

The Berea Baptist Banner

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The Conflict of Power at the End of this Age

By Wilbur M. Smith

(1894-19??)

Introduction—**The Omnipotence of God and the Powers Arraigned against Him.**

The Bible teaches throughout that God, the only true and living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is omnipotent; that is, He is all-powerful, one of His great titles being the Almighty. The late Professor W. Lindsay Alexander of Edinburgh makes this statement regarding the almightiness of God: "In ascribing to God perfect liberty, two things are implied: the one, that no extraneous power can hinder Him from accomplishing His own determinations; and the other, that no limitation or affection can constrain Him to will or to do aught else than what He knows to be good. Nothing



Wilbur M. Smith

did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places' (Ps. 135:6).

There are many different kinds of power, but two of them primarily arise in the revelation of God in the Scriptures. There is that kind of power which we may call *physical* power,

Continued on page 282

can hinder Him from doing what He wills. He ever can and does accomplish all that He wills. **'Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that**

Education---Trojan Horse of Liberals

By G. Russell Evans

Norfolk, Virginia

Our president wants "no child left behind." He campaigned on it, promised it and now plans on it as a priority of the nation. Splendid! The most important part of this wonderful goal, however, is *what the child is taught*—especially since taxpayers pay and since the vast majority, polls how, favor basic studies, old-fashioned Americanism, character and honor, instead of so much social sciences and situational ethics.

OPEN THE GATES

But, unfortunately, in so many cases, basic studies, basic Americanism and character are not what our youngsters are getting. More and more, our progressive educational system has become a sort of Trojan horse to open the gates for the army of internationalists and



G. Russell Evans (NEA) Report of the Commission on Social Studies.

Education is a huge Trojan horse, to be sure, but it does provide a ready and effective means to infiltrate our American culture with hordes of socialists and other liberals hell-bent to change that culture for their new world culture of global citizens. Molding our impressionable children

Continued on page 284

other zealots to spread their gospel of the "new age of collectivism," quoting the 1934 National Education Association

Letters, Letters, Letters!

Bro. Cockrell,

I truly enjoy your paper, look forward in getting it every month, so many things you read that you don't elsewhere.

Hope your health is improving.

—Kentucky

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I enjoy reading the BBB very much. Its been and always is an inspiration and blessing.

If you could find time and space, I would like your opinion and explanation of the church and kingdom. There has been various teachings and opinions on this subject down through time. Please set the record straight. What is the Biblical teaching on this subject?

—West Virginia

Dear Brother Cockrell,

As always I am greatly blessed to hear

from you. Every letter I have received from you has affected me and others here in some way. The Lord bless you as He will not forget your many labors of love.

Continued on page 294

The Doctrine of Rewards

Part 1

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth" (Ps. 58:11).

While the doctrine of rewards for

the righteous is more fully developed in the New Testament, this truth is also taught in the Old Testament as Psalm 58:11 proves. Some brethren completely reject the doctrine of rewards because they fear it takes something away from salvation by free grace. These people confuse salvation with rewards. These people have a host of scriptures in the Old and New Testaments to try to explain away. After their most zealous efforts, the Bible still says: **"There is a reward for the righteous."**

Salvation and rewards must never be confused. Salvation is by free grace (John 4:10; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5), but rewards are earned by works (Matt. 10:42; Luke 19:17; I Cor. 9:24; II Tim. 4:7-8; Rev. 2:10; 22:12). In the matter of salvation we must look to the Lord Jesus Christ: **"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the**

Continued on page 285

The Preeminence of Christ

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church:

who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell" (Col. 1:15-19).

God the Father ordained from of old that Christ should have first place in all things. The goal of God's economy is that Jesus Christ might become in all things what he is in

Continued on page 289

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

The Berea Baptist Banner

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Conflict of Power

Continued from page 281

which God has in perfect completeness, by which He is able to create, to destroy, to heal, to raise the dead, to sustain this vast universe, to bring all men before Him for judgment, an idea which, generally, in the New Testament is expressed by the word *dunamis*. Then there is that kind of power that a man has because of his position—the power, for example, of the President of the United States, not in any way, as far as he himself is concerned, related to physical power, but the power of office, the power vested in him because of his position. This is the power which Congress has, to make laws for the land. This is the power which a man has when he has mastered a subject. We speak of this kind of power generally as *authority*. It is translated in the New Testament generally by the word *exousia*. It is to this that Jesus referred when He said, **"All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth"** (Matt. 28:18).

From the time of Satan's revolt against God, there have always been powers aligned against Him, powers struggling to obtain victory over God, to thwart God's purposes, and, if possible, to destroy His plans. Particularly in the prophecies of the last days do we find vast accumulated power, of many kinds, set against God and against His Christ, and to this subject we must now turn.

I. THE APPEARANCE OF GREAT POWERS AT THE END OF THIS AGE OPPOSED TO GOD AND CHRIST

In that great prophetic Psalm at the very beginning of the Psalter, the Psalm which predicts the ultimate rule of the anointed Son of God, it was foretold that the day would come when a vast rebellion would occur, spreading over all the earth, led by the kings of the earth: **"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, Against Jehovah, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bonds asunder, And cast away their cords from us"** (Ps. 2:2, 3).

In this Psalm we are told that these very nations have been given of God to His Son for His inheritance and His possession. Even here we find the power of God's Christ entering in: **"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel"** (v. 9).

It is, however, in the Book of Revelation that there is unfolded before us those last great acts in the Divine drama of our redemption, in which the power of God and His Christ finally are confronted by all the accumulated evil powers and forces of the world, for one final decision. Before considering the conflict, let us think of how the omnipotence of God and His Christ are set forth for us in this final Apocalypse. At the very beginning of the Book of Revelation occurs the Divine title, **"the Almighty"** (1:8; 4:8). Christ is here called **"the ruler of the kings of the earth"** (1:5; 12:5) and the Second Psalm here centers into its fulfillment when it is declared that this Christ will **"rule them with a rod of iron"** (2:27). In chapter 4 the twenty-four elders, casting their crowns before the throne, acknowledge this omnipotence: **"Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created"** (4:11; cf. the songs of the multitude of angels, 5:12; 7:12). In the first eight chapters of the Book of Revelation, no actual opposing power or authority is so referred to; nor is any specific conflict

of Divine authority and satanic power depicted, the single exception being the phrase in the message to Pergamos regarding **"Satan's throne"** (2:13), a phrase that warrants very careful study, which we cannot give here.

With chapter 9 of the Book of Revelation, great and awful forces of evil, creatures of power, burst upon the earthly scene; and, a terrible fact, with the exception of the brief episode of the two witnesses in the city of Jerusalem who are slain, *these evil powers seem to hold absolute sway upon the earth for eleven successive chapters—9 through 19.*

Revelation 9 is emphatically the most war-filled chapter in the New Testament, corresponding in many details to Ezekiel 38 and Daniel 11. Here we read that the opening of "the pit of the abyss" is followed by an outpouring of locusts; **"and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. . . [they] were like unto horses prepared for war. . . and in their tails is their power to hurt men five months"** (vv. 3, 7, 10). Toward the end of the chapter we read of armies of horsemen numbering two hundred million. So destructive is this force that one-third of the men of this earth will be slain; **"for the power of the horses is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails are like unto serpents, and have heads; and with them they hurt"** (v. 19). Thus far we simply have a description of creatures who have an enormous capacity for the destruction of mankind; there is not necessarily here the alignment of their power against the omnipotence of God.

In chapter 12 is the strange passage regarding war in heaven. It seems to me that here is the preliminary episode of the last great struggle for absolute sovereignty. The war in heaven is referred to after we are told that the woman, whom the dragon would destroy, was to give girth to a man child **"who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron"** (v. 5), a theme we have noticed before. The war in heaven is between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels, with the result that **"the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him"** (v. 9). Even here we have only the secondary powers of heaven involved. Michael and his angels; the great struggle with Christ is yet to come. At last—and for this we thank God—the conflict ends in a definite defeat of Satan and his hosts.

With Satan and his hosts cast down upon the earth, we may expect some


dark and terrible days in human history; and such the Book of Revelation predicts. In chapter 13—the darkest chapter in the Bible, the midnight of human history—the words for power begin to multiply. Of the beast out of the sea, we read, **"The dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority"** (v. 2). Here is a dictator ruling on this earth with the power and authority of a supernatural being—God's greatest enemy, the Devil. Now, because of Satan's possession of supernatural power, the earth begins to worship both the dragon and the beast; and they worship the latter because he has apparently absolute power in the realm of military prowess, so that the earth says, **"Who is able to war with him?"** (v. 4). It is then stated that to this same beast **"it was given. . . to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and there was given in him authority, over every tribe and people and tongue and nation"** (v. 7). If anywhere in the Word of God absolute power in the hands of an enemy of God is predicted, it is certainly here—a world dictator, a hater of God. One may be sure this is coming.

In chapter 17 of Revelation, the theme of a world dictator is resumed; and here the words for power are even more frequent. **"The ten horns that thou sawest are ten kings, who have received no kingdom as yet; but they receive authority as kings, with the beast, for one hour. These have one mind, and they give their power and authority unto the beast"** (vv. 12, 13). This individual called the beast will be given power, a throne, and great authority by Satan! He will have authority over all the peoples of the earth, and the ten rulers, presumably of the Mediterranean area, together assign their power and authority unto the beast. These creatures, unitedly it is said, **"shall war against the Lamb"** (v. 14). In other words, these powers in united action will be found at the end of this age in deliberate, designed conflict with the One who is called Almighty—power against power. The outcome of this we shall discuss later in this chapter.

Summary: If my examination of the text in Revelation is accurate, I find that the word *power* occurs 29 times; the word *authority*, 20 times; the word *reign* and *rule*, 11 times; the word *war*, 8 times; the word *sword*, 7 times; the word *throne*, 43 times; and the word *king*, 21 times. The last book of the Bible, speaking of the last days, is a book of the inevitable conflict between the forces of evil, energized by Satan, and the power of God,

Continued on page 283

Cockrell's



Corner

(The views expressed in this column are strictly those of the editor of this paper. They do not necessarily represent the views of supporters or readers.)

GENDER-ACCURATE NIV?

Zondervan Publishing House, the world's largest Bible publisher, and the International Bible Society, which holds the copyright on the New International Version of the Bible (NIV), announced January 28th that they plan to publish "Today's New International Version" (TNIV), a "gender-accurate" version of the Bible.

Zondervan officials say the new version uses generic language where the meaning was intended to include both men and women. Examples include "sons of God" being changed to "children of God," and "brothers" becoming "brothers and sisters" when no specific reference to gender was intended in the original text. To my surprise, the TNIV does not use neutral pronouns to refer to God. This will probably be changed in a later updated version.

A statement from Zondervan called the TNIV part of an "ongoing mission to offer updated translations that reflect clarity in modern language and uncompromising accuracy." This is quite a statement, but I do not believe what they said. I want to see how they handle "sons of God" in Genesis 6:1-2 and Job 38:7.

Any person ought to know that the gender-neutral Bible must contain some absolute mistranslation. The original texts include a singular generic "he," and it is replaced with a plural "they" or "them." This new version is an attempt to alter the Word of God to accommodate the liberal thinking of the present age.

This new version degrades women. It suggests that women are so frail and ignorant that they can't recognize inclusive language in the Scriptures unless they have a politically correct crutch.

I don't care for the NIV, and I will

care less for TNIV. What is wrong with the old King James? I plan to keep my old Bible. Liberals can do what they will.

Some "politically correct" person will no doubt want to revise the Declaration of Independence because it says "all men are created equal."

DIFFERENT WAYS OF SALVATION

Baptists are often critical of Protestants and Catholics for teaching many different ways of salvation. God has only one way of saving sinners, and that is by repentance of sin and faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. But surely some Baptists teach many ways of salvation. At first most Baptists will deny this charge, but I will prove what I have charged.

I hear some Baptist (?) preachers teach salvation by prayer. They will quote Romans 10:13: "**Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**" These people never quote verse 14 of Romans 10, for it shows the people calling upon God in prayer have already heard a preacher and come to faith in Christ. In other words, those who pray are those who are already saved and have faith. There is no salvation by "praying through." This is something Baptists borrowed from the Holy Rollers. We would do well to return it to them.

Then I hear some others teach salvation by opening up your heart. They quote Revelation 3:20 where Christ said: "**Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**" These words were addressed to the lukewarm members of the church of Laodicea (Rev. 3:14) This church needed to open its doors and restore Christ to His residence in the church. There is nothing in Revelation 3:20 about repentance and faith. There is nothing about the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. There is no salvation by opening the heart's door to Christ. Christ has the power to open any door (Rev. 3:7-8). The heart is by nature closed up against Christ, and it can only be opened by God (Acts 16:14).

"Open up your heart and let Jesus come in" is something that Baptists borrowed from the Arminians. We would do well to return this expression to its rightful owner.

THEY HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!

The media elite is unable to give any credit for anything "good" or "positive" to Mississippi. James Blackwood, 82, the Southern Gospel music giant known by fans as "Mr. Gospel Music" died Feb. 3, 2002 in Memphis, Tenn., from a stroke. I grew up listening to the Blackwood Brothers Quartet singing on the radio. While I did not care much for some of their songs, there were many others which blessed my heart. In June 1954 this quartet appeared on "Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts" on television, and won the competition. They moved Mr. Godfrey to tears with singing from the deep South.

The Blackwood Brothers recorded more than 200 albums, sold over 20 million records, and helped form the Gospel Music Association (GMA) in 1964. James Blackwood garnered nine Grammys and seven Dove Awards in a career of nearly 70 years.

Except for a few local papers in our area, the big media elite forgot to mention one very important thing. James Blackwood was born in Choctaw County, Mississippi.

Continued on page 296

Conflict of Power

Continued from page 282

ultimately manifested in Jesus Christ. We must now consider how the earth today is preparing for this convulsive clash of power.

II. THE WORSHIP OF POWER IN MODERN TIMES AND SOME INFLUENCE LEADING TO THIS

1. Thomas Hobbes

While it is true that there have been wars from patriarchal days down to the present, requiring the accumulation and use of force in one form or another; and while the mighty rulers of this earth—Xerxes, Alexander, Julius Caesar, Charlemagne, and Napoleon—have all had great armies, I think one may say with accuracy that the actual *worship of power*, the pursuit of power for power's sake, the setting forth as a deep principle of life and preeminence of power, was not developed until the seventeenth century. Perhaps this development was initiated with Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), who has been described as "the first Englishman to present a system of political philosophy that can stand among the great systems of history. His work placed him at once in the front rank of political thinkers; and his theory became, from the moment of its appearance, the center

of animated controversy and enormous influence throughout Western Europe." Hobbes published his *De Cive (The State)* in 1647; and his far more famous *Leviathan*, in 1651. The central theme of Hobbes's whole concept of political economy is that the will of the state is the source and criterion of all right. Human actions, he says, have for their basis "a perpetual and restless desire of power after power, that ceaseth only in death." His theory worked out into the famous phrase, *Bellum omnium contra omnes*, that is, "a war of all against all." It is a theory, which, everyone admits, "is founded on the notion that man is purely egotistic in his emotions, and there exists no distinction of right and wrong, and that the impulses which move men are the passions which are born in them, and that there is no standard by which any of these passions may be judged morally different from any other." Hobbes's whole concept of the state makes a perfect preparation for the coming of Antichrist, for Hobbes insisted on an *absolute obedience* to the sovereign, no matter what the sovereign commanded, setting politics above religion and morals.

2. Charles Darwin

The second strong influence in European thought, exalting the idea of power, was, of course, Charles Darwin (1809-1882), with his *Origin of Species*, published in 1858. The late Professor Benjamin Kidd calls the publication of this book "by far the most important event in the history of the modern West." In his once much discussed word, *The Science of Power*, Professor Kidd says: "Within half a century the *Origin of Species* had become the bible of the doctrine of the omnipotence of force. The hold which the theories of the *Origin of Species* obtained on the popular mind in the West is one of the most remarkable incidents in the history of human thought. The first effect of this presentation of the existing world as a result of selection through struggle and merciless war was immediate. Everywhere throughout civilization an almost inconceivable influence was given to the doctrine of force as the basis of legal authority. . . the doctrine of the efficient Darwinian animal become embodied in the world policy of modern Germany." This was written in 1918. How little did Kidd know what the philosophy of Germany, based on evolution, would bring about!

