

## The First Marriage

By Milburn R. Cockrell  
(1941 – 2002)



the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 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**" (Gen. 2:18-24).

The modern world has some odd notions about marriage. Young people say to each other: "Be careful, puppy love can lead to a dog's life on a split

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"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up

## The Great Day

By Timothy J. Hille  
of Ashland, Illinois



Jude :1-25

**"... the judgment of the great day"** (Jude 6)

The Bible speaks emphatically of **"the great day."** This term **"great"** does not mean, as we use it in our vernacular today, "fun, exciting, happy, or pleasing and gratifying to our sentiments, appetites, and desires," as when a child returns from spending the day at an amusement park and says, "I had a great day!" The term **"great"** here means important, remarkable, such that there will have been no day like it and there will not ever be a day like it again. It will be the most serious and important day that has ever taken place for the majority

of people. It will be a day in which the Great God will sit supreme upon His throne and none will stay His hand or say unto Him, "What doest thou?" On **"the great day"** of which the Bible speaks, the final destiny of every person who has not believed on Jesus Christ for the salvation of his or her soul will be eternal confinement in the lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death. On **"the great day,"** all the dead, small and great, will stand before God and He will judge them according to their sins. On **"the great day,"** no sinner will be able to hide

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## The Widespread Effect of Sin

By Roy Mason  
(1894 - 1978)



ask, does sin show in human life?

*It is revealed in the total depravity of the human race.* By total depravity we do not mean that a person is as sinful and wicked as he could become---we mean that **EVERY PART OF MAN'S BEING IS CONTAMINATED BY SIN.** Far from being a child of God by natural birth, every person is by nature a child of wrath (Eph. 2:3). There is no such thing as bringing up a child

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Sin is not like some disease that breaks out in a remote corner of the world somewhere, is confined to that remote locality and never affects the world as a whole. It is a thing that affects every locality and every human being who lives on the face of the earth. John expresses it when he says, "The whole world lieth in the evil." Sin is the universal disease, and it breaks out in different manifestations, just like some diseases of the human body manifest a variety of symptoms. How, let us

## You Cannot Whip Him

By Curtis Pugh  
of Poteau, Oklahoma



Let us consider the greatest of subjects – God in all His sovereignty. In this article we shall explore a simple, direct and yet eloquent message that, I am told, was preached many years ago. But first a few comments must be made about something with which some may be unfamiliar and others may have almost forgotten. There was a time when the public schools of these United States sponsored two important ceremonies for their graduating senior classes. Commencement exercises, to my

knowledge, are still held in most schools belonging to the taxpayers. But in the days before liberal and godless psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists and the

ACLU told us that reading from the Bible and mentioning God was bad for our children and young people – back before Big Brother in Washington started telling local school boards that they could not acknowledge God on taxpayer's school property – there was a thing called a "Baccalaureate

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**Go not astray from the King's highway.**

It is the best and safest road, and in it you are under royal protection.

**"It shall be called the way of holiness"** (Isaiah 35:8).

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## The First Marriage

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level," or "Marriage is a proposition ending in a lifetime sentence." Others say the honeymoon is only the interval between the man's "I do" and his wife's "You'd better." In spite of all these sayings, about 90 percent of all people marry.

After some six thousands years of human history it is time that we got back to the basics. We need to consider the wedding bells of Eden. Marriage is the oldest of all Divine institutions. It is older than the Sabbath and human government. There was blissful perfection in that first marriage. The marriage of Adam and Eve was a duet, not a duel. God Himself performed the first marriage. If marriage is to be perpetuated as God intended, then it must be as He directed.

### THE DECLARATION

The Creator had already made many things and pronounced them all "very good" (Gen. 1:31). Then there is this single negative statement: "It is not good that man should be alone" (Gen. 2:18). God created Adam with an innate desire for companionship. For man to be alone did not fit well with God's purpose nor man's social constitution. Eden, with all its delights, was incomplete to Adam without a companion who would enhance his delights and partake of his pleasures. Without a wife Adam could not express his social and covenant nature, nor could he obey God's command to propagate the race (Gen. 1:28).

"And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him" (Gen. 2:20). The brutes were not a fit companion for man. Beasts were separated from Adam by a wide abyss. He was their lord, and they were unknowingly his servants. The beasts of the field could not enter into the high enjoyments of his intellectual life. The Creator made Adam "more than the beasts of the earth" and "wiser than the fowls of heaven" (Job 35:11). Adam was too much their superior to find in them companionship.

But was not God Adam's friend and companion? The LORD God did visit the garden of Eden, but nothing more. Also there was a great gulf between the finite mind of Adam and the infinite mind of God. In the case of the beasts Adam was too much their superior to find a companion, and the Divine Being was too much Adam's superior. Elihu well declared "that God is greater than man" (Job 33:12).

Eve was to be "an help meet" for Adam. The word "help" means "a helper," and "meet" means "fit" or "suitable." So a help meet means a suitable helper for him. The words in the Hebrew literally means "an help as before him" or "as over against him," or, maybe better stated, "a helper corresponding to him." Woman would be man's counterpart. The Vulgate Version has "an assistant, like him." Eve would be a suitable companion, endowed with a nature like Adam's, a second self, a fellow-friend.

Marriage was instituted to prevent loneliness in man. Marriage would not only fill up the loneliness gap; it would over fill it. The wife would help her husband with the children and care of the house (Prov. 14:1; 31:27; Tit. 2:4-5). She would advise him by her counsels (Gen. 21:10 and comfort him in his sorrows. She would help him foresee and prevent danger (I Sam. 25:18, 33).

The woman would complete the man. She would fill his wants and wishes. Man is like a puzzle with a missing piece. Woman is that piece. She is the appropriate and adequate answer to man's needs. A man is to marry because he feels incomplete, inadequate, and insufficient without a woman. The woman must feel the same way. "Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord" (I Cor. 11:11). The recognition of mutual need will encourage them both to continue together until death. One is dependent on the other, and both of them on God. The first marriage was a holy triangle---Adam, Eve, and God.

### THE OPERATION

It would seem from Genesis 1:27 that Eve was made on the sixth day of the creative week, although Adam had the priority: "For Adam was

first formed, then Eve" (I Tim. 2:13). In Genesis 2:21 we see the manner of her creation: "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof." God was pleased to form Eve out of Adam, even as it pleased Him to form man from the dust of the ground. This was not because God needed any materials, for He could have created her as He did Adam. God wanted to express the truth of the marriage union---their being one flesh. He also wanted to express the fact of the headship of the man: "For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man" (I Cor. 11:8-9).

God put Adam to sleep before He performed an operation on him to remove a rib. This sleep was not the consequence of weariness or fatigue. It was a supernatural sleep. Whether Adam was created with an extra rib, or his bones were mutilated, is a question for the curious. From verse 23 it seems the rib with the accompanying flesh was extracted. Later Adam would say of Eve: "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. . ." (Gen. 2:23).

Eve was made from a bone of Adam's side, not of his head so she could usurp authority over him. She was not made from a bone of his foot, so she could be trampled upon by him. Eve came from a bone under Adam's arm, so she could be near his heart and under his protection. By a miracle the LORD God closed up the vacancy. Thus the operation was completed by God Himself.

This is not a myth, nor is it some kind of parable. My text is a historical incident. There is every evidence of historical truth here, but in addition to this there is spiritual truth as well. Sleep is a figure of death (I Thess. 4:13-18). While Adam slept, the mighty hand of the Divine Operator brought forth a helper after His own likeness. It was while the Second Adam was asleep on the cross that His side was pierced to purchase His bride.

Verse 22 says: "And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman. . ." (Gen.

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# Let's Study Baptism

By Nathaniel Hille  
of Caldwell, Kansas

## Part 4

**"One Lord, one faith, one baptism"** (Eph. 4:5).

We have noted several things: What is the mode of baptism or what baptism is, who is the candidate for baptism or who should be baptized; and what baptism does or what is the purpose of baptism. This week we want to note who has the authority to baptize or who administers baptism. Satan has caused great confusion upon this subject, just as he has the others. However, a careful searching of the Scriptures will tell us who has the authority to baptize (Acts 17:11).

Baptism **MUST** have a proper Administrator: The question of the Administrator is a question of authority. Who has the right to baptize? Just anybody? When God established the ordinance, and defined the subject, the act, the design, did He also define the administrator, or leave that open to anyone who wished to perform the ordinance? How strange would it be specific in 3 aspects, but neglect the 4th. On this aspect of Baptism---the Scriptures are just as plain and explicit as they are on the other three parts.

Jesus, by His own example, emphasized the importance of the proper Administrator when He walked 60 miles to the river Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist (Matt. 3:1-17). Again, Jesus emphasized it when He proposed the question, **"The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men"** (Luke 20:4)? And, again, when the Lord gave the ordinance of baptism to the disciples in the church (Matt. 28:18-20).

Who, then, is the proper Administrator of Baptism: We will not delay in giving the answer---Jesus Christ gave the ordinance of Baptism unto His Church. It has ever resided with her and her alone down through the ages. We are told that Christ stated during His earthly ministry: **"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates**



**of hell shall not prevail against it"**

(Matt. 16:18). Jesus set the apostles first in the church (I Cor. 12:28). The 12 apostles were the first or charter members

of the Lord's church. After Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus instructed the remaining members of His church (11 disciples, which were the 11 apostles---Judas had hung himself) to meet Him at an appointed time and place. **"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted"** (Matt. 28:16-17). These disciples met in "church capacity." By that we mean that there were not just 11 individual disciples. They met as **"one body"** (Eph. 4:4), one assembly. They went to a place that Christ appointed; they saw Him; they worshipped Him, some doubted---is not this a picture of the Lord's Church assembled together to worship the Lord.

While assembled together as one body, Christ Jesus commissioned His church. In the Great Commission the ordinance of baptism is given unto His Church; and not to individual people or to apostles only. If Christ had given the authority to baptize to apostles, and not to them as a Church, then no one today has the authority to baptize, because the authority to baptize died with the apostles.

Christ did NOT give the authority to baptize unto any priest or preacher; but unto His Church. While the preacher may be the individual who is performing the baptism, the authority belongs unto the Church of Jesus Christ. Hence, Simon Peter proposed the question **"Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Spirit as well as we"** (Acts 10:47)?

Unless a person's baptism has proper authority it is not Scriptural baptism. We implore each one to

search the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Maran-atha, Amen.

## Part 5

We come to our fifth and final lesson on baptism. There is much more that we could write concerning the subject of baptism than what we have written in the previous four lessons. There are two predominant ideas when it comes to baptism. "Believers Baptism" v. "Baptismal Regeneration." "Believers Baptism" is the belief that baptism is restricted unto those who are already regenerated (born again) by God's matchless grace through faith. "Baptismal Regeneration" is the belief that when one is put into the water they are regenerated (born again) by the waters. "Baptismal Regeneration" has led to other false beliefs, such as paedobaptism (infant baptism), the removal of repentance and faith in Christ for salvation. "Believers Baptism" is clearly taught in the Scriptures and there is no reference to "Baptismal Regeneration."

Christ Jesus has committed **"one baptism"** (Eph. 4:5) unto His church. This baptism is water baptism. In our day there is no such thing as "Holy Spirit baptism." Christ baptized, immersed His church on the day of Pentecost with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). Holy Spirit baptism has not taken place since that day. The closest to Holy Spirit baptism was when the Holy Spirit came upon the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-45), whom Simon Peter then commanded that they should be baptized (water baptism) (Acts 10:47-48).

Baptism is the Door into the Church. **"For by one Spirit are we all baptized (immersed) into one body. . ."** (I Cor. 12:13). There are many who erroneously believe that when they are saved, regenerated, or born-again, they are in the "church of God." But this is not true in the light of the Scripture. When one is born, they enter a family. When one is born-again they are in the family of God. The family of God is comprised of every born-again believer from Adam to the end of the world. The Lord does NOT have an invisible, universal church that all who are saved are members in. His church is a local, visible body of baptized believers.

Baptism is the door into the Lord's

church. When Paul wrote **"For by one Spirit"** he was stating that the members of the church at Corinth were all led by the Holy Spirit to be baptized into one body. This one body was not the universal, invisible body of Christ. It was the visible, local, body of believers at Corinth. Until one has Scriptural, Biblical baptism, they have yet to enter into the membership of the Lord's church.

Baptism: There are four things to consider with respect to baptism: 1) One must be a proper candidate. The proper, Scriptural candidate, is one who is already saved by grace through faith; 2) One must be baptized by the proper mode. The proper mode is to immerse, to plunge into water; 3) One must do so for the proper reason. The proper reason is not to be saved, nor to finish your salvation, but to show that you are already saved; 4) One must be baptized by one who has the authority to do so. Only the Lord's church has the authority to baptize. It is not a preacher or believer ordinance, but a church ordinance. Maran-atha. AMEN.



## The First Marriage

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2:22). Literally, the Hebrew might read: "And Jehovah God built the rib which He had taken from the man into a woman." The word **"made"** is a translation of the Hebrew (banah) which means "to build" or "begin to build." John Trapp says it means she was "created with special care, art, and fit proportion, in the manner of a house." There can be little doubt but what the word **"made"** refers to the physical configuration of the woman's body. She is a building like the tower of David (S. of S. 4:4) and like an ivory tower (S. of S. 7:4). Adam was like an unfinished building until Eve was formed. Adam was created; Eve was formed.

### THE PRESENTATION

**"...and brought her unto the man"** (v. 22). This was the first wedding march a bride ever made. God Himself gave away the bride who was clothed only in her moral uprightness. The first marriage was made in

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## The First Marriage

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Heaven by the God of Heaven. God matched the man and woman. By His power He made Adam and Eve, and now by His ordinance of matrimony He made them one. This marriage was made while both Adam and Eve were in a state of perfect innocence. This cannot be said of any marriage since the first one.

