fact, this Jesus who was God manifested in the flesh. Polycarp, the first pastor of the church of Smyrna, (Rev.2:8) is recorded to have said when it was demanded of him to profess Caesar as his king, "How shall I blaspheme my King who has saved me?" Clearly, he knew what the Lordship of Jesus meant and he professed it, for which he was burned at the stake! No, most do not understand the Lordship of Jesus Christ in this manner today, neither its necessity nor importance to their lives.

Early Christians thus understood that to truly accept Jesus meant to receive Him as their Lord. It meant a clean break from the ways and things of the world, the flesh and the Devil. It was that Christ was their Lord, not Caesar, not the things of the world, not the wants of the flesh, and there was no middle ground or compromise to be sought or had. But today, in the refined thinking and supposed better enlightened age in which we live, most have lowered the idea, meaning and implications of Lordship to accommodate their own style of life, and the results are sadly obvious.

Most in professed Christianity today are too involved with the world to really concern themselves with Jesus being Lord of their life and that, in itself, shows who truly is their lord, Rom. 6:16. Today, most think it is acceptable, even that it is to bring them praise, when they, at best, spend one or two hours a week putting themselves out to attend a church service. They actually have been deceived to believe that this is yielding themselves to the Lord. And even then, the rest of the week they live in a designed and purposed manner so that no one who would see their life would ever guess they profess Jesus as their Lord. They want it like that, they like it like that, for if one knew what they really professed and saw

their life, they know they would be outed as to what they truly are; hypocrites at best.

In the days of the Apostle Paul, when he used the word "Lord," he well understood what it meant. Greek: Kyrios; an owner, boss, master, of property or persons, i.e. slaves. This is reflected often concerning our true position as saints, I Corinthians 6:19-20, "**What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**" But how many of us really see ourselves, let alone conduct ourselves, as servants of our Lord? It may do us all well to read such passages as Romans 6 and realize not only the blessedness of God's gift of salvation, but also the expectation in one who has truly received it through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Is it really in our day that important of an issue? Yes, it is, if the Scriptures are to have any meaning or application for our lives today, if one is to really know who Jesus is, if one is to really discern if they truly know Jesus or not, for if He is not your Lord, how can He be your Savior? You see, it is not just thinking you know what the Lordship of Jesus is all about, or even that according to your definitions you believe it, but your eternity may well rest in the fact of whether you truly know Jesus as your Lord as His Word has revealed Him. It may not seem that important now, but by the Word of God, it will sadly be seen by many who profess Him as Lord today when it is too late, that the Lordship of Jesus Christ and a proper understanding of it was essential to whether they were ever truly saved or not. "**Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity**" (Matt. 7:22-23). You may not think it that important now, but what about then? If Jesus is your Lord now, you can be sure He will be your Lord in the end.

Is He? Is Jesus your Lord?

Thus far we have seen that the earliest Christians well understood the meaning of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It was what they professed from the first moments of their conversion, Romans 10:9-13. To the Jew who believed, it was a profession that Jesus was, and is the one true and living God. To the Gentile, it was a profession that, not only was He their Savior, but their only sovereign Master to whom they willingly submitted. Yes, this issue had little misunderstanding by the early believers; Jesus was the Saviour and Lord of their lives. This was the earliest understanding of the Lordship of Jesus.

But let us continue to see that this has always been the true view of His Lordship, and thus should be today, for it is the Biblical truth revealed of who He truly is.

Today, there has been a false distinction made between trusting Jesus as one's Savior, and some time later coming to know Him as one's Lord, as though they are two separate events. "Just trust Him as your Saviour, but it is not necessary to surrender your life to Him, that will come later," and the results have been devastating. How many do you know who profess Him as Saviour, but are not seen to be following Him with their lives? Even these folks, if you were to ask them, "Is Jesus Lord?" would, for the most part proclaim, "Absolutely!" showing they have no true or Biblical idea of the real meaning of it. This is the point of our text (see above).

Most people today are encouraged to make a decision rather than to surrender their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. You see, today's idea of Christianity is like a smorgasbord, you can pick and choose what you like and reject the rest. Supposedly, one can accept Him as Saviour, but they don't have to have Him as their Lord, at least not immediately, if at all.

Let me be as clear as I can: No one can willingly and knowingly come to Jesus for true salvation, receiving Him as their Saviour, while rejecting Him as their Lord. According to the testimony of the Gospel, they always go hand in hand. This can be seen in Paul's message to the Philippian jailer, Acts 16: 30-31, "**...Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**" There is no mention of just trusting Him now, and Him becoming Lord later; it was all or nothing.

You see, there is really only one option when it comes to true salvation. You can receive Him as He fully and completely is, the Lord Jesus Christ, or you have rejected Him. In fact, to acknowledge Jesus as Lord is an evidence of one having truly experienced the regenerating power of God's Spirit. "**No man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost**" (I Cor. 12:3). This is usually seen to be the

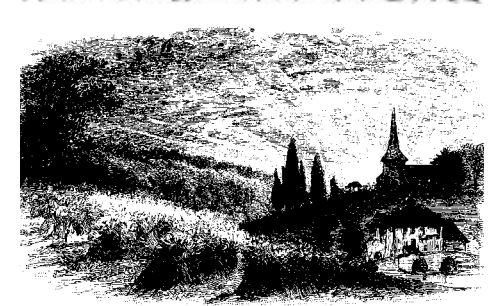
first acknowledgement of those who truly have. In Acts 9:5, Paul on the Damascus road responded, "**Who art thou, Lord.**"

Doubting Thomas, when he, in faith truly believed, expressed it as well in John 20:28, "**My Lord and my God.**"

Yes, the Lordship of Jesus Christ has been the great profession of all true saints, even from the very beginning. And it still is the valid proclamation of one's true faith today. But there is one other reality about the Lordship of Jesus Christ that needs to be considered. That being that whether one professes it willingly today in faith or not, it will one day be the profession of all men, for even the lost will ultimately be brought to their knees and made to profess what they would not accept in this life, the Lordship of Jesus Christ. "**Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**" (Phil. 2:9-11). (Rom. 13:12-14; 14:11-12).

Men need to consider today the true meaning and importance of the Lordship of Jesus Christ before it is eternally too late. You see my friend, it is not IF you will profess Jesus as Lord, but WHEN! In what state will you be found? Of those who in this life willingly surrendered their lives to follow and obey Him, and thus gladly will stand with Him and profess Him as their King? Or will you be of those who have rejected Him in their sin and rebellion and are forced to bow before the mighty King, even as their Judge?

To those who have professed Jesus as their Saviour, you need also to discern whether you have only professed the Jesus of the modern and false gospel, or have you really by faith come to the only Jesus the Bible reveals, The Lord Jesus Christ! Is He really the Lord of your Life? If not, then my friend you have not surrendered to the true Jesus, for He is Lord. "**For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord**" (Rom. 6:23). "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**" (Rom. 10:13). Is He truly your Saviour, is He truly your Lord? Only if He, by faith, is truly the Lord Jesus Christ to you!



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- A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS -

By Timothy Hille
of Ashland, Illinois

Chapter Three – The Peace Offering

The “sacrifice of peace offering” spoken of in this portion of Leviticus points to Christ as the One in whom the believer has fellowship with God, and in whom the believer receives the blessings of God (Eph. 1:3; 2:6, 13-17). This offering spoke of the fellowship that was had between the offerer and the recipient, who was God. The fellowship that the saved man, woman, boy, or girl has with God is that he or she seeks to live life in acknowledgement of God, agreement with God, and reverent and affectionate association with God. The only fellowship that a person can have with God is that which is by way of the cross of Calvary: anything else ignores the whole Person and character of God as He is in truth; and no one can have fellowship with God apart from the truth (I John 1:5-7). **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”** (John 14:6).

Chapter Outline

- i. The Peace Offering – of the herd: vs. 1-5
- ii. The Peace Offering – a lamb of the flock: vs. 6-11
- iii. The Peace Offering – a goat of the flock: vs. 12-16
- iv. Eating of blood and fat forbidden: vs. 17

I. VERSE ONE.

The peace offering was “for a thanksgiving” (Lev. 7:12); or, “a vow, or a voluntary offering” (Lev. 7:16). This offering spoke of peace being made with God for the person who offered the sacrifice, and thereby a covenant of peace being enjoined. “Christ has offered up himself a sacrifice, and thereby has made reconciliation for sin and sinners, and procured peace with God for them; the consequence of which is spiritual peace here, and eternal peace hereafter; and so is a ‘sacrifice of peace’, as the Hebrew phrase here may be literally rendered, and is the proper antitype and full completion of this sort of sacrifice.”¹ (Rom. 5:1-2). Before any person can walk with God, having a right relationship with God and experiencing His presence and the blessings which accompany His presence, that person must have peace with God. Peace is had with God by the sinner who is washed from His sins in the blood of Jesus, and who is represented by God’s only begotten Son who is now seated at the right hand of God in the heavenlies. Until the enmity of the sinner is removed through reconciliation, the sinner cannot worship God or be the recipient of the spiritual blessings of God.

The first form of the peace offering



was that “of the herd,” a bullock, speaking of Christ’s strength, patience, and humility. He became a servant and gave His life a ransom for sinners. He ministered about the spiritual needs of fallen men, as He “went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil” (Acts 10:38). In contrast to Israel, who was “as a backsliding heifer” (Hos. 4:16); Christ was a faithful servant of God. The animal that was brought could be “a male or female,” and must be “without blemish.” The sacrifice was offered “before the LORD,” at the tabernacle as herein instructed, which was the symbol of God’s presence dwelling in the midst of His people. Christ offered Himself to God without sin, as He knew no sin (Heb. 9:14; II Cor. 5:21); and by Him all who believe – Jew or Gentile, male or female, bond or free – are reconciled to God, their sins no longer being imputed unto them.

II. VERSE TWO.

The offerer was to “lay his hand upon the head of his offering,” thus identifying himself with the one who was slain, showing that by faith in Christ an individual becomes reconciled to God and thus enjoys the blessings and communion of God. Then the animal was killed “at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:” and the blood of the animal was sprinkled “upon the altar round about” by the officiating priest. Without the death and the sprinkled blood of Jesus, there can be no covenant of peace with God (Col. 1:20-22). Jesus was slain, laying down His life in our stead, so that we might have peace with God. His blood covers our sins and removes our guilt, being shed for the remission of sins. Sin makes one the enemy of God: and all men are sinners by nature, by practice, and by choice. “And the way of peace have they not known” (Rom. 3:17). “There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked” (Isa. 57:21). Only by Jesus’ death for sin, in the place of the sinner, and by faith in His blood, can any have peace, and thus fellowship, with God.

III. VERSES THREE THROUGH FIVE.

Here is described that part which should be offered as “an offering made by fire unto the LORD.” This speaks of God’s judgment against sin being satisfied, as it was in Christ, who is our peace. Peace with God does not come on any grounds other than that of righteousness, or else God would not be God: He does not change His unchangeable character so that the sinner might be reconciled

unto Him (Heb. 7:1-3; Ps. 85:7-13). Worship of God is impossible except the worshiper be righteous, justified from all things before a just and holy God. If a person bypasses Calvary and the Christ who died on the cross, missing the true meaning of His death for sin, then that person can have no peace with God and his or her worship will be vanity of vanities. The peace offering was thus connected to the burnt offering which made atonement, being burnt “on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire.”

That which was offered by fire unto the Lord consisted of the fat of the animal which covered and was connected to the inner organs, namely “the two kidneys . . . and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys.” This represented the choicest, or best, part. Christ’s energies and affections were all toward His Father’s glory; and thus was peace with God obtained through His sacrifice of Himself. We are reminded again, as with the burnt offering, that God looketh on the inward parts. “For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart” (I Sam. 16:7). “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom” (Ps. 51:6). This is not perhaps as meaningful to us today as to the people then living, who themselves made better use of the whole animal than we (for the most part) do today.

IV. VERSES SIX THROUGH EIGHT.

The “sacrifice of peace offering unto the LORD . . . of the flock” could be a lamb or a goat, “male or female . . . without blemish.” This refers to the same things as the offering which was “of the herd,” namely the sinlessness of Christ and the peace with God for every kind of sinner who trusts in Him and His death for sin. The lamb refers to Jesus’ meekness and gentleness, who said, “I am meek and lowly in heart” (Matt. 11:29). This denotes His innocence with regards to sin, “who is holy, harmless” (Heb. 7:26); and “who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not” (I Pet. 2:23). The meek and blemish-less character of Christ alone could satisfy God. He is worthy of the honor of God and the praise and trust of men. There is nothing in Him to turn away men except truth and light (John 1:9).

No matter the type of offering, there must be identification with the one who died. “And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering.” A person’s gender, background, ethnicity, income, and education make no difference: without Christ and faith in Him, all shall likewise perish, being the enemies of God (Rom. 1:16). All who believe in Jesus, identifying with Him by faith, are saved from sin and reconciled to God (II Cor.

5:17-19). The faith that saves is the faith that is in the One who died for sin, as this lamb was killed and its blood sprinkled “round about upon the altar.” Many things are said about “faith” today; but saving faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and imputation of righteousness, whereby peace with God is experienced, being obtained through the blood of His cross (Rom. 10:8-10).

V. VERSES NINE THROUGH ELEVEN.

That which was offered upon the altar for “an offering made by fire unto the LORD” consisted of “the fat thereof, and the whole rump.” This was the choicest portion, was sanctified to God, and, along with the fat of the inwards similar to the offering of the herd, was burnt by the priest on the altar of burnt offering. Now we find this portion of the peace offering which was placed upon the altar referred to as “the food of the offering made by fire unto the LORD.” This speaks of the satisfaction of God in the perfections and sacrifice of Christ, and of God actively fellowshiping with the believer who worships Him in Spirit and in truth (Ps. 50:12-15). In Christ we have fellowship with God. Christ fellowships today with those in His churches who seek Him (Rev. 3:20).

VI. VERSES TWELVE THROUGH SIXTEEN.

The goat, being “of the flock,” speaks of Christ as being despised and rejected, and counted among the transgressors (Isa. 53:3,12). The instructions here are the same as already given. We ought to be mindful that the gospel truth is ever the same, no matter where or when it is preached. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Heb. 13:8). We have need of being stirred up by way of remembrance of the truths of God. The gospel has need of being preached again and again, “to every creature” (Mark 16:15); “even unto the end of the world” (Matt. 28:20). The inward fat of the animal, as specified before, was taken away by the priest and burnt upon the altar, with this injunction: “all the fat is the LORD’s.” Christ always guarded and regarded that which was God’s.

VII. VERSE SEVENTEEN.

Here is a restriction given concerning eating fat and blood. The fat forbidden is that which was to be burned upon the altar unto the Lord. “It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings.” This was not only for this time as they were now at Sinai, but for their whole endurance as a nation under their covenant. Someone who is in true fellowship with God recognizes and acknowledges God’s just claims, of which the altar speaks. Disobedience is, in one aspect, a disallowing and disregarding of the claims and rights of God (Lev. 7:22-27; 17:11-12). The life of Christ was

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A Study in Leviticus

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given in order that we might receive the remission of sins. **"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"** (Matt. 26:28).

