

The Berea Baptist Banner

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

The Man of Sin

T. P. Simmons
(1898 - 1969)

We have already touched somewhat upon the Man of Sin in previous articles, but now we come to study him more closely. The reader will get more out of the article if, before proceeding further, he will turn and read the following Scriptures: II Thess. 2:3-13; Rev. 11:1-7; 13; 16:13-16; 17; 19:17-20; Dan. 7:8-27; 8:8-25. These last two Scripture passages have reference to Antioches



Epiphanes, the last king of Syria and a type of the Man of Sin.

Concerning the Man of Sin we hold the following convictions —

some of which we have previously mentioned, but which we mention again for the sake of emphasis:

1. He is to be an actual individual. As stated before, we interpret any passage of Scripture literally, unless there is something

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The Scriptural Qualifications For A Faithful Minister

By Willard Pyle
(1929-2022)

One of the earmarks of the last days is the falling away among God's people; which results in a lukewarmness. With these conditions existing we certainly stand in need of faithful men of God who love the glory of God more than the praise of men. I wonder, as we take time to consider this proposition, if your



church really wants this kind of minister, or if you have ever considered what the qualifications of a faithful minister are?

Moreover, I wonder how many professing preachers have thought about this truth.

It is with a prayer in my heart

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Love Your Lord and Saviour

By Glenn Gilbreath
of Decatur, Alabama

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him: and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:1-5). I recently wrote two articles for the *Berea Baptist Banner* entitled "Love your Pastor" and "Love your Church." In these articles, we spoke about how we



should show our love for our pastors and especially for our churches. Now we write about the most important One we should love, and that is

Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. The only way we are able to show love and respect for our pastor, and show love and respect for the church, is that we must first have the love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I want to bring out four reasons to love Jesus Christ. Love your Lord and Saviour.

Where does this love come from? **"Beloved, let us love one**

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The Ordinance of the Red Heifer

By Nathaniel Hille
of Plant City, Florida

"And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke: And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and one shall slay her before his face: And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood



directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times: And one shall burn the heifer in his sight; her skin, and her flesh,

and her blood, with her dung, shall he burn: And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer. Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp, and the priest shall be unclean until the even. And

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The purpose of the Berea Baptist Banner is as follows:

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

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KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	550	5, 0 0 0 A M

Faithful Minister

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that God will direct my mind and heart as I set before you some of the qualifications of a faithful minister. It is not my purpose to discuss who can be a minister, even though this certainly has much bearing on the subject, but of those that God calls, what are the qualifications for a faithful minister?

I

I believe all will, or should, agree that a man must have a clear understanding of his salvation and call to preach in order to be a faithful minister (II Tim. 1:9). Only one with this assurance will magnify his office (Rom. 11:13). Truly, it is a holy calling and should bring one to his knees in humility.

II

Moreover, "**Ye are not your own,**" will ring in the heart of any faithful minister and he will seek to glorify God in body and in spirit (I Cor. 6:20). When one knows this truth he will cry out with Isaiah of old "**Here am I, send me;**" or with Paul, "**What wilt thou have me to do?**" Yes, a minister should have first of all "**given himself unto the Lord,**" and have "**presented his body a living sacrifice,**" before he gives himself to the ministry of the Word.

III

Then one will have to "deny himself and take up his cross and follow the Lord Jesus," if he is to be a fisher of men or an ambassador of the Lord (Matt. 16:24; Matt. 4:19). Many a preacher has made shipwreck of his ministry because he was not willing "to forsake his nets and follow Jesus," thus becoming entangled with the affairs of this life (II Tim. 2:3-4).

IV

The words of the Lord Jesus on His first advent into this world certainly apply and are appropriate to consider in the qualifications of a faithful minister. Listen to them, "**I am come to do thy will, O God.**" Again he said, "**My meat is to do the will of him that sent me;**" and again He said, "**I must be about my Father's business.**" This eliminates any self-will in the minister. It is not my will or the church's will, as such, that matters, but God's will. Too many times preachers are guilty of carrying out the will of the church in order to insure their salaries, instead of doing God's will.

V

Furthermore, a faithful minister is called upon to set forth before the people the inspired Word of God. Human tradition and human ordinances should have no place in his spiritual wardrobe. "**Thus saith the Lord,**" should be his battle cry.

Therefore he should be a man of the Book, one that "studies to shew himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). "One that gives himself wholly unto it" (II Tim. 4:15). Certainly, if a preacher is to be faithful, he must have as his constant companion, the Word of God. Nothing takes the place of this. He might have a degree in psychology, philosophy, human relations, etc., etc., but if he does not have a B. K. (Biblical Knowledge) degree, he has failed the course.

VI

Added to these things, a faithful minister needs to be a man of compassion (Heb. 5:2). One that looks with pity on the ignorant, and those out of the way. One who "**endures all things for the**"

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Brief Truths

By Randy Johnson of
Texarkana, Texas

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation" (Ephesians 1:13).



Easter is not about the Resurrection

"And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people" (Acts 12:4).

As Christians, we need to understand that there are no holidays that God has ordained as scriptural. Also, as Christians, we should not share an ordinance of God with the world. Christianity and the world do not mix. The world hates Jesus, and they hate His Father, and because they hate them, they will hate Christians and who we are.

"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake" (Luke 6:22). The world does not celebrate the Lord Jesus Christ: they detest Him; they hated Him so much they crucified Him for nothing. They hate churches; they hate the Bible; they hate the truth of that Bible, and the world would never celebrate anything praising our Great Lord.

Christians are ordained to worship **"in spirit"** and **"in truth,"** not in fantasy or fiction. **"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a**

Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24). We must understand that there are two kinds of worshippers in the Christian world, (1) true; and (2) false; therefore, just because people call themselves worshippers of God does not mean they are.

True Christians and churches worship **"in spirit and in truth"** every Sunday morning, also called the Christian Sabbath, another name for the day the Lord has risen. The resurrection had nothing to do with "Easter" because the word "Easter" means "Passover," not the "Resurrection."

The entire meaning of Easter is not about Jesus or the Resurrection, and therefore, it is wrong for churches to celebrate it in their service. How can a church celebrate Easter and remain in "Truth"? Is the church not supposed to be the **"pillar and ground of truth?"** First, the word is given a false definition because it means Passover: second, it is falsely defined as the Resurrection: third, it is more about the Easter bunny and Easter eggs and has little to do with Jesus or His Resurrection. Oh, and "No," it is not ok for a church to celebrate this holiday.

Some may ask "what does it hurt?" It hurts a church's worship in **"spirit"** and **"truth"**. How can you worship in **"truth"** if you are celebrating a lie? For a church or Christians to share any event, no matter the name of it, with

Jesus is unscriptural because Jesus does not share His glory with a fictional Easter Bunny or a Santa Claus. Even if these two fictional personalities were not mentioned, the Bible never instructs us to celebrate either event with the world. Be careful what you do in your worship and make sure it is "scriptural," "in Truth" and "Spiritual," and neither Easter nor Christmas meets these requirements.

(Randy Johnson is pastor of the Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Texarkana, Texas.)



Faithful Minister

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elect's sake" (II Tim. 2:10). One who spends much time in prayer (Col. 1:3). One who "travails in birth again until Christ be formed in you" (Gal. 4:19). One who is willing to spend and be spent. One whose **"heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved"** (Rom. 10:1). One whose heart is broken because of the falling away among God's people (Ps. 119:136).

CONCLUSION

There is much more that could be said, and possibly should be said, but I close with these words; a faithful minister is one who takes heed to himself and the doctrine, and to the flock over the which the Holy Spirit has made him the overseer (Acts 20:28). God give us faithful ministers!

(The Baptist Examiner, 1961)



Love Your Lord

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another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our

sins" (I John 4:7, 10). Jesus Christ tells us in Matthew 22:37-40 the two greatest commandments of God. Firstly, we are to love the Lord God with all our heart, mind, and soul. And secondly, we are commanded to love our neighbor as ourselves. Notice that the only way we can love our neighbor is to first love God. God is to be first in every part of our lives. Love your Lord and Saviour.

Who is your Lord and Saviour? Our Lord and Saviour has many names found in the Bible. A brief list includes: Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, Lord, Master, Logos (the Word), Son of man, Son of God, Son of David, Lamb of God, Light of the world, Bread of Life, Good Shepherd. This is only a small list, as there are many others. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. **"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins"**

(Matt. 1:18, 21). Most men today do not believe this was possible. They do not believe a virgin could conceive and bear a child. What we hear today is that we must believe science. So called "science" means nothing to God. God created all things. God does not need "science" to prove that Jesus Christ is His only begotten Son. John 5:20 says, **"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."** God's people are to confess that Jesus is the Son of

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God. When God's people obey our Saviour and acknowledge that He is our Lord, then He will acknowledge us before our Father Who is in Heaven. Love your Lord and Saviour.

How should we love our Lord and Saviour? The easiest way to show our love for Jesus Christ is to put Him first in everything we do or say. Matthew 22:37 says, **"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all they mind."** If all our heart, soul, and mind are focused on Jesus Christ, there will be no desire or time to wander off into the things of the world. We should make it a point to study His Word, and grow in grace and the knowledge of Him. II Peter 3:18 says, **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."** When we keep His commandments, it demonstrates our love for Him in that we trust that they are right and just. **"Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway"** (Deut. 11:1). In the book of Jude, the writer is exhorting the saints of God to constantly keep the faith. He tells of much wickedness that is all around us every day. Examples are murmurers, complainers, those who walk after their own lusts, those who speak great swelling words, mockers, etc. He said these are they "having not the Spirit." Because of all the worldliness around us, he tells us in Jude 21 to **"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus**

Christ unto eternal life." The Word of God tells us to **"keep"** ourselves in the love of God. Is that an easy task? No. It is hard work. Because of all the turmoil, strife and worldliness that goes on all around us every day, we must have help. We are not capable of keeping ourselves in the love of God without the help of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever"** (Jude 24-25). Love your Lord and Saviour.

Why should we love Him? The answer to that question is found in I John 4:19: **"We love him, because he first loved us."** I want to give just five reasons why we should love Jesus Christ. There are so many more that you could fill a book. First, He saved us. When God touches a lost person and changes their old stony heart into a heart of flesh, that person confesses to others and believes in their heart that Jesus Christ died on the cross, was buried and rose again on the third day according to the Scripture. That is what the Son of God did for His chosen elect. **"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh"** (Ezek. 36:26). Next we should note that He supplies our needs. **"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus"** (Phil. 4:19). Everything we have is supplied by God. Everything we have belongs to God. If you have much or if you have little, it is all God's. Our problem is that we do not always use what God supplies

to His Honor and Glory. If you use that boat, or that set of golf clubs, or your job as an excuse to absent yourself from your church on the Lord's Day, then you are dishonoring God with the things He has allowed you to have. What kind of love is that? Thirdly, He bore all our sins. While on the cross of Calvary, Jesus Christ endured every sin of His people that they had committed or ever will commit and did not cry out or shout but only said, **"It is finished."** John 19:30 says, **"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."** When He said it was finished, it was not for the benefit of those gathered around Him there, it was to acknowledge to God that His work had been completed. Fourthly, He gave us eternal life. What is the meaning of "eternal life"? It is just as it says; it is perpetual, everlasting, forever, and without ending life. John 10:28, 29 says, **"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. I and my Father are one."** Jesus Christ Who is eternal gives us life and whosoever He gives it shall have it for ever. Is there any reason to doubt God's Word? If you are a child of God then you are commanded to believe the Bible. Jesus Christ gave **"All power"** to His church and commissioned it to **"teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have COMMANDED you"** (Matt. 28:19-20). "All things" is the whole counsel of God, everything that is in the Word of God. Finally, He is the Light of the world. In John chapter 8 we see Jesus at the Mount of Olives and He had gone into the temple to teach all those who had gathered. In verse 12 Jesus spake unto them saying;

"...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." I understand this to say, Jesus Christ is the Illuminator and those that follow the Illuminator will have life. The life spoken of is "literal spiritual life." Jesus Christ shines in the lives of His saints. II Corinthians 4:6 says, **"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."** God commanded the light to shine, so that, His saints could see the glory of God in Jesus Christ. We must point out that those that are blind and have not seen the Light, are blind because of the **"god of this world"** Satan himself. But when the Gospel is proclaimed to the lost of this world, and the Holy Spirit uses that Gospel to open the eyes with the True and Living Light of Jesus Christ, Satan cannot keep those eyes from seeing. **"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"** (II Cor. 4:4). Love your Lord and Saviour.