3. F. W. Nietzsche

The third powerful force in European thought in relation to this lust for power was a blasphemous yet original thinker of the nineteenth

Continued on page 284

Conflict of Power

Continued from page 283

century, F. W. Nietzsche (1844-1900). He affirmed that Christianity is "the one great curse, the one enormous and innermost perversion, the one great instinct for revenge, for which no means are too venomous, too underhand, too underground, and too petty. . . .the one immoral blemish of mankind." He declared that the real worth of any one life is measured by the amount of power this life can exercise.

Nietzsche divides the forces of power into five groups—physical force, vital energy, mental or spiritual energy, social or political mastery and authority, and supernatural agencies, the reality of the last of which he denied. "I value man," said Nietzsche, "by the amount of power and fullness of his will. . . .I value the power of a will by how much resistance, pain, torture it endures and can turn to its advantage." Nietzsche went so far as to say that "exploitation belongs to the essence of the living. . . .to a consequence of the inherent will to power."

Nietzsche's famous book, *The Will to Power*, probably had more influence over the political thinking of Germany in the later nineteenth century than any work written since the time of Hegel. For this reason let us dwell on it a moment longer. At the close of this evil work he says: "This universe is a monster of energy, without beginning or end; a fixed and brazen quantity of energy. . . .Do ye want a light, ye most concealed, strongest, and most undaunted men of the blackest midnight? This world is the will to power and nothing else! And even ye yourselves are this will to power—and, nothing besides." He closely identified this doctrine with the evolutionary hypothesis. Early in the same work he declared, "'The preservation of the species' is only a result of the growth of the species—that is to say, of the overcoming of the species on the road to a stronger kind" (italics his).

This philosopher, so insistent that no one for "thousands of years before" had been so inspired as he, was the one who kept pounding into the ears of millions who had not received Christ the lie of lies, "God is dead! God is dead!" This is the one who insisted on the absolute abolition of all morality. This is the one who glorified and called for war. Germany followed this false prophet, and she got the wars her deceiver promised.

It should be remembered that it was Nietzsche who wrote the famous,

diabolical work, *The Antichrist*, for all of his thinking would lead him straight to the worship of that kind of being. "The ego subjugates and kills; it works like an organic: it robs and does violence. It wants to regenerate itself:—pregnancy. It wants to give birth to its god, and to see all mankind at his feet."

It was Nietzsche who really gave to the Western World its concept of superman, which "at bottom is a denial of rights to the mass of men." The society he pictured was recruited upon blood and training, and stood for *barbarism*. In the first World War, some German writers published essays in which they affirmed that Nietzsche's superman had become incarnate in Hindenburg. Nietzsche's own ideal of a superman was, not Alexander or Napoleon, but—Cesare Borgia!

This exaltation of and lust for power in Germany at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries—certainly at the root of these two awful World Wars, and now manifesting itself with such terrible reality in Russia—probably found its most terrible expression in the words of Heinrich von Treitschke, for a generation the brilliant, amazing influential Professor of History at the University of Berlin. He said, "The sin of weakness in politics is the sin against the Holy Ghost."

Here in dreadful concentration, in the philosophy of one man, master of the minds of so many millions in his generation—and in the two generations that have followed—do we find so many of the New Testament conceptions of the last days: (1) a hatred of God; (2) a bitter antagonism to Christ; (3) a call for supermen, especially Anti-christ; (4) a lust for war; (5) the abandonment of moral standards; (6) the exaltation of selfish power; and (7) the praise and practice of cruelty, accompanied by pride. Let great power be placed with men whose philosophy is Nietzsche's—and they are increasing by millions—and you have a stage set for the last days.

(To be continued)

Education---Trojan

Continued from page 281

is the best way to get at us. After all, our youngsters are our future. So, let us see about that!

JIMMY CARTER AGAIN

Let us thank Jimmy Carter for this Trojan horse, bred and groomed by the NEA, that assures federal domination of our public schools and universities through the Carter-created Department of Education—a

quid pro quo for the NEA vote that helped Carter become president. Thus, Carter gave NEA a powerful federal voice.

Ronald Reagan in 1980 promised to abolish this department, but the 2.1 million voters of this 'teachers' labor union were too tempting. Same story for Bush the Elder and Bill Clinton. Politics is politics—and the school children of America are paying a dear price.

NEA TAKEOVER

The NEA was founded in 1857 by a group of 43 educators, grew to 2000 members by the year 1900 and today can boast of over two million dues-paying union members—with power!

By 1960, the NEA was requiring teachers to join or lose their jobs. NEA's progressive educators were preparing text books and teaching materials, featuring social sciences, and neglecting core subjects such as math, history, English, science—and student behavior.

NEA influence on the thinking and values of our children is profound. History books are modified to exclude religious references and the great accomplishments of many American heroes, such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee and Henry Ford.

SUPREME COURT TOO

With the infusion of the NEA progressive education programs coupled with the Supreme Court rulings to prohibit prayer and Bible reading in school, Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores began a steady decline in the 1960s. So, today, student SAT scores are lower than those of their parents, meaning that we are graduating a generation of youngsters who know less than their parents.

Let us note at this point that SAT scores began in America in 1926, and in 1941 were put on the same scale as used today—so, it is valid to compare parents' scores with their children's.

The influence of the progressive NEA and liberal Supreme Court has been substantial in the philosophy and values of the educators now in charge of educating our youngsters in public schools and universities. So, what is going on in these places?

'WARRIORS FOR ISLAM'

At this critical time of the War on Terrorism, when the values and foundations of our American republic should top school agendas, the Byron Union School District of Oakland, California is teaching seventh-graders to role-play "warriors fighting for Islam," dress in robes like Muslims and study the Islam holy book, the Koran.

Superintendent Peggy Green defends her program for "teaching

about Islam and being involved to stimulate learning and enjoyment." She offers a one-sided story with nothing about militant Muslim terrorists dedicated to destroying the "Big Satan," the United States—and massacring thousands of innocents on September 11th all in faithful obedience to their god Allah who in Surah 2, verse 193 of their holy book, the Koran, directs Mohammad to kill whoever rejects Islam: "Kill them until. . .the religion is Allah." If Ms. Green doesn't know this, she should find out before subjecting our children to such dangerous drivel that borders on treason.

Imagine the uproar if Ms. Green had sponsored role-playing for the crucifixion of Jesus. The ACLU and Barry Lynn's Americans United would still be in apoplectic arrest.

TOP UNIVERSITIES TOO

Anti-war protesters starred on the campus of the prestigious College of William and Mary in Williamsburg with demonstrations, speeches and media coverage just before the Christmas break. They screamed objections to America's "terrorist" bombing of Afghanistan before going home to Mommy and Daddy for a fresh infusion of college-expense money, sometimes \$30,000 per year for the top quality institutions. Nothing is too good for junior.

Yale is in a class by itself. There a Muslim chaplain named Zaid Shaki fearlessly warns Yalies that "Muslims cannot accept the existing order in America." However, Mr. Shaki did not say when Muslims would be leaving.

Even so, Yale may allow the ROTC back now that "it's a more dangerous world." ROTC was kicked off campus in 1969 when the faculty voted not to credit ROTC courses. Students drove 90-minutes each way to the University of Connecticut for their ROTC—and Yale continued to accept ROTC dollars.

: Last year, the Yale professors voted against awarding President Bush, himself a Yale alumnus, an honorary degree, but honored freshman New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton by inviting her to speak at commencement. Moreover, in earlier years and during their first year as president, Yale awarded honorary degrees to Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy.

This kind of biased Trojan horse liberalism speaks volumes for the deletion of honor, character and Americanisms from America's education system—and will hurt Yale far more than the popular President Bush, now acclimated to his new job

Continued on page 285

Education---Trojan

and better skilled at ignoring petty insults with a nice smile and Christian forbearance.

TAXPAYERS PAY PROFESSORS

At the University of South Florida, Professor Sami Al-Arian reminds students that his Allah “curses Jews and Christians,” adding, “Let us damn America.” Al-Arian also raises money for terrorist groups. His salary is paid by American taxpayers, while teaching their children. What is wrong in South Florida for allowing such insults and arrogance? Why should Al-Arian remain one more day?

Senior professors at many American colleges and universities give so-called “expert commentary” for documentaries on CNN-TV and on other networks, without challenge and with good pay for scurrilous allegations to undermine our country, such as the following:

* Claiming the United States was at fault for the Cold War and the Soviet Union was the victim of U. S. aggression.

* Claiming the United States was the aggressor in World War II for “racist, anti-Asian imperialism.”

* Claiming modern Americans reject our Founding Fathers as “slave-owning, European white males.”

Such blatant lies, repeated on television documentaries by high-class educators who are giving students the same treatment, are having an impact. Unchallenged, they undermine our foundations.

ANTI-AMERICANISM ON CAMPUS

These left-wing, often radical, professors are educating America’s children and are paid big money by taxpayers for their shameless anti-American lies. They are warping our nation’s next generation of lawyers, businessmen and political leaders. Here are more examples of abusive liberalism:

* Arizona State University officials fired Professor Jared Sakren for

teaching Shakespeare because it offended women and minorities, and came from a “sexist European canon.”

* The University of Michigan uses confidential admissions criteria for different racial groups.

* At many universities, curricula include a Marxist methodology to teach Americans to hate their country and to view their parents as part of a “capitalist, racist and sexist society.”

* A Chico State University professor teaches that “Bush wants to kill innocent people, colonize the Arab world and capture oil for the Bush family.”

* University of Texas Professor Robert Jensen tells students, “The September 11th terrorist attack on America was no more despicable than the massive acts of terrorism—that the United States has committed during my lifetime.”

* University of New Mexico history Professor Berthold told his class, seriously, “Anyone blowing up the Pentagon has my vote.”

* Students at the University of Wisconsin at Madison had no trouble with the anti-American protests, as they bravely chanted, “One-two-three-four, we won’t support your racist war”—not a very clever chant really from the intelligentia.

BABY BOOMERS

The NEA collectivist attitudes are widespread within the public schools, universities and media, and often within some churches. Today’s leaders are the baby boomers—and they have had full doses. Unless exposed and halted, our children will also get full doses—and that portends deep trouble for a strong and independent America.

Liberal intellectual baby boomers today, trained under the NEA standards, are a problem. An example is the Oxford-Harvard educated Michael Kinsley, now editor of *Slate* magazine and formerly arrogant co-host of the CNN-TV “Crossfire” program. Apparently his credentials in academe give him virtual carte blanche in the liberal press.

Kinsley, not a very good sport

either, calls conservative best-sellers “barely books at all (but) sloppy stews of tired anecdote. . .bought for comfort, not intellectual challenge.” Clever rhetoric, but author Bernard Goldberg had the last laugh after Kinsley called his best-seller *Bias* (Regnery, 2002) “dumb.” Lo and behold, there goes President Bush walking across the South lawn of the White House with a copy of *Bias* in his hands.

Even so, intellectuals like Kinsley and other “superiors,” unleashed by the Trojan horse, will be slandering our popular president as “dumb” too—but not those who believe and who see beyond their self-inflicted importance.

(Capt. Evans lives in Norfolk, Va. His columns are distributed by the Americanism Educational League of Buena Park, Cal.)

Doctrine of Rewards

Continued from page 281

ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else” (Isa. 45:22). In the matter of rewards we must look to ourselves: **“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward”** (II John 8). To these distinctions may be added still another truth. Salvation is a present possession (Luke 7:50; John 3:36; 5:24; 6:47; Acts 16:31; I John 3:1; 5:1), while rewards are a future attainment, to be given out at the coming of Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:27; Luke 14:14; II Tim. 4:8; I Pet. 5:4; Rev. 22:12).

Instead of taking away from the doctrine of salvation by free and sovereign grace, the doctrine of rewards adds luster to it. God saves the soul by free grace so that there is no obligation on the part of a believer for after payments, else it would not be by grace (Rom. 11:6). Therefore, God recognizes an indebtedness on His part to reward a believer for his service to Him (Heb. 6:10). Hence God offers rewards for faithful service which is rendered toward His name. In truth it is those who deny the doctrine of rewards who diminish the doctrine of salvation by free grace.

THE MEANING OF THE WORD

In the Old Testament a number of Hebrew words are rendered “reward” in our KJV. The primary word (*misthos*) in the Greek New Testament means “to pay for service,” or “hire, wages, or reward.” The doctrine of rewards is seen in other terms such as **“sheaves”** (Ps. 126:6), **“treasures in heaven”** (Matt. 6:20), **“the prize”** (Phil. 3:14), **“an inheritance”** (I Pet.

1:4), and **“crowns of gold”** (Rev. 4:4). Peter speaks of these as **“praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ”** (I Pet. 1:7). In I Corinthians 4:5 Paul speaks of rewards as **“praises of God.”**

What manner of love is this? God so loved us as to give His Son to die for us, and then He rewards us for every little thing done for His glory. This is grace upon grace.

THE REWARDER

The rewarder is called in Scripture **“The LORD”** and **“the LORD God of Israel”** (Ruth 2:12). Isaiah 40:10 declares: **“Behold, the LORD God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.”** Paul called Him **“the Lord, the righteous judge”** (II Tim. 4:8). The Judgment Seat of Christ is the place rewards are given out by Christ, the righteous Judge. All saints must appear before Jesus Christ to be rewarded or to suffer loss of rewards: **“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the thing done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”** (II Cor. 5:10). The word **“receive”** has the idea of receiving back, which implies that each deed will receive what it deserves. The entire life from conversion to death is viewed as a unit, having one or two characteristics, either **“good”** or **“bad.”** Some works will be well-pleasing to the Judge, while others will be worthless and displeasing to Him.

The very expression, **“the judgment seat of Christ”** indicates Jesus Christ will be the One who executes judgment on that day: **“For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ”** (Rom. 14:10). This is also seen in other Scriptures. **“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son”** (John 5:22). **“And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man”** (John 5:27). **“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead”** (Acts 17:31). **“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom”** (II Tim. 4:1).

Rewards are usually given according to the character and ability of the rewarder. So, first, let us think

Continued on page 286

Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS	Sunday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	101.9	3,000 FM
WJOR, Saint Joseph, TN	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	101.5	1,000 FM
WVSA, Vernon, AL	Sunday 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	1380	1,000 AM
WLZA, Starkville, MS	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	710	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS	Sunday 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	95.9	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	680	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	550	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	1050	5,000 AM
WDBS, Sutton, WV	Sunday 6:30 - 7:00 a.m.	97.1	50,000 FM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	783 Khz	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	1494	16,000 AM

Doctrine of Rewards

Continued from page 285

of the greatness of the Rewarder: **"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ"** (Col. 3:24). The Lord Jesus Christ is our Judge. He is the eternal Son of God, the Lord from Heaven, the King of glory, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Our rewards will be in proportion to the greatness of our Rewarder.

Second, think of the wealth of the Rewarder. The Lord told Abraham: **"I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward"** (Gen. 15:1). The cattle upon a thousand hills belong to Him. He owns all the silver and gold in the world. The earth is His and the fullness thereof (Ps. 24:1). He is **"able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think"** (Eph. 3:20).

Third, think of His goodness. He loved us so much that He died in our room and stead. All spiritual blessings are in Christ, and all rewards come from Him. He is good because He is God. If we, being sinners, know how to give good gifts unto others, how much more so the One who **"went about doing good"** (Acts 10:38)? Oh, **"the riches of his goodness"** (Rom. 2:4)!

