

The Berea Baptist Banner

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

A Study of Psalm 17:1-15

By Roy Mason
(1894 - 1978)

I wish to read a Scripture from the 17th Psalm, just a few verses, and I will begin with verse one. **"Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips. Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal....Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked,**



which is thy sword: From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life...As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

Notice with me that first verse,
◊ (Continued on page 2)

The Evidence of Discipleship

Part One
By Robert Fleming

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

God designs to accomplish a great work in the earth, through the instrumentality of His church--for this purpose He gives to His people His Spirit---a spirit of love and good will to men. He does not intend that it shall take the disciples of His Son, "to the day of

their death, to prove to themselves and to others, that they are His disciples." He designs that they shall know and feel the power of His grace, and that through them others shall be brought to know and feel and exhibit its sacred influences. **"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience,"** they prove their faith by their works, their religion by their lives. It is designed in this discourse to show

◊ (Continued on page 18)

Successful Families Are Two-Way Streets

By Matthew Stepp
of Wayne, West Virginia

"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matt. 19:4-6).

Marriage is a choice that two folks



must make on their own, being fully aware that this choice will have far-reaching consequences on their thus far, single life, that with all honesty,

has been lived wholly for their own personal desires and choices. Selah! Think about it!

One that makes the (fatal) choice to be a spouse, has changed forever the parameters of their body and soul. I did not just
◊ (Continued on page 6)

The Prayer of Agony

Milburn Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)

"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared" (Heb. 5:7).

Controversy has surrounded this passage for centuries because it contains some of the deep things of God's Word. With great caution and with deep concern for the truth, I will attempt to explain this text. The beginnings of Christ's sufferings are seen in these words. As a Son we see how



He learned obedience by the things He suffered (Heb. 5:8). May the Holy Spirit be our guide as we walk upon this holy ground.

THE INCARNATION

The text commences with the phrase: **"Who in the days of his flesh. . ."** The Syriac and Arabic versions read: **"When he was clothed with flesh."** The writer of the book of Hebrews, having proved that Christ was called to be a priest, proceeds to show how

◊ (Continued on page 8)



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The purpose of the Berea Baptist Banner is as follows:

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

Psalm 17:1-15

(Continued from page 1) ♦

if you will, **"..give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips."** What does it mean to feign something? It means to pretend. Did you ever see a possum act as if he were dead? You can catch a possum and he will give up and lie passive, just as if he had passed completely out. He seems to have the idea that if he acts in that way his enemy will assume that he is dead, and will go away and let him alone.

Now there are many things that are feigned, let us think of some of them. In the first place, there is feigned honesty. People pretend to be honest, and then when they get a good chance, they act with consummate dishonesty. My father had a place of business when I was growing up, and it was interesting and depressing at the same time, to watch the ways in which people manifested their dishonesty. There was a fellow who said, "Well, I forgot my pocketbook, so will you please make a ticket of this that I have just bought, and I will pay you this the next time I am in the store?" Well, he would come in and pay just as he said he would do, then next he would want credit for just two or three days until he got paid. Then next he would get into the habit of running an account, and by and by, he would pay only a part of his bill, and gradually he would inch in a little deeper and a little deeper, until finally, when he owed a considerable amount, he would begin to trade at another store, and finally he would skip out, move somewhere else and leave his bill unpaid. I tell you, a person in business certainly comes to see all kinds of rascality. Feigned honesty! Many people do not want their honesty

questioned. If they give a check, they do not want the store to call the bank. No! They get highly offended. I am always afraid of the person who is not willing to have their honesty investigated. I bought something in a strange store where they did not know me before now, and when I asked to give a check, they said, "Do you care if we call the bank about this check?" "Why, certainly not, call all you want to." Why should I care for anybody to investigate my honesty if I am on the square? There is a feigned honesty, a pretended honesty, that many people have, and then there is the genuine thing that will stand investigation.

In the second place, there is a feigned piety. Ananias and Sapphira that we read about in the Bible had that sort. They pretended that they had given the entire proceeds of the property which they had sold into the hands of the Apostles, but at the same time, they were holding some of it back. They wanted credit for being liberal and religious in the sight of the other church members, while at the same time, they held back. I have known people like that in the matter of tithing. They pretended to tithe, but they did not do anything of the kind. They paid out for this and paid out for that out of their tithe. I knew one family who threw their tithe into a box, and every old tramp that came along, they would delve into the Lord's treasury and give him a hand-out. That sort of thing is not tithing. To tithe is to turn a tenth of your income into the Lord's treasury for the actual support or the Lord's work. Church Treasurers could tell some interesting stories about people who are thought to be among the most faithful of members, but

♦ (Continued on page 3)

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Meager Peckings

By the Editor

JUST ONE EGG

As spring nears, hens start hording their eggs to form a clutch to set on in hopes of hatching out a brood of young chicks. Most will have a clutch from 12-16. Although on occasion I have seen as many as thirty and as few as one. The hen will gather up her clutch of eggs and then one day she will decided to just start setting on them. Twenty-one days of straight sitting. She will only leave her eggs long enough to eat or drink, then she is right back on them.

So you are thinking what kind of analogy can we get from a hen sitting on eggs. Well, if we view the hen, she takes these eggs, not knowing if they are fertile or not, and begins her long task of incubating and hatching them. She is like the sower spreading the gospel, not knowing if the seed will take root or not. All of the eggs may be good or all the eggs may be bad. She has no way of knowing until they hatch. Like the sower has no way of knowing whether the seeds he spreads will later become fruit bearing or not, yet he still spreads them, and yet she sits on them.

Are you like the hen who only sits on one egg, or like the hen who sits on as many as she can get under her? Do you spread the Word a little (one egg), or a lot?

As faithfully as a hen sets on her eggs, so we as Christians ought to spread the Word. Like the hen who does not know the out come till hatch day; chicks or rotten eggs, we as Christians may

not know till the judgment if we have sown seed that has borne fruit.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (II Cor. 9:6).

A QUERY: DO YOU HAVE LINKED-CHAIN BAPTISM

Self-constitutioners believe that only two or three baptized believers are needed to start or "self" constitute a new Baptist church. Of course these two or three must have valid Baptist baptism from a valid Baptist church, otherwise they would not be able to constitute the new self-constituted church.

Self-constitutioners are constantly saying that those who believe in a linked-chain of Baptist churches starting churches have no long standing proof for their belief. So, can these self-constitutioners prove that their baptism is valid. That is, the baptism they received was from a scripturally self-constituted church of scripturally baptized believers, who were themselves a scripturally self-constituted church of scripturally baptized believers, etc. A lineage (or linked-chain) of their Baptism's validity. After all, is this not the only requisite to form a new church according to self-constitutioners' beliefs? Should they not validate that the church who administered their baptism was itself correctly self-constituted with properly baptized self-constitutioners, and that those were themselves correctly self-constituted with properly baptized self-constitutioners, etc.? To think that somewhere in past history one unscripturally baptized self-constitutioner may have

invalidated thousands of Baptist baptisms and numerous churches. This is a linked-chain that I feel they would be most fundamentally willing to verify back to the Apostles.