In conclusion, let us keep in mind that only through the Love of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit can saints understand what true love really means. I pray we all strive to love one another, love our Pastor, love our church, and most of all Love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with all our heart, mind, and soul. **"Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love"** (II John 3). Love your Lord and Saviour.





Narrow Paths

By Doug Newell IV of
Clendenin, West Virginia

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14).

Which Came First?

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? In second grade, my teacher presented this problem to the class. I thought about it for days, trying to work out the logic. Chickens come from eggs, but eggs come from chickens. My mind was blown, but it is not an enigma. It is a foolish question with a clear answer. The chicken came first because God created them (Gen. 1:21). My problem was not a lack of logic but a wrong worldview. I thought about the question from what I could see, not from what I could know through Scripture. Thankfully, God has revealed to us things about the world, about ourselves, and about Him that we could not have otherwise known (I Cor. 2:9-16).

Some Christians take that "chicken or the egg" mentality to work out how the Lord saved them rather than what the Bible says about it. Let us imagine a college classroom. A guest speaker comes and preaches the gospel, and of the 100 students in the class, two were saved. Ninety-eight of the others did not pay attention, but two were truly saved.

The first student, a music major, thought about life through art and experience. The second student is a history major. The first student knows he needs to get to church, and starts looking for one, and finds one with an orchestra and an extensive music program. He goes to that church. He hears a sermon where salvation is preached in a way that seems similar to the way he experienced it. The preacher

tells the sinners in the crowd to choose Jesus and do right and do good for God's approval. That is what he did in the class. He chose Jesus and all the others did not. He says the egg came first, and says his decision saved him.

The history major happens upon a church that is studying Romans. As the preacher expounds on God's work in redemption, justification by faith, grace, election, total depravity, the man realizes that though he repented and trusted in Christ, the Bible talks about what God did for him in salvation. He considers his salvation experience through Scripture. He understood, from the Bible, he had not come to Christ before because he was not born again, and when he did believe, it was because of God's grace. The music major started with the appropriation of redemption and explained salvation, starting with his experience. The history major begins with the application of redemption or how God saved his soul and applied the work of Christ by the Spirit. But both can not be right.

Salvation is not subjective based on the believer's individual experience. God, in His Word, has explained how we are saved, why we are saved, and by Whom we are saved. We are effectually called by God's grace, given life, faith, and repentance. We are justified by God, adopted into His family, progressively sanctified and preserved until our time of glorification. The Bible will tell you what came first, faith or regeneration.



The Man of Sin

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in the passage, or in the context, or in some other Scripture that indicates a figurative meaning. We find absolutely no reason for taking the description of the Man of Sin otherwise than literally. No institution or agency could sit in the temple of God. **"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God"** (II Thess. 2:4).

2. He is to be revealed in the interim between the two phases of Christ's coming. As we have pointed out previously, no individual that fulfilled the description of the Man of Sin has yet been revealed on the earth. Some think that the papal line is the Man of Sin. But no pope has ever sat in the temple of God. The Vatican is not the temple of God. Apostate Christianity is not the temple of God. Instead, it is the habitation of devils (Rev. 18:2). The revelation of the Man of Sin is now being hindered by some individual, **"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way"** (II Thess. 2:6-7). We believe this hinderer is the Holy Spirit indwelling every true believer, **"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own"** (I Cor. 6:19?) and every true New Testament church **"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you"** (I Cor. 3:16?). It is the Holy Spirit's restraining influence

exercised through believers that now prevents the revelation of the Man of Sin. Thus believers are the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13). The taking out of the way of the hinderer, then, will mean the removal of the Holy Spirit from the earth. This will require the taking out of the earth of every true believer. Since this will occur at the first phase of Christ's coming (I Thess. 4:15-17), the revelation of the Man of Sin cannot come about until after the first phase of Christ's coming. And since he is to be consumed and destroyed at the second Phase of Christ's coming (II Thess. 2:8), he must be revealed and run his course during the interim between the two phases of Christ's coming.

3. He and the Beast of Revelation are to be the same individual. We hold this conviction for the following reasons:

(1) Both are to run their course during the interim between the two phases of Christ's coming. Above we have shown this to be true of the Man of Sin. And in a previous article we have shown that the section of the book in which is recorded the career of the Beast belongs to that period. [Note from Editor: This article was presented in the January 2022 issue of *The Berea Baptist Banner*. Volume 32 Issue 1.]

(2) Their activities are similarly described (II Thess. 2:4-10; Rev. 13:6-8).

(3) Both are to be destroyed at the final coming of Christ to the earth (II Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:11-20).

4. He is to be a world king with his seat of power at Rome. **"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment**

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of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and

one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition" (Rev. 17:1-11). We hold the seven mountains (vs. 9) to be the seven celebrated hills of Rome. The five fallen kings we hold to be Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, and Greece. The one that then was we believe was pagan Rome. The one that was yet to come was "Christian" Rome, or the so-called Holy Roman Empire. The former six kingdoms (the term for kings meaning either kings or kingdom) culminated in the seventh. The Beast is to be the eighth king and his kingdom will combine all the power and evil of the seven. The deadly wound on one of the heads of the Beast (Rev. 13:3) we take to represent the fall of Rome, A. D. 476. We refer the healing of the wound to the reestablishment of the Roman Empire with its capital at Rome under the reign of the Beast. The sea out of which the Beast is seen to arise (Rev. 13:1; 17:1, 15) we take as representing the seething, turbulent, revolutionary mass of humanity to which the inhabitants of the earth will be reduced by the rapture of the saints.

5. He will first support, and also receive the patronage of, the Roman Catholic Church; but later he and his ten kings will turn away from and destroy her (Rev. 17:12, 16). We take the great whore to represent the Roman Catholic Church (Rev. 17:1-7). Her clothing and ornaments picture the wealth of the Roman Catholic Church. The abominations are her unscriptural doctrines and practices. Fornication represents her spiritual adultery in being espoused to the Pope instead of

to Christ. The harlots of which she is the mother are Protestant denominations. Her being "drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" pictures her persecution against true believers (particularly Baptists) through the dark and Middle Ages. From Revelation 18:4 we find that even at the very hour of her destruction she will have some of God's people in her, as she doubtless has at this time. And God's command now is the same that it will be at the end: **"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."** We say that the Beast will support the Roman Catholic Church because we first see the whore riding on the Beast (Rev. 17:1-12). We say the Beast will receive the patronage of the Roman Catholic Church because we regard the second Beast (Rev. 14:11-17) as the Pope. Note that this second Beast has the appearance of a lamb. This represents the professed sanctity of the Pope. Note also that, in contrast to the first Beast, the second Beast will arise out of the earth (Rev. 13:11). The first Beast will arise out of (the sea) turmoil and revolution. The second one will have a solid, compact, orderly source—the Roman Catholic system. Then Revelation 17:16 is our authority for saying that the Beast and kings that are with him will finally turn against the Roman Catholic Church and destroy her. And we might say that we regard the second Beast and the false prophet (Rev. 16:13; 19:20) as the same individual.

6. The length of his career will be forty-two months, **"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty**

and two months" (Rev. 13:5).

7. He will sit in the temple of God pretending to be God. **"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God"** (II Thess. 2:4). The temple that the Man of Sin will sit in is doubtless the restored Jewish temple, which will be the center of worship during the millennium. (Of this worship we shall see more in a later article). Every New Testament church is a temple of God (I Cor. 3:16). But this could not be what is meant in II Thessalonians 2:4. To be seated in a local church would not be sufficient to satisfy the ambition if this monster of iniquity. And surely the Scripture indicates a more daring and far-reaching exaltation than this. The reference in II Thessalonians 2:4 could not be to apostate Christianity, for, as we have remarked already, apostate Christianity is not the temple of God; but instead, is the habitation of devils (Rev. 18:2). The reference is certainly to the Jewish temple that is to be restored by the Jews at Jerusalem sometime during the great tribulation period. This, it seems clear, is the temple that comes into view in Revelation 11:1-2. It is also pictured in Ezekiel 40-48.

8. He will persecute the Jews and other believers (Rev. 11:7; 13:7; Dan. 7:25) and will finally gather the kings of the earth and their armies against Jerusalem for the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:14-16; 19:17-21).

(This article was taken from *The Baptist Examiner* Vol. 1, No. 6 from July 1, 1931)



Moderate Steps

By Paul Stepp of
Indore, West Virginia

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:
and he delighteth in his way." (Psalm 37:23).



Their Heart Was Not Right

"Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues. For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant" (Ps. 78:36-37).

This is a passage that is speaking of Ephraim and the sons of Israel. The Psalmist is lamenting that though the children of Israel had received many benefits from their God; still, they were unthankful unto God, rebellious towards God, and selfish and wicked in their desires and behaviors.

This sounds a lot like many so-called Christians today. Too often, men and women will be consumed with their own desires and affections, and will give only lip service unto the God Whom they claim to serve. What does the Psalmist mean, when he says of Israel that **"...their heart was not right with him"**? Well, the context tells us a couple of reasons that Ephraim was not in good fellowship with God – and I believe these reasons are evident in Christianity today.

First, they were full of flattery towards God, and they lied unto God; it is a shame that folks would flatter God when there is not enough glory or praise in the sum total of our beings, that we could honor Him as He truly deserves! It seems that their words were empty and without meaning; and their words were insincere and full of deceit. They said what they

did not really mean! This could be true when they praised Him; this could be true when they thanked Him; this could be true when they called upon Him for aid – they did not really mean any of it! I think that insincere Christians behave the same way today: Their hearts are not right with God because they lie and deceive in their every pretense of worship, praise, or supplication towards God.

Second, the Israelites were not right with God because they were not **"...stedfast in His covenant."** This people knew what God could do – they had received God's provision and protection throughout their journeys in the wilderness and throughout their history in the Land of Canaan. These people knew what love God had for them, and also what obedience God expected from them. They knew the Law of God – the Word of God was delivered unto them. And yet, knowing the power of God, and knowing the favor of God, and knowing the justice of God, they still resisted Him, and ignored or disobeyed His Word.

This seems comparable to much of Christianity today: Their hearts are not right with God, because they do not steadfastly obey His Word and contend for the Truths that have been delivered unto us. Despite God's blessings upon so many in Christianity, still, men and women are not faithful unto Him. Many Christians will say with their lips that God is Good and Holy and the Ruler of men. Then they will proceed to give the

lie to their words by disobeying the same God Whom they pretended to follow.

I pray God that more and more of those who call upon the Name of the Lord will be truly saved, and will have hearts that are right with God – hearts that are full of sincere love (not flattery); and hearts that are full of steadfastness in the Ways and Word of God. To obey God, rather than men. To pursue Him and His Will, rather than our own fleshly desires.

(Paul Stepp is pastor of the Indore Baptist Church of Indore, West Virginia.)