God caused Eve to come to Adam. As in verse 19, it is said of the animals that God caused them to present themselves before the man, so here **"brought her"** denotes the act of a sovereign God in the presentation of the women to the man in marriage. When man and woman are joined together by God in holy wedlock this is called in Scripture **"the covenant of . . . God"** (Prov. 2:17). In every true marriage God brings the wife: **"A prudent wife is from the LORD"** (Prov. 19:14).

Marriage is a Divine institution ordained by God in the time of man's innocence in Paradise. It is not a mere human relationship as evolutionists, humanists, and Communists say. God ordained marriage at the beginning of human history for the good of the race. If marriage were of human origin, then humans would have the right to do whatever they wanted to do concerning it. Marriage cannot be regulated by human whims and wishes. It must be regulated by the rules set down by God in the Bible. Neither private persons, nor the state, are competent to decide who may or may not be married. That is God's prerogative.

### THE ACCEPTANCE

**"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"** (Gen. 2:23). Adam acknowledged Eve, the

gift of God, as a part of himself. Eve was a part of Adam's flesh and bones. The Apostle Paul said: **"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh"** (Eph. 5:28-31).

Consider the words **"she shall be called Woman."** The Hebrew word for man (*ish*) is used in the feminine form of the woman (*isha*---she-man). Maness would express it, like shepherdess and prophetess. Our English word "woman" (womb-man Anglo-Saxon) comes from "man" as any one can see by looking at the word (wo-man).

### GOD'S FIRST ORDINANCE

**"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh"** (Gen. 2:24). Scholars debate the identity of the speaker in this verse. Some say these are the words of Adam. Others take them as the language of Moses. Our Lord refers these words to the Creator Himself: **"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, 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. 19:4-6).

God Himself instituted marriage in Eden, and He performed the first marriage ceremony. In the beginning

of the race God ordained marriage for all mankind. He foretold the eventual departure of children from the home for the purpose of marriage and the family. Parental authority over a child ends at the marriage altar---whether the child is fifteen or fifty.

The human pair is unlike all others in that they are one. **"One flesh"** was literally true of Adam and Eve. Husband and wife are **"one flesh"** as soon as the marriage takes place (Eph. 5:31). **"One flesh"** points to the unity of persons, and not simply to a conjunction of bodies. Both Malachi (2:15) and Christ explain Genesis 2:24 as teaching the indissoluble character of marriage. In the practical sense, husband and wife do not begin marriage as one person, but as two separate individuals. In order to become one they must work at it. They must think, act, and feel as one.

### WHAT MARRIAGE IS NOT

First, marriage is not primarily for the purpose of procreation, for procreation is one of the privileges of marriage (Gen. 1:27-28; Heb. 13:4). Matrimony is not the same as mating. Skunks and hogs mate. Much mating goes on disconnected from marriage in Hollywood and the ghettos. Marriage is not legalized mating as some suppose.

Second, marriage is not sexual relations. If this were so, then rapists and child molesters would be married to their victims. If wedlock is no more than sexual union, then animals are married. If sexual union constitutes marriage, then when a man gets too old to have sex, or suffers physical injury, then he would be compelled to get a divorce. If marriage and sexual union were the same, the Bible would not warn of fornication and adultery. It would only speak of informal marriage, and adultery would be reduced to informal polygamy. The Bible speaks of sexual sins outside of marriage (John 4:16-18), and in the Bible people are called husband and wife prior to sexual relations (Matt. 1:18-20).

The Bible no where says marriage begins on the honeymoon when sexual relations first occur. If this be true as some say, then preachers and Justices of the Peace are all liars, for at the conclusion of a marriage ceremony they say, "I now pronounce

you man and wife." Sexual relations do not make a marriage, and they do not break a marriage. Married people who commit adultery need only to repent, not be married again.

Peter S. Ruckman, president of Pensacola Bible Institute and an outspoken Arminian, sees marriage only as a carnal sex act. He writes: "In the Bible, a 'marriage' is where flesh joins flesh to make one body. *That fact is incontestable.* . . some 'historic Fundamentalists' have the funny idea that when two people are standing at an altar, *God is joining them together.* Can you imagine anything more sick than that?" (*Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*, pp. 6, 10). As we might expect, Peter Ruckman has been married and divorced and remarried.

If Peter Ruckman's idea is correct, then Jesus Christ must have been illegitimate, seeing Joseph and Mary had not yet come together (Matt. 1:18). He must also explain why Matthew in the King James Version called them **"husband"** and **"wife"** before they came together (Matt. 1:18-20).

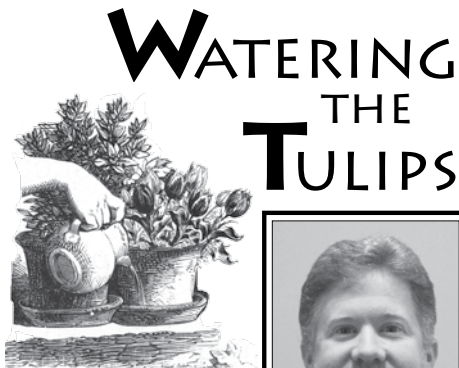
### WHAT MARRIAGE IS

According to the Bible, marriage is covenant of companionship. When a man and a woman take lifelong vows to love and live together as husband and wife in God's presence, God joins them together (Matt. 19:6). The marriage vows are the marriage, strictly speaking. This is the covenant of companionship to which God is a witness. It is said of an unfaithful wife: **"Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God"** (Prov. 2:17). A violation of the marriage oath is a terrible sin for any husband: **"Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment,**

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By Todd Bryant  
of  
Northport, Alabama



## The Charge of the Child of God

**"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" (I Cor. 9:16)!**

The primary message of the Lord's people is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This message is clearly defined in I Corinthians 15:3-4 which says, **"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."** The rest of the Bible certainly contains much "good news" for the children of God. However, the Word of God is specific when it refers to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This Gospel is the message that we have been sent into the world to preach. When Jesus commissioned His infant church, He said, **"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"** (Mark 16:15). This is not merely a suggestion, mind you. This is a clear Commission to every one of the Lord's churches. Our chief message for a lost world is the message of Jesus dying in the place of sinners.

The two ordinances of the church clearly portray the Gospel. In baptism by immersion, the death, burial and resurrection of Christ is clearly pictured. Every time a person is properly baptized they are declaring to the world that Christ is their Savior and Lord of their life. Baptism is a uniform, so to speak. It does not make anybody a Christian. But, it designates which side we are on by portraying that our sins were paid for

when Jesus died.

Likewise, the Lord's Supper pictures the broken body and shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. As an unleavened drink, wine pictures the sinless blood of our Savior. The unleavened bread pictures His sinless body. Every time a local church observes the Supper, they are collectively declaring the Gospel to all of those who look on.

Clearly, the Gospel is the subject of the Scripture. Everything in the Bible in one way or another hinges on Calvary's cross. The Fall of man is remedied thousands of years later when Jesus gave **"His life a ransom for many"** (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45). The eternal ages, which we find in Biblical prophecy, is only possible because Jesus broke down the barrier that separated God and man by dying in the place of fallen sinners.

Child of God, take time to study the Bible and Biblical doctrine. But, never get too far away from the Gospel. It is the truth which is weaved in and out of everything else we find in God's Holy Word. It alone is the foundation of all truth (I Cor. 3:11).



## The First Marriage

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**saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously" (Mal. 2:14-16).**

### CONCLUSION

1. Marriage is an ordinance of God. He makes the rules for it, not the state. The state is obligated to carry out the rules of God concerning marriage and keep the records.

2. The marriage certificate is not just a scrap of paper. It is a covenant of companionship, which God recognizes as marriage. Common-law marriages are no good. There are no vows, no written agreement, and no marriage. Shacking up is not marriage; it is fornication.

3. **"Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge"** (Heb. 13:4). Marriage is not dishonorable even to ministers of the gospel (I Tim. 3:1-2; I Cor. 9:5). All sex outside of marriage is sinful, and it results in Divine judgment.

4. God intended that marriage be between one man and one woman for life. Divorce was not possible for Adam and Eve. They were the only two people on earth at that time. God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve---not Eve and Edith! Therefore polygamy, unscriptural divorce, adultery, homosexuality, and all forms of sexual impurity violate the original marriage institution and issue in total ruin of society by the sure judgment of God.



## Widespread Effect

(Continued from page 101) ♦

so carefully that it will not ever need regeneration, for every person inherits the fallen nature of parents. A rattlesnake could be raised in the perfect environment of the throne room of Heaven, yet because of its rattlesnake nature, when mature it would stick out its tongue and hiss at God Himself. So with a fallen human being, if taken to Heaven unregenerated, and reared perfectly, that fallen creature would defy God and would seek His overthrow. We believe that even babies who die in infancy are in some way not described to us fully, regenerated, before being received into the presence of God. Modernism hates the doctrine of total depravity, but it is true nevertheless. Let us note what the Bible says along this line.

1. *It says that the HEART of the natural man is deceitful and wicked (Jer. 17:9).*

2. *The thoughts and imaginations of unregenerate people are evil (Gen. 6:5, 12).*

3. *The carnal mind is at enmity with God (Rom. 8:7-8).*

4. *The whole moral and intellectual life of unregenerate man is corrupt in the sight of God (Titus 3:3; Eph. 2:3; Col. 3:5, 7).*

5. *The unregenerate person, while walking about in the flesh is spiritually dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1).*

One could go further, but it is not necessary. The Scriptures declare that unsaved people are hopelessly depraved people, having not a single spark of spiritual life. The common

theory to the contrary is that all have a "spark of divinity" and that all that is needed is that such spark be fanned into flame. The truth is, members of the human race walk about as "walking corpses." They live physically, but they are dead spiritually, and only the Spirit of God can quicken into life. That is why the new birth is absolutely necessary.

### THE PRACTICAL EFFECT TWO VIEWS ALONG THIS LINE

Those who deny the total depravity of the natural man, seek to cultivate human nature and to make it better. A recent Methodist editor stated that at least 60 per cent of his people knew nothing of what he calls a "crisis experience conversion." He indicated his belief that such is not necessary. What is needed is education and training in proper behavior and conduct. Evangelists who do not believe in total depravity, resort to all sorts of tricks and stunts to get people to stage professions of faith. They feel that the man thing is the use of proper techniques in making propositions, and in "drawing the net" as they call it.

Preachers who hold to total depravity, believe that special techniques are powerless to save souls. They believe that sinners are completely dead spiritually and hence that the quickening power of the Holy Spirit is necessary. They believe that the mere teaching and cultivating of human nature is worthless so far as salvation is concerned. A cultivated, educated, refined sinner, is just as much a lost sinner as is the most vile and uncouth.

### "HE'S A GOOD BOY!"

Parents are often deceived. Like the one who said, "My boy is a good boy---all he needs is just to join the church." Yes, John was a nice, pleasant, moral, clean obedient son, but he was a total stranger to the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus. All that parent's hope was in human nature, and human nature is depraved nature. All of us do well to adopt the attitude of the apostle Paul who said, **"Have no confidence in the flesh."**



# The Great Day

(Continued from page 101) ♦  
and no sin will be hidden.

One of the central teachings of the Bible is that God will judge every man, woman, boy, and girl, and that sinners will be punished from the presence of Almighty God (Ps. 96:11-13, 98:7-9; Acts 17:30-31, 24:24-25; II Thess. 1:7-10; II Pet. 2:9, 3:7; Jude 14-15). Jesus is going to come and execute judgment upon the ungodly, the unbeliever, the unrepentant, and the unholy. This teaching is ignored by the majority of so-called "Christian" denominations and organizations today. People do not want to be told that if they do not repent they are going to perish in their own unrighteousness. They do not want to be told that the only way of salvation is in Jesus Christ, and that their own so-called "good works" are nothing more than filthy rags. They say that hell is a humbug, and that true gospel preachers are merely trying to scare people into religious professions. The gospel does not scare anyone, the gospel warns men, women, boys, and girls that they are guilty before God and they need to turn from sin and turn to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, Jesus Christ (Matt. 3:1-12). The gospel warns you against the wrath of God against all your sins. The gospel warns you of hell fire. The gospel warns you of eternal misery, despair, and ruin. The gospel warns you of impending judgment and doom. You ought to thank God that the gospel warns you, and you ought to heed the warning and believe with all your heart that God raised up Jesus from the dead, after that He suffered and bled and died for your sins upon the cross.

One of the truths that we find in God's Word is that there are some who deny the Bible teaching of "the great day." **"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."** (Jude 4). There are false teachers and preachers who do not teach and preach the truth, but who have snuck into churches and

led men astray from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and His cross. You are going to meet people in life who do not believe that there is a hell, an eternal lake of fire, or that God is going to judge wicked sinners and cast unbelievers into the lake of fire. You will meet preachers and teachers who deny this teaching of the Word of God. You will meet Baptist preachers and teachers who do not preach and teach this portion of the counsel of God. Some will say, "Oh, we focus on the love of God and on loving people." How can you love someone and not warn them of the eternal danger of remaining unrepentant toward God and unbelieving of His Son Jesus Christ?

We find that the Bible declares who they are who shall be judged at this "great day." **"I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not"** (Jude 5). The unbelieving are they who will be judged at "the great day" (John 3:16-18, 36; Mark 16:15-16; II Thess. 2:10-12). All unbelievers will be judged by God at "the great day" (Rev. 20:11-15). In order to be saved from sin, death, hell, and the devil, the Bible tells all people the same thing: **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"** (Acts 16:31). **"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved"** (Rom. 10:9). **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life"** (John 6:47). **"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die"** (John 11:25,26).