Fourth, think of His faithfulness. Christ is called **"Faithful and True"** in Revelation 19:11. In Hebrews 2:17 He is denominated as the **"faithful High Priest."** Hebrews 3:2 tells that He was **"faithful to him that appointed him."** Even if **"we believe not, yet he abideth faithful"** (II Tim. 2:13). Jesus Christ **"is faithful and just to forgive us our sins"** (I John 1:9), and He will be equally faithful to reward us for our faithfulness (Heb. 6:10).

THE REWARDED

Not every disciple of Christ shall have their works rewarded. Some will not have done **"good,"** but **"bad"** (II Cor. 5:10). Some will let others beguile them of their reward (Col. 2:18). Others will lose some crowns (Rev. 3:11). Still others will lose some of the things which they have wrought and not receive a full reward (II John 8). There will be some followers of Christ who can go to the Judgment Seat of Christ with confidence and boldness (I John 4:17), while others shall **"be ashamed before him at his coming"** (I John 2:28). Some Christians **"shall receive a reward"** (I Cor. 3:14), but others will have their works burned and **"shall suffer loss"** (I Cor. 3:15).

I want to begin to discuss the type of true believers who are to receive

rewards. First, there is the upright dealer: **"The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: and according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God"** (II Sam. 22:21-22). The special reward in David's case was deliverance from his enemies. The Lord rewarded him according to his comparative moral purity. God spared Noah, a righteous man (Gen. 7:1), and He delivered Lot, a righteous man (II Pet. 2:8). There is laid down a principle here that God rewards a man (here and hereafter) for upright conduct. If we claim to follow the Holy One of God, we must be fair and upright in our dealings with God and man (II Tim. 2:19). Remember, Psalm 58:11 says: **"There is a reward for the righteous."**

Second, there is recompense for the diligent sower: **"The wicked worketh deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward"** (Prov. 11:18). The reward to the sower in this Scripture is as sure as eternal truth can make it. Righteousness is the seed; happiness is the harvest. Hosea says: **"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy"** (Hosea 10:12). Galatians 6:7-8 declares: **"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."** Men are sowing seeds in the course of this life which will be harvested in eternity (Ps. 126:5-6). If we plan to reap a bountiful harvest, we must persevere in much sowing now: **"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"** (Gal. 6:9).

Third, there is proper payment for the humble walker: **"The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life"** (Prov. 22:4 margin). The godly man walks humbly with his God. Humility arises from an understanding of the greatness of God, especially His spotless purity. Such conduct will produce comfort and long life in this world, and in the world to come honor, praise, and glory (I Pet. 1:7). God's plan is to exalt the humble (Luke 18:14), and the humble shall **"inherit the throne of glory"** (I Sam. 2:8).

Fourth, there is compensation for the pursuer of wisdom: **"So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off"**

(Prov. 24:14). We are told in Proverbs 4:7: **"Wisdom is the principle thing."** Wisdom is God-given (Jas. 1:5) and very precious (Prov. 8:11). Those who seek it and practice it find it presently to be **"full of mercy and good fruits"** (Jas. 3:17), and in the life to come the **"wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament"** (Dan. 12:3). Our hopes of future reward for wisdom is founded upon the Word of God, and we shall never be ashamed.

Fifth, there is a reward for the godly sufferer: **"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. 5:11-12). Suffering is a part of being a Christian (Phil. 1:29; II Tim. 2:12). The godly sufferer has a home in Heaven, and He will be given special rewards in Heaven (Getting to Heaven is not the reward). John Broadus says on these verses: "The Greek implies a definite reward designed for them, and kept for them in Heaven." To those who suffer the most, the Lord will impart the highest reward. This reward is not on earth, but it shall be given out by Jesus Christ in Heaven.

Sixth, there is proper credit given to the liberal soul: **"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly"** (Matt. 6:1-4).

Hypocrites have their rewards now; the saints in the future life. A disciple must question the motives behind his charitable acts. Are they being done to please God (I Thess. 2:4), or to please men (Matt. 23:5)? God takes notice of our charitable deeds. He sees secret good done by us. The liberal giver will discover in this life it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35) and that God loves a cheerful giver (II Cor. 9:7). The alms given in secret now will be rewarded openly at the Judgment Seat of Christ before redeemed men and the elect angels.

Seventh, there is a dividend for the

MARK OF THE BEAST



Look at your name on the front page of this month's paper. If you see the mark 3-02, so detestable to a Baptist, wash it out by renewal of green-backs. If not your paper will stop next month. We are not able to credit. It is not a good plan.

prayer warrior: **"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly"** (Matt. 6:5-6).

Our Lord takes for granted that all Christians pray. The old Baptists said, "If prayerless, then graceless." Real disciples of Christ pray to God, not men. Prayer is to be a private matter between the believer and his heavenly Father (Matt. 26:39; Mark 1:35; Neh. 2:4). God sees our secret prayers. The Lord told Ananias regarding Saul: **"Behold, he prayeth"** (Acts 9:11; cf. John 1:48). All prayers are to be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ before men and angels. The prayer warrior will have his reward from the great Intercessor.

Eighth, there is a prize for the humane disciple: **"He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward"** (Matt. 10:41-42).

All followers of Christ demonstrate hospitality to other believers. It is the same as if they received Christ Himself (Matt. 25:40). It is a great honor to help another believer even in the simple basic necessities of life. Our future rewards will be commensurate with our deeds. We will be rewarded as if we were prophets and righteous men.

Ninth, there is a recompense for the careful worker: **"For other foundation can no man lay than**

Continued on page 287

Doctrine of Rewards

Continued from page 286

that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (I Cor. 3:11-15).

Some believers build upon gold, silver, and precious stones—imperishable and incombustible things. Others build on wood, hay and stubble—perishable and combustible things. The holiness of the righteous Judge of all the earth will test the foundations on which men have built their Christian lives. In view of the coming fiery test, we had better take heed how and what we build. **"Abide"** indicates your works survive the fiery test and gains the approval of the Lord.

The words **"suffer loss"** means loss of rewards. The word **"suffer"** denotes a painful process. A man's work may be burned up, and yet he may still be saved. He shall escape with his life, as a man is rescued from a burning building. He is saved, although his property is lost and his labor has come to nothing. What a man believes and practices is important. The Judgment Seat of Christ will try every man's work as to **"what sort it is,"** not how much it is. The motive behind our service counts.

Tenth, there is a reward for the willing minister or missionary: **"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me"** (I Cor. 9:16-17).

Because of the divine call, Paul felt compelled to preach. To him it was not a paid profession, nor a pastime. It was something he had to do. But if he preached by choice, showing his heart entirely concurred, he would obtain a reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ. If he preached involuntarily, he could regard him at best as an unprofitable slave, who had merely done his duty.

The Lord wants willing service. **"Take ye from among you as offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass"** (Ex. 35:5, 21-

22, 29). It is written in II Corinthians 8:12: **"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."** The missionary and minister who has willingly preached the gospel shall have the elder's crown. Writing to elders (I Pet. 5:1-3), Peter said: **"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away"** (I Pet. 5:4).

The sinners converted under our preaching are our crown of rejoicing: **"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy"** (I Thess. 2:19-20). Ministers must do their duty willingly and cheerfully, knowing that those who **"turn many to righteousness"** shall be **"as the stars for ever and ever"** (Dan. 12:3).

The old Baptist preacher who baptized me was put on the back burner in his latter years. The last time I ever visited with him before his death, we talked about some of these things. On this same afternoon we visited the grave of his wife who had recently passed from this earth. As we stood there, he urged me to keep to the old landmarks of church truth. Tears filled his eyes as he spoke with grief about his wife and how some brethren had treated him. Then he added: "They can keep from doing many things in the association, but they cannot deprive me of my rewards." How true this is of a faithful minister of the gospel.

Eleventh, there is remuneration for the temperate child of God: **"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it unto subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway"** (I Cor. 9:24-27).

Using the figure of a runner (v. 24) and a boxer (v. 26), Paul stresses the need of the discipline of self-control. **"So run"** requires tremendous effort, much dedication and determination, in order to win the prize. There is no place for half-heartedness. We must exercise the mastery over the power of sin in our life (Rom. 6:12). Otherwise, we shall not obtain the incorruptible crown. Let us consider again the inspired exhortation: **"So run, that ye may obtain."**

But what is meant by an intemperate

Funnybone

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



Deacon Jones told Bill Tightwad that he had been reading an Arminian paper and eating popcorn. Bill said, "Deacon, why did you do this?" The deacon replied, "I did not want anything in my stomach or on my mind."

Sadie Smith called the choir at the Possumtrot Baptist Church "the prison ensemble." When Pastor Brown asked her why she did this, she replied, "'cause they're always behind a few bars and continually looking for the key."

Bill Tightwad and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip miles from home. At the boy's insistence, they decided to attend Sunday morning worship at a small church near the lake.

As they walked back to their car after the service, Bill complained, "The service was too long. The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key."

Finally, the boy said, "Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for a dime."

believer being **"a castaway"** (*adokimos*)? The Greek word can mean "unapproved." This word is taken from bad metals, and it denotes those who will not bear the test that is applied to them. Such metals are worthless and are cast away. It does not mean God will cast away His people (Rom. 11:2). Rather, it means that fellow Christians will cast you away as an unfit servant of Christ. They will not approve of your intemperance.

Twelfth, there is payment to the successful runner in the Christian race: **"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"** (Phil. 3:13-14). Paul uses the foot race as a symbol of the Christian life. To him, this was a very common metaphor (Rom. 9:16; I Cor. 9:24, 26; Gal. 2:2; 5:7; Phil. 2:16; Heb. 12:1). The apostle pressed ahead in three ways

First, he had learned to forget the past: **"Forgetting those things which are behind."** This expression does not refer to the Jewish distinctions he had just mentioned (Phil. 2:5-6). He had abandoned these previous to his entering upon the Christian race. Paul means his past experience in the Christian life, his successes and failures, his good works and his sins alike. This past is as nothing to him. He has blotted it out of sight and thought. The **"things before"** alone concern him.

Often older Christians are content with past achievements, to look at the fading laurels which they have gained, as though they never could be

equaled or surpassed. But to look back only slows the pace and lessens the speed. We must not let the past overshadow the present. Rather, we must constantly look forward to the work God still has for us. To look back is to be a leeks-and-garlic Christian (Num. 11:5-6).

Second, he looked forward to those things before: **"Reaching forth unto those things which are before."** The words **"reaching forth unto"** is one word in the Greek (*epeteleio*), and it means "to stretch out" and "to strain toward something." This expression brings before our eyes an excited runner, with his head and neck extended toward the goal, his mind outrunning his lagging feet. The plural (**"things"**) for which he is reaching is not the prize at the finish line, but the many things he is striving to reach along with it. There are new things to be done and new lessons to be learned. This involves a striving for these things—discipline, concentration, and perseverance.

Third, he presses on toward the mark of the prize of God's calling: **"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."** In ancient games there was a wreath hung at the goal post. The prize will be bestowed when the goal is reached and the race is over. The believer's life consists of standing fast, but it is never standing still. The prize is not the high calling of God, but it is the reward which the heavenly calling holds forth. The prize looks on to the rewards of the Judgment Seat of Christ (II Tim. 4:8).

(To be continued)

Mini Edition

By Joseph Harris
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IS MORMONISM CHRISTIAN?

Forgetfulness is a part of human nature. The older I get, the more human I become. This tendency to forget is one reason why we as Christians must read our Bibles regularly. We usually know truth when we see it, but tend to “forget” when not constantly reminded.

For instance, amid the glimmering and positive image that is used to portray Mormonism, let’s not forget that it is still a cult which denies fundamental Bible doctrines. The “Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints” was begun by Joseph Smith around the mid 1800s. He was disgruntled with the divided religious denominations of his day. Smith claims that when he asked God to show him which of the current churches was the true church, God told him none of them. . . .they were all wrong. God then stated He wanted JS to be his true prophet and “restore” the true gospel back into the world, since it had been lost through the corrupt churches.

Smith didn’t restore the lost truth anymore than the reformers recovered true doctrine that had been “lost” through the Catholicism of the Dark-Ages. From the time Christ started His church, to the present, true churches have perpetually existed preaching true doctrine. Bible doctrine has been “messed with” throughout church history, but was never lost.

Joseph Smith, using a buffet line mentality, picked and chose what he wanted from Christianity combined it with Freemasonry, added a dash of mysticism and created the smorgasbord of Mormonism. The problem is, God never hired him as the chef.

Mormonism claims JS is the last prophet for mankind, but Hebrews 1:1 plainly states Jesus is God’s final prophet, and that excludes Mohammed also. Mormonism teaches Jesus is a god, while the scriptures teach Jesus is *the* God, and not just divinity, but deity. Mormonism teaches salvation by righteous works and accountability before the judgment seat of the trinity of God, Jesus and Joseph Smith. All this and more was supposedly revealed to Joseph Smith by an angel from Heaven.

Again, lest we forget, Mormonism is not true Biblical Christianity, but a mutated corruption, sprinkled with a fairy tale element (man may become God), which corrupts the simplicity of the Gospel (II Cor. 11:3). **“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, than that we have preached unto you, let him be accursed”** (Gal. 1:8).

ROLL OVER MARTIN LUTHER

Martin Luther is usually known as the father of the reformation. He was a priest who came to God through faith after a long search through the traditions and superstitions of Catholicism. Even though he came to the great truth of salvation by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross, consummated in the resurrection, he did not go far enough in his reforming. Yet, he was used of God. He was also known to be a literalist in his interpretation of scripture. Though it is difficult to speak for the dead, I think Luther would roll over in his grave if he could see what his namesake, the Lutheran Church is considering today.

Last year, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ordered a four year study of homosexuality to be undertaken. According to one source, the study will “produce a sexuality statement and shape future policy.” The more liberal Lutherans have advocated ordination of homosexual pastors and blessings on homosexual couples for years. James Childs has been commissioned for this 4 year study and he begins his study Feb. 1, after taking leave from his job as theology and ethics professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

I like the beauty of the simplicity of being a common sense, conservative, literal-scripture-interpreting fundamental Bible believer. It simplifies everything. The Bible has already spoken plainly on this issue. Howard Estep used to say, “When the Bible makes plain sense, seek no other sense, lest you end up with nonsense.” If the Lutherans would just hire a conservative Bible believer, they sure could save a lot of time and money. The Bible speaks clearly about the sin of homosexuality, in the writings of

Moses in the Pentateuch and the writings of Paul in Romans 1. It is a sin against God and should never be condoned or accepted, period. Yet, God’s people have a great responsibility to act in compassion and love toward those caught in this sin trap. Oh, the paradox of loving the sinner while hating the sin. Billy Sunday used to say, “I love flowers, but I hate weeds.”

I pray the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America would wake up before its assembly next year, turn to God, scrap the four year plan, open the Bible, and just let scripture plainly speak for and interpret itself. Until then, it’s not hard to picture Martin Luther turning over in his grave.

It may sound too simple for some, but here’s my own personal good rule of thumb concerning the Bible: read it, believe it, live it. We’ll have our hands full if we try those three things.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

In an age where we constantly hear about rights, I am still amazed at the “rights” purported to be guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution. Here’s the latest sad, sorry spectacle being presented by the infamous American Civil Liberties Union, which could in this instance be called the American Sexual Liberties Union.

Several Detroit, MI men were arrested by undercover police for homosexual prostitution and homosexual activity which occurred on public property in a city park. The good old ACLU has gone to bat for some of the men, claiming their constitutional rights were violated by city ordinances. Rest assured, the ACLU would not have lifted a finger of defense if these men had been caught placing religious Christmas ornaments on this same public property.

I guess I’m slipping in my old age. I do not remember reading in the Constitution of a guarantee of liberty for homosexual prostitution, sexual expression, or the right to have sex in public places and facilities. I thought my memory was fading, so I decided to take another look at the Constitution. Then I decided my eyesight must be failing, because I still did not see it. By then, I concluded my interpretation skills must be lacking. Then, it hit me, IT’S ALL IN THE WAY YOU INTERPRET IT, OF COURSE. That’s according to people who are smarter than I am.

