

The Berea Baptist Banner

Volume XXIII, Number III

Mantachie, Mississippi, March 5, 2003

Whole Number 288

Christ, The Captain of Our Salvation

By Christmas Evans

(1776 - 1838)

"And being made perfect, he became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:9).



Christmas Evans

Words similar to these are recorded in the tenth verse of the second chapter of this epistle: **"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."** I will take the word Captain, or rather Prince, from this text, as the antecedent to the pronoun he, in the passage under consideration; not because I am under the necessity of going so far for it, as it may be found in the substantive Son, in the preceding verse, but merely because of the similarity of the two texts. I will divide the passage thus:

I. I shall offer a few remarks on Christ, as the Captain or Prince of Salvation.

II. The perfection of this Prince as the Author of salvation; and

III. The characters interested in this

Continued on page 45

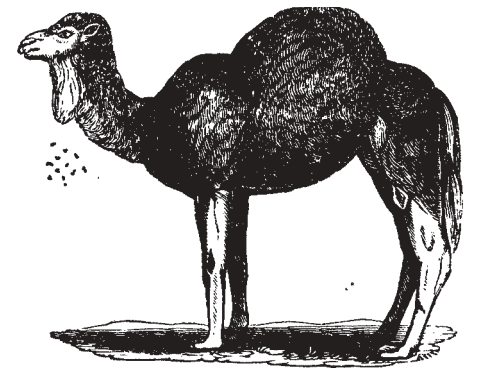
Gnats and Camels

By Milburn Cockrell

(1941 - 2002)

"Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel" (Matt. 23:24).

Some would render the text to "strain out a gnat" rather than to **"strain at a gnat."** The Greek means to strain out by a cloth or sieve. Jewish



Spiritual Vegetation

By Milburn Cockrell

(1941 - 2002)

"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come" (Mark 4:26-29).

Mark only reports this parable. It

is not the same as the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:3-20). In some ways the two parables resemble each other, but in other details they are very different. Though the parable I am about to comment upon is brief, it is filled with precious gems



Milburn Cockrell

Continued on page 43

law prohibited the eating of flying things (Lev. 11:22-23). Hence the Jews had a custom of filtering wine before it was drunk. The wine gnat was the smallest insect known to the Hebrews, while the camel was the largest and forbidden as food (Lev. 11:4).

In my text Christ used this contrast to illustrate the inconsistency of the Pharisees in taking great pain to avoid small sins while making no effort to avoid greater sins. These religious fanatics were very scrupulous about the minutest matters of the ceremonial observances, and then they neglected

Continued on page 42

The Yoke for Young Men

By Jeff Short

(in transition)

"It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." (Lam. 3:27)

In this chapter Jeremiah is relating his own experience in afflictions. He is commending his experience as an example to the nation of Israel to be followed in their own afflictions. If they will follow this godly counsel and quit themselves like men, he believes that God will redeem them from captivity and restore them. He declares, **"It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth."** The immediate reference is to bearing the yoke of afflictions or trials, realizing that **"For our light**



Jeff Short

in his youth. The word *geber* is here translated 'man.' It means a man as opposed to a woman or the male gender. The word also implies

Continued on page 52

100 World-Known Witnesses to the Second Coming of Our Lord

Part 5

Dr. W. Graham Scroggie, long of Charlotte Chapel, Edinburgh; Conference Speaker, Author of many books, etc.

"If believers are not thus purifying themselves, the reason is close to hand, they are not living in the Advent light, and in the joy of our Hope. To such, one look at Christ will serve to reveal the utter hollowness of all they have chosen in place of Him, and to fill the heart, for howsoever brief a time, with the agony of remorse. But, to those who have heard His word and obeyed, that first long look at His blessed face will compensate a thousand times over for any seeming

loss which we may have sustained here."

Alfred T. Schofield, M.D., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., F.R.G.S., etc., Harley St. Specialist, Author of "Nerves in Disorder," "Dictionary of Domestic Hygiene," "Journeys of Jesus Christ," "Where He Dwelt," and various other well-known works.

"The only family or body of saints that is seen both in the Millennium and in Eternity is the Church in its glorious fulfillments of John 17:2, as it displays for ever the love of God in Christ which passes knowledge in the 'most precious' (Matt. 13:46, R.V.)

Continued on page 47

"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

Temporary Editor: Christopher Cockrell
Foreign Correspondent: Curtis Pugh

THE BEREA BAPTIST BANNER (UPS 546470) is published monthly for \$6.00 per year by the authority of the Berea Baptist Church, 3881 Highway 363, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855. Periodical Publication postage paid at Mantachie, Mississippi.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEREA BAPTIST BANNER, P. O. Box 39, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855-0039.

PUBLICATION POLICIES: All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts are to be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of BBB and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication.

The publication of an article does not necessarily mean the editor is in complete agreement with the writer, nor does it mean he endorses all this person may have written on other subjects.

COPIING PRIVILEGES: Unless otherwise stated any article published in this paper may be copied by other publications, provided they give proper credit line stating that such was copied from this publication, and the date of publication; provided that such materials are not published for profit. If we are not on an exchange list with the publication copying, it is requested that a copy of the issue containing the article be sent to our address. All copyrighted materials may not be copied without written consent.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY with paid circulation in most states in the U.S.A. and some foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year.....	\$6.00
Two years.....	\$10.00
Five years.....	\$24.00

PLANNING TO MOVE? Notify us three weeks in advance. The post office will only forward periodical mail for 90 days. They charge us \$.70 for each "change of address" they have to send us. Please save us this expense and the post office time.

BUNDLES TO ONE ADDRESS: These are sent for \$4 per paper for a year. An example: 10 papers for one year at \$40 or 20 papers for one year at \$80.00.

LOCATION OF PUBLISHING CHURCH: Our church is located on state highway 363 about one mile south of Mantachie, Mississippi. Readers are always welcome to visit our services.

CHURCH PHONE: 1-662-282-7794.

EDITOR'S PHONE: 1-662-282-7233.

A PAPER WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION: Some times people write to us and say that they did not subscribe for the BBB. They are receiving our paper because someone else has paid for their subscription. We trust the BBB will be received as an outstretched hand to you. Take what you find helpful and discard what you cannot use.

If you do not want to receive such a gift subscription, please write to us. We are happy to cancel such a subscription. We do not want to go where we are not wanted.

DISCLAIMER: The Editor assumes that the articles submitted for publication in the BBB are written by the person whose name they bear, unless otherwise indicated by a quote from another writer. However, the Editor cannot personally guarantee that this is the case in all articles which appear in the BBB.

Visit us on the World Wide Web at:

www.bereabaptistchurch.org

Our email address is:

bbchurch@intop.net

bereabaptistchurch@bereabaptistchurch.org



Gnats and Camels

Continued from page 41

the highest ethical duties enjoined by the law. It is so often the case that he who is troubled with little things pays no attention to great things. This trait of character, so vividly displayed in the Pharisees of old, is still most conspicuous in the lives of no small number of professed Christians today. **TITHERS AND TURNABOUTS**

In the time of Christ the Pharisees took great pain to avoid offense in the smallest matter, like people straining out a wine gnat, but made no effort to avoid greater sin—hypocrisy, deceit, oppression and lusts—like a man who would swallow a whole camel. This was certainly true in their tithing. The law required the Jew to give a tenth for the support of the Levites and the service of the sanctuary (Num. 18:20-24; Deut. 14:22-24). They were obligated to pay tithes of the **"fruit of the earth"** (Deut. 26:22). However, the law said nothing about herbs, yet the Pharisees maintained such herbs should be tithed.

Jesus condemned them for being

so precise in matters not expressly commanded, while omitting the greater things which the law enjoined: **"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone"** (Matt. 23:23). They tithed the herbs of their garden, while neglecting judgment, mercy, and faith. Hence they were guilty of straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

MONEY AND MADNESS

Another instance of the inconsistency of the Pharisees can be seen in their proceedings with Judas. The ruling men of the Sanhedrin agreed to pay Judas thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus Christ. This was the price of a slave (Ex. 21:32). It is not unlikely this sum was fixed by them to show how little they valued the Savior. Their bribery seemed not to bother their conscience in the least, although the act was forbidden in their Old Testament (Deut. 16:19; Ps. 26:10; Prov. 17:23).

Later when Judas returned their blood-money, they scrupled to return the money into the treasury: **"And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood"** (Matt. 27:6). They had no scruples about murdering an innocent man, but they were scrupulous about where to put the blood money when returned. Poor old blind guides who strained at a gnat and ate a camel!

CLEAN HANDS AND A DIRTY HEART

In John 18:28 we behold again their superstition and vile hypocrisy: **"Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the Passover."** The Pharisees refused to enter the judgment hall of an uncircumcised Gentile. Such actions would be a traditional pollution. But they had no scruples about persecuting Christ to death. What camel-swallowers!

On another occasion these religionists found faith with Christ's disciples for eating with unwashed hands (Mark 7:1-13). Jesus declared it was better to eat with unwashed hands than with an unwashed heart (Matt. 15:20). The Pharisees criticized a person who did not observe **"divers washings"** (Heb. 9:10), but a filthy heart did not seem to bother them. Here again we can see gnat-strainers

and camel-swallowers!

DO THE PHARISEES STILL LIVE?

Were the Pharisees a group of religious fanatics who lived some nineteen hundred years ago? Did gnat-straining pass away with them in some bygone age? I do not think so. Observation has convinced me that the Pharisees still live. They now have different names but their characteristics are the same. Their successors are those in our churches who profess to know God but in works deny Him (Tit. 1:16), those who have a name to live when they are dead (Rev. 3:1).

A CHRISTIAN BURIAL AND A CHRISTLESS LIFE

Some church members are greatly concerned with their "Christian funeral." They want a certain text read at their funeral about Heaven. They want some scholarly preacher to give a long eulogy about their "good" deeds. They want to be buried facing the east in a fine coffin. They want inscribed on their tomb: "Asleep in Jesus." But after being so particular about these details, they live for the Devil during their life on earth. They serve the god of this world and foolishly hope to live with the God of Heaven in the next world. These gnat-strainers, are destined to miss Heaven as far as Hell is from Heaven!

HONESTLY DISHONEST

Some people are very honest. They would walk a mile to return a penny, which was not theirs. But often the same people have no scruples about lying. Let me illustrate. One day a man comes to buy a person's house. The owner estimates it is worth \$50,000 or more. The next day the tax assessor comes around, and the owner estimates it is worth no more than \$25,000. Here is a camel-swallower with his gnat strainer in his hand.

CRITICS WHO NEED CRITICIZING

In some churches you can find a person who points out every wrong chord the pianist makes and every sour note the music director sounds. They notice every inaccuracy of speech the pastor makes in his sermon. They notice who sleeps during the sermon and who looks out the window. But amidst all of this they never hear the message from God. By constantly criticizing those who try to serve the Lord, they miss the main reason for a religious service—to hear the message, which comes forth from God. Such a person is a gnat strainer of the worst kind!

Some people are quick to point out the faults and follies of other people. The errors of others alarm them greatly, yet they have no alarm about

their great transgressions. They use a microscope on others and a telescope turned backward on themselves! Jesus said of such persons: **"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye"** (Matt. 7:3-5).

The unregenerate can find so much wrong with the church. They will say, "We don't like the preacher who preaches." Or they may say, "No one spoke to us when we went to church last Sunday." Or maybe they will say, "The church asks for money." These things would not be a problem at the club or in the business world. You have never heard someone say, "No one spoke to us at the club." Nor do they say, "We will never go to the department store again because they ask for money." These people gag at a gnat and swallow down a whole camel!

PREACHER'S PARADOXES

Some preachers preach much about things people ought not to do and little if ever about what they ought to do. They tell sinners they are lost more than they tell them of the Savior. They tell men what people ought to believe, but seldom tell them what they really do believe. They tell their people much about what the Bible does not teach, while neglecting to tell them what it does teach. All too many times ministers are guilty of majoring on minors and minoring on majors. Such preachers carry a gnat-strainer as well as a Bible.

Some overly pious men preach much about wine in the Lord's Supper, but they never preach against devilish pride and evil passions. Others will fight you to prove a woman ought to wear a head covering and ought not to wear pants. Then they will turn around and condone other ministers in adultery, in stealing and lying. Paul asked: **"Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? Thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonorest thou God?"** (Rom. 2:21-23).

There are preachers among us that

Continued on page 43

Gnats and Camels

Continued from page 42

talk much about the independency of the church, then politic to get another pastor run off from his church. Some speak of each church being sovereign in its own sphere, then turn around and dictate how another church should run its Bible conference. Still others speak of the democratic rule in the church, but then assume the office of the chief dictator in the church. A few say it is a terrible thing to eat in the church building, while affirming it is a fine thing for a minister to have as many wives as he pleases so long as he takes only one at a time! Such people have strained out a gnat and swallowed a camel hump and all!

TWO WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT

Some professed Christians condemn a man for drinking alcohol. The Bible also condemns the drunkard. But some of these people who denounce the drunk smoke and defile their body. Both drinking and smoking harm the body. Both are sins against God. Then some condemn people who smoke, but they eat too much. Gluttony is equally as much a sin as smoking. Still others complain about folks going to the picture show, while they watch TV at home. A few are quick to condemn gambling, but they enter every mail-order contest, which comes along. **"Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things"** (Rom. 2:1).

So many religious people today are consistently inconsistent. Their thinking is so very lopsided. They remind me of the Pharisees who permitted circumcision on the Sabbath and denounced Christ for healing on the Sabbath (John 7:22-23). Certainly if a work of necessity could be done on the Sabbath it was in order to completely restore a man to health. It would be well if men would not condemn others in things that they allow. Men often accuse others of doing things that they themselves do in other ways. People who live in a glass house should seldom throw a stone.

Some religious leaders criticize churches that have an executive mission board separate and apart from the churches. But some of these same people have a missionary committee which acts as an executive between sessions of their association. Still others in the ranks of Baptists denounce all mission boards and their

financial reports, while defending a secret board, which gives no reports. Some criticize the missionary work of all; yet do no missionary work—the worst thing of all! These are content to be missionary and brag about being a "sound Baptist, when in reality they are sound asleep. Those who refuse to become a missionary force are destined to become a mission field!

CONCLUSION

This message has not been intended to justify any known sin, which the Bible condemns. Rather, it was intended to show how inconsistent we sometimes are in our religious practices. Little sins are not to be tolerated. They must be strained out. We are to avoid lesser sins, but we are responsible not to commit greater sins. Let us get rid of both motes and beams. But let us always remember it is better to swallow a thousand gnats than one camel!

Spiritual Vegetation

Continued from page 41

of truth. The Parable of the Sower describes the quality of the soil in the field, but this one the vitality of the seed in the soil. It sets before us the work of grace in the individual soul.

SOME BRIEF DEFINITIONS

I want to comment upon a few terms which are less prominent in this parable. By **"kingdom of God"** (v. 26) I understand the God in the hearts of His people and churches. In this parable we see the slow and secret growth of the kingdom. Jesus Christ said: **"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation"** (Luke 17:20). The final stage of the growth of the kingdom is the thousand-year reign of Christ and His saints.

There is special stress on the relation of gospel preaching to slow growth of the kingdom of God. By **"the ground"** (v.26) I understand the hearts of men and woman who hear the gospel. More will be said about some of this later.

The big question in this parable is the identity of the sower or the farmer. In the Parable of the Sower it is **"the Son of man"** (Matt. 13:37) or Christ. But in the parable before us the sower

is the human instrument that declares the gospel of Christ. The sower in our parable cannot be Christ, for Christ does not sleep and rise. Of the sower it is said that **"he knoweth not"** (v. 27). This cannot be said of Christ (John 21:17; Heb. 4:13). It would be blasphemy to apply such things to the omniscient and omnipotent Redeemer. Hence it best in this parable to make the sower the person who declares the gospel. Gospel preachers are the Lord's seed men.

THERE MUST BE A FARMER

"So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground" (v. 26). The earth does not bring forth of itself. It is the mother of weeds and grass, not corn. Casting the seed into the ground is the first step toward a harvest. **"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him"** (Ps. 126:5-6). As the song writer as so well expressed it in our beloved hymn:

Sowing in the sunshine,
sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor
winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest and the
labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing,
bringing in the sheaves.

While God can work without means in some cases, He generally works through means as seen in this parable. God uses ministers, missionaries, parents, teachers, friends and relatives to sow gospel seed. **"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered: but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own labor"** (I Cor. 3:5-8). To despise

human instrumentality is to expect corn when no seed has been sown. I believe we are responsible to sow gospel seeds among the unconverted. On this point I differ with some who are of the contrary mind.

All we can do is sow the seed. It is not within our power to make the seed germinate and grow. We do not make the seed or the soil, but all Christians are to be seed sowers. Nothing should hinder us in this important work: **"He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. . . .In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good"** (Eccl. 11:4,6). Isaiah 32:20 says: **"Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters."** Of the Jerusalem church it is written: **"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word"** (Acts 8:4).