We find that also present and to be judged at the great day will be the fallen, wicked angels who left "their first estate" and followed Satan rather than God. **"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day"** (Jude 6). We find that the fallen angels who sinned and

followed Satan rather than God are reserved **"unto the judgment of the great day"** (Matt. 8:28-29, 25:41, 46; II Pet. 2:4). God has prepared the eternal flames of the lake of fire for the devil and his angels (Rev. 20:10).

The Bible teaches that the punishment that shall be meted out at "the great day" will be the wrath of God, which is described as **"the vengeance of eternal fire."** **"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire"** (Jude 7) (Mark 9:42-48; Matt. 22:11-14, 24:51, 25:29-30). We know that God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha because of their sins, and He destroyed them with fire and brimstone from Heaven. He did this as an example unto others who would afterward live ungodly (II Pet. 2:6).

When shall "the great day" take place (Jude 14-15; II Pet. 3:8-10)? Jesus will come in an hour when no one is expecting Him. He will come suddenly. When He comes, it will be too late for you to repent of your sins and ask God to save your unworthy, sin-sick soul. When He comes, it will be too late to have good intentions but not to have confessed and forsaken your sin and trusted in Him as the saving Son of God.



## You Cannot Whip

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Service." It was held usually in the school auditorium and was an hour or so when the graduating class was prayed for and "preached to," generally by one of the local pastors. Ah! What unseen evil was wrought in the hearts and minds of graduating seniors and the general public by hearing a sermon on school property!

The story goes that back in the days of those baccalaureate services, there was a small town in America that did something unusual. For years they had the same pastor preach the baccalaureate sermon. He was pastor to a small congregation made up of that segment of our

society now popularly known as an "ethnic minority." He did not have the advantage of a high degree of education, but he had been to God's school. His heart as well as his mind was filled with an understanding awe of God and His sovereign majesty. In his simplicity of language he was eloquent beyond the more educated pastors in the town. Perhaps that is why God fixed it so that he was consistently asked to preach to not only the graduating class, but also to most of the town as it was usual for many people to attend these annual services. As a Black man he seldom had the opportunity to preach to those of other races, but he was awe-struck with love and admiration for God and not fearful of those to whom he would preach each spring at the local school.

The title of his sermon was always the same. Year after year he dared broach the same mighty subject. For the sake of proper grammar and good editorial style, the title of his sermon is the title of this article, "You Cannot Whip Him," but the old preacher did not give out his sermon title that way. In his simplicity of speech he gave out the title to his annual sermon as "You Cain't Whup Him." I wish that I could have heard that sermon. God has blessed that simple thought to my heart since I first heard about the old man's sermon. (Of course we know that it was no accident that someone told me about the sermon!) Since the day that I heard about it, I have made it my business to preach "You Cain't Whup Him" in one way or another. Passionate and fervent, simple and yet eloquent, the grizzled old man preached as only a man of his ethnicity who is in love with his Subject can preach. If only across the breadth of America that message would resound today! "You Cain't Whup Him!" What a subject!

The text of his message was always the same. It was taken from Exodus 15:3: **"The LORD is a man of war..."** He could have used any number of other texts. He could have taken his text from the words of King Nebuchadnezzar. After God removed Nebuchadnezzar from being king and put him in the mental ward for seven years, God then gave

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# You Cannot Whip

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him his reason back. God did this all without any human reason or virtue in the king. He did it sovereignly because He took pleasure in doing what He did. Nebuchadnezzar learned at least a little in God's school and gave a report in class. He said that God's "...dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Daniel 4:34, 35). Nebuchadnezzar testified, "You Cain't Whup Him!" Nebuchadnezzar's words were the fulfillment of prophecy for his dream sent from God was for a purpose. Daniel told him of that purpose beforehand with these words, "... they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will" (Dan. 4:25). Daniel testified that "You Cain't Whup Him." God does as He pleases and according to His intelligent and all-wise plan!

The old preacher could have based his message on Daniel's words in chapter 2:20 & 21: "...Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding." The old preacher could have preached from Psalm 59:13 where we read, "... let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth. Selah" or from Psalm 103:19 which says, "The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all." The old man could have preached from Psalm 148:5-6: "Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created. He hath also

stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass." Another text which could have sounded out from that school house is Isaiah 14:27: "For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?" He could have taken his text from Isaiah 46:9, 10 where we read: "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." The old Brother, had he been led to do so could have preached one year from the text: "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph. 1:5). Or as a text he could have read Revelation 4:11: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." There are a myriad of other texts from God's Word that

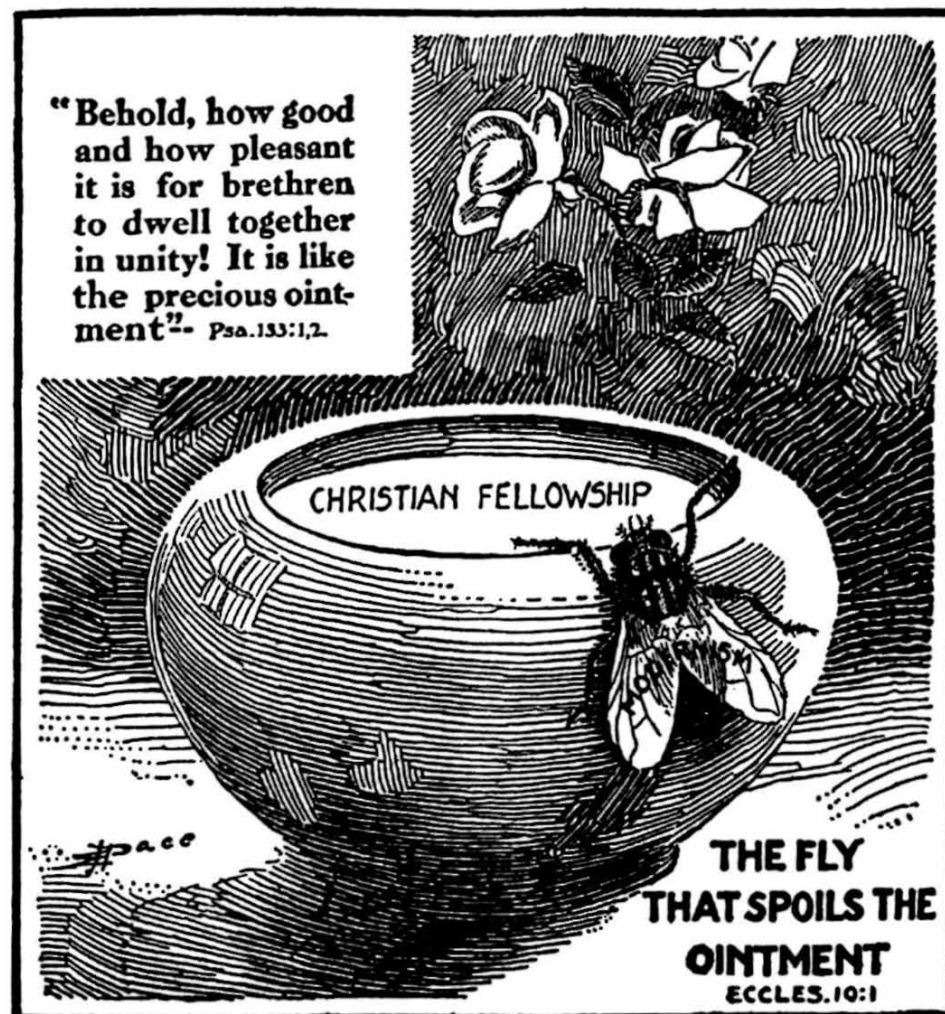
the old preacher could have used. But there is a common theme that runs throughout the passages quoted above: God is sovereign. God does as He pleases. God has a purpose and a plan that He alone formulated before He created the world. God has the ability to carry out that plan and is doing so. In the words of the old preacher, "You Cain't Whup Him!" The lesson throughout is expressed in Hebrews 12:9, "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?"

"Be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" What an awful thought to unregenerate men and women whether irreligious or professed Christians. The reason that the idea of being in subjection to God is repugnant to the natural man is "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). We are thankful that God has His remnant, but our heart-cry is this: Oh that God might be pleased to give repentance and true

revival to America! Is it possible that Americans might come to see that the old man spoke the truth when he proclaimed "You Cain't Whup Him?" Certainly it is possible. Neither Satan, the ACLU, godless men and women in high places of government, nor the religious apathy that surrounds us are a match for God! Hear me! "You Cain't Whup Him!" God can arrest a blasphemer and a persecutor of Christ's congregation and make a disciple and an apostle out of him. Paul learned that and throughout his letters runs the recurring theme of God's absolute sovereignty and predestination of all things. "You Cain't Whup Him" is underneath all of Paul's writings, all of the New Testament and indeed all the Bible. An honest reader cannot read even the first eleven chapters of Genesis without acknowledging that the God of the Bible is omnipotent and sovereign over all things. Besides Nebuchadnezzar, Jonah learned that "You Cain't Whup Him." Balaam learned it. Pharaoh learned it. The people of Jericho learned it as did those who built the tower in Babel and the scoffers in the days of Noah. Somebody said Noah's hammer rang out "judgment is coming." If it did, perhaps the water splashing against the ark sang "You Cain't Whup Him." The rich man in hades learned it as did the scoffing thief nailed up with Jesus. Those responsible for the nailing of Jesus Christ to the tree learned it when He resurrected. The Harlot and her Daughters shall learn it and if Lucifer himself does not yet know it, he shall because "You Cain't Whup Him."

Men and women may graduate from high school, from college or university and attend various commencement exercises, but most have never understood in their hearts the substance of the old man's sermon, "You Cain't Whup Him." Only the regenerated can learn the lesson of God's absolute sovereignty as taught in His school. Even in the selection of those who are allowed to matriculate in God's school, God is sovereign. Most men and women go through life, read their Bibles and attend what passes for preaching these days and yet never hear with

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# You Cannot Whip

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their inner ears – never perceive in their hearts – this great truth that God is sovereign. Some are willing to use the term and claim to believe in God's sovereign majesty, but not in the matter of salvation. Their god is not able to overcome the all-powerful and sovereign free will of man if you hear them tell it. They come up with all kinds of excuses to circumvent the fact that God is in control of all things – even in control of whom He saves. Not many are willing to preach that unregenerate humans are in active rebellion against God. Today, in most places, as one man said, "Preacher-ettes preach sermon-ettes and produce Christian-ettes." Easy-believe-ism and decisional-regeneration-ism (free-will-ism) are based on a false understanding of God and a false diagnosis of man's condition. Therefore most preachers prescribe a panacea – a home remedy that will not and does not and cannot raise spiritually dead sinners. But let those who are assured that they are numbered among God's remnant "according to the election of grace" follow the instructions to "lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet..." (See Romans 11:5 & Hebrews 12:12, 13). Remember the title of the old preacher's sermon, "You Cain't Whup Him." Our Lord Jesus Christ is going to return and straighten out the mess that we sinful men have made of His world. Let us not chafe at or be bitter because of what God is doing in His world. Kings (and presidents) rule not simply because of electoral majorities and not even because of corrupt Chicago political machines. Behind the scenes Lord God Jehovah of the Bible, ruler over all things, is bringing to pass His sovereign plan. It was revealed to Nebuchadnezzar that his experience was "...to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men" (Dan. 4:17). Surely the children of God have eyes to see that "the basest of men" who

rule over us are better than sinful Americans deserve. Thank God that we Americans are not experiencing the full fury of His righteous justice – not yet. But we know this: not a sparrow falls to the ground "without your Father" (Matt. 10:29). (That does not just mean without your Father knowing about it, it means what it says: "without your Father.") God is in control of all the tiny details of His creation which go to make up what we consider to be major events. Those of His children who understand these things can be encouraged and confident. We are in the battle on God's side and can glory in the knowledge that there is nothing that can "whup Him." **"Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee"** (Jer. 32:17).



## Jesus Christ Was An Immersionist---Seen In Three Cases

By James Whitsitt

The first case, respects His baptism of sufferings. **"But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished"** (Luke 12:50). This baptism is expressed, and seen in Psalm 69:1-2: **"Save me, O God: for the waters are come in unto my soul. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me."** Here is a description of Christ's baptism of sufferings, which accords with immersion and nothing else. And I will quote more from this Psalm, showing that the two first verses, have special reference to the

sufferings of Christ, verse 4, **"...they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away."** Jesus Christ tells us that this verse refers to Himself.

**"But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law. They hated me without a cause"** (John 15:25). Common sense applies this text to Christ for none restores to mankind that which He took not away, but Him. Verse 9, **"For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me."** **"And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up"** (John 2:17). **"For even Christ pleased not himself; but as it is written, The reproaches of them, that reproached thee fell on me"** (Rom. 15:3). Verse 21, **"They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."** **"They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink"** (Matt. 27:34). I have introduced testimony from both testaments, showing that this Psalm has reference to the sufferings of Christ, and the two first verses describe His sufferings in language expressive of immersion and that His sufferings, cannot be represented otherwise than by immersion.

Second, That Jesus Christ was an immersionist; I show by stating what He said of John's baptism. **"John truly baptized with water."** Washing is a consequent of baptism so that he who is baptized is washed. **"...Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water"** (Heb. 10:22). **"Be baptized, and wash away thy sins"** (Acts 22:16). **"And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins"** (Mark 1:5). **"And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized"** (John 3:23). John washed the people in the river of Jordan, but how did he wash them? Captain Naaman, can you not give us some instruction, on

this perplexing subject? **"And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God."** (II Kings 5:10, 14). The saying of the man of God, was to wash in Jordan, but Naaman "dipped" and "dipping" was according to the saying of the man of God, because it was the understanding of that day, that when a man washed himself, in a river, "he dipped himself," and it is the understanding now. As "dipping" was what Naaman was sent to do, when ordered to "wash" in Jordan, dipping or "immersion," was what John the Baptist "did do" when he washed the people in Jordan and Enon.