Psalm 17:1-15

(Continued from page 2) ♦

who do not do a thing financially, or at least who give so stingily that they would be ashamed to have it known what they do. Their interest is a feigned interest, and their piety is a feigned piety, but God knows whether they have a sincere interest in His work or not. He knows whether they are willing to put their time and energy and interest and money into His work.

In the third place, there is a feigned friendship. There are people who pretend to be your friends, but who are just putting on. When they get behind your back, they talk about you just as freely as they do to you about others. I do not know how you feel about it, but as for me, I do not want friends of that sort. The person who will come around with a sweet smile and a lot of soft talking, and then will talk about me before I get out of sight is an abomination. Old Joab, whom we read about in the Old Testament, came up to Abner, his military rival, and acted as if he would kiss him, but as he did that, he thrust a sword into him and killed him. Judas came up to Jesus with a kiss and said, **"Hail, Master,"** but at that very moment, he was leading the enemies of Jesus to arrest Him. Oh, there is so much pretense in this world, so much feigned friendship, so many people who will flock around you when you are popular, or when they can get something out of you,

but will turn you down in a time of distress and need. Nothing on this earth is worth much more than genuine, true friendship, friendship that is not pretense, friendship that can stand any test. Many of the so-called friends of life do not amount to much. They are just fair weather friends, and there is nothing about them to satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts and souls in people like these. Friendship is more than a matter of words---it is something that stands the test of time.

And then there is feigned prayers. Feigned prayer is the thing that is mentioned particularly here in this Scripture. That means prayer that is not sincere, prayer that is not from the heart, prayer that is not genuine. What are some of these prayers that are feigned prayers? What are they like, I mean? Let me mention some of them.

Well, there is first of all, memorized ritual prayers. Jesus specifically put a ban on that kind of praying when He said, **"When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they should be heard for their much speaking."** God is not deaf that we should have to repeat the same old thing over and over again, and prayers memorized out of a book are useless. Can you imagine a young man who is in love with a young woman memorizing a lovely poetic statement and rattling it off to his sweetheart? I went up to Silver Springs, Florida, some years ago, and went out in one of the glass-bottom boats they have there. I enjoyed the trip, all except the rigmarole of the guide. In a sonorous voice, he began to rattle off a lot of stuff that he had plainly memorized, and I do not like a memorized spiel of that kind. I had the same experience

♦ (Continued on page 4)

Psalm 17:1-15

(Continued from page 3) ♦

at an art museum, I remember. A man took us around and rattled off a lot of ballyhoo. Now when we pray a lot of memorized stuff, I believe that in God's sight, that is not a thing but ballyhoo. If you are going to get anywhere in prayer, you are going to have to pray your own prayer.

In the next place, let me say that feigned prayers are prayers that are not meant, such, for instance, as a person praying **"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,"** then not being willing to do one thing to advance the kingdom and cause of Christ in the world. Feigned prayers are prayers in which people pray for the Lord to bless the church, and then stay away from the very next service. Feigned prayers are prayers offered for the spread of the Gospel by people who give little or nothing of their own means toward helping the Gospel to spread. No member of a church can honestly pray for God to prosper a prayer meeting, for instance, and then consistently stay away from prayer meeting. No use to pray for the Lord for help to reach others, unless you are willing, if you are able, to go out over the community and invite people to come to church. When you say, "Lord help us to reach people for Thee, here is some shoe sole leather that is willing to be worn out in inviting people," then you will get somewhere.

In the next place, let me say that feigned prayers are careless prayers. Many times we jut rattle off something without thinking about what we are saying. Our brains are idling and our tongues are in gear. I think of the Preacher who was called on to lead in prayer at a revival meeting, and

he prayed, "Oh, Lord, fill the evangelist's mouth with lost souls." How on earth could the Lord answer a prayer like that? Now the Psalmist when he said, **"...give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips,"** he meant that he was praying in sincerity and earnestness, that his lips spoke the truth that was in his heart.

But now I turn from this to another passage that is one of the most thought-provoking passages in the Bible. It is found there in verse 14, and it reads like this, **"O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life."** He is there praying to be delivered from the kind of men who live only for this world, and who have all of their portion in this present life. Who does he refer to in this statement? Well, in the first place, he refers to the neglectors of God and religion. We have plenty of people out here in society like that. They are just too busy making money, too busy with their business affairs, too busy with the pleasures of life to give any time and thought and attention to the hereafter. Nearly every day I pass a place of business where there was a man like that. I came to know and like this man very much, and I talked with him several times and tried to get him to come to church, where he would have a chance to think of eternal things, but always he gave me the same answer. He was a busy man, he said, and when he worked all week, he felt that he ought to take some recreation on Sunday, ought to get out into the woods, out on a trip, out fishing, or something of that sort. I tried to tell him that he had a soul that needed recreation also, that life was too short and uncertain to pay no heed to spiritual things, but I never made much impression.

One day I passed along and saw the crepe hanging on the door of his place of business, and I found that man had died, died in the very prime of life. He gave his whole time and thought and attention to making a go of his business, and now he is out in a lost eternity and somebody else is running his business. He had his portion in this life, and that portion was suddenly taken away from him. I tell you, when you are too busy to consider your Maker, you are just too busy. You may not take time to worship God, you may not even think that you have time to attend to your soul, but when death stands by the bedside, you are going to take time to answer his call.

In the second place, the willful rejecter of God and His salvation is a person who has his portion in this life. To neglect or to reject amounts to the same identical thing if you die in that condition. When you reject Christ and reject salvation, you say by that act, "I do not care anything about the hereafter, I will take my portion right here in this world." That might seem sensible if you have the prospects of living a thousand years, but if you live to a ripe old age, even then life is pitifully short. How can you afford to throw away all eternity for a few uncertain years? How can you afford to take your portion in this life? Sometimes people envy those who have plenty of this world's goods, even when they have nothing for the beyond. That is an entirely foolish thing to do. I used to have a friend who, when he saw the wicked having a big time, would exclaim "Let them have it, it is all the time they will ever have," and that is true. When you see the ungodly out here flying high, do not envy them. They are getting all they will ever have. Men

who have their portion in this life, and that is their exact description. God has them catalogued, and they are listed right here in this Psalm. The person who gets his portion in this life, what does he get? Well, he gets some honor, maybe, maybe he gets his name in the papers, maybe he gets looked up to, but that is all, and very soon, it is a thing of the past. Most of the men whose names were famous during the First World War are dead and in their graves today, and the men of prominence, the men whose names are on the radio and emblazoned in the newspapers, in just a few years and they will be so many corpses. If honor is the portion of a man in this life, then it is short lived, for he must soon die and leave it. The person whose only portion is in this life, what does he get out of it, I ask again? Well, he may get some money. If your portion in this world is money, then you are going to have to leave it. You can not stay to enjoy it, and you can not take one single cent of it with you. I remember back several years ago, I was in St. Augustine where we have had a broadcast not for many years every Sunday morning, and I visited the so-called Fountain of Youth, and the girl poured me out a cup of water from the Fountain, and I said, "If this seems to do me any good, I think I will just jump right into the Fountain and get wet all over." There within a few yards of the so-called Fountain of Youth, they have preserved the bones of a whole group of Indians. They have excavated and uncovered a whole graveyard, and the skeletons are lying there exposed to view. Some of the skulls grin at one hideously. Those poor Indians! The Fountain of Youth did not keep them from dying, did it? No, and no earthly

♦ (Continued on page 5)



Narrow Paths

By Doug Newell IV of
Clendenin, West Virginia

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

READ YOUR BIBLE, IT IS PROFITABLE

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16).