But we must never put the gospel preacher on a pedestal and attribute the results to God. Man may sow and water, but God only can give germination and growth. All is vain unless God intervenes by His power to produce life and action. Man left to himself will never repent and believe the gospel. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to break up the ground of the human heart and make the seed spring into life.

THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD

In Luke 8:11 Jesus said: **"The seed is the word of God"** (Luke 8:11; cf. Mark 4:14). The kingdom of God grows by the sowing of the seed of the written Word of God. Religious training and social improvement are useful, but they do not extend the kingdom of God. The Lord of the harvest did not promise to bless church ball games and midnight hay rides in the growth of His kingdom. Speculations, political speeches, human traditions, and doctrines of demons are no good. Neither is human philosophy and vain deceit. These things are like mixing grass seed with corn seed, or darnel with wheat. To add something to the Word of God is the handle **"the word of God deceitfully"** (II Cor. 4:2).

The kingdom of God grows only as the Word of God is preached in its purity and power without any mixtures. Paul said: **"For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we of Christ"** (II Cor. 2:17). The whole counsel of God must be

Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....	101.9.....	3,000 FM
WLZA, Starkville, MS	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	710	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	95.9	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	680	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	550	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR.....	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.....	1050	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines.....	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	783 Khz ...	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	1494	16,000 AM

Continued on page 44

Spiritual Vegetation

Continued from page 43

declared. Some will argue the Word, but they will not preach the Word. Religious formalities without the Word cannot bring a harvest.

THE FARMER MUST HAVE FAITH IN HIS SEED

“And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how” (Mark 4:27). **“Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain”** (Jas. 5:7). Having sown the seed the farmer rests in hope of a harvest. He does not fret and worry himself about the results. He rises night and day and goes about his work. The seed is left where it should be. It is in the soil and under the care of Almighty God.

There are many spiritual lessons here. Some Christian workers worry too much about the seed sown. They seem to think that results are their business. How little they rest in faith. These Christians could learn much from the farmer. Just as a farmer cannot see how the seed fares hidden away in the soil, even so the gospel minister cannot see how gospel seeds fare in the soul of his hearers. He cannot put his hand forth to make it spring forth into life and grow. The seed must be left to itself in the soil, and so must the Word sown in the heart of the sinner. The seed sown in the human heart must be left under the care of Almighty God. Results from gospel preaching are in the hand of a sovereign God.

If the minister sows good seed, they will grow. The gospel preacher must sow good seed, have faith in God, and trust God for the harvest of souls. He must lay hold upon the promised of Isaiah 55:10-11: **“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”** As we sow, so shall we reap. **“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully”** (II Cor. 9:6).

Over anxious preachers have sometimes done more harm than good to the seed sown. Like Abraham who wanted to help God out in getting

him a son by the bondwoman, some ministers attempt things beyond their power. By super salesmanship evangelism and hour-long invitations they seek to make the seeds of the gospel germinate. This is very foolish, for we cannot make seeds to grow otherwise than God appoints. Like Abraham, the results of their trying to help God out results in spiritual Ishmaelites who are troublesome to the house of God.

THE MYSTERY OF LIFE

“For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself. . .” (Mark 4:28). Even with all of our modern-day knowledge we still know little about how corn grows. We observe the stages of its growth, and we watch its changes. We realize the necessity of rain, good soil, and proper sunshine, but beyond this we cannot go. Even so, we do not know how the unseen God imparts spiritual life and growth. How the Word operates on the sinner's heart, and how it becomes the engrafted Word we know but little.

The greatest mind will tell you that life and growth are hard to explain in nature. We have mostly observation of what it does. The farmer does not know the minute life begins nor the exact time it may show itself in a small sprout. In truth we cannot define life, whether natural or spiritual. Our Lord Himself said that the beginning of spiritual life is a great mystery: **“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whiter it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit”** (John 3:8; cf. Eccl. 11:6). The origin of the wind, and its destination is not easily detected, though its effect can easily be seen (I Kings 19:11; Ps. 29:5; 107:25). Regeneration by the Spirit is known only to God, but its effects can be easily seen in the life of the person who experiences it.

The secrecy of the Spirit's work is an unseen thing, known only to God, just like the germination of a seed in the ground. While the birth of a plant is unseen, its growth and fruit are visible. The inner power is hid, but

all who pass the field sees the full corn. How grace comes to the sinner is an inscrutable mystery, but the growth of the soul and the fruits of righteousness are known and read of all men. While one's spiritual life is hid with Christ in God (Col. 3:3), its practical effects are a city set on a hill.

Man's regeneration by the Holy Spirit will remain a great mystery, as well as His conversion by the Word. We know little of the life of God in the human soul. We know little about the Divine life in us, and much less of it in others.

THE GROWTH OF THE SEED

In the plant world there is the law of continuity: **“. . . first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear”** (Mark 4:28). The process is the same in nature or grace. It cannot be reversed.

Everything must have a beginning. The mightiest oak was once an acorn, and the strongest man was once a babe. The tall corn stalk, which waves in the wind and bright sunlight, was once, only a small sprout. The conversion of a day of small things. Faith at first is small and weak. It has only a glimmering view of Christ. It is scarcely more than a mere venture, hoping that there may be salvation for such a poor lost sinner. When it is first imparted by the Spirit through the Word it has only a glimmering view of Christ. But as time passes it will lean more and more on Christ. Then the converted man will soon live by faith and walk by faith. The young convert has but a limited knowledge of the love of God, but in the process of time he comes to know that the love of Christ passes all human knowledge.

God's children are not born perfect in faith, love, hope, and knowledge. The Spirit must use the Word that they may grow thereby (I Pet. 2:2). We might say that the blade represents conversion. The ear is the growing Christian who gives much evidence of having spiritual life. The full corn in the ear is the spiritual father able to teach others the deep things of God.

There is a time lapse between seedtime and harvest time. Growth is gradual and from God. In Christian experience there is no such thing as a speedy sanctification. We all know that some plans grow faster than others, and some grow larger than others. This is true of God's children as well. Neither natural growth nor spiritual growth can be kept secret from others. The holy evidence of being alive in Jesus Christ must appear to all.

While God may bless corn with good growth, there are many external things which may hinder its growth

and production. There can be devouring worms, picking birds, high winds, and bad weather. Believers experience many such things in the spiritual realm. They must endure an alluring world, craving flesh, and a mean Devil. Before corn can be harvested there can be cold nights and dry days. Even so, in our spiritual development we may experience spiritual coldness and drought. These things do not complete stop growth, but they greatly hinder it.

NO HARVEST TILL THE CORN IS RIPE

“But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come” (Mark 4:29). The harvest is not the end of the world in this parable as it was in the Parable of the Sower. The harvest time in this parable may be understood in two different ways. First, it may have an application to those who reap and enjoy a harvest of souls from their labors while they live on earth. The same one who sows in this parable also reaps what he sowed. **“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy”** (Ps. 126:5). The gospel seed man gathers some of the fruits of his labors in his own lifetime.

In the spiritual harvest there are times that the successor of the sower may be the one who reaps the harvest. In this case the sower is not permitted to be the reaper. Some may see souls converted when others before them had sown the seed. Jesus Christ said: **“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours”** (John 4:35-38).

Second, we see what the close of the Christian life is like in this world. The farmer does not gather his corn until it is ripe. The Great Farmer never gathers one of His children until he is ripe and ready for harvest. In Job 5:26 it is written: **“Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.”** Each saint is immortal until he has finished his testimony (Rev. 11:7). He shall not leave this world until his race is run, until he has finished his course, until he has served his generation. Death will come only after his Christian

Continued on page 45

MARK OF THE BEAST

Look at your name on the front page of this month's paper. If you see the mark 03-03, 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.



Spiritual Vegetation

Continued from page 44

character is fully developed. He will remain in this low land of sin and sorrow to be useful to Christ and to answer the designs of his heavenly Father.

There is no chance, no accident, and no mistakes about the death of God's children. An all-wise God knows when we are ready to be harvested. The Divine sickle only separates us from the field (this evil world). The farmer's hand grasps the ear of corn only when it is ripe and ready. At death the Divine Reaper gives us the fatal stroke, and then He takes us to the shelter of the big Barn in the sky. Oh, to be gathered into the garner of glory (Matt. 13:30)!

CONCLUSION

1. This parable should make us examine our Christian experience. Have I experienced regeneration and conversion? Has my Christian character matured? Am I dead to the world? Have I experienced the perfection of the Spirit? Am I spiritually minded? Am I useful to God in the church where I am a member? How far have I advance in holiness? Am I going on to perfection? Am I striving for the mastery? Am I pressing toward the mark of the high calling? Am I ripe and ready for the Divine sickle?

2. Here is seen the importance of preaching the gospel. There can be no harvest of souls without sowing gospel seeds. All who do not believe the gospel shall be damned to Hell (Mark 16:15-16). Those to whom the gospel remains hid are lost (II Cor. 4:3-4).

All who do not obey the gospel **"shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power"** (II Thess. 1:8-9). Sinners cannot hear the gospel unless some person preaches it to them (Rom. 10:13-17).

3. What kind of ground are you? If your calling and election are unsure, cry to God to make your heart tender and fit to receive the seed of the Word. Oh, that God would create a thirst in you for His Word. The psalmist said: **"I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments"** (Ps. 119:131). Again he said: **"I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil"** (Ps. 119:162).

4. When the Word is rooted and springs up in the heart, the soul cries out under the load of sin: **"O wretched man that I am!"** (Rom. 7:24). The good soil hearer is not only grieved over the plague of his

deceitful heart, but he also cries out for Christ: **"Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!"** (Job 23:3). **"Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee"** (Ps. 73:25). He says to himself, "What is my life if I have not Christ? I must have Christ as my Savior, or I shall die in my sins and go to Hell." He delights in the commandments of Jesus Christ and follows Him whithersoever He goes. This is the evidence of good seed which has taken root in a heart prepared by the Holy Spirit.

5. Natural death is harvest time for every soul. When the great Farmer reaps His field He gathers ripe souls into the heavenly Garner. After this He will cut down the weed and grass and burn them in the fire (Matt. 13:30,40-43). Some will only be ready to be burned. **"Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire"** (Matt. 3:12).

(Editors note: This is one of four sermons on the parables that my father was writing before his death. Each will be published in future issues of the Banner. In all, he has written approximately eighteen sermons on the parables of Christ. We hope in the future to publish these in a book.)

Christ, The Captain

Continued from page 41

salvation: **"all them that obey him."**

I shall offer a few remarks on Christ as the Prince, Leader or Captain, as the great antitype of Moses, Joshua, Samson and David. The heroic deeds they wrought, and the glory they achieved during their lives, were but a faint resemblance of the glorious actions of Christ, the Captain of our salvation.

We would notice in the first place, that Christ is a Prince in our nature. The Lord from Heaven is the Second Adam. The human and the divine natures are united in Him. The Word that was in the beginning was made flesh, and dwelt among us, or tabernacled among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. According to the proclamation in Genesis, the Messiah was to be the seed of the woman. He is of the seed of David according to the flesh. In that sense God is nearer to His people than ever He was before. The Lamb's bride is flesh, and bone of His bone. As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself took part of the same.

The Word being united to the nature of man, has restored the human nature to life; and having cast out the prince of this world, He demolished his empire, destroying his works, and evidently proved that the devil had not the least claim to the title of god and prince of this world, in short that he is a notorious liar, a great deceiver, and a vile impostor. On the cross the Captain of our salvation triumphed over the powers and principalities of darkness, and made a shew of them openly, so that the world might know what they are. When Jesus proclaimed aloud on Calvary, **"It is finished,"** the kingdom of darkness was shaken and the drooping spirits of the church of God were revived. The obedience of Christ to the death of the cross, is the title of His brethren to be kings and priests unto God.

Three offices meet in the Captain of our salvation. He wears three crowns, of silver, gold and precious jewels on His head. The Branch, at the Rod of the stem of Jesse, shall bear all the glory and He shall sit as a priest upon His throne. The altar was consecrated; the house was purified, on the third day when He arose from the grave. By His blood He has secured liberty to captives and the people of the land are worshipping at the porch of the gate, which He opened by His blood. Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate.

The Captain of Salvation is that Michael (the power of God,) that great and mighty Prince, who stood so firmly and fearlessly for the children of His people; and the world, death, Hell and the grave are under His feet. The Father proclaimed satisfaction in His sacrifice. As God smelled a sweet savour of rest, in the offering of the body and soul of Jesus once for all, to bear the sins of many as a "sacrifice of rest"; of whom he hath testified, **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** And He graciously calls all the human race to come unto Him, and take their rest also in the sacrifice of the Son of Man. To shelter in Him, as the only hiding place from the world, and the only covert from the tempest: who is as rivers of water in a dry place, and as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

This is the Prince of Life, that was once dead, but is now alive, and behold He liveth for evermore, and He has the keys of death and of Hell. He carries the keys of these kingdoms with Him. His righteousness, as the High Priest of our Profession, is the key of eternal life.

II. We would notice "the perfection of the Captain of our Salvation." **"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation for all them that obey him."** It is said that Christ was made perfect through sufferings. It was on the ground of His

Continued on page 46

Funnybone

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

While at the grocery store, several ministers of the Possum Trot community were discussing the problem of squirrels nesting in their church buildings. One minister complained that they were disrupting services and keeping the congregation amused instead of listening to the sermon. Another said they had tried to collect them and move them to the deep woods only to have them return by the next service.

One of the ministers turned and asked pastor Brown, "Still having problems with squirrels at the Baptist church?"

Pastor Brown quickly replied, "Not since we made them members. Now they hardly ever show up."

Little Jimmy Johnson was



fidgiting in Sunday school when the teacher asked him a question. "Jimmy how far is it from Dan to Beersheba?"

Little Jimmy jumped up saying, "I thought they were husband and wife like Sodom and Gomorrah!"

The local Campbellite preacher was talking to Deacon Jones and asked him, "Are you one of those narrow minded that believes that only Baptists are going to heaven?"

Deacon Jones made a light hearted reply, "I'm more narrow than that. I believe only half of them are going."

Christ, The Captain

Continued from page 45

sufferings, death and resurrection, that He was constituted a complete Saviour. The law says, **“without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.”** By the sufferings of Christ there was a fountain of blood opened for sin and for uncleanness. In the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die, was the threatening. Christ died for our sins, and rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures.

This perfection implies, in the first place, the incarnation of Christ. The priest must have something to offer as a sacrifice for sin. A body hast thou prepared for me, said He. This is that clean thing that is born of an unclean. Moses saw an emblem of this mystery in the bush that was burning and yet not consumed. Our God is a consuming fire, dwelling in a tabernacle of clay; the human nature, though dead, is not utterly consumed. On the third day the bush might be seen growing as usual, full of blossoms and most delicious fruits. The Son of God took hold on this body that was prepared for Him, as His own property, therefore it is said that He offered His own body and soul, that He shed His own blood, and that He had power to lay down His life, and power to take it up again.

Such a body the Son of God assumed as became Him, in which He answered the demands of the two stones, or tables of the law, on behalf of His people. The image of God, and all the fruits of righteousness, were found in His human nature. He loved righteousness and hated iniquity. Here the great commandment in the law namely, perfect love to God, appeared as flaming fire through the whole course of His life. The second commandment was also completely fulfilled in His human nature. In the form of a servant He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. In this nature He paid all the demands of the law; a debt which he never contracted Himself; and fulfilled all righteousness. Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things written in the book of the law, to do them, is the language of Sinai.

Behold the human nature united to the person of Emmanuel, hung on the accursed tree, and drinking the full cup of the wrath of God! In Hell every one drinks his own cup, and can never drink it up. On Calvary there was but one drinking the cups of countless millions, and He said, **“It is finished”**: not a grain of the bitter ingredients was left behind for His people to taste. God is just in the

justification of the ungodly, because sin was condemned and punished in the human nature of Christ. Christ was a prophet among His brethren, and taught them the wisdom of God, which was an attribute essential to Him as the God-man. He is an High Priest of the kindred of his brethren, their kinsman, and a partaker of their natures, and yet without sin. Here is a King, the off-spring of David, sitting on the throne of the kingdom of Heaven. The human nature, united to the Divine nature of Christ, is the head of the church. The church is represented as having four faces: the face of a man, of an ox, of a lion, and of an eagle, and the likeness of a man's hand is under the wings of the four living things.

The wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption of men, are in the Son of Man. From His fullness they receive every necessary grace. The fullness of God is in Christ, and He has the hand of a man to bestow blessings on us through the Holy Spirit. By virtue of the union of the two natures, in the person of Christ, the human nature received from the divine nature sufficient strength for that work which was far beyond the power of the human nature alone to perform. The glory of Deity often shone forth with splendour through His humanity; and when the divine nature in the person of Christ would manifest itself like flaming fire, the winds and the waves must submit, the dead must hear His voice, and the buyers and sellers, and even the devils must obey. Behold, the men with torches, swords and spears, falling before Him as the flower of the grass; and the boasted strength and courage of corrupted flesh vanishing away before the God of all flesh.