The Red Heifer

(Continued from page 1) ♦

he that burneth her shall wash his clothes in water, and bathe his flesh in water, and shall be unclean until the even. And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin. And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: and it shall be unto the children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them, for a statute for ever. He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days. He shall purify himself with it on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean: but if he purify not himself the third day, then the seventh day he shall not be clean. Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not

sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him. This is the law, when a man dieth in a tent: all that come into the tent, and all that is in the tent, shall be unclean seven days. And every open vessel, which hath no covering bound upon it, is unclean. And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword in the open fields, or a dead body, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days. And for an unclean person they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin, and running water shall be put thereto in a vessel: And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one dead, or a grave: And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day: and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be clean at even. But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation, because he hath defiled the sanctuary of the LORD: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he is unclean. And it shall be a perpetual statute unto them, that he that sprinkleth the water of separation shall wash his clothes; and he that toucheth the water of separation shall be unclean until even. And whatsoever the unclean person toucheth shall be unclean; and the soul that toucheth it shall be unclean until even" (Num. 19:1-22).

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The Red Heifer

(Continued from page 7) ♦

I can tell you that the last time I read this portion of Scripture was when we went through the book of Numbers in our daily reading. I have never preached or taught on the ordinance of the red heifer. In fact, I knew very little about it. I know that the Holy Spirit mentions it in the book of Hebrews (Heb. 9:13). I can tell you that I have not been this excited about a message (series of messages) in a long time. This has been a great blessing to my soul and a great help to me. I pray it will be a great help to you, too. May the Holy Spirit of God help that I may convey all that the Lord would have me to about this glorious type of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Red Heifer. The Lord sets forth the truth, in type, in the slaying of the Red Heifer, for the daily cleansing for the sins and the failings of His people. Now let this truth be absolutely clear and set forth, that the born-again sinner, called out of darkness, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, by the gospel, the power of God unto Salvation, is absolutely clean, pure before God Himself, 100% by the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. My guilt has been paid. My debt has been settled before God. His righteousness has been imputed, reckoned, unto me. I am convinced by the Word of God that Christ has perfected forever them that are sanctified by the one sacrifice of Himself on the tree of the cross. **“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified”** (Heb. 10:12-14).

Now, I want to begin by asking you some questions: Do you feel perfect? Do you feel holy? Do you feel cleansed? Do you feel complete? The Bible tells us that we are **“...complete in him...”** (Col. 2:10). The Scripture tells me, that having been washed in the blood of the Lamb, I am clean, **“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you”** (John 15:3). The Holy Spirit declares that I, having been saved, am now holy, **“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”** (Eph. 1:4). God declares in His Word that I am perfect because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, **“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified”** (Heb. 10:14). But, you know, I do not feel perfect! Scripture tells me that I am to be perfect: **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”** (Matt. 5:48). Beloved, I am trying to be perfect. Someone might look at me and say, “This is you ‘trying’ to be perfect?” Yes. Yes, it is. Beloved, I am so far from it. You see, my standing is perfect; I have been made holy in the blood of Jesus; I have been cleansed from every sin-stain; I am complete in Him. I know that because God said I am. I cannot understand it. But I do believe it. And I have been trying to live a holy life; a perfect life, a life that is well-pleasing to Him who died for me; I am striving to live a life that I now have in this flesh, to live it by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me (Gal. 2:20). But, oh, how I have come up so short! I do not feel perfect. I feel like I come short all the time. And in this ordinance of the Red Heifer, we see the need of the cleansing,

of the sin in the child of God. Beloved, our sin debt has been paid. The guilt is gone, but there is still present in me, sin. Sin does not reign anymore. I do not have a stony heart. God removed it. But that old sinful nature is still there. It is not in control like it used to be, **“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from**

sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Rom. 6:6-18). It is evident from Scripture and experience that I have a desperate need. I need to be reminded every day, every hour, of what the Lord has done for me. I need for my conscience to be purged from dead works. I need to be reminded of what Jesus did for me at Calvary. I need to be cleansed from my dead works. I need to be able to come into the throne of mercy to obtain grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16). And here is what we see in the sacrifice, in the ordinance of the red heifer. Paul wrote in II Corinthians 1:10, **“Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.”** There are three deliverances. You have the first one: **“from so great a death”...** that is the one that Jesus delivers us from when He saves us. From the wages of sin, which is death (Rom. 6:23). You see, there is the third deliverance, **“in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us”...** that refers to when the Lord shall rapture us home to be with Him forever (John 14:1-6). But here, the second deliverance, **“and doth deliver:”** herein is what God is currently doing to His saints. He is delivering us from the very power of sin. Sin does not have dominion over me anymore. I have to yield myself to it. And I yield to sin oh, so very much. This is where the ordinance of the red heifer comes in. I need to know what happens when I sin right now. I need to be reminded of what Jesus has done for me at Calvary. When I view my sins of omission and commission; when I see the things I have said, and the things I have done, and I see my sins, I need to be reminded of the Lord Jesus Christ and His work. I

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The Red Heifer

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need my conscience to be purged from dead works.

We see this taught in the New Testament by the Lord Jesus. "And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?" (John 13:2-12). They did not know what Christ had done to them (notice that "...Know ye what I have done to you?" The Lord Jesus leaves them a reminder of His continued work through the Holy Spirit to cleanse them of

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Heavenly Hymns

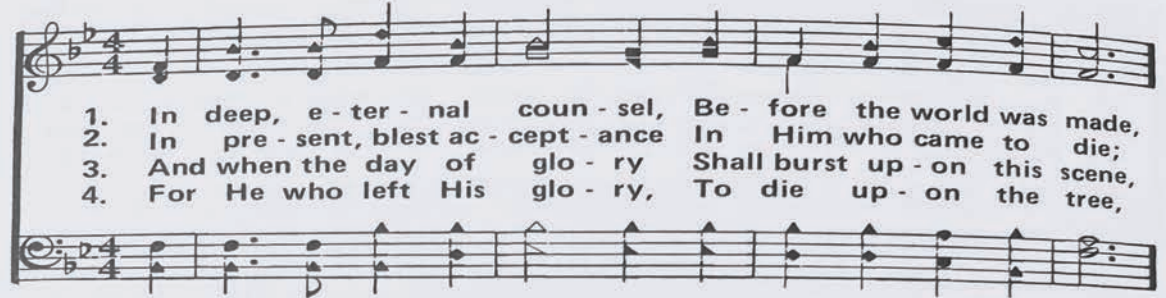
"...Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:18-20).

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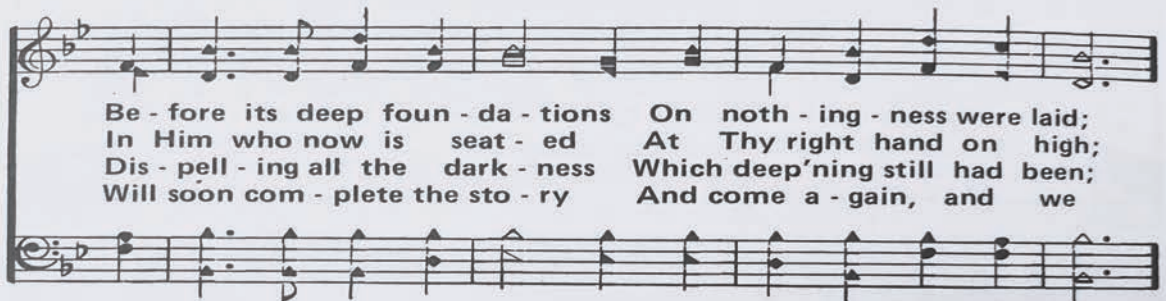
IN DEEP ETERNAL COUNSEL

"My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isa. 46:10).
Arr. Sheron Cockrell (1943 -)

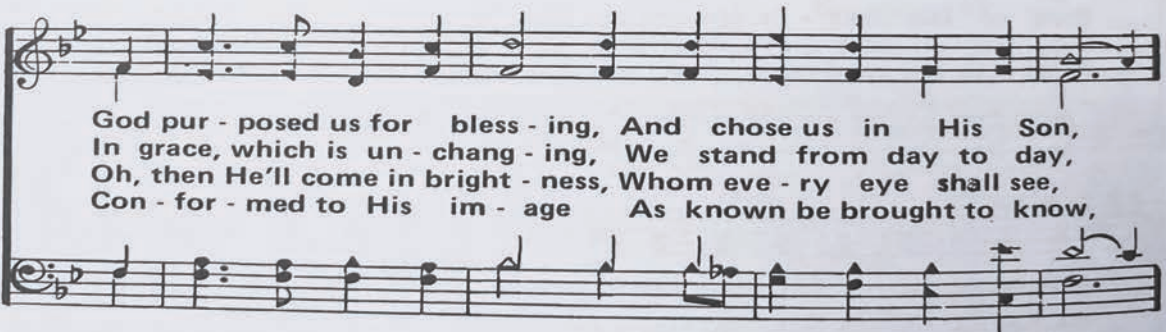
George J. Webb (1803-1887)



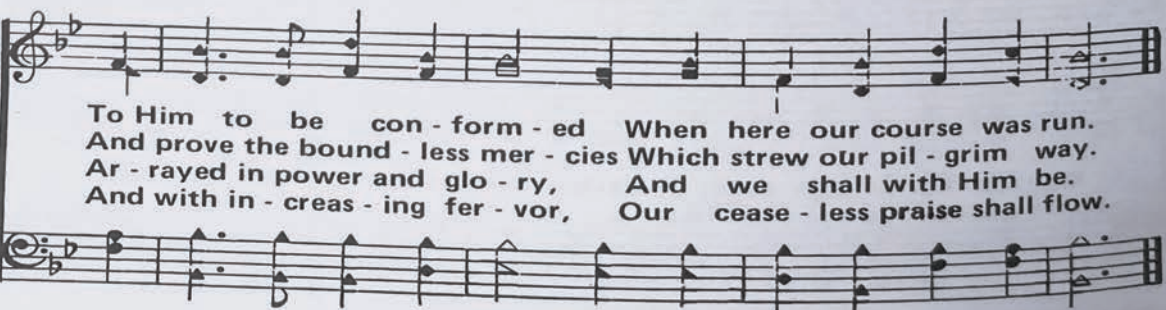
1. In deep, e - ter - nal coun - sel, Be - fore the world was made,
2. In pre - sent, blest ac - cept - ance In Him who came to die;
3. And when the day of glo - ry Shall burst up - on this scene,
4. For He who left His glo - ry, To die up - on the tree,



Be - fore its deep foun - da - tions On noth - ing - ness were laid;
In Him who now is seat - ed At Thy right hand on high;
Dis - pell - ing all the dark - ness Which deep'ning still had been;
Will soon com - plete the sto - ry And come a - gain, and we



God pur - posed us for bless - ing, And chose us in His Son,
In grace, which is un - chang - ing, We stand from day to day,
Oh, then He'll come in bright - ness, Whom eve - ry eye shall see,
Con - for - med to His im - age As known be brought to know,



To Him to be con - form - ed When here our course was run.
And prove the bound - less mer - cies Which strew our pil - grim way.
Ar - rayed in power and glo - ry, And we shall with Him be.
And with in - creas - ing fer - vor, Our cease - less praise shall flow.

The Red Heifer

(Continued from page 9) ♦

their sins. We need God to make this effectual to us. Beloved, you and I are not ignorant. We know that our daily walk is not perfect. We know that it is not perfect. You know the thoughts that you have. How about some of the thoughts you have had just now in the house of the Lord. Some cannot even keep their minds on the Lord Jesus and His word for one minute while in the house of the Lord. That is sin folks. We are to be worshipping Him in Spirit and in truth; with all of our heart, mind, soul, and spirit. And our mind is wandering, thinking about all manner of things. We have defiled ourselves right here in the presence of our Lord and Savior who walks in the midst of the candlestick or lamp stand. Lord, I know that I am clean...every whit (altogether, completely, all, whole), but we need our feet washed. You see, we walk in this world and we get our feet dirty. Remember, this was a common practice in the day of our Lord. They wore sandals, and you would come into someone's home and they would wash your feet, or it would be available to you. It is also a very refreshing thing to cleanse the feet. But the whole body does not need to be cleansed; just the feet. We walk with our feet. And it shows us that with our feet, with our walk, daily walk, we are going to become unclean. We do not need to be washed all over again. We do not need to be saved again, but we do need our walk to be cleansed. We have been cleansed from all sin. But our daily walk is not perfect. I am clean, every whit, but I see this uncleanness in me. And the apostle Paul saw it in His own life, too. **"For that which I do I allow**

not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man; But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin" (Rom. 7:15-25). And this is what the Lord deals with here in Numbers 19:1-22 in the ordinance of the Red Heifer. Amen.