It is a new year, and I hope you have been reading your Bible. If not, today is a great day to begin again.

You should read your Bible every day because it is profitable. I am not asking you to do something that will waste your time. I am asking you to do something that will be for your own good. Reading the Bible will profit your soul.

It is profitable for learning doctrine. If you read your Bible, you will learn truth about yourself, about God, about the world, about the end of the world, and about the world to come. Have you ever made a bad decision in life because you did not have all the facts? Think about the profit of knowing truth about your own heart! Truth about God! Truth about why we are on this Earth and what happens when we die.

It is profitable to tell you the truth about yourself. God will correct you when you read the Bible. That is chastisement and discipline, and that is good for you. When you do not read the Bible you are not listening to your God. As a father, I come from a long tradition of men, who for about 6,000 years or so,

have children who from time to time, do not listen to what I tell them. When that happens, I have to take the discipline up a notch. It is much easier for children to listen to correction and then make the correction than to ignore it and endure the next step. Reading your Bible, receiving correction, is the first gentle step of rebuke from a loving Father.

It is profitable to tell you how to live, and, instruction in righteousness. The whole world is ready to tell you how to live, what you should wear, what you should drive, what you should eat, how you should think, and much of it is destructive. But when you read your Bible, God is instructing you on how to live.

It is profitable for a future day. You might read something tomorrow morning that does not apply to your life in any way, shape, or form. But who knows what the next day will bring? When tragedy comes, it is too late to start a systematic Bible study to figure out what to believe. Consider Job. When the horrors of that terrible day came upon him, he leaned on the truth he learned in happier days.

Read your Bible in the sunshine, and it will bear fruit in a needful day to come.

Read your Bible, it is profitable.

(Doug Newell IV is pastor of the Buffalo Valley Baptist Church of Clay, West Virginia.)



Psalm 17:1-15

(Continued from page 4) ♦

power is sufficient to preserve the life in our bodies. No matter how much you own, you are going to have to die and leave it all. Is your portion, all of your portion, in this life? Men of this world, says David, who have their portion in this life! I am afraid that some of you are living only for this world. Yet you have mighty little to live for. Some of those people that I have been speaking about have a lot of things of this world, yet they had to leave all earthly things behind. If men who get the most of fame and wealth and pleasure can not afford to live for those things, then what about you, who do not get half as much out of life as they? Why, you just fiddle and fool around and fool your life away when you live only for time and for this world. Suppose that it should be put up to you right now, are you willing to barter eternity for what you are getting out of time. What would you say? But I remind you that you do not have to relinquish the best things of life in order to obtain the great things of eternity. You can live a normal, useful, happy life here in the world, and still have Christ and salvation and the prospect of a future. The sin and foolishness comes from staking everything upon this life, and living only for this life.

But now I come to the last thing that I have time to deal with in our Scripture. We have set forth here what it takes to satisfy a child of God. Verse 15 says, **"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."** A Christian cannot be satisfied with the things of this life only, he wants something more. What does he want? We

have two things mentioned, first, he wants to see God. **"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness."** I used to make a trip out to Oklahoma every once in a while to see my Father while he was living, and many of you feel sometimes as if you are just bound to go to see your parents, but there is, I think, a deeper hunger and longing on our part to see our Heavenly Father, and that shall be satisfied one day. Over in the Book of Revelation, we are given a glimpse of Heaven, and one of the things that is said of the saved is this, **"They shall see his face, and his name shall be in their foreheads."** One day our long earthly pilgrimage shall be over, we are going to be at Home; Home, where God is, where the angels are, where our Christian deeds have preceded us. Home, to sorrow no more, to grieve no more, to sin no more, but you who are not Christians, you have no such anticipation or prospect as that. You have nothing worthwhile to look forward to.

In the second place, I would say that the Christian wants to awake in God's likeness. **"I shall be satisfied,"** said the Psalmist, **"when I awake with thy likeness."** Those of us who are homely and who have diseases and deformities, would it not be a great thing if there was an institution into which we could go and be put to sleep to awake with all these things gone forever? Greater than this will be the experience of every child of God in the days to come. When we die, the old tired, imperfect bodies will go into the dust to sleep there awhile, but when the trump of God shall sound, then we shall awake. We may be homely now, but when we awake, we shall be clothed with loveliness, for we shall awake in

♦ (Continued on page 6)

Psalm 17:1-15

(Continued from page 5) ♦

His likeness. We may be sickly now, but when we awake, every ache and pain shall be gone, and we shall awake in His likeness. We may be dumb now, but when we awake, we shall have a brain that scintillates with intelligence, for we shall awake in His likeness. We may be troubled now, but when we awake, every worry and care shall be brushed away, for we shall awake in His likeness. We may be unsatisfied now, but when we awake, we shall be all that we ever hoped and longed to be, for we shall awake in His likeness. Folks, I do not want to be classed with this world, with the people of this world, who have all their portion in this life. I realize that one of these days, my little earthly career will be over, and I want something to look forward to. There is a Life Insurance Company that sells a policy that enables a person to retire at 65 with an assured income of \$300.00 a month. I saw the policy advertised just recently. There was a picture of an elderly couple, sitting on a porch in the, I do not know, California or Florida sunshine, looking out towards the mountains in the distance. Well, that seems a nice prospect for many people, to sit back at 65 with an assured income, but when you get to thinking about it, that is not so attractive after all, for there is just a little time after 65, until the shadows of earth's night falls, and a person has to leave this world. I want something more than that. I want security forever and ever. I want to look out yonder to a prospect of living, living in happiness as long as the sun shines in the Heavens. And God offers just that exactly. He offers eternal life. He offers it as a free gift through His Son, the Savior.

He says, **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life."**

It seems to me that it would be utterly foolish if I failed to receive God's wonderful gift, offered so graciously and so freely, so I have received that gift, and eternal life is mine. I ask you today, I ask you seriously and earnestly, will you do the same? There is not any hope, there is not any future, there is not any prospect apart from Christ. He is all that affords any outlook that is worth anything. Can you not see that? And will you not receive Him as your Savior this very hour?

Our Heavenly Father, we pray that Thou wilt help those we have been speaking to, to see the truth that we have just been setting forth, that there is nothing worthwhile for the eternal future if one leaves Christ out of his life. May there be those today to receive Him right now as their Savior, and to confess Him before the world. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.



Successful Families

(Continued from page 1) ♦

throw that word "fatal" in the previous sentence without much thought (mostly after!). It is the death of their bachelorhood. As you get further in your study of marriage, you will see that the choice of marriage is usually the BEST choice we ever make in our lives, no doubt! But, it is naivety underscored, to not be aware that certain things are over (death), as we look forward (birth) to the countless new pleasures that God has prepared for the new couple in an awesomely intimate relationship of both their bodies and their souls. **"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered**

into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Cor. 2:9).