Third. Jesus Christ is seen to be an immersionist in the baptism of the Holy Ghost. **"For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence"** (Acts 1:5). *About ten days hence.* **"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost."** (Acts 2:1-4). I care not, in what mode the Holy Ghost is described, in descending into that house, whether by pouring, or otherwise, He filled all the house where they were sitting, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. If all the house was filled, there was no place in it not filled, and in this fullness the Apostles were, in which they were surrounded, overwhelmed, or "immersed."

I have now showed, from three cases, that Jesus Christ was an immersionist. If any man can take the three cases and reverse them, let him do it. But if that cannot be done, then it follows that when Jesus Christ ordered baptism to be administered He ordered immersion.

(The Baptist, Sept. 21, 1844).







## From the Pen of a Country Preacher

Milburn R. Cockrell  
(1941 - 2002)



### Are the Saints Now Reigning with Christ?

#### Part II

In this article I shall continue my search as to what the Bible teaches concerning the reign of the saints with Christ. As you no doubt noticed in my first installment, I am a staunch premillennialist without any apology. This has been my position for some thirty-five years. Unlike some of my brethren, I have seen much more light on premillennialism as the years have gone by, but I have not to date discovered any "new light" in the field of Eschatology. This is not to say that I have not read and studied books written by amillennialists. I have tried to give them a fair hearing.

I do not hate amillennialists. I know that some good and great Baptists of the past have lived and died either amillennialists or postmillennialists. However, good and great men can be wrong. The Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. These articles are not being written in malice toward those who disagree with me. They are being written to strengthen my premillennial brethren and to cause my amillennial brethren to rethink some of their views.

#### REVELATION 5:9-10

**"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."**

The ones who fell down before the Lamb and sang the song of redemption are in Heaven (Rev. 5:3, 6). These saints did not say, "We are now reigning in Heaven with Christ," but they said: **"We shall reign on the earth."** If they were then reigning with Christ in Heaven, why did they say: **"We shall reign on the earth"**? There is no way that this verse can be

reconciled with the teaching of amillennialism.

If these saints in Heaven are ever to reign on earth, then they must come back to earth from Heaven to do that reigning. How can they come back unless Christ returns and brings them with Him? Revelation 19:11-14 shows them coming back to earth with Christ from Heaven. When Christ returns to earth to reign He will bring these saints back with Him to reign over the nations on earth (Rev. 19:11-20:6).

Premillennialists do not have to give an assertion without proof for our belief. We take the Bible like it reads. The Bible says: **"We shall reign on the earth."** It is amillennialists who say: "We are now reigning with Christ." The Bible puts the reign of Christ and the saints in the future in passage after passage. Where is the passage that says the saints are now reigning with Christ? Or, which says the saints shall reign with Christ in Heaven after death? Premillennialists have plain and positive statements from the Bible that the saints shall in the future reign on the earth. We prove our position from Scripture, and we are not slow of heart to believe what the prophets have spoken.

The passage before us has been attacked by mid-tribbers and post-tribbers in the premillennial camp, not to mention the amillennialists. Pre-tribbers hold the twenty-four elders in Heaven represent the saints raised and raptured. Since they have crowns (Rev. 4:4, 10) and crowns are not given out until the Lord comes (II Tim. 4:8; I Pet. 5:4), this shows in the strongest possible way that the saints have been raised and raptured before this time. Opposers of pretribulationism know this, and so they try to overturn these plain words.

Alexander Reese, a bitter opponent of pretribulationism, admits: "That the opinion should arise that the Twenty-four Elders represent the saints risen and raptured, is natural enough in view of the ancient reading of Rev. V. 9-10. . . All of this has changed now. Both the R.V. and Amer. R. V., and every independent translation that has since appeared, have radically altered the reading and translation" (*The Approaching Advent of Christ*, pp. 91-92).

W. J. Erdman, an opponent of pretribulationism, made a statement to the effect that "if the reading of the Received Text was correct, the pre-tribulation view would rest on a firm foundation" (Cited by J. B. Smith in *A Revelation of Jesus Christ*, appendices, p. 337).

Opponents of pretribulationism make the elders symbolic of angels or something else. In order to do this they must resort to Roman Catholic Greek texts. In verse 9 they omit "us." Since the verb "redeemed" calls for an object, they supply the word "men," making it read: "And has redeemed men out of every nation." Is the overwhelming number of Greek manuscripts in favor of this change? Or, is there just mostly a preconceived doctrinal reason for doing this?

Out of a total of some three hundred authorities on the text in Revelation 5:9, only the Alexandrian manuscript in custody of the British Museum and the Ethiopic Version omit "us" in verse 9. That the Westcott-Hort Greek text is right in omitting "us" are two to three hundred! I do not know why any one would shun 298 authorities for two, unless he has a thesis to defend. No court of law would ever think of doing so.

The revisers and most modern translations follow the Westcott-Hort text by omitting "us." The King James Version follows the text preserved by the Waldenses. The Received Text has "us" in Revelation 5:9 as well as almost three hundred others. Why some want to throw away such numerous evidence in favor of a corrupt Roman Catholic text is a great marvel, and it shows the length to which some men will go to escape pretribulationism.

At least one man learned the fallacy

of the Revised rendering before his death. Robert Cameron, the editorial mouthpiece of the mid and post-trib theory, reversed his opinion on Revelation 5:9-10 prior to his departure from this world. His words are: "It is evident that the church is represented by the elders and living creatures, for they sing, 'Thou hast redeemed us unto God by Thy blood.'" In a footnote he adds: "Since the discovery of the Sinaitic manuscript, there can be no doubt that 'us' is the correct reading. The preponderance of evidence is over-whelming in favor of its retention" (*Watchword and Truth*, July, 1906).

Following the Westcott-Hort tradition, amillennialists have verse 10 to read: "And madest them to be unto our God a kingdom and priests; and they shall reign upon the earth." Until 1872 the passage read like our King James Version. Lobegott Friedrich Konstantin Von Tischendorf (1815-1874) in his eighth edition follows the Alexandrian manuscript and omits "us" in verse 9 and puts the last two verbs in the third person. This is but one of the 3,572 places in which Tischendorf departed from his previous edition of 1859. The Latin Version (fourth century), the Armenian Version (fifth century), Oecumenius Version (seventh century), Beatus Version (eighth century), Coptic Version, and Beza's Version (sixteenth century) all read like the King James Version.

Troubled by the plain words: **"We shall reign on the earth,"** amillennialists change the words to read "over the earth." It is interesting to note that the Confraternity Edition of the New Testament, a Catholic translation, renders Revelation 5:10: "And hast made them for our God a kingdom and priests, And they shall reign over the earth." This is done evidently to try to prove that the saints are now up in Heaven reigning over the earth in some sense. There is no need for this change. The phrase **"on the earth"** occurs sixty-four times in the New Testament, sixteen which are in the Book of Revelation. That the translation "over the earth" is an erroneous translation can be seen by trying it out in other passages (Matt.

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## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

### 1. Is a yet unsaved child of God a child of the devil? - Texas

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I would have to say that it would depend on whether you are looking at things from a human or Divine perspective. From the standpoint of human beings, all men who are unsaved are controlled and captivated in some measure by Satan. Ephesians 2:1-3 declares: **"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."** Before the elect were born again by the Spirit and given the gifts of repentance and faith in Christ, they were dead in sins, worldly, influenced by the spirit of Satan, living according to the lusts of the flesh, and by nature were accounted children of wrath. II Timothy 2:24-26 states: **"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."**

According to these verses those who instruct and witness to the lost must view them as being unrepentant, faithless, in the captivity of Satan, and in bondage to his evil will. When I am witnessing and preaching to the

lost, I have no idea whether they are elect or reprobate. My charge is to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15), to sow the good seed of the Word on all types of grounds (Matt. 13:1-9), and leave the results up to God (I Cor. 3:6-8). I regard every unsaved unbeliever as being under the wrath and condemnation of God. John 3:36 and 5:24 bear this out: **"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...Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."** Colossians 1:13 seems to indicate that before the elect were saved they were members of Satan's kingdom and under his control: **"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."**

From the Divine perspective, God alone knows who His children are. The Father chose them in Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3-7). The Lord Jesus Christ agreed to be the Surety and vicarious substitute for all that the Father chose and gave to Him to redeem in the Covenant of Grace before the world began (II Timothy 1:9; I Pet. 2:18-20). In the same eternal Covenant the Holy Spirit agreed to regenerate God's elect children in time, imparting to them spiritual life, the gifts of repentance and faith, and to act as the indwelling earnest of their inheritance (Eph. 1:8-14). God knows and loves His children with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3), so it is obvious that He regards them as His dear children from all eternity.

Since we do not know the secret things in the Covenant of Grace (Deut. 29:29) all we can do is respond to what is clearly revealed in God's Word. We do not know the difference between the elect and the reprobate

until the elect are brought to faith in Christ. Until that time, we must recognize them as sinners under the condemnation of the law who need Jesus Christ. As such, we must share the Gospel of grace with every man, woman, boy, and girl praying that God will call them out of darkness into the marvelous light of Jesus Christ (II Cor. 4:4-6).

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**"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do"** (John 8:44).

**"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins"** (Eph. 2:1).

**"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others"** (Eph. 2:2-3).

I would answer this question yes and no! As far as God is concerned all of His elect were no doubt saved in Him (Jesus Christ) before the foundation of the world, before we were ever born. Read the first chapter of Ephesians.

As far as we are concerned, (those of us that are saved) we did the work of Satan until God revealed Himself to us in the person of Jesus Christ, at least that is what we believe Paul is saying in (Galatians 1:15-16).

Because of our depraved nature we will do the work of the evil one, knowing only to do evil, until that appointed time when we are saved and have the victory over death. I do not fear death now that I am saved, because I know I will live with Him forever, and ever, and ever (throughout all eternity), spiritually I shall never die, because Jesus

conquered **"death and the grave"** for me!

**"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"** (I Cor. 15:55, 57).

**"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"** (I John 5:4).

Whose will was it that Saul (Paul) followed to persecute the Lord's church? **"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief"** (I Tim. 1:12-13).

That is what Paul is saying to the church at Ephesus, in times past ye (all of God's elect) walked according to the prince of the power of the air, and that is none other than the devil himself (Ephesians 2:2).

**"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus"** (Eph. 2:4-7). Is not that wonderful, **"but God"**?

There are others out there that are God's elect that are doing the will of their **"father the devil"**, let us tell them what He has done for us, that they might come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ! God Bless!

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**"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not**

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## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. In I Corinthians 15:22 we are told **"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."** If this verse means we all like Adam will die, does it not also mean that all will be made alive (saved) in Christ? If this verse is correct, does it not mean that everyone will be saved? Please notice the use of the word **"all."** - Mississippi

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The context of I Corinthians chapter 15 clearly indicates that there is a distinct difference between the federal headship of Adam which would include all men except Christ Jesus who was born of a virgin, and the federal headship of Christ which would include all the elect who are brought to faith in the Gospel (15:1-3). All men in Adam are sinners (Rom. 5:12). All the elect are in Christ from the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3-7; II Tim. 1:9) and will be blessed with the ultimate victory of resurrection glory (15:50-58). The key phrases are in Adam and in Christ. All men are in Adam by way of federal headship, but only the elect chosen in Christ are made alive spiritually in regeneration and given the faith to believe the Gospel in conversion. Thus there is a vast difference between the two federal heads of Adam and Jesus Christ. Judas Iscariot was in Adam, but never in Christ. That is why he died in his sins and went to his own place in hell to await the judgment of Revelation 20:11-15.

The word all is often limited by its context and in light of the rest of Scripture. We know that all men will not be spiritually made alive in Christ because it is clearly revealed that there will be a multitude of unsaved, spiritually dead people who will be raised in their corruptible bodies to face the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15) to determine their punishment in the eternal lake of fire. Only those in

Christ, whose names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life will escape this ultimate judgment.

In Luke 2:1 and 3 it states: **"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed...And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city."** Here the word all is limited by its context. All the world did not heed the decree of Caesar, only those of the then known world that were under his dominion. The native Americans didn't heed his call to cross the ocean to be taxed.

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I have taken notice of the word all and yes it really does mean "all." I will say that you have not taken notice of the word "resurrection" in the preceding verse. **"For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead"** (I Cor. 15:21), the word "all" is referring to all of mankind, just as the words "resurrection of the dead" is referring to "all" the dead of mankind. The context of the letter is written to the church at Corinth who were baptized believers, informing them there really was a resurrection of the dead. This passage is not talking about people getting saved nor is it talking about universal salvation. The Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is making a generalized statement about two resurrections. The first resurrection is the resurrection unto life.

**"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:**

**on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years"** (Rev. 20:6), and the second is unto death, these will be raised for one reason, to be judged and thrown into the lake of fire for eternity. **"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"** (Rev. 20:15).

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I have to honestly say this question makes my blood boil because many times it is asked to start a debate or argument. On the other hand, I hope that is not the case here and the questioner really does not know the answer and is seeking to find it!

The reason the question is so upsetting to me (if it is asked to spark an argument) is we used to sit in the lunch room where I worked and several men were there representing many different denominations and this was the most disagreeable and most argued subject. I would never get involved in the discussion, but would listen intently and then go home and read my Bible and/or call my pastor to discuss the topic at hand.