Forum EXTRA

Editor's Note: Last month we did not get all of Bro Tom Ross's answer printed for Forum Question 2: "What words of wisdom do you have for the young preachers today?" The remainder of that answer is listed below:

I have read several books about preaching itself, *Preachers and Preaching* by Martin Lloyd Jones, *Lectures to My Students* by C.H. Spurgeon, *The Reformed*

♦ (Continued on page 11)

Little Valleys

By Oscar B. Mink
(1924-2004)

"He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills." (Psalms 104:10).



SENTIMENTALISM: A VICIOUS ENEMY OF THE CHURCH AND PASTOR

Sentimental: "Marked or governed by feeling." (Webster).

THE PASTOR:

1. CANNOT PREACH ELECTION, because the daughter of Brother and Sister Elite is in attendance with her family, and belongs to an Arminian church. And we do not want to offend them.

2. CANNOT PREACH ON BAPTISM, because some of the church members have loved ones who have been sprinkled, and they would surely believe the Pastor's remarks were directed toward them.

3. CANNOT PREACH ON CLOSED COMMUNION, for some will feel left out, and nobody likes that left-out feeling.

4. CANNOT PREACH ON MISSIONS, because we do not want to offend our members or visitors who have some Primitive Baptist kinfolks.

5. CANNOT PREACH CHURCH TRUTH, for there are some good people in the invisible church, and many of them are friends to some members of our church.

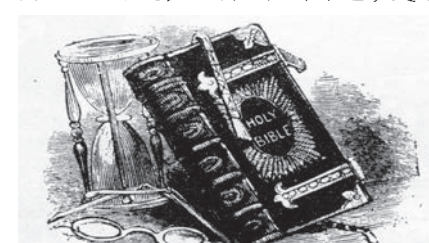
6. CANNOT PREACH ON HOLY LIVING, for we

know everyone sins. Therefore, we are not qualified to rebuke our brother or sister for sinning. Who is it that is so sin free that they can cast the first stone? (It was rank and God defying hypocrites to whom Christ put this question, it was not addressed to the church. The Lord's church is not only qualified to officially rebuke sin, but is commanded of the Lord to do so (John 8:1-10; I Cor. 5:12, 13, 6:2,3; Rom. 6:14,15; I John 2:1).

7. CANNOT PREACH STEWARDSHIP, because Brother Hardship is in debt way over his head, and to preach tithing would be like rubbing salt in his wounds.

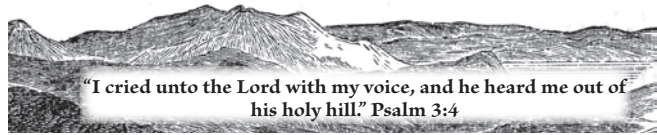
The shameful result of the above sentimental restrictions is a church and pastor that simply, cannot preach.

Nevertheless, the Word of God admonishes every New Testament church and Pastor, saying: **"Preach the word, be instant in season, out of' season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine"** (II Tim. 4:2). And the first New Testament preachers said: **"..we ought to obey God rather than men"** (Acts 5:29).



Selahs

By Tomas Julius G. Salacup
Christological Baptist Mission
Vallejo, CA



Are You Shaken?

Hebrews 12:28 **“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”**

When God shakes, we are shaken. In Noah's time, God shook the world. The world stopped. Hebrews 12:26 **“Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.”**

In the past few years He has been shaking the earth again, with earthquakes, plagues, pandemic (Covid 19). And when He does these things the world stops (sports game suspended, airlines, cruises, Hollywood and movies making cancelled, education systems postponed, restaurants are shutting down, transportation

affected, weddings undone, etc.). Man just wonders when it will end, It does not matter how advanced his technology and science he thinks, he is helpless when God shakes the earth.

But there will be more shaking and, another thing, for sure He will not shake the earth only, but also the heaven. We see and hear from the news about extra heavenly activities lately, (asteroids, meteors, blood moons), and the Scripture says, **“All these are the beginning of sorrows”** (Matthew 24:8).

Are you Shaken? Let us look to God, **“...the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”** (Hebrews 12:2).



Forum EXTRA

(Continued from page 10) ♦

Pastor by Richard Baxter, *Thoughts on Preaching* by J.A. Alexander, *The Christian Ministry* by Charles Bridges, *Lectures on Sacred Rhetoric* by R.L. Dabney, *Expository Preaching* by John MacArthur, *On Preaching* by H.B. Charles, *Biblical Preaching* by Haddon Robinson. I want to know how to be better prepared to feed the flock of God. I want to continue learning how to effectively prepare and deliver sound, Biblical messages

that glorify God and edify the saints.

I have read several books on Baptist church doctrine and practice. J.R. Graves, J.M. Pendleton, Francis Wayland, B.H. Carroll, J.M. Porter, Roy Mason, Milburn Cockrell, Davis Huckabee, Rosco Brong, and Mark Fenison are all excellent writers on Landmark Baptist church truth. I love reading the classic works on Baptist History by men like J.T. Christian, J.B. Moody, D.B. Ray, William

Cathcart, G.H. Orchard, William Jones, Thomas Armitage, Thomas Crosby and many more.

I have read nearly every book written by A.W. Pink, some volumes like *The Atonement*, *The Sovereignty of God*, *Profiting From the Word*, *The Life of Elijah*, *The Redeemer's Return* and *The Exposition of John* more than once.

Every Baptist preacher ought to be familiar with the sermons of C.H. Spurgeon, who God used in a mighty way in the 1800's. One of the first set of books I bought was *The New Park Street Pulpit*, a six volume set containing all the sermons of Spurgeon while he was a young man at New Park Street Chapel. I now have most of the Spurgeon collection. It was Spurgeon who introduced me to the writings of the English Puritans: John Flavel, Thomas Brooks, William Gurnall, Thomas Manton, Richard Sibbes, Robert Traill, Thomas Boston, John Bunyan and others.

I have spent my entire ministry studying the Bible and reading books that exalt and explain the meaning of Scripture. Read while you are young. As you get older and the responsibilities of family, the ministry and secular work mount, it becomes more difficult to carve out time to read. I have never stopped reading the Bible first and foremost, and other good books although most of my reading is now related to sermon preparation.

A word of caution should be inserted here. You must exercise scriptural discernment as you read human authors. It should be obvious that you would not agree with everything someone writes and you should not. Learn to eat the meat and throw away the bones. It is sad, but true that a majority of books that you will read are tainted with error due

to the depravity of the men who wrote them. Mark it down, all Protestant writers are going to be wrong about the local church, Baptist baptism, restricted communion, and the Bride of Christ. For example one of the best books I have ever read on predestination was written by Lorraine Boettner, who believed in infant baptism. God gave me the discernment to embrace the truth that was presented, and to reject the heresies of infant baptism and universal church doctrine.

5. Learn how to discipline your time or you will be constantly frustrated and ill prepared for preaching. Proverbs 25:28 declares: **“He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.”** You will need to make time for prayer, Bible study, sermon preparation, family time, visitation, etc. On top of that many preachers will have to work a full or part-time job to support their families. Pythagorus said: “No man is free who cannot command himself.” You must make it your daily quest to follow the admonitions laid out by Paul: **“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil... And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men”** (Eph. 5:15-16; Col. 3:23). The Gospel ministry requires a sincere desire to do the work of the Lord. Work of any kind demands discipline, determination, and perseverance in order to be successful. The ministry is not for the lazy, the slothful, or the undisciplined time waster. It requires men who are committed to living on purpose each and every day. I am

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. What does "hyper-Calvinism mean?"

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The term "Calvinism" began when the Synod of Dort in 1619 affirmed the Five Points of John Calvin (or Augustine's Divine Grace) and rejected the teachings of Pelagius and Jacob Arminius. The Five Points became catechized under the Biblically supported acronym of T-U-L-I-P: Total Depravity: the inability of man to freely will anything Spiritually good, because of Adam's fall and immediate death. (Rom. 5:12/Eph. 2:1-10/I Cor. 2:14/Ps. 14:1-3/Rom. 8:5-8, etc.) Unconditional Election: the choice/election of persons that Christ would die for and that the Holy Spirit would regenerate, must unconditionally be the choice of Sovereign God, because of the helpless state of the totally depraved. (I Pet. 1:2-5/Eph. 1:3-12/Rom. 8:28-39/II Thess. 2:13/ II Tim. 1:9-10, etc.) Limited Atonement: the purpose of the sacrifice of God was to secure the salvation of His people through a complete atonement and propitiation of their sin-debt on the cross of Calvary. If it were true that Christ died for "all", then "all" would be saved! Jesus died vicariously and exclusively for "all" that the Father gave Him. (Matt. 1:21/Isa. 53:4-11/John 17:6,9,12/Rev. 17:8.) Irresistible Regeneration: in the miracle of

the new birth, the Holy Spirit transforms death unto life in the chosen and justified sinner, creating new life as the unbeliever is granted the gifts of repentance and faith to believe the proclaimed Gospel, translating him/her into the Kingdom of the Dear Son of God. (John 3:3-8/1:12-13/Heb. 4:2/Acts 11:17-18/I Cor. 4:7/II Cor. 5:17-21.) Perseverance & Preservation of the Saints: both before and after the salvation of those chosen, atoned and regenerated recipients of Sovereign Grace, it is impossible that they will ever miss out on, or fall away from that gift of eternal security and everlasting life. (John 3:14-21/10:25-30/Phil. 1:6;2:12-13/Heb. 6:4-6.) Selah! Think about it!

The term "Hyper-Calvinism" (also known as Hardshellism) is a degenerative form of teaching another "grace" that blindly pits the Bible Doctrines of "God's Sovereignty" and "Human Responsibility" against each other to the point that Gospel preaching becomes an unnecessary part of Salvation. Some of these so-called "Primitive Baptists" take their form of "Calvinism" (thus Hyper-Calvinism) to the point that unwary sinners will die and then wake up in Heaven, never hearing the "Gospel of their Salvation," but unwittingly being bestowed with eternal life by God, without their knowledge. Untenable and unscriptural!

This foolish pre-empting of the Missionary Heart of the Holy Bible renders the Lord's Baptist churches superfluous, and denies the vocation of the

Gospel preacher to witness of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ! The very heart of Sovereign Grace (TULIP) is that God gifts salvation unto men, but the mechanisms of Sovereign Grace is "what" is gifted to fallen man. The gifts of Sovereign Grace are more than just a ticket to Heaven! God triumphantly decrees love where there was hate; peace where there was war; joy where there was misery; light where there was darkness; unity where there was chaos; faithfulness where there was rebellion; repentance where there was adamancy; and hope where there was despair. (II Peter 1:3-10.) To "gut" the doctrines of TULIP and distort them into a caricature of Sovereign over-ruling denies the loving personality of the One who fulfills Isaiah 61:1-3: **"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified."**

Hyper-Calvinism is no more Baptist and (King James) Bible doctrine than Arminianism and Free Willism are. **"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver**

us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:3-8). Selah!

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Sadly, the meaning of hyper-Calvinism most of the time depends on who is using and applying the term. Hyper usually implies excess or exaggeration. Calvinism is the system of theology that was formulated and codified in response to the heresies of James Arminius. The Five Points of Calvinism are attributed to John Calvin even though the doctrines the system represents were believed and preached by Jesus Christ, the apostles, and the early churches long before John Calvin ever drew a breath. The Five Points of Calvinism are commonly set forth in an acrostic labeled The TULIP and are as follows:

Total Depravity
Unconditional Election
Limited Atonement (I prefer Particular Redemption)
Irresistible Grace (I prefer Effectual Calling)

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. How do you approach witnessing to a professed homosexual?