NOTES

1. Gill, John. *Exposition of the Old Testament* ("The Online Bible", Larry Pierce, 1994-95).



Forbidden Scriptures #2

By Curtis Pugh
of Poteau, Oklahoma

Here is test #2: Read the verses below, then try to remember the last time you heard a sermon taken from this text. Probably you never have. That is because these verses are



among those which contradict the beliefs of most people. Because of this most preachers have never preached on these verses. Probably they have never dealt with them except to try to explain them away, assuring their hearers that they do not really mean what they say. Think of it! Modern professing Christians who refuse to believe all that the Bible teaches while claiming to believe that the Bible is God's Word! So, take the test. Read these verses and decide if you, and your preacher, and your church really do believe all that the Bible says. Perhaps you will decide that some changes need to be made – not in the Bible – but in your thinking and understanding. Here is another of the "Forbidden Scriptures."

"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:26-29).

Jesus says that His Father gave Him some people whom He calls sheep. Thus He divides mankind: some are "sheep" and some are not. Some people have been given to Christ by the Father and some have not. Those who are not sheep do not follow Christ. But the sheep do hear the voice of Jesus and they do follow Him and He gives them eternal life. These shall never perish! Now either they follow Christ or they do not! Jesus

said they do! But today most "evangelical Christians" do not believe this. They believe in something they call "carnal Christians." Most of Christendom in America says that if you will pray a prayer "asking Jesus into your heart" (or some such unscriptural idea) then you are saved. They take Paul's words in 1st Corinthians 3 completely out of context and have promoted the idea that you can be truly saved and still live like the world. They say that Christians can dope, be drunken, dress immodestly, curse and tell dirty jokes, live immoral lives and otherwise live just as they did before they prayed the magical sinner's prayer. They say such people are just "carnal Christians." But Jesus said His sheep follow Him! Hebrews 12:14 says, **"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."** Remember this verse: it says that without holiness no man shall see the Lord! If you claim to have been saved and your life has not radically changed, you did not experience the broken heartedness that brings about a lifetime of true repentance (turning from) sin and which results in salvation. Paul wrote: **"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death"** (II Cor. 7:10).

Do not think you are saved because you once prayed a prayer asking for salvation. The Bible says, **"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates"** (II Cor. 13:5)? Does the Bible really teach that a person can have Jesus Christ in them and still live like the enemies of Christ? Does not the Bible say that **"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature"** (II Cor. 5:17)? Many who are still **"reprobates"** think themselves to be children of God because they prayed a prayer one time and someone told them they were saved because they prayed. Do not be deceived! **"Examine yourselves."**

Neither you nor I nor anyone is saved because they "did something." Salvation is by grace alone, **"Not of works, lest any man should boast"** (Eph. 2:9). If you are saved it is because you are one of Christ's sheep and He died for you. Jesus said in John 10:11, **"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."** And again in John 10:15 He said, **"...I lay down my life for the sheep."** The Bible does not say that Christ died for those who are not His sheep. You have no right to presume that Christ died for you and that you are saved if you are not a spiritual sheep. And the evidence that you are a "sheep" is that you hear Christ's voice and you follow Him. Are you really saved? **"Examine yourselves!"** Remember: **"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"** (Luke 13:3, 5).



From the Pen of a Country Preacher

Milburn R. Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)



The Humiliation and Exaltation of Christ

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28).

The first advent of Christ was for the purpose of bearing the sins of the elect. This was a substitutionary and vicarious bearing of all kinds of sins as to their guilt and punishment. Christ suffered and died for the many who believe on Him and are justified by Him. The Redeemer at His first coming wholly bore away the sins of His people from the sight of God's justice.

But Jesus Christ, Who came to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself, is to come a second time without the burden of sin upon Him. His return is to glorify the bodies of those for which He obtained eternal salvation. There is a profound contrast between His first coming to earth and His second coming to the earth. In this message I want to compare and contrast these two awesome events.

THE FIRST ADVENT

Nearly 2,000 years ago a little baby was born in a manger in Judaea. This was the **"holy child Jesus"** (Acts 4:27). He was born to a poor virgin woman named Mary of the house of King David. That holy thing which was born of her was **"called the Son of God"** (Luke 1:35). This helpless babe, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes, was the **"Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"** (Luke 2:11). This infant boy was born in a poor country village said to be **"little among the thousands of Judah."**

The Humiliation of Christ began at His incarnation. It was indeed a momentous occasion when He who dwelt in the bosom of the Father condescended to be put in the bosom of a woman. How marvelous it was for the Creator of the universe to be **"made in the likeness of men"** (Phil 2:7). It was remarkable indeed for the Omnipresent One, Whom the Heaven of heavens could not contain, to dwell on earth. Though He was in **"the form of God"** He **"took upon him the form of a servant"** (Phil. 2:6-7).

The young Christ received His nourishment from the breasts of Mary. When He was eight days old He endured the painful rite of circumcision. His infant body grew as the body of any child. The Scripture says He increased in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:40, 52). As a young lad of twelve years of age He

was subject to His parents (Luke 2:42-51). Most of His life on earth was spent in an obscure and wicked village called Nazareth. There He worked in a carpenter's shop. He never had the opportunity of a liberal education but labored with His hands.

About the time when He was thirty years old He presented Himself to John the Baptist as a candidate for Bible baptism. Following His immersion in the Jordan River, Jesus Christ was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil. Hebrews 2:18 tells us: **"He himself hath suffered being tempted."** Hebrews 4:15 declares: **"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."** The Devil concluded the forty days by three special temptations which ended in utter failure. Then the Devil departed from Him.

Christ's humiliation can be seen from the reproaches, indignities, and persecutions He endured during the days of His flesh. His enemies upbraided Him for being a poor peasant and for His illiterate education. They accused Him of being demon possessed, a Sabbath-breaker, a glutton and a wine bibber. They charged Him with false doctrines and being a deceiver. The leaders of His own nation rejected Him as the Messiah and sought to do Him bodily harm.

With a view of these indignities, He said by the mouth of Old Testament prophecy: **"I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. . . . They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion"** (Ps. 22:6-8, 13).

Jesus Christ was so despised and rejected by the leaders of His people that they **"consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him"** (Matt. 26:4) Finally they were able to get Judas, one of the twelve apostles which Christ had chosen, to betray Him into their hands for thirty pieces of silver. Judas came to the Garden of Gethsemane with a rough band of soldiers and identified Him by a kiss of hypocrisy. The frightened

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disciples fled in terror.

Our Redeemer was taken by night for an illegal trial before Caiaphas and the scribes and elders. The Friend of Sinners was falsely accused. In violent anger the high priest and other Jewish leaders began to smite Him and spit in His face. Outside of the high priest's house Peter denied Him with an oath. All night He was mocked and buffeted.

When morning came Christ was led to Pilate, the Roman governor. The governor sought to persuade the howling mob to let him release Jesus. But the angry mob cried for Christ's blood. Fearing his position, he left the Saviour to the shameful death of crucifixion, a death reserved for the vilest of criminals.

The Roman soldiers took Christ and scourged Him until His back was a mass of raw flesh and His bones could be seen. Of this event the Messiah said by the voice of prophecy: **"I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me"** (Ps. 22:17). In contempt they pressed a crown of long thorns down upon His brow and put a reed in His hand for a scepter and a robe of mockery upon Him. Kneeling mockingly before Him they cried: **"Hail, King of the Jews!"** Throughout this awful time **"He opened not his mouth"** (Isa. 53:7). Our Saviour unprotestingly endured it all for our sake.

Near nine o'clock in the morning the heavy cross was laid upon the bleeding shoulders of Christ, and He was led outside the gates of Jerusalem to a hill called Calvary. At this place of the skull a husky Roman soldier drove spikes into the tender, quivering flesh of Jesus Christ, pinning Him to the tree of the cross. Then the old rugged cross upon which the Saviour was nailed was dropped into a hole prepared, twisting His shoulders out of joint. There the Saviour of sinners hung between Heaven and earth and between two thieves.

Describing His awful pain Christ said by the voice of prophecy: **"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death"** (Ps. 22:14-15).

His enemies passed by His cross reviling Him and wagging their heads in contempt. **"The chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him come down from the cross, and we will believe him"** (Matt. 27:41-42). **"And they that were crucified with him reviled him"** (Mark 15:32).

Upon the cruel cross the Just One hung until about three o'clock in the

afternoon. There He drank the cup full to the brim of man's iniquity. That cup contained the foul, filthy admixture of every heinous sin committed by the vilest sinner who ever lived. Every demon-inspired and hellish transgression of the elect of God foamed and reeked in that awful cup. The last bitter dregs of the cup came when the wrath of God was poured out upon Him by the Father. In a few hours Christ suffered an eternity in Hell for every penitent and believing soul who ever lived or shall live in the world. The suffering was so great that nature rebelled and the sun refused to shine.

At the climax of His suffering He cried: **"It is finished"** (John 19:30). This was not the cry of a helpless martyr, but it was the cry of a mighty conqueror after a hard day of battle. Jesus Christ had paid all the sin-debt that His people owed to the justice of God. The Father **"made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"** (II Cor. 5:21). Here was the greatest manifestation of the love of God and the greatest manifestation of His indignation against sin in the history of the world!

Near sunset of that same day a rich man, Joseph of Arimathae, buried the body of Jesus Christ **"in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock"** (Matt. 27:60). It would seem that the Saviour had no family vault in which to be interred. This fulfilled the words of the prophet: **"And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death"** (Isa. 53:9).

Exactly seventy-two hours later, the Son of God arose from the grave with the keys of Hades and Death for our justification. **"He shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God"** (Acts 1:3). After giving His church a world-wide and age-lasting commission to disciple all nations, He ascended from the Mount of Olivet **"and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven"** (Acts 1:9-11).

HIS SECOND ADVENT

To stop here would be only half of the story. The Saviour promised that His first advent would be followed by a second advent. He who went up to Heaven shall come from Heaven. The Scripture declared that He **"...shall appear the second time without sin unto salvation"** (Heb. 9:28). The last words of Christ were uttered at the close of the New Testament Canon. They were: **"Surely I come quickly"** (Rev. 22:20). Those who

take seriously the words of Christ can say with the writer of Hebrews: **"For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry"** (Heb. 10:37).

The two men in white apparel said Christ would come back to the earth in like manner as He departed. Thus there is a similarity between the two comings.

The Saviour left this earth nearly 2,000 years ago, saying: **"I will come again"** (John 14:3). Job tells us that His Redeemer **"shall stand at the latter day upon the earth"** (Job 19:25). He is not only going to come back to earth, but He is also going to come back to the exact spot He left from. He ascended from the Mount of Olives on the east of Jerusalem. Of His descension Zechariah says: **"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east"** (Zech. 14:4).

Jesus went up in a cloud, and He is coming back in a cloud. John tells us: **"Behold, he cometh with clouds"** (Rev. 1:7). It was the Saviour Himself Who departed out of this world unto the Father, and it is to be **"this same Jesus"** Who is to come back. God the Father **"shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you"** (Acts 3:20). When the Lord of glory disappeared bodily they saw Him go up toward Heaven. He is to come back bodily and **"every eye shall see him"** (Rev. 1:7). Also it may be said that He went away before the Millennial Reign, and thus He will return. His coming is pre-millennial.

Nevertheless there is also a great contrast between the first and second advent. He came the first time as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, but when He returns He will come as **"the Lion of the tribe of Juda"** (Rev. 5:5). At His first appearance He came to die for sinners; when He comes the second time it will be to judge sinners. He is not going to come the second time as a helpless babe but as a warring King.

At His first coming He came into Jerusalem riding upon **"a colt the foal of an ass"** (Matt. 21:5). When He comes back He is to be riding **"a white horse."** At His triumphal entry into Jerusalem many years ago He wept over the inhabitants of Jerusalem, but at His coming again the inhabitants of Jerusalem will weep over Him. Zechariah tells us: **"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him. . . as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn"** (Zech. 12:10). At the first appearing He was judged in Jerusalem but at His second coming He will sit and judge in Jerusalem (Isa. 11:3-4).

When He came the first time He offered Himself to Israel as the King of the Jews. They rejected Him, saying, **"We will not have this man to reign over us"** (Luke 19:14). They crowned Him with

thorns instead of the royal crown of King David. They gave Him a cross instead of the throne of David. But when He comes again they will **"Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all."** Christ will be given the crown right to David's throne: **"The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David"** (Luke 1:32). In that wonderful hour the Father will declare: **"I have anointed my king upon my holy hill of Zion"** (Ps. 2:6 marginal) Verily in that day **"the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously"** (Isa. 24:23).

What an ineffably glorious day this will be! In the presence of innumerable angels, billions of white robed saints, the kings of the whole earth will crown Jesus Christ King of all kings, Lord of all lords, the Chief of all the chiefs! The head which wore the crown of thorns will then wear the crown of universal empire! The hands which were once nailed to the tree will then triumphantly hold the scepter of all dominion. The One Who was mocked in Pilate's judgment hall will now be adorned by the archangel, the armies of Heaven, the universal company of all the blood-washed saints, the kings of earth and the mighty men! His honor, His name, and His claims which He made at His first coming will be vindicated on earth. It is meet that the scene of His triumph and vindication be in Jerusalem--the very spot where He was condemned as a malefactor and died between two thieves!

At the first advent wicked men shed the blood of Jesus Christ. By wicked hands He was taken and slain. His head and back were bloody. His hands and His feet were covered with blood. His side gave forth water and blood. But the reverse is to happen when He comes again. He is coming back to **"judge and make war"** with **"a sharp sword"** (Rev. 19:11, 15) to shed the blood of His enemies. John says: **"And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood"** (Rev. 19:13). This avenging King shall cry: **"I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment"** (Isa. 63:3). The psalmist said: **"The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked"** (Ps. 58:10).

At the first advent Satan bruised the heel of Jesus Christ at the cross. Across the centuries since that time Satan has been enthroned by the masses of earth as **"the prince of this world."** But at the second coming Christ will bruise Satan's head and destroy his kingdom. The kingdoms of this world will be wrest from the hands of the Prince of Darkness. Christ is coming to cast out the usurper and take possession of earth to establish

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Humiliation of

(Continued from page 107) ♦

beneficent rule and kingly jurisdiction over all. There is only one hope for this sin-blasted, Hell-bound, war-torn world which lies in the Wicked One. The groans of saints and the whole creation will never cease until Jesus Christ liberates planet earth from the chains of a darkness and the bond of iniquity.

Blessed consummation of this weary and sorrowful world! I give it welcome. I hail its approach. I wait for its coming more than they that watch for the morning. Over the wrecks of a world I weep. Over broken homes and hearts of parents, over the unconscious clay of sweet infants, and over the daisy which grows on the tombs of the saints, I weep and sorrow. Over split churches and ruined lives I grieve. I long for the resurrection morn. Oh, Lord Jesus come today! Hasten with all thy congregated ones! My soul desires to see the King in His beauty, and the beautiful ones whom He shall bring along with Him. Come forth out of your royal chambers, O Prince of the kings of the earth! Put on the visible robe of your imperial majesty. Take up that unlimited scepter which your Almighty Father has bequeathed you. All creation cries for your return! **"Even so, Come, Lord Jesus"** (Rev. 22:20).