Christ suffered more of the wrath and displeasure of God, from the sixth to the ninth hour, while on the cross, than all the vessels of wrath can ever suffer. Had it not been for the union of the two natures subsisting in His person, He could not have endured the heavy load. It was the human nature that suffered tortures of body and agony of soul, while the divine nature supported it under those sufferings. It was the human nature that died, and the divine nature gave such infinite virtue and efficacy to the sacrifice, that it was of sweet smelling savour to God. His sweat and tears, his blood and death, are of infinite value.

Here God manifests the greatest mercy to poor sinners, the greatest hatred to sin, and the greatest equity to the divine law. The human nature received from the divine nature unspeakable honour and dignity, notwithstanding that Emmanuel died

on the ignominious cross, yet the human nature died in union with the divine nature. I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, that was dead and am alive, says the adorable Saviour. The cross of Christ is the subject matter of the adoration and praise of men and angels. **“Worthy is the Lamb,”** is the chorus in Heaven above, and on the earth beneath. In the death of Christ, the true God answered by fire, and manifested Himself the God of love. The human nature of Christ is the sacrifice that He offered for us, His divine nature is the altar upon which it was offered, which sanctified the gift, and by which offering the justice of God was satisfied and His law honoured and magnified.

“And being made perfect.” Aaron, in his consecration, was a type of Christ. In the 29th chapter of Exodus, we read of the ram of consecration. The ram of perfection in the original, or full ram, as the word full signified complete, mature, perfect. The two rams that we read of in that chapter, denoted the atonement and the intercession of Christ. Aaron was not to appear before the Lord on behalf of his people, empty handed. Christ, the High Priest of our profession, when He laid down His life for us on Calvary, was bathed in His own blood, and sweat and tears; and by virtue of the same blood and sufferings He entered, with His hands full, into the heavenly sanctuary, to sprinkle the blood on the golden altar of His intercession; and obtained an eternal salvation for all that obey Him.

III. We would notice the characters interested in this salvation, —“all that obey him.”

As we promised, we shall offer a few remarks on the nature of this salvation.

It is a deliverance, not from the hands of Pharaoh through the Red Sea, —but from the guilt, the power, and pollution of sin. It is spiritual in its nature, wise in its contrivance, beneficent and lasting in its effects: in a word, it is a salvation worthy the majesty, holiness, justice, mercy, and grace of the eternal God. It originated in eternity, and will terminate in eternity: it effectually saves to eternal life. It is a full and free salvation. It saves to the uttermost of those that come to God through Christ. And all that obey Him are interested in it.

To obey is to submit to a higher authority, —to do what you are commanded. What is the commandment of God? It is, that you should believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ. What is the commandment of Christ, the Captain of our salvation? Ye believe in God,

believe also in me. It is said that Christ is precious to those that believe, and those that do not believe in Him are disobedient. They are all a disaffected, rebellious army, that will not obey the commands of their rightful Captain. He that cometh unto God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of all those who diligently seek Him; and without faith it is impossible to please God. He that receiveth the testimony that the Father hath testified of his Son Jesus Christ, hath set to His seal that God is true; and he that believeth not God, hath made Him a liar.

You are commanded to behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. How many of you have rendered obedience to this command? The command of your Captain is, to kiss the Son lest He be angry, —but the disaffected army cry out, away with His commands! We will not have this man to reign over us. Your Captain says, To-day, if you will hear my voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear and your soul shall live. What are you doing, sinners? Are you determined to rebel? Are you fully resolved to go to Hell?

You may be ready to say that you are reading the book of election, that there you are looking for your names, and your titles to mansions in the sky; and to your great mortification, you behold your names written in the book of damnation, under the article, **“He that believeth not is condemned already!”** What is to be done in such a case as that? Obey Him—be obedient unto Him, lest He will have the sentence of condemnation executed upon you, and send you to Hell.

Hear, O sinners! Hear the merciful declarations and gracious invitations of Heaven! Look unto me, all ye ends of the earth, and be saved; for I am God and there is none else; a God ready to pardon. There is forgiveness with Him that he may be feared. Call upon me in the day of trial, and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me, is the tender and affectionate language of the Captain of your salvation. Send your petitions for pardon on the wings of faith to Heaven, that the sentence of condemnation may be removed; and when you receive the answer, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved. There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus. Thankfully receive the report, and cordially obey the commands.

Fly to the city of refuge, under the Divine testimony, on Mount Tabor,

Continued on page 47

Christ, The Captain

Continued from page 46

this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him. Behold a wide door of hope opening for you in the blood of the atonement, that was shed on the cross, and is sufficiently efficacious to purge your consciences from dead works to serve the living God: for the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth from all sin. Are you grieved by reason of your miserable condition as sinners? And do you tremble at the multiplicity of your iniquities, and the enormity of your crimes? Cry aloud with all your hearts, and spare not. God be merciful to me a sinner! And listen, with a believing ear, to the gracious, inviting voice of the Captain of your salvation: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Say then, O my soul! Who would not obey the blessed Jesus? And

*Had I ten thousand hearts, dear Lord,
I'd give them all to thee;*

*Had I ten thousand tongues, they all
Should join the harmony.*

We have a very extraordinary example of faith and obedience in Abraham. According to the course of nature, there was not the least probability of the fulfillment of the promise. He had nothing but the word of God for it. Though you can find nothing in your feelings and actions that might induce you to hope for salvation, yet you should, like Abraham, obey him. By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac. Did Abraham firmly believe in the promise, that in his only begotten son Isaac his seed should be called? Yes, verily, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Did Abraham rely on the strength of that promise, that God would not permit him to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice? No verily. He was determined to obey God, and leave the result with Him; firmly believing that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; that His seed should be numerous, and that the Messiah should proceed from Isaac.

Your faith should soar above nature, and lay hold on a supernatural righteousness, that justifies the ungodly, and God will smile upon your souls, calm your troubled minds, and hush to silence the raging storm of a guilty conscience, for the sake of the satisfaction He received in the obedience of Christ as the Surety of His people. This is the true

Urim and Thummin, (light and perfection)—the truth revealed through the twelve stars—the doctrine of the twelve Apostles, that reaches the consciences of men in the sight of God; and answers the important question, “What shall I do to be saved?” Notwithstanding the sea of corruption that I feel within me, this is all my plea, —the blood of Christ is sufficient to cleanse me thoroughly, when it is applied to the heart, by the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Faith and obedience are inseparably connected together. Abel, by faith, and in obedience to the command of God, offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. Notwithstanding the faith of Noah, yet it was in obedience to the command of God that he builded the Ark. Abraham not only believed that God would give to him, and his seed, the land of Canaan, but he went forth at His command, not knowing whither he went. Moses not only believed that God would deliver Israel out of Egypt, but in obedience to His command he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Many more instances of this kind might be brought forward to corroborate the testimony of John. **“And hereby we do know that we love him,”** says he, **“if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I love him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”**

Although we are not justified in the sight of God by our obedience, faith, and love; yet they are so closely connected together with justification, that they cannot be separated. Free pardon through the blood of Christ, felt and experienced by the sinner, and a realizing sense of the love of God shed abroad in the heart, are the man-springs of obedience to all the divine commands. In the Word of God we are taught to live soberly, righteously, and godly, and to abound in good works of benevolence and mercy. To let our light so shine before men, that they may behold our good works, and glorify our Father who is in Heaven.

The Captain of our salvation commands us, to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Him, through good, and evil report, and He is the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey Him. We must deny ourselves, so as to renounce, willingly, all supposed self-righteousness, and depend entirely on the righteousness of Christ for life and salvation. This is the chief obedience of man to God, and more difficult to perform than any other.

Sin is a second nature to man, which has vitiated his taste, else he could not relish such a deadly poison; but self-righteousness is natural to man; it was implanted in his constitution in Eden. It was interwoven in his nature, and twisted round about him, like bark to a tree. Therefore to submit to the righteousness of Christ alone must be supernatural. The faith that lays hold on the righteousness and atonement of Christ is supernatural. The work of the Holy Spirit in the sinner's heart, is a supernatural operation. The light that shines into these dark hearts of ours, is a supernatural light. That is the reason, that any of us have been enabled to pray, that we may be found in Him; clothed in His immaculate righteousness, and washed in His precious blood. This is the greatest honor that ever was conferred on the law; the greatest glory that God ever received from man, and the greatest blessing and favor that man ever received from God.

This obedience proceeds from the principle of life. And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners; but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. There is a living principle implanted in your hearts. It is not a dead, but a living active principle, working the works of God, and rendering obedience to all His commands.

Again, we may observe that this obedience proceeds from the principle of love. Love is the first moving cause of the machinery of human redemption; and love is the mainspring of all our obedience to the commands of God. We love Him because He first loved us. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but because He first loved us, and sent His Son to be a propitiation for our sins. The love of God being shed abroad in our hearts, constrains us to love God and keep His commandments, and to be obedient unto Him in all things.

Your obedience should be genuine, not hypocritical: it is the end or design that crowns every action. In all your religious duties, the glory of God, the advancement of His cause and interest in the world, and fellowship and communion with Him, should be your chief aim. Many sons were brought to glory, before the Captain of our salvation was made perfect through sufferings. They were saved through faith in that Saviour which was to come. Christ undertook the cause, became the Surety, and fully completed the glorious work of the

redemption of all who obeyed under the law; and all that obey under the gospel. Sinners of all descriptions, nations, and languages are saved by Him.

*O Captain of Salvation! Make
Thy power and mercy known;
Till clouds of willing converts come,
And worship at thy throne.*

*(Memoir and Sermons of Christmas
Evans of Wales, pp. 299 – 315, 1840
edition).*

100 World-Known

Continued from page 41

beauty of the New Jerusalem.”

Dr. C. I. Scofield, Editor of the now famous “Scofield Bible,” and other works.

“We know that the Great Tribulation follows the descent of the Lord to receive the sleeping and living saints in the air, from the order in which these events are taken up in I Thessalonians 4: we have the rapture of the saints in the first resurrection; then follows, in the fifth chapter, the **‘Day of the Lord,’** beginning in judgment. Paul tells the believers, in the fourth chapter, that this day will not overtake them, for, says he (verse 9), **‘God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.’** This was to be their *comfort* (4:18; 5:11). There would be but little comfort in the thought of their having to go through the coming tribulation. Again, in Revelation 3:10, the promise to the Church of Philadelphia, representing, historically, the godly remnant in this age, the promise is that they are to be kept *from* (not *in*) **‘the hour of testing which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth.’** Now, if they are to be kept *from* it, they must necessarily have been taken out of the way previous to this time of tribulation or testing. Again, in Revelation 4 we see the Church, represented by the **‘four and twenty elders’** in Heaven, ready to witness the judgments, which are about to fall upon the earth. These Scriptures all indicate most clearly that the great tribulation follows and does not precede the first resurrection and the rapture.”

Lord Shaftesbury (Anthony Ashley Cooper), 7th Earl, M.P., introduced the Factory Act, and other measures for the benefit of workers, sweeps, costermens, etc.

“The doctrine of the Second Advent is the most important one which should be prominently urged upon the attention of the Christian. I do not think that in the last forty years I have lived one conscious hour that was not

Continued on page 48

Outlines for Country Preachers by a Country Preacher

Sermon Outlines by Milburn Cockrell

THE GOD OF THIS AGE

II Cor. 4:1-6

Satan is not the god of the universe, but he is the god of this present evil age. Jesus Christ called Satan **"the prince of this world"** (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). Paul called him **"the prince of the power of the air"** (Eph. 2:2), and our Lord also called him **"the prince of the devils"** (Mark 3:22). I John 5:19 tells us the whole world lieth in the evil one.

Satan is such only in this present age, for in the age to come he will be bound (Rev. 20:1-2). This position is usurped, temporary, and in no sense absolute. In the strict sense, God is "the King of the ages" (I Tim. 1:17).

I. HIS PERSONALITY.

1. This god is no mere phantom, but a great and mighty person.
2. Even Michael the archangel did not dare to use abusive terms when contending with him (Jude 9).
3. It was no ordinary wicked spirit that tempted Jesus Christ with all the kingdoms of the world (Matt. 4:8-9).
4. Christ considered the devil a real person, not some unseen evil influence (Luke 4:8).

II. HIS POSITION.

1. Satan is the god of this age. With the exception of God's elect, he has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9).
2. He is not worshipped and obeyed as an ugly, mean-faced devil, but as an angel of light (II Cor. 11:14).
3. If Jehovah is not your God, Satan is. The men of the world pay him homage as their god (Deut. 32:19; I Cor. 10:20).
4. Satan originally wanted to be like God (Isa. 14:12-17). The unsaved world has made him their god.

III. HIS PURPOSE.

1. Satan's purpose is to blind the minds of men to the gospel. He hates the preaching of the gospel (I Cor. 1:18).
2. The gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ.
 - (1) It is the good news about how God saves sinners by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:1-4).
 - (2) It is also the good news of how Christ overcame Satan by the blood of His cross (Col. 2:15).
 - (3) It is the good news that Christ is coming back to rule and reign over the earth (Rom. 16:20; Rev. 11:15; 12:9).
 - (4) All these things strike terror into the heart of Satan.
3. No person hates the gospel more than the devil (Luke 8:11-12).
4. Those to whom the gospel is hid are unbelievers (vv. 3-4).

IV. HIS PRACTICE.

1. He blinds men to the fact that Jesus Christ is the image of God. The cults all deny the deity of Christ.
2. Satan causes men to see the honors and pleasures of earth to blind them to the gospel (I John 2:15-16).
3. By putting special luster on material things the great deceiver blinds men to eternal things.
4. He does not want men to see the glory of the gospel. He makes them see no beauty in Christ that they should desire Him.
5. Satan's dominion is secured by keeping men in a world of darkness.
6. He directly affects the mind of man to delude and destroy.
7. He holds his black hand before their eyes so they may fall into Hell.

V. HIS PEOPLE.

1. Satan's subjects are those who do not believe the gospel.
2. At present, Satan rules over the greater part of this world. He reigns in the hearts of men in fashion, in philosophy, in nations (Eph. 6:12), in commerce, and in every enterprise that rejects the gospel.

3. Unbelievers are his slaves and servants (Eph. 2:1-3). He controls them, and they fulfill his will.
4. They are the willing dupes of Satan's delusions (II Tim. 2:26). They cannot enter into the light and liberty of the sons of God because of unbelief.
5. The subjects of his kingdom have a desire for worldly things, but the things belonging to their everlasting peace are hid to their eyes.
6. They are given over to the counterfeits of the god of this age.

VI. HIS PROBLEM.

1. The gospel does shine into the heart of some by God's power. They see God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
2. Christ delivers from the power of Satan (Acts 26:16-18) He delivers from spiritual death (Heb. 2:14).
3. Christ holds the keys to Hell and death (Rev. 1:18).
4. Christ's blood has overcoming power (Rev. 12:10-11).

CONCLUSION

1. Beware of the wiles and devices of the Devil (II Cor. 11:3; II Thess. 2:9).
2. The gospel is foolishness to them that perish (I Cor. 1:18; II Thess. 1:8-9).
3. Are you one of the devil's deceived dupes? Has the light of the gospel shined into your heart?

100 World-Known

Continued from page 47

influenced by the thought of the Lord's return."

Professor A. Rendle Short, M.D., B.S., B.Sc., F.R.C.S., Bristol; Author of "The Bible and Modern Research," etc.

"It appears to me that one must accept one of two alternatives. Either the prophecies of Holy Scripture with reference to the Second Coming and earthly reign of our Lord Jesus Christ are to be taken at their face value as definite predictions of events that must surely come to pass, or they are mere pious hopes and nebulous promises of what appears to be one thing, but as a matter of fact is another. The facts of fulfilled prophecy in the past put the second theory out of court. That being settled, it further seems clear, if we put all the relevant passages together, that our Lord will come to find the world in confusion and rebellion against God, and His earthly reign will follow, not precede, His Advent."

Dr. Alex, Smellie, Minister of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Carlisle; Author of Devotional books.

"**'The Lord Himself shall descend.'** It is personal Coming for which I wait. It is an actual revelation of my very Redeemer and King. He is near. He abides in me, and I abide in Him. But the more outward Appearing is required to complete His victory and my beatitude: and the saints who have most of the inner Presence are precisely those who most long for the personal Return. This is my blessed hope—'Without a screen, at one burst be seen, the Presence wherein I have ever been.' The hope is certain. It may be realized

tomorrow. It may be fulfilled with the next breath I draw. So many and so different are the days of my earthly life, and on any one of them *my Lord may come*. It is a thought to hallow them all."

J. Denham Smith, well-known Bible Teacher, of Dublin and London, Author of many hymns and books.

"When He has taken away His Church, that being completed, He will then take possession of the earth, and Israel will be saved with all nations of the earth, and the Millennium will come as times of refreshing, not from the Gospel, as some suppose, but from His Presence (Acts 3:19). To one who has been living in the prospect of this Hope, as in my case, for nearly half-a-century, it seems as if the Bible is full of the subject from beginning to end."

George Soltau, well known Christian Worker and Author.