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The first step to approaching a homosexual or any other immoral deviant from God's Clear and Holy Word, is with mercy and pity. Attitude is important! Lord, Please help us to alleviate the disgust of such an abomination and look past the sin into the sinner's hopeless slight. As Jesus Christ approached the adulterous woman of John 8, so too, should we have a desire "not" to be the sinner's ultimate judge, but to pray that they, too, might **"..go, and sin no more."** Sodomy in its many forms is not the unpardonable sin, but as the Apostle tells other early Baptists, **"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God"** (I Cor. 6:9-11). Some of these Corinthian Baptists had formerly been in the clutches of such despicable sins as our modern neighbors have found themselves in... God can

certainly save them! Selah! Think about it!

The second step is with the unvarying truth of the Bible. We cannot allow the modern or changing acceptances of society to these unnatural sins to alter our response and witness. Anything less than the truth of God's hatred and ultimate judgment of this sinful behavior would be criminal on our part, and would make us an accessory to the crime. Surely God's condemnation of homosexuals is not going to change because the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of their lifestyle choices! Our view must be the eternal one of Hell and its horrors. Would we not desire to warn any lost soul of their perilous plight? They must know the truth of their inherent danger, should they not repent before the commandments of the Holy Sovereign God of the universe. **"The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings"** (Isa. 33:14)?

Thirdly, we must respond toward "any" sin mentality with consistency. We mentioned earlier that homosexual sodomy is not the unpardonable sin. Truly it is a nasty part of the culture of death that America is descending into, in rejecting God's culture of life, wherein "one man and one woman" will perpetuate humanity and thereby the Gospel witness of Jesus. I remind my congregation from time-to-time, that if we put all the homosexuals and lesbians

in one state, that they would only last one generation: a culture of death! The same scenario would result if we put all the abortionists into one of these United States: one generation: a culture of death! But, realistically, homosexuality would never have become as prevalent as it has, if we had not already destroyed the foundation of families and true marriage with our disdain for God's holy love and familial order of the sexes. Working moms and divorce laid the foundation for our current dysfunctional society that has feminine men and masculine women! We must repent as a nation (from families to churches to communities) and vocally and demonstrably point out the way of hope, back to Jesus Christ and our creator God. Selah! Think about it!

Fourthly, we must approach the homosexual with eternal hope for their souls. I examine my life experiences with them and must admit that many times I have given up hope for such folk before I have said a single word to the homosexual. Beloved reader, we must "trust" the life-changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! "None" are hopeless when we enter our Sovereign God into the equation! As the Lord saved the demoniac of Gadara or the draconic Saul of Tarsus, so too, He can change the heart and soul of the depraved sinners of even these abominable, unnatural sins. **"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good... But continue thou in the things**

which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 3:1-3, 14-15). Jesus can save! The Holy Scriptures still give wisdom! Selah! Think about it!

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Mark 16:15 commands by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." According to this verse you can not take the Gospel to the wrong address. We are commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the good news of His death, burial, and resurrection to all people everywhere throughout the whole world. God will use His word either for conversion or condemnation according to II Corinthians 2:14-16: "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

My approach in witnessing to everyone is relatively simple. I share some of my testimony how God through Christ saved a poor,

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Forum Question #1

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Preservation and Perseverance of the Saints

Since I am a Baptist I have never identified with the term Calvinism simply because I do not embrace many of the heresies that John Calvin believed such as the spooky, mythical Universal Invisible Church theory, infant baptism by sprinkling water on the heads of unsuspecting babies, a hierarchy of church government, amillennial eschatology, and the union of church and state to coerce and enforce religion. With that said, I firmly believe in the Five Points but prefer to identify them as The Doctrines of Grace. I guess the real meaning of hyper-Calvinism is someone who exaggerates or goes to excess in their belief of Calvin's system of doctrine. I personally never use the term because it often conveys the wrong idea.

I started a mission work that was organized into a church in Xenia, Ohio. We started the work in April of 1986 with two members (me and Tammy) and organized in August of 1987. I remember we had a family of four that started visiting our mission and were excited about the work and what they were hearing and learning. The man even started going visiting with me when I would go out door knocking, preaching the Gospel door to door. He started sharing what he was learning with some Christian friends who quickly informed him that I was a hyper-Calvinist. This alarmed him and he requested a meeting with me. He began to hurl all the accusations his friends had conjured up against me and I simply would turn to the Bible and ask him to read the Scriptures. I showed him from the

Bible the truths of the Doctrines of Grace. It also puzzled him that if I was such a hyper-Calvinist why would I be out preaching the Gospel to lost sinners door to door. Unfortunately, religious peer pressure got the best of him and his family and we parted ways. This was a case of mistaken identity based on a faulty label used in a derogatory way to demonize the doctrines of grace. The way Arminians and Pelagians label their enemies reminds me of how Democrats and Marxists use derogatory terms to demonize people who oppose tyranny and totalitarianism in our day.

Unfortunately, there are people who believe and preach the Doctrines of Grace who do not believe in missions or witnessing to the lost. Many Primitive or Hardshell Baptists are in this camp. Sadly, there are others who say they are missionary but are really practical Hardshells because they never witness to anyone or preach the Gospel to sinners. I believe the Doctrines of Grace and I believe that we are required and commanded to preach the Gospel to every creature. Thus, I am a Missionary Baptist who believes the Gospel must be preached and that only God can save sinners. I am neither a hyper-Calvinist or a Hardshell.

If you would like to study the Doctrines of Grace, I invite you to our church's website at www.mpbcoho.com where a book I wrote may be found, titled *Abandoned Truth, A Study of the Doctrines of Grace*.

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Hyper-Calvinism, simply put, means that Christ's atonement was sufficient only to the elect. Only those that God chose, elected, predestinated before the foundation of the world (God's Elect) will be saved.

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Eph. 1:4).

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph. 1:5).

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Eph. 1:11).

To be clear, Sovereign Grace Baptists are not Calvinists, Jesus taught the Doctrines of Grace many years before John Calvin was born. It is said of Baptists that we are reformers, once again, we taught these truths before the reformation. We did not come out of the catholic church, so therefore we did not protest anything, we always believed them. The flip side of this, is that man can save himself (free will) and makes the assumption when he will decide to choose God, which is the furthest thing from the truth. Read *"Free Will – A Slave"* by C. H. Spurgeon.

Scholars want to link us to the reformation: "Hyper-Calvinism is a branch of "Protestant theology" that denies the universal duty of human beings to believe in Christ for the salvation of their souls. It is, at times, regarded as a variation of Calvinism, but critics emphasize its differences from traditional Calvinistic beliefs. Hyper-Calvinism distinguishes itself from traditional Calvinism as regards the "sufficiency and

efficiency" of Christ's atonement. Predestination in Calvinism traditionally argues that only the elect were able to understand Christ's atonement, but that the sufficiency of the atonement stretches to all humanity, while Hyper-Calvinism argues atonement was sufficient only to the elect.

The term originated in the 19th century as a sometimes-pejorative descriptor predated by terms such as "false Calvinism" and "High Calvinism." The term can be used vaguely, and its distinction from traditional Calvinism is not always clear; writers such as Jim Ellis have suggested that Hyper-Calvinism, as a concept is sometimes applied broadly to denominations more theologically conservative than the speaker's, rather than to a consistent theological stance. Nonetheless, Hyper-Calvinism is still distinguished as a distinct theological branch, associated with figures such as the 18th-century theologian John Gill.

Biblical support for Hyper-Calvinism is controversial. Writers such as Gill, Richard Baxter, Daniel Whitby, and Arthur Pink have debated the support or opposition of various Biblical verses for the stance." (Taken From Wikipedia).

It is true that John Calvin believed what Baptists have been preaching since the time of John the Baptist, but that does not make us Calvinists. "John Calvin denied that the sins of the reprobate have been expiated, but he maintained that Christ died sufficiently for the whole world and only efficiently for the elect. He affirmed that Jesus makes his favor "common to all" and offered "indiscriminately to all," though not "extended to all"; for all do not receive him. He also stated that it is their unbelief

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Forum Question #1

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which prevents anyone from receiving benefit from the death of Christ. With reference to God's desire concerning the reprobate wicked, Calvin condemns the view of Georgius the Sicilian that "God would have all men to be saved" and continues by saying, "It follows, therefore, according to his understanding of that passage, either that God is disappointed in His wishes, or that all men without exception must be saved ... why, if such be the case, God did not command the Gospel to be preached to all men indiscriminately from the beginning of the world? why [did] He [suffer] so many generations of men to wander for so many ages in all the darkness of death?" (Also Taken From Wikipedia).

Calvin wrote *"The Five Points of Calvinism"* in which true Baptists state that they are "The Doctrines of Grace"! Where do you think Calvin got that belief? From the same Bible that you and I have. So, the next time someone calls you a Calvinist, just tell them you are not, and that Christ was teaching this same doctrine way before Calvin was ever born. God Bless!



Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 13) ♦

wretched, undeserving sinner like me by grace through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ alone. I then attempt to make them aware of their sinful condition before a Holy God and the judgment they are under if they remain impenitent in their sins. Whether they are a homosexual or heterosexual my approach is pretty much the same. Homosexuality is a

sexual sin that is categorized as an abomination in the sight of God. It will be judged as such according to I Corinthians 6:9-11 which states: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." It appears from "verse 11" that there were Corinthian believers who were saved out of the sins listed. This verse indicates that God can save people out of the abominations of homosexuality and its byproducts. However, whether God saves homosexuals or not, it is our responsibility to preach the Gospel to them.

I personally do not attempt to debate those in the LGBTQP (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Pedophile) community. A casual reading of Romans chapter one makes it clear that in most cases God has turned them over to a reprobate mind void of scriptural reason and spiritual discernment. They are hardened in their sins, and in most cases are proud of their perversion and rebellion against God. My oldest son Joshua has had to encounter them in the workplace over the years. They often try to bait him into saying something that will get him fired. He is one of the best people I have ever known in knowing how to witness to sinners of all stripes. I marvel at his ability to witness to anyone and everyone. He told me that one of his bosses identified as

queer and challenged Josh because he knew Josh was a dedicated Christian. He asked Josh if he thought homosexuality was a sin. Josh's answer was classic. He asked his boss if he thought it was a sin and if he ever felt guilty about it. His boss's answer was yes he did think it is wrong and he felt guilty! Josh proceeded to tell him that homosexuality in the Bible is listed as a sexual sin just like fornication and adultery, and therefore must be repented of and forsaken. Josh told him the only way he could be saved and the guilt of sin be washed away was through the finished work of Jesus Christ. Forgiveness of sins can only come through the sacrifice of Christ's precious blood: "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:6-7).

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"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16). Notice in these verses who we are told to witness to, we may not like it, may not be comfortable with it, and may wish we did not have to, but Christ has commanded us to witness to these folks as well as all others. The same work Christ did for us is able to save the homosexual as well. To this point, I will add that I believe if a homosexual is saved that

person will immediately repent of that abominable practice.

I tend to be of the persuasion we should begin all encounters with those we are witnessing to in the same manner; that of course being with the Gospel. Sure, there may be some small talk before to get the conversation going, but the focus should be on the gospel. After all, talking on things of this world will never bring someone to Christ. I am also of the belief that while we should call sin what it is we should also do so in a caring manner. Notice in John 4 the Lord does not hesitate to call the way the woman at the well was living sinful however he did not do it in a harsh or uncompassionate way.

Lastly, we must be cautious because in this world we are already viewed as intolerant bigots and homophobes. If we behave in a manner that makes those we witness to believe this is the case they will go away feeling and possibly being victorious in proving themselves correct and ruining both our personal and church's testimonies. The Bible calls for us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

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"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died

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Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 15) ♦

for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (I Cor. 15:1-4).