A man must CHOOSE to be a husband. Not all men do when they get married, you know! A misunderstanding of the responsibilities that go along with the privileges of being married, has destroyed many a marriage. The choice of being a husband involves leaving behind his folks (parents, siblings, etc) and much of the protection therein. He must become a household head, himself. He is now solely responsible for his new wife, and the children and family that the Lord has planned to bless him with. That is a choice. He can continue the "merry" ways of bachelorhood, continued dependence upon parents and family, or he can choose to become a complete man, as God has planned, since the beginning. **"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him"** (Gen. 2:18). **"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it..."** (Gen. 1:27-28).

"Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me" (Job 38:3). In this gloriously sovereign passage where God refutes the ambiguity of Elihu's previous six chapters of arrogant tirade, God is requiring the men of the book of Job to be REAL men. **"Gird up now thy loins like a man"** and do not let there be any confusion about which gender you are. Dress like a man, act like a man, take responsibility like a man. In this day and age, there is too much blurring of the lines between

men and women, that is for sure. Modern extremists desire the "equality of the sexes." Well, that has never been a problem Biblically, as God treasures godly men and godly women equally. Just read the entirety of Proverbs 31, if you doubt it. **"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. ...Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates"** (Prov. 31:10-12, 28-31).

But notice, the woman is praised for her "womanly" achievements. Not in usurping her husband in his "manly" area of achievements. A man is to be a man. With all that it entails in his husbandly responsibilities. **"Gird up now thy loins like a man"** is a constant reminder that men are equal with women, but that hardly equates to becoming exactly the same. Men are to be different from women, and that is seen in the way they dress and in the way they act (head and responsible agent of the house and home). It is really determined from within, as you recognize your manly responsibilities to clarify God's order and His responsibilities and privileges that He has given to each gender, separately. Selah! Think about it!

A man should never ask a woman to be his wife, unless he is willing to make the tough

♦ (Continued on page 7)

Small Drops

By Joseph M. Sidders of
Temperance, Michigan

"My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God" (Deuteronomy 32:2-3).



DINNER AT FAZOLI'S

Mark Twain once wrote "when I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

When I first met my wife, she was a senior in high school and I was starting my second year of college. I knew she was the one for me from our first date. I proposed just a few months later and we began making plans for our lives together. It is funny how when you think the right one has come along, you suddenly feel qualified to make all of the big life decisions at once.

We planned a meal not long after our engagement to get her parents and mine around a table so that we could tell them at what speed we wanted things to go. Her folks liked me; my folks liked her, what could go wrong? To this day the conversation that followed is still not something my wife wants to discuss. Our parents all took turns that night telling us what a bad idea it would be for us to get married so young. One after another, they hijacked our plan for celebration with dream-crushing comments about how not finishing college first would be something we would both regret. How could they feel this way? We were first-generation college students, and they had all married at younger ages than we were planning to. Waiting just did not seem like a

fair thing to ask when we were so sure about what we wanted.

We went ahead and set a date for the next year despite their advice, noting that at least I would be a college graduate before our nuptials. As we approached the final months before the wedding, one thing led to another, and we had to put the ceremony off. We were married just a few years later and are celebrating our 15th year of marriage this year. What happened during those few years? We both finished college, matured a ton, and came to understand what commitment looks like long-term.

One of the commandments God delivered to Moses on the mount in Exodus 20:12 was to, **"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."** This does not mean parents are always right, but it does mean that God has entrusted them with the care of their children. In the wording of the commandment we see that a blessing is promised to the child, even adult children, who learn to obey this command.

Whether you are the child, or now a parent yourself, there is no disputing that God intended children to be protected and led by their parents. Their advice is built on the education life has offered them. The Lord has provided them the wisdom required to raise the next generation. Children are a blessing from the Lord, and His

commandments are good— for the long-term.

(Joseph Sidders is pastor of the Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Temperance, Michigan.)



Successful Families

(Continued from page 6) ♦

choices ahead. If he is not willing to lead the house both spiritually and financially, physically and emotionally, righteously and joyfully, then do not ask her to marry you. Let us look at these categories a bit.

1) Spiritually. This is a biggie! Where are we going to church, and how close to the Lord does this family desire to be? Are we going to make Jesus Christ the most important asset and also the most important goal of this family? It starts with the husband's choices. If he chooses to work overtime on Sunday and work late on Wednesday, then the whole family suffers. The wife (if she is still able to take the kids to church) will have to go outside her bounds and take over the spiritual headship of the family. This unnatural order will feminize the spiritual doctrines that God teaches, and the children (and parents) will grow up without a clear understanding of a successful family (and ultimately church and country). The husband must clarify that he is a leader worthy of being followed, as he follows Christ and the admonitions of the Bible. Spirituality must trump all other aspects of family life. Church attendance should be sacrosanct. Prayer should be instigated at his direction; Bible study and catechism should be directed by his hand and God will bless the whole family's understanding of the Word. Real-life examples and applications will be noted, comprehended, and

copied by the next generation of sons and daughters.

2) Financially. This, too, is imperative. Under virtually every circumstance, the husband should be the bread-winner of the family. If it happens that both parents end up working, in all probability the man is not making the best of the choices the Lord has given him. Is he establishing a real, working budget? Is he guiding a family into thinking they need to have everything the world offers, and guiding them down the steep slope to a bankruptcy that only can be remedied by the wife entering the workplace, too? If so, cut the slack. Prioritize the finances that you have and make sure the mother is able to do her real job in person— rearing the children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Pray the Lord will give you a job that really supports the family, instead of just pleasing the husband, and God will give you a job that does both. He knows what we need, before we even ask it of Him.

3) Physically. I am going to use this category to cover the rest of the husband/father job descriptions. Regardless of whether the husband or wife is more intelligent, clever, strong, rich, beautiful, etc., the husband is to use both of their talents to the benefit of the family. If the wife knows more about any particular subject, then do not be afraid to use her knowledge to make the best decisions for the family. Rejoice in the talents of each other and bless the family, church and country with God-honored choices and motives. Nothing will stand in the way of a family that desires God's glory, and Christ will bless them even in times of poverty, persecution and societal pressures. But the man must be

♦ (Continued on page 8)

Successful Families

(Continued from page 7) ♦

prepared to bear the brunt of the attacks of Satan, world and flesh, using the strength of God and he must not falter, by sacrificing what is eternally righteous for any temporal relief.

For a man to be a real husband, he cannot bring anything into the marriage, except a passionate ardor and desire to care for and cherish his new wife and family. That is the choice he must make: "I will sacrifice myself to be a right proper husband and father, as God's grace grants me the ability." No greater joy will ever be experienced by such a man.

TWO-WAY STREET WARNING!

On the other hand, a woman must also CHOOSE to be a wife. Not just a lover and a girlfriend. She must leave her family also, and choose to become the thriving, beating heart of a new home. Her choice must not be to be the head of this new household (else it would be a two-headed monstrosity in God's eyes), but by the choice of marrying, the woman is submitting her will, to her head, her new husband. Any reservations she might have about submitting to this new man (leaving behind her submission to her father) must be worked out before she chooses to marry him. It is folly to enter a marriage with the intent to divide the house, instead of cementing the relationship with the love of each other, intertwined with a love of God's institution and order of marriage. Selah! Think about it!