Commentary on Psalm 1

By John Massie
of Wayne, West Virginia

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (v. 1).



There would be no benefit to the believer in walking in the counsel of the ungodly, for this counsel of the ungodly tends only to mischief. He is opposed to the holiness and righteousness of God, and he seeks evil and not good. He seeks the hurt and harm of those who do not dwell in his camp, and the children of God are his primary targets for persecution. The ungodly are void of ways that are right, and their tongues are concerned with evil of some kind. They are messengers of Satan, and judgment and justice are unknown to them. The message of God is, Walk not with them and give no heed to their counsel. They

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are night travelers and love the ways of darkness.

The man of God is exhorted also not to stand in the way of sinners, who spend their time in ways of foolishness and vanity. The sinner likes to tell jokes, to speak of worldly affairs, pleasures, and entertainments concerned with exciting fleshly desires. He desires company and friendship with worldly-minded people, and the children of God find no favor in his eyes. The ungodly sinner promotes profanity and endeavors to destroy righteousness. He devises mischief on his bed, and he works iniquity in his heart. The sinner loves his sin, and he loves to stand and persuade others to do likewise, to follow after that which is right in their own eyes. There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Blessed is the man that standeth not in the way of sinners. God says, Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. We are to walk in righteousness, but never to stand in darkness.

The scornful have nothing good to say for those who love God and own Jesus Christ as Saviour. They breathe out shameful reports against the servant of God and make him to appear bad in whatever way they can. The scornful often fill seats of authority, and by virtue of advantage they call evil good, and good evil. By frivolous talk and friendship with the naughty, they spue out malignant words against those who keep the bars up for the namesake of Christ. May we turn deaf ears to the scorners, and avoid their company.

A man is blessed when he walks in the paths of the righteous, with his ears and heart open to receive the oracles and commandments of God. When he finds the yoke of Christ easy and His burden light, he abounds in the work of Christ with an increase of love and faith. We should ever be mindful to tell others what great things the Lord has done for us. The work of righteousness brings peace, and the Lord tells us that our enemies will be at peace with us when our ways please Him. Praise God for the grace and wisdom that we have in Christ, and for the power of the Spirit that leads us gently, but firmly, in the ways of truth. Let us treasure up the words in our

heart: **"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."**

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law doth he meditate day and night" (v. 2).

The more we know of the Lord the more we want to know. His law is our guide and handbook for Christian conduct, and His words draw the clearest of blueprints for our behavior in daily life. His law tells us what to do, and what not to do. God's purposes and designs for all of His children are only good--those things that are for our spiritual health, happiness, and prosperity. And these things are taught us from His law. When the Spirit declares the goodness of God, the beauty of Christ, and reveals the secret things of God unto us, then we truly delight in the law of the Lord. Nothing is more refreshing and uplifting to us than the power of the Spirit upon us, and to know that God delights in supplying all of our needs through Christ Jesus. Praise Him for the delight we have in His law, to feel and realize its intrinsic worth.

The man that is blessed of the Lord has a clear mind and open heart to meditate in the law of the Lord, especially when he maintains his distance from the ungodly, the sinners, and the scornful. He meditates in the Word both during the day and in the night seasons, with many prayers and thanksgivings unto God for the countless gifts of life---all of this through the wonderful love of Christ to us. The believer finds satisfaction only in the things of the Lord. He is our comfort, assurance, and refuge. The law of the Lord brings delight to the child of God, for he knows it to be perfect and all-sufficient for him.

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water. . ." (v. 3a).

Man in Scripture is often compared to a tree. A tree is upright, and so is the man of God. So long as a tree is fed with a continuous source of water, it grows, is healthy, becomes great in size, and has a long life. Man does likewise, so long as he partakes of the everlasting water, which is the Word of God. How we need to feed constantly upon this living Word, that we may walk in close fellowship with the Lord! As the tree is planted by the water, so is the faithful servant of God planted in the Word. This is his home, his abiding place, his habitation. He is happy here and fruitful, for his daily bread and drink is the living Word of God. This is his bubbling fountain, and on this water supply alone he becomes healthy, prosperous, and bears much fruit as a testimony that he belongs to the King. He tells others that by the grace of God he lives, and moves, and has his being.

"That bringeth forth his fruit in his season. . ." (v. 3b).

There is a great variety of fruit trees,

as there is a great variety of work to be done by Christians. Every servant has his own calling to duty for the Lord, and as different trees bear fruit at different times, so Christians bear fruit at different seasons. The servants of the Lord bear fruit under many different circumstances and in divers places. But the fruit will be good and nutritious, supplying spiritual vitality and growth for believers in all walks of life. So long as the tree abides in the Word (water), the fruit will be timely and good in its appointed season. Both grower and harvester can partake and rejoice together.

"His leaf also shall not wither. . ." (v. 3c).

A smooth leaf presents itself as a green leaf and shows forth proof of life. And as long as there is life, there should also be fruit. So it is with the working believer; his good works among the brethren will manifest the green leaf in his life. He should especially look well to those who are of the household of faith, to fulfill their needs; and to preach the gospel of Christ to the lost. It is God that keeps the leaf green, and it shall not wither. Let us praise God for the promise that the leaf of the godly man shall not wither.

"And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (v. 3d).

The man who gives the Lord first priority in his life shall prosper. One who works the will of the Lord will be happy. Regardless of his place in the world, or the kind of secular work he may do, he will prosper. For while he works at his job, his inner thoughts are of the Lord. The inward man is concerned with how he may please Him who died for sinners. We need only to trust Him, and He will make the godly man's way one of prosperity. God takes exceptional care of His own, no matter how fierce the opposition and resistance to the ways of the Lord may be. Joseph walked by faith, and God prospered and highly honored him by bringing him into good favour with Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Joseph was entrusted with the affairs of the whole land of Egypt. David also followed the Lord, and He made him to prosper with everything he set his hands to. God showered him with abundance of riches, honor, and wealth. He executed justice and judgment among the people, and he prevailed over his enemies; for God was with him. Neither he nor Joseph kept company with the ungodly, sinners, or scorners. Praise the Lord for the gift of prosperity.

"The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away" (v. 4).

Ungodly men do not understand justice and judgment. Their concept of life is perverted, twisted, and corrupt. They love the world and the unfruitful works of darkness. They are mean in character and love to oppress others, especially

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Psalm 1

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when believers are the victims. They specialize in that which is evil, working earnestly with both hands. The Scripture tells us that they do not sleep unless they have done mischief. They bitterly oppose Christ and His people. Sometimes the Lord permits them to go on in their evil ways for many years, but He takes account of all their wickedness. They have their portion in this life, and their temporary pleasures are their rewards. But when their lusts are spent and their evil courses finished, God drives them away as the wind drives away the chaff from the wheat. They perish, and that without remedy. God help us to pray for those that are perishing day by day.

“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous” (v. 5).

It seems apparent that this speaks of the judgment seat of Christ, where only the righteous will appear for rewards for deeds done in the body. Believers must all appear at the judgment seat to receive their eternal rewards. The ungodly cannot be there, for they are full of sin, with the wrath of God abiding upon them. They spent their life on earth in rebellion against God, and fully rejected Jesus Christ and His gospel. So, the ungodly will be reserved for the great white throne judgment, where an everlasting decree of punishment and separation from God will be pronounced. Praise God for eternal life that we have in Jesus Christ our Lord!

Sinners will never congregate with the righteous---not at the judgment seat for believers, nor at the beginning of the millennium, nor in the eternal state. God cannot look upon sin, neither can evil dwell with Him. Only the blood-washed can abide in His presence, robed in white, pure and clean. These are the elect of God, purchased by the blood of Christ, all their sins forgiven. What a day that will be, when Christ presents us faultless before the throne of God!

“For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish” (v. 6).

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous. He is conscious of his every thought and move. The past, the present, and the future of every believer is fully known of the Lord. These are His people, and He takes special care of them. He leads them in paths of righteousness for His name's sake; and He instructs, counsels, and protects them through the whole course of life. He counts all of our steps, and has the hairs of our head numbered. The way of the righteous is to love the Lord, to serve Him with our whole heart, to walk in His ways, and to fear Him. How we often fail in our duty

and worship to Him! Our life belongs to Him, and this is readily acknowledged by every born-again believer. After this earthly pilgrimage, with its many trials, afflictions, and sorrows, the way of the righteous will be perfect in our Lord Jesus Christ. We will then know the things that God has prepared for them that love Him, and behold the beauty of our Redeemer in all of His glory. How can we ever thank or praise Him enough for His eternal love gifts to us?!

The ungodly are the enemies of the righteous. They live a life of sin and rebellion against God and persistently reject Jesus Christ. The Scripture tells us that God commands men everywhere to repent. Christ plainly said, **“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”** (Luke 13:3). In refusing to repent they have chosen the way and the place of everlasting punishment, the lake of fire. What a dreadful thought this is! Their way shall perish, never to be remembered again. Their names shall rot. Their lashes of cruelty and affliction, and unrelenting warfare against the righteous, will be no more. How solemn the words of Ezekiel, **“The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”** The way of the righteous leads to peaceful mansions above, but the way of the ungodly to a furnace of fire in outer darkness.



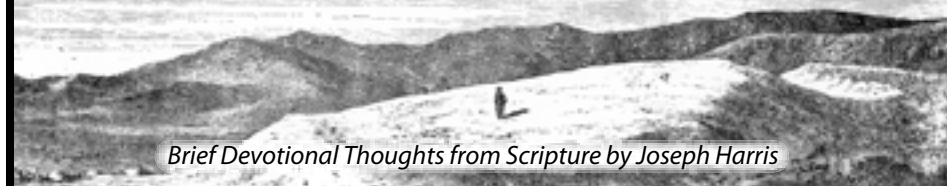
**The Rantings
and
Ravings
of
Brother
Ritechus
N.
Dignation**



I Hate Snakes

I hate snakes. I have never stepped on a snake, but have come close a couple of times. I have stepped by snakes, around snakes, and over snakes. I have even had snakes fall on me. But I ain't never stepped on a snake. I hear they don't take too kindly to being stomped on and will bite you. I once preached a revival in Greene County, Mississippi and they got rattlesnakes all over the place down there. One night, before the service, a man took me and my son to look at a dead rattlesnake in the back of his pickup. He had just knocked him in the head on the way to church. We looked that snake over real close as I explained to my son the dangers of rattlesnakes. When we got out of church that night, the dead snake was alive and well and on top of the toolbox in the back of the truck. The guy knocked him in the head again, but this time, a mite harder. If I had even thought that critter was still alive, when lookin' at

The Backside of the Desert



Brief Devotional Thoughts from Scripture by Joseph Harris

\$86,400

What if someone promised to deposit \$86,400.00 into your bank account each day? You would ask, “What’s the catch?” The catch is, all money left over at the end of the day would be lost. But remember, the next day, another \$86,400.00 would be deposited again. Would you try to spend the entire amount each day in order to keep from losing any of it?

Actually, this does happen to everyone each day...sort of. Every 24 hour period contains 86,400 seconds of time and time is a priceless commodity. The time you do not invest wisely each day is gone forever.

How much time do you spend with God each day? We must not only make the time, but it must be quality time in the presence of God. Real prayer takes time. Reading the Bible and waiting for God to speak from His Word requires time. In this fast paced modern world, it is all too easy to never have enough time in important areas of life. Family time often suffers, and personal relaxation away from stress and the cares of life is often non-existent.

As always, the Bible has a word and example to follow. Paul himself is a good example. He worked full time in the ministry and supported himself by making tents. A study of his life and missionary journeys will reveal that he was extremely busy with little time to spare, yet he stayed in communion with God. Personal time with God ranked high on his list of priorities. His fellowship with God helps explain his positive attitude in suffering and his tireless determination to press toward the mark. He received strength by consistently spending time with God for renewal and refreshing. Perhaps William Longstaff said it best with these well known words:

*Take time to be holy,
The world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret
With Jesus alone;
By looking to Jesus,
Like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct
His likeness shall see.*



it earlier, I wouldn't have got within 15 feet of it.

Would you rather err on the side of righteousness, or unrighteousness? Would you rather get close to a snake, or remain at a distance? Christian liberty may say, “I can do it, I have a right, it's allowed,” but Christian maturity says, “For me to live is Christ, and I love God and want to protect my testimony.” It has always amazed me at the length to which people will go to get near sin, but won't even begin to pay the price to get near God. If you are more interested in getting closer to sin than in getting closer to God, something is wrong. Getting near a snake don't mean you will be bitten, but it increases your chances.

It bothers me when Christians spend more time looking for loopholes that allow them freedom to indulge in, or take part in that which is questionable for Christians. It just tells me they are more focused on themselves than on God. Plus, there is always potential danger, for sin can bite like a snake.

I once preached at a church in the city and was grieved at what I saw. Several women were half naked. It can be hard

for a preacher to focus on righteousness with so much skin showin'. People who know me will say, “Well there he goes again, harping on dress, when there are more important things.” There certainly are more important things, but dress and appearance also have a place of importance. Loophole seekers are always turning attention away to “more important” things. And even if I DO harp on certain things, it's usually because everyone else's harp is broken, and they are silent on certain issues. There is a direct connection between nakedness and inflamed lust. There is also a direct connection between goin' into the woods or to a lake and finding a snake. Going where snakes live increases the chance of finding and even stepping on snakes. Staying away from the pond decreases the possibility of seeing and stepping on snakes.

Hungering and thirsting after God, with a desire to please Him decreases opportunities to sin and dishonor Him. WHY are Christians so concerned with this world, its styles and fashions, programs and all it has to offer when they

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. Does not John 13:14-15 teach literal foot washing? - Kentucky

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First of all I want to lay this out in the open at the onset of this response. Foot washing is not an ordinance connected with the Lord's Supper. Christ said that what He had done was an example to the apostles. I want to reiterate that the Lord said it was an example.

Examples represent something, such as in this case the Lord washed the feet of the apostles to show them humility and to serve rather than rule over. **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him"** (John 13:16).

Foot washing is not a religious rite or ordinance and should never be observed as such. I will say that I am not opposed to foot washing. Foot washing could be helpful in some situations with churches, and there are preachers who deserve to wash the saint's feet the way they act sometimes toward the Lord's people.

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John 13:14-15 states: **"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you."**

There is no doubt in my mind that the Lord Jesus Christ literally washed the feet of His disciples after they had removed their sandals. Jesus performed this outward cleansing of their feet to illustrate His spirit of condescension, compassion, humility, hospitality, and love. However the emphasis was not placed upon the outward form of washing but rather the spirit in which it was performed by our Blessed Lord.