The above scripture is the gospel message, and it should be preached to all mankind. It does not discriminate, just because a person is a homosexual or not, we may not like their life style but they are a soul dying and going to hell **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Rom. 3:23-26).**

Matthew 28:18-20 does not say go ye therefore, and teach all nations except the homosexual **“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”**

I understand that it may be more difficult but there is no difference in how we would preach Jesus to a homosexual or any other person; they need to see that they are a sinner and that God hates sin (Rom. 1:16-32).

They need a Saviour just like

all the rest of the lost and dying world, just like you and I did **“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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:9-13). “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)” (Acts 10:34-36). God Bless!**



Forum EXTRA

(Continued from page 11) ♦

a big believer in making a “to-do” list every week with the goal of completing each task throughout the week. I have found it is much more efficient than flying by the seat of my pants without well-defined goals in mind.

6. **“PREACH THE WORD; BE INSTANT IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON; REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT WITH ALL LONGSUFFERING AND DOCTRINE” (II Tim. 4:2). “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not**

for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind” (I Pet. 5:2). “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). All of these verses speak to the primacy of preaching the Word of God to the flock of God. Not your opinions. Not supposed “new revelations” as there are none (Rev. 22:18-19). Stick to the plain and simple facts of Holy Scripture! Follow the principles set forth in Nehemiah 8:8: **“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.”** Read the Scriptures, give the sense, explain the meaning, and make application. Explain the text in its context. Do it over and over again for the entirety of your ministry.

Real preaching should be marked by faithfully expounding the truths of Scripture with the aim of persuading your flock to learn, live by, and apply the truth in their daily lives. Preaching should never be merely dispensing information. Preaching should be the delivery of information aimed at transformation. In order to do this effectively you must have the power of the Holy Spirit in your life and ministry. Pray that the Spirit of God will fill you and your preaching ministry. Without the power and presence of the Holy Spirit your preaching will accomplish very little.

My favorite way of preaching is by what is now referred to as sequential exposition, which was formerly referred to as verse by verse, chapter by chapter, all the way through a book of the Bible. Exposition forces you to examine every verse in its context

in a specific book. In my opinion it is the best method for the preacher and for the congregation. I do not think there has ever been a time in my ministry where I was not preaching through a book of the Bible using this method. Right now, I am preaching through and writing a verse by verse exposition of the Book of Jonah in our adult Sunday School class and also the books of I and II Thessalonians on Sunday evening. On Wednesday night I just finished a topical study on the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Now on Wednesday night I am going verse by verse through Psalm 104, The Creation Psalm. On Sunday mornings I often preach textual messages on subject matter I think our church needs at the moment. Right now I am doing a topical, doctrinal study of The Last Days as set forth in Scripture. In a normal week I preach 4 times and I strive to be led of the Lord to feed the flock of God a sound, balanced diet from the Word. When I was younger I would fret over what to preach from week to week, struggling to find the perfect message, worrying if this was the precise one the Lord wanted me to preach. Over time I came to the settled conclusion that as long as I am faithfully preaching what the Word of God actually says and teaches, then God will be glorified.

When I was a young preacher Brother Ferrell taught a class called “Practice Preaching” where we had to learn how to preach textual, expository, and topical sermons. We had to present written outlines and preach a message on an assigned subject and style every week. We were graded on a variety of things like how we read our text, content, delivery, eye contact, enthusiasm, voice inflection, our introduction,

♦ (Continued on page 17)



Light Contemplations

By Luke Austin
of Cadillac, Michigan

"Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD" (Psalm 107:43).

Perilous to Christians

II Timothy 3:1 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."

Christians have been in mortal danger since the first days at Jerusalem. The prophets were slaughtered before them. So what is this peril? It isn't mortal danger because there's nothing unique about it. Whatever this peril is it is dangerous because God's people will be affected by it."

II Timothy 3:2 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy"

The peril is now being opened up. What is the peril? They are lovers of self. They are a people of selfies and self promotion. Proudly boasting of themselves. Willing to curse God and speak against Him without fear. Throwing off the authority of parents, ungrateful monsters that grow to hate any authority figure. Whether it be God or man.

II Timothy 3:3 "Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good"

Without natural affection. Parents without natural care for their children (abortion for example). Children without natural care for parents. Trucebreakers. Breakers of promises and obligations. False accusers. Willing to lie to gain the upper hand. (Politicians for example.) incontinent. Lack of

self restraint. If they are offended they rage. They scream. They burn down cities. Fierce. A description of how they retaliate and rage. Despisers of those that are good. They think nothing of anything traditionally thought of as good. Particularly they hate Christianity and any biblical definition of good. The home, the marriage, the children, the country, the government. All of these need to be thrown off and redefined.

II Timothy 3:4 "Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God"

Traitors. Traitorous in business, in the home, in relationships. Cannot be trusted. Always seeking to swindle their neighbor. Heady. Predisposed to rush forward in the heat of passion. High minded. Arrogant, proud. Lovers of pleasure. Lovers of entertainments. Lovers of leisure. Lovers of anything that pleases me first and God last. Having God in the place of least importance and priority.

II Timothy 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

What will define these people? They will have a religion. It will even look Christian from an outsider perspective. It will have a form, a lookalike to the true religion of God. But there is no power. No power to save souls, change lives, transform homes and communities. It's a facade. And the masses will flock to it. The Osteens and Copelands of the

world will fill football stadiums with its poison.

Can you see all the similarities to the time in which we live? What is the peril of this time described as the last times? True Christians will be in the midst of this culture of self love and powerless religion. It will seep in as a poison and will affect them. It would not be perilous unless it was dangerous to the children of God. God wouldn't warn the goats by His word of the peril. So it must be dangerous to us. The entertainment and self-love culture does harm the true Christian. It is a poison that must be overcome by the word of God, by prayer and secret devotion to God. What has been the most effective weapon of the enemy to slay Christians? Not famine, nakedness, or being put to the sword. A self-love, self-first culture that encourages entertainment and leisure has been by far the deadliest weapon employed by Satan.

(Luke Austin is a member of the Cadillac Baptist Church of Cadillac, Michigan.)



Forum EXTRA

(Continued from page 16) ♦

flow of the sermon, and conclusion. I learned a lot about the practicalities of studying, developing, and delivering a message in that class.

I fear there is a tendency among younger preachers to try and find something unique to preach about. This hunger for something new, a deeper discovery that no one has ever seen before can lead a young preacher astray. If you will devote yourself to preaching the Bible you will not have to search for "new" and exciting things to preach. Stick to the basics of sound, Scriptural exposition. Otherwise you will

fall prey to a myriad of errors akin to the Charismatic psychobabble that often passes for preaching nowadays.

7. Tend to the flock that God has ordained and appointed you to feed the Word of God. Devote yourself to feeding and leading those who God has entrusted you with. Love them. Pray for them. Preach to them. Be there for them. Be an example to them. Encourage them. Rebuke them when needed.

Do not develop an adversarial relationship with the members of the Lord's church. I have known of pastors who think certain members are out to get them simply because they may not agree with everything they preach. Do not be naive. Human beings, even saved human beings often have disagreements. My pastor told me a long time ago that a pastor needs to have the heart of a mother and the hide of an alligator. Do your best not to be easily offended. If you are always offended at someone it will have an adverse effect on your preaching and ministry.

Do not try to pastor someone else's church. You will have plenty to do tending to your own flock. Do not set yourself up as the self-appointed Baptist policeman, trying to make sure every other church and pastor is in lock-step with you. Baptist churches are independent and autonomous bodies for a reason. I Thessalonians 4:11 states: **"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you."** Do not make it your business to unchurch everyone that may not dot every i or cross every t just like you do.

8. Do not neglect your wife and children. Make your family

♦ (Continued on page 18)

The Kentucky Baptist and the Burning Coals of Truth

C. D. Cole
(1885 - 1968)



Salvation



"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31). "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (I John 5:13).

The following are practical questions--questions many people are interested in:

How to be saved? It is the uniform teaching of the New Testament that we are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, or by believing in Him. And the New Testament tells us why it is by faith: That it might be by grace. **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).** Also that there might be no boasting. **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10).** Lastly, because Jesus Christ did all the saving work. **"Christ hath**

redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone one that hangeth on a tree" (Gal. 3:13). "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 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. 9:27-28). "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24).

Can one be saved and not know it? A better way to put this question would be: Can one be saved and not have the assurance he is saved? I think so. Otherwise, why was I John 5:13 written: **"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God".** On the other hand, there are some who know they are saved, that is, in their own mind--who are not saved. I have seen people with the least evidence of being saved who were sure they were saved. **"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name**

done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:22-23). John wrote his first epistle to people who were saved so that they might know they were saved. **"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (I John 5:13).**

How can one know he is saved? He can know it only by faith. This is the only possible way to know. You cannot by feelings. Feelings are variable and deceptive, and confusing.

It is the blood that secures our salvation and the Word gives assurance. The blood secures and the Word assures. John says he has been describing a saved person, and we can know we are saved by finding ourselves pictured in the Word. We know by the evidences. What are the evidences?

Faith - **"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and every one that loveth Him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him" (I John 5:1); "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37); "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).**

Love - **"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (I John 4:7); "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death" (I John 3:14).** Do I love the Lord or not? Am I

His or am I not?

Good Works - **"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).**

Conflict - **"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I" (Rom. 7:15).**

Beatitudes - **"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matt. 5:3-12).**

(Reprinted from the Bryan Station Baptist Church's paper, *The Pioneer Baptist*, September 1968 issue)

END
Forum EXTRA

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a priority. I remember Brother Al Gormley looking me straight in the eye when I was a young preacher with 3 kids under the age
♦ (Continued on page 19)

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of five say: "Do not neglect your family! Your wife and children ought to be the most important people in your life. You lose your family, you will lose your ministry." What solemn, truthful words! Sacrificially love your wife and children. Respect and take care of your wife and children. Provide for them physically, spiritually, and emotionally. I Timothy 5:8 states: **"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."** Our family does nearly everything together. Almost every Sunday afternoon our whole extended family of 14 gathers for a meal at our house. We go on vacations together. We check on each other regularly throughout the week. Sometimes we have pop-up cook outs or pizza parties on the spur of the moment. Every month someone has a birthday party that we make into a really big celebration. Our kids love one another. Their kids love their cousins, and uncles, and aunts. I thank God that our family is so close-knit! It makes this preacher's heart rejoice!

Do everything in your power to evangelize your children and grandchildren. Tell them the story of Jesus. Share the message of the Gospel consistently and pray for their salvation. Live a life that confirms what you preach from the pulpit. Do not embitter your children. Do not embarrass your children in front of church members by berating them for wrong doing. As you pastor remember that little eyes are always watching you. Be careful to always recommend Christ, His Word, and His ways to those

closest to you.

9. Learn to live within your means and to be content with what God has blessed you with. To do this it is an absolute must that you handle your finances properly. Do your dead level best to stay out of debt, especially credit card debt. Pay every bill on time. You might object and say "The church is not paying me enough." Then get a part time job. Mow some grass, do some landscaping, detail cars or wash some windows if need be. A pastor who does not pay his bills is a bad testimony in the community and in the church.