It is not just a choice of wearing pink, at the wedding or thereafter. The wife, in submitting herself to the headship of her husband, must also recognize, that as God did not give her that responsibility, He did

give her responsibilities, privileges and talents that are foreign to her husband. Absolutely! God made her a **"help meet"** (Gen. 2:18). That means she has been equipped to properly assist, help, and carry out the necessities of married life. There are many things that a man just cannot do, that will come naturally to this "created rib."

The most important job for a wife/mother that I can think of is to become the beating heart of the new family. Even while the man is the head and must make many decisions, he must not feel lonely at the post. A real wife will be right there with him, assisting him, aiding him, even advising him. Surely, for every problem or temptation, there are many different ways of looking at them. Sometimes, many times, the wife will have invaluable insight that the husband might not have even thought of, that must be taken into consideration. Ultimately, yes, the responsibility is the husband's to make, but the responsibility of the wife to aid in the decision is just as necessary as her decision to support the final choice in godly submission and prayer.

The woman is more emotional than a man, and that is a good thing. Sometimes the husband must make cold, logical decisions that she would not have been able to make on her own, but the tender heart of the family will soften many decisions that might have destroyed their relationships with others and even their own marital relationship might be damaged. The wife must choose to be a full woman, with all the strengths, weaknesses, highs, lows, rejoicing smiles, tearful sorrows, etc., that make her the pinnacle of God's creation. After her creation, instead of God saying that it all was good, now it is very good! (cf. Gen. 2:18, 1:31).

A woman should not lead a man on, unless she is willing to turn her own life upside-down for her husband. She cannot bring anything into the marriage, except unremitting love and intelligent submission, based on the Holy Scriptures. **"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me"** (Ruth 1:16-17).

It is not blind faith that is required of the two. By God's grace, both the husband and the wife have had examples, not only of the joys and rewards of a blessed marriage in their families and churches, but also the difficult times that lie ahead in this sinful world. Satan hates it when men resolve to be men and women resolve to be women. Choose to be a godly husband. Choose to be a godly wife.

If you come from a broken home and you are not familiar with godly examples in your family, then look for them in your church. Look for them in the Bible. God will give you all the answers you need, as you come to the throne of grace, looking for wisdom. **"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"** (James 1:5).

Make the choice of having a real part in a real marriage. It is a choice that many playboys/playgirls never make, and their marriages are smoldering ashes in the rear view mirror of life. Serious business!, but also the most wondrous love ever known

is awaiting this choice, by God's grace. Selah! Think about it!



Prayer of Agony

(Continued from page 1) ♦

He met the requirements of a high priest as set forth in verses 2 and 3. A high priest must be **"taken from among men"** (Heb. 5:1). Therefore, Christ is qualified to be a high priest, seeing He is a true man. Christ, during the days of His flesh, had human experiences and human feelings.

The word **"flesh"** shows the infirmities of Christ's human nature not yet glorified (Ps. 78:39; Isa. 40:6). The word **"days"** speaks of the brevity of Christ's life on earth (Job 7:1; Ps. 90:12). The whole expression, **"the days of his flesh,"** means the human nature which He took to Himself. It designates the period of time during which **"the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us"** (John 1:14; cf. Heb. 2:11,14,16).

"The days of his flesh" implies that He existed prior to this without any flesh before He came to earth. The phrase also implies that after His days on earth His human nature was freed from all human infirmities. His time on earth in the flesh was a period of all kinds of infirmities (II Cor. 5:16). His humiliation was marked with hunger, thirst, weariness, labor, sorrow, grief, fear, pain, and death itself.

During this present age, Christ is the glorified Son of man. He has not laid aside His human nature, for He assumed that for ever. Christ had flesh after His resurrection from the dead (Luke 24:39). He is seated now at the Father's right hand as our great High Priest. **"For there is one God, and one mediator between**

♦ (Continued on page 10)

Brief Truths

By Randy Johnson of
Texarkana, Texas

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



JESUS CHRIST IS THE FOUNDER OF OUR SALVATION

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (Heb. 2:9-10).

There are many people that call themselves Christians who will never be able to comprehend true salvation, and they will die without God's glorious gift of salvation. We have started a new study on Wednesday night for the next few weeks titled "Why did Jesus, the Son of God come to this world?" Well, God answers that very question in Matthew 1:21, **"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."** The purpose of God sending His beloved Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh and allowed Him to be **"madest him a little lower than the angels"** (Heb. 2:7) is so that He could save His people from their sins. This is what so many people miss, that Jesus came to save the lost sinners from their sins because they could not save themselves. While some people are

hung in the traditional beliefs of their biblical thoughts or church domination teaching, they are blinded to the truth of the Bible about salvation and Jesus Christ's purpose in coming to this world. God did not say Jesus would try to help His people be saved, God did not say Jesus would work with His people in saving them. God said Jesus came from glory in the likeness of sinful flesh, being born of a woman, being made a little lower than the angels, allowing Satan and evil people to crucify Him, to **SAVE HIS PEOPLE!** This salvation was the ordained, predestinated, work of God. God does nothing that is not ordained by Himself and He has the absolute right to do His own pleasure. God said through the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 1:4-5, **"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will."** This is Jesus saving "His people" doing His Father's will. No where in the entire Bible does God ever say anything different. People will use out of context Scriptures to attempt to prove different, but God does not contradict Himself.

God said in Luke 19:10: **"For the Son of man is come to seek**

and to save that which was lost." Notice the two words **"seek"** and **"save."** Again He is not attempting to save them; He is going to save them.

Another glorious reference is Isaiah chapter 53 where God details His purpose and plan of saving the sinner, please read it. God summed His plan up in these two verses, **"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed"** (Isa. 53:4-5). This is why Jesus is the "founder of salvation" because He manufactured it, He has ownership to it, and He did it as Matthew wrote, **"...for he shall save his people from their sins."**

Salvation is an absolute gift of God, it is not something earned, worked out, it is a gift from God to a lost and dying sinner. The Apostle Paul described our salvation with these words, **"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin"** (Rom. 7:24). Let us look at the word **"wretched,"** it means - enduring trial, that is, miserable. The Apostle understood what it was to try to accomplish his own salvation and to be a good and outstanding Jew, but to find that he had failed. Paul did not just wander up on this understanding, Jesus sought and saved him. It was

a revelation from God when Jesus came to him, and the very same One he seeks to persecute he believed on in salvation. Jesus is the Author and Finisher of Paul's salvation just as He is ours. Listen to Paul describe God's gift to him in his own words, **"For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed"** (I Cor. 15:9).

Folks, Jesus did not come to this world to help you work out your salvation, God sent Him here to seek and to save you. Salvation is possible because He came, He lived, He died, He was buried, He rose from the grave, and His blood was shed to cleanse all our sins. Jesus is the founder of our salvation. **"All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. 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"** (Matt. 11:27-30).

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



Prayer of Agony

(Continued from page 8) ♦

God and men, the man Christ Jesus (I Tim. 2:5). After His resurrection He was free from all the infirmities of the flesh such as pain, sorrow, and grief which He endured when here on earth.