"The fourth watch, or morning watch, has been entered, and slowly it creeps along. He came not in the first, second, or third. He must come in the fourth watch! The Church is 'toiling in rowing,' only able now to hold her own against the strong head winds of infidelity, Higher Criticism, worldliness, and the waves of antagonism to the Will of God. But in the fourth watch will come Jesus, walking over the sea of trouble and discord, and immediately we shall be at the land whither we go—'In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye'—so stick to the oars—Watch and pray **'till He come.'**"

Dr. Robert E. Speer, an earnest Christian Worker and Writer of Books.

"The Hope of Christ's Second Coming is an integral part of our Christian faith. It is also a necessary

Continued on page 49

100 World-Known

Continued from page 48

part of our Christian faith. It is necessary from the point of view of our Christian faith itself. *Christ must come again in order to complete and fulfill His first Coming.* Christianity is an incomplete and imperfect and unfulfilled thing unless the goal of it is the Return of Jesus to complete that which he began. The return of Christ is essential to Christianity from the point of view of the inner needs of Christianity for its own completeness.

James Sprunt, for long known as a Pastor and able Bible Teacher in the South of England.

"The Hope of God's Word, the Hope of God's people, the Hope of the Church, is the coming again of our Lord Jesus. **'I will come again.'** Surrounded as we are by wide-spread unbelief, indifference, formalism, wickedness, troublous times, departures from the faith, evil men waxing worse and worse, we should tell out the glad tidings concerning the *speedy return* of our Lord. Let us proclaim everywhere, and to every one, that the Lord Jesus is Coming—the resurrection is Coming—the judgment is Coming—the one Who will raise the sleeping saints is Coming—the One Who will transform and translate the Church is Coming. Amen! Come, Lord, Come!"

C. H. Spurgeon, The prince of Preachers, too well known to need description.

"There is a high sense in which the Christian ought to be waiting for the consolation of Israel. I am very pleased to see that *the doctrine of the Second Advent is gaining ground everywhere.* I find that the most spiritual men in every place are 'looking for' as well as 'hastening to' the Coming of our Lord and Saviour. I marvel that this belief is not universal, for it is so perfectly Scriptural."

Dr. J. W. Thirtle, Editor of *The Christian*; Author of several books.

"While some points of doctrine are inferential and relative, others are categorical and essential to a clear statement of revealed Truth. Among these latter I place the Blessed Hope of the Lord's Return. When Christ came in the old time, it was in order that, among other things, He might declare a purpose to come again. He



C. H. Spurgeon

was manifested in lowliness, and went to the Cross; in due time he will return in glory and wear the victor's crown. Before leaving His disciples, He said, **'I will come again;'** and this word was received with joy and has since been cherished by a waiting Church. From early days, however, there have been unbelievers, who have asked, 'Where is the promise of His Coming?' For such inquirers the hope of the Return has been a matter of indifference. Nevertheless, all the time men of faith have waited in expectation, and have prayed (and still pray) in fervent desire, **'Come, Lord Jesus.'**

"In acts of worship we call to mind the sacrificial death, by means of an ordinance which points forward to the glorious advent—**'until He come.'** Thus the life of devotion becomes one of work and witness in regard to past and future—the first Advent and the second: with words of faith and heart-strings of love, we watch and wait, ever with upward look, in hopeful confidence that **'This same Jesus which was taken up into Heaven shall so come in like manner'**—in other words, shall return. There is Divine grace in the assurance, **'I will not leave you orphans, I will come unto you.'** Thus it becomes certain that the redemptive purpose of God waits for the manifestation of Christ in glory, in performance of the categorical promise made by the Lord Himself to **"come again."** After the Cross, the Crown: **'He must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet.'**

Dr. W. H. Griffith Thomas, Principal of Wycliffe College, Toronto, formerly Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, writes in "Principles of Theology:"

"The Coming is the climax and culmination of His work of redemption, when the Body of Christ, the Church, will be completed, and the Lord will usher in that Kingdom which will eventually result in God being **'all in all'** (Eph. 1:14; Rom. 8:19-23; I Cor. 15:23-28). In the familiar words, **'Lo, He comes, with clouds descending,'** we have what may be called the second part of His Coming, the Coming to judgment. But before that the N. T. seems to teach *a Coming for His people*, and a taking of them away *before He returns to the earth* for judgment. Of all the Scriptures which treat of this first part of the Coming there is none more explicit than I Thess. 4:13-18.

"The Coming is to be the: (1) Taking to Himself of His redeemed. (2) Time of reward of His servants. (3) Ushering in of peace and rule to this world now in rebellion. (4) Regathering of Israel. (5) Execution of

judgment on His foes. (6) Swallowing up of death in victory. (7) Binding of Satan and ushering in of eternity. It is therefore usual to distinguish between Christ Coming *for His people* and *with His people.*"

Dr. R. A. Torrey, whose Missions along with Chas. Alexander were worldwide; Author of many books.

"When I got hold of the truth and the truth got hold of me of a personal, visible, glorious imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ, it lifted me above the world and its ambitions. The Lord Jesus is coming back again! I had been very ambitious, but when that truth got hold of me I had but one ambition, and that was to please my Lord, who might come at any moment."

Commr. Booth Tucker, one of the leaders in the Salvation Army.

"This event—the Return of the Lord Jesus—spoken of in the New Testament, I believe is very near at hand. It is the Coming of Christ, in the air, for the raising of those who are **'asleep in Jesus'** and the gathering together with them of the living saints to meet the Lord in the air: not a general resurrection, but a resurrection of the ready ones. Probably very soon after this is the Coming of Christ when His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives, and he shall come to reign gloriously for a thousand years upon the earth."

Queen Victoria, Empress of India, and Britain's most famous Queen.

"I am looking for the Coming of our Lord, and I do not think it improbable that I may not have to surrender my crown till I shall lay it down at His feet."

Just before her last illness she was walking by the riverside, in the grounds of the mansion, accompanied by her chaplain, Dean Farrar, when she rather startled the Dean by asking: "What do you think of the Second Coming of Christ?" He was nonplussed for an answer, but later said: "Your Majesty, why did you ask that question?" The Queen looked at him with grave earnestness as she said: "Oh, that Jesus would come while I am in life, so that I could, with my own hands, present Him with the crown of England and the Empire of India."

Henry Varley, Truth Champion in Britain and Australia.

"I reject post-millenarianism because of the striking absence of the doctrine from the teaching of the New Testament."

W. E. Vine, M. A., Joint-Editor of *Echoes of Service*, Bath; Author of "The Grammar of the Greek New Testament," and many other books.

"Scripture makes clear that at the

close of this Age the nations are to be gathered together under the Man of Sin against the Lord and against His Christ, and that Christ will come in His manifested glory to overthrow these anti-Christian powers. Thus the Second Advent of Christ will terminate the times of the Gentiles. (See the second chapter of Daniel and Luke 21:24). The Jews will then look on Him whom they have pierced and will be converted to their true Messiah. The saints who have been caught up at the Rapture will come with the Lord Jesus in their glorified state (II Thess. 1:8). These and all who have been martyred during the Great Tribulation will reign with Christ a thousand years (Rev. 20:4). At this, the Second Advent, Satan is to be consigned, for the same period, to the Abyss, and at the close of the period the nations will be gathered together again, though in a different manner, against God, and will suffer His righteous and eternal vengeance (Rev. 20:7-10)."

F. S. Webster, M.A., London, Clergyman, Preacher in St. Paul's Cathedral.

"To be ignorant of His Coming, to doubt it, deny it, to be indifferent to, or disinterested in it, is to miss the Divine equipment for the distress and pressure of these ever-darkening days. It is to give the adversary an advantage in our lives and to grieve the heart of God. To harbour any lesser hope or cherish any different desire than the Coming of His Son is a pure delusion of the enemy to ensnare our souls, to destroy our service for Christ now, and to render us **'ashamed before Him at His coming'** (I John 2:28)."

John Wesley, founder of the Methodists, a worker worthy of more credit than ever he has received.

Dr. West, a loyal Methodist, proves by elaborate citation, from Wesley's hymns and writings that he taught specifically: (1) The spread of the Gospel as a testimony to all nations; (2) An apostasy yet more to be developed, and already at work in Christendom; (3) The literal conversion and restoration of Israel to their own land; (4) That the full revelation of the Antichrist precedes the Advent; (5) That it is the duty of the Church to observe the signs of the times; (6) *The literal, visible, personal, and glorious Second Coming of our Lord;* (7) That the seventh beatitude, **"the meek shall inherit the earth,"** refers to the Millennial age; (8) That the curse shall be removed from the earth; (9) That there shall be a transfiguration of the planet into a new earth and a new climate; (10) That it is the duty of the Church always to pray and *look for the Coming of the Lord.*

Continued on page 52

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

Is the devil a real threat and danger to believers (1 Peter 5:8)? --- Mississippi



David O'Neal
2750 South 53rd
West Ave
Tulsa, OK 74107

Pastor
**Grace Missionary
Baptist Church**
2750 South 53rd
West Ave
Tulsa, OK 74107

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4).

The devil can possess a lost person and use him at his will (II Tim. 2:26). He is said to be “. . .the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2), but he cannot possess a child of God. God’s children are said to be sealed and given the earnest of the Spirit in their hearts (II Cor. 1:22). The spirit of darkness and the Spirit of light cannot dwell in the same person.

There are several ways that the devil is a threat to the believer.

First, he is said to be our adversary. In I Peter 5:8, Peter is speaking to the elect of God. He instructs them to humble themselves in the presence of God and they will be exalted in due time. To cast all of their care upon him, for He cares for them (verse 6-7). Then he instructs them to be sober and vigilant because they have an adversary which is the devil. An adversary is one who is seeking to swallow up or destroy (Strong). The devil reveals this as the tempter (Matt. 4:3; I Cor. 7:5; I Thess. 3:5) and is always about the business of soliciting God’s people to sin. He is the same one that “. . .stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel” (I Chron. 21:1).

Second, he can cause physical suffering. In the book of Job we see him causing great suffering on God’s servant Job. Paul also had an affliction that is described as “. . .a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan. . .” (II Cor. 12:7).

Third, he is said to be our accuser (Rev. 12:10). In I Peter 5:8, the Greek word that is translated “adversary” is defined by Strong as an “opponent, an opponent in a suit of law.” This tells us that he stands in the presence of God and accuses us every time we break God’s law. In Zechariah 3:1-5

he is seen standing before God to resist Joshua. He is truly our adversary, but we know that his efforts are all in vain (Rom. 8:33-39).

DAVID O’NEAL



Garner Smith
113 Keith Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043

Pastor
Faith Baptist Church
2590 Madison Ext.
Clarksville, TN 37043

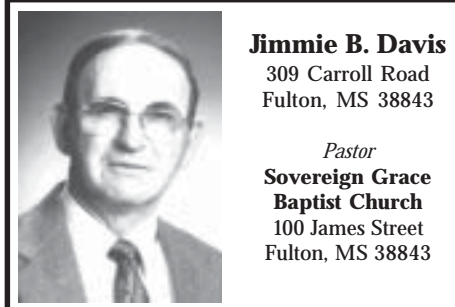
No doubt, Satan is very dangerous to believers today as he has always been. I believe the Apostle was speaking to believers when the Holy Spirit moved him to record these words. The Apostle Peter had previously exhorted believers to be mindful and prepare themselves of the dangers of Satan (I Pet. 1:13; 4:7).

Satan here is referred to as our adversary. He is the saints avowed and implacable enemy. He accuses God to man and man to God. The word adversary here is a forensic term and signifies a court-adversary, one that opposes another in an action suit at law. Satan accuses believers before God as law-breakers and should be punished according to the law. He acts as a prosecutor to bring about a sentence to hurt or punish for sins already atoned for (Rev. 12:10). **“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night”** (Job 1:7).

Satan is described as a roaring lion denoting that he pursues with great violence and diligence to provoke believers to do evil, to discourage, cause to doubt God, and destroy even the testimony of the Christian. Satan’s primary purpose is to destroy, as far as God will permit, God’s people (Job 2:1-6; Eph. 6:10-18).

Satan is real today and we would that all do well to look and be mindful and prepared for his devices (II Cor. 2:11).

GARNER SMITH



Jimmie B. Davis
309 Carroll Road
Fulton, MS 38843

Pastor
**Sovereign Grace
Baptist Church**
100 James Street
Fulton, MS 38843

Should the words of I Peter 5:8 pose no real threat or danger to believers; one might wonder why they were written. The great majority of Baptists, past and present, have understood this text as a warning of the Devil’s onslaught against believers.

It is a fact that true Baptists believe that Satan does not have the power to pluck a believer from God’s hand, however, this conviction has not deterred them from warning of the influence of the Devil and the danger it presents.

Perhaps those who hold the Preterist view of the Second Coming of Christ, and the binding of the Devil, could have some difficulty in applying this text to present day believers. If I understand their teaching Christ supposedly returned the second time in 70 A.D. The binding of Satan, we are told, has already taken place, and it is not the Devil who harms us, only our fleshly nature. If Satan has no power to walk about, seeking whom he may devour, this would mean that this text is no longer useful. If the Devil is now bound to the extent that he cannot harm believers, would you like to have been present when he was loose?

Christ bruised Satan’s head at Calvary, and Satan has no power to keep the elect from salvation and eternal life, but be forewarned that you will have problems with the Devil until our redemption is fully manifest at the Coming of Christ for His own.

The Book of Revelation has an abundance of teaching on the Second Coming of Christ. Early church writers and most modern scholars date the writing of the book during the reign of Domitian between 81-96 c.e. Wide support is given for the date of 95 c.e. If Christ returned the second time in 70 A.D. why would John ask Him to come quickly some 25 years later?

JIMMIE B. DAVIS



Tom Ross
6339 County Rd. 15
South Point, OH
45680

Pastor
**Mount Pleasant
Baptist Church**
6939 County Rd. 15
Chesapeake, OH
45619

I Peter 5:8 declares: **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”**

It is obvious from the Scripture quoted above that the devil is definitely a real threat and a very dangerous being. Otherwise there would be no need for the admonition to be vigilant against his attacks. There are some of the amillennial persuasion, who contend that the devil was somehow bound when Jesus died and rose again. I Peter 5:8 was written years after the resurrection of Christ, so it is obvious that Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, did not believe the devil was bound.

The devil is a real threat because of his supernatural power to tempt and trap believers. It is for this reason we are urged to daily put on the whole armour of God so that we may be able to withstand the attacks and wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:10-18). Again, there would be no need for this admonition if the devil were not alive and active today.

With all of that said, the devil cannot cause the believer to somehow lose the Lord’s salvation. If that were possible it would mean that Satan would be able to overpower God to get to us, which is insane and blasphemous. We are absolutely safe in Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit for eternity. The devil cannot take away our salvation, but he is active in trying to ruin the testimony of God’s children. May the God of all grace enable each of His saints to take the admonitions of Scripture relating to the activity of Satan seriously, and resist his wiles through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

TOM ROSS

The Sovereignty of God

by A. W. Pink

\$12.99

Softcover, unabridged edition
from Baker.

Please add \$2 for postage & handling.

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

What is "the manifestation of the sons of God" in Romans 8:19? -- Mississippi



Garner Smith
113 Keith Drive
Clarksville, TN
37043

Pastor
Faith Baptist Church
2590 Madison Ext.
Clarksville, TN 37043



David O'Neal
2750 South 53rd
West Ave
Tulsa, OK 74107

Pastor
Grace Missionary Baptist Church
2750 South 53rd
West Ave
Tulsa, OK 74107

In these verses Paul for the comfort of the saints declares that there is reserved for them an eternal weight of glory that far outweighs any earthly sufferings that they may have had to endure. The future glory and blessings of the inheritance of the saints cannot be compared to anything this world may seem to offer. He encourages the children of God to continue to endure with patience their present difficulties because they had a wonderful future as children of God to look forward to and cherish. Some day the fullness of that future glory for the children of God would be made known.

The message is to the true children of God, specifically those in whom the Holy Spirit of God resided.

The manifestation of the sons of God is simply referring to the proof that they were indeed God's children. We know that in God's eternal plan and purpose all of His elect are the sons of God. Ephesians 1:5 says: **"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will."** These sons are unknown, even to themselves until God reveals it to them in regeneration. All of the experiences and spiritual actions of the believer are manifestations that they are the children of God. In I Thessalonians 1:4-10 we are shown the children of God by the hearing of the gospel in power, regeneration, conversion, consecration, testimony, and finally the coming of the Lord at the rapture are manifestations of we believers being the sons of God.

I believe the context of Romans 8:14-23 shows that the final proof or manifestation of the sons of God will be when Jesus comes and we receive our glorified bodies fashioned like unto His glorified body (Rom. 8:18-29; Phil. 3:21; I John 3:1-2).

GARNER SMITH

"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God" (Rom. 8:19).

The Greek word that is translated "manifestation" is defined as "an uncovering, laying bare, revealing, revelation." "A revealing of the saints to the creation in association with Christ in His glorious reign" (W. E. Vine). The same noun is used in I Corinthians 1:7 where it speaks of the **"coming"** of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is that great event in which the sons of God will see Jesus Christ as he is and shall be like Him (I John 3:2). Paul said, **"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory"** (Col. 3:4).