One of the happiest ministerial couple's I have ever known was Pastor Davis Huckabee and his dear wife. They did not have a lot of money or material things. They were frugal. They lived in a small house that Sister Huckabee made comfortable and tidy. They gardened and canned their vegetables. They told me stories of how God would provide their needs from the most unexpected of places, like the time a truck carrying apples crashed near their home and they were permitted by the owner to glean the bruised apples that could not be sold from the side of the road. They collected them, made pies, and canned the rest. They were delighted as they related how God had taken care of them. Not once did they mention how little of this world's goods they had. They were happy, contented, and in love with one another and the ministry God had entrusted them in a small church in Ohio. What an impression their testimony had on me as a young preacher! They lived the truth of I Timothy 6:6-8: **"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And**

having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

10. Finally, be a friend to preachers, even with those you may disagree with in some finer points of doctrine. Proverbs 18:24 declares: **"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."** I am a Landmark Missionary Baptist who firmly believes in the doctrines of grace and premillennial eschatology. I believe in the woman's head covering and in using wine for the Lord's Supper. I have dear preacher friends that differ with me on those things, as well as other things. I have learned to agree to disagree without being mean about it. I believe in a pre-trib rapture and have friends who are mid and post trib. I even have friends that are what Bro. Cockrell used to say were pan-millennial (it will all pan out in the end). The point I am making is that you need to stand for what you believe without compromise, but do so graciously with the understanding that others may not line up with you on every single thing. Sometimes I think Baptist preachers back themselves into a corner thinking they are the only ones left that believe all the truth. If you develop that attitude you will lead a pretty lonely ministerial life. It's also tragic when you find yourself constantly at war with other preachers. Do not allow yourself to get sidetracked by all the "things" preachers find to fuss and argue about. It saddens me to see Landmark Baptist preachers cannibalize one another, sometimes over the slightest disagreement. Make it a point not to personally attack preachers. Treat others how you want to be treated. Practice the Golden Rule even when

you strongly disagree with someone. Preacher friends have been such a blessing to me through the years.

When you are able, be generous to preachers, especially those who may be struggling. I remember how generous and kind Brother Al Gormley and the Bryan Station Baptist Church were to me and my family when I was a young preacher who did not have two nickels to rub together. Brother Gormley was a friend to preachers and their families. If he found out they had a need, he would ask Bryan Station to help. There is no telling how many preachers were helped through the years. Brother Cockrell knew how much I loved good books. He was always so generous to give me sound books when he knew I did not have the money to buy them. Those kind of men left a lasting impression on me when I was a young preacher.

I am sure I have left some things out. My hope and prayer is that God will be pleased to call and equip young preachers to fill the pulpits of the Lord's churches. May God help the members of New Testament churches to encourage young preachers! May God help older preachers to be a blessing to the young men by following the admonition Paul left with Timothy: **"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"** (II Tim. 2:1-3).





From the Pen of a Country Preacher

Milburn R. Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)



Permissive Providence

“Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to inquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart” (II Chron. 32:31).

This verse has to do with the reign of Hezekiah, king of Judah. Ambassadors had come from Babylon to congratulate him on the destruction of the Assyrian army and the going back of the sun. The god of the Babylonians was the sun, and these ambassadors came to honor Hezekiah whom their god seemed to have honored.

A MAN LEFT TO HIMSELF

My text deals with the topic of permissive providence. It is seen in the words: **“God left him, to try him, that he might know what was in his heart.”** In what sense did God leave Hezekiah to himself? The passage would suggest a number of things. First, God did not warn the king by sending Isaiah to him before the ambassadors came. God is not under any obligation to warn even His children of approaching danger in the shape of temptation. When He does it is pure mercy on His part.

Second, God did not supernaturally enlighten the king as to the secret design of these ambassadors, nor as to the

disastrous consequences that would follow in years to come.

Third, no preventive providence kept Hezekiah from this trial. God left the king to his own faculties and revealed truth. God permitted Hezekiah to sin through the pride of his wealth and to keep him from being proud of his holiness. God wanted him to realize how weak he was apart from preventive grace. This sin was permitted for holy ends---to destroy pride and self-confidence and to make him more dependent upon God and His grace.

THEIR OWN HEARTS' LUST

I read in Psalm 81:11-12: **“But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.”**

The Israelites would not hearken to God's voice which spoke through the prophets unto them, calling them to repentance. God's warnings were rejected, His promises forgotten, His laws disregarded, and His gospel ignored. The words, **“Israel would none of me,”** are literally, “did not will Me,” meaning “did not incline to Me, were not disposed to worship Me, and to find happiness in Me.”

We see an important lesson here. All the wickedness in the world is owing to the wilfulness of man's depraved will. Before

the fall man had a free will, but after the fall his free will became selfwill. The reason why people do not serve God and obey the gospel is because they have no will to do so (John 5:40).

The spiritual judgment of God upon Israel was a most fearful thing. Preventive providence gave place to permissive providence. They were given up to follow their own will unto their own perdition. Because they refused to serve God He gave them up to their own beastly lusts and Satan who rules men by their lusts. He left them to themselves to do as they willed. He permitted them to have what in the hardness of their hearts they desired to have.

It would have been better to have been left to the Moabites, or Ammonites, or Philistines than this. It would have been better to have been left to the wild beasts or the flames of martyrdom than this. It would have been better to have been left with an incurable disease than this. It would have been better never to have been born than to be born and left to their own hearts' lust. God's leaving a soul to its lusts is far worse than any of these things. To be given up to one's own will and counsel is in effect being given up to eternal wrath and woe! A man may be given up to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that the soul may be saved (I Cor. 5:5), but when God gives him up he is without hope.

The words “give up” suggest the idea of a divorce---a husband sending away an adulterous wife and commanding her to live by herself. Transferred to God, it means nothing else than God withdraws His protecting and preventive hand from a person and leaves him to his will and lusts. Such a person becomes hardened in sin and shall not

escape the damnation of Hell. Disease, defeat, disaster, death, and destruction awaits a God-forsaken soul. When a soul is given up by God it is not because of indifference or failure on the part of God, but of His holy displeasure!

LET HIM ALONE

Another example of permissive providence is seen in Hosea 4:17: **“Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.”** The word **“Ephraim”** is to be taken as representative of the ten northern tribes which revolted under Jeroboam. It was the most numerous and powerful of the tribes, and it seemed to have been the leader in the apostasy of Israel. The Hebrew commentators express the word rendered **“joined to”** in our KJV by words importing “yoked to,” “allied with,” and “cleaving to.” Ephraim did not wish to depart from his beloved idols nor to be parted from them. He was not only an idolater, but he was confirmed in it. His heart was rooted in his idols. Thus he was incorrigible and beyond hope.

Ephraim is abandoned by God. God will send no prophet from Judah to reprove him of his sins (Ezek. 3:26). To conscience God said, **“Let him alone.”** To providence He said, **“Let him alone.”** In a manner of speaking God said, “Ephraim is joined to his idols. He is incurably proud and profane, an incurable idolater. Let nothing awake him till the flames of Hell do it.”

WALK IN THEIR OWN WAYS

It is written in Acts 14:16-17: **“Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not**

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Country Preacher

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himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

"The times past" means ever since God chose and separated the people of Israel from the rest of the nations to be a peculiar people to Himself. From that time until the gospel dispensation the Gentile nations were left to ignorance, superstition, and idolatry. God left them to themselves---to the dim light of conscience and the light of nature. No prophet was sent unto them, and they were given no written law. They were permitted to follow their own reason and systems of religion.

Although the Gentiles had not the benefit of a written divine revelation to check or control them, they were not given a license to walk in their own ways without being chargeable with sin (Rom. 1:20). They had the light of conscience (Rom. 2:15). They were not left without a witness. The visible creation declared the invisible Creator. There was also His benevolent dealings with them in giving them rain from Heaven and fruitful seasons.

There are some other things which are seen in this verse. First, in the main in the Old Testament dispensation the Gentiles were denied Divine revelation and true prophets. God withdrew from them the restraints of His grace and providence.

Second, because the Old Testament generally contains only a record of one nation we must not assume that all Gentiles went to Hell during the old dispensation. There were Job, Naaman, Nebuchadnezzar, Ruth, Rahab, and others that were

clearly God's elect.

Third, the Israelites had an advantage over the Gentiles in the old dispensation because they had Divine revelation, true prophets, and other things (Rom. 3:1-2; 9:4-5).

Fourth, Gentile idolatry declared the insufficiency of reason to guide men in matters of religion and the need of Divine revelation.

Fifth, the old dispensation manifested the depravity of men. By suffering the Gentiles to walk in the ways of sin, it was proved for all concern that Divine power was necessary to bring men into a right revelation with God.

Sixth, how wonderful to live in the New Testament dispensation when the gospel is being preached to all nations and when all Jewish advantage and Gentile disadvantage has been set aside.

PEOPLE GOD GAVE UP

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and

served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Rom. 1:20-32).

The Divine abandonment of men is strikingly traced in three successive stages, at each the same words are used, **"God gave them up"** (vv. 24,26,28). The word **"also"** intimates that God's retributive abandonment of the Gentiles corresponded to their abandonment of Him. They dishonored God and were given over to dishonor themselves. At first God gave them up to uncleanness or impurity, and finally to a reprobate mind. Because they reprobated the

knowledge of God, God gave them over to a reprobate mind!

Romans chapter 1 is not favorable to the theory of evolution. Man did not evolve from polytheism to monotheism. Rather, he went from monotheism to polytheism. Man at first was not an idolater. There is no evidence of idolatry among the antediluvians (Gen. 4:26). The earliest mention of idolatry is in the days of Abraham (Josh. 24:2). Idolatry came about because men knew God and refused to worship Him (v. 21). From idolatry sprang sensuality (vv. 24-27). Sensuality led on to every kind of immorality. Becoming subservient to their lusts, they sank lower than the beasts of the field, among which the barriers of sex are not crossed. The lowest stage of human recklessness is to take pleasure in sin, knowing it is sin (v. 32)!

SOME HARD VERSES

Any student of the Bible knows that there are some very hard verses to explain as to God's permissive providence. Some verses seem to make God the author of sin. But this is not the case. In Isaiah 63:17 it is written: **"O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy way, and hardened our heart from thy fear?"** (Isa. 63:17). This sounds like the people are charging their sins upon God and making Him the author of them. But a close study of this verse reveals that the godly are not accusing God of being the author of their sins, but they are complaining to Him of them. God had withdrawn His mercy and Spirit from them and permitted them to be hardened from His fear. This had caused their sins.

Note Jeremiah 4:10: **"Then"**
♦ (Continued on page 22)

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER
Financial Report
4-1-2022 to 4-30-2022

Beginning Balance..... \$8,161.67

RECEIPTS:

Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS 500.00
S.G. B. C. Silsbee TX 30.00
Carol Willett, Cottonwood Shores, TX 100.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL 25.00
Grace B. C., Gladwin, MI 50.00
Grace B. C., Germanton, NC 50.00
The Lord's B. C., Goose Creek, SC 50.00
Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY 35.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Cheapeake, OH 100.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL 100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR 50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Wellington, KS 100.00
Beauty Mtn. B. C., Edmond WV 50.00
N. T. B. C. Goshen, IN 50.00
Indore BC, Indore, WV 300.00
West Jefferson BC, West Jefferson, OH..... 75.00
Berea BC, Stonington, IL..... 60.00
Big Creek BC, Wayne, WV 200.00
Eld Donald Parker, Millport, AL..... 100.00
Faith BC, Lynn, AR..... 12.50
Victory B. C., Courtland VA 25.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg KY 150.00
Grace B. C., Corbin KY 100.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa OK 150.00

Divided Checks..... 150.00
Anonymous 650.00
Sub Total \$3262.50
TOTAL..... \$11,424.17

EXPENDITURES:

Postage 654.84
Printing..... 459.10
Wages 1750.00
FICA 133.88
Supplies 1439.14
Div Cks 150.00
Total Expenditures \$4586.96

ENDING BALANCE \$6,837.21



BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST
Financial Report
4-1-2022 to 4-30-2022

Beginning Balance..... \$4,207.52

RECEIPTS:

Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS 225.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg KY 100.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 100.00
..... 425.00
TOTAL..... 4632.55

EXPENDITURES:

Radio time 363.98
Recorder Belt 16.05
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 380.03

Interest +0.03
ENDING BALANCE \$4,252.52

Country Preacher

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said I, Ah, Lord GOD! surely thou hast greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul.”

This verse seems to charge God with deceiving the people, but we can be sure that God deceives none. What had happened was that God had permitted the false prophets to deceive the people into believing there would be peace when war was at the door (I Kings 22:20-23). God is said to deceive here only in the sense He permitted false prophets to deceive the people.