There are some who have used these verses to insist upon the literal observance of foot washing as an ordinance of the church, putting it on par with baptism and the Lord's Supper. I believe the

Bible teaches only two ordinances to be preserved and performed by the Lord's churches, baptism and the Lord's Supper. In the early churches folks wore sandals and their feet were often soiled, requiring a simple washing prior to entering a home or a public place. Jesus makes it clear that His disciples should have enough humility, grace, and love for one another to wash the feet of each other if necessary.

Though I have never washed the feet of another brother or sister in the church, I see nothing wrong with the practice if a church wants to incorporate it into their worship as long as they don't make it a binding requirement for membership or attendance. I do believe in the independence and autonomy of Baptist churches. Therefore if a church determines to observe the practice of literal foot washing they have every right to do so.

With that said, I believe the Lord is teaching a spiritual lesson on humility, hospitality, kindness, and condescension rather than applying H₂O to a brother's stinky feet.

I like the observation of A.W. Pink as he commented upon this passage:

"That that which the Lord Jesus here did to His disciples looked beyond the literal act to its deep symbolic significance is clear from these facts: First, the Lord's word to Peter, **"What I do thou knowest not now"** (13:7): certainly Peter knew that his feet had been literally washed! Second, the further words of Christ to Peter, **"If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me"** (13:8): certainly there are multitudes of believers that have a part with Christ who have never practiced foot-washing as a religious ordinance. Third, His words, **"Ye are clean, but not all"** (13:10): Judas could never have been thus excepted if only literal foot-washing was here in view. Fourth, His question, **"Know ye what I have done to you?"** clearly intimates that the Lord's act in washing the feet of the disciples had a profound spiritual meaning. Fifth, note that here in 13:15 the Lord does not say "Ye should do what I have done unto you," but **"as I have done to you!"**

...When real love is in exercise it will perform with readiness difficult, despised, and even loathsome offices. There are some services which are even more menial and repulsive than the washing of feet, yet, on occasion, the service of love may call for them. It should hardly be necessary to add, that Christians living in Oriental lands, where sandals are worn, should be ready to wash literally the feet of a wary brother, not simply

as an act of courtesy, but as a service of love." (Expositon of the Gospel of John, Vol. 2, pp. 317-318).

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The foot-washing event in John 13 is a very important passage. It comes during the Passover meal, just minutes before the Lord establishes the ordinance of the Lord's Supper and hours before Gethsemane, Calvary and the glorious resurrection of our Saviour. If this was on the Lord's mind to do, surely it should also be important for us today.

So what was the Lord trying to teach and establish in the Apostle's minds and hearts? #1- He was teaching them a lesson on humility. Matthew 20:26- **"...whoever will be great among you, let him be your minister."** #2- It was a lesson on necessity. John 13:8- **"...If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."** #3- It was a lesson in knowledge. John 13:10- **"...He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean..."** Although we are washed, our feet get dirty in this filthy world. And they "need" to be washed! #4- It was a lesson in service. John 13:14-15- **"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."** He does not admonish Peter to wash his "own" feet, but to wash one another's feet! John's feet, Andrew's feet!

If we get these lessons out of the passage, we will certainly be more Christ-like and better servants of our Master. But I want to get to the bottom of the question at hand. Are the Lord's churches required to observe a literal foot washing as an ordinance of the church? This is actually a good question, and a difficult one for me to answer. I've never partaken in a foot-washing, neither have I ever known of one in any of the Lord's churches I am acquainted with. However, we cannot base our doctrine upon what we've always done- but rather it "must" be based upon a "Thus saith the Lord!"

So, is it a church ordinance that needs to be revived in our churches? I believe the answer is no. As we compare it to the two ordinances that have been kept by the Lord's churches through the ages, we can make some observations.

A) Baptism is a church ordinance. It can only be performed by the Lord's churches. Even if I, as a called man of God, would take someone that's a proper

Editor's Note: Bro. Roger's answers are absent this month due to him having surgery. Lord willing, he will be back to writing next month.

candidate (believer), and immerse them completely (proper mode) and it be for the proper reason (obedience), it would still be an invalid baptism, because it wouldn't have the proper authority (the Lord's church)!

B) The Lord's Supper is a church ordinance. It can only be observed by a church body using the proper elements. Can't substitute grape juice, or can't open it up to outsiders- it must be done in the scripturally established method, picturing our Saviour's death and looking for His coming.

Now, the pros and cons of an ordinance of footwashing. If Baptism is the ordinance of authority and the Lord's Supper is the ordinance of discipline, then foot-washing could be the ordinance of consecration... but... there simply is no further validation of this in Scripture. Baptism is established in the Gospels under the direction of God (sending John - John 1:6), is sanctioned by Jesus Christ Himself (Matt. 3:13) and validated by numerous mentions in the Acts and Epistles. Same thing with the Lord's Supper. Although not as frequent as baptism, it is clearly mentioned and instructed upon several times in the NT, most conspicuously in I Corinthians 11. Also, the Lord allowed Judas to stay for the foot-washing (he could still learn something), but sent him out before the institution of His ordinance of discipline- the Lord's Supper (closed communion!).

In the words of a dear preacher friend of mine. "If someone says they are completely convicted of God to have a foot-washing and can do so with a clear conscience, then I can't condemn them for it. But I don't think we are 'required' to do so." Simply put, I believe the Lord was using the foot-washing as another picture tool in His teaching and we should learn from it. But from Scripture and Baptist history, I do not see enough evidence to warrant making it an ordinance.

MATTHEW STEPP



The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. Where do Baptist preachers get their Scripture to perform civil marriages? Is marriage a civil or religious matter? – Kentucky

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ceremony I perform.

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Through the centuries the marriage ceremony has evolved into both a civil and a religious matter in most cultures. The joining of a man and a woman in holy matrimony was intimated first in Genesis 2:23-24: **“And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”** God Himself presided over the first marriage and pronounced it as good (Gen. 1:31). Jesus would later quote this passage in His teaching on marriage: **“...For this cause shall a man leave father, and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”** (Matt. 19:5-6). Jesus, the Second Person of the sacred Trinity recognized marriage as God joining a man and woman together, so there must be a religious aspect to the institution.

The very first miracle that Jesus performed was at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-11). Later, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to use the marriage relationship between husband and wife to illustrate the relationship that Christ has with His kind of church (Eph. 5). In Heaven, after the Bema Seat of Christ, God will reveal the Lord's church as His bride (Rev. 19). My point is that there is plenty of Scriptural evidence to prove that marriage is most definitely a religious matter.

Where do Baptist preachers get their Scripture to perform civil marriages? I don't know of a specific verse that says “Thou shalt preside over the marriage ceremony”, nor do I know of one that says “Thou shalt not preside over the marriage ceremony.” It is a civil custom with a religious aspect to it, which is why preachers are normally asked to preside over the marriage ceremony. I do know this, that it is a great opportunity to preach the Gospel to the lost both during and after the ceremony. I always incorporate Scripture reading and the Gospel of Christ in every marriage

Let's answer the last question first. I'll define marriage as the chief ordinance of the family institution. It was ordained by God in examining Adam's status on the sixth day of creation thusly, **“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him”** (Gen. 2:18). He then proceeded to create Eve and present her unto Adam as his wife (the first marriage!) **“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day”** (Gen. 1:31).

From this passage, we can clearly state that God created marriage, it belongs to Him and is part and parcel of His order in His creation. However, I also believe that marriage carries weight as a civil ordinance, as well. In part, because God is also the creator of civilization and government. Genesis 9: 1, 6: **“And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. ...Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”**

We can see this in Cain departing with his wife and family. A lost man obviously, yet still observing God's order of marriage. Was it a religious or civil matter for him? Probably both, even as it is yet today. You see, a civilization needs rules and order, or it's not civilized- it would then be defined as chaos and anarchy. Civilization comes in and regulates families (through marriage), organizations (through tolls, taxes) and international policies (through citizenship, tariffs, war, etc).

The point we must make is that civilization “uses” marriage, but religion “requires” marriage. Isaac didn't need any government to sanction his marriage with Rebekah, he just took her into his tent and consummated the vows of a godly marriage. On the other hand, an athiestic civilization doesn't “need” marriage (as least they don't think so!). They compare themselves to monkeys and dogs that have not been blessed by

God with monogamous relationships. Of course history has many examples of matriarchal, sodomic or polygamous societies, but God won't bless them and eventually they are judged.

So I must conclude that marriage is primarily a religious matter. As eventually all of God's order must necessarily be labeled. For example, laws against murder, at root, are religious laws- they're not written in stone (except God's tablets!). Cannabalistic tribal governments have an entirely different viewpoint on murder, don't they? Everything is relative to what (or who) is the moral arbiter of your civilization. In the end, God must be... and He IS!

Now the first question. If marriage is indeed a religious matter (with civil connotations), then where do I get Scripture to perform a marriage? As we've already seen, Baptist preachers, or even men of God (OT or NT) are not necessary for a marriage to be scriptural or even recognized. I will not deny any couple's marriage, just because they were “hitched” by the local Justice of the Peace. Marriage is ultimately not a governmental or even a church ordinance. It's a family ordinance, as we stated in the beginning. Families make marriages! Preachers and JP's can't really perform marriages- the vow of commitment combined with the intimate consummation of one flesh makes the marriage valid in God's eyes. Whether in the farthest extremes of Filipino jungle (with no preacher or JP) or in Wayne County, West Virginia (with scores of preachers and JP's).

But governments recognize marriages--legal or otherwise (can't have two spouses!). And so too, in its own way, do the churches of God recognize marriages. Mostly in a sanctioning way---in that we are blessing the pledging couple. And that, too, is important! If the pastor of your church “cannot” perform your marriage because of any Scriptural grounds (lost fiancée' or divorced girlfriend, etc), then it gives grave considerations of what road you're taking. If a young girl can buy a “white” dress and bring her “love” to the old country church and they can both in good conscience listen to the vows the preacher reads and affirm each one, then we have a godly marriage, blessed of God---“through” His church. Ephesians 3:21- **“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”** If that's the only verse you have- isn't it enough?

One last note. Just because your pastor can't “perform” or “sanction” your marriage doesn't make it any less legitimate---you're still bound 'til death do you part! You'll still enjoy all the benefits of His ordinance. Even lost people, when they marry or remain monogamous throughout their life, (unwittingly) adhere to God's order in the family institution.

MATTHEW STEPP

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I have talked with some who, for whatever reason, believe that a marriage is not a “real marriage” until a Baptist preacher performs the marriage.

Marriage is a civil and a religious matter. A civil matter, because God in the beginning shows us the pure relationship between a man and a woman as representative heads of the human race. A religious matter, because God created marriage between a man and a woman to show the relation to the creation.

The world may not view marriage as a union created by God, for man and woman even though the Lords people do. Those who obey God in marriage and the Lord's churches are to teach the world the significance of marriage.

Where do I get the Scriptures to perform civil marriages? I get my scriptures from God's Holy Word in Genesis, Romans, and Ephesians for a start. I want to leave you with this thought, the marriage between Abram and Sarai, was it civil or religious? Acceptable to God or not? How about the marriages that are referred to in the Bible that are of heathen nations?

MIKE DEWITT



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Ranting of R.N.D.

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could feast on the things of God and the genuine peace, joy and fulfillment that comes only from dedication to Him?

Legalist? Legalism? The word has to do with adhering to law. I'll take law any day over lawlessness. And watch out for snakes.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3).



A Dose of Reality

"Common Sense Comments"

by Joseph Harris

Chairman of Biblical Studies
Southeastern Baptist
College, Laurel, Mississippi
www.miniedition.net



The Church that Persecutes

When one hears of the Christian church today, confusion can result. Some speak of the battles in centuries past between the church and Islam, when the church attacked, persecuted and slaughtered through the crusades. Reference is made to the church and the corruption that was resisted by the reformers as they sought to re-establish the purity of truth lost in the corruption of doctrine in the church. However, this church has in recent years repented of its sins, atrocities, and overall anti-Semitism against the Jewish people.

The hard truth is, no true Christian New Testament church has ever led or followed in the persecution or slaughter of the Jews, heretics, or any group that disagreed with them in doctrine. What is erroneously considered to be the Christian Church of antiquity, is at best, an apostate system of paganism and superstition known as Roman Catholicism. The Roman institution mentioned above, apologized mainly for the Spanish Inquisition, the Crusades and the anti-Semitic writings of Martin Luther. Of course, the first two mentioned, the Inquisition and the Crusades, were contrived and carried out by the Catholic Institution, not the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Martin Luther, a former Catholic, came into the light of salvation by grace through faith, and not through the church, thank God, but just didn't come far enough in all doctrines. He also carried over with him a view of intolerance and persecution against those who didn't agree with him.

But so did John Calvin, John Knox and other leaders in the Reformation. The apple certainly did not fall far from the tree for these children of Catholicism.

New Testament Bible churches, have always existed from the time Christ instituted His church, to now. The church of Jesus Christ did not begin with Peter, Constantine, or during the Reformation. It was started by Jesus. AND true churches have never tried to force their beliefs on those who disagreed with them, nor have they persecuted, tortured and killed those who have disagreed with them. They simply preached the Gospel. According to church history, true Bible believers were the ones persecuted, along with Jews who have always been persecuted. Again, the point is, true Biblical Christianity did not harass, harangue and hang those who differed. They prayed for them and preached to

them. That's the true Christian way. I will give credit where it is due though: the Pope himself did earlier apologize for these sins committed by his church. Let's just don't let the line of demarcation that has been drawn be erased. True Biblical Christianity (as documented in Baptist history books) existed long before Catholicism and the Reformation and was guided by the love and long suffering of Christ, the True Head.

Now, don't get mad because I've called names. I don't hate anyone (nor have I persecuted anyone), but it's all in the history books. And you can do only one of two things with the truth of history: (1) choose to believe it, or (2) choose to not believe it, but you can never change it. Thanks Dr. Gerald Kellar for teaching to me the true history of Christianity.



THE BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

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

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

DOOMSDAY DEADLINE COMES AND GOES WITH DOOMSDAY

In case you missed it, doomsday or the end of the world came and went May 21st.

Harold Camping, who has built a multi-million-dollar nonprofit ministry based on his apocalyptic prediction, has sent his doomsday prediction far and wide via broadcasts and web sites.

He has spent months traveling the country putting messages on billboards and handing out tracts. He believed it would start at 6 p.m. in the world's various time zones.

Camping's radio stations, TV channels, satellite broadcasts and website are controlled from a building located between an auto shop and a palm reader where his doomsday message was broadcast in 61 languages.

This however is not his first prediction. His 1994 prediction didn't happen either. He said it was because of a mathematical error. "I'm not embarrassed about it. It was just the fact that it was premature," he told The Associated Press last month. But this time, he said, "there is...no possibility that it will not happen."

Why is Camping in the doomsday business? Maybe it's because followers said donations grew, allowing him to spend millions of dollars on more than 5,000 billboards and 20 RVs plastered with the doomsday message. In 2009 his corporation reported that it received \$18.3 million in donations, and had assets of more than \$104 million, including \$34 million in stocks or other publicly traded securities. One of his followers said the money helped the nonprofit

save as many souls as possible.

"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father" (Mark 13:32).

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt. 24:36).