The creation, which was placed under a curse for man's sake, is longing for the revealing of the sons of God. The creation was changed from its original perfection and made subject to vanity (change and decay). It is to be delivered from this corruption into the glorious liberty that awaits the sons of God. It speaks of the restoration and future glorification that will take place when God's sons receive the redemption of their body.

DAVID O'NEAL



Jimmie B. Davis
309 Carroll Road
Fulton, MS 38843

Pastor
Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
100 James Street
Fulton, MS 38843

I believe "the manifestation of the sons of God" in Romans 8:19 speaks of the full revelation of God's sons. It is true that we have manifestations of our sonship now, but not in the sense that we shall have when we receive the redemption of our bodies from the

grave. All of God's creation is waiting for our final redemption—the redemption of our bodies.

In the Sonship of Believers we note several things in Romans 8. We see God's foreknowledge of His people. We see Him predestinating them to be conformed to the image of His Son. We see their calling and justification, along with future glorification. We also read of their adoption, and of their being led by The Spirit of God. We have before us a record all the way from eternity past until our days on earth are over, and we arrive with the full manifestation of our sonship—glorified bodies raised in the image of the One we were chosen in—Christ (Eph. 1:4; I Cor. 15:49; Phil. 3:20-21; I John 3:2).

JIMMIE B. DAVIS



Tom Ross
6339 County Rd. 15
South Point, OH
45680

Pastor
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
6939 County Rd. 15
Chesapeake, OH
45619

According to Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, manifestation in Romans 8:19 is the Greek word *apokalupsis* which signifies an uncovering, laying bare, revealing, revelation. The context of Romans 8:19 clearly reveals that the manifestation of the sons of God is an event associated with their glorification. Romans 8:18 declares: **"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."** This points us to a day in the future when the saints of God shall be revealed in their glorified bodies conformed to the lovely image of Jesus Christ. This is the hope of the saint of God. Titus 2:13 exhorts: **"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."** I John 3:2-3 reveals: **"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."** There

is coming a grand and glorious day when the saints of God shall literally have Christ revealed in them, a process in which we will be conformed to His image. This blessed event is commonly referred to as the Rapture. It will signal an end to the saint's struggle with indwelling sin and mark the beginning of our glorified existence where iniquity will have no place. How we ought to long for this blessed manifestation of the sons of God! Let us be found faithfully watching, earnestly praying, and patiently waiting for the coming of our glorious Lord!

TOM ROSS

Now Available!

Salvation

(Sermons to Sinners)

\$6.95



The new book titled **Salvation (Sermons to Sinners)** by Milburn Cockrell is now available. The retail price of the book is \$6.95 plus \$2 P/H, but if you buy 5 or more the price is \$3.50 plus add a little for postage. The book contains eleven chapters and has 96 pages. Chapter titles are 1. A Fool's Paradise, 2. Not Saved, 3. The Only Saving Name, 4. Prepare to Meet Thy God, 5. The Gate to Glory, 6. Grace Abounding to the Chiefest of Sinners, 7. The Broken-Hearted Sinner, 8. Mourning for Christ, 9. What Happens in Salvation, 10. Assurance of Salvation, 11. The Ruin of an Obstinate Sinner.

Planning a move?

Please! Let us know your new address.

by mail

PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855

by phone 1-662-282-7794

by email

bbchurch@intop.net

or fill out the form on our website

www.bereabaptistchurch.org

100 World-Known

Continued from page 49

John Wesley complimented Thomas Hartley on his book on the Millennium and Christ's personal reign on the earth. Wesley stated that this was also his belief.

Wm. Nast says: "I have studied Wesley's writings with great diligence and my prayer has been that the clergy and laity of the church might be reminded that John Wesley was a firm believer in the personal and Pre-Millennial Coming of the Lord Jesus."

Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley, wrote numerous hymns.

CHAS. WESLEY's heart's desire was that Jesus might come and catch him up to be ever with the Lord. In one of his hymns he says: "Happy with those that first arise, might I my lot obtain." Plenty of his hymns show us his thoughts *re* Christ's Second Coming.

"Whatever ills the world befalls,

A pledge of good we call,

A sign of Jesus near.

His chariot will not long delay;

We hear the rumbling wheels and pray,

Triumphant Lord appear."

George Whitefield, one of the founders of Methodism, Chaplain to the Countess of Huntingdon.

He looked for no Millennium before the return of Christ. Standing on a brick-wall out in the open air he would preach to thousands of people on the Second Coming of Christ and warning them that "ere long" and in a "little while" Christ will return.

"He that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Heb. 10:37).

Major Whittle, a well-known American Preacher.

"There is nothing so stimulating to earnest Christian service as a strong grasp of the doctrine of Christ's second and personal appearance."

G. V. Wigram, Editor of the old "Present Testimony;" Author of the Englishman's Greek, Hebrew and Chaldee Concordances.

"The doctrine of the Lord's Coming is brought out in a remarkable way in the two Epistles to the Thessalonians. These Christians were those who 'waited for the Son from Heaven.' Nothing ought to be before the soul but meeting with Him. I am called to be one who is looking out for Him, reminding myself continually that *He is Coming*, that my soul may be constantly kept in a waiting position, moment by moment, crying, **'Amen. Even so, Come, Lord Jesus,**' (Rev. 22:20)."

Dr. W. T. P. Woiston, Edinburgh. Well-known Preacher and Teacher; Editor of *Gospel Messenger*; Author of "Behold the Bridegroom," and

several other books.

"There are two stages: His Coming as the Bridegroom into the air, and our rising to meet Him; then the Coming of the King, in the Day of His Glory, when He returns to deal with the earth. We rise at the call of the Bridegroom, and meet the One we love in the air. A little while afterwards, when He appears on earth as Son of Man—as King of kings and Lord of lords—He brings with Him all His Heavenly saints."

Dr. Dinsdale T. Young, of Westminster Central hall, the most popular Methodist Minister in Britain.

"The Second Advent of our Lord and Saviour has been a dear and delightful doctrine to me through the greater part of my ministry. I regard it as the very soul of New Testament teaching, and of the Old Testament, too. I also regard it as an essential part of the Christian Gospel. I hold strongly that our Lord's return is to be *personal, physical, visible*. If I am charged with a 'spectacular' idea of His Coming again, I shall not shrink from the charge.

"That His Coming will be Pre-Millennial, I heartily believe, and that it will be preceded by the 'rapture' of Christian believers, I also heartily believe. My hope of the world's salvation lies not in any gradual evangelization of the world, but in the personal return of our Lord and Saviour. I believe this age is waning fast, and that *at any moment He may appear*. This makes me an optimist. This thrills me with hope. This makes my ministry vivid, and intense, and glad."

(The Second Coming of the Lord – 100 World-Known Witnesses to this Great Event, pp. 7-48).

Yoke for Young

Continued from page 41

strength as it is rendered 'mighty men' where it first occurs in the Bible, Genesis 6:4. The word rendered 'youth' means childhood or the early part of life. Our text teaches that men are made strong men by bearing the yoke in their youth. This truth is consistent even with nature and certainly with becoming mighty in the Lord, as He says, **"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."** (Pro. 8:17).

I shall now endeavor to expand upon our text and speak to young men, hoping to press upon you and urge you to take the Lord's yoke and bear the burden and heat of the day while in your youth. Now, while I have much to say in this message to young men, I do not wish to exclude anyone. Some may be thinking, "I

am not a *young man* so what has this sermon to do with me?" And some may be thinking, "Well, I am a *young man*," and you are not. But in response to the question, I suggest a wise saying that I have heard attributed to various sources. "When is the best time to plant an oak tree? Twenty years ago. When is the next best time to plant an oak tree? Today." So if you follow my meaning, I believe there is much good here that is profitable to all, though I shall primarily aim at young men. In the first place, I hope to encourage you to bear the yoke of service. Next, I wish to say something about bearing the yoke of trials. And lastly, I hope to give some sound instruction concerning bearing the yoke of temptations and I believe that we will be compelled to agree with Jeremiah, **"It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth."**

I. Firstly, a young man should bear the yoke of service to Christ.

The scriptures furnish many examples of godly men that began showing piety in youth. Men like Joseph, Samuel, Obadiah, Josiah, and Daniel, to name a few, began early in service. Put together the pieces that are given about John Mark and you will find one that began early in the way. He grew up in Jerusalem with a godly mother, Mary. He was often in the company of the apostles and brethren of the church, seeing that his mother's house was a place where they frequently met. He went off with his cousin Barnabas and Paul to Antioch and then accompanied them on their first missionary journey. He did stumble early and cowered back to Jerusalem, but he recovered from his defection and was later owned of Paul as one being useful for ministering. He was not a man of the greatest gifts or abilities but he learned early how to make himself useful in the Lord's work and the Holy Spirit blessed him using him to pen the first Gospel given to us. So, he began early and finished his course well. We could multiply examples but let us heed the call to bear the yoke of service early and discover what it entails.

A) *The yoke of service includes the yoke of learning.* In God's service our zeal should be according to knowledge. Jesus said of the Samaritans, **"Ye worship ye know not what."** Christ's invitation is, **"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me."** When he called his first disciples he told them, **"Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men."** We will never amount to much in His service apart from learning His will. We must study if we wish to be approved of God. He

has given us His word **"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."** (II Tim. 3:17). Jesus has said, **"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."** (Matt. 4:4). So our desire should be to learn every expression of our Lord's will. We should not just look for compulsory commands to fulfill minimal service but be searching diligently to find out every desire expressed by God that we might fulfill it. The earlier we start in this study, the better off we shall be.

B) *This yoke then, necessarily includes the yoke of self-discipline.* Paul told the young man Timothy, **"Exercise thyself rather unto godliness."** The word *gumnaze* has been translated here as 'exercise.' The word primarily means to practice naked or to train. It was used at that time to refer to athletes that competed in the games. There are two things implied by the usage here. First, Timothy was to be engaged in vigorous activity for the purpose of godliness. Second, he was to cultivate temperance for the purpose of godliness. In the epistle of I Corinthians chapter 9 and verses 25-27, Paul speaks of those athletes that strive for the mastery and observes that they must be **"temperate in all things."** They must strip off or set aside all things that hinder and prevent their accomplishments. Paul said that he buffeted his own body to bring it into subjection. Self-discipline is the virtue by which we deny ourselves indulgence in delights and train ourselves to labor vigorously to excel in godliness. Without it you will just drift along with the current never harnessing your time productively and it is likely that your belly will become your god. You will be robbed of joy and good works. Paul told Titus, **"Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded."** (Titus 2:6). If you do not develop these godly habits in your youth, you will never develop them. God help young men to be sober-minded and mind not the things of the world.

C) *The yoke of patience is also needed.* Just as self-discipline is a virtue, so is patience. In fact, they are complementary virtues. Self-discipline, or temperance, is enduring temptation without giving in and patience is enduring trials without giving up. Paul told the Romans that patience works experience. Patience involves persistence or keeping to the work even amidst difficulties. Be sure that difficulties will come. You will stumble. You will fall. You will fail. You will be tempted to cry out as

Continued on page 53

Yoke for Young

Continued from page 52

Jacob, "All these things are against me." You may even agree with Asaph that said, "Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning." (Ps. 73:13-14). He felt that God's service was futile. He was doing all the right things and getting nowhere, while the careless sinners were enjoying the good things of life. But in patience you will conclude as he did, "But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works." (Ps. 73:28). All who enlist to really do something for Christ will suffer these difficulties. But let us heed the encouragement of the scriptures. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Cor. 15:58). I encourage every young man to have courage and stick to the work. Like John Mark, your path of service will lead through Perga. To him, what Paul and Barnabas were endeavoring to do was just too difficult so he went home and Paul and Barnabas crossed the mountains. His shortsightedness robbed him of many blessings. He just could not see the benefit of so dangerous a course. Nothing that you do for the Lord is in vain, no matter what results you may see on this earth or what sufferings you encounter. Paul charged Timothy, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (II Tim. 2:3). It is good to bear the yoke of patience early.

II. **Secondly, it is good for a young man to bear the yoke of trials.** Trials will keep a man humble when nothing else will. It is always the peril of a novice that he may be lifted up with pride. Often the young desire the chief seats when as of yet they have not occupied the lower chambers. The young man should not expect to storm out and find great success at first and I cannot think that it would be good if he did. The Lord usually allows us to begin very small and why would he trust us with greater if we are not faithful with the lesser? Do not despise "the day of small things" and begin humbly with what your hand finds to do remembering the words of our Lord, "Well done thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee a ruler over many things."

Trials help us in these things, so let us consider some of the trials in this yoke.

A) *There is here a yoke of chastening or correction.* "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (Heb. 12:11). All would agree that chastening is not a pleasure to receive but when you consider what is the result we should conclude with David, "Before I was afflicted I went astray... It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." (Ps. 119:67, 71). Be glad if you are pierced through with sorrows when you go astray. Thank God for His love and mercy in bringing you back into the way. It is better here to bear this yoke in youth that we learn not to stray and may be relieved of its stroke later.

B) *In trials is also the yoke of afflictions.* Paul received a stake in the flesh that he would not be "exalted above measure." You cannot rise to great heights without the proper ballast to ensure that you do not float off. Once you have begun to run you can expect to meet with affliction and in some ways you should welcome it. Paul was glad for it that in his weakness he might be strong in the Lord. Our Lord learned obedience through the things that He suffered and became our faithful high priest that is in touch with the feeling of our infirmities. By affliction you will be brought into sympathy with human suffering. We are instructed to "condescend to men of low estate." Afflictions will bring you low allowing you to identify with and become the servant of your brother.

C) *Your trials include the yoke of sorrow.* Solomon has written, "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting; for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth." (Ecc. 7:2-4). You will never make a strong man of God if you are careless and carefree never taking anything seriously. One of the besetting sins of youth is foolishness as the scriptures testify, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child." Often young men are nothing more than large children always living for the moment and seeking only fun and pleasure. Young man be glad if God has added some sorrow to your yoke,

you will be better for it. Do not only be glad for sorrow that is added to you, but also seek sorrow. I mean your thoughts should turn often to the sufferings of your fellow man. It is by considering the sorrow of others that you will cultivate compassion, which is necessary to really having a burden for the Lord's work. And will help you rise out of your inborn selfishness. As you pray and seek God's will considering the suffering of others you will be moved to "have compassion, making a difference."

III. **Lastly, young men growing to be strong men will have to bear the yoke of temptation.** Temptations take many forms and you will find them all along the way. It is good to bear this yoke in your youth and have the wisdom gained from past battles to fight new ones. Be assured, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man." You will have to endure temptation and trust in God who will deliver you. Now let us turn our attention to some forms of temptation and pray that you will resist their offerings.

A) *Your associations afford a yoke of temptation.* The company that you keep will affect you for good or bad. In fact, your companions are either helping you or hindering you in spiritual growth. If your friends are lazy, lovers of pleasure, careless, dishonest, or even outright wicked; you cannot expect to be influenced for good. If you resolve to take serious the things of God, they will tell you to lighten up. If you will not go with them to mischief, they will say that you are just no fun. Rehoboam listened to the counsel of the young men that he had come up with and was led astray (II Chr. 10:8). The blessed man of God walks not in the counsel of the ungodly. If your friends are hindering you or in any way keeping you back from the Lord's work, then you need new friends. If your associates are constantly tempting you with evil, then you need new associates. If you wish for faithful companions that will influence you for good and will be a blessing instead of a temptation, then heed the words of Paul to Timothy, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (II Tim. 2:22).

B) *Sloth is a yoke of temptation.* Sloth is a great thief that, once allowed to break in, will continue to rob you of valuable possessions. It will rob your time, energy, health, and strength. I would add that procrastination goes right along with slothfulness. It is a besetting sin of young men to put off

the serious things until later in life. Young men have so much energy, health, and strength and feel like they have so much time ahead of them. Their thoughts run thusly, "I'll just enjoy life now and do all the fun things. There is plenty of time to get serious later." It is good for you to bear this yoke of temptation early and overcome it through faith. If you do not overcome slothfulness early, you will not overcome it later. The admonition of scriptures is to be "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" (Rom. 12:11). In Proverbs 24:30-34 Solomon relates a sight that he saw, the field of the slothful man. His fields were overgrown with thorns and nettles. His walls were broken down and could not keep out intruders. His house was likely fallen into disrepair. As he considered it he understood the man's thoughts, "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep;" (Pro. 24:33). This man was always putting his work off, choosing rather to enjoy pleasures, fun, and frivolity. And for this very reason, his property was in ruins. The sad fact is that this man's plot had potential. It was fertile growing thorns and nettles so with cultivation it would have produced good fruit. Slothfulness and procrastination will rob you of your fruitfulness for the Lord. If you follow this man's pattern, which is also the pattern of many church members today, your life will be wasted on unimportant things and the work of the Lord will go undone.