If the questioner has asked this question to spark a fight, then we can only say, SHAME ON YOU! But if asked as we stated earlier, that you do not know, than we will try to give an answer that we hope will be suitable.

I am not a Greek scholar or English major by any stretch of the imagination, so I will not bore the reader with an attempt to put that into the answer concerning the word **"all,"** but would encourage, as we have in the past, to study this beyond our answer. Hopefully one or all of the other three Brethren will elaborate on it more.

Any time we speak of Adam we automatically think of every single person that is born into this world. So when Paul uses the word **"all"** when he speaks of Adam, that is what

he is referring to, the **"all"** that is in Adam, meaning every single person that has been born into this world! So as our text says, **"For as in Adam all die"**, which consists of two deaths, physically and spiritually. And since we know that we **"all"** die physically, for that is one appointment we will all keep, we will direct the reader's attention to the spiritual part of man. **"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons"** (Gen. 3:7). This is Scripture that is proof that they did not die right away physically but spiritually, because God said of that day they would eat from the forbidden tree, they would surely die. So the immediate death they sustained that instant was spiritual.

So there should be no quarrel over that every single person who ever lived including those yet to be born are **"all"** born with the Adamic nature, they are **"all"** sinners and depraved creatures.

**"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Rom. 3:23).

**"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law"** (Rom. 5:12-13).

**"Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come"** (Rom. 5:14).

**"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear**

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## Forum #1

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**righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother**" (I John 3:10).

The Elect of God, before the love of God is manifest to them by the Holy Spirit, has no inclination of doing the works of God. The term "child of the Devil" or "of your father the Devil" is reference to your works. The influence that Satan has over the lost, the imitation of Satan and desires that are accomplished by the lost give way to the fact all the lost, elect or reprobate, should be recognized as the children of the Devil.

**"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others"** (Eph. 2:2-3).

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**"He that committeth sin is of the devil... In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother"** (I John 3:8, 10). I use this passage to show that "children of God" and "children of the devil" are two distinct and separate entities. Possibly a more clear perspective on the question at hand might be: "Were we that are the children of God, the veritable children of the devil before salvation?" Selah! Think about it!

The answer to that question (and therefore the original) is yes. In fact, this is a necessary and relevant question that is of paramount importance to every lost and perishing 'child of the devil'! One might ask, "Is

that me? Am I a child of the devil?" The answer must be- "...if you are not a saved child of God, then, yes, you are a child of the devil!" The Bible declares: **"Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. ...Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it"** (John 8:42-44).

What a wondrous transformation takes place in salvation! By the astounding grace of God, we are ADOPTED into the family of God! **"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son"** (Col. 1:13). This adoption requires the breaking of the old family bond and this is pictured time after time in Scripture, **"Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house"** (Matt. 12:29). Jesus Christ came to this earth to **"bind the strong man"** and capture a people unto Himself!

Perhaps the clearest picture of adoption comes in Galatians 4:1-7, **"Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."**

**"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba,**

**Father. ...Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God"** (Rom. 8:15, 21).

One point that needs to be made clear, is that nobody is ever saved by election alone. The thought processes of the question of "unsaved children of God," lead many folk astray and some might say that a child of God is marked from his birth by salvation. That is incorrect chronology. Election and predestination are ALWAYS Biblically UNTO salvation, not the manifestation of salvation itself. The irresistible call of TULIP is just as necessary to salvation as the unconditional election and limited atonement are! And just as sure! But just because it is sure, negates in no way the process carried out by our triune God to not only choose and die for "His people," but also regenerate a life out of the death of total depravity!

This timeline is carried out in Scripture in Ephesians 2:1-5, **"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"** Selah! Think about it!

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## Forum #2

(Continued from page 111) ♦

**of God before their eyes. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God"** (Rom. 3:10-19).

Now for the second part of this verse, **"even so in Christ shall all**

**be made alive."** Let me just say first to remind the reader that the Bible was not written to the lost but only to God's people, plus take into consideration that the text here in question (I Corinthians 15:22) was written to the Corinthian church, those that have been saved by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, who are God's elect. It is a personal letter to believers so the word **"all"** here is not **"all"** without exception but to those whom Christ died for. If **"all"** were **"made alive"** then **"Judas"**, the other **"thief"**, that was not going to be in paradise with the Lord (Luke 23:43), and the **"rich man"** in (Luke 16), would be in glory instead of hell. If **"all"** is **"all"** without exception then why is hell ever increasing in size? (Isaiah 5:14) **"Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it."** And keep in mind that the expression **"made alive"** is never used of unbelievers (John 5:21; 6:63; Rom. 8:11; I Cor. 15:45).

This is the difference between the Arminian and true Baptist! The Arminian wants to say **"all"** without exception and we Baptists believe the Bible teaches that the **"all"** are the elect of God. Let me list a few Scriptures that will prove my point.

**"And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did"** (John 4:39).

**"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call"** (Acts 2:39).

**"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God"** (Rom. 8:14).

**"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings"** (Heb. 2:10).

**"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).

What I would like the reader to

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## Forum #2

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notice in these verses is the word **"many"**, I might not know the full use of the word **"all"** but I do know that Christ died for the **"many"**, and not for the **"all"**! Again we would encourage the reader to do a study on the **"many"** versus the word **"all"**!

Not to be sarcastic here, but John 10:27-28 says, **"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."** The Arminian would have you believe **"all"** will be saved if they **"Will it"** because they say we are **"all"** His sheep without exception. In my opinion, that is totally absurd. Jesus said, (John 5:40) **"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."** Read the rest of the chapter if you would please. Let me leave the questioner and you dear reader with these three questions!

First, Did Christ die and shed His blood for **"all"** the sins of **"all"** the people?

Second, Did Christ die and shed His blood for some of the sins of **"all"** the people?

Third, Did Christ die and shed His blood for **"all"** the sins of some of the people?

We believe the latter, He died for **"all"** the sins of some of the people, the elect of God, those that the Father gave Him and none of His elect will perish for they will **"all"** be saved. **"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed"** (Acts 13:48). God Bless!

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To quote your question, you asked if **"we all like Adam will die"**, then asked if **"all will be made alive"**. My question to you is what is the difference between the two statements? In the

first phrase, you limited the word **"all"** with the word **"we"**. Therefore **"we all died"**. If you had carried through with the same qualifier, then the second phrase would read: **"we all will be made alive"**. Selah! Think about it!

As the beloved reader would study the word **"all"** in the Word of God (or really, any book), it will be noted that the word rarely means **"all without exception"**. A couple of examples are Mark 1:5, **"And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins."** In the first usage, the word logically does not mean **"all without exception"** or we would have to understand that every house was empty, every citizen, sick or poor or working- all came to Christ. While remotely possible, this is not what is implied, nor what we would typically infer from such a statement. We understand the word to mean **"virtually all"** or it **"seems like EVERYBODY is here!"** The second usage of the word states that they **"were all baptized of him"**, which we again know that every one without exception is not the case. Read in the context where John refused baptism to the Pharisees, etc. What the meaning of the word many times is **"all without distinction"** rather than **"all without exception"**, meaning that **"all kinds"** of folk were baptized. See this further illustrated in Matthew 13:46, **"Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."** Again, with the clothes still on his back, the word **"all"** conveys the thought of the preeminence of this pearl over **"all"** his possessions.

Back in the text chapter, we see the point of the word **"all"** in the first verse of the chapter. **"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand"** (I Cor. 15:1). Four times, the apostle is addressing this chapter to the **"you and ye"** that are saved by the gospel. So keeping the chapter in context, Paul never leaves this thought of a particular people, that have experienced a common salvation. Thus in our text verse, we understand it to say **"For as in Adam all (of us) die, even so in Christ shall**

**all (of us) be made alive."** This is the logical use of the word and it also fits with the rest of Scripture! Selah! Think about it!

For the second part of the question, let me state two things. First of all, this verse IS correct! I find it necessary to repeat this often, because so many question God's inerrant Word in this generation. Be not deceived! Any misunderstanding concerning Scripture means the fault lies with incorrect interpretations and flawed understandings. God's Word is perfect and perfectly seamless!

Secondly, the questioner is correct! In so many modern folks theology, they are Arminian in that they believe in a general atonement. Do you, beloved reader, believe that Jesus Christ died for the sins of **"all"**? If indeed you believe that He died for **"all without exception"**, then YES! **"All without exception"** will be waiting in glory for our arrival! If Christ died for **"all without exception"** then that is the teaching of Romans 8:30, **"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."** Selah! Think about it!

However, since universal redemption is NOT true with the rich man, Judas and Pharaoh currently suffering in Hell, the limited atonement is obviously Bible truth. In this case, Christ died for **"all of us"** and in other broader instances **"all without distinction"**, typically that distinction being between Jew and Gentile.

Arminianism, if true, would mean that all will be justified, but that God would (in double jeopardy) send some (justified) folk to Hell, because they (of their vaunted free will) didn't choose Christ. The only other option is that (somehow) Christ died for ALL sins without exception, but the sin of unbelief. Free will then sends multitudes to Hell justly for that sin of rejection. How those that exercise their free will toward God have that sin of rejection (at least up to that time in their life where they ACCEPT God's gift) paid for, I have never heard tell. Certainly if Christ didn't pay for ALL of their sins, they are not sinless saints headed for glory. Selah! Think about it!

The Bible clearly teaches that ALL without exception or distinction fell in Adam and are headed toward Hell. The Bible also clearly teaches that ALL of God's election without exception or distinction had their redemption purchased by the blood of Christ! The Bible NO WHERE teaches that Christ died for ALL humanity without exception, but in many places teaches that He shed His blood for ALL kinds of humanity, without distinction to anything except His sovereign pleasure. Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP



## Saints Now Reigning

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6:10, 19; 16:19; Rev. 3:10; 5:3; 6:10; 7:1; 8:13).

Premillennialists do not need the help of questionable manuscripts to prove our doctrine. We stay with the Greek text preserved by the Waldenses. We believe exactly what the King James Version says in Revelation 5:9-10. The Received Text declares that the saints shall reign on the earth. We do not interpret this, strictly speaking; we just take it as it reads.

### REVELATION 20:4-6

It is strange to me that Revelation 20:4-6 has been made a theological battleground for centuries. Amillennialists, postmillennialists, and premillennialists hold different views as to the meaning of these words from the inspired pen of the Apostle John. Later I shall comment on some of the other views, but first I want to establish the premillennial position as I see it to be.

### VERSE 4

**"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their forehead, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."**

In the later part of chapter 19 John

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described Christ's glorious second coming with all His saints to "smite the nations" and to "rule them with a rod of iron" (Rev. 19:11-21). In chapter 20, verses 1 to 3, he tells of the binding of Satan for a thousand years. Then comes our verse to study. No text should be separated from its context.

John describes two groups in Revelation 20:4. The first group is sitting on thrones and are given the power to judge: **"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them; and judgment was given unto them. . ."** This is the first company described after John said: **"I saw."** The second company is described after the second **"I saw"** of John in verse 4: **". . .and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus. . ."** The first company is not said to be resurrected, nor is it said that they lived during the time of the reign of the Beast. Nevertheless, the second company is said to live in the sense of a bodily resurrection after being beheaded for their faith in Jesus Christ. The second company lived during the reign of the Beast and were executed by beheading at the hands of the Beast.

Who is this first company who are throne-sitters? The only possible antecedent of the pronoun "they" is the armies of Heaven in Revelation 19:14). this first company is the saints caught out at the Rapture before the seven-year tribulation, and they have been in Heaven with Christ. This is the saints who come from Heaven with Christ in Revelation 19. Christ comes from Heaven to **"judge and make war"** (Rev. 19:11). The Bible tells us that Christ is to judge the living and the dead at His appearing and kingdom (II Tim. 4:1; Matt. 25:31-46; James 5:9). Christ is coming back to this world with His saints to execute judgment upon it: **"Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment. . ."** (Jude 14-15).

When Christ comes back to this earth He will judge the nations on earth (Gen. 18:25; Ps. 9:7-8; 67:4; 82:8; 96:10-13; 98:9; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-7; 11:1-4; Jer. 23:5; Joel 3:12; John 5:22;

Acts 17:31; 10:42; James 5:9; Jude 14-15; Rev. 19:11) the saints will join with Christ in executing judgment and justice in the earth. **"And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel"** (Matt. 19:28). This verse proves that when Christ sits on His throne the saints will also sit upon their thrones. Paul asked the Corinthians: **"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels?"** (I Cor. 6:2-3). You will note that Paul put this judgeship of the saints in the future tense: **"the saints shall judge"** and **"the world shall be judged by you."**

If the judgeship of the saints was future in Paul's day, then at what future time will it be? The Bible gives some clear answers. It will be when the saints possess the kingdom and Antichrist is dethroned and Christ is enthroned (Dan. 7:13-14, 21-27). It will be when Christ sits upon His glorious throne (Matt. 19:28). It will be when Christ comes from Heaven with all His saints to judge (Rev. 19:11, 14). It will be at the first resurrection at the same time that the saints reign with Christ (Rev. 20:4-6). The judgeship of the saints occurs at the same time of the reign of the saints, and the Scriptures join those together. This judgeship is not limited to a few, but embraces all the saints of the Old and New Testaments: **"To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints"** (Ps. 149:9).

We are absolutely forbidden to engage in personal judgment in this present age (Matt. 7:1-2; Rom. 2:1; 14:3-4, 10, 13; I Cor. 4:3-5; James 4:11-12). Paul told the Corinthians: **"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come. . ."** This verse teaches two things: First, we are not to judge at this present time. Second, we will execute judgment when the Lord comes. So we can be sure that the Lord has come in Revelation 20:4 if the saints are judging.