HIS PRIESTLY PRAYER

As a priest He **“offered up prayers.”** The Greek word for **“offered up”** (*prosphero*) means “to bear toward.” It occurs 16 times in this epistle, and it is always a priestly act (See 8:3; 9:7,14; 10:11,14,18). “Prayers” is derived from a verb (*egeo*) that signifies “to need.” Prayer is an expression of the frailty of human nature. It needs Divine help in this world. It learns obedience to God as it suffers in this world. Angels never pray, but the Son of man did.

Christ prayed during the days of His flesh. He prayed at His baptism (Luke 3:21). He prayed before He went out to preach (Mark 1:35) and after He preached (Mark 6:46). He prayed all night before He chose His twelve apostles (Luke 6:12). He prayed before He gave the disciples the power to bind and loose (Luke 9:18). He even prayed before He prescribed a form of prayer (Luke 11:1). When He raised Lazarus from the grave, He prayed (John 11:41). On the cross He prayed for His persecutors (Luke 23:34) and for Himself (Luke 23:46). On a number of other occasions He prayed (Matt. 14:19; John 17:1).

Hebrews 5:7 refers to a very special time when He prayed in great agony. The reference must be either to Gethsemane or the cross. Some would make it both. It is best to limit it to Gethsemane because of the intense inward struggles He passed through which expressed itself in repeated prayers. Some good and godly

men would apply it only to the cross and the loud cry He uttered there (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34; Luke 23:46). I do not wish to be dogmatic, but I must insist that my text applies, in my humble opinion, only to the ordeal in Gethsemane.

The Greek word (*hiketerias*) translated **“supplications”** is found only here in the New Testament. It comes from a verb (*venio*) which signifies “to come.” Some scholars say it means to come to one with an olive branch wrapped in wool. The thought is that as the Son of Man, Christ has to come before God and ask for help in time of need. The word often refers to one that prays prostrate on the ground. It points to Christ’s manner of prayer in Gethsemane: **“And when he was withdrawn from them about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed”** (Luke 22:41). Matthew says: **“And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed. . .”** (Matt. 26:39).

THE AGONY OF THE PRAYER

The prayers and supplications of Christ in Gethsemane came out of deep agony: **“...with strong crying and tears. . .”** No tears are mentioned in the Gospel in Gethsemane, but there is a hint of them (Matt. 26:38). Not all Christ did is recorded in the Gospels (John 21:25). We can be sure from Hebrews 5:7 that Christ shed tears in Gethsemane. Here is seen both the intensity of the sufferings He endured as well as the extent to which He felt them. Christ’s sufferings in a very special sense commenced in the garden. The time has come in His self-identification with His people to ponder human depravity to its depth as He prepares in His innocence and purity to submit Himself in the place of sinners

to the fierceness of God’s wrath. In the garden Christ faced something infinitely more than the fear of physical suffering and death. Multitudes of martyrs have suffered the most painful death without such mental and bodily agony.

The Gospels give the detailed history of this agony: **“Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt”** (Matt. 26:36-39).

Matthew’s account continues: **“He went again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words”** (Matt. 26:42-44). The “cup” mentioned by Christ was His sufferings and death on the cross which would ratify the new covenant.

Luke, the beloved physician, adds: **“And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground”** (Luke 22:44). Theologians denominate this as “the bloody sweat.” This happened on a cold spring night and as He lay on the cold ground. Isaiah said that it pleased the Lord to **“put**

him to grief” (Isa. 53:10).

Able scholars have debated what caused this bloody sweat and tears. Some say our Lord was having a struggle with Satan who sought to kill Him in the garden and to prevent His death on the cross. To these people, His prayer was a petition to be delivered from premature death in the garden and to be permitted to reach the cross. If the Scriptures were to be fulfilled, He must die indeed, but it must not be in the garden, but on the cross. His prayer was answered, and the Father gave Him strength to go on to Calvary. This idea is drawn from Christ’s utterance in the garden: **“My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death”** (Matt. 26:38), and also from the angel coming to strengthen Him (Luke 22:43).

For many years I have held to this view. But intense study has caused me to give it up. It is very hard to reconcile it with all the facts of the Gospels. First, it is clear from the Gospels the cup He had come to drink was the cup of the cross (Matt. 20:22; 26:39,42; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; John 18:11). Second, it was the Father, not Satan, who presented the cup to Christ in Gethsemane---not to drink at that moment, but that He might taste its awfulness. Christ would fully drink it at Calvary. Third, there is no mention of Satan in the struggle in the garden. Such an idea must be read into the text.

Another error, equally as bad as this one, is the contention that Christ’s human nature shrank back and rebelled from drinking the cup in Gethsemane---that Christ asked to be delivered from dying for the sins of His people. This is wrong for many reasons. First, Christ’s human nature never at any time rebelled

♦ (Continued on page 11)

Little Valleys

By Timothy J. Hille of
Ashland, Illinois



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

HONOR

"For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death" (Matt. 15:4). Undoubtedly, many child-rearing experts of our day would find much fault with these words of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thankfully, God is wiser than man. To rightly judge the condition of a nation, people, home, family, or life, all things must be weighed and measured in the balance of God's Word. One of the indicators of spiritual health or decay is the degree to which God's commandments are obeyed. The command to honor one's parents is called **"the first commandment with promise"** (Eph. 6:2), as those who follow it from a heart right with God are promised prosperity, peace, and longevity of life: **"That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth"** (Eph. 6:3).

Man's ways have, since the fall of sin, run contrary to God's ways. One of the greatest indicators of spiritual decline in our society is how well the parents obey the children. Never has a generation sought to raise as weak-minded and irresponsible progeny as we currently see. Human history contains examples of prosperous nations who took their children for granted (neglect) and committed atrocities against their children (abuse); and present-day America is no different. **"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward"** (Ps. 127:3). Americans have taught their children well

how to drink, party, indulge every craving, think of themselves first, value materialism, and deny personal responsibility for one's choices and conduct, mainly by example. When parents cease to regard their children as coming from God and returning to God, and themselves as accountable to God for how their children are raised, the end can only be sorrow and loss. When the rights of godly parents to raise their children in the fear and love of God are trampled, then we will reap the whirlwind.

Sadly, we also see grown children failing to requite the love of their parents. One symptom of this disregard for God's commandments is when the care of Grandpa and Grandma in their "golden years" is unnecessarily left to the government, nursing homes, and others (or they are merely abandoned), while Grandpa and Grandma's offspring spend their time, money, and energy serving their own interests. Jesus was speaking to adult children when he stated, **"For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother."** This commandment of God remains in force so long as one's father or mother is living. **"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways"** (Haggai 1:7).

What can a nation do that has gone far off from God? What can families do who have forsaken God's ways? What can an individual man, woman, boy, or girl do who has turned away from God's commandments? **"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the**

unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isa. 55:7). **"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"** (Prov. 28:13).

(Timothy J. Hille is pastor of the Pleasant Plains Baptist Church of Pleasant Plains, Illinois.)



Prayer of Agony

(Continued from page 10) ♦

against the heavenly Father. Such rebellion would have constituted sin. Jesus repeatedly told His disciples a violent death awaited Him. **"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day"** (Matt. 16:21; cf. 17:22-23; 20:17-19). Christ told Peter when He was arrested by the soldiers in Gethsemane: **"Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"** (John 18:11). Prior to this He had said: **"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour"** (John 12:27; cf. Luke 9:51).