C) *The yoke of temptation for young men also includes the strange woman.* Young men are peculiarly susceptible to this temptation. Solomon saw this temptation among the youths. Solomon wrote "To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;" (Prov. 2:16). Her ways are ways of sin and sorrow "For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead." (Pro. 2:18). "Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell." (Pro. 5:5). She has the power of destruction. "None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life." (Pro. 2:19). She is probably the greatest lying vanity on this earth. Her words are so flattering, her beauty is ravishing, and her attire and manners are appealing. Solomon gives strong words of warning about this temptation. "Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a

Continued on page 54

Yoke for Young

Continued from page 53

piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" (Pro. 6:25-27). You must be aware of the flattery and deception. Paul has provided sound instruction saying, **"Flee also youthful lusts."** You cannot stay and fight. You must flee like righteous Joseph. Also, Paul says, **"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."** (Rom. 13:14). You must flee if you encounter this temptation and even better, you must avoid any opportunity for the temptation. **"Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:"** (Pro. 5:8). It is good to bear this yoke early and not be the **"young man void of understanding"** that was **"Passing through the street near her corner... So she caught him."** Physical uncleanness and sexual immorality will cut off your usefulness and destroy your fitness for the Lord's work. Escape this snare early.

I conclude with Jeremiah, **"It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth."** Do you realize that God has gifted you uniquely? The Bible says, **"The glory of young men is their strength."** Young men have so many wonderful qualities such as, health, energy, strength, and passion. You also have many wonderful opportunities for service. These gifts are fleeting. If you live long upon the earth they will quickly leave you and fly to another. It is so important to **"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;"** (Ecc. 12:1). **"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."** (Luke 12:48). Listen to the grandparents when they have the young children with them. You will hear them say, "I wish I had their energy." To have a young mind and a young body is a great blessing from the Lord. **"Commit thy way unto the Lord."** Don't get distracted with trinkets and entertainments and thereby waste your substance with riotous living. **"I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God**

abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (I John 2:14-17). Seek earnestly the Lord's will for your life. Begin preparing for His service, and start doing now what your hands find to do for the glory of Christ. You can do nothing greater with your life than live it for the sole purpose of exalting Christ. Find your purpose in God's will and give yourself wholly to it. **"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."** (I Tim. 4:12).

Having finished my discourse I wish to add now a brief appendix for the purpose of giving some very practical suggestions for beginning to bear the yoke. First and foremost, every young Christian man should own a good cross-reference King James Version study Bible. Make a habit of reading your Bible, studying your Bible, and meditating upon what you read and study. Do this every day. The guidance of the Holy Spirit is indispensable to understanding God's word. Seek the help of the Spirit with your studying. Persistence and prayer and persistent prayer will aid you invaluable. I remember as a young man in Sunday School hearing a lesson upon James 1:5 **"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."** That lesson led me to such a prayer and a rewarding study that I am still reaping benefits from it. Secondly, the young Christian man should have a "Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible With Hebrew And Greek Dictionaries." Here is a concordance of all the words in the Bible with a reference to the original language and corresponding definitions. Thirdly, the young Christian man should have a "Vine's Expository Dictionary Of Old And New Testament Words." This book gives definitions and meanings in differing contexts. Fourthly, the young Christian man should own a good sound book on Bible doctrine. "A Systematic Study Of Bible Doctrine" by T. P. Simmons is the best in many respects. Bro. Simmons' book is readable, understandable, and

brief considering its vast scope. This book will prove a valuable tool to study. Fifthly, every young Christian man should have a copy, and maybe two, of Arthur Pink's "The Sovereignty Of God." But beware of the skeleton edition published by The Banner Of Truth Trust. They have revised Pink's work by leaving out chapters that they disliked. Bro. Milburn Cockrell once told me, "They [The Banner Of Truth] are hardly qualified to edit A. W. Pink." With him I heartily agree. Secure a copy published by Baker Books or one you find that is completely unabridged. Read this book several times. A wrong understanding of God's sovereignty will defile your whole doctrinal system. Sixthly, I would not want any young Christian man to be without "Pilgrim's

Progress" by John Bunyan. Charles Spurgeon read this book over 100 times in his lifetime. I have read it several times and hope to read it more. Seventhly, I will complete my list urging you to attend all good sound preaching of the Word that you can. You need the fellowship of godly people and to be fed by faithful preaching. If you are not a member of one of the Lord's true churches, then join one right away. Be baptized and take your place among the faithful of His ranks. Make a habit of attending every service and attend all special services, revivals, and conferences possible. If you do this, your profiting will appear to all and you will lay up much treasure in Heaven.



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.

CHRISTIAN ACTIVIST WITHDRAWS FROM PRESIDENTIAL AIDS ADVISORY PANEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—A Christian activist chosen by the Bush administration for an AIDS advisory panel withdrew his name after he was harshly criticized by a Bush aide for characterizing the disease as a "gay plague." Jerry Thacker, who had been selected to serve on the Presidential Advisory Commission on HIV and AIDS, withdrew after White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer condemned Thacker's views. "The views that he holds are far, far removed from what the president believes," Fleischer said. "The president has a total opposite view. . . . The president's view is that people with AIDS need to be treated with care, compassion."

In a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, Thacker, a Pennsylvania businessman, said his statements had been misconstrued and that he was no longer willing to serve on the board. "I feel I must withdraw my name from consideration to serve at this time due to my and my family's personal concern about my ability to be effective with the council given the current controversy," Thacker wrote.

Thacker himself has AIDS, having contracted it in 1986 after his wife was infected during a blood transfusion she received during childbirth. When their daughter was born, she also tested HIV-positive.

Thacker, a graduate of Bob Jones University, later founded an organization to educate Christians and others about AIDS.

His view that the AIDS epidemic is largely the result of a sinful lifestyle caused him to be targeted by homosexual groups and their allies. They feared that his presence on the 35-member presidential board, which advises the White House on AIDS treatment and prevention, would conflict with a pro-gay agenda.

"His brand of reactionary gay-bashing has no place in public policy and government," said Sen. John Kerry (D.-Mass.), who is a Democratic presidential hopeful. Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle added that Thacker's "offensive public statements about homosexuality indicate a disturbing bias that is completely at odds with the role the advisory commission should play."

But in his letter to Thompson, Thacker insisted he is not anti-gay. "I am, however, anti-HIV/AIDS. The three infected people in our family. . . would not wish this disease on any other human being." Thacker said he only refers to AIDS as a plague to describe its spread in the United States from mainly affecting homosexuals to all segments of the population.

Like President Bush, Thacker promotes an abstinent lifestyle for singles as the only sure way to prevent HIV infection. "For the unmarried, the only truly 'safe sex' is not to have sex," writes Thacker.

He has also referred to homosexuality

Continued on page 55

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 54

as a sin that can be confronted through faith in Christ. In September 2001, Thacker addressed students at Bob Jones University, counseling them, "Be compassionate to those caught up in this sinful deathstyle. Let them know you care, but at the same time let them know homosexuality is a sin. Most people find the homosexual behavior vile and disgusting. Only when homosexuals know it is sin can they repent."

STONE TABLETS MAY CONFIRM BIBLICAL NARRATIVE, ADD TO ISRAEL'S CLAIMS

JERUSALEM (EP)—Scientists with Israel's Geological Institute announced on Jan. 13 that they have examined a stone tablet, which, if authentic, could be a significant find in the realm of Biblical archeology and could fortify Israel's claim to a sacred site in Jerusalem.

The tablet is described as being approximately 12 to 15 inches in length and is made from stone found in the area around the Dead Sea. Inscribed on the tablet are 15 lines in ancient Phoenician script that closely resemble passages in the 12th chapter of Second Kings. The inscription references King Joash, who ruled the area nearly 3,000 years ago.

The origin of the tablet is unknown, but an anonymous source told Israel's *Haaretz* newspaper that the tablet was uncovered on the site of the Haram as-Scharif mosque, known to Jews and Christians as the Temple Mount. After it was uncovered, the tablet was acquired by an antiquities dealer in Jerusalem. David Zailer, lawyer for the alleged owner of the tablet, refused to identify his client or disclose any details as to the tablet's origins.

The Temple Mount site has been claimed by Muslims, Christians, and Jews as a sacred area and is currently controlled by Muslims. Jews have complained for several years that the Palestinian operators of the Temple Mount, known as the Islamic Trust or *Waqf*, are mishandling several construction digs on that site that are covering up or destroying important archeological discoveries. Construction activities have even threatened to topple an ancient wall on the site of the Western, or Wailing, Wall, the holiest standing structure of the Jewish faith. A spokesman for the *Waqf* denied that the tablet was found on the site.

Scientists at the Geological Institute have confirmed the tablet's age through carbon dating tests. Traces of gold and evidence of fire damage have been found on the stone, suggesting that it served a significant purpose, possibly within Solomon's Temple which was destroyed in the 6th century B.C. by Babylonian invaders.

Hershel Shanks, editor of *Biblical*

Archaeology Review, told the Associated Press that the tablet might be "visual, tactile evidence that reaches across 2,800 years."

The tablet also holds possibilities for Jews, who want to claim ownership of the Temple Mount. Palestinian negotiators deny that Israel has any claim to the site, nor does it have historical evidence that ancestral Jews had constructed a shrine or temple on the location. However, mounting archeological evidence, which the tablet could substantiate, suggests that Jews did occupy the location before Muslims.

EVIDENCE POINTS TO MORE CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION BY COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS OF CHINA, VIETNAM

KEEKHER, Vietnam (EP)—Reports from Vietnam and China bolster charges that the two nations' communist governments are aggressively persecuting Christians.

Witnesses allege that the Vietnamese government has resorted to using chemical gas to break up religious services. The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) reports that two underground church services were raided in late December 2002 by Vietnamese police who sprayed worshippers with gas. Victims of the attacks reported that those sprayed started seizing and shaking uncontrollably.

"This is a new wrinkle in Vietnam's attacks on Hmong Christians," said VOM spokesman Todd Nettleton. "We have long received reports of arrests, beatings, and even Christians having boiling water poured down their throats, but these chemical attacks show that the Vietnamese authorities have sunk to a new low."

The first chemical attack took place during a Hmong worship service in Keekher village, close to Mong Lai in Lai Chau province the morning of Dec. 28. Over 20 people in the service were immediately affected. However, when they tried to reach a hospital for medical attention, police sent them back to their village without allowing them to see doctors. Another 72 worshippers suffered symptoms after police had left the service. The second attack happened the following day at a Hmong worship service in the Dien Bien Dong district, in northern Vietnam.

In a related story, the Central Committee of Vietnam's Communist Party released in the middle of January a new resolution on religion. According to Compass Direct, the Central Committee resolution calls for the establishment of cells within approved religious organizations staffed by communist party members. Vietnamese Christians fear that communist infiltration of their organizations will only restrict their religious freedom further.

Meanwhile in China, a top-secret document recently obtained by VOM

allegedly proves that the Chinese government has an ongoing, systematic campaign to expose and destroy unregistered Protestant churches in Hebei Province.

The directive, the first one of its kind ever seen by the public, is a work plan order from the Public Security Bureau (PSB) of Baoding to sub-bureaus in all countries, cities, and districts of Hebei Province. It instructs the bureaus to terminate "illegal Protestant activities." The document describes the work plan as an effort to "embrace and create a sound and secure social environment in a concerted citywide action of the Communist Party Committee and the government in advance of the Communist Party's 16th National Party Congress," which was held in November 2002. The plan was to crack down against illegal Protestant activities from August through October 2002.

The directive, dated Aug. 20, 2002, details the effort to "establish a secret force" to infiltrate unregistered church groups to gather in-depth intelligence against illegal Protestant church activities. Bureaus were directed to "set up full files; recognize influential people and illegal meeting places." They received further instructions to clearly identify legal and illegal church activities in order to take action against those "which are organized by freelance missionaries, which are overseas infiltration; and prepare to terminate them."

One section of the work plan details the establishment of a government task force created to send supervisors to Public Security Bureaus in all counties, cities and districts to assure the implementation of compulsory measures against the Christians such as "subpoena penalty, ordered confessions" and "detention." Bureaus are instructed to confiscate "illegal publicizing" materials used for evangelism and are told that "stubborn members," believers refusing to "voluntarily obey regulations of the government" should be "severely punished."

"This directive is a smoking gun," said VOM spokesman Gary Lane. "It proves the Public Security Bureau is working on the provincial level to destroy unregistered churches and severely punish their leaders."

The top-secret document also directs all grassroots police stations to strengthen their daily management of Christian affairs to assure targeted unregistered churches would be prevented from spreading and staging a comeback. It also informs the bureaus that awards would be granted to them "on the basis of performance and achievement."

"We urge Christians everywhere to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in China who are suffering extreme measures against them by their government," said Lane. "We also ask Americans to contact

their representatives in Congress and the Chinese government to lodge formal complaints against this systematic targeting of believers."

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE OFFERS VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (EP)—Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is speaking up for religious expression. Scalia, one of the most conservative of the nine chief federal justices, told a small gathering in Fredericksburg, Va. that the First Amendment — which among other things guarantees freedom of religion — was not intended to "exclude God from the public forums and from political life."

Scalia was speaking to about 150 people gathered to commemorate a Virginia law that helped to usher in the First Amendment. In 1777, founding fathers Thomas Jefferson and George Mason gathered with other colonialists in a Fredericksburg public house to draft what was to be known as the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. The law became the blueprint for the constitutional guarantee of the right to religious freedom that anchors the Constitution's Bill of Rights.

At the ceremony, Scalia criticized court decisions in recent years that have made it illegal to display expressions of religious faith in many public venues. He noted last summer's California federal court decision that the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance was a violation of the separation of church and state.

During his ten-minute speech, Scalia defended traditional public religious expressions like the phrase "In God We Trust" that appears on U. S. currency, as well as prayers at high school sporting events and graduation ceremonies. He also defended the 200-plus year tradition of chaplains in the military and Congress, actions which "reflect the true tradition of religious freedom in America—a tradition of neutrality among religious faiths."

Noted Scalia, "Government will not favor Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Jews. But the tradition was never that the government had to be neutral between religiousness and non-religiousness."

Courts often interpret the Constitution in a manner Scalia termed "elastic," resulting in such decisions as those forbidding appeals to God in public venues. Said Scalia, "It is part of the Constitution known as the 'living Constitution.' It is a Constitution that morphs. . . . Whatever we think it ought to mean it means, and that new meaning will be imposed on our citizens coast to coast."

PAMPHLET URGES PAKISTANI MUSLIMS TO KILL WESTERNERS AND CHRISTIANS

LAHORE, Pakistan (EP)—An inflammatory pamphlet being distributed

Continued on page 56

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 55

in Pakistan by Islamic fundamentalists calls on Muslims to kill Westerners and Christians wherever they may be found. The pamphlet, which is printed in Urdu and Arabic, was distributed on Jan. 9 in Bulochistan and the north West Frontier Province, as well as in some other major Pakistani cities. Pictured on the pamphlet is a monogram of Mecca surrounded by swords. Government authorities have reportedly collected a number of the pamphlets and have started an investigation.

According to International Christian Concern (ICC), a Washington, D. C.-based Christian rights group, the main purpose of the pamphlets is to encourage armed jihad among Pakistani Muslims. The pamphlet states that "non-believers have made the lives of Muslims miserable, leaving them with no option except jihad." The piece also expresses extreme anti-Western sentiment, saying, "It is the supreme duty of the Muslims to trace out Americans, Israelis, Russians, Indians, and Westerners, whether they are army men or not, and kill them, whether they are in the city, air, sea, or desert." Muslims are also instructed not to work with Christians or make a contract with them because they are the enemies of Islam.

The majority of the inflammatory pamphlets were distributed in the two provinces controlled by the MMA, an Islamic party that supports the imposition of sharia law and has been known to shelter Taliban and Al-Qaeda members. The MMA also blamed the deaths of three Christian young women on the Christian community after an attack on a Presbyterian church on Christmas Day. The Islamics called for the release of an Islamic cleric who was arrested for inciting the attack near Daska in Punjab Province.

ICC reports there has been a significant rise in Islamic militancy in Pakistan since U.S.-led forces attacked and brought down the fundamentalist Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Pakistani clerics have also increasingly called for revenge against the West. Pakistani Christians have felt the brunt of much of this anger, as they are associated with the West because of their religious affiliation.

International Christian Concern called upon the Pakistani and U.S. governments to do all that they can to protect Pakistani Christians, as well as foreign citizens in Pakistan. The rights group also encouraged Christians to contact the Pakistani embassy in the U.S. to voice their opposition to such threats.

GLEANNINGS HERE AND THERE

LOS ANGELES (EP)—The moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), a denomination whose members are predominately homosexual, responded to a recent Vatican declaration

condemning transsexual behavior. Troy D. Perry, whose denomination declares that one of its primary missions is affirming gays and lesbians, said that his denomination has reaffirmed its commitment to "transgendered persons," adding "All of God's creation is good and holy, and that includes our transgender brothers and sisters." Since its inception the Christian Church has condemned homosexual behavior as sin, and gender issues such as cross-dressing and medical "sex reassignment" procedures have fallen under that same condemnation. The MCC denomination was started in part as a venue where homosexuals could worship free of such strictures. The MCC responded to a Vatican declaration prepared by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and reported in the Roman Catholic news agency Adista, that "transsexual persons suffer from mental pathologies," have "pathological personality situations," and are to be "barred from serving as Roman Catholic priests, nuns, monks, friars and brothers in religious orders."