The throne-sitters of Revelation 20:4 must be the saints who come with Christ from Heaven. Thrones are promised to the saints (Matt. 19:28; Luke 22:29-30). Also the power to judge is promised to the saints (Ps. 149:5-9; Matt. 19:28; 24:46-47; Luke 19:17; I Cor. 6:2-3; Rev. 1:6; 2:26-27). These throne-sitters cannot be angels: **"For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak"** (Heb. 2:5).

The first company are already raised from the dead, and they are sitting on thrones. The second company is seen in their resurrection. These are the tribulation martyrs: **"And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."** This company had died as martyrs for the witness of Jesus and the Word of God. John tells us they had been beheaded before the time that they are said to live. John first sees them disembodied because they had been beheaded, and then he says that these beheaded ones lived. A beheaded martyr for his faith can only live in a physical sense, unless one holds to "falling from grace." They are called "souls" to identify them as the martyrs who have been earlier mentioned in Revelation (6:9; 7:9-17; 13:15-17). The meaning is that they came to life again (John 11:25; 14:19); they lived as complete men---no longer without their heads.

Contrary to the opinion of some, these are not the martyrs of all ages. These martyrs all lived during the reign of the Beast. Pay attention to the words: **". . .which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands. . ."** Beast worship does not begin until the middle of the week, or the last three and one-half years of the tribulation. We are told of the False Prophet: **"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would**

**not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bound, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name"** (Rev. 13:15-17). Since the Beast is to have power only for 42 months (Rev. 13:5), these must have died during the last three and one-half years of the seven-year tribulation period.

There is a translation of living saints mentioned in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 as well as a resurrection of living saints, but there is no translation of living saints at the end of the tribulation. There is only a resurrection of tribulation martyrs who lived during the reign of the Beast. This post-trib resurrection was mentioned earlier in Revelation 11:15-18, and it is said to occur when the reign of Christ begins. Please note that the resurrection in Revelation 11:18 concerns **"the dead,"** and there is no translation of living saints mentioned in it. This is because the translation and resurrection of the other saints occurred prior to the time of Revelation 20:4 at the pre-trib Rapture.

James Oliver Buswell some years ago made an interesting observation on Revelation 20:4. He wrote: "The word 'soul' is a feminine noun. John did not say, 'I saw souls and they were alive and reigned.' If he had meant that, he would have had to use a feminine pronoun. The pronoun translated 'which' in the King James Version would be rendered 'who' in modern English. It does not refer to souls as such, for then it would have to be feminine in form, *haitines*; but if is masculine, *hoitines*. It refers to the 'beheaded people.' It was the 'beheaded,' not just souls, who lived and reigned" (*A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*, Vol. II, p. 493).

**"I saw the souls of them which were beheaded. . .and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."** The tribulation martyrs will reign in the kingdom with Christ. If the martyred saints of the tribulation period are to reign with Christ, they must have

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a resurrection prior to that reign. The church, Israel, other saints, and the tribulation saints are all to reign with Christ for the period of one thousand years on the earth. The words, "**with Christ**," in verse 4 is death to postmillennialism. They say the saints will reign 1,000 years "without" Christ. How could you have a kingdom without the King?

In the next issue I will discuss verses 5 and 6 of Revelation 20. I will also examine the amillennial interpretation of Revelation 20:4-6. Be sure to read the next issue.



GLAZING



## Contentment

By Florella

Who are the happy, who the cheerful ones? Those upon whose cheeks repose, the sweet and placid smiles of contentment? Those whose hearts are filled with gratitude and love to their Maker. Behold the contented man! No change of fortune, or circumstances, can render him long unhappy. The peaceful smiles of tranquility, ever mantle on his cheek. Radiant beams of joy emanate from his countenance, and he is a happy being. Though lurid clouds may occasionally obscure his pathway, and the sad frowns of adversity, dim his mental sky; yet, like morning dews, (dissolving before the rays of the genial sun,) they soon pass away, and leave a calm and resigned will, to the dispensations of a super-ruling Providence.

While in this transitory mode of existence, there are none exempt from disappointment. There are none from whose eyes the tears of grief have never fallen. Sorrow, affliction, and disappointment, are all incidental to life. It is requisite

too, that we should be afflicted, to teach us our dependence on God, and subordination to Him. Did the stream of life always pursue the same unruffled channel; was our pathway always a delightful and flowery plain, interspersed with variegated beauties and richly strewn with roses; did no emotion ever vibrate discordantly, on the peaceful tenor of our minds, our complaining natures would not appreciate the continued blessings. By interspersing with our joys, some of the sorrows incident to the human family, we can better realize the change, and be more grateful when those sorrows are removed.

Those who have experienced the bitter pangs of corroding grief, can, after a mitigation of their sorrows, feel more sensibly the alleviation, and can rejoice more at the anticipation of returning joys. But there are some naturally, that the trivial afflictions, casual to all, have but little bearing upon their minds. In glancing at the future, they ever view the fair side of the picture; though that is not always pleasant to persons of a different disposition; for they frequently anticipate much bliss, and then to be disappointed in their bright imaginings, is exceedingly painful.

Disappointments are grievous, yet they often prove blessings to us. Did we always view our afflictions rightly, and consider them as sent by a just and righteous Being, Who can see into futurity, Who knows our frailties, and understands the means by which they may be corrected, we would not be so prone to murmur and repine at His chastisements. Did we impute them to some wise purpose, instead of viewing them as detrimental, we might be humbled and benefited by them. But we are so worldly minded, and pertinacious in our dispositions, that we are disposed to cavil and fret, whenever the least thwarted in the accomplishment of our designs. We should be vigilant in guarding against such a disposition. By indulging it we augment our own sorrows; but by cultivating a cheerful and contented mind, a desire to please others, and a disposition to be pleased ourselves, the various vicissitudes of life, the precariousness of fortune, and the sad frowns of adversity, would not long intimidate us with misgivings of

the goodness, power and wisdom of an infinitely merciful God.

It is an old but true maxim, what--- "A contented mind is a continual feast." Blessed with this, the poor man's home, no matter how humble, becomes an earthly Eden; his children are cheerful and happy; his formidable enemy, poverty, may assail his door, but so long as he has food, and raiment, he heeds him not. But often while the poor man, in his humble cottage, is contented and thankful to God for his homely meal, we behold the rich in abodes of splendid misery. We see one highly gifted and accomplished, blessed with every comfort; surrounded with all

the luxuries that a bountiful Heaven could bestow; caressed and flattered; no want unheeded; every earthly desire gratified; admired, loved, and almost idolized; visiting the scenes of gayety and festivity; mingling in the dance; laughing, talking and jesting with animation; yet he is not happy! And why is he? His heart is not right; there is a blank within. He has no religion; and how can he be happy or contented? There is no real enjoyment, exempt from a desire to do good, and please God.

(The Baptist, Nov. 30, 1844).



**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.

## MORMONS SPEAK ON SCOUT PROPOSAL

(WNS)--The Mormons have given a lukewarm blessing to the latest proposal by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to lift its gay ban for youth members while continuing to exclude homosexual leaders. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints posted a statement on its website Thursday saying the BSA has made a "thoughtful, good-faith effort to address issues that, as they have said, remain among the most complex and challenging issues facing the BSA and society today." John Stemberger of the group OnMyHonor.net called the Mormon statement "perplexing and noncommittal." He said a survey done by the Salt Lake Council, one of the largest Scout councils in the nation, indicate that an overwhelming majority (82 percent) "opposed a policy change allowing open homosexuality in the BSA" and that 47 percent said they would leave Scouting if such a change was made. "The LDS church's statement is both perplexing and non-committal because it neither endorses nor condemns the proposed BSA resolution which requires every Scouting unit to accommodate open homosexuality among Boy Scouts who identify as openly gay. Regardless of what

might be said about the decision-making process, we believe this cleverly-worded resolution tries to dodge criticism from gay activists but still creates a myriad of problems for how to manage and ensure the safety and security of the boys in the program. The current membership policy has stood the test of time and should remain as is and we call on all of those affiliated with the Boy Scouts to express their support for it. It is disappointing the LDS church did not give a more definitive statement and express concern for young boys in the BSA.

## A "SAD DAY" FOR SCOUTING

(WNS)--In a move that will undoubtedly have sweeping implications for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the more than 1,400 delegates gathered in Grapevine, Texas, near Dallas, at the BSA's national meeting Thursday passed a resolution that will allow homosexual boys to participate fully in its programs. More than 60 percent of the delegates voted for the proposal.

Homosexual adults will still be banned from leadership in Scouting.

Reaction from both sides of the controversy was swift. The pro-homosexual Human Rights Campaign issued a statement saying the vote was

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a “historic step forward.” The group also signaled its commitment to continue the fight to force the Scouts to accept homosexual leaders: “Unfortunately, the new policy does not go far enough, leaving adult Eagle Scouts, Scout leaders, and parents behind.”

John Stemberger, founder of OnMyHonor.Net, a group opposed to the change, said he felt “sadness and deep disappointment” that the “most influential youth program in America has turned a tragic corner. The vote today to allow open and avowed homosexuality into Scouting will completely transform it into an unprincipled and risky proposition for parents. It is truly a sad day for Scouting.” He added, “The BSA is teaching our kids that when your values become unpopular, just change them.”

The Family Research Council (FRC) has also opposed the change, hosting several high-profile events over the past month to mobilize conservatives and Christians. “The Boy Scouts has for decades been a force for moral integrity and leadership in the United States,” FRC President Tony Perkins said, but added, “It is clear that the current BSA leadership will bend with the winds of popular culture, and the whims of liberal special interest groups.” Scouts, he said, have “capitulated to strong-arm tactics.”

Stemberger of OnMyHonor.Net said the planning for another youth organization to provide an alternative to the Boy Scouts is already underway. He will convene a group on June 29 in Louisville, Ky., to “discuss the creation of a new character development organization for boys.” Stemberger said the meeting would be a “national coalition meeting of former BSA parents and other youth leaders who wish to return to truly timeless values that once made the BSA great.”

### COURT QUESTIONS COMPELLING INTEREST FOR GAY THERAPY BAN

(WNS)--A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments Wed., Apr. 17, about California’s ban on sexual orientation change therapy targeting minors. The appeals court is considering two challenges to the law which resulted in conflicting rulings last December: A California federal judge granted one

lawsuit a preliminary injunction, ruling the law violates First Amendment rights, while another judge denied an injunction in the second lawsuit, saying the government had enough grounds to discredit the therapy. The ban, which was supposed to go into effect Jan. 1, has been put on hold pending the court’s decision. The main issue revolved around whether therapy encouraging minors to resist their same-sex attraction was considered a type of speech, which would be protected by the First Amendment, or a conduct, which the government can more easily regulate. The panel, which includes two judges appointed by Democrats and one by a Republican, has not taken any action yet and will issue a written ruling later.

### OBAMA ADMINISTRATION FAILS OBSCENITY TEST

(WNS)--Los Angeles is the capital of the movie industry, attracting a steady stream of both tourists and would-be stars. But the city’s lesser known title is capital of the pornography business. Most pornographic activity goes unchecked, although in January a federal court in Los Angeles sentenced “shock artist” Ira Isaacs to four years in prison for distributing obscene films depicting adults engaged in bestiality and scatology. Isaacs, a 60-year-old filmmaker from the South Bronx, N.Y., set up shop in Los Angeles in 1999 to advertise and sell fetish porn on numerous websites. The videos included one “approximately two hours in length of a female engaging in sex acts involving human bodily waste and a video one hour and 37 minutes in length of a female engaged in sex acts with animals,” according to a press release by the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS) of the U.S. Department of Justice, which prosecuted the case. But under the Obama administration, Isaacs’s case is the exception rather than the norm. Only two adult obscenity cases, including Isaacs’, have been prosecuted since President Barack Obama took office, and both were indicted under the Bush administration, according to Morality in Media president Pat Trueman.

### BILLIONAIRE REPUBLICAN FORMS PRO-HOMOSEXUAL PAC

(WNS)--A billionaire hedge fund manager, Paul Singer, has formed American Unity PAC. American Unity PAC supports Republican candidates who support marriage between homosexuals. The group has already spent more than \$250,000 in Minnesota,

where the Legislature could vote on the issue as early as next week, as well as \$500,000 elsewhere, including Rhode Island, Delaware, Indiana, West Virginia and Utah. Minnesota will be a good “control” case to see if all this money has an effect. So far, only one Minnesota Republican lawmaker has committed to voting to legalize gay marriage: Sen. Branden Petersen, of Andover. American Unity PAC will likely claim credit for any additional Republican legislators who cast a pro-homosexual marriage vote. Rick Santorum, on the other hand, recently told the Des Moines Register the issue is trendy, not lasting. He also said he thinks most in Republican Party leadership knows this and won’t really push for changes to GOP’s current position on gay marriage. He said standing strong for traditional marriage is “foundational” to the party’s principles.

### BENNY HINN ASKS FOR HELP WITH “WALL OF DEBT”

(WNS)--Prosperity gospel preacher Benny Hinn is apparently deep in debt and wants his donors to help bail him out. According to The Christian Post, “Hinn has asked supporters of his ministry for \$2.5 million in donations, which he says an anonymous donor will match dollar by dollar to help him get out of debt.” “God wants your ministry to be completely out of debt, and I want to plant an anointed seed that will help you take a giant step toward becoming totally debt-free!” says the anonymous man, whom Hinn calls a “long-time and beloved” friend. This is not the first time Hinn has been embroiled in controversy regarding money. He was one of the “Grassley Six” televangelists the Senate Finance Committee investigated in 2008 and 2009. Hinn repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, and – in part because of the financial crisis, which distracted the members of the Finance Committee – no charges were ever filed as a result of that investigation.