You see, you are not supposed to just read the Constitution objectively and let it say what it plainly means and mean what it plainly says, with

common sense as your guide. When you have an agenda, you can twist, skewer, and “spin” the grand old document into saying what you want it to say. Of course, you first begin the process by “getting press” and crying “UNCONSTITUTIONAL.” Then, you go to court and sue. It will work most of the time.

After running the Constitution through the spinner and legalizing abortion and other monstrosities our forefathers would never have approved, the “powers that be” have left us a shredded and tattered document. Interpretation of an “open, living constitution” has helped speed up the decay of morality, common sense, accountability, and the reality of absolutes.

PC WORDS

Communication through speech is powerful. Speech is a vehicle of communication and occurs when one expresses the thoughts of the mind with the words of the mouth. Words are important and DO have meaning. A different meaning is conveyed when an individual is called an *alcoholic* instead of a *drunk* or referred to as an *unfaithful spouse*, rather than an *adulterer* or *fornicator*.

Over the past few years, the scourge of political correctness (PC) has caused people to choose their words so as to not be so offensive (being offensive should never be our goal. Telling the truth should be). For instance, *jails* are no longer known as institutions which *incarcerate prisoners*. Instead, they are called *adult detention facilities* where *detainees* are *housed*. Why? It just sounds better. After all, we wouldn’t want the *detainees* to bear an extra burden of guilt by reminding them of what they really are (criminals) and what they have really done (broken the law). I notice also the wording concerning the *detainees* in the war on terror from Afghanistan who are being *detained* by our forces in Cuba. Funny, but until I heard the news reports, I thought these men who fought against Americans and were captured, were *prisoners of war*. They were not asked if they wanted to go to Cuba, but were forced there by our military. Thanks once again to the news media and our government for applying the “correct” terminology for those of us not so enlightened.

And speaking of terrorism, I hear news reports about some Palestinian *militant* who has blown himself up, along with civilians and bystanders. I would call him a *terrorist*, but that’s just me. Ditto when I read about a Palestinian *gunman* who shoots at and/

Continued on page 289

Mini Edition

Continued from page 288

or kills others. You have got to admit, *militant* and *gunman* both sound better to the ear than the all too descriptive *terrorist/bomber*.

And how about those *high school drop outs*? The battle is now on to rename them as they will not have lowered self esteem caused by a lifelong negative label. And *Blacks* are no longer *Blacks*, but *African Americans*, even though not a single one of the Black Americans I know personally, was born in Africa, and neither were their parents, grandparents or great-grandparents. The same is true of most "Italian, Chinese, Korean" and other ethnic groups that could be named. The correct classification would be *Americans of African descent, Americans of Chinese descent, Americans of Arab descent,* etc., with the emphasis on *American*.

The goal of political correctness is to redefine established definitions and then bring about a change in thinking and attitude. *Homosexuals* are known as *gay*, which denotes something or someone carefree, fun, happy, desirable, yet this sin is anything but gay and fun. Let's flush political correctness and return to reality in plain speech. The truth is becoming harder to find, yet it is, after all, the truth which will set us free.

PARTY TIME

It's time for Mardi Gras celebration, or as they say in New Orleans, Carnival. Mardi Gras is a tradition dating back to the early founding of New Orleans and some historians say the European historical roots actually reach back to somewhere around 350 A.D. They claim the early "church" (I use the word loosely) incorporated some of the pagan, hedonistic celebrations into "Christianity" to accommodate the pagans as they "converted" to "Christianity" (again notice all the "marks"). This is the same brand of Christianity that persecuted, tortured, and murdered countless true Bible believers through its crusades and inquisitions. Catholicism has always been a religion of accommodation.

"Mardi Gras" means "Fat Tuesday" which is the day before Ash Wednesday. It signifies the last fling before 40 days of lent, leading up to Easter. The idea is this: anything goes, party down, go for the gusto, and let it all hang out, before the 40 days of holiness and abstinence arrives. In other words, it's a time to get lewd, nude, and boozed. The drunkenness, nudity, immorality and other forms

of blatant ungodliness are shameful, disgraceful and sinful.

I hear of otherwise sane, professing Christian who attend Mardi Gras to "see this great event" or "experience New Orleans" and I wonder why any real Bible believing Christian would want to even get close to such vulgarity and lewdness. Some say that certain parades are not as bad as others and they themselves do not drink or act as the revelers. These are the same professing Christians who visit casinos and don't gamble; they just go for the food. They also watch movies (rated from G to R) where God's name is taken in vain, filthy language is used, and adultery is portrayed as normal and acceptable. And their excuse is the same: they themselves do not take God's name in vain, use filthy language, or commit adultery. My question is: THEN WHY WATCH AND LISTEN TO OTHERS DO IT?

Regardless which specific sinful event or activity is attended, and regardless whether all participate fully, everyone, especially professing Christians are guilty by association, condonement, and participation by attendance. **"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW CREATURE. Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new"** (II Cor. 5:17).

Preeminence of Christ

Continued from page 281

Himself, preeminent. There is no sphere where He is not supreme. Presently, only true believers recognize this. The unsaved world does not, but it will in the millennium (Rom. 14:11-12; Phil. 2:10-11).

Christ is preeminent—

IN LIKENESS

In Colossians 1:15 it is written: **"Who is the image of the invisible God. . ."** The personal pronoun refers to Christ as the Son of His Father's love mentioned in verse 13 of this same chapter. Having touched of Christ's redemptive work (v. 14), which implies His human nature, he sets forth the dignity of His person who made the satisfaction with respect of His Father and all creation.

First, this was true of our Lord in His pre-incarnate state. Before His earthly life the Second Person in the Godhead was the manifestation of the divine nature and person of the First Person in the Godhead. The Son was not some imperfect image of a person on a coin, or as man who is a poor image of God (Gen. 9:6; I Cor. 11:7). Christ was the natural and perfect image of the Father, much like Seth was the natural image of his father,

Adam (Gen. 5:3). The eternal Word as God was **"in the form of God"** and **"equal with God"** (Phil. 2:5); yea, He **"was God"** (John 1:1). The eternal Son in His pre-incarnate state exactly resembled God the Father. Hebrews 1:3 tells us He is **"the express image of his person."** He had perfect equality in respect to substance, nature, and eternity to the Father.

Second, in His incarnate state (as the God-man) there dwelt in Christ's human body all the fullness of the Godhead (Col. 2:9). In this respect He greatly surpassed angels and the best of men (Heb. 1:5-6; 2:5). The word **"image"** (*eikon*) involves the double idea of representation and manifestation. On earth Christ was absolutely the perfect expression and representation of God the Father to men. This accounts for some sayings of Jesus Christ. **"I and my Father are one."** (John 10:30). When the Jews heard these words they took up stones to put Christ to death for blasphemy **"because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God"** (John 10:33). Again in John 14:9 our Lord declared: **"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."** The Apostle Paul writes about **"Christ, who is the image of God"** (II Cor. 4:4).

Jesus Christ is an essential manifestation and embodiment of the Father. In Him the invisible God became visible to man: **"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him"** (John 1:18).

There was never a point in eternity or time when the Son was not in every respect the Father's essential image. This is contemplated by the verb **"is"** in Colossians 1:15. Christ could not represent God, if He were not a perfect image of God. The Bible makes it plain that Jesus Christ is God. **"Christ. . .who is over all, God blessed for ever"** (Rom. 9:5). **"God was manifest in the flesh"** (I Tim. 3:16). **". . .the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"** (Tit. 2:13). **". . .even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life"** (I John 5:20).

IN POSITION

The first part of Colossians 1:15 tells us what Christ is in Himself in relation to God. The second part of the verse reveals what Christ is in Himself in relation to creation: **". . .the firstborn of every creature."** Dean Alford translates it as "the firstborn of all creation," and Charles Williams gives it as "His firstborn Son who existed before any created thing." Gill said it means "the first Parent of every creature—the first Creator."

Arians of old and cultists of our day say Christ is a creature, and the chief one created by God. Thus they would deny the deity of Christ. But Paul uses **"firstborn"** (*prototokos*), not "first created" (*protokistos*). The apostle does not mean Christ was the first to be born. The word *prototokos* does not refer to birth, but to a position of favor (Ex. 4:22; Deut. 21:16-17). Christ was the firstborn before all creation, and He Himself is the Creator. The phrase indicates His eternal sonship and His preeminence over all creation. All creation being produced by His creative power makes Him out as distinct from it in firstborn dignity.

This truth is seen in other Scripture. In the resurrection from among the dead Christ is **"the firstborn from the dead"** (Col. 1:18), or **"the first begotten of the dead"** (Rev. 1:5). In God's redemptive program Christ is **"the firstborn among many brethren"** (Rom. 8:29). **"Firstborn"** means the same as **"the only begotten"** (John 1:18). It is also a title of the Messiah in Psalm 89:27: **"Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth."**

The phrase **"firstborn of every creature"** implies two things. First, Christ has a priority over all creation He being the Son of God before all time. Second, He is sovereign over all creation. The firstborn is the natural Ruler and Head of God's household (Heb. 3:3-6). He is also the Heir to all things (Heb. 1:2).

IN POWER

Verse 16 gives the proof that Christ is not included in the all things of creation but is the firstborn of all creation: **"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him."** The words "for by him" (*hoti*—"for" or "because") is used to give the reason and explanation of the titles given to Christ in verse 15. He is not only superior to every creature, but He Himself is the Creator of all things.

Jesus Christ is superior to all creation because by Him were all things created. **"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"** (John 1:1-3). **". . .his Son. . .by whom also he made the worlds"** (Heb. 1:2). As the Designer, in fellowship with God the Father, He is the first cause of all things. The Son laid down the laws which govern all things in the

Continued on page 292

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

For qualifications of pastor and deacons why is the word "much" used in front of wine? --- Louisiana



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The only logical or theological reason I can see for the use of the word "much" before the word wine would be to establish temperance in all things even in the use of alcohol (Eph. 5:15). We know the Bible does not teach total abstinence because in the days of the Apostle Paul alcohol was used as medicine (I Tim. 5:23). Even in the day in which we now live medicine contains a good amount of alcohol.

The problem with alcohol arrives from it being consumed as a beverage. The use of the word "much" is simply a reference to the right use of alcohol in a temperate fashion. The word "much" shows us that there are some uses of alcohol that are not condemned by the Bible such as use of wine in the Lord's Supper and for medicinal purposes (Luke 10:34; I Tim. 5:23; Matt. 26:17-28).

GARNER SMITH



Jimmie B. Davis

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The phrase "not given to much wine" is found in Titus 1:7 when Paul gives the qualifications for those who hold the office of a bishop. The same phrase is found in I Timothy 3:8 when he gives the qualifications for deacons.

This statement in the scriptures conveys to us the truth of the harm which can be brought about by an improper use of wine. The thought is that a bishop or deacon is not to be enslaved by an unscriptural excessive use of wine. The Word of God strongly denounces any unlawful use of wine on the part of bishops and deacons (or any member of a church) which leads them to be

uncontrollable, or in any way hampers them in the performance of Christian duties.

All Christians, including bishops and deacons, should heed the inspired Word which says: "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18). We are to be under the control of the Holy Spirit, not by any substance which we misuse or abuse!

JIMMIE B. DAVIS



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The words "much wine" are used in I Tim. 3:8 in the qualifications of a deacon and in Titus 2:3 as to the behavior of the aged women. In the qualifications of a bishop, a man must not be given to wine (I Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7). This Greek word is used in Matthew 13:5 of the seed that "fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth." Here the meaning is clear. There was only a small amount of earth. It is used in Acts 26:24 where Festus said to Paul: "Thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad." This Greek word is used 365 times in the New Testament and is translated much, large, many, abundant, plenteous, great, and etc. It is used of a great number as in Luke 5:6, "a great multitude of fishes." In using this word before the word wine, Paul is saying that the deacon or pastor must not be given (addicted) to a great amount of wine.

Wine was used by our Lord when He instituted the Lord's Supper. The church at Corinth used wine when they came together to eat the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:21). Paul instructed Timothy to drink a little wine for his stomach's sake (I Tim. 5:23). Wine was used in the celebration of a marriage (John 2:1-10). The drinking of wine was common and was not considered wrong when done in moderation.

There are several reasons as to why

God's people should not drink wine or other strong drinks as a beverage today. The greatest of these given by the Holy Spirit in Romans 14:21: "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing thereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."

DAVID O'NEAL



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Because the only wine they are to be drinking is that which is used for sacred or medicinal purposes. Wine has been used in New Testament Baptist churches ever since the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ during

His earthly ministry. It was not until the Temperance Movement and Prohibition that some Baptists shifted to the use of grape juice.

Wine was also used for medicinal purposes in times past as I Timothy 5:23 declares: "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities." Today we have ibuprophen to dull pain and Roloids to settle stomachs, so there is little need for wine to be used for medicinal purposes.

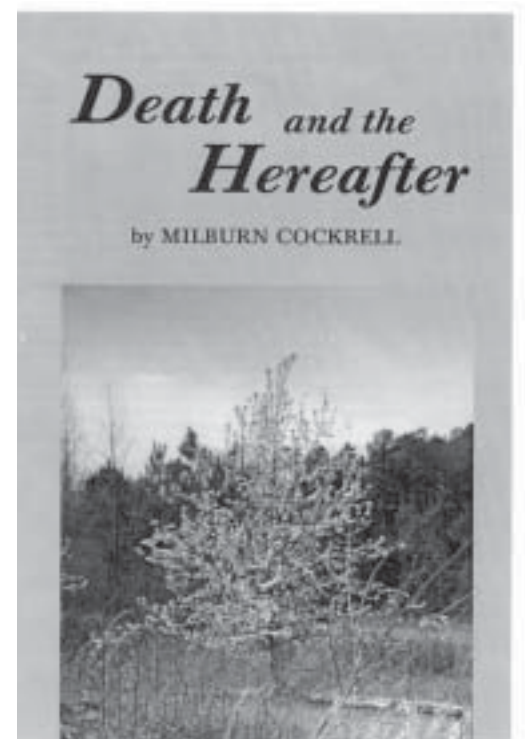
I am strictly against Christians drinking wine or any other alcoholic beverage socially or privately. However, wine is the liquid element that is specified for use in the observance of the Lord's Supper as a symbol of the shed blood of Jesus. This is the only reason why I drink wine at all. Some may charge me with inconsistency, but I am trying to do what the Bible commands and maintain my personal convictions against alcohol consumption. God has given me grace, despite my sinful past, to be obedient with regards to using wine in the observance of the Lord's Supper, and yet have no desire to drink it or any other alcoholic beverage at any other time.

TOM ROSS

PREPUBLICATION SPECIAL

The editor's new book is at the printer. It will be the first with a full-color cover. It retails for \$7.95. If you want one copy at a prepublication special it will be \$5.50 including postage. If you will pick one up in the store (and we don't have to ship it), you can have one copy for \$4. If you want 5 or more, you can have them for \$4 plus postage. The book contains 120 pages. Chapter titles are as follows: *The Trichotomy of Man, The Blessings of a Short Life, The Setting Sun, A Time to Die, The Death of the Righteous, Life After Life, Recognition in the Spiritland, The Enjoyments of Souls in Paradise, The Employment of Paradise, Springtime in Glory, and Utopia, or the Eternal State.*

The book is expected to be ready about the last of April. Order from Berea Baptist Church, P. O. Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855.



PREPUBLICATION SPECIAL

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

What is the "cockatrice" mentioned in Isaiah 11:8? -- Alabama



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Pastor
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The context of this passage of scripture is referring to the millennial reign of Christ here on earth. The change in the characteristics of these animals is synonymous with the curse of sin being lifted from the curse placed on the earth as a result of the sin and fall of Adam and Eve with the efforts of Satan.

Sin is what causes animosity in the world. Where there is no curse of sin there will be no reason for the desire to hurt or destroy.

In my research I find no reason to think the word "cockatrice" means anything other than a serpent, literally a "viper."

Many seem to have a problem taking these verses literally because of the change in the characteristics in the animal world, but the God that created them is also the Creator and Controller of their habits and actions. The serpent was a creation of God in the beginning. Then used by Satan to deceive Eve and God placed a curse on it, but when the curse is lifted then the serpent will be restored to its upright position from crawling in the dust and be as God originally created it.