DUNEDIN, Fla. (EP)—The community of Dunedin, Fla., near Tampa, is being sued in federal court over its policy of prohibiting the expression of religious viewpoints in community meeting rooms. In late 2002 Todd Bober asked city officials for permission to use a room in the local public library for a meeting on America's Christian heritage. A library official informed Bober that the meeting room was off limits for political or religious programs. Matt Staver of Liberty Counsel said that the city's policy violates constitutional law. He explained that the "clear constitutional principle" mandates that a community providing a public facility to the general population cannot discriminate against those wishing to use it for religious or political purposes. Staver said a lawsuit in federal court is the only way to settle the matter.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (EP)—An Indonesian court has acquitted terrorist leader Jafar Umar Thalib on charges that he incited religious hatred and violence in the Moluccas Islands of Indonesia. The Muslim cleric was arrested in May 2002 on charges that he incited a violent attack against Christians in the village of Soya in April. Over 10 Christians died and 30 buildings were burned during the attack. Thalib was head of the Laskar Jihad, a terrorist group that reportedly disbanded in October 2002. Laskar Jihad soldiers invaded the Moluccas Islands in 1999 to, according to Thalib and others, protect the native Muslims from Christian attacks. However, as the Laskar Jihad occupation continued, reports of religious violence and attacks against unarmed civilians poured from the region. An estimated 5,000 people were killed in religious violence since the Jihad troops invaded the area. When Muslims and Christians in the Moluccas signed a peace agreement in

February 2002, Thalib and Laskar Jihad soldiers refused to honor it. In an interview in March 2002, Thalib affirmed that his group had ties to the Al-Qaeda terrorist network. "Muslims continue their jihad against America, and it is our obligation to support them as best we can," Thalib said. On Jan. 30, Judge Mansur Masution said Thalib was exercising his right to free speech, and that the cleric should receive an award for speaking in favor of Indonesian unity.

RICHMOND, Virginia (EP)—The world is becoming more religious with each passing day, according to American statisticians David B. Barrett and Todd M. Johnson. In a report of their findings published by Idea News service, the annual growth rate of religious belief in the world is at a steady 1.2 percent, compared to the growth of atheism, which is less than one percent. The fastest growing religion is Islam, followed by Hinduism. Christianity is the third fastest growing religion, with a 1.3 percent annual growth rate every year. According to Barrett and Johnson, over 26 percent of the world's population has not heard the Christian gospel; despite the fact that nearly five billion Bibles are distributed annually throughout the world. DUBLIN, Ireland (EP)—The Roman Catholic Church offered a high-profile apology Jan. 28 and more than \$300,000 to a former altar boy sexually abused by a priest, the biggest individual settlement of its kind in Ireland, where hundreds of such cases have yet to face court, the Associated Press reported. In a statement read before the High Court, Cardinal Desmond Connell, archbishop of the Dublin archdiocese, expressed "profound regrets" about "the injury caused to Mervyn Rundle by Father Tom Naughton." Rundle, now 28, was abused by Naughton when he was 9 and 10. He and his father initially reported the abuse to church authorities in 1985, but Naughton wasn't convicted of molesting boys until 1998, when he received a three-year prison sentence. Lawyers from both sides said the settlement was in excess of \$300,000, although they declined to give the exact figure. Ireland, a predominantly Catholic nation of 3.8 million people, has been rocked for the past decade by scandals involving cover-ups of sexually abusive priests.

SOHAG, Egypt (EP)—The families of the 21 victims of religious violence in El-Kosheh, Egypt will have to wait another month for justice. Coptic Christians in Egypt are carefully watching the outcome of a trial of murder suspects in a New Year holiday massacre. Violence between Muslims and Christians in January 2000 resulted in the deaths of 21 Christians and one Muslim. Of the 96 murder suspects arrested for the crime, four were found guilty of lesser crimes and the rest were acquitted in 2001. Public outcry and a legal challenge to the acquittals led Egypt's court system to overturn the verdict and

begin a new trial.

A verdict in the retrial, which began in May 2002, was scheduled for Jan. 27, 2003. However, instead of delivering that verdict judge Lofty Suleiman announced that it would be delayed until Feb. at the Sohag Criminal Court. Suleiman's session lasted less than five minutes reported witnesses, and only seven of the 96 defendants appeared in court.

"This delay is primarily due to political and social considerations, as the general environment is not suitable for pronouncing such a verdict, due to the tense and volatile situation in the Middle East in general," said Mamdouh Nakhia, general manager of Al Kalema Human rights Centre in Cairo, and legal representatives of the families of those murdered.

Bishop Wissa of Baliana Diocese, which includes the village of El-Kosheh, told Christian Solidarity Worldwide that the further delaying of this murder case was in itself "an injustice." Referring to concerns that the postponement of the verdict reflected the current political climate, he said. "A murder investigation should not be related to international politics."

NEW YORK (EP)—According to the *New York Times*, the Catholic Church's sex abuse scandal involves nearly every American diocese and more than 1,200 priests. A *Times* survey found that more than 4,000 minors said they had been abused by a Roman Catholic priest over the last six decades. While data shows that most of the abuse occurred in the 1970s and '80s, priests were found to have sexually abused young people as far back as the 1930s. According to the survey, accusations of sexual abuse by priests were found in all but 16 of the nation's 171 Latin Rite dioceses.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—An Internet survey by the Christian Coalition found that 88 percent of visitors to the conservative organization's website believe that Islam is not a peaceful religion, and almost 92 percent agreed that Islam is not a divine religion. Additionally, 75 percent of those responding to the Website survey support the U.S. going to war against Iraq.

LEXINGTON, KY (EP)—Clergy in Kentucky could be prosecuted for not reporting incidents of child abuse or neglect they hear about while taking confession, under a bill being considered in that state's legislature. If the bill is passed, clergy would be held to the same reporting standard as secular counselors and therapists. It would require that "minister, priest, rabbi, Christian Science practitioner or other similar functionary of a religious organization" report to civil authorities anything disclosed to them if it is related to the abuse or neglect of a minor. Democratic Rep. Susan Westrom, who sponsored the bill, told the Cybercast

Continued on page 57

Weekly Devotionals

By Jeff Short
(In transition)



Gensis 13:12

Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom (Gen. 13:12).

Lot is a peculiar figure in scripture. The Bible is full of godly men with wonderful testimonies of faith. These men are not perfect, but they attained to a high degree of grace and holiness. We think of men like Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Samuel, Daniel, The Baptist, and Paul, to name only a few. Lot does not seem to fit in very well with these names. If it were not for God's testimony that Lot was "just" and "righteous," we could hardly believe he was even saved. However, Lot fits in very well with the many of Christians today. Lots' was not a victorious life. He did not die a triumphant death. I do not believe he had the rich abundant entrance into Heaven that Peter wrote about, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Peter 1:10-11).

What happened to Lot? Our text marks an epoch in the life of Lot. From this point there is nothing good reported about Lot, except that he was scarcely saved. In the time of our text, Lot made a choice. This choice set the tone for the rest of his and his family's life. This choice contributed to such a lowly state of grace that God's Word tells us that when God was about to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, "he lingered" (Gen. 19:16). Let us think upon the life and choice of Lot. Let us treat this account as a solemn warning and trustworthy guide for us to avoid this danger.

Lot made a choice about where he and his family were going to live. We all have to make this decision and sometimes we will have to choose our place of residence several different times. Lot had been with his righteous uncle prior to this, but both of them had accumulated a great estate so that it was not possible for them to abide together. Abraham gave Lot first choice of where he wanted to live and told him that he would go the other way. Lot must make a decision that will have long-

term implications on his life and the life of his family.

We cannot be certain about how much that Lot considered the spiritual implications, but we see from the account that he certainly considered the physical and temporal implications. "And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, like the garden of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other." (Gen. 13:10-11). Lot recognized that the plain of Jordan was a place where he could thrive. His flocks and herds would flourish in such a fertile environment and, after all, this was his livelihood, this was how he provided for his family, so it was very important that he choose a profitable environment for his business. Moreover, Lot "pitched his tent toward Sodom" despite the fact that "the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly." (Gen. 13:13).

I am amazed that many Christians follow Lot's course repeatedly today. People choose where they are going to live based on the economy of the place, laws that they like or dislike, taxes, the government school systems in the area, business associations, sports programs for the youth, property values, land, and other such factors. They give little or no consideration about whether there is a sound church in the location. They are more concerned about the raise or promotion that they will receive. They give little consideration to the wickedness of the place. They will expose themselves, and their families to all manner of ungodliness, rub elbows with the wicked and separate themselves from righteous company, all in order to earn more money.

I am even more amazed at the rationalizations and justifications made. People say, "We don't approve of the wickedness in our area. In fact, we are a witness and a testimony in this place. We have family devotions, we pray, and we listen to preaching tapes. We are just as good as anybody else." Consider Lot and do not be deceived. Lot did not approve of the wickedness of Sodom. He "vexed his righteous soul from day to day

with their unlawful deeds" (II Peter 2:8). The ungodly city had more effect on Lot than he ever had on them. Our text tells us that he "pitched his tent toward Sodom" and the next time we find him, in the nineteenth chapter, he is dwelling in a house in the city. He was such a good witness and testimony that there was not found even one righteous person outside of his house. He had lost all good influence over his family and he was so weak spiritually that "he lingered" in the city, not able to let go, and had to be carried out by the angels.

Do not trade your birthright for a mess of worldly pottage. Do not let the physical things dictate the spiritual. Do not think that you can make a constant association with the wicked not be affected by them. Do not throw your wife and children into the company of the wicked. God says, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," (II Cor. 6:17). Move to a place where there is a sound and godly church, even if you have to suffer and sacrifice. Be like Moses, "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." (Heb. 11:25-26). J. C. Ryle called Lot a beacon for Christians of all ages. Let us heed the lesson in Lot's life. May we sacrifice the physical in order to serve God and avoid the danger of the attraction of the world.

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 56

News Service (CNS), "I want there to be something in place so if somebody is brave and has strong leadership skills. . .and knows that if they don't report there is going to be a predator loose in their church, they have something to protect them legally." But conservative religious and policy groups see the measure in a different light. CNS quoted Louis Giovino, communications director for the Catholic League, as calling the bill "an obvious incursion into separation of church and state."

DENVER (EP)—Crusading recently in Denver for President Bush's plan to federally fund faith-based social services concerns, Attorney General Robert Ashcroft "may have sounded more like a preacher than a politician" reported the Associated Press. Ashcroft, who is the son and grandson of Assemblies of God ministers, told a conference of religious

groups that over the last several decades "the government has discriminated against people of faith who are striving to do good for others. Out of fear, ignorance, and occasional bigotry, faith-based groups have been prohibited from competing for federal funding on a level playing field with secular groups." According to the *Denver Post*, Ashcroft's comments were met with shouts of "right-ons" and "amens."

LEXINGTON, Ky. (EP)—A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit against a Kentucky county that posted the Ten Commandments in its courthouse. U. S. District Judge Karl Forester dismissed the suit, brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, against officials of Mercer County. Foster ruled that the display had a legitimate secular purpose of educating those who see it about the influence of historical documents on American law. The display entitled "Foundations of American Law and Government," also includes the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of rights, and other significant historical documents. ACLU officials vowed to appeal the ruling, and discrepancies among federal court rulings on similar cases may lead to the U.S. Supreme Court's eventual involvement in the issue.

MINNEAPOLIS (EP)—A survey that tests views on religion has found that the public's perception of organized religion is at an all-time low. The most recent reading of the Gallup Index of Leading Religious Indicators is the most negative since the index began in 1940. To compile the index, researchers survey American adults throughout the year. Last year only 52 percent of Americans gave clergy either very high or high marks on their ethical standards, compared to 64 percent the previous year. Researchers said the low reading is due in part to the Catholic Church's ongoing sex scandal. The index also showed a sharp decline in the confidence Americans have in organized religion. While in 2001 60 percent of Americans said they had a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in organized religion, in 2002, that number had declined to only 45 percent.

KANSAS CITY (EP)—A Pentecostal pastor and his wife were charged with murder in the Dec. 29 death of their adoptive son, nine-year-old Brian Edgar. Neil Edgar, 47, is pastor of God's Creation Outreach Ministry, a store-front church in Kansas City affiliated with the Church of God in Christ (COGIC). He was charged in the murder, along with his wife, Christy Edgar, 46. The boy died of asphyxiation after he was bound and gagged, and his mouth taped shut. According to District Attorney Nick Tomasic, Brian and his siblings were frequent victims of abuse, which included binding and gagging. Tomasic charged that strict physical discipline is "a teaching of the church." But Clifford Jackson, a

Continued on page 58

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 57

spokesman for the COGIC, said that while the church does believe in discipline through training, it does not condone physical abuse.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—A Christian spokesman is taking former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark to task for his suggestion that during his time on earth Jesus Christ might have been described as a terrorist. Clark, speaking of an anti-war protest, criticized Christians for calling Muhammad a terrorist, and said that Christ could also have been considered a terrorist for chasing the money changers out of the Temple in Jerusalem. Lou Sheldon, president of the Traditional Values Coalition, was quoted by Focus on the Family as saying, "It appears from what Mr. Clark has said he knows very little of Christianity and certainly even less about Islam." Muslims, who consider Christ a prophet, also expressed their displeasure over Clark's comments.

WICHITA, Kan. (EP)—A physician notorious among pro-life activists for performing late-term abortions is offering free abortions on the 30th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion. George Tiller, based in Wichita, Kan., specializes in late-term abortions and reportedly even offers to provide a chaplain to baptize or bless the aborted babies. Wendy Wright of Concerned Women for America said Tiller also has an incinerator at his clinic to dispose of the bodies. "It's like a little Auschwitz right in Wichita, Kansas," Wright said. "If you go at certain times of the day, you'll see the smoke coming out of the smokestack of the roof of the building."

LONDON, England (EP)—England's Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) has upheld a complaint about the publicity material of the UK LifeLeague, and has banned the group from sending out pamphlets containing the material. "This decision will only spur us on to publicize even more graphic pictures of abortion and disseminate this to a wider audience," stated a UK LifeLeague spokeswoman. According to the ASA, the League's material was "likely to cause serious or widespread offence and was unduly distressing to recipients," but the pro-life group said abortion's gruesome nature justified the use of gruesome material in opposition to it. "Our October 2002 campaign involved the direct mailing of over 26,000 brochures to key influencers and decision-makers marking the 35th anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act. The brochure's cover depicted a photograph of a newly aborted child above an image of a Union Flag against a backdrop of a snow covered graveyard," said the League. "This was a very successful

campaign which resulted in hundreds of new members, requests for information and donations to the work of the UK LifeLeague." The League said that the ASA only received two complaints about the pamphlet. "A picture paints a thousand words and the picture of a murdered, defenseless unborn baby is the major weapon in our efforts to change public attitudes," the League's spokeswoman concluded.

BUSH TAKES STAND ON ABORTION, THREATENS VETO

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—President Bush has made it clear to Congress that he will veto the current Senate version of the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which would pay for abortions through federal employee health benefits and the Bureau of Prisons.

The proposed version of the bill contains language that would remove longstanding prohibitions against taxpayer-funded abortions. The bill would also allocate money to the United Nations Population Fund, a group that supports coerced abortion in China.

Michael Schwartz, vice president of government relations with Concerned Women for America, explained why the president is in this position. The U.S. Senate is now under Republican control but still has a pro-abortion majority.

Schwartz also placed the blame for the pro-abortion elements of the bill on Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "He thinks he can get away with things under President Bush that he didn't get away with under President Clinton," he said. Douglas Johnson of the National Right to Life Committee said this is a significant stand by Bush since the same bill funds nearly every government agency.

"That's extremely significant, because sometimes there would be a tendency to split the difference or to compromise in conference committee; and then we would actually lose ground on some of these important pro-life policies," said Johnson. He expects the offensive language to be removed before the bill hits Bush's desk.

Schwartz added that he finds it positive that Bush thinks life issues are worthy of a veto threat. It shows the president is committed to the pro-life community.

ATTACKED EVANGELIST JOSEPH COOPER

DEPORTED FROM INDIA, TENSIONS MOUNT

KERALA, India (EP)—Following an attack on American missionary Joseph Cooper and his subsequent deportation, Christian leaders fear more deportations will follow.

Cooper sustained major injuries when a gang belonging to a militant Hindu group attacked him and seven other Christians with knives, sticks, swords and crowbars on Jan. 13. The Christians were participating in a worship service at the time.

India's Foreigners Act of 1956 forbids

tourists from speaking at religious meetings, and Cooper was in the country on a tourist visa to share his testimony.

As many as 50 missionaries could be deported in the near future due to increased attention towards India's visa regulations. The World Hindu Council has compiled a list of names of missionaries they want the Indian government to remove from the country.

Church associations in India have released statements asking evangelists to exercise sensitivity and caution when dealing with local religious sentiments. Cooper's attack has also created challenges for missionaries in other parts of India.