### DOJ APPEALS LIFTING AGE LIMITS FOR “MORNING AFTER” PILL

(WNS)--The U.S. Justice Department is appealing a judge’s decision to remove all age restrictions on the so-called “morning-after” pill, signaling the Obama administration’s intention to continue opposing young teens’ unfettered access to the drug. The decision to appeal comes just one day after the Food and Drug Administration said the drug should be

available over-the-counter without a prescription to girls as young as 15. The Health and Human Services Department previously vetoed a similar attempt by the FDA to make the drug, sold under brand names like Plan B and Ella, more widely available. Women must now be 17 or older to purchase the drug without a prescription and must request it from a pharmacist who is required to check I.D. A New York judge ruled last month that the government needed to make the drug available to anyone, regardless of age.

### REAR ADMIRAL VOWS TO CONTINUE SHARING FAITH

(WNS)--Faith in the military took center stage Thursday at the 62nd observance of the National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C., as lawmakers and faith leaders gathered on Capitol Hill. After a series of speakers addressed those gathered at the Cannon Office Building, U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. William D. Lee, took the microphone to represent Americans serving in the military. Lee told the crowd he had 10 minutes of carefully prepared remarks, but he decided to leave them in his chair and “speak from the heart” instead. Lee, who described himself as “a man of deep abiding faith who happens to wear a uniform,” went on to defy any efforts to stop military personnel from openly sharing their Christian faith—a topic sparking widespread controversy in the media this week. Lee received several standing ovations during his brief remarks. He requested prayer for Christian military personnel to “weather the storm that I am almost certain will come.”

### FULL COURT PRESS ON CHRIS BROUSSARD OVER COMMENTS ON HOMOSEXUALITY

(WNS)--ESPN analyst and sportswriter Chris Broussard is feeling the heat after calling homosexuality a sin during a televised discussion. Broussard, a well-known and committed Christian who has written about his beliefs before, was asked to comment on NBA player Jason Collins’ announcement that he is gay. In an article for Sports Illustrated published online Monday, Collins talked about his sexuality and his belief in God. During the ESPN program Outside the Lines, which also featured sportswriter LZ Granderson, who is openly gay, the host asked Broussard to comment on Collins’ claim to be a Christian. “Personally, I

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don't believe that you can live an openly homosexual lifestyle or an openly premarital sex between heterosexuals, if you're openly living that type of lifestyle, then the Bible says you know them by their fruits, it says that's a sin," Broussard said. "If you're openly living in unrepentant sin, whatever it may be, not just homosexuality, adultery, fornication, premarital sex between heterosexuals, whatever it may be, I believe that's walking in open rebellion to God and to Jesus Christ. I would not characterize that person as a Christian because I do not think the Bible would characterize them as a Christian." In a statement released after the show, ESPN distanced itself from Broussard: "We regret that a respectful discussion of personal viewpoints became a distraction from today's news. ESPN is fully committed to diversity and welcomes Jason Collins' announcement."

### USCIRF PRESSES KERRY ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WORLDWIDE

(WNS)--The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) released its annual report in early May, detailing the plight of persecuted religious peoples around the globe. The 364-page report takes a new two-tier approach to the worst religious freedom offenders. Tier 1 includes 15 countries, eight of which the U.S. State Department has designated as Countries of Particular Concern (CPC): Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan. USCIRF also recommends the State Department issue CPC classification to seven other nations: Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam. USCIRF chair Katrina Lantos Swett told WORLD in a phone interview that the U.S. government should make religious freedom a higher priority, given it is not only a moral goal but also a national security goal to combat extremism. "Pursuing religious freedom helps solve those other issues," she said.

### PRAYER IN SCHOOLS – AGAIN

(WNS)--School officials cancelled two sixth grade graduations at Arkansas's Riverside Unified School District after a parent objected to prayer being a part of the ceremony. In fairness, the school district had considered cancelling the

graduation anyway. According to district superintendent Tommy Knight: "Those campuses for the last several years had discussed whether we should continue with sixth grade graduation or not. When [this controversy] came to my attention, the board and I decided to go ahead and discontinue sixth grade graduations." The controversy began when the school received a letter from Freedom From Religion Foundation, a Wisconsin's nonprofit with a mission to educate the public "on matters relating to nontheism, and to promote the constitutional principle of separation between church and state." In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that public schools cannot sponsor prayer at graduation ceremonies, saying such prayers violate the establishment clause of the First Amendment. However, students can express themselves during graduation and that expression can include student-led prayer.

### GOP LEADER LEAVES OVER SAME-SEX MARRIAGE POSITION

(WNS)--Yesterday, Patrick Brady, the chairman of the Illinois Republican Party resigned his position. He told CNN, "I lost the support of the state Central Committee because of my position on gay marriage." Earlier this year, Brady endorsed same-sex marriage. He was one of a very few high profile Republican leaders to make a similar move. However, according to the Washington Post, 68 percent of Republicans still oppose same-sex marriage. The Post goes on to say, "While we've seen national Republican politicians move to support gay marriage in recent years the party base hasn't really moved with them all that much." Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council said, "After the recent rush of a few national Republicans to embrace same-sex marriage, reality is beginning to sink in." He added, "Abandoning natural marriage is unlikely to bring a ground-swell of social liberals" into the Republican Party. On the other hand, "it may give social conservatives, who vote Republican, motivation to sit out the elections -- or move them to create a third party. Either option puts Republicans on the path to a permanent minority. Marriage is and will continue to be a non-negotiable issue for Evangelicals and social conservatives."

### WYCLIFFE PLEDGES TO COMPLY WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ON BIBLE TRANSLATION

### PRACTICES

(WNS)--After a year's work, a World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) panel has released its report on the Muslim-context translation practices of Wycliffe Bible Translators and its partner SIL International. Wycliffe requested the audit of its policies after controversy erupted last year over the world's premier translator supporting translations that altered the phrases "Son of God" and "God the Father" in Muslim contexts. Western mission agencies have been concerned about literal translations of "God the Father" and "Son of God" in Muslim contexts because the terms imply God had sexual relations with Mary. One SIL-supported translation of Matthew in Turkey rendered "God the Father" something along the lines of "the great protector," according to locals. Both the Assemblies of God and the Presbyterian Church in America threatened to withdraw support from Wycliffe over the issue. Western mission agencies have also felt backlash from local believers in Muslim contexts who felt the agencies were changing the terms out of impatience over church growth. Frontiers, a missions agency that funds translation work, has also supported translations that alter the divine familial terms, but unlike Wycliffe it has not publicly submitted to an audit of its practices or policies. The WEA report may set the standard for Frontiers whether it officially adopts the recommendations or not.

### STUDENTS DEFEND MESSIAH COLLEGE AGAINST JOSH RITTER'S BIGOT LABEL

(WNS)--Singer-songwriter Josh Ritter announced on Facebook May 3 that he would not perform at Messiah College again unless the school changed its policy against homosexual behavior. The post came hours after a concert for a few hundred students at the Pennsylvania Christian university. At the end of his performance, Ritter said he was aware of the school's "Community Covenant," which among many things forbids homosexual behavior, and encouraged students to be open to discussions about homosexuality and work with the administration to change it. He said that if he had known about the policies beforehand, he would not have agreed to play there, and donated the fee from Messiah to an organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention to LGBT youth. Beth Lorow,

the school's spokeswoman, found Ritter's response surprising, since he performed at the school before, in 2009. "We are a Christian college, we would think it wouldn't be surprising that we hold a traditional Scriptural interpretation of sexuality," Lorow said. "We feel disappointed that he opted to publicly express his disagreement with name-calling and labeling and passed on doing it in a more productive way."

### JUDGE GIVES TEXAS CHEERLEADERS A W-I-N FOR FREE SPEECH

(WNS)--After nearly eight months on defense, cheerleaders at a Southeast Texas high school can get back to pumping up their football team—and if they want to use a Bible verse on a banner to do it, they have every right. State District Judge Steve Thomas ruled in May that the Kountze High School cheerleaders' banners are constitutionally permissible, declaring that no law "prohibits cheerleaders from using religious-themed banners at school sporting events." The dispute began during the last football season when the district received a complaint from the Freedom From Religion Foundation about the cheerleaders' use of encouraging scripture on some of their run-through banners. The complaint argued that the banners—with verses like "If God is for us, who can be against us?"—violated a First Amendment clause that bars government, or in this case, publicly funded school districts, from establishing or endorsing a religion. The Liberty Institute, a nonprofit law firm based in Plano, Tex., represented the squad.

### CBS'S SCOTT PELLEY ADMITS JOURNALISM'S PROBLEMS

(WNS)--CBS News anchor Scott Pelley received the 20th annual Fred Friendly First Amendment Award on Friday, and he used the occasion to give an interesting and potentially important speech about the current state of American journalism. He said, "These have been a bad few months for journalism. We're getting the big stories wrong, over and over again." I would argue that it's been a bad few decades, or even a bad century, for journalism. But I quibble: I agree with Pelley that it's been a particularly bad few months. Pelley faulted himself and his colleagues for their coverage of the Newtown tragedy. Regarding the Boston Marathon bombing, he makes a particularly poignant point: "In Boston,

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## Bible & the Newspaper

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the FBI issued a press release begging us to confirm our information before we put it on the air. The FBI! Here's what the President said in Boston: 'In this age of instant reporting, tweets and blogs, there's a temptation to latch on to any bit of information, sometimes jump to conclusions. But when a tragedy like this happens, with public safety at risk, and the stakes so high, it's important that we do this right.' The President of the United States and the FBI were telling us what our bedrock principles should be? Aren't we supposed to be watching them?"

### GEORGIA GOVERNOR RESISTS BIBLE BAN

(WNS)--Ed Buckner, an atheist, didn't like the fact that Bibles were in cabins at Eoria state parks. So he protested and they were removed. But the states Attorney General said that since the state had not paid for the books, the state wasn't officially endorsing religion. On Wednesday, Gov. Nathan Deal ordered the Bibles returned. According to the Associated Press, "Buckner is pondering his next move. One idea he is considering is to test the state's offer to accept literature from other religions in state-owned lodging. He also said he would be willing to participate if an organization with similar beliefs decides to launch a lawsuit over the issue."

### MAJOR CORPORATIONS SUPPORT HOMOSEXUAL CAUSES

(WNS)--Have you ever flown on Southwest or Delta Airlines? Perhaps you're in the "good hands" of Allstate Insurance. Maybe your car rides on Bridgestone Tires or you bank at Wells Fargo. If so, you might be interested to know that some of your money went to sponsor the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Media Awards. If you want to know what your money accomplished, here it is: "The GLAAD Media Awards recognize and honor media for fair, accurate and inclusive representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community that inspire change. The GLAAD Media Awards also fund GLAAD's work to amplify stories of LGBT people and issues that build support for equality." The awards gala took place Saturday night in San Francisco. Among the nominees this

year were Honey Boo Boo, Suze Orman, and Adam Lambert.

### RELAXING RESTRICTIONS ON ABORTION IN NEW YORK

(WNS)--New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, vowed to push through the state legislature a Women's Equality Act before the current legislative session ends on June 20. The act, he said, would include a provision to expand the legality of late-term abortions. In the wake of late-term abortionist Kermit Gosnell's grisly trial, opponents of Cuomo's proposal are hoping political support for the measure will evaporate. Gosnell was convicted of not just murdering three babies after they were born but aborting 21 babies after Pennsylvania's legal limit of 24 weeks of pregnancy, when babies are considered viable to survive outside the mother. Gosnell's trial highlighted Pennsylvania's lack of oversight of abortion centers, and Cuomo's proposal could relax regulations on abortionists further in New York, a state that already has few abortion limits such as waiting periods or bans on public funding of abortion. Cuomo hasn't introduced his promised legislation yet, but in his January State of the State address he named the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) as one point in the Women's Equality Act agenda. The standalone RHA is a few votes shy of passing in the state Senate, so Cuomo will likely make some tweaks to try to gain support from Republicans.

### FLORIDA MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER FOR TRICKING GIRLFRIEND INTO ABORTION

(WNS)--Heartbreaking and treacherous are just two words being used to describe the latest abortion story out of Florida. According to federal authorities, 28-year-old John Andrew Welden tricked his pregnant 26-year-old girlfriend, Remelee Lee, into taking a pill used to induce labor and cause an abortion. Lee's baby died after she unknowingly took the medication. The couple split up, and the woman has filed a lawsuit in the state court on her behalf. "Whenever a woman is robbed of her ability to give birth and have a child, I don't think there's any greater harm you can cause somebody," said her attorney, Gil Sanchez. "She's devastated. She still can't believe this happened to her." Welden, the son of a Florida fertility doctor, was indicted in May by a federal grand jury on charges of product tampering and first-degree

murder. He faces up to life in prison if convicted of the murder charge.

### LEAHY PROPOSES AMENDMENT TO IMMIGRATION BILL TO COVER HOMOSEXUALS

(WNS)--Earlier this week, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) tried to tack on an amendment to the immigration bill that would allow an American citizen's foreign-born same-sex "spouse" the ability to become a citizen. The amendment was apparently an attempt to appease the pro-homosexual wing of the Democratic Party, because after allowing some debate, Leahy did not call for a vote on the measure. He knew that if the amendment, by some fluke, happened to pass, it would kill any chance at immigration reform. As it turns out, Leahy's hat-tip to the homosexual lobby only served to make them indignant, though rather than blame Leahy, the Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin -- who says there more than a quarter-million illegal homosexual immigrants -- blamed Republicans who are attempting to get this unruly immigration bill passed. "Instead of working to achieve common-sense solutions," Griffin said, "Senators Graham, Flake, McCain and Rubio threatened to derail the entire immigration bill to appease a small but vocal group of anti-gay social conservatives that will do anything to stop progress for lesbian and gay couples."