GARNER SMITH



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The word "cockatrice" found in Isaiah 11:8 refers to a venomous serpent. "The Hebrew means a kind of adder, more venomous than the asp; BOCHART supposes the basilisk to be meant." (*Commentary on the Whole Bible* by Jamieson Fausset and Brown - page 522). The word is used in Isaiah 59:5, Jer. 8:17, and from

the Hebrew translated "adder." In Isaiah 14:29 the Hebrew word is translated, basilisk, adder, viper. Isaiah 14:29 refers to a deadly viper.

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"And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den" (Isa. 11:8).

This word is also translated "adder" and is used 5 times in the Old Testament (Prov. 23:32; Isa. 11:8; 14:29; 59:5; Jer. 8:17, it speaks of the peace and safety that will be enjoyed in the Lord's kingdom. A small child shall play by the hole of a asp (venomous serpent), and a weaned child shall put his hand in the cockatrice's (a viper) den.

DAVID O'NEAL



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Isaiah 11:8 declares: **"And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den."** According to *Smith's Bible Dictionary*, the word cockatrice is synonymous with the word adder. Both words are used to describe any poisonous snake, and is applied in this general sense by the translators of the Authorized Version. During the Millennial Reign of Jesus upon earth and on into the eternal ages, snakes that were formerly hostile and venomous will be rendered harmless, so that even children can play with and among them. This is a demonstration of the mighty power of God over all creation to subdue the

formerly hostile nature of the most poisonous of snakes. I hate snakes, so I am looking forward with great anticipation to this time period!

TOM ROSS

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 12-31-2001 to 1-31-2002

Beginning Balance \$1,063.96

RECEIPTS:

A. D. Richardson, Cedarville, WV	100.00
B.C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	40.26
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	200.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	50.00
Berea M. B.C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
Bethel M. B. C., Pasadena, TX	30.00
Bible B. C., Sullivan, IL	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	125.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL	25.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL	20.00
Edwin Frankforth, Peoria, IL	10.00
Faith B. C., Clarksville, TN	100.00
Faith B. C., Seffner, FL	50.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR	25.00
Gerald Price, Johnson City, TN	20.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Grace B. C., Tulsa OK	45.00
Grace M. B. Mission, Marion, IL	25.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
Jerry Roberson, Savannah, GA	7.00
John Otis, Agra, KS	100.00
Joseph Jurzec, Lake-in-the-Hills, IL	20.00
Landmark B. C., Moncks Corner, SC	25.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	75.00
Letson Farrell, Long Beach, MS	150.00
Meadow Branch B. C., Millport, AL	200.00
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM	300.00
Mt Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN	10.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00

Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA	40.00
Philadelphia B. C., Aztec, NM	25.00
Philadelphia B. C., Birmingham, AL	300.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	50.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR	50.00
Solid Rock B. C., Kenedy, TX	20.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Bathgate, ND	200.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Fulton, MS	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Galena, OH	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX	30.00
Susan Bryson, Harsen Island, MI	100.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC	50.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	200.00
Wayne Smith, Griffin, GA	19.99
Subscriptions	411.53
Anonymous	174.50
Sub Total	\$4,707.29
TOTAL	\$5,771.25

EXPENDITURES:

Wages	2,375.00
Printing	579.00
Postage	871.03
FICA taxes	181.62
Supplies	11.00
Total Expenditures	4,017.65
	1,753.60
Bank charge	-20.19
ENDING DEFICIT	\$1,733.41

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 12-31-2001 to 1-31-2002

Beginning Balance \$1,932.63

RECEIPTS

Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR	25.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	132.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	75.00
Calvary Ind. B. C., Everson, WA	100.00
Dividing checks	350.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	682.00
TOTAL	2,614.63

EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time	984.00
Dividing checks	362.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,346.00
BALANCE	\$1,268.63

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

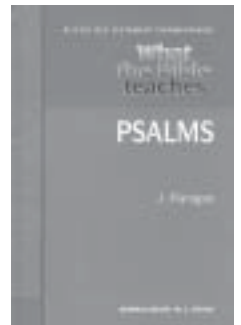
Beginning Balance \$2,093.32

RECEIPTS

Total	2,093.32
EXPENDITURES:	
WCTT (Apr)	200.00
Total Expenditures	200.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$1,893.32

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Everybody Has A Fear

By Raymond F. Bennett

Ithaca, New York

Do you remember the old TV. program called "The A team?" B. A., the team's tough guy, played by Mr. T, could handle most any situation and was afraid of nobody. But he was afraid to fly and had to be drugged to get him on an airplane so they could fly to the site of their mission. On one episode, Hulk Hogan guest starred. In the process of the program, B. A. was surprised to discover that even Hulk Hogan had a fear also.

That's the way it is in life. We all have some fear. This writer never learned to swim, despite growing up next to one of the area's most popular swimming holes. The reason? I never conquered my fear of water. Some people have a fear of heights, but once my cousin and a friend helped me get past that fear, there is no height too high.

Most fears are really ungrounded. We are pessimists by nature. We are afraid that something about whatever we are asked to face will hurt us and/or restrict the 'pleasures' and freedoms we currently enjoy, when in reality we would be better off, have more freedoms and greater pleasures if we weren't afraid to look into whatever it is we fear.

That's the way it was with Israel when they were led out of the bondage of Egypt and into a promised land of their own. They had been crying for more freedom than they had under Egypt, but when faced with the responsibilities of freedom, they complained, preferring the leeks, garlicks and cucumbers of Egypt, forgetting the horrible oppression they were under.

When given the opportunity to gain a great victory, they looked at the giants, forgot the promises of God, and the experienced deliverance of God, and refused God's leading. The result was that that entire generation missed out on the promised land, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, the only ones who were *not* afraid to follow God's leading and trust God's promises.

Many, today, are afraid to trust God's Word, even afraid to read or listen to God's word. When turning on the radio, they quickly switch away from a station that even appears to be a "Christian" station. Many stations and Christian organizations attempt to alleviate those fears by trying to be like the worldly stations, but those they think they are reaching are really too smart for them because *they* know



Raymond Bennett

that *real* Christians are supposed to be different from the world. To these, the *d i s g u i s e* either doesn't fool them into listening to the gospel, or merely offers a disguise

they can use themselves to make their sin more respectable.

I submit 4 reasons why so many are afraid of the gospel message and the Bible. See if any of these are *your* fears.

1. If we accept the Bible account of creation as *true*, we are forced to also accept an intelligent Creator, as opposed to some abstract 'force.' Such a Creator would logically have a plan and purpose for His creation that the created beings would be expected to fit unto. This makes God the Sovereign and ultimate Ruler and robs us of our desired full freedom to do and act as *we* think best.

2. If we listen the Word of God we are forced to consider the changes it requires in our life styles. Like the 1st generation Israelites, we want freedom from death and sin and assurance of Heaven, but without any associated responsibilities.

3. If we are seen to be *Bible readers*, our friends might call us "goody goodies" or consider us soft. Some claim that religion in general, and Christianity in particular, is a crutch, for those who need one, but "I don't need one."

4. Adherence to Bible standards, or even belief without advocating the associated standards, is seen as bigotry, because we want to think that *any* way is as good as another. The pure illogic should shout at us. If *any* way is equally right, then there is no need for law and order, or even religion. Let the Hitlers, the Bin Ladins, the Baby-faced Nelsons alone. Their way is just as good as ours. After all, if they give to the poor, their way is alright. Let the alcoholic continue in his booze. Doesn't God love everybody? Surely, a God of love wouldn't punish someone for a 'disease' modern medicine can't cure.

No habit can be conquered unless the person *wants* to 'kick the habit.' We don't *wantme*: to admit that *our* way isn't the way that leads to

Heaven. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

These things are not said in judgment or pride. They are said in loving concern. We rightly fear the judgment of God. God's Word reveals those sins which prevent entrance into the promised land, i.e. eternal life in the presence and blessing of Jesus Christ. The alternative is Hell. There is no easy way to express it.

We like to talk about God's great love. It is God's love that *brings* us the very message we run from. It is His love and grace that reveals the message of salvation, that Jesus Christ died to save lost sinners. I cite two verses. Please take heed.

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die" (Ezek. 33:11).

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12).

If I had a sure, painless and free cure for cancer that only involved that you believe it, trust it, and hence forth no longer do the things that *caused* the cancer, would you be afraid of the message? Would you rather continue in the life style and habits that brought the cancer, and therefore reject the cure? If I had a sure, painless and free cure for heart disease, would you run from the cure? Would you rather continue in the life style and diet that caused it?

I doubt it in both cases. So why run from the gospel? The cure for sin is painless and costless for you, but it cost Jesus Christ dearly. He died because He loved His own who had become lost, "**dead in trespasses and sin.**"

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18).

Editor's note: Elder Raymond F. Bennett is doing missionary work under the authority of our church in Ithaca, New York. If you know of any person living in this area in search of a place to worship, please let me know. Or, you may wish to communicate directly with him. His address is: 271 Gray Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850-8761. His phone is (607) 272-6240.

Preeminence of Christ

Continued from page 289

universe. He is not only the Founder of all these things, but all things were made for His pleasure and praise. His divine power and infinite wisdom is manifest in all material things and angels.

To escape the doctrine of Christ's divinity, Socinians of old as well as modern-day cultists would try to make "**all things**" to be very narrow and extend only to the new creation. But "**all things**" means here what it does elsewhere, the first creation (Mark 16:6; 13:19; 16:15; II Pet. 3:4; Rev. 10:6). When a new creature is under consideration the word creation is joined to the word "new" (Isa. 65:17-18; II Cor. 5:17-18; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 2:15; 4:24). The word "new" does not occur in Colossians 1:16. The verse in Colossians mentions angels in Heaven which need no new creation due to sin.

IN PRESERVATION

Christ is not only the Creator and Founder, but He is also the Supporter or Upholder of all created things: "**And he is before all things, and by him all things consist**" (v. 17). Scholars give various renderings of the words "**by him all things consist.**" Some make it to read "are held together," or "have their perpetuity." The meaning is plainly that all things are kept in their present state by the power of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:3 presents Christ as "**upholding all things by the word of his power.**" If all created things were not preserved by our Lord, they would fall into disorder. He is the principle of cohesion in the universe, or else the cosmos would be chaos.

The all things which Christ created He preserves by His providential care and control. "**For in him we live, and move, and have our being**" (Acts 17:28). Christ is the center of life, force, and motion, and around Him all things revolve. Our Savior is the Creator and Conserver of the universe. As such, He imposes limits, gives them their laws, strikes the keynote of their harmonies, and blends and controls their diverse operations. He is All-Perfect in the midst of imperfection, the unchangeable One in the midst of change.

IN THE CHURCH

The Creator and Conserver of the universe is the Head of the church as an institution: "**And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence**" (v. 18). The

Continued on page 293

Preeminence of Christ

Continued from page 292

word "church" is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, and it means "an assembly" or "a congregation." In the New Testament it refers to an organized body of scripturally baptized believers. The word is used concretely and generically, but it never refers to a universal, invisible church of some kind as some say.

Those who believe in a universal, invisible church make much of the word "body" in this verse, striving to make it some kind of big universal, invisible body. But all metaphors of the church refer to visible things. A body is a visible organism, composed of various organized, assembled, and fitly joined together parts. Even so, each New Testament church is organized, assembled, and fitly joined together (Eph. 4:16; Col. 2:19). Scattered eyes, legs, teeth, and feet do not make a body. These can only be called a body when each is properly fitted together in its place. A body, as well as a church, by its very nature must be a local visible assembly.

The New Testament defines "the body of Christ" as a local congregation of scripturally baptized believers. Writing to the baptized members (I Cor. 12:13) of the church at Corinth, Paul said: "**Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular**" (I Cor. 12:27). This scriptural definition is better than 10,000 human definitions in creeds and theological books. Woe to those who give a definition of the word "church" which cannot be harmonized with this Bible definition.

Universal, invisible church men complain that Christ cannot be the head of each local church, and so the meaning must be the big church. This idea is without foundation. The Bible says that Christ is the head of every man (I Cor. 11:3). Christ can be the Head of every church, just as easily as He can be the Head of every man. Such an idea puts no strain upon Omnipotence.

The words "head" and "body" are used by Paul metaphorically. Christ is not literally the Head of any church, nor is the church literally His body. This metaphor means that Christ is the intelligent Director and Controller of church affairs, as the head of the natural body. The headship of Christ can only be acknowledged in a local body, consisting of real believers. In what sense is Christ the Head of believers not yet born? I ask this question because universal, invisible church men tell me the big church consists of all believers, some dead, some alive, and some not yet born.

Christ is the Head of the church, and scripturally baptized believers in church capacity are His body. As with the natural body and head, the body obeys the Head. The body neither stirs nor rests but as the Head orders. It never crosses its orders or resists its commands. This should be true of each New Testament church. We cannot be the body of Christ unless we carry out the orders of our Lord. Christ must be truly our Head, and He must govern all our actions as church members.

If we are the body of Christ, then there should be great love of the members to each other and the Head. What greater union is there, than that between the members of the body and its head? The peace and prosperity of the church should be our greatest desire. Woe to the church member who would wound this sacred body. Shall I take the members of Christ and make them the members of the Devil? Shall I defile that body cleansed by the blood of Christ? that body joined to Christ of which He is Head? God forbid! What is displeasing to the Head must be displeasing to the body.

The church as Christ's body depends on its Head for all the light, all the sense and motion, it possesses. Christ and Christ alone has the authority to govern in all affairs of the church. All the authority that the church has comes from Christ. He is the Savior of the body. He cares for the church and controls its destiny. It is one of the few places on earth where His preeminence is generally acknowledged.

All the churches we read about in the New Testament had Christ as their Head. Today the Head of the church is in Heaven at the Father's right hand. The church has no earthly head. Nevertheless, some churches have earthly heads. A two-headed body is a monstrosity. To make some man the ministerial head of the church is to attempt to rob Christ of His royal robe and to take the crown from His head, which cannot be done. This is sacrilege and treason to Christ the Head of the church. The church is not the body of the pope. It is the body of Christ, and none but Christ can be its Head.

IN ALL FULLNESS

Colossians 1:19 reads: "**For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell.**" While the words "**the Father**" are not in the Greek text, it is properly supplied from the context (Col. 1:12) and from the self-evident "**it pleased.**" The foundation and cause of Christ's redemptive work is the good pleasure of the Father.

The totality of deity and humanity resides in Jesus Christ. "**All fullness**"

(*pleroma*) means "to fill full." As God, our Lord is in no respect deficient of wisdom, power, or grace to redeem us. Colossians 2:9 declares: "**For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.**" All the fullness of deity is His as the image of God (v. 15). He has the fullness of power as manifest in creation (v. 18), and He has the fullness of reconciliation (v. 20). He has a fullness of wisdom to keep us from error, a fullness of grace to keep us from apostasy, a fullness of joy to keep us from despair, and a fullness of power to protect us from all evil.

"To dwell" means "to abide" or "to be at home." The glory of God filled the tabernacle and temple of old, but eventually the glory of the Lord departed. But Christ is our eternal Temple which the glory of God fills continually and for ever. The divine glory does not merely lodge there; it abides in Christ for eternity (John 1:14).

In our Lord as the Mediator of the covenant there is a fullness of the Spirit. "**For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him**" (John 3:34). Every member of the body of Christ is influenced by the spirit of Christ, the Head, as the natural body is influenced by the spirit in man. By means of His Spirit He fills all the members of His body with gifts and graces: "**He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things**" (Eph. 4:10).

In Ephesians 1:22-23 it is written: "**And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.**" The church is the fullness or complement (*pleroma*) of Christ. The exalted Head would be incomplete without His body, the church. The Head manifests itself through the body. The church is the fullness of God being filled by Christ Who is God. All that God can communicate to man is manifest in the church, for the church is a revelation of the greatness and glory of Christ. He Who fills the heavens with stars and the ocean with water, also fills the church. Who would not want to be a part of an institution where you find the fullness of God?