INDIANA SUPREME COURT INVALIDATES 4TH AMENDMENT

On May 12th in a 3-2 ruling in *BARNES vs. STATE of INDIANA*, Justice Steven David, appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels, wrote that under "modern" (post-PATRIOT-Act) jurisprudence, all citizens must submit to the violent force of any and all unlawful searches instigated by law enforcement. This ruling by the Indiana Supreme Court decreed both the 4th Amendment to the federal constitution and Section 11 of the Indiana state Constitution, null and void.

In his ruling Justice David stated the following: "We believe however that a right to resist an unlawful police entry into a home is against public policy and is incompatible with modern Fourth Amendment jurisprudence." "In sum, we hold that Indiana (citizens) the right to reasonably resist an unlawful police entry into a home is no longer recognized under Indiana law." Later in his statement he stated the following, "Because we decline to recognize the right of a homeowner to reasonably resist unlawful entry..."

Two of the five justices dissented to the ruling. Justice Dickson stated the following: "Acknowledging the historic common-

law right to reasonably resist unlawful entry by police officers, the majority tethers its abrogation of this right on (a) modern developments that have diminished the dangers of arrest at common law (e.g., indefinite detention, lack of bail, disease-infested prisons, physical torture), (b) the desire to minimize the risk of the level of violence and risk of injuries, and (c) the rights of police to enter a home even without a warrant under certain circumstances. But the consistent existence of and adherence to many of these factors unfortunately remains less than ideal. Courts continue to see claims alleging excessive preliminary detention, failure to promptly set bail, and excessive use of force by police.

In my view, the wholesale abrogation of the historic right of a person to reasonably resist unlawful police entry into his dwelling is unwarranted and unnecessarily broad. The case before us involves police action in response to a report of domestic violence in progress. Such events present a heightened urgency for police presence for the protection of the dwelling's occupants and to diffuse enraged emotions and animosity. It would have been preferable, in my view, for the Court today to have taken a more narrow approach, construing the right to resist unlawful police entry, which extends only to reasonable resistance, by deeming unreasonable a person's resistance to police entry in the course of investigating reports of domestic violence. Such a formulation would have been more appropriate for the facts presented and more consistent with principles of judicial restraint. Such a more cautious revision of the common law would have, in cases not involving domestic violence, left in place the historic right of people to reasonably resist unlawful police entry into their dwellings."

The second, Justice Rucker, stated the following in his dissenting remarks:

"But the common law rule supporting a citizen's right to resist unlawful entry into her home rests on a very different ground, namely, the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Indeed, the physical entry of the home is the chief evil against which the wording of the Fourth Amendment is directed. *Payton v. New York*, 445 U.S. 573, 585 (1980). In my view it is breathtaking that the majority deems it appropriate or even necessary to erode this constitutional protection based on a rationale addressing much different policy considerations. There is simply no reason to abrogate the common law right of a citizen to resist the unlawful police entry into his or her home."

"At issue in this case is not whether Barnes had the right to resist unlawful police entry into his home – a proposition that the State does not even contest – but rather whether the entry was illegal in the first place, and if so, whether and to what extent Barnes could resist entry without committing a battery upon the officer. Federal Fourth Amendment jurisprudence is equal to the task of resolving these issues.2 In my view the majority sweeps

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with far too broad a brush by essentially telling Indiana citizens that government agents may now enter their homes illegally – that is, without the necessity of a warrant, consent, or exigent circumstances. And that their sole remedy is to seek refuge in the civil arena. I disagree and therefore respectfully dissent.”

INDIANA SHERIFF WASTES NO TIME IN STATING HE WILL ENFORCE NEW RANDOM HOME SEARCHES AFTER COURTS RULING

Don Hartman Sr., sheriff of Newton County in Indiana, thinks random house to house searches are now possible following the Supreme Court ruling, stating that these searches could be helpful. When asked different times he emphatically indicated that he would use random house to house checks, adding “he felt people will welcome random searches if it means capturing a criminal.”

An unnamed police chief concurred that the ruling does now allow for police to randomly search homes.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES AMENDMENT HEADED TO NORTH DAKOTA BALLOT

(WNS)--In 2012, voters in North Dakota likely will get to vote on the Religious Liberty Restoration Amendment, which would provide the best guarantee of lasting protection for citizens’ religious liberties. The North Dakota Family Alliance will turn in more than 30,000 signatures this week; 26,904 valid signatures are required to qualify the measure for the ballot. “We know that on a daily basis, throughout the country, individuals are being either persecuted or discriminated against because of their religious beliefs,” said Tom Freier, the executive director of the North Dakota Family Alliance. “(Now), the people have a chance to vote for our First Amendment — freedom of religion and the expression thereof.” Louisiana passed the Religious Freedom Act in June 2010, and several states are working on similar legislation or ballot measures.

FORMER PLANNED PARENTHOOD DIRECTOR APPEARS IN NATIONAL TV ADS

(WNS)--MSNBC and Fox News will air a pro-life commercial featuring former Planned Parenthood Director Abby Johnson. Johnson says the national dialogue about abortion needs to continue. “They (Planned Parenthood) don’t want Americans to talk about the issue because they don’t want people to learn the ugly realities behind it,” she said. “Planned Parenthood reduces the child before birth to an object, a ‘choice,’ a thing of less-than-human status. Their support of ‘women’s rights’ tramples on the rights of the child.” Life Always, whose board of directors includes Johnson, is behind the national TV

campaign.

CONGRESS SQUARES OFF OVER PLANNED PARENTHOOD FUNDING

(WNS)--By April 14, all 535 members of Congress put themselves on record regarding whether taxpayers should be subsidizing Planned Parenthood. As part of the recent budget compromise, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid agreed to let the Senate vote on legislation that would defund the nation’s largest abortion business. The resolution passed the House, but failed in the Senate 58-42. The votes are separate from those on the spending bill that would fund the government through September. “We already knew (the Planned Parenthood) vote will fail, since 41 Democrats signed a letter ... saying they’d oppose such a measure,” writes pro-life blogger and speaker Jill Stanek. “But House Majority Leader John Boehner’s strategy is to force so-called Democrat moderates to go on the record, potentially getting ammo for the 2012 elections.” In fiscal year 2008-09, almost one-third of Planned Parenthood’s budget -- \$363 million -- came from government grants and contracts.

ILLINOIS WORKS TO PROTECT PHARMACISTS’ RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE

(WNS)--A circuit judge in Illinois has ruled that pharmacists should not be forced to violate their religious beliefs by dispensing the morning-after pill. The drug, sold as Plan B, contains high concentrations of the hormones found in oral contraceptives and is given to women within 72 hours of sex to prevent pregnancy. It may cause an early abortion. Pharmacists Luke VanderBleek and Glenn Kosirog had sued over a 2005 rule put into place by then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich that forced them to sell Plan B. A circuit court dismissed their claim, but the Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that it must be considered. The state attorney general’s office said it plans to appeal the decision.

MISSOURI HOUSE PASSES PHARMACISTS’ PROTECTION MEASURE

(WNS)--In Missouri, the state House has given initial approval to legislation that would protect pharmacists from being forced to sell Plan B. The vote drew cheers from hundreds of life advocates who had gathered at the Capitol. The bill needs another House vote before it can move to the Senate.

7TH CIRCUIT COURT THROWS OUT NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER LAWSUIT

(WNS)--The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has rejected a lawsuit that challenged the National Day of Prayer (NDP) as unconstitutional. More than two dozen other pro-family groups had signed on to a “friend-of-the-court” brief in support of NDP. The court overturned the April 2010 ruling by U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb, for the Western District of Wisconsin, that NDP violates the Establishment Clause of

the U.S. Constitution. The Freedom From Religion Foundation, a group of atheists, originally sued then-President George W. Bush, then-Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle and Mrs. Shirley Dobson, the chairman of the NDP Task Force. The lawsuit added President Obama when he took office. Mrs. Dobson was dropped from the suit last year.

VIRGINITY INCREASES ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

(WNS)--At least two studies show that more U.S. college students are choosing to remain virgins. Stanford University sociologist Paula England has surveyed more than 17,000 students from 20 colleges and universities since 2005, and has found 24 percent of college seniors report they are virgins. Unfortunately, she has also discovered an increase in the number of “hookups” among other students -- casual relationships that often include sex. A recent report from the National Center for Health Statistics shows that among 20- to 24-year-olds, 15 percent of women and 18.5 percent of men report never having had sexual intercourse, an improvement from 2002. Some studies find virgins in even higher numbers, according to the USA Today report. A 2007 study of 1,500 Duke University freshmen and seniors found that about 53 percent of women and 40 percent of the men said they were virgins.

SURVEY SHOWS DIFFERING EVANGELICAL VIEWS ON TITHE

(WNS)--Does the Bible actually require the people of God to tithe? Apparently, American evangelical leaders cannot agree upon an answer. Each month, the National Association of Evangelicals surveys its 100-member board, which includes the heads of Christian denominations, publishers, educational institutions and mission organizations. In the February survey, 95 percent of respondents claimed that they tithed, giving at least 10 percent of their income to the church, but only 42 percent thought tithing is required Biblically. Purdue sociologist Dan Olson, who has studied the tithing patterns of American Christians, told CNN that some evangelical leaders may object to the word “required,” as though tithing were necessary for salvation. Even those who believe the tithe is not required might recommend the practice as an expression of gratitude.

OKLAHOMA, IDAHO TO BAN LATE-TERM ABORTIONS

(WNS)--Republican Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin soon will consider two pro-life bills that are sitting on her desk. One would ban abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy, based on the idea that preborn babies can feel pain at that stage of development. The second bill would prevent standard health insurance policies sold in the state from including abortion coverage.

“Oklahomans who believe in the sanctity of life should not be forced to indirectly subsidize the abortion industry,” said Republican Rep. Mike Ritze, who authored

the insurance bill.

On Wednesday, Idaho Gov. Butch Otter, also a Republican, signed a bill to protect preborn babies after the 20th week. Nebraska and Kansas have similar fetal-pain laws in place.

KANSAS GOV. BROWNBACK AIMS TO CUT PLANNED PARENTHOOD FUNDING

(WNS)--Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican, wants to stop sending tax dollars to Planned Parenthood, beginning with the budget year that starts July 1. His proposed budget reportedly would redirect about \$300,000 in federal family planning funds from Planned Parenthood to state and local health clinics. “Gov. Brownback, along with the overwhelming majority of Kansans, opposes taxpayer subsidy of abortions,” said Brownback spokeswoman Sherriene Jones-Sontag. “We oppose the taking of innocent human life,” said Kathy Ostrowski, state legislative director of Kansans for Life. In Indiana, the Senate voted last week to cut funding of Planned Parenthood.

MASSACHUSETTS LAWMAKERS CALL ON GOVERNOR TO CUT SEX-ED WEBSITE

(WNS)--Two Democratic representatives in Massachusetts have joined more than a dozen Republicans in calling on Gov. Deval Patrick to shut down a state-funded sex-ed website for teens. At a news conference in late April outside the House chamber, they described the \$100,000-a-year MariaTalks.com as “shameful,” “disgraceful,” “disgusting” and “crude.” The site provides graphic details about sex, and tells girls that abortion is “much easier than it sounds” and how simple it can be to sidestep the state’s parental-consent abortion law.

Republican Rep. Marc Lombardo called it a “disgusting abuse of taxpayer dollars. Governor Patrick, take down this website,” he said. Officials with the Department of Public Health, which funds the site, have agreed to meet with lawmakers who oppose the project.

STUDY SHOWS LINK BETWEEN FAMILY BREAKDOWN AND BULLYING

(WNS)--Bullies and victims of bullying are more likely than their peers to be experiencing family violence at home, according to a CDC study of Massachusetts students. The report, which is based on the 2009 Massachusetts Youth Health Survey of 6,000 students, found that students who said they had been involved in bullying — as a perpetrator, victim or both — were five times more likely to report they had been hurt physically by a family member, compared to those who said they were neither a victim nor a bully. And they were substantially more likely to have witnessed violence against other family members, according to a story in The Boston Globe. “This survey sheds more light on what we’ve seen demonstrated repeatedly

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by other data -- that bullying involves a multitude of factors," said Candi Cushman, education analyst for CitizenLink. "The best and most compassionate thing we can do for all kids is to recognize that bullying is always wrong for any reason and support strong school policies that prohibit it.

ILLINOIS SENATE REFUSES TO GIVE THE STATE CONTROL OVER SEX ED

(WNS)--The Illinois Senate has rejected legislation that would have given the State Board of Education control over which sex-ed curricula could be taught in public schools. Under the bill, schools would have had to teach "developmentally appropriate" content — which was left undefined. Republican Sen. Kyle McCarter challenged bill sponsor Sen. Heather Steans, a Democrat, on proposed materials that suggested teachers have "races by putting condoms on bananas." "Who determines what's age-appropriate? The Legislature?" he asked. "Let (local school districts) decide what's age-appropriate. Let them decide what's medically accurate. They don't need our help."

FLORIDA JOINS STATES CALLING FOR PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

(WNS)--Florida became the fifth state to pass a resolution calling on the U.S. Congress to send the Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to the states for ratification. The Florida Senate voted 38-0 on Apr. 28 in favor of SM 954 this morning, after the Florida House passed its companion (HM 557) by a voice vote earlier in the week. Florida becomes the third state this year to call for the Amendment; Idaho and Montana both passed similar measures in early March. Both South Dakota and Louisiana passed similar resolutions in 2010.

FLORIDA HOUSE PASSES PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION

(WNS)--With just over a week left in the legislative session, the Florida House passed several pro-life bills. The pieces of legislation would: provide a woman with an ultrasound before an abortion; prevent plans in the new federal health insurance exchanges from covering abortions; and place an amendment on the 2012 ballot that would prevent taxpayer funding of abortion. The bills now go to the Senate. An ultrasound provision was vetoed by then-Gov. Charlie Crist last year. The state's new governor, Rick Scott, is pro-life and reportedly has promised to sign the bill.

INDIANA DEFUNDS PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(WNS)--In Indiana, a bill that appears headed to the desk of Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels would cut state funding to any business that sells abortions — namely Planned Parenthood. Life advocates say

the legislation could save the state more than \$1.7 million a year. The bill also would require a pregnant woman to be informed that her unborn baby might feel pain during an abortion. She also would be offered an ultrasound image.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES AMENDMENT HEADED TO MISSOURI BALLOT

(WNS)--Missouri residents will get to vote on a religious liberties amendment next year, after the Senate passed the legislation, 34-0. The measure would amend the state Constitution to clarify the rights of Missourians to pray and acknowledge God in public and private settings. It also would protect public school students' right to pray and acknowledge God in school, as well as express their religious beliefs in written and oral assignments. Joe Ortwerth, executive director of the Missouri Family Policy Council, said: "This legislation establishes the clear outlines of our citizens' religious liberties (and) would help overcome legal intimidation tactics" from groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union. In March, the House passed the bill for the fourth straight year, with a vote of 126-30.