Consider also Ezekiel 14:9: “And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel” (cf. Job 12:16). Here again the meaning is that God permitted the false prophets to follow their own hearts’ lust for gain by prophesying smooth things. God allowed these false prophets to deceive the people as a punishment for not listening to Ezekiel, a true prophet. One wicked man deceived another wicked man. Both were sins in the persons who did them, and so were not of God. The deception of the false prophet and his deception of another was a punishment from God. Only in this sense are they from God.

There is also Ezekiel 20:24-26: “Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers’ idols. Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should

not live; And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am the LORD.”

The meaning is that when the people of Israel renounced God’s worship, and adopted the idols of the heathen, and disregarded all His calls to repentance, He gave them up to these abominable practices as their punishment. He withdrew His prophets and His protection and permitted them to go into captivity. God is said to do this because this was all under His control and government.

There is also Ezekiel 24:21 which says: “Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword.” This does not mean that God would profane the house where He had dwelt and manifested His presence. Rather, it means He would withdraw His presence and protection from the Hebrew people and permit their enemies to destroy the temple and carry away its treasures to a strange country (Ezek. 7:21-22; II Chron. 36:17-19). By withholding His restraint, He punished His unfaithful people (Job 16:11-12).

PROVIDENCE AND THE SINS OF MEN

To the minds of some, it is difficult to vindicate permissive providence in making use of the sinful acts of men. But God can serve His own providence by the sins of men without being the cause of men’s sins. There is no evil

in God making the sins of men serve His wise and good ends, if He can do this without having any hand in them. According to Holy Scriptures, He does just that.

God never does suggest that any man sin, for such would be contrary to His attributes of holiness. “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he” (Deut. 32:4). Of God the Prophet Habakkuk said: “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity” (Hab. 1:13). Romans 1:18 tells us: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.” I John 1:5 reads: “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

James 1:13-15 declares: “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” Sin is owing to man’s wicked heart, or the temptation of other men, or to wicked spirits. But there are times when God is pleased to leave men to themselves, and they sin because of their own depraved natures.

Man’s own wicked heart conceives evil designs, and he executes them by God’s permission. But no man even when he sins is out from under God’s control and government. He suffers for his sins because God’s righteous government has appointed that he suffer for his

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Country Preacher

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sins. No man suffers anything but what God orders for him. If suffering for sin is just and right, it is no reproach to God to order and appoint it for holy ends.

Years ago, John Howe told us, "God is said to do whatsoever creatures do; whatsoever second or subordinate causes do, while He has them in His hand, or in His power, either to restrain or let loose their inclinations and natural tendencies as He pleases, though He does not prompt them to this or that thing" (Howe's Sermons, Vol. I, p. 348, 1744 edition).

In Scripture the things which God did not choose to hinder, He is said to have done, although the very permission of them is proof of His righteous displeasure. If men could get this single truth clearly in their minds, they could better understand the doctrine of permissive providence. Then they would not be guilty of charging God with the sins of men as some of them do. To make the God of the Bible the author of sin is to attempt to turn God into the Devil!

CONCLUSION

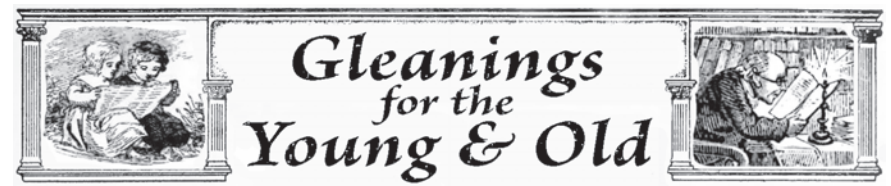
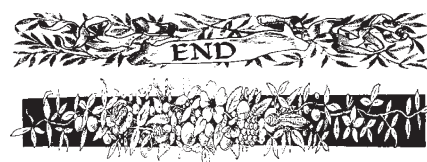
There is one thing for certain. God is infinitely just and holy whether or not we recognize He is so. It is impossible for a good God to do anything but what is right, but it is very possible for fallible worms of the dust to fail to discern it. When we are prone to think His ways are imperfect, we should remember the imperfection is only in our understanding.

One day when our bodies are glorified and raised up to Heaven we will look back on God's permissive providence, and we will discover that He did all things

well. We will then understand why God allowed men to be left to themselves and to reap what they sowed. The dark chapters of providence will be seen in the light of everlasting day. As we view the whole of God's work of providence, we shall strum our golden harps as we stand on the sea of glass and throw our soul into a song around the throne of God: **"Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou king of saints"** (Rev. 15:3).

We must beware of turning providence into an indolent fatalism. Christmas Evans, the Welsh Baptist preacher who once was a rank Arminian, almost took the doctrine of Divine providence to the extreme after coming to see sovereign grace. His wife, a sounder theologian, administered the needful antidote. One day he said, "Catherine, you never mind the potatoes; put your trust in Providence and all will be well." "I tell you what we will do, Christmas," replied Catherine; "you go and sit down on the top of Moely Gest, waiting for Providence, and I will go and hoe the potatoes; and we shall see to which of us Providence will come first."

The worst thing that God can do to any sinner is to leave him to himself--to give him up to his own heart's lust--to turn him over to a reprobate mind. But if there is in you a desire to escape from your sins by fleeing to Christ, then there is still hope for you. But you must flee the wrath to come. You must repent of your sins and trust in the gospel of Christ.



A TEARFUL LETTER FROM A SAVED FATHER TO A LOST SON

My Son,

I guess all parents at some time in their life (realizing there are less days ahead than behind) consider their children in regards to whether they taught them properly by word and example, concerning salvation.

You were always a good son, never gave us much worry. Your mother and I were and are proud of you.

I pray what we said and did were pleasing to God as we raised you in the fear and **"...admonition of the Lord"** (Eph. 6:4). Your mother did a better job at that than I.

Sometimes a preacher is so taken up with preaching to others that he wonders if he took the time to tell his own children properly, clearly, and simply the way of salvation. Well, I do not want to be guilty of that.

1. *Properly*: Is to say what the Bible says. If we give our opinions on how to be saved (be at **"...peace with God..."**) (Rom. 5:1) it would be: Do the best you can. Be kind, charitable to others, attend a church, read your Bible, pray to God, give God His tithe, etc. These are all good things but they lack the power to save (Rom. 1:16-17).

What the Bible says is **"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly**

through Jesus Christ our Saviour" (Tit. 3:5-6). **"...all our righteousnesses are all as filthy rags"** (Isa. 64:6).

By God's mercy we are saved. By good works we are to live. Good works are the evidence of salvation, not the cause. **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that (faith) not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast"** (Eph. 2:8-9).

2. *Clearly*: It is a shame how some have muddled the waters of the clear teaching of the Bible about who needs to be saved and how they are to be saved.

(A) Who Needs To Be Saved?

Everyone: **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Rom 3:23). In Isaiah chapter one, God is showing the reason of His harsh judgment on the nation of Israel and He describes their sin as one individual who is sick and faint of heart (Isa. 1:4-6). They need to be made alive spiritually (Eph. 2:1). They professed to know Him by their works (Isa. 1:11-15). But God would not give any heed until they gave evidence of repentance (Isa. 1:16-17; Acts 20:21), and faith (Acts 16:30).

(B) How Can They Be Saved?

Acknowledging their sin (repentance) calling upon God (Rom. 10:11-13, 17). Believing on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:30-31), that His blood shedding on the cross was the only payment God would accept for their sins (Heb. 9:22, 28). This is the only work that satisfies God.

3. *Simply*: By believing what

♦ (Continued on page 24)

Sad News

Harry Willard Pyle
JULY 24, 1929 – APRIL 24, 2022

Pastor Willard Pyle, 92, entered into the presence of his beloved Savior, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, April 24, 2022. He was born July 24, 1929, to Charles and Mary Pyle in Portsmouth, OH, and was blessed by God with a long and useful life. Many are the lives he touched. His family, friends, and all who came under the influence of his life and ministry would gladly testify that he was a man of great Christian character. Rarely did anyone visit who did not find him sitting with his Bible, pen, and notebook as he meditated and prepared for preaching.

He would want all to know that any good in him came only by the grace of God.

After his conversion to Jesus Christ in 1949, Willard was called to the ministry in August of 1950. He attended and graduated from Lexington Baptist Bible College in Lexington, Kentucky, followed by pastoral ministry that spanned more than 65 years. His first Pastorates were in Garrison and Maysville, KY, beginning in 1955. In 1960, he was called to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Chesapeake, OH. This was

a blessed time for all the family and many fond memories and lifelong friends were made there. Willard had most recently faithfully served as Pastor of Naples Park Baptist Church from October, 1978 until 2021.

As part of his pastoral heart, Willard loved spreading the gospel to children. For many years he conducted Vacation Bible Schools in several different churches in Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

Willard is survived by his dear and loving wife of 72 years, Dolores Kirkendall Pyle. Their marriage was truly one made in heaven, as manifested by their constant love and devotion to one another through all the years.

He is also survived by four daughters, Karen Wilson (Joe) of Owensboro, Kentucky; Mary Parrish (Tim) of Courtland, Virginia; Carol Proctor (Andy) of Germanton, North Carolina, and Rita Ryerson (Don) of Greenville, South Carolina. Pastor Pyle was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Kenneth David.

Other survivors include 15 grandchildren and 34 great grandchildren, who share fond memories concerning their “Papa,” and many of them follow in his steps in their devotion to Jesus Christ.

“...thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty” (I Sam. 2:18).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Baptist Church of Gladwin Michigan is seeking to start a mission work in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We are also seeking a sound preacher to go there. If you are interested and feel led of the Lord please contact Pastor Sam Wilson at 989-701-5564. You may also contact Brother Tom Coffee, who is currently working in the area at 843-254-3018.

This ministry currently has a blog written by Bro Coffee that can be read online at <https://thefaithfulofgod.com/blog/>

The Maranatha Missionary Baptist Church located at 14460 Ravenna Avenue, Alliance, OH, 44601, is seeking a pastor. The church was organized in 1981 and currently has seven members that are grounded in sound Baptist doctrine. Any interested elder can contact Brother Denny Morgan at dennymatco@gmail.com or call (330) 324-3038.

The Grace Landmark Baptist Church of Buckhannon, WV, is seeking a pastor. The church is Sovereign Grace and Landmark in doctrine and practice. Any interested called pastor of like faith may contact Brother Brad Butcher at (304) 669-4738 or (304) 745-6226.

The Lord's Baptist Church in Tacoma Washington is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact Gaylen Russell at 360-879-5565 (home) or 253-495-4567 (cell) or by Email: gaylenr@rainierconnect.com.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, KS is in need of a pastor. For more information

please contact the church in writing at SGBC, 400 N. Main St., Caldwell, KS 67022, or by phone Brother Darin Wiley 620-863-2431.

The 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.

Philadelphia Baptist Church of Decatur, AL, and her pastor George Kelley would like to announce their upcoming fellowship meeting on June 10-12. The speakers for the meeting will be Elders Jim Duke, Larry Lafferty, Joe Sidders and Ted Tweet. Service times are Friday at 7:00 p.m. with a light meal provided at 5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. with lunch provided. The church house is located at 202 Mill Road, Decatur, Alabama. For more information, contact Pastor Kelley at (909) 240-1809 or (256) 778-3042.

Gleanings

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God says. Taking Him at His word (Rom. 4:1-8). Abraham's calling to leave his country and kindred and go out to a place that was not yet revealed to him is a picture of salvation by faith. Abraham believed God and it was counted **“...to him for righteousness”** (Gen. 15:6). Abraham simply believed what God told him.

(C) Faith: Is resting in what God says. Jesus did the Father's work regarding salvation by dying on the cross and there it was finished (John 17:1-4;19:30).

It is only complicated when we fail to believe what He says.

I love you with all my heart, praying always for you.

Love, Dad

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