CONCLUSION

1. Christ is the Image of the invisible God. Being equal with the Father in all His divine perfections, Christ appeared on earth, displaying these perfections through the medium of His human nature. Jesus Christ made the invisible God known to man.

2. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the firstborn or only begotten of the Father. In the sacred trinity the relation of the Second Person to the First Person is like that of a son to a father. But in the sense the Second Person in the Godhead is the Son of God by an eternal generation, God has no other sons. As the firstborn of creation, Christ is not some supra-angelic creature. Rather, He is the Creator and Conservator of the universe.

3. It pleased the Father for all the original, infinite, inexhaustible fullness of deity should dwell in the human nature of our Savior for the benefit of the church.

4. Believers are in touch with the fullness of God: "**And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace**" (John 1:16). All the fullness of blessings come out of the fullness of God which dwells in our Lord (Eph. 1:3). Our cup may be full, but the ocean of His fullness still remains. Truly His name is "**Wonderful**" (Isa. 9:6).

5. Our Redeemer is to be preferred above angels and all the powers of Heaven, for He has "**obtained a more excellent name than they**" (Heb. 1:4). In all church matters He is to have the preeminence. He must have the preeminence in the hearts of His people above temporal and seen things of the world. When the saints give Christ the preeminence they are obeying the command of the Father: "**That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father**" (John 5:23).

6. Jesus Christ is the central figure of history. All Bible prophecy centers in the revolves around Him. At the very name of Jesus "**every knee should bow**" and "**every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**" (Phil. 2:10-11). But not all do this, but in the millennial day "**every knee shall bow**" to the King of kings and "**every tongue shall confess to God**" (Rom. 14:11). "**And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one**" (Zech. 14:9). Soon a universe of worshippers shall bow the knee and acknowledge that Christ has the preeminence in all things. Will you be among these worshippers?

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Letters, Letters, Letters!

Continued from page 281

I have received both the Old and New Testament studies from you. Thank you very much! I am now working on Ruth. Much of my days are spent in study and prayer, and working with others here, the saved and the lost. I know that election is according to the foreknowledge of God, and that not of any good or action in man that God foresaw, but according to His will and purpose. I have asked in times past that God show me His elect among the lost, but He denied me this, and told me through His Word to share His gospel with them all. So I give much of my time in sharing with the redeemed and the lost here. I have greatly enjoyed the study. I jumped up to Esther last month because I got your, "Outlines for Country Preachers, Vol. I on Esther.

I've spent about a month now on providence. How greatly God has blessed me and strengthened me for the future I face soon. I have no doubt or fear in what I face soon, only trust that God has some plans and by providence, I purpose to find and finish what it is by simply walking obediently to His Word. I think that this is the greatest lesson I learned from what God allowed me from your study on Vol. I on Esther. As time allows that God gives, I would like to have the other volumes too. Just this one has blessed me very much.

I am delighted that you liked the little article I wrote. I was asked to do so and had hoped for something useful. As you know I find Protestants a test of fellowship and was not so sure that I should do so. I am careful to let all know how I stand according to God's Word. Also I am not ashamed of the testimony God has given me as to where I am now, what I have done in the past, as I was the very worst sinner ever to be forgiven. It is my testimony of Jesus' great grace, and His love for those whom His Father gave to Him. If you think it to be useful for others to see something of how God can work in such as this place, as one of God's Shepherds you surely should. May Jesus glorify His Father on the earth even now.

Myself and a few others desire to see a Baptist fellowship started here. Men of like faith who can in unity come together for some worship, prayer, and some Bible study. We have been praying now for some time and are going to ask for a couple of hours each week in the chapel for such. As best as I can tell this is not un-scriptural to do so. If so I trust that God will show us.

The Lord bless you all there with His riches of grace and prepare you all for that great day we look forward to soon, of the coming of our Redeemer!

We are all filled and blessed and thank you for all the love you show us.

—A prisoner in Washington

Bro. Milburn,

Pray your health is on the up, also for Chris. Our God alone understands. It seems we have so many preachers who are as the old World War II saying "Coming in on a wing and a prayer." More correct, the Lord sure uses ailing preachers.

—North Carolina

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Enclosed find a check to be used as you decide.

We are returning 4 tapes today, which you should receive in a few days.

We pray that our Great God of all grace will bless you with good health and restore your eyesight, and restore Chris his health also.

—Florida

The Berea Baptist Banner
Elder, Milburn Cockrell

I greet you in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ who loved us and gave Himself for us.

I received a copy of The Berea Baptist Banner which some one sent to Me, dated October 5, 2001, There was An article in it about my position on the Devil. I Believe that the Word of God teaches that Christ came and in His Death Generated the power that defeated and destroyed the power of Devil, and he was cast into the lake of fire when Christ returned in AD 70.

The article had a big picture of the Devil, which had the caption "SO THERE NO IS DEVIL ON EARTH!" I guess I was wrong Because You must have taken a photo of Devil, I am wondering how you came close enough to take a photo of him, Was he in Mississippi or Alabama, but on second though how could take a photo of a spirit? Paul said in Eph. 6:12 "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Bro. Cockrell, I believe you misrepresented me about Satan or Devil. I said that the Word of God says that Christ Generated the power in his sacrifice on the cross, to defeat and Destroy the works of the Devil, and He cast Him into the lake of Fire and Brimstone at his 2nd coming in AD 70, where the beast and false prophet are. Rev. 20:10

Bro. Cockrell, I ask you, is it the more Foolish to Believe in the great pumpkin. Or NOT to believe what The LORD Jesus Christ said in Lk. 24:25-27,44, which refer to Old testament scriptures, such as Isa. 9:6-7; Dan. 2:44-45; 7:13-14, 18,22,27; 9:24, Notice, the "US" in Isa. 9:6 refer to Israel, and "The Saints" and "Thy People" in Daniel refer to The nation of Israel. The Lord told his disciples to pray for Thy

kingdom to come in Mt. 6:10, then in Mt. 6:33, "Seek you First the kingdom of God, then he said in Lk. 11:9-10, I say unto You, ask and it shall be given You; Seek, and ye shall find. Now a Question, Was it given to his disciples, and did they find the kingdom?"

Bro. Cockrell, When you are showing a Brother His error or fault you let him know first, that is the Christian thing to do, and not tell the world First. Mt. 18:15-20

I am sincerely your far the Spiritual Kingdom of Christ, the only kingdom He now has every will have.

—Joe V. Thomas

To Whom it may concern,

Greeting.

I am addressing you this letter beseeching you for your help in my receiving the following well needed book, "Index Of Watch Tower Errors."

I have been incarcerated for some 5 years and all most every day some misunderstood inmate who reads the Watch Tower with all of its errors wants to tell me that their way of life is the only way. I do thank God that I do know better. And if you would please share this well needed book with me I would appreciate it very much.

Thank you for your time and concern.

—A prisoner in Florida
Book was sent (MRC)

Dear Pastor and Church,

Greetings in the name which is above every other name, the name of our Saviour and Head Jesus Christ. We pray that you are being enriched by God daily and growing in Christian usefulness in the work of the Lord.

Enclosed please find the monthly love/mission offering for Bro. & Sis. Pugh. We thank the Lord for the love they have shown and do show for the ministry of the Word and the commission of Christ to His kind of church. We continually pray that God will help them with their physical health, give them guidance in all aspects of the work, open doors of opportunity for preaching and establishing New Testament churches, and manifest His presence to them and in their labors.

—Illinois

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

We have enjoyed the paper for many, many years. Please renew our subscription for 5 years. We also listen to the radio program on Sunday morning.

—Oregon

Dear Sir:

I saw in your BBB that some one asked for a Bible Correspondence course. I'm elderly and not always able to go to church.

I understand there is no charge. If so, you can let me know.

God bless you and the work you are doing.

—Virginia

Pastor,

We are praying for continued improvement in your health. Also for your church and your family. I know it is a time consuming job to publish a paper in addition to your church requirements. We certainly enjoy it and learn from it. Church: Give your pastor the help he needs.

Enclosed is a check for a 5 year subscription.

—Ohio

Please use this check for whatever you need most.

We appreciate the church folks who help put the Banner together each month. We find news in the "Bible and the Newspaper." So many subjects are seldom (if ever) found in our daily newspapers. Thank you for the Banner.

—Kansas

Dear Sirs:

A joke that was put in the paper few months ago was as far as we are concerned was improper for a religious paper. We were very shocked to see it in your paper but otherwise it is the first paper that we look forward to reading each month. When we were saved years ago anything that was off-colored was eliminated from our speech and we also did not want to hear them.

—?

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Been reading the BBB for a long time. Good paper, my wife and I love it.

We have you on our prayer list. Hope you continue to improve. I want the book on *Death and the Hereafter*. Let me know when it is ready.

—Kentucky

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

I have intended to write you for some time.

I am enclosing a check for the mission work.

. . . shares her tapes and I truly enjoy your messages. May the Lord continue to bless you and yours.

—Arkansas

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Enclosed is a money order to pay our monthly donation of \$20 to help with the expenses of the BBB.

We enjoy the paper because it is true to God's Word.

We pray for your health. And may God bless you and your family and the local church there as you labor for Him.

—Texas

Continued on page 295

Letters, Letters, Letters!

Continued from page 294

Dear Brother Cockrell,

Greetings dear brother in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray this finds you well and rejoicing in the blessings of our sovereign and gracious God. We rejoiced to hear from a mutual friend of the blessings of God upon you physically from your recent illnesses. May God continue to touch you with improving and continual strength and health.

I write you concerning BBB, enclosed find an offering for the paper. I rejoice in it and enjoy it very much. Thank God for you and those who labor in it, no doubt it is a blessing to many of God's dear saints as well as a source of guidance, encouragement, strength, and direction in the truths of God's Holy Word.

—North Carolina

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Greetings in the Name of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Trust this finds your health continuing to improve. You have been much in the prayers of the Church here.

Please find enclosed check in the amount of . . . for the purchase of a Risograph for Brother Pugh. We understood that this was the amount needed. Trust we are correct in this.

Received the hymn books and are really enjoying them. I trust we as sovereign grace Baptists realize what a treasure we have in these books. The binding is truly professional and beautiful.

—New Mexico

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the recent free subscription of the Berea Baptist Banner. Though I had never read your paper before, a Brother here knew the preaching my spirit responds to and submitted my name. I was inspired by what I read. The truth always gives me greater zeal for the Lord. Amen!

—South Carolina

Dear Friends in Christ:

Praise the Lord and thank you for supporting our ministry here at Hamilton C. I Annex. We have received your donation of 150 December 5, 2001 issues of "Berea Baptist Banner." Your generosity is such a tremendous blessing to this ministry. God has promised that He would provide us with every need. We are so grateful that He elected you as a vessel to deliver those needs to this ministry. Without your willingness to supply, we would have nothing to work with.

Again, thank you for blessing this ministry and we pray that God will open the floodgates of Heaven and rain showers of blessings upon you as you serve others.

Sincerely,
L. E. Turner, Warden
Stephen A. Haskell
Chaplain Supervisor
Florida

Dear Brother Cockrell,

I was just reading the new addition of the BBB, especially "Cockrell's Corner" entitled "just thinking." I appreciate all that you said and I just wanted to write and let you know that our church has been praying for you. I am so glad that you are able to return to work. I too am saddened by what is going on in regards to church organization. I have witnessed many things in recent years that have come into our area trying to divine the Lord's Churches but this has been the worst. Rest assured Brother that most of the Brethren in this area of West Virginia stand with you on this truth.

Anyway Brother, I just thought I would write and let you know that I appreciate your ministry. It has been a great help to me ever since I was saved and especially since I have been pastoring. You will continue to be in our prayers.

—West Virginia

Hello,

I used to subscribe to you newspaper. Is it still available, and, do you also have it online????

What is your stand or position on the KING JAMES BIBLE??? Are you pre-millennial???

Please advise.

—e-mail

Dear Bro. Milburn and Church,

Greetings. Hope this finds each of you enjoying the gracious blessings of our Sovereign Lord on this first day of the new year. Received Jan. edition of the Banner and have been blessed by it. Of particular interest was your article on The Berea Bible School.

I can remember that if it hadn't been for just such a school at Bethel Baptist Church in Pasadena, Tex. I would have had little opportunity for any Bible education at all. Therefore, if you come across any young preacher that cannot afford this schooling, give it to them and send me the bill. It will be paid. As a matter of fact I will send you a check for . . . tomorrow to cover the cost of one O. T. Survey and one New Testament Survey. When that is used up let me know. We praise God for you and the Lord's Church there. We love you in Him. Waiting with you for the Redeemer's return.

—Texas

Dear Pastor Cockrell,

Thank you very much for your explanation. It certainly seems more logical that not all will be sealed. I've read up to the 8th book in the Left Behind

series and found, without meaning to sound judgmental, many more inconsistencies and errors. Most frustrating is its take on the salvation experience, which is often portrayed as something that can only happen once the person prays THE prayer and make THE decision, even if the individual already believes and understands the gospel. It sounds very humanist and Arminian; although, in the same breath, they talk of the grace of God.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for all of the work you've done for the Lord which has touched countless lives, including many souls in the Philippines. We praise God for your restored health and pray for your steady and continuous recovery.

—Philippines

Dear Milburn Cockrell,

Greetings. I hope all is well with you. I heard and enjoyed a portion of your radio broadcast a couple Sundays ago while enroute to Courtland, Alabama. Sorry I forgot what station.

—California

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Hope this finds you doing well at this time. I thank our great GOD for the improvement of your eye. Bro. I don't know much about the Bible course you are offering but am interested. Would you send me some info on it please? I pray the Lord spare you many more days as you are a great help to me and so many.

—e-mail

Dear Brethren:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I have been missing *The Berea Baptist Banner* since the first of the year. I knew it was time to renew but just kept putting it off. I can no longer do without my old friend.

I notice on the label on the last issue received (December 5, 2000) that my subscription expired June of 2000. You kindly kept sending till the Dec. issue for which I thank you.

Enclosed please find my check for \$25. Please continue my subscription from July 2000 for as long as \$25 will take it. If possible I would like to receive all issues missed which would be from January through August.

Thank you for your consideration and may God bless you all.

—New York

Dear Sir:

I would like to renew my subscription for the *Berea Baptist Banner* for five years. I really like the paper.

—Washington

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Greetings in the name of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

I trust this finds you and yours

prospering and enjoying the Lord's blessing, and improving in health.

We do pray that you and Chris both are improving and that the Lord's grace has been sufficient, as He has promised.

—North Carolina

I thoroughly enjoyed your messages on the Ten Commandments and the paper in its entirety. May God continue to raise you up physically, so you can keep on contending for the faith.

Please pray for us. We love you in the Lord.

—Kentucky

Dear Brother Cockrell,

I know that you have probably received thousand of cards and letters wishing you well. I want to add one more to the list.

May you, by God's grace, be raised to health so you can continue to labor in God's vineyard.

—Illinois

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Please send us the *Berea Baptist Banner* for another year.

We have enjoyed reading this paper so much.

We appreciate your stand for the truth.

We trust you and your family are doing better health wise.

Please find enclosed a check. You may use the rest for whatever you need to get the truth out to others.

—?

Dear Brother Milburn Cockrell,

I have a couple of suggestions for articles that I would greatly like to see in the Berea Baptist Banner. I would like to see a series of articles written looking at the doctrines and practices of the ancient Baptist groups. For example, "Were the Novatians Baptists?", "Were the Donatists Baptists?", and so-forth. I think these would be very helpful to our Baptist people. I would also like to see an article on "Did J. R. Graves believe the doctrines of grace?" I think that would also be very interesting and informative. These are just a couple of suggestions for you to think about.

I greatly appreciate the Berea Baptist Banner and your stand for sovereign grace and church truth. Your paper is a great asset to the cause. Keep up the good work!