Two Kerala pastors were attacked in 1999 by Hindu activists, and violence against Christians in India has been growing ever since. "This attack proves that the Christian church has enemies growing in tribe. I'm sure the church will outlive all these threats," said Cooper.

NATIONAL NEWS SHORTS

WICHITA, Kan. (EP)—A Wichita church in the nation's largest African-American denomination has ordained four women, causing controversy within the denomination. Beatrice Cunningham, 75, is one of four women ordained in recent months by Wichita's Tabernacle Baptist Church, a part of the 120-year-old National Baptist USA denomination. It was not the first time in the denomination's history that women have been ordained for general ministry, though it is believed to be the first time that women were ordained specifically to take senior pastor roles. Several National Baptist USA churches have ordained women for non-pastoral ministry. The convention has no policy about it and doesn't keep track of how many female ministers it has. It does have a women's department, which includes some female pastors in charge of churches. Their numbers, however, are generally thought to be small and their involvement in convention business on state and national levels limited.

RALEIGH, N.C. (EP)—In a move that is being watched by home schooling leaders nationally, the state of North Carolina will more closely monitor home schoolers for abuse and neglect. New procedures were adopted Jan. 27 as part of the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force's 2003 agenda. The Task Force will send a letter to the Department of Social Services (DSS) in North Carolina's 100 counties to request that DSS record the type of school attended by a child who is being investigated for abuse or neglect. The primary intent of tracking this information is to determine "if home schooled children are more or less likely to be investigated than the general school population." The Task Force will also request that when conducting an investigation of a home in which children are being home schooled, that DSS ensure that state home school requirements are being met and report any non-compliance to the Division of Non-Public

Education. Non-compliance (including failure to register the home school, missing attendance records and/or end of the year tests, and failure to immunize the child) will be considered "a risk factor for the children."

SANTA ANA, Calif. (EP)—For the first time, North Korea has passed Saudi Arabia to take the number one spot on Open Doors' "World Watch List" of the world's worst Christian persecutors. Founded in 1955 by the Bible smuggler known as Brother Andrew, Open Doors serves and strengthens the Persecuted Church in the world's most difficult areas. The organization publishes an annual list that ranks countries according to the intensity of persecution Christians face for actively pursuing their faith. According to Assist News Service, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam are noted on the list as countries where "severe persecution" is taking place. Other countries listed in the top 10 include Laos, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Somalia and Iran. China makes the list in the 11th spot. Little is known about the existing Christian church in North Korea. Refugees fleeing the famine conditions in the communist country have reported that as many as 400,000 Christians worship in secret there. Those who are caught practicing the religion face imprisonment and death. "Imagine how nearly impossible it is for Christians to survive, and the Christian faith to grow in North Korea as it again ranks first in the hall of shame of countries repressing the free expression of Christianity," said Terry Madison, president and CEO of Open Doors USA. "Despite its cruel punishment and death to believers, indications are that the church in North Korea continues to grow despite the best efforts of the government to destroy [it]."

YOUR FAITH STOPS HERE

When does one's Christianity stop?

The obvious answer is never, since Christians — those who place their faith in Jesus Christ — are to apply that faith to every element of their existence. However, a recent court case places at risk the interminable element of faith. The case surrounds Dr. Christine Brody, a Christian who is employed by the North Coast Women's Care Medical Group (NCWCMG) in San Diego, Calif.

In 1999, a young woman named Guadalupe Benitez, a lesbian who was seeking to become pregnant by artificial means, was referred to visit the clinic by her health care provider. Ms. Benitez, after undergoing nearly a year's worth of infertility treatment at the facility, was reportedly told by Dr. Brody that her Christian faith prevented her from impregnating homosexuals through means of artificial insemination. Dr. Brody subsequently referred Ms. Benitez to an outside physician who would complete the procedure.

It is important to note that this case does not involve a life-and-death instance.

Continued on page 59

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 58

Ms. Benitez was seeking an elective procedure.

Nevertheless, displeased by this action, Ms. Benitez sued Dr. Brody and the NCWMG under a California law designed to prevent discrimination by business authorities and health care providers.

A San Diego trial court dismissed the lawsuit in 1999, finding it without merit. But Ms. Benitez has appealed that decision through the help of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, claiming that after she was unlawfully "dumped" as a patient because of her homosexuality. She says the experience caused her emotional trauma.

Lambda Legal is a homosexual-rights legal group that uses what it terms "impact litigation" to gain rights for homosexuals. The group has asked the California Court of Appeals in San Diego to overrule the lower court decision and to compensate Ms. Benitez for a procedure that she claims should have been provided by her health care plan and the NCWMG.

"Guadalupe's doctors are entitled to hold any personal religious belief they choose," said Jennifer Pizer, senior staff attorney in Lambda Legal's Western Regional Office. "But health care providers do not have the right to refuse medically appropriate treatment to a patient based on what they claim are personal religious beliefs about particular groups of people. Health care providers are legally and ethically obligated to provide treatment based on a patient's medical condition, not her identity."

Under this scenario, Christian doctors would be compelled to provide abortion counseling to young girls; they would also be required to provide abortions even though the Bible teaches that our omnipotent God cares for us even in the womb (Psalm 139:14). Even though Christians believe we are to cherish all life, attorneys at Lambda Legal believe that this belief should be constrained by the law.

Should Ms. Benitez win her case, the beliefs of Christians could be severely restricted, even regulated, in the workplace. Christian beliefs could actually fall under government supervision (liberty-alliance.org).

to attend. For more information contact Bro. Todd Bryant at 205-333-8449 or email toddbryant@juno.com.

A Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine

by T. P. Simmons

\$19.99

(no discount) Add \$2 P/H.

Stong's Concordance of the Bible

by James Strong

\$24.99

with Hebrew and Greek dictionary. Add \$3 P/H.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words

by W. E. Vine

\$24.99

Add 2.50 P/H.



The Ten Commandments

by Milburn Cockrell

\$6.95

Please add \$2.50 P&H.

On 5 or more copies the price is \$3.50 each but add some for shipping.

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 12-31-2003 to 1-31-2003

Beginning Balance \$1,888.96

RECEIPTS:

Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS 200.00
 Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 100.00
 John Otis, Agra, KS 100.00
 Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY (2 mo.) 200.00
 Berea B. C., West Point, TN 50.00
 Anonymous 180.00
 TOTAL 830.00
 BALANCE 2,718.96

EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time 812.00
 Postage 38.10
 Dividing Check 200.00
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES 1,050.10
 RECEIPT \$1,668.86
 Bank charge -10.00
 ch#0274 never cleared +100.00
 BALANCE \$1,758.86

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance \$1,853.32
 RECEIPT
 Total 1,853.32

EXPENDITURES:

WCTT 160.00
 Total Expenditures 160.00
 ENDING BALANCE \$1,733.32

FREE TRACTS

These tracts are for free distribution. Our supply is limited. So ask only for those you can prayerfully use. Postage appreciated.

Tracts By Milburn Cockrell

An Open Letter to Ann Landers
Nickels and Noses
The Devil's Dance of Damnation
The Succession of Truth
A Man-Made God
The Gate to Glory
The Master of the World
What's Wrong with the Kids Today?
The Drug Bug

Tracts by Curtis Pugh

Did Jesus Turn Water Into Grape Juice?
 A Charged Battery or a Living Connection?
 Mother Churches and Daughter Churches

By Henry A. Griesemer

Crucifixion Day

By A. W. Pink

Churches of God

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 12-31-2003 to 1-31-2003

Beginning Balance \$6,979.25

RECEIPTS:

A. D. Richardson, Cedarville, WV 100.00
 Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS 1,700.00
 Berea M. B. C., Mansfield, OH 50.00
 Berea M. B. C., Westpoint, TN 150.00
 Berea B. C., Stonington, IL 60.00
 Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX 30.00
 Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV 300.00
 Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY 200.00
 C. M. Redding, Tucson, AZ 250.00
 Cedar Grove B. C., Millport, AL 50.00
 Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL 25.00
 Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL 20.00
 Faith B. C., Clarksville, TN 100.00
 Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR 25.00
 Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME 20.00
 Gerald Price, Johnson City, TN 20.00
 Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 100.00
 Grace B. M. Marion, IL 25.00
 Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK 45.00
 Helen Milem, South Point, OH 100.00
 Hillcrest B. C., Winton-Salem, NC 50.00
 Landmark M. B. C., Moncks Corner, SC 25.00
 Letson Farrell, Long Beach, MS 150.00
 Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC 100.00
 Meadow Branch B. C., Millport, AL 50.00
 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., Decatur, AL 50.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS 50.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Galena, OH 150.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL 100.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC 100.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX 30.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Warren, OH 75.00
 Victory B. C., Courtland, VA 200.00
 Wendel Beall, Cedarville, WV 80.00
 Subscriptions 145.00
 Dividing checks 500.00
 Sub Total \$5,750.00
 TOTAL \$12,729.25

EXPENDITURES:

Wages 3,200.00
 Printing 494.89
 Postage 1,192.59
 FICA taxes 244.78
 Supplies 1,709.36
 Dividing checks 500.00
 Total Expenditures 7,341.62
 5,387.63
 Bank charge July & August -19.02
 ENDING BALANCE \$5,368.61

Womens Veils 2003

Berea Baptist Church Bookstore
 PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855
 Phone: (662) 282-7794

* Shipping: Add \$1.25 each for the first two coverings and an additional \$.50 for all extras. Mississippi residents please add 7% state sales tax



Lite Mantilla \$8.00

Colors: Light Blue, Yellow, Cream, White, and Black



Modesty Mantilla \$12.00

Colors: Light Blue, Yellow, Black, Pink, Cream, White, and Black/White



Cap Mantilla \$2.00

Colors: Light Blue, Yellow, Black, Pink, Cream, White, Mint Green, Red, and Navy



Comb Mantilla \$2.50

Colors: Light Blue, Yellow, Black, Pink, Cream, White, Brown, Navy, Mint Green, and Red

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Northport, Ala. will be having special services May 16th thru 18th. Service times are Friday night at 7:00 p.m., Saturday at 10:00 a.m. (with lunch following) and at 6:00 p.m., Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Speakers are Bro. Roy Mitchell and Bro. Raymond Spann. All are invited



WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

Militant Islam is Still Enemy No. One



Previous columns of mine have been sounding the alarm about the ongoing threats of militant Islam against America—with documentation, including the Muslim holy book, the Koran. But, not all these columns saw the light of day.

Some editors, I suspect, just don't like titles like "Sweet Talk about 'Good Muslims' is Bad" or "Watch out for the Muslims in America." Why? Maybe they don't want to offend Muslim constituents. Or, maybe they don't believe the threat is all that bad. Or, maybe in this case, they prefer profit to national security.

Even so, the threat is still out there, as our strategic enemy number one—and will remain—as any serious observer will agree.

'BUSYBODY'

Playing the part of "busybody," I tried to alert the Hampton Roads captain of the port about shocking background I had researched on militant Muslims, but was quickly reminded that the Christian Crusades were just as bad or worse, and besides, he said he had many other groups to defend against.

Undaunted, but still the "busybody," I approached the editor of the *Alumni Bulletin*, thinking this background would be helpful. She seemed appalled at my presumption, saying, in effect, "Lots of Coast Guard people are Muslims, you know."

All true! All True! But really! What does the Crusades' bloodletting of a thousand years ago have to do with defending our country from murderous terrorists today? And, what does defending against "other groups" have to do with protecting our ports from militant Muslims today? And truly, the fact that some Coast Guard, Navy and Army people are Muslims is beside the point, absolutely.

REPAIR TO ROCKING CHAIR?

So, instead of busying myself with the Islam faith of the Muslims, spending hours in the library and then, writing bad things about "good Muslims," why don't I just repair to my rocking chair and let the world go by—at this late date in my career?

After all, silence could generate more friends, lower blood pressure and certainly produce fewer critics—except that one truism is so haunting: "Silence is the temptation of the informed man who finds himself in

the minority."

Our country and our people are far too precious to be silent about—in war or peace. Moreover, our security and our conscience are bound up with the rest of the world today and every citizen of every country is either with us or against us in fighting the War on Terror.

President Bush continues to emphasize that point. When his diplomacy is rejected by our "allies," he moves ahead in the best interests of America, just as he does in military operations against terrorists.

DANIEL PIPES SAYS

Veteran Middle east expert Daniel Pipes, now professor at the U.S. Naval War College, warned about the militant Muslims long before Sept. 11th and warns that the threat continues: "If we don't make security our priority, I predict more hits by militant Islam, on a much larger scale than 9/11. I wish we would get serious without the spur of more catastrophes."

Understanding the Islam faith and its goals is essential for defense against its boast to "conquer America." Mr. Pipes says, "Militant Islam is a rabid utopian ideology along the lines of fascism and Marxism-Leninism—(seeking) totalitarian means to overthrow governments and to dominate the world, much like fascism and communism."

For example, Yale University Muslim chaplain Zaid Shaker boldly calls the American system "against the orders of Allah." This is a political threat, not taken seriously by our government.

AYATOLLAH KHEMEINI AGAIN

Pipes reminds us that Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini was calling for "Death to America" in 1979—and since then, some 600 Americans have been murdered by militant Muslims.

And still, the U. S. government fails to "proclaim militant Islam our strategic enemy," but goes along with blandishments about "good Muslims" and "true Islam" being a religion of peace. We should look at the record.

In the Koran, Allah tells Mohammad, "Fight those who do not believe in Allah. . .those who do not accept the religion of Islam" (Surah 9:29).

Prof. Pipes makes the point that "profiling" should be a priority for airline security—focusing on names, behavior and passenger appearances, instead of the current practice of random searches that often insult 80-year old grandmothers. Qualified screeners should be hired, their judgments about suspicious characters accepted and a little personal inconvenience cheerfully endured for security's sake.

CRUSADES NOT FORGOTTEN

The holy war between Christianity and Islam, the Crusades, has not been forgotten by the fundamental Muslims of the Middle East. In many respects, militant Muslims are still fighting that war, while Westerners only faintly remember it.

The "moderate Muslims," living in the West, according to reports, want a "moderate Islam" without the violence and bloodshed that still seems like a "pay-back" for the humiliation of the Crusades.

The fundamental Islamic faith under the Koran, however, includes violence and bloodshed. Moreover, the prophet Mohammad was more successful in Medina with violence and the sword than he was in Mecca with peace and persuasion in winning converts to Islam. Even today, in countries with a Muslim majority, the government persecutes Christians—often with the blessings of the Islamic clergy. These are facts.

Let us also note that our "allies" in the War on Terror, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt and Pakistan, routinely persecute Christians on nothing more than their profession of faith. This state-sanctioned inhumanity is legal under the constitutions and laws of these Muslim nations. These

also are facts and our media haven't told us much about that, as they go after more sensational stories and second-guessing the President.

Meanwhile, *militant Muslims* continue to be a deadly threat to America's security and sovereignty. Our Commander-in-Chief is dedicated and deserves loyal backing from all sides, including "allies," media and, as always, the troops. He proclaimed Iraq, Iran and Syria as the "axis of evil." He should proclaim militant Muslims as America's strategic enemy number one in order to clarify, simplify and emphasize.

(Captain Evans's columns are distributed by the Americanism Educational League of Buena Park, California.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Home Baptist Church, Mt. Morris, Mich., and Pastor Don Titus will host their 25th Annual Bible Conference April 15-17, 2003. For more information call 1-810-686-6006.

The area fellowship meeting will be held at the Berea Baptist Church, Mantachie, Miss. on Saturday, March 22nd. Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. with sermons by Elders Steve Martin and Todd Bryant. Lunch will be served at the church. At 1:30 p.m. there will be a sermon by Elder Jeff Short. All are invited to attend. For more information call (662) 282-7794 or email bbchurch@intop.net.

Before Pastor Cockrell's death, he sent out several letters to young preachers about books. If any of you have not received your books or have not returned your form please let us know.

The Charity Baptist Church, Gladstone, Mich. is without a pastor. They are a small work located in Northern Michigan. Anyone knowing of a qualified man should contact Brother Mark Blau at (906) 474-6721.

We are currently getting the book **Scriptural Church Organization** ready for reprint. We are also going to reprint **The Veiled Woman** (third printing), which is currently out of print. The next unpublished book will be sermons on Backsliding.

The Indore Baptist Church of Indore, W.Va. is without a pastor. Any qualified man that is currently not pastoring should contact Bro. Jerry Gould at 304-587-7689.

INDEX

100 Witnesses to the Second Coming Part 5	p. 41
Bible and the Newspaper	p. 54
Christ, The Captain of Our Salvation by Christmas Evans	p. 41
Forum	pp. 50 - 51
Funnybone	p. 45
Gnats and Camels by Milburn Cockrell	p. 41
Spiritual Vegetation by Milburn Cockrell	p. 41
The God of this Age by Milburn Cockrell (sermon outline)	p. 48
The Yoke for Young Men by Jeff Short	p. 41
Weekly Devotionals	p. 57
World Scene: <i>Militant Islam is Still Enemy No. One</i>	p. 60