Christ's way, from first to last, was the way of the cross (Mark 10:45). The Father had commanded Him to suffer and die (John 10:18), and He had agreed to die for His sheep (John 10:15). Christ learned **"obedience"** (not "disobedience") by the things which He suffered (Heb. 5:8). Philippians 2:8 declares: **"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death,**

even the death of the cross." Hebrews 12:2 discloses how **"for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame."**

The deep agony Christ suffered in Gethsemane can only be explained by the doctrine of imputed sin. Although He was personally innocent, yet by way of imputation He was about to become the greatest offender who ever lived. As our substitute, He was about to bear our iniquities and pay our sin debt to God with His own blood. He was about to be "made sin" (II Cor. 5:21) and **"a curse"** (Ga. 3:13). The sinless Son of God was about to experience the judgment of a holy God against sin, the second death---separation from God. Later on the cross His terrible cry would be: **"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"** (Mark 15:34). The bloody sweat was caused by the prospect of this coming event.

THE PERSON ADDRESSED IN THE PRAYER

Christ addressed His prayer to God the Father: **"...unto him that was able to save him from death. . ."** Some theologians extend these words to Christ's agony on the cross. But no such repeated **"prayers"** and **"supplications"** were uttered on the cross. It is better to limit this agonizing series of **"prayers"** and **"supplications"** to Gethsemane, for it was in the garden where He first began to feel the weight of our sins.

According to some, the prayer was directed to the Father to save Him from physical death. They say that a prayer need not be literally answered to be proved acceptable to God. The Father immediately demonstrated that His prayer was heard approvingly, though He did not grant His agonizing request, the Father did

♦ (Continued on page 17)

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. In the New Testament Christ speaks of the Temple being destroyed and there would not be **“one stone upon another.”** If the western wall or “wailing wall” is part of the old temple is Christ’s prophecy unfulfilled?

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“Behold, your house is left unto you desolate...And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Matt. 23:38; 24:1-2).

By all historical accounts, what was then known as Herod’s Temple was a wonder to behold. Some of the stones that were brought from the quarry were reported to be 40 by 12 by 12 feet and weighing one ton each. They were quarried to be precisely fitted one to another and brought from several miles away to the building sight. The Temple was said to be a gleaming structure of such beauty that the ancients said if you have not seen it, you have not seen a beautiful building. It was once considered the place where the glory of God dwelt and the worship of Jehovah was extolled. It was an impressive building on the outside, but Jesus declared that the Jew’s house of corporate worship would be left desolate. I find it interesting that Jesus called the Temple **“your**

house” rather than His house. In Matthew 24:1 Jesus departs from the Temple never to return. He predicts the complete destruction of the Temple which would come to fruition in 70 AD when the Roman general Titus leveled, ransacked, and burnt Jerusalem and the Temple to the ground. Some historical records indicate that Titus had scaffolding built around the temple to hold wood and other highly flammable items and set them ablaze. The heat was so great that it reduced the stones to rubble. Afterwards, Titus ordered his men to sift through the rubble to find the melted gold that had survived.

John Gill made an interesting observation in his commentary on these verses: **“Verily, I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down, or broken,** As Munster’s Hebrew Gospel reads it: which prediction had a full and remarkable accomplishment; and which is not only attested by Josephus, who relates, that both the city and temple were dug up, and laid level with the ground; but also by other Jewish writers; who tell us, that ‘on the ninth of Ab, a day prepared for punishments, Turnus Rufus the wicked, ploughed up the temple and all round about it, to fulfill what is said, **Zion shall be ploughed as a field.**’ Yes and to fulfill what Christ here says too, that not one stone should be left upon another, which a plough would not admit of.” (Gill’s Expositor Vol. 7, pages

284-285).

There is no reason to doubt that Christ’s words regarding the Temple were not literally and completely fulfilled when Titus leveled it in 70 AD. That prophecy came to a literal fruition. It is one of many reasons why I believe all the other prophecies Jesus spoke of regarding the great Tribulation and the Second Advent of Christ recorded in Matthew 24 and 25 will be literally fulfilled just as He predicted.

I will always take the words of Jesus over the words of men. I am not sure how or why someone would say that Christ’s prophecy has been left unfilled with regards to the stones of the Temple. Perhaps they are advancing some new eschatological twist to the prophecy. I will simply take Jesus Christ at His Word and leave it at that.

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“And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Mark 13:1-2).

The Wailing Wall of Jerusalem is not part of the Temple, but is rather the remnants of a huge 60 feet high retaining wall that enclosed the Temple Mount. Quote from Wikipedia: “Of the four retaining walls, the western one is considered to be closest to

the former Temple, which makes it the most sacred site recognized by Judaism outside the former Temple Mount esplanade.”

When Christ Jesus made His prophecy, it was concerning the buildings of the Temple, evidently. In A.D. 70, the Roman General Titus culminated the subjugation begun by his father, Vespasian, now the Emperor, after Nero’s death. The Jewish historian Josephus (37 B.C.-100 A.D.) describes this utter obliteration of the Jewish holy temple: “No one can conceive a louder, more terrible shriek than arose from all sides during the burning of the temple. The shout of victory and the jubilee of the legions sounded through the wailings of the people, now surrounded with fire and sword, upon the mountain, and throughout the city. The echo from all the mountains around, even to Peraea, increased the deafening roar. Yet the misery itself was more terrible than this disorder. The hill on which the temple stood was seething hot, and seemed enveloped to its base in one sheet of flame. The blood was larger in quantity than the fire, and those that were slain more in number than those that slew them. The ground was nowhere visible. All was covered with corpses; over these heaps the soldiers pursued the fugitives.” Selah! Think about it!

Philip Schaff, in his *History of the Christian Church, Volume 1* subtitles his chapter on The Jewish War and the Destruction of Jerusalem AD 70, with our text verses in Mark 13. Recognizing that Jesus was presciently prophesying this Roman conquering army reducing the proud fortress city of Jerusalem to rubble, Schaff writes and also quotes Josephus in describing

♦ (Continued on page 14)

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. Would Romans 3:18 speak of many of our political leaders today? It seems all they want to do is **"evil continually."**

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Two Scriptures come to mind along with Romans 3:18! **"The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes"** (Ps. 36:1). **"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"** (Gen. 6:5).

The answer is yes, **"There is no fear of God before their eyes."** This verse absolutely applies to our political leaders. I remember some of the so-called spiritual leaders (Billy Graham and Jerry Falwell) of our country would say that because certain things that are happening are a curse from God. I know Billy Graham because of the AIDS epidemic, he blamed it on Sodomy, and I can not remember what Jerry Falwell's was relating to, but both men received such criticisms from our politicians that they both retracted their statements. God forgive them for doing that.

I just said it from the pulpit Sunday, that the Coronavirus in China could be very well a plague from God because the First Human-Monkey Chimeras was developed in China. This is just an example of what China is trying to do. Here is just a brief statement:

"The National Institutes of Health forbids the use of federal funds to create human-monkey embryos. China, where Izpisúa Belmonte's experiments are taking place, has no such restriction. The crux of the controversy, according to The Guardian, is that it is difficult to restrict human cell growth to just one organ of interest. Should a human-animal hybrid develop a human-like nervous system capable of consciousness, or be brought to term and display human-like behaviors, the ethical consequences could be extreme."