U.S. HOUSE VOTES TO CUT ABORTION FUNDING

(WNS)--The U.S. House of Representatives voted 251-175 May 4 on a bill that would convert some pro-life policies -- also known as riders -- into law. Reps. Chris Smith, R-N.J., and Daniel Lipinski, D-Ill., who chair the Pro-Life Caucus, are behind the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 3). It had 227 co-sponsors in the House, but is unlikely to pass the Democrat-controlled Senate. H.R. 3 would prohibit taxpayer subsidies for abortion and abortion insurance coverage; currently a patchwork of such policies must be approved annually. The bill also would codify conscience protections for health care workers who object to abortion and other actions. The Obama administration has said it "strongly opposes" H.R. 3. Smith said: "I say with true regret and sadness that President Obama has been ... the abortion president."

DOWNGRADING AMERICA: S&P DECLARES THE OBVIOUS

By Fred A. Kingery

(WNS)--If you had been living on another planet the last three years, you would be shocked to learn that the credit-rating agency, Standard and Poor's (S&P), has placed the current AAA credit rating for the debt issued by the U.S. Treasury on a "negative watch" status. Most of us who live on planet earth had already concluded that the credit worthiness of our sovereign debt would be downgraded—unless Congress and the president were to fix the nation's debt problem. Although the financial markets reacted to this "negative watch" news as if it wasn't really news, S&P did get the nation's attention. After all, it was the first time since the attack on Pearl Harbor (70

years ago) that a downgrade on the outlook for U.S. Treasury securities had been issued. Like Pearl Harbor, Americans don't have a minute to waste in responding to the threat.

What prompted this change in the credit outlook by S&P? To answer that question, consider the following:

Suppose you were to buy a home using a 30-year, fixed-rate, \$200,000 mortgage that cost you 5 percent. Your monthly payment would be \$1,070 for 30 years. Your debt level is initially fixed and declines going forward. Other than the assumption that you have the income security to maintain the monthly payments, the risks associated with the debt and its cost are defined and fixed.

Now consider the case of our national debt. The level of debt is not fixed. It's set to grow almost exponentially going forward. The cost of funding the debt is not fixed either. Current Treasury debt yields are at a historic low and set to rise going forward. The assumption that we have the ability as a nation of taxpayers to service our debt via tax revenue is dependent on the variability of the growth rate of the U.S. economy going forward. Clearly, the risk connected to our ability to service our nation's debt is not defined and fixed; yet, it's set to rise dramatically.

Specifically, the total federal debt level will exceed \$14.3 trillion in the very near future. The portion of that debt held in the form of marketable securities is over \$9 trillion. The current interest expense on the marketable portion of the debt is \$200 billion (2.2 percent). Over 20 percent of this debt will mature in under one year and just under 50 percent of the debt will mature in less than three years. Moreover, the annual deficit (new debt) is projected to be over \$1.5 trillion and will remain as an additional ongoing annual borrowing requirement for as far as the eye can see.

America's current borrowing cost is at a historic low of about 1 percent compared to a historical average cost of funding slightly over 5.5 percent. As noted above, the current annual budget interest expense is projected to be \$200 billion per year. What happens if the cost of financing returns to anywhere near the historic average of over 5.5 percent?

A recent analysis published by Lawrence B. Lindsey projects that marketable debt held by the public could rise to \$13.1 trillion by 2015 and \$16.7 trillion by 2019. The interest expense is projected to rise to \$847 billion by 2015 and \$1.15 trillion by 2019. As a percent of the tax revenue flowing into the federal treasury, interest expense could easily exceed 30 percent and approach as much as 50 percent. All other forms of budget expenditure would be threatened by this major claim on the nation's tax base. This is the future financial trap being laid out by the policies of the current government and finally being acknowledged by S&P.

Oh, and here's the rest of the news flash S&P forgot to mention for our professional political class in Washington:

The day of reckoning for this national financial train wreck is approaching

much faster than you think. The federal government's current policies of extend and pretend will no longer appease the financial markets. If our politicians don't fix the nation's debt problem on their own terms now, with substantive and credible policy changes, then the financial markets will fix the problem for them later. Specifically, later is sometime between now and the November 2012 elections. The clock is ticking.

MINNESOTA STATE HOUSE ANGERED AFTER CONTROVERSIAL ANTI-GAY PASTOR RECITES PRAYER

A controversial, anti-gay pastor was invited by Rep. Ernie Leidiger to start Friday morning's session with a prayer at the Minnesota House, drawing anger and criticism from both sides of the aisle.

Bradlee Dean ended his prayer saying, "It's not about the Baptists, not about the Catholics alone, or the Lutherans, or the Evangelicals, or any other denomination, but rather the head of the denomination, and his name is Jesus, as every president up until 2008 has acknowledged and we pray it in Jesus' name."

House Majority Leader Kurt Zellers immediately apologized after Dean's opening prayer saying, "I denounce him, his actions and his words. A person like that will never, ever be allowed on this House floor again as long as I am speaker," after which he called for a restart, asking the House's regular chaplain to say another prayer.

CIRCUMCISION BAN TO APPEAR ON SAN FRANCISCO BALLOT

A proposal to ban the circumcision of male children has been cleared to appear on the November ballot in San Francisco, setting the stage for the nation's first public vote on what has long been considered a private family matter.

If the measure passes in November, circumcision would be prohibited to males under the age of 18. Circumcision would become a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or up to one year in jail. There would be no allowance for religious exemptions.

"And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed" (Gen 17:12).

"And he gave him the covenant of circumcision : and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs" (Acts 7:8).

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS CHINESE CHRISTIANS SAY WORSHIP IS WORTH THREAT OF HARASSMENT AND ARREST

(WNS)--The leaders of the Shouwang Church in Beijing have a simple explanation for why they'd rather relinquish their

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freedom than abandon their church services: "Sunday worship is the most basic necessity for Christians in their life of faith." That conclusion led church members to gather outside for a Sunday morning service on April 10, which ended with police detaining more than 160 Christians armed with Bibles and hymn sheets. Authorities have since released all of the worshippers -- though at least two church leaders remain under house arrest -- but police may face round two on an upcoming Sunday: The Christians -- who say government officials have cut off access to their indoor meeting place -- declare they'll meet outside for worship again, even if it means facing detention or arrest. They insist that Chinese authorities should let them worship freely, even if their church isn't registered with the government. It's an extraordinary declaration. Bob Fu, director of Texas-based ChinaAid, said, "There's not a group of church members in China that have taken any steps like this before. It's definitely bold."

CASE AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN BANGLADESH DROPPED

(WNS)--A judge has dismissed a case against volunteer health care workers northwest of Bangladesh's capital city of Dhaka who were charged in March with "hurting religious feelings" after area Muslims objected to distribution of Christian literature at a health camp. The six Christians were working at the health camp offering free treatment for poor villagers in Damurhuda, Chuadanga district, northwest of Dhaka. They were arrested on Mar. 24 and released on bail three days later. Mannan Mridha is pastor in the Way of Peace movement of 490 house churches in northwest Bangladesh, which established the health care camp. He said, "This incident of harassment is a grim reminder of how vulnerable the Christians here are in Muslim-majority society, though rights of religious freedom and freedom of expression by minorities are ensured in our constitution."

U.S. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COMMISSION ADDS EGYPT TO LIST OF WORST OFFENDERS

(WNS)--Reflecting the recent upheaval in the Middle East and North Africa, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's 2011 annual report was released in late April, with Egypt joining the short list of countries deemed to be the world's worst violators of religious freedom. "The Egyptian government engaged in and tolerated religious freedom violations before and after President Hosni Mubarak stepped down on February 11, 2011," the report reads. Leonard Leo, the chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), said the central concern was the "impunity" the Egyptian government has fostered. The report said the government failed to protect

Coptic Christians from attacks, like the bombing of a Coptic church on New Year's Eve that killed 23 and wounded almost 100.

HINDU EXTREMISTS BURN INDIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

(WNS)--Under cover of darkness, Hindu extremists from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Apr. 17 torched Grace Good News Vision Church (GGNVC) after threatening the pastor with harm during an earlier Sunday morning service if the congregation persisted in worship. The Global Council of Indian Christians reported that the extremists in Chinnanandanam village, Kanyakumari district, had been harassing a GGNVC pastor identified only as Muthuswamy, alleging forcible conversion. On Mar. 24, officials from the Suchendran police station had forced Muthuswamy to give a written statement that he would stop church services, and on Mar. 27, RSS extremists had destroyed the church compound's gate and wall. The morning of Apr. 17 the Hindu extremists stormed the church service, stopped worship and threatened Muthuswamy and the congregation with harm if they continued meeting -- and hinted that they would stir up anti-Christian carnage like that of Orissa state in 2008. At around 8:30 p.m. that night, they burned down the church building.



Seven Marks of A Nation Ready for Judgment

By Curtis Pugh
of Poteau, Oklahoma

The prophet Hosea prophesied mainly to the Israel (the Northern Kingdom) tribes. He sometimes included the southern tribes in his warnings, however. His ministry was pre-exilic or just prior to the exile---the judgment of God upon the northern 10 tribes.

God judges nations by means of three things: famine, pestilence and war. Hear the words of God recorded by the hand of Jeremiah: "**When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them; but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence**" (Jer. 14:12). I do not recall who first pointed these marks out to me, but I ask you to consider the condition of these northern ten tribes shortly before God's judgment came upon them. Surely God judged them because of their sin. Will He not do the same to the nations of the world today?

1. The First Mark: Rejection of Truth. "**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing**

thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children" (Hosea 4:6).

There was a time when the governments of western Europe and North America had regard for the Bible and its teachings. Whether they were regenerate persons or not, they seemed to hear the teachings of the Bible regarding morals, character, and uprightness.

Can government officials be found today who listen to what the Bible says? Are there courageous statesmen who stand for the moral principles of God's Word and who wish even the moral law of God taught in our public schools? Is there a government leader who seeks to implement even the moral values of Scripture into his or her department of government? I know of none! The same is generally true for the average "man on the street." Few know much Bible truth and fewer still love it! We are nations of people who have rejected the truth!

The nations of this world which were once regarded as "Christian nations" can by no stretch of the imagination be called so today. The nations of this world have rejected the knowledge of God and His truth and stand ready for judgment!

2. The Second Mark: Pride. "**And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them**" (Hosea 5:5).

Pride, self-esteem, thinking oneself sufficient without God---these are the hallmarks of our societies. Where is the self-abhorrence in the hearts of professing Christians that God wrought in Job? (see Job 42:6). It is not to be found in many!

Even among those professing to be Christians there is no utter dependence on God! When I was a boy Little Jimmy Dickens used to sing a song entitled, I Can Handle This Job All By Myself and that is the feeling even among the majority of so-called Baptist churches! Man in his pride is convinced that all he needs is a little "jump start" from God in the matter of salvation. In the matter of daily living we need God even less. Farmers have fertilizer and no longer need faith: the population has penicillin and no longer needs prayer!

Oh, how our pride is a filthy stench in the nostrils of God! Hear the words of God concerning man's pride: "**The wicked, through the PRIDE of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts**" (Ps. 10:4) and "**Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, PRIDE, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy**" (Ezek. 16:49) (Emph. CP), and "**For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye,**

blasphemy, PRIDE, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23) (Emph. CP).

Pride is the first sin listed as causing God's judgment to fall upon Sodom (see above). Can we think to escape the judgment of God when we are similarly proud!

3. The Third Mark: No Genuine or Lasting Goodness and Morality. "**O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away**" (Hosea 6:4).

Politicians have arisen to power by promising to reform evils that exist. They have purported themselves to be for morality, law and order, etc., but they themselves have failed to exhibit Bible morality. Religionists have risen to prominence by fanatical preaching only to be found out to have bilked the public out of millions. The populace makes religious vows and New Year's resolutions, but few are kept and there is no lasting good. Worthwhile social causes are espoused for a short time, but soon dropped. Selfishness rules! Self will hold the day!

Where is there genuine purity and goodness in our nations? Has not the promised goodness which glimmered in the beginnings of national life vaporized as the dew? Do not the nations of our day bear this mark? Are not we ready for judgment?

4. The Fourth Mark: Worldliness. "**Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not**" (Hosea 7:8-9).

Our nations have too much of one thing and not enough of the other. We have mixed Bible Christianity with paganism ourselves and now are so polluted in our thinking that many believe that all religions are the same. The Moslem worships the same God as the Christian, according to many today, he just calls Him a different name! The popular idea is that there are many roads to Heaven and one is as good as another.

There was a time in England and North America when Baptists, Puritans, and others rejected Roman Catholic fasts and feasts. Today almost all, even some Baptists, are given over to the idolatrous observances of Lent, Easter, and Christmas! One "Baptist" lady in our neighborhood told me how they baked hot cross buns during Easter festivities. Think of it: a "Baptist" "making cakes to the queen of heaven" (Jer. 7:18; 44:17 & 25). Churches have become performance and entertainment centers rather than worship and teaching centers. Like

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Seven Marks

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“Ephraim” we do not know that our hairs are gray (that we are old and ready for judgment)---we are, like so many lost people, living as if we will live forever. We have never been taught to number our days so that we might serve God properly.

Our nations and our churches are infiltrated with worldly philosophies and attitudes. Is it any wonder that only a few are found to fear God and serve Him acceptably?

5. The Fifth Mark: Corruption. **“They have deeply corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah: therefore he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins”** (Hosea 9:9).

If you would see how **“deeply”** Israel had corrupted themselves and see how our nations have done likewise read the terrible account in Judges 19. Judges 19 recounts the sins referred to in the above verse when it says **“as the days of Gibeah.”** There, AMONG GOD’S EARTHLY PEOPLE, was found homosexuality, disregard for human life, rape, and cruelty of the worst sort. This deep corruption was present in the ten tribes in Hosea’s day and our own modern nations likewise are filled with the gross sins of homosexuality, murder, abortion, rape and cruelty! How do we think to escape the judgment of God?

6. The Sixth Mark: Refusing to Honor God. **“And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him”** (Hosea 11:7).

Israel was filled with backsliding---our nations are filled with folk who have **“never slid forward.”** We may have **“In God We Trust”** on our coins in the U.S. Or we may sing, **God Save The Queen** in Great Britain, or the words **God keep our land. . . in the Canadian National Anthem**, but in reality we do not honor Him.

As is recorded of our Lord in Mark 7:6, **“He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”** How shall we escape the judgment of God!

7. The Seventh Mark: Idolatry. **“And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves. Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney. Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but**

me: for there is no saviour beside me” (Hosea 13:2-4).

Some do indeed bow to idols made of stone, wood, or metal and others merely worship mental gods. Some kiss statues and venerate a wafer as their god. Some are given to worship the metal found in coins, gold bars, and the paper on which currency, stocks and bonds are printed for the Bible speaks of **“covetousness, which is idolatry”** in Colossians 3:5.

Our nations are filled with civilized people worshipping false gods. Pleasure, sports, possessions, jobs, families, etc. are often put before God even though He says nothing is to come before Him!