—Kentucky

The New Encyclopedia of Christian Martyrs \$29.95

Over 200,000 martyrs drawn from over 50 countries from Biblical times through today. It has 956 pages and is hardcover. Add \$5 for postage.

Cockrell's Corner

Continued from page 283

The Purpose of the Death of Christ

X. TO REDEEM AND PURIFY A PEOPLE FOR HIS OWN POSSESSION.

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14).

Here we see a number of things concerning the purpose of the death of our Savior. First, I see that His death was voluntary: **"Who gave himself..."** What is freer than a gift? Christ did not give the cattle of a thousand hills. He did not offer to God million of men or thousands of angels. He gave His body and soul into the hands of men and to the justice of God. His body on the cross pulled out the sting of death in our bodies, and the suffering of His soul abolished death in our souls.

Second, His death was vicarious: **"...for us..."** "For" is a translation of the Greek word *huper* which means "on behalf of" or "for the good of" (See *Pulpit Commentary*, Vol. 21, p. 28). This is a real substitutionary atonement. According to Titus 1:1, "us" must be limited to those who have **"the faith of God's elect."** The rest of Titus 2:14 reveals that you cannot extend this redemption beyond those who are actually redeemed from all iniquity and who are zealous of good works. The "us" in Titus 2:14 cannot be stretched to mean all mankind. If Christ died to redeem all men without exception, then God's purpose was frustrated, seeing many were already in eternal torment that had died in the 4,000 years of past human history.

Third, I see the purpose of Christ's death was twofold. Negatively, it was to **"to redeem us from all iniquity."** The word in the Greek for "redeem" is *lutroo*, an old verb from *lutron* (ransom). In Titus 2:14 it is the middle voice, and it means "to release by payment of a ransom." In the active voice it means "to release on receipt of a ransom." In I Peter 1:19 the ransom price is said to be **"the precious blood of Christ,"** and in Matthew 20:28 it is said to be the life of the Son of man. The blood or life of Christ went to the Father for our ransom. By this payment our debt to the justice of God was cancelled and we were freed from the power of sin as an active, controlling principle within us. Christ made a perfect expiation and secured for us eternal

redemption. The preposition used (*apo*-from) denotes the completeness of the deliverance.

Positively, Christ's death was **"to purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works"** A better rendering from the Greek is "a people for his own possession" (See A.T. Robertson's *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol. IV, p. 605). This verse does not teach that Christians are to be unlike others, or that they are to have views and principles peculiar to others. Rather, this verse teaches the people redeemed are the property or treasure of God, being derived from the Latin *peculium*, one's own private property, reserved for one's own private use (See Ex. 19:5-6; Deut. 7:6; 14:2; I Pet. 2:9).

Believers are Christ's special people given Him by the Father (John 6:37; 17:6-8). They are not their own, for they are bought with a price (I Cor. 6:19-20).

These special people who are redeemed by the blood of Christ and who belong to Him are zealous of all kinds of good works. They warmly pursue works which are acceptable to God. The fruit of redemption is lost, if sin has a controlling influence over us. Those redeemed are to live with a burning passion to glorify God and to honor the gospel.

The careful student will note that redemption and sanctification are joined together here as fruits of the sufferings and death of Christ. What God has joined together man must not put asunder. Nevertheless, Arminians would disjoin what God has joined together. They say Christ died to redeem all mankind, but only those who live holy lives are actually redeemed and sanctified. They have some who are redeemed but never sanctified. Hence they separate redemption from sanctification. But, according to Titus 2:14, the redeemed ones are the purified ones. In truth none are redeemed who are not also purified. The unwashed soul has no right to lay claim to any part of the death of Christ.

If just one soul ransomed and purified by Christ suffers in Hell for his iniquities, then the death of Christ was a failure. Either Christ was not able to make full payment for some of those for whom He died, or the Father refused to accept the ransom of Christ for some. If the Father was not satisfied, neither was the Son satisfied. Yet the Bible declares that both were satisfied with Christ's redemptive work. Arminians have a disappointed God and a defeated Christ! This can never be, for the old prophet said of the Messiah: **"He shall not fail nor be discouraged"** (Isa. 42:4).

THE BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

Readers of the BBB are urged to submit religious news items which they may read in their local paper or some other publication. In sending these please give the name of the publication as well as the date it was printed. We will not be able to print all which are submitted, but we welcome any item you may feel we should read. Send them to The Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855-0039.

CC

INFLUENTIAL BAPTIST PASTOR W. A. CRISWELL DIES AT 92

DALLAS, Texas (EP)—W. A. Criswell, influential pastor of the nation's largest Southern Baptist church for nearly half a century, died Jan. 10.

Criswell was 92. He had been in poor health since battling colon cancer in 1998.

Criswell was a president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and a major player in the battle to move the denomination in a more conservative direction theologically. He was the author of 54 books, including *Why I Preach That The Bible Is Literally True*, a book credited with launching the conservative movement in the SBC.

Criswell pastored First Baptist Church in Dallas from 1944 to 1991. During that time church membership grew from 8,000 to nearly 30,000. He was named "Pastor Emeritus" after stepping down from the pulpit.

Early in his career, Criswell preached against integration, denouncing it as "idiocy." But in 1969, as president of the SBC, he renounced that position and opened his church to blacks. Criswell drew fire from the right as well for suggesting that his denomination open dialogue with the liberal National Council of Churches.

President George W. Bush praised Criswell's life and ministry, saying, "Dr. Criswell was an important spiritual leader for America. He was a man of deep and abiding faith who brought comfort to the thousands who heard his message of hope, love and compassion."

Evangelist Billy Graham said: "it is almost impossible to evaluate the life and ministry of W. A. Criswell. He had a multiplicity of gifts. He had one of the most loving hearts I have ever known. His devotion to Scripture inspired thousands of young clergy from many denominations. His preaching was electric in its power. He was anointed by the Holy Spirit in an unusual way. His counsel and love to me meant more than he ever

knew."

Baylor University President Robert Sloan said: "His most important legacies are expository preaching and the commitment to spending a lifetime of ministry at one church. Those legacies represent commitments that are much needed in contemporary church life."

Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, called Criswell a "towering inspirational figure for at least two generations of Southern Baptist preacher boys." He added, "Many of us were being told by seminary professors in the 1960s and '70s that it wasn't possible to be intellectually credible and believe in the inerrancy of Scripture. Dr. Criswell's incandescent refutation of that was both a comfort and an inspiration to thousands who now serve Southern Baptist churches in a preaching ministry."

Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC's Executive Committee, said Criswell "was an unexcelled preacher, an unequalled visionary, an unswerving champion of the truth, and an unfailing leader of influence."

"The memory of the just is blessed. . ." (Prov. 10:7).

COMMISSION HOLDS HEARING ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN NORTH KOREA

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—The condition of religious freedom in North Korea was examined by the U. S. Commission on International Religious Freedom on Jan. 24. The purpose of the hearing was to hear testimony from Koreans suffering persecution and to explore what the U. S. could do to help the situation.

"By all accounts, there are no personal freedoms of any kind in North Korea, and no protection for human rights. The humanitarian situation is also extremely grim, as failed economic policies and natural disasters have reportedly led to the deaths of some one million or more North Koreans from starvation and disease in the last 10 years," said Michael Young, chairman of the commission. "In October 2001, the State Department issued its third Annual Report on International Religious Freedom. The report on North Korea

Continued on page 297

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 296

detailed serious and systematic abuses by the North Korean government, and concluded that 'genuine religious freedom does not exist.'

Dr. Kim Sang-Chul, secretary general of the Commission to Help North Korean Refugees, was one of three witnesses that testified about brutal conditions in North Korea. Sang-Chul said that while South Korea had 42,000 churches with 10 million Protestant Christians and three million Catholics, only two Protestant churches and one Catholic church existed in the north "and these are for exhibition purposes."

The North Korean government exercises measures "meant to obliterate Christians from the earth. . .In reality, no religion except "Chuche" (the self-reliance pronouncements of Kim Il-Sung) ideology officially exists in North Korea," said Sang-Chul during prepared remarks at the hearing. "Nowadays Christian mission is widely made mostly by volunteer missionaries to the North Koreans who cross the border of China for food and in some cases return to North Korea. Therefore, officials ferret out such North Koreans who came back or are deported to North Korea. Anyone found to be a Christian is either summarily executed or sent to completely controlled political prison camps from which no one is expected to come out alive."

To encourage the development of better religious and human rights conditions in North Korea, Jack Rendler, chairman of the U. S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, suggested that the U. S. be open to negotiation with the communist government. America should be ready to provide humanitarian aid to the devastated North Korean population, but it should also demand that communist officials allow information and opinions to be expressed and communicated freely throughout the country. Rendler also suggested that the U. S. use its stronger ties with China to influence North Korean policy.

"It is altogether too easy to ignore North Korea, to wait until 'something happens' and then respond. The North Korean people deserve better than that. They have been oppressed, frightened and enslaved for long enough. They deserve the best we can do to return to them their basic human rights," said Rendler.

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him. . ." (II Tim . 2:12).

LETTER FROM UNDERGROUND CHURCH REVEALS DETAILS OF TORTURE, MURDER, OF CHRISTIANS BY POLICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—A letter

from members of an underground Chinese Christian church reveals graphic details and new information about the Chinese government's crackdown on Pastor Gong Shengliang and his South China Church in central Hubei province.

Pastor Gong was sentenced to death on Dec. 5 on charges of operating an "evil cult" and charges of rape and assault. The month-long period for deciding his appeal was extended Jan. 5 by a Hubei court following sharp international protest, reports Freedom House, an American religious rights organization. The South China Church is known within the Chinese underground Christian community and to churches in the United States.

The letter, dated Dec. 31 was written by two underground Christian women, Li Ailian and Wang Yue. It was smuggled into the U. S. and given to the New York-based Committee for Investigation on Persecution of Religion in China.

Li and Wang report that during efforts to apprehend Pastor Gong and suppress the South China Church, police arrested and severely beat at least 25 Christians, and tortured others with electric prods. Two victims reportedly died from their inflicted wounds.

One of the victims was Yu Zhongju, a young mother from Zhongxiang, who was arrested May 27 in a private house connected with Pastor Gong's congregation. She died in police custody in late July, allegedly as a result of torture. According to her family, police paid them money and warned them not to raise the matter further. There has been no official investigation of the case, Freedom House reports.

The other victim, Gu Xuegui, a Christian man also connected with Pastor Gong's church, disappeared while in police custody in October. Gu was last seen in a prison vehicle and had wounds consistent with previous descriptions of torture practice by Chinese police. His family later received information that he had died under severe torture.

The letter also provides details about two women, Li Tongjijin and Chi Tongyuan, from Shayang, who were arrested and tortured by police with electric prods, resulting in blisters and burns all over their bodies. The torture was reported to have been used to force them to testify that they had sexual relations with Pastor Gong.

The letter reports numerous other cases from May through December 2001 of brutal police beatings of the congregants. It states Pastor Gong was apprehended by police Aug. 8, and was kicked and beaten by government security forces.

In a separate communiqué from the underground South China Church, Freedom House obtained the names of 63 men and women of the Church who were arrested between May and

December 2001 in Hubei, Henan, Hebei and Sichuan provinces.

"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it" (Matt. 10:39).

LONDON, England (EP)—A recount of parishioners by the Church of England added 90,000 to the church's original tally of Sunday attendance, moving the average number of worshippers in England's official church over the 1 million mark. The new number of 1,058,000, drawn up over several weeks in the autumn of 2002, replaces the earlier estimate of fewer than 970,000 regular worshippers, a source of some embarrassment to church leaders struggling for years in standing among an increasingly secularized population. However, even the larger figure indicates that less than 10 percent of England's people attend church on a regular basis. The higher number takes into account not only those attending Sunday masses, but also those attending other functions such as prayer meetings during the week. London's *Daily Telegraph* suggested that Church of England vicars have "deliberately" underestimated attendance at services to reduce the amount of apportionment they pay to their dioceses.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (EP)—Bomb blasts rocked the Indonesian city of Ambon Jan. 27 as fighting between Muslim invaders and Christians intensified again. Ambon has been a battleground between Muslims and Christians for three years. Since the beginning of 1999, over 5,000 people have died in battles motivated by religious hatred. Both sides claim that the conflict escalated when Ambon and the surrounding Maluku Islands were invaded in 2000 by thousands of troops belonging to a Muslim group known as the Laskar Jihad. Government officials there say that they are asking both sides to cease hostilities and negotiate a peace plan.

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP)—A nationwide survey by researchers at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) found that students on America's college campuses are more liberal in their attitudes than at any time since the mid-1970s. According to the American Freshman Survey, a joint project of UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute and the Washington D.C.-based American Council on Education, nearly 30 percent of the incoming freshmen surveyed at the beginning of the 2001 academic year said they consider themselves politically liberal. That is the highest figure since 1975, although still far lower than the nearly 41 percent who counted themselves as liberal at the height of the Vietnam War in 1971. The numbers indicate a broad-based shift toward liberal thinking among the nation's incoming college freshmen, according to UCLA

education professor Alexander Astin, who started the survey in 1966. The survey found that of the 281,064 students surveyed at 421 four-year colleges and universities, 58 percent think homosexual couples should have the legal right to marry, over 32 percent think the death penalty should be abolished, and more than 33 percent feel that marijuana should be legalized. While the survey found that 20.7 percent of those surveyed consider themselves conservative, it should be noted that the majority of the surveys were completed before the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, an event that would likely have tilted the results further to the right.

ALBANY, N.Y. (EP)—New York Attorney General Elio Spritzer is apparently backing away from a controversial investigation of pro-life crisis pregnancy centers. Spritzer drew national criticism when he began issuing subpoenas to some two dozen crisis pregnancy centers around the state and refused to explain his decision. "They seem to be backing off from their rhetoric because of the outpouring of support for centers from across the country," said Chris Slattery, founder of Expectant Mother Care. Spritzer later insisted he was only trying to be sure the centers were in compliance with all laws. Buffalo's Bishop Henry Mansell urged pro-lifers to be "watchful" to see if Spritzer will examine abortion clinics in the same way. "We want to be sure that similar examination is being made of the abortion clinics," Mansell said. Abortion advocates have launched a nationwide effort to shut down pro-life crisis pregnancy centers, which offer alternatives to abortion.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (EP)—A man who called Calvin College with a bomb threat after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks was sentenced Jan. 28 to serve three to eight years in prison and ordered to pay \$100,000 in restitution to the Christian college. "Your crime deserves the maximum possible I can give you by law," Kent County Circuit Judge Dennis Kolenda told Marvin Odell Hawkins, 22. "Your act was mean-spirited, to say the least, and due to its timing, unpatriotic." The threat led to evacuation of the campus and a one-day closure, at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP)—Christian marriage ministry pioneer Ray Mossholder has filed for divorce from his wife of 42 years and plans to remarry. Mossholder, whose Marriage Plus Ministries has reportedly saved more than 11,000 couples from divorce, said he is "ashamed and disgraced" by the failure of his marriage. Mossholder, 64, compared his situation to "the story of the shoemaker who was so busy that his own wife had to go without shoes. . .I make

Continued on page 298

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 297

no excuse for it. I won't even blame the devil for what has been my own fault." Mossholder is the author of three books, including Marriage Plus, and has spoken at seminars around the world. He said, "What I taught was truth; however, it seemed that we were never able to apply it in our own marriage."

BRYON, Calif. (EP)—A California school district is requiring seventh-grade students to learn the tenets of Islam, study important figures in the faith, wear a robe, and adopt a Muslim name, according to ASSIST News Service. During the intensive three-week course, students must memorize verses from the Koran, and are taught to pray "in the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful" and to chant, "Praise to Allah, Lord of Creation." Elizabeth Christina Lemings, a teacher in the district, said, "We can't even mention the name of Jesus in the public schools, but. . .they teach Islam as the true religion, and students are taught about Islam and how to pray to Allah. Can you imagine the barrage of lawsuits and problems we would have from the ACLU if Christianity were taught in the public schools?"