### SAME SEX ASSAULT APPARENTLY ON RISE IN MILITARY

(WNS)--Since the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," which now allows homosexuals to serve openly in the military, same-sex sexual assault appears to have shot up dramatically. According to a new Pentagon survey, sexual assault is on the rise, and most of victims of sexual assault in the military were not female (about 12,000 incidents), but male (about 14,000). It's possible that the discrepancy is even greater, since men -- according to the Washington Times -- are less likely to speak up when they have been sexually assaulted. "How could this happen?" asks Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council. "Well, for starters, the Obama administration ordered military leaders to embrace homosexuality--completely dismissing the concerns that it could be a problem to have people attracted to the same sex, living in close quarters."

### JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

### EMPLOYEES TOLD TO EMBRACE HOMOSEXUALITY

(WNS)--The Obama Administration is apparently requiring federal workers not just to tolerate homosexuality, but to "publicly embrace and affirm" it. That's according to the Liberty Counsel, a conservative religious liberty law firm. Liberty Counsel said the Department of Justice sent an email to all DOJ employees titled "LGBT Inclusion at Work: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Managers." The email included a brochure containing "dos and don'ts" related to homosexuality. In the "do" category: "Do use a transgender person's chosen name and the pronoun... consistent with the person's self-identified gender." Among the "don'ts": "Don't judge or remain silent. Silence will be interpreted as disapproval." According to the Liberty Counsel, "No longer can Christians quietly dissent or remain neutral to same-sex relationships. Now the DOJ is requiring federal employees to affirm sexual behaviors that every major religion throughout history has deemed immoral."

### CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS CELEBRATE HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVIST

(WNS)--May 22 was "Harvey Milk Day" in California's public schools. Harvey Milk, is the man credited with launching the "gay rights" revolution in California. A homosexual activist in the 1970s in San Francisco's Castro District, Milk was on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors as the first openly gay elected official in California. Milk and Mayor George Moscone were shot and killed in 1978 by former political colleague Dan White. In 2009 Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law a bill that encourages schools to honor Harvey Milk. Schools are not required, but are "encouraged," to commemorate Milk on May 22 of each year. However, according to the conservative California group Capitol Resource Institute, "a well-funded group -- the Gay, Straight, Alliance Network -- provides curriculum, programs, and resources" that make it easy for teachers and students to participate in Harvey Milk Day.

### INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS PRO-LIFE LAWS DID NOT CAUSE MISCARRIAGE DEATH IN IRELAND

(WNS)--The Irish woman who died in October 2012 during a difficult

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## Bible & the Newspaper

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pregnancy did not lose her life because doctors refused to abort her baby. Although pro-abortion advocates in Ireland rallied around 31-year-old Savita Halappanavar's death as an impetus to change the country's pro-life laws, a jury found Friday that the hospital's mismanagement of sepsis, a severe blood infection, actually caused her death. After Halappanavar died, pro-abortion protesters filled the streets calling to overturn laws that make abortion illegal in Ireland except when the life of the mother is in danger. Halappanavar's husband, Praveen, said her death could have been prevented if their 17-week-old unborn baby had been aborted. But doctors refused to abort the child because it had a heartbeat. Testimony at Friday's inquest revealed an extreme case of sepsis coupled with a late diagnoses of the infection led to Halappanavar's death.

### ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NEW ZEALAND FACES DISCRIMINATION CLAIM

(WNS)--A gay man in New Zealand who wants to become an Anglican priest is taking the Bishop of Auckland to the country's Human Rights Tribunal for discriminating against him. The man, whose name has not been released, claims the Rev. Ross Bay refuses to allow him to enter the Anglican Church's training or discernment program for priests because he is gay, according to a report at TVNZ.com. Bay told the television station church rules determine who can be ordained. He refused the gay applicant "by reason of the defendant not being chaste in terms of canons of the Anglican Church." Anyone in a sexual relationship outside of marriage would not be accepted to train as a priest, Bay said. But in April, New Zealand became the 13th country in the world to approve same-sex marriage. The first weddings approved under the law can take place in August. The Anglican Church also is debating whether to ordain gay and lesbian clergy.

### TENSIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SCOTLAND

(WNS)--If you compiled a list of international conflicts going on in the world, you wouldn't expect to see a conflict between Israel and Scotland on the list. Nor would you expect that an internal church document would be the source of the conflict. But that's

precisely what's happening following the release of a document by the Church of Scotland. The 10-page document says that "promises about the land of Israel were never intended to be taken literally, or as applying to a defined geographical territory" and the Bible should not be used to settle conflicts over land. Israel's ambassador to Great Britain called the document "truly hurtful." According to The Huffington Post, "The report was produced by the Church's Church and Society Council and will be debated at this month's meeting of the General Assembly, the body which makes laws determining how the Church of Scotland operates."



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Indore Baptist Church of Indore, West Virginia and Pastor Paul Stepp would like to announce their upcoming Bible Conference that is scheduled for June 20th thru 23rd. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Pastor Stepp at (304) 587-4660.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Grace Bible Baptist Church of Denham Springs, Louisiana and pastor Jerry Dodson would like to announce their 17th Annual Bible Conference for June 7th thru 9th.

Scheduled speakers are Elders Tom Horn of Pensacola, FL, David O'Neal of Tulsa, OK, Larry Wilson of Oakdale, LA, Eldon Joslin of Birmingham, AL, and Nathaniel Hille of Caldwell, KS.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Northport, Alabama and Pastor Todd Bryant would like to announce their Summer Revival for July 25th thru 28th.

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

Scheduled speakers are Elder John Fry of Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Ceredo, West Virginia and Elder Troy McGahan of Rolling Hills Baptist Church of Nancy, Kentucky.

All are invited to attend.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Calvary Baptist Church of Piqua, Ohio, is in need of a pastor. Any interested party may contact Terry Allen at (937) 773-9272.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Cobbitty, South Wales, Australia is in

need of a pastor. For more information please contact David Jackson at 4 Station Street, Thirlmere, NSW 2572, Australia or Email: shellie45@bigpond.com.au.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

The Liverpool Independent Baptist Church of Liverpool, New York (north of Syracuse) is searching for a sovereign grace pastor. The church believes in the doctrines of grace, the local church, and is pre-trib and pre-mil. Interested brethren should contact Bro. Greg Sigworth at (315) 677-3819.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 recoffeypot@aol.com, or Bro. Joe Vass at (614) 846-8699 or email jamijoe@wowway.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Glade Creek Baptist Church, Summersville, WV, is in need of a pastor. This church believes and preaches the doctrines of grace and church truth. Any interested Elder should call Bro. Rodney Perkins at (304) 742-3050 or Bro. Allen Frame at (304) 742-5775.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Marion, IL is in need of a replacement pastor. Elder Raymond T. Ellis is the current pastor, but due to his age, is needing to resign. The church believes and preaches the doctrines of grace and the local church. Any interested Elder may contact Elder Ellis at (618) 983-8697 or Bro. Gary Ratley at (618) 841-0228.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Twinbrook Hills Baptist Church of Hamilton, OH is prayerfully seeking a pastor. Organized in 1938, the church holds to historic Baptist truths, including the Doctrines of Grace. Please visit the church's website at <http://twinbrook.net> to view the Church Constitution and other items that describe our beliefs and show what the church is doing today. Please contact Bro. Chris Willis at [Elohimfirst@gmail.com](mailto:Elohimfirst@gmail.com) 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.



### BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 4-1-2013 to 4-30-2013

Beginning Balance .....	\$6,628.66
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	225.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	100.00
Calvary B. C., Everson, WA .....	100.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....	100.00
TOTAL .....	525.00
TOTAL .....	7,153.66
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Radio Time .....	454.98
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....	\$454.98
.....	\$6,698.68
Interest .....	+0.06
.....	6,698.74
Less Corbin, KY des. ....	-803.72
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$5,894.96

### CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance .....	\$1,003.72
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
TOTAL .....	1,003.72
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
WCTT .....	200.00
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$803.72



### BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 4-1-2013 to 4-30-2013

Beginning Balance .....	\$4,219.56
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Amazing Grace B. C., Stockdale, TX .....	50.00
B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL .....	25.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	300.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL .....	60.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX .....	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV .....	313.45
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	150.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL .....	25.00
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME .....	20.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....	200.00
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
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM .....	100.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC .....	50.00
Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY .....	25.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH .....	100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....	50.00
Parkway L. B. C., Springfield, OR .....	100.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL .....	100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR .....	50.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS .....	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Burghill, OH .....	75.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL .....	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX .....	30.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA .....	25.00
Subscriptions .....	150.00
Anonymous .....	200.00
Dividing checks .....	150.00
Sub Total .....	\$2,683.45
TOTAL .....	\$6,903.01
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Printing .....	535.00
Postage .....	874.71
Wages .....	2,300.00
FICA .....	175.90
Supplies .....	128.58
Total Expenditures .....	\$4,164.19
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$2,738.82

# Hymn Histories and Scriptures



By Nathaniel Hille  
of Caldwell, Kansas

## The Anchor Holds

“Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works” (Ps. 105:2). “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms” (James 5:13).

It has been the blessed privilege of the people of God to sing psalms and hymns unto the Lord and unto one another. They have reminded us in times of God’s gracious benevolence in our life; that He who has promised is faithful (Heb. 11:11).

*The Anchor Holds* is one of those hymns for the downtrodden. Those who are going through a lengthy period of sorrow shall, no doubt, be uplifted by the Scriptural words and principals recorded by the writer. It was pointed out to our family by my earthly father who heard it on the radio. You may not be familiar with this song. Please do not confuse it with a couple popular hymns that may appear in our hymnals by very similar titles: *We Have An Anchor* by Wm. J. Kirkpatrick—OR—*My Anchor Holds* by Daniel B. Towner.

The *Anchor Holds* is a contemporary hymn written in 1992, ‘93 and was released nationally in 1994. The authors are Lawrence Chewning and Ray Boltz; the most popular rendition is by Ray Boltz.

You may find it using any popular search engine or on youtube.com and searching for “The Anchor Holds Lawrence Chewning” or “The Anchor Holds Ray Boltz.” Let me warn you... Boltz’ video dates itself, yet the words are timeless.

### THE LYRICS

Verse One:

*I have journeyed through the long dark night,  
Out on the open sea,  
By faith alone,  
Sight unknown;  
And yet His eyes were watching me.*

Chorus:

*The Anchor holds, though the ship is battered.  
The Anchor holds, though the sails are torn.  
I have fallen on my knees as I face the raging seas.  
The anchor holds in spite of the storm.*

Verse Two:

*I’ve had visions, I’ve had dreams;  
I’ve even held them in my hand.  
But I never knew they would slip right through  
Like they were only grains of sand.*

Chorus: repeated

Bridge:

*I have been young—But I’m older now.  
And there has been beauty these eyes have seen.  
But it was in the night, through the storms of my life,  
Oh, that’s where God proved His love to me.*

Chorus: repeated

*I have fallen on my knees as I face the raging seas.  
But, the Anchor holds in spite of the storm.*

### THE HISTORY

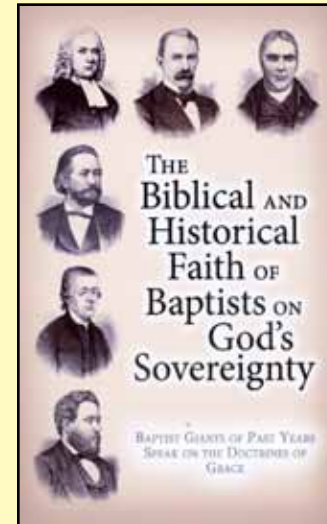
Lawrence Chewning is the one whom the Lord used as the vessel from which this song would come forth. In 1992, Lawrence and his wife experienced what they now call their “YEAR OF SORROWS.” Lawrence’s father died, he and his wife had health issues, the church that he helped plant began to divide and eventually split, he began to question “his calling”, was weary and discouraged physically, spiritually and emotionally. In the summer of ‘92 his wife experienced her third miscarriage. Lawrence was able to hold his 13 week old, unborn son. Chewning states, “it truly felt as if our vision and dreams had slipped right through our hands like they were only grains of sand.”

Lawrence took a 6 month sabbatical and eventually resigned from being pastor. It was during these six months that Lawrence sat with God and returned to playing the piano. He found himself playing/singing a song of which was familiar but could not place it. It was “The Anchor holds,

though the ship is battered.” He was unable to place it because he had not yet written it; it was familiar because he had experienced it. The song was originally 10-12 minutes in length. In 1993, Ray Boltz, an old friend of Chewning requested to record the song. Chewning gave Boltz permission to rework the lyrics and shorten the song. The song at first was not well received by record labels, but was touching the lives of those who heard it. It was finally released and has been a tremendous blessing to those who are going through “storms” in their life that they may be reminded that “The Anchor Holds.”

Lawrence is quoted as saying, “The response to this song has truly been overwhelming. I am so grateful that God can take our broken pieces and make something of value out of them.”

It is the “**wondrous work of God**” (Ps 105:2) that *The Anchor* (Jesus) *Holds*, in spite of the storm. AMEN! Maran-atha.



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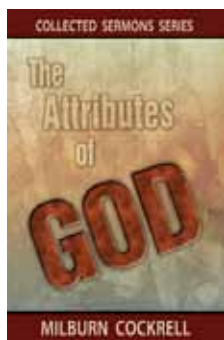
For postage see chart on page 120.

#### Postage & Shipping Chart

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\$25.00-49.99	.....	\$6.00
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\$75.00-99.99	.....	\$8.00
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(Please see postage  
chart on page 120.)

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