CONCLUSION

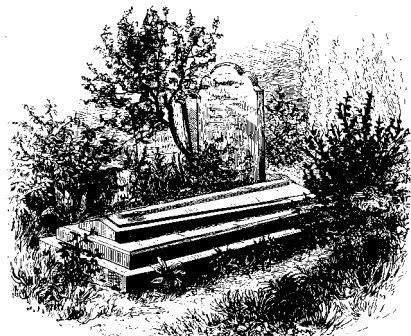
Is there an escape for the nations of this world? Only by turning to God can any individual think to escape the terrible judgments about to come upon the whole world! How can a man turn to God? He cannot! He will not!

Lost sinners can attend church. They can put themselves in the way of blessing by hearing the Word of God with their physical ears. Perhaps God will break their hearts with sorrow over their sins so as to work repentance in them. Perhaps He will give them saving faith. Does that sound like strange advice? Perhaps you have been misled by someone who told you that there was something you could do which would cause God to save you. Not so!

Consider the following verses which clearly teach that only by hearing the Word is it possible that God may peradventure give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. **“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will”** (II Tim. 2:24-26).

There is nothing you can do to escape the sure to come judgment of God upon the sins of our nations. But I assure you that there is something God can do. He can save you. He can give you eternal life in Christ if it be His will. **“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near”** (Isa. 55:6). Amen.

END



Infallible Proofs that Christ Arose Bodily from the Dead

By Frank Beck

Christianity is the only religion based upon a bloody cross and empty tomb. As the bloody cross speaks of physical death, the empty tomb speaks of physical resurrection.

The harlot church may rejoice at the finding of some old bones, reputed to be St. Peter’s bones, but no one shall ever be able to discover the bones of the Founder of the True Church, for He is risen from the dead!

I. WHAT WE DO NOT MEAN BY THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

By the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead we do not mean that Christ merely arose spiritually from the dead, as a mere influence. There are those infidels in our pulpits who tell us that Christ arose and lives on in our hearts even as George Washington lives, in a smaller scale, in the hearts of all true Americans. This is nothing else but a deceitful denial of the bodily, literal, physical resurrection of Christ! I quote from one of these unbelievers; speaking of Christ he says: **“He was caught, tried, condemned and crucified. Three days later His fear-stricken disciples began to experience the wonder of His living presence”** (Chester Warren Quimby in *The Gospel Today*, p. 25). You will see how he makes Christ’s resurrection to be nothing more than an **“experience. . . of His living presence.”** No bodily resurrection. Just an influence.

That Christ arose bodily and not just in spirit is easily seen if we remember the Scriptures state that Christ died, was buried and rose again (I Cor. 15:3-4). **“That which rose again is that which was buried. A spirit is never buried”** (Wilbur M. Smith, p. 194) (*The Supernaturalness of Christ*). It is the body that is buried; therefore, it was the body of the Son of God that **“rose again”** from the tomb. It was a bodily resurrection.

That Christ arose in His body is also seen in that those whom He raised from the dead were raised physically and not spiritually (see Luke 7:11-15; John 11), then why should not Christ be raised physically?

That Christ’s resurrection was a literal resurrection and not a spiritual one is again seen in that His virgin birth, His sinless life and atoning death for us were literal. Then why not His resurrection from the dead?

That Christ’s resurrection was literal is also seen in that it is the **“firstfruits”** or the pattern of the believer’s future resurrection at the Redeemer’s return (I Cor. 15; I Thess. 4:13-18). Since the Scriptures very plainly teach that our resurrection will be literal or bodily, so Christ’s was literal, for our resurrection

will be like His (Phil. 3:20-21).

Therefore, by Christ’s resurrection we do not mean a resurrection merely in spirit or influence, but in the same body that was nailed to death on the cruel cross and laid in Joseph’s new tomb.

II. WHAT WE DO MEAN BY THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

That Jesus Christ rose from the dead in the same body in which He was crucified on the cross. It was a bodily resurrection. The following reference from the Word of God need no further interpretation to prove this to be true.

Appearing to ten of the disciples after His resurrection, Christ 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) (emph. FB). But was this the same body in which Christ was crucified or was this another body? It was the same body with the wound prints in the hands and feet. Hence Christ says: **“Behold My hands and My feet”** (emph. FB).

“But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, 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. And after eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas with them, then came Jesus; the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto Him, MY LORD AND MY GOD” (John 20:24-28) (emph. FB).

Thomas demanded proof that Christ had risen in His nail-pierced body and was thoroughly satisfied. Thomas is a first-hand witness. I would rather take the testimony of Thomas, who had first hand evidence, than the testimony of any critic to the contrary who lived some 2000 years too late to know what he was talking about.

III. ARGUMENTS AGAINST CHRIST’S BODILY RESURRECTION

There is what is known as the **“swoon”** theory, that Jesus Christ did not really die, but merely fainted and was taken down from the cross unconscious and revived in the coolness of the tomb and again appeared among men. *Christian Science* teaches that Jesus Christ did not

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Infallible Proofs

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really die. I quote from the Christian Science Manual called *Science and Health*: "They saw Him after His crucifixion and learned that he had not died" (p. 46). How did Mrs. Mary Baker Glover Eddy, who wrote this book and founded Christian Science, discover this when she was not born until some 1800 years after these events happened?

Those who accept the swoon theory that Christ did not really die have the following problems to face.

Was Jesus Christ deceived or a deceiver? He said He had died and after His resurrection He appeared to John and said: "**I am He that liveth, and was dead.** . ." (Rev. 1:18).

The Roman Centurion who was in charge of the crucifixion signed the death warrant of Christ, so to speak (Mark 14:39 and 44-45). He was sure of Christ's death.

The Roman soldiers were convinced of Christ's death, hence they broke not his legs as with the other two crucified with Him, but to make doubly sure one of them drove a spear into Christ's heart, and blood and water, the sign of death, flowed out (John 19:33-34).

The chief priests and Pharisees were convinced that Christ was dead (Matt. 27:63).

Christ's disciples were convinced that He was dead.

Friend and foe alike were convinced that Christ had died.

Will you take the word of Christ, the word of angels, the word of eye witnesses and authorities for it that Christ died or will you accept the speculation of those who deny Christ's death, but did not live at that time, were not there and did not see it?

There are those who argue that the body of Christ was stolen from the tomb. Some say that Joseph of Arimathea, in whose tomb the body was buried, later removed the body. But how could he do this when the tomb was carefully sealed by Roman authority and guarded by Roman militia? And if he did, could not the body easily be traced?

Some say, the Jews paid the Roman soldiers who guarded the tomb to say, that the disciples came by night and stole the body away while they slept (Matt. 28:11-13). Such bold and determined disciples we do not meet with in the gospel records, and we should like to question the Roman guards how they knew what happened if they were asleep!

Some say that the Jews removed the body, but this is the very thing that they opposed. If they did remove the body, why did they not produce the corpse on the day of Pentecost and instantly and forever stop the preaching of the resurrection of the Redeemer which

floods the Book of Acts?

Some say that the Roman soldiers removed the body; but if they did, they did so at the risk of losing their own lives (see Acts 12:19) and would have reaped a rich reward if they could have brought forth the dead body to the Jews to offset the preaching of the apostles of Christ's resurrection.

If the body was stolen, isn't it strange that the linen clothes and napkin were left untouched in the tomb?

There is only one answer: "**THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED**" (Luke 24:34) (emph. FB).

Former President of the Federal Council of Christian Churches, George A. Buttrick writes: "How the grave was robbed of its corpse, we may not be sure" (p. 274 of *The Christian Fact and Modern Doubt*). However, every one who has been given faith to believe the Bible knows. The grave was robbed of its prey when He who said upon a former time of His life: "**I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again**" (John 10:18) "exercised" that mighty power and rose again Victor and Mighty Conqueror!

There are those who tell us that the disciples were mistaken, that they only saw visions of Christ and mistook them for bodily appearances of their deceased Master. That they suffered hysteria or hallucinations.

Let us ask any who thinks this to be an answer to Christ's resurrection some questions.

Can you touch and feel a vision? The disciples were invited to handle Christ and see that He had flesh and bones (Luke 24:39), and Thomas was challenged to feel and inspect the very wound prints (John 20:24-28).

Can you hold a vision by the feet? Certain women did on the resurrection morning (Matt. 28:9).

Do you know of any great movement or institution that was ever started on hysteria or an optical illusion?

And let me offer the following facts:

According to the Scriptures, the only authoritative evidence that we have, the disciples were in NO attitude to receive or create a vision of Christ risen. In fact it seems as if they were determined NOT to believe that Christ arose (examine carefully Mark 16:11-14; John 20:24-28). Usually visions are given to those who expect the same to take place.

When the disciples "did" see Christ, they were afraid that they were "seeing a vision," but were corrected by Christ's offer to them to handle and feel His body of flesh and bone (Luke 24:36-39).

Visions are temporary and the results of them pass away, being emotional and very unreliable. But the Church of Jesus Christ built upon His bloody cross and empty tomb has existed through the worst types of trials and torture for centuries. Is this the work of hysteria?

There are those who tell us that the

whole thing is a fraud, that the story was made up by the disciples.

We answer, would the disciples DIE SUCH HORRIBLE DEATHS AS MARTYRS for something they knew to be but a deception or lie?

We would like to ask, "When" was this fraud fostered upon the people? Certainly not in the days of the apostles, for then the body of Jesus could be produced or traced. Certainly not "after" the apostolic days, for then it would lose its authority!

As one has ably asserted: "We ought not to forget that the evidence was published to the world on the very spot "where" and at the very time "when" the event was said to have happened and that no one was able to controvert it. . . At a moment when it was yet possible to test every incident, to examine every witness, and to expose every trace of fraud, the Apostles openly and unhesitatingly proclaimed the fact" (Professor Milligan, pp. 52-53 of *The Resurrection of our Lord*).

IV. THE EVIDENCE OF CHRIST'S BODILY RESURRECTION

The empty tomb. What happened to the body of Jesus Christ? Although the tomb was sealed and guarded when the angel appeared from Heaven and rolled back the stone, the tomb was empty (Matt. 28:1-6). The angel did "not" roll away the stone to let Christ out, as is so often pictured. Christ had "already gotten out"!

The Christian Church. The Church would never have existed if Christ had not risen bodily from the grave. It was the glorious resurrection of Christ and the empowering Holy Ghost at Pentecost that changed the disciples from cowards to conquerors, from fear to faith and from despair to determination.

The Lord's Day, that is what is sometimes called "The Christian Sabbath." The Old Testament Sabbath is on our Saturday, but something caused the Christian Church from the very first to keep, not the seventh day as Sabbath, but the "first" day, or our Sunday (see Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:1; John 20:1; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:10). What brought the Lord's Day on Sunday instead of the Jewish Saturday Sabbath into the Church? There is but one answer. The resurrection of Christ!

Christ's own prophecies. He prophesied that He would be betrayed by one of the disciples (John 13:21); that He would be crucified (Matt. 16:21); that He would rise again from the dead (Matt. 16:21); that He would leave them and go to the Father (John 16:7 and 16:16 and 17); that He would send the Holy Spirit (John 16:7); that Jerusalem would be destroyed and the magnificent Herod's temple thrown to the ground (Luke 21) and that the gates of hell would not prevail against the Church (Matt. 16:18). All of these prophecies of Christ were and are being fulfilled to the very letter, why not the prophecy that

He made so many times that He would rise again from the dead? Be assured that it was fulfilled.

V. SINCE CHRIST IS RISEN THE FOLLOWING FACTS STAND OUT

We can and must accept the miracles in God's Word. There is nothing too hard for God. If Christ is risen, then He is able to raise others up from spiritual death to eternal life through the "new birth" (Eph. 2:1-6; John 3:1-18); and that He "will" raise up the bodies of all the dead at the last day (John 5:28-29).

The resurrection of Christ proves that He is GOD. Little wonder that the unbelieving modernist who tries to do away with the Deity of Christ tries to do away with His bodily resurrection. The resurrection declared Christ to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).

The resurrection of Christ proves that He is able to SAVE. "**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) (emph. FB). Christ justified believers, or made believers right with God, by His resurrection from the dead (Rom. 4:25-5:1). "**If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised Him from the dead, THOU SHALT BE SAVED**" (Rom. 10:9) (emph. FB). Why will you trust dead saints or religious leaders to save you when there is a RISEN, LIVING Redeemer, even Jesus Christ?

Finally, the resurrection of Christ proves that there is a future judgment day and that Christ will be the Judge. No wonder atheists and infidels do not want to believe that Christ is alive! If He is alive, He is alive to be their Judge. Hear the Scripture: "**God. . . now commandeth all men every where to repent, 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**" (Acts 17:30-31) (emph. FB).

If God thought enough of His Son to raise Him up from the grave, He will also think enough of Him to raise up those to eternal glory for whom the Son shed His sacrificial blood. And God will also think enough of His Son to raise up those who opposed and do oppose Jesus Christ and judge them for their sins.

I plead with you now, in the name of Jesus Christ, repent of your sins and by His grace, turn from yourself to Jesus Christ and be saved. The living Lord still promises: "**All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in NO WISE CAST OUT**" (John 6:37) (emph. FB).

END

What's the Good News?

By Rosco Brong
(1908 - 1985)



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. . .

Four facts are brought to us in this "gospel" or good news: First, **"Christ died for our sins."** Not merely that Christ died, which is a historical fact believed by lost sinners, but that He died **"for our sins."** Second, **"He was buried."** This is proof of the first fact. Those who put Him to death made certain He was dead before delivering His body to His friends for burial. Third, **"He rose again."** He **"was raised again for our justification."** He was **"declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead"** (Rom. 4:25; 1:4). Fourth: **"He was seen."** This is proof of the third fact, the fact of His resurrection. The apostle goes on to mention some of the chosen witnesses to the resurrection, who included a crowd of **"above five hundred brethren at once,"** most of whom were still living when Paul wrote this epistle.

SOURCE OF THE GOSPEL

The gospel is "good news" because of its Source---the One from Whom it comes. We would rather hear from some persons than from others. We always want to hear news from our friends. We want to get news reports we can depend upon as true. Newspapers and radios and human "friends" may deceive us with false reports, but we can depend upon it that this good news is true, because it comes from **"God, that cannot lie"** (Tit. 1:2). **"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater"** (I John 5:9).

DESCRIPTIONS

We can get a better understanding of the gospel by noticing the various descriptions of the gospel as given in the Bible.

It is called **"the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"** (Mark 1:1), because it tells of a divine Person. The gospel is personal news. Its emphasis is not upon principles or doctrines, important as these are, but upon the person and work of Jesus Christ. When we have believed the good news of Christ, we will have no trouble in accepting His teachings. The real reason that some people dislike some of the doctrines of Christ is that they hate Christ Himself. **"Ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep"** (John 10:26). We need first of all and at all times to

preach "the gospel of Jesus Christ," with complete confidence that **"He that is of God heareth God's words"** (John 8:47).

"Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:14). This description reminds us that God is on His throne, ruling over the affairs of men, and especially ruling in the hearts and lives of His people. **"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again"** (II Cor. 5:14-15).

In Acts 20:24, the gospel is called **"the gospel of the grace of God,"** because it is the good news of God's grace or favor toward us in the person of His Son when He died for our sins.