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (EP)—Jerry Falwell denied allegations by a scandal-oriented tabloid newspaper which charged that his Liberty University was recently rocked by a homosexual scandal. The National Enquirer reported that Falwell had "slammed a new lid" on the campus over rumors that male students engaged in sex with a campus pastor. The story was prompted by the sudden resignation of Eric Lovett, 29, assistant pastor of the school's spiritual life department. "While I have heard rumors, I myself have no knowledge, no personal knowledge, of any gay movement," said Falwell, 68. "I was told that he has had problems in this area [homosexuality]. . .but I myself have no personal knowledge of this." Lovett denied being part of any homosexual ring on campus and insisted that he is not a homosexual.

CAMDEN, New Jersey (EP)—A new investigation into the Holocaust claims that, contrary to popular belief, the persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany was not predominantly motivated and carried out by Christians. According to U. S. documents on the Nuremberg Trials recently made public on the Internet by Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion, Christianity was also a target of Nazism. The documents reveal plans to take over Germany's churches from within and replace Christianity with the doctrine of the Third Reich. According to Edward Colimore, a writer for the Philadelphia

Inquirer, these documents include a 120-page report titled "The Nazi Master Plan: The Persecution of the Christian Churches" prepared by the U. S. Office of Strategic Services. The report states that Hitler's regime tried several tactics of persecution to undermine and discredit Christian institutions and clergy in order to replace them with government institutions.

FUQING, China (EP)—China sentenced a Hong Kong citizen to a two-year prison sentence claiming he was guilty of bad business practices, but human rights observers say he was really arrested for smuggling over 30,000 Bibles into China.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (EP)—A bomb exploded inside of a Christian church in Islamabad on Jan. 13, causing the roof to collapse and widespread structural damage. The church was empty at the time of the explosion. Church leaders believe the attack on the church was an act of retaliation by Islamic extremists angered by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's pledge to crack down on militant groups. The day before the blast, Musharraf announced that Pakistan would not tolerate terrorist groups and that Pakistanis were "fed up with religious extremism." He vowed to close mosques and Islamic religious schools that teach an extremist version of Islam and instigate violence. Several mosques and schools were subsequently raided, resulting in the arrest of over 300 people. Several Islamic extremist groups active in Kashmir have been banned by Pakistan as part of Musharraf's pledge. "This latest bombing in Islamabad prove[s] that the Pakistani government has only just begun dealing with the problem of Islamic extremism," said Steve Snyder, president of International Christian Concern.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The Traditional Values Coalition spoke out recently against Sen. Hillary Clinton's efforts to change the rules for dispersal of funds from the federal Sept. 11 victim compensation fund so that money can flow to the domestic partners of homosexuals. Andrea Lafferty, executive director of the coalition, said, "We can sympathize with those who lost loved ones in this attack. However, the truth is that non-family members of those who died cannot legitimately claim any 9/11 funds. Now is not the time to redefine what constitutes a 'family' under federal law to benefit a very small, but vocal minority of homosexuals."

FRANKLINTON, La. (EP)—The American Civil Liberties Union filed a civil lawsuit demanding that a southeastern Louisiana town remove signs which proclaim: "Jesus is Lord over Franklinton." The ACLU says public

money was used to erect the signs. An official with surrounding Washington Parish said churches paid for the signs but public road crews erected them.

The political correctness of the Clinton administration may be coming back to haunt the Pentagon. An official tells us the Army in 1998 produced a "force-protection" video guide that lectured soldiers that terrorism was a relative term. "It is one of the most politically correct, apologetic, anti-American diatribes I've ever seen," the official told us. "You'd think it was produced by al Qaeda. It begins stating that the 'Christian Crusaders' were terrorists in their time.' . . .The Army video is just politically damaging. It is expected to cause legal problems for the Pentagon and Justice Department in their efforts to prosecute terrorists involved in the Pentagon and World Trade Center attacks (*Washington Times*, Jan. 21-27, 2002).

Recent figures compiled by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics found that 137,000 Christians live in Israel, up from 120,000 in 1995. The overwhelming majority—about 115,000—of Christians are Arab. Most Christians are older than their Muslim neighbors and have fewer children. The data did not distinguish between Christians living in Israel and Christians living in the embattled Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The largest bloc of Israeli Christians—18 percent—live in Jesus' hometown of Nazareth, where they constitute one-third of the city's population (*Western Recorder*, 1-15-02).

PHOENIX (ABP)—Arizona's attorney general is asking the federal government to compare the recent collapse of Enron with the alleged swindling of \$600 million from investors in the Arizona Baptist Foundation to see if accounting giant Arthur Anderson is guilty of a pattern of deceptive auditing (*Western Recorder*, 1-22-02).

A Sacramento, Calif., woman has filed suit against the headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses, claiming the denomination has tolerated child abuse by its elders and disciplined victims instead of those committing sexual abuse. Erica Rodriguez 23, charged that when she reported to denomination officials that she had been abused by an elder on a weekly basis from the time she was 4 until she was 11, she was told to be silent and to let the situation be resolved within the organization. When she announced she would contact the police, she was warned that she might be disfellowshipped from the Jehovah's Witnesses (*Western Recorder*, 2-5-02).

The American Civil Liberties Union (I think ACLU means Atheists, Communists, Liberals, and Unitarians)

has threatened a law suit against the mayor of Inglis, Fla. (population 1,400) to compel her to remove her official proclamation banning Satan within the city limits from posts at the city's entrances. Mayor Carolyn Risher insisted, "I am not knocking any one faith. I am praying for the whole community." I wonder if Satan has authorized the ACLU to file this lawsuit (MRC).

Out of 9 million illegal aliens now in our country more than 90,000 are from Middle Eastern nations, including Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan (Adapted from *Washington Times*, Feb. 4-10, 2002).

Noted 2nd Amendment scholar John Lott has pointed out that the students who stopped a crazed gunman at West Virginia Appalachian Law School were able to do so because they themselves were armed with guns. When Peter Odighizuwas, a discounted student on the verge of flunking out, began his attack that killed one student and two faculty members, students Mikael Gross, 34, and Tracy Bridges, 25, ran for their cars and got their guns. They confronted Odighizuwas, pointing their guns at him. The Shooter dropped his weapon and was subdued after a brief scuffle (*Human Events* 2-4-02). As you might guess, the media revisionists failed to report that the heroes who saved the day were armed.

On January 22, at a meeting in Washington, D.C., the Democratic National Committee (DNC) approved a resolution calling for same-sex partners to receive the same Social Security benefits as married couples. The resolution, promoted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said: "Social Security would be strengthened if same-sex partners were treated equally (*ibid.*) The liberal, leftist press failed to report this to the people.

A Gallup poll conducted January 7 to 10 found that 39 percent of Americans want more restrictions on abortion. In an August survey, Gallup found that 26 percent want abortion to be legal "under any circumstance," and 17 percent said "illegal in all circumstances." Gallup found that women tend to be more pro-life than men: 37 percent of women aged 18 to 49 said abortion laws should be stricter compared to 36 percent of men that age, and 48 percent of women 50 and up want more restrictions compared to 38 percent of men 50 and up (*ibid.*).

"Human rights campaigners in Romania are celebrating the scrapping from the statue books of a law which effectively criminalized the practice of homosexuality," reported the BBC on December 20th. The law in question, Article 200 of the Ceausescu-era penal

Continued on page 299

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 298

code, was repealed "under fierce pressure from the European Union." According to Adrian Coman, director of the Romanian homosexual-rights group ACCEPT, the EU made abolishing the statute a precondition for the country's eventual membership in the continent-wide superstate (*The New American*, 2-02). Some 86 percent of Romanians would not want to live next to a practicing homosexual. The EU is preparing for the ten federation of nations under the antichrist. It is worth noting that Bible prophecy says the antichrist will be a homosexual. Daniel 11:37 says: "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all."

Socialism is a system which distributes wealth—other people's. How many Socialists do you know who distribute their own wealth?

Where else but in the United States could you criticize the President in the morning, join a sit-in at City Hall in the afternoon and receive your government welfare check in the evening mail? (Tom Anderson in *Straight Talk*, 2-7-02).

The Trinity Broadcasting Network seeks to build a relationship with Communist China in hopes of getting permission to spread charismatic "gospel" on state-sponsored cable television (2-2 *Charisma*). But Chinese house-church leaders complain that TBN-founder Paul Crouch spends too much time speaking friendly about the Chinese government, lobbying for China's entrance into the World Trade Organization, instead of speaking openly about the daily torture and murder of Christians (*Calvary Contender*, 2-15-02).

John Bray, a noted preterist, has now denied eternal punishment. I quote from Bray's Newsletter (1-21-02): "What happens to the wicked in eternity? The word 'perish' in John 3:16 is the key to the answer. Look that word up in the Greek and study and analyze very carefully, for what it means tells us what will happen to the lost in eternity. Whatever it means will last forever. But conscious torment of a soul and body forever is not spelled out for us in the New Testament."

This is what Jehovah's (False) Witnesses teach. Listen to them on this subject: "The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true, mainly for four reasons: (1) Because it is wholly unscriptural; (2) Because it is unreasonable; (3) Because it is contrary to God's love; (4) Because it is repugnant to justice" (*Let God Be True*, p. 99).

NOTE

Many of the books we have in this list are out-of-print from the publishers. Others we will not restock due to large orders required by publishers. We have only 1 copy of some of these. We plan to stock less books in the near future, but keep a better supply of what we offer. These are sold on a first-come-first-serve basis. If books are all sold, we will refund your money. On orders of \$20.00 or more you may take a 20% discount except those for those marked no discount.

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WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

Why Terrorist Detainees are not POWs



President Bush has decided that the terrorist detainees are *not* prisoners of war (POWs), but, instead, are unlawful combatants who massacred thousands of innocents on Sept. 11th on American soil in an "act of war."

Even so, in this unprecedented war, he is applying the rules of the Geneva Convention to the Taliban soldiers, fighting for the government of Afghanistan, a party to the Convention—but *not* to the al-Qaida terrorists, not a party to the Convention. Neither is classified as POW. Thereby, U. S. officials can interrogate them indefinitely and not have to release them when hostilities are ended.

WHINERS COME OUT

Immediately, the whiners and bleeding hearts came out of the woodwork. Elisa Massimino of the Lawyers Committee on Human Rights stated, "Believing in the Geneva Convention principles and actually applying them are two different things. There is no in-between." Then, Amnesty International's Alistair Hodgett charged the president with "willful misinterpretation" of the Geneva Convention in his "arrogant policy of pick and choose with regard to the laws of war."

The president did not violate the Geneva Convention. He is doing his duty in this time of great peril to the American republic. Said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, "This decision about detainees may be a precedent for the future." Certainly, this is a war like no other war in history. And our survival is threatened.

THE BUSH DECISION

President Bush's decision not to classify the Taliban and al-Qaida detainees as POWs is based on the explicit provisions of the Geneva Conventions themselves, as well as established legal and constitutional procedures and historical precedents. Moreover, he has again showed the world that he doesn't make snap judgments, but that he consults, evaluates and decides—and does not back off.

The Geneva Conventions were first signed in 1864. New provisions were added in 1906, 1926, 1949 and 1979—progressions for better treatment of POWs from slavery, annihilation and ransom to humane treatment under international law.

POW CRITERIA

The 1949 Geneva Convention codified the international treaty to protect war victims and was apparently a consequence of the horrors and inhumanity of World War II, particularly the Nazi concentration camps and the Japanese Bataan Death March. The four Geneva Conventions now in force are, as follows:

* Geneva for the Wounded and Sick (GWS).

* Geneva for the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked at Sea (GWS, Sea).

* Geneva for the Treatment of Prisoners of War (GPW).

* Geneva for the Treatment of Civilians (GC).

Neil P. McNulty, a retired Lt. Colonel of the U. S. Marine Corps who taught the Law of War at the Command and Staff College at Quantico, explained the POW criteria under the Geneva Conventions (Norfolk *Virginian Pilot*, Feb. 1). They apply to all international conflicts, whether declared or not, and apply even if one of the nations is not a signatory to the conventions.

For POW status, the Geneva Convention (GPW) requires that prisoners, or "detainees," meet the following criteria:

* Wear a distinctive uniform or insignia or dress to clearly identify the combatant as a part of an organized unit.

* Carry arms openly.

* Be a part of an organization that has a commander.

* Obey the laws of war.

GUANTANAMO DETAINEES

Specifically *excluded* from POW

status under the Geneva Conventions are *unlawful combatants* which is exactly what the Guantanamo detainees are. They don't come close to POWs under the terms of the Geneva Conventions. They don't meet the criteria!

Arguments are made by the bleeding hearts that fighters of the Taliban and al-Queda have commanders in Osama bin Laden or Mullah Omar—a far stretch, as they too are unlawful combatants who disregard the laws of war.

Many of the terrorist detainees have threatened to kill their guards if they could get to them. Obviously, they are rabid savages, wild animals who, if released at the end of hostilities, could continue terrorist plots to murder Americans—and would do so at every opportunity. They should be tried as criminals.

Currently, they are treated humanely in all respects with food, shelter and medical care with Red Cross visits and commentary. Eventually, military tribunals will decide their disposition because historically, these military courts have dealt justly with enemies and other unlawful combatants.

NEW YORK TIMES TO THE RESCUE

It should not be surprising for the *New York Times* to rush to the rescue. Columnist Nicholas D. Kristof boldly compares the 1993 capture of Army helicopter pilot Michael Durant by Somali war lords to the U. S. capture of the terrorists, arguing POW status because both cases are similar. Totally untrue. Durnat was a uniformed lawful combatant, openly armed and operating as part of the U. S. Army, thereby meeting all criteria of lawful combatant and entitled to POW status under the Geneva Conventions.

True, the Mogadishu war lords gave Durant POW status—but certainly that is no justification for POW status for

the Muslim terrorists who assaulted the American homeland and who met *none* of the criteria of the Geneva Conventions.

The captured terrorist detainees qualify as unlawful combatants, not prisoners of war under any stretch of the Geneva Conventions. The justice they receive under the American system with military tribunals, it is safe to say—British, French and German prognosticators notwithstanding—will be fair, probably the best they've ever had and the American homeland will have been protected—for the time being.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Matt James, son of Missionary Frank and Cyd James, has been authorized to do mission work in Columbus, Ohio, by the West Milton Baptist Church, West Milton, Ohio, and Pastor Mark S. Clark. Bro. Matt is searching for a building, or room he can rent in Columbus. His phone is 614-922-9059. If you wish to inquire about the work, please contact Pastor Clark (937) 698-4642 or (937) 698-0673.

On March 3rd, 2002, the Berea Baptist Broadcast will be aired on WDBS ("The BOSS") Sutton W. Va., on Sunday morning from 6:30-7:00 a.m. This is a 50,000 watt FM station which is 97.1 on the dial. It will reach much of the State of West Virginia.

The article by the editor on "The Succession of Truth" is now printed in tract form. It is available in limited quantities free upon request. Postage appreciated.

The Home Baptist Church, G-8475 N. Saginaw St., Mt. Morris, Mich., and Pastor Don Titus will have a Bible Conference April 16-18. The meeting starts on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Noon and evening meals will be served by the church. Speakers on the program are Elders Roger Jones, Clyde Hancock, Garner Smith, Jerry Asberry, and others. For more information contact Pastor Titus (313) 686-6005.

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INDEX

Bible and the Newspaper	p. 296
Cockrell's Corner	p. 283
<i>Education---Trojan Horse of Liberals</i> by G. Russell Evans	p. 281
<i>Everybody has a Fear</i> by Raymond Bennett	p. 292
Forum	pp. 290 - 291
Funnybone	p. 287
<i>Letters, Letters, Letters</i>	p. 281
Mini Edition	p. 288
<i>The Conflict of Power at the End of this Age</i> by Wilbur Smith	p. 281
<i>The Doctrine of Rewards</i> by Milburn Cockrell	p. 281
<i>The Preeminence of Christ</i> by Milburn Cockrell	p. 281
World Scene: <i>Why Terrorist Detainees are not POWs</i> by G. Russell Evans	p. 300