In Ephesians 6:15, it is called **"the gospel of peace,"** because it announces peace between the holy God and sinful man. **"He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world"** (I John 2:2). **"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them"** (II Cor. 4:4). In Ephesians 1:13, it is called **"the gospel of your salvation,"** because it brings personal deliverance to all who believe it.

In II Corinthians 4:4, it is called **"the glorious gospel."** It is **"the glorious gospel"** because it is the **"gospel of Christ, who is the image of God"** (II Cor. 4:4). It tells of a glorious Christ, and it brings to us the promise of a resurrection when He **"shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body"** (Phil. 3:21).

In Revelation 14:6, it is called **"the everlasting gospel,"** because it never grows old. "News" of this world soon gets stale, and we are not much interested in worldly events of long ago. We have no use for newspapers and magazines a few months old, and even the world's best books are out of date in a few years and soon perish from the memory of man. But God's message of salvation in Christ for sinful man remains timely and of vital interest. As long as this sinful world shall stand, sinners shall rejoice in the good news that Christ died for our sins; and in an eternity beyond, the saints of God shall never cease to praise Him of Whom it is written, **"Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation"** (Rev. 5:9).

EXTENT OF THE GOSPEL

The extent of the gospel is universal in its appeal. **"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"** (Mark 16:15). **"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you"** (Rom. 1:14-15).

The gospel is of limited extent, however, not in its message, but in its reception. The good news shall be told to all, but it is good news only to those who believe it. **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"** (Mark 16:16). **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth"** (Rom. 1:16). **"We trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe"** (I Tim. 4:10).

EFFECT OF THE GOSPEL

The effect of the gospel, as already noted above, is to save the believer and aggravate the guilt of the unbeliever. **"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."** **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him"** (John 3:18,36).

These opposite effects of the gospel, according as we believe or do not believe, are plainly stated in Second Thessalonians 1:3-10: **"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; so that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you: And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."**

POSSESSION

Finally, how about the possession of the gospel? Whose good news is it?

It is **"Christ's gospel"** (II Cor. 2:12) because it is good news of Him, to Him, and for Him. **"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied."** **"For the joy that was set before him"** He **"endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"** (Isa. 53:11; Heb. 12:2).

◇ (Continued on page 119)

What's the Good News?

(Continued from page 118) ♦

Jesus shares this good news with His people. In Second Corinthians 4:3 it is called **"our gospel."** **"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together"** (Rom. 8:17).

But to enjoy the benefits of the gospel it is not enough that we be associated with God's people. **"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity"** (Luke 13:23-27).

The gospel not only tells of a personal Savior, but it appeals to a personal sinner. Hence in Romans 16:25 Paul calls it **"my gospel."** Oh, happy thought! This gospel is not only good news of and for and to the Son of God; it is not only good news to and for many of my friends, and spoken of by them; but it is good news for me, it brings salvation to me, it has become my message to a lost world.

Friend, this is my gospel. Is it yours? **"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins"** (Acts 10:43).



Proper Biblical Foundation

By Todd Bryant
of Northport, Alabama

"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matt. 7:26-27).

Nothing is more important in the construction of a house than its foundation. All other things can be built well. But, if the foundation is faulty, the house will not stand. The same is true for a church. We, as a body of Christ, must have the proper foundation. I fear we live in a time when many are at least giving the impression that they have the wrong foundation.

Let me preface the main thought of this article by saying it is possible to have that which is good in itself misused as a foundation. For instance, solid trusses are important in the construction of a home. The roof will not hold up if the trusses are not solid. However, they cannot be used as a foundation for the home. They are in and of themselves good and useful. But, they are not beneficial when used in any other way than their proper purpose. The same is true with Biblical doctrine. For example, it is important to use unleavened bread in the Lord's Supper. However, this is not the foundational principle of the Lord's church.

The Bible seems plain enough regarding what the only foundation for the Lord's church is. **"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ"** (I Cor. 3:11). The Apostle Paul was inspired to tell the saints at Corinth the importance of having the proper foundation. Just a few verses earlier, he wrote, **"ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building"** (I Cor. 3:9). He is stressing the importance of building up our faith. Nonetheless, we cannot build up on the wrong foundation and expect to be faithful or fruitful.

Jesus Christ is the sole foundation of His church. We need to make sure that our primary message is **"Christ crucified"** (I Cor. 1:23). It seems that oftentimes our people are "gung ho" to make sure that folks believe we believe in predestination. But, how often do we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ? We are so quick to tell people that our church believes in the doctrine of election. But, do we ever explain that we preach that salvation is through Christ alone? The main thrust of many is that God doesn't love everybody. But, how many times do we share that Jesus is the friend of sinners? I oftentimes wonder if we have lost the proper foundation.

When Paul first came to the people of Corinth on his missionary journey, what message did he bring to them? He said, **"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified"** (I Cor. 2:1, 2). Paul's number one objective in missionary work was to share the Gospel of Christ. He reiterates this later in this same epistle. **"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 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"** (I Cor. 15:1-4). The first message that Paul preached when he met a new person was the Gospel.

Surely, this is a great example for us.

I'll be the first to say that pastors need to be preaching the whole counsel of God. It's important that a pastor feeds his flock by speaking on a variety of subjects. He needs to supply a healthy diet to the souls that he's been called to oversee. However, the foundation for all good preaching is the Gospel of Christ. Paul said, **"..woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel"** (I Cor. 9:16). If we are going to leave a doctrine out, it cannot be the Gospel. If we are going to go to seed on anything, it must ever be Christ. The message of the cross must always be the center of all we say and do.

The church in Ephesus had a lot going for her. She had worked. She had labored. She had tried those that claimed to be apostles and had determined that they were impostors. It sounds like she had everything going in the right direction until the Lord says these dreadful words, **"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent"** (Rev. 2:4-5). This church was a working church. They had not fainted out of weariness. But, they had forgotten Christ!! How in the world does this happen in one of the Lord's churches? Yet, it happened a few decades after the Lord Himself established the first church at Jerusalem. Is there any doubt, there are churches that have replaced the preaching of the Gospel with something else today?

Every doctrine is founded on Christ. All things were made **"by Him"** (John 1:2). We were chosen **"in Him"** (Eph. 1:4). We were redeemed by Him (Col 1:14). We were effectually drawn to Him (John 6:37). We are preserved in Him (Jud. 1:1). We are looking for His return (Tit. 2:13). The list goes on and on. The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is about Him. The subject of the Holy Scriptures is Jesus Christ. May we ever look for that message in all that we say and do.

It seems to be more and more common that our preachers speak on nothing more than TULIP. Oh, many may start at a different text each week. However, the end result is the same. Is it really a surprise that many of our churches are losing any understanding of church truth and other vital doctrines? But even more importantly, are we leaving the message of Christ out? Are we falling into the same trap as the church in Ephesus?

Have we forgotten the Great Commission? Jesus said, **".. Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"** (Mark. 16:15). The order of the Commission is plain. We are to preach the Gospel, baptize the converts and then teach them proper doctrine (Matt. 28:18-20). When we rearrange this order, we

♦ (Continued on page 120)

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 4-1-2011 to 4-30-2011

Beginning Balance	\$7,271.04
RECEIPTS:	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	225.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	50.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	100.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
.....	475.00
TOTAL	7,746.04
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	600.00
Postage	132.00
Tape Productions	195.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	927.00
.....	\$6,819.04
Less Corbin, KY des.	-2,003.72
ENDING BALANCE	\$4,815.32

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$2,163.72
RECEIPTS:	
TOTAL	2,163.72
EXPENDITURES:	
WCTT	160.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,003.72



BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 4-1-2011 to 4-30-2011

Beginning Balance	\$2,258.30
RECEIPTS:	
Amazing Grace B. C., Stockdale, TX	25.00
B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	18.66
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	359.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Berea M. B. C., West Point, TN	150.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX	100.00
Bible Believer's B. C., Naples, ID	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV	313.45
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	150.00
Buffalo Valley B. C., Clay, WV	100.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR	25.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK	35.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
L. H. Farrell, Des Allemands, LA	95.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	100.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC	50.00
Mary Brown, St. Petersburg, FL	25.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN	10.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	100.00
Portland B. C., Plumersville, AR	50.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX	30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C. Warren (Burghill), OH	75.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	25.00
Subscriptions	214.00
Dividing checks	150.00
Anonymous	\$1,388.00
Sub Total	\$4,298.11
TOTAL	\$6,556.41
EXPENDITURES:	
Printing	581.00
Postage	870.93
Supplies	70.62
Wages	2,300.00
Wages*	150.50
FICA	175.90
Dividing checks	150.00
Total Expenditures	\$4,298.95
.....	2,257.46
Bank charge	13.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,244.46
* Extra wages paid by Berea Baptist Church.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Indore Baptist Church and pastor Paul Stepp would like to announce their 2011 Spring Meeting on June 10th thru June 12th.

Speakers are Elders Benjamin Stepp, Hank Bailess, Jeff Short, Tom Ross, Mark Minney, Matthew Stepp, Leroy Pack, and Dan Stepp.

Service times are Friday 7:00 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m., and Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

For more information contact Pastor Stepp at (304) 587-4660 or prstepp@indorebaptistchurch.org. All are invited to attend.

The Windsor Baptist Church at Winsor, IL is searching for a Sovereign Grace pastor. Any one interested may contact Larry Rawlings at (217) 665-3643 or cell (217) 620-4675 or by mail at PO Box 194, Bethany, IL 61914.

The Philadelphia Baptist Church of Decatur, AL is making several books available for the Kindle and iPad tablet readers.

They currently have five books available. Please visit their church website at www.pbcofdecaturalabama.org to download these free books.

The Philadelphia Baptist Church of Decatur, AL and pastor Ted Tweet would like to announce they will be having special services Wednesday June 15th thru Sunday June 19th. Elder Jerry Asbury will be speaking. The Saturday service will also be combined with Quarterly Area Fellowship.

Service times are Wednesday thru Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m., with the church providing lunch, and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more information contact pastor Tweet at 256-686-1307 or email tltweet5555@aol.com.

Bible Believers Baptist Church of Naples, Idaho will be holding their 2nd Annual Bible Conference Friday, July 1st thru Sunday, July 3rd. Speakers will be announced at a later date. For more information contact Pastor Paul Sandelin (208) 290-4625 or (208) 267-3255 or email biblebelieversbaptistchurch@gmail.com

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Northport, AL will be conducting revival services Friday, July 22nd thru Sunday, July 24th. Elder Andy Proctor is the scheduled speaker.

Service times are Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday at 10:00 a.m. with lunch following, and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. with lunch following. All are invited to attend.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Northport, AL has released an app for the Apple iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch as well as the Android. It can easily be found by searching "sovereign grace" in the iTunes app store. The Android version can also be found by searching the same phrase in the Android market.

With the app you can hear sermons, read their weekly newspaper article and much more. If you have one of the listed devices you are invited to download the app.

The Grace Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, NC is in need of a pastor. The church believes in the Doctrines of Grace, the local church, and is Pre-millennial. Interested brethren should contact Deacon Cletus Snyder at 336-788-5753.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Galena, OH is in need of a pastor. Any interested candidates possessing the qualifications and traits concerning the office as found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 are asked to contact either of the following: Bro. Randy Coffey at (614) 871-2406 or Email recoffey@aol.com or Bro. Joe Vass at (614) 846-8699 or Email jamijoe@wowway.com.

The Bethel Bible Baptist Church, PO Box 85, Mansfield, LA is in need of a pastor. Any interested Elder should call Connie McMellon at 318-872-1647.

The Landmark Baptist Church of Collinsville, IL is in need of a pastor. Any interested Elders may call (618) 288-4236 for more information.

Any church that is without a pastor, please feel free to send your information in regards to the pastoral position for publication in these announcements.



Proper Biblical

(Continued from page 119) ♦

do not follow God's instruction. When we change God's ordained way, we get off track. We cannot improve on God's design of missionary work.

Let's look at two examples of New Testament missionaries. When the Lord instructed Philip to go into Gaza, what message did he take? When he found the Eunuch reading the 53rd chapter of the prophet Isaiah, what did he say? When asked by the Eunuch, **"..of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?"** (Acts 8:34), how does Philip respond? God's Word tells us, **"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus"** (Acts 8:35). Surely Philip understood many of the truths of God's Word that we all cherish. Yet, he also understood the need of preaching the Gospel to the lost. When Paul and Silas were asked by the Philippian jailor, **"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"** (Acts 16:30), how did they respond? Did they begin an hour and a half treatise on the doctrines of grace? Did they explain to the man how he couldn't be saved? Did they, as some have supposed to have said, tell the man, "Nothing at all!"? They certainly did not. In harmony with other examples in God's Word, **"..they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house"** (Acts 16:31). These men understood that our foundational message must ever be the message of Christ crucified.

Is our confidence in election or in Christ? Now, let me make this plain, I believe the doctrine of election as much as anybody. I treasure it. I preach it! But, my confidence is in Christ. Paul said, **"..I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"** (II Tim. 1:12). Paul's confidence was in Christ alone. Our faith is only as good as its object. The only Biblical object of faith is Jesus Christ. We

are never bidden to trust in election to be saved. Our trust must ever be in the Christ of the Gospel (Eph. 1:12-13).

If you are asked what you believe, what is your first answer? If you are asked what your church stands for, what is your first answer? In years past, I would have quickly spouted off, "why, we believe in the doctrine of election." And, that is true. We do believe and preach the doctrines of grace. We love the doctrines of grace. However, this is not the foundational principle of the Lord's church. These blessed truths magnify that One that is surely the foundation. Perhaps our response to that question should be, "We believe that the only way into fellowship with God is through the finished work of Jesus Christ and that alone."

Is it possible to have a true message and emphasize it so much that it replaces the Gospel as the proper foundation? I fear it is not only possible, but also probable. If this is correct, what is the problem with that? Perhaps our greatest fear should be that many are trusting in election for salvation but are not trusting in Christ. If this is so, are these saved? Perhaps this question is harsh. But, it's important. Again, our faith is only as good as its object. Election is not to be the object of our faith. If we are pointing people to election for salvation, we are pointing them to the wrong place. You will search far and wide to find a Biblical missionary that pointed the lost to election.

A church that has replaced the preaching of the Gospel with election will produce several problems. As we have said, the greatest of these may be members that have been deceived into thinking election is the proper object of faith. But, the problems don't stop there. In churches where TULIP is the only message ever preached, the members have no knowledge of other important subjects such as church truth, discipline, the Lord's Supper, baptism, practical Christianity and many others. The list is endless. Also, Spirit convicted seekers are confused. They know they trust Christ but live in fear that they were not chosen. To these, Jesus said, **"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"** (Matt. 11:28). There are no strings attached here. If a person is burdened over their sins by the convicting power of the Spirit, they are bidden to come to Christ. Again, He is the only proper Biblical foundation.

Let us ever examine ourselves. Let us ever examine our churches. Let us make sure that we have not laid any foundation other than Jesus Christ. All Biblical truths have their place. But, all are founded on the doctrine of Christ. He alone is **"altogether lovely"** (SS. 5:16).

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Eph. 3:21).



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