God said, **"And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good"** (Gen. 1:21). But man does not pay any attention to this and thinks his way is better. But God said once again; **"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it"** (Matt. 7:13-14).

We are having destructive floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes, are not these all controlled by God? **"And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the**

piece whereupon it rained not withered" (Amos 4:7).

But when we say that these come from God we are quickly put to the sword and are considered foolish.

"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence" (I Cor. 1:23-29).

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness" (I Cor. 3:19).

Nancy Pelosi, apparently does not fear God, neither does the House majority and the Senate minority leaders. I have never seen such deceit and lying as I have the past few months from these politicians. These politicians are the same ones who would

have the Ten Commandments removed from every government building in America. Why? Because it convicts them of their sins and they do not want to be reminded of them. **"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient"** (Rom. 1:28).

Yes, there is NO fear of our great God in our political leaders today. Would it not be wonderful if there was? In the words of the late Elder John R. Lenegar, "we need to pray for them, we don't do it often enough." God Bless!

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The phrase **"evil continually"** first occurs in Genesis 6:5: **"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."** This of course prompted God to send a world wide flood as a judgment upon the inhabitants of the earth. God commanded Noah to build an enormous ark to house the animals who were to be spared along with Noah's family. Only 8 souls were saved (I Pet. 3:20) from the global catastrophe ordained by God. Jesus predicted that the last days would be like the days of Noah in Matthew 24:36-41. There is no doubt that mankind in general has always been wicked and depraved. However, it does appear that the prophecy Paul wrote under the inspiration of

◇ (Continued on page 14)

Forum Question #1

(Continued from page 12) ♦

the systematic destruction and razing of the temple buildings the Apostles were so proud of... "The Romans planted their eagles on the shapeless ruins, over against the eastern gate, offered their sacrifices to them, and proclaimed Titus Imperator with the greatest acclamations of joy. ...Jerusalem was razed to the ground; only three towers of the palace of Herod -- Hippicus (still standing), Phasaël, and Mariamne -- together with a portion of the western wall, were left as monuments of the strength of the conquered city, once the centre of the Jewish theocracy and the cradle of the Christian Church. Even the heathen Titus is reported to have publicly declared that God, by a special providence, aided the Romans and drove the Jews from their impregnable strongholds.

"Josephus, who went through the war himself from beginning to end, at first as governor of Galilee and general of the Jewish army, then as a prisoner of Vespasian, finally as a companion of Titus and mediator between the Romans and Jews, recognized in this tragical event a divine judgment and admitted of his degenerate countrymen, to whom he was otherwise sincerely attached: 'I will not hesitate to say what gives me pain: I believe that, had the Romans delayed their punishment of these villains, the city would have been swallowed up by the earth, or overwhelmed with a flood, or, like Sodom, consumed with fire from heaven. For the generation which was in it was far more ungodly than the men on whom these punishments had in former times fallen. By their madness the whole nation came to be ruined.' What madness?

The rejection of the Messiah! **"Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. ...Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children"** (Matt. 27:22-25). **"But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us"** (Luke 23:28-30).

The diaspora and 2000 years of Jewish dispersion over the face of this earth began when those stones began to fall there in Jerusalem in A.D. 70. **"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not"** (John 1:10-11). Selah! It Happened!

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The words **"one stone upon another"** appear in Matthew 24:2; Mark 13:2; Luke 21:6. I will try to give a reasonable answer, and start by saying Christ's prophecy has been fulfilled.

Before I continue though, I believe the question is a good one, but I am always leery of a question like this, because a question like this is viewed differently by Amillennialists,

Postmillennialists, and Premillennialists, and to be clear, I am a Premillennialist.

I hope this is a sincere quest for the truth and not to spark an argument, because as I have stated many times before, I will not take a part in that. In fact the late Elder Milburn Cockrell had this to say concerning these three verses in his book *An Exposition of Matthew 24*, "Critics question the fact that a part of the western wall of the second Temple still stands intact near the Dome of the Rock. But such an objection is scarcely worthy of a reply. History records how literally the words of our Lord were fulfilled. Josephus says that Titus ordered the whole city and the sanctuary to be razed to its foundations, except three towers and a part of the western wall. He goes on to tell us that it was so completely demolished by the Roman army that it looked like a site that had never been inhabited."

I stated above that Christ's prophecy has been fulfilled. These words were fulfilled in AD. 70. Titus, the Roman general, built large wooden scaffolds around the walls of the temple buildings, piled them high with wood and other flammable items, and set them ablaze. The heat from the fires was so intense that the stones crumbled. The rubble was then sifted to retrieve the melted gold, and the remaining ruins were **"thrown down"** into the Kidron Valley.

I would like to quote C. H. Spurgeon concerning Matthew 24:2: **"And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."** "The King, having finished his first discourse in the temple, left it, never to return.

His ministry there was ended. As Jesus' disciples moved away with Him toward the Mount of Olives, they called His attention to the great stones of which the temple was constructed and the costly adornments of the beautiful building. To them the appearance was glorious, but to their Lord it was a sad sight. His Father's house, which ought to have been a house of prayer for all nations, had become a den of thieves and soon would be utterly destroyed. Josephus tells us that Titus, the Roman general, at first tried to save the temple, even after it was set on fire, but his efforts were to no avail. At last he gave orders that the whole city and temple should be leveled, except a small portion reserved for the garrison. This was so thoroughly done that the historian says nothing was left to make visitors believe it had ever been inhabited."

Spurgeon's view of this verse seems to concur with Brother Cockrell's. Always remember when you are studying Matthew 24, it consists of three questions asked by the disciples, Jesus answered those questions. God Bless!

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Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 13) ♦

the Holy Spirit is being fulfilled: **"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come... But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived"** (II Tim 3:1, 13). The last days started with the First Advent of Jesus Christ according to Hebrews 1:3 and I Peter 1:20. As time draws closer to the coming of the Lord we can expect an acceleration of

♦ (Continued on page 15)

Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 14) ♦

wickedness and an increase in manifestations of man's depravity. The world is not getting morally or spiritually better. Rather, men are waxing worse and worse as the prophetic Scripture declares. Political leaders are a reflection of increased ungodliness.

The truth stated in Romans 3:18 has always been true of the natural man who is without a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no true fear of God or reverence for God. This is especially true when a society devolves into a spiraling condition of reprobation as revealed in Romans 1:18-32. Romans 3:18 clearly is not limited to political leaders, but extends to all men without Jesus Christ as supported by the context and especially what is stated in Romans 3:23: **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."** Ungodly political leaders rise out of the mass and filth of human depravity, which is why I often refer to them as "super maggots." I have no doubt that some may be saved, but they are in a decided minority. I pray for our political leaders as the Scriptures command in I Timothy 2:1-3. I pray that God will save them and move them to do what is right. I also pray that God will make those who promote and advance ungodliness to be exposed as babblers and idiots so that their agendas may be revealed as such. I have never put my trust in so called political messiahs who are in reality depraved sinners. My hope is in the Lord. Psalm 60:11-12 declares: **"Give us help from troubles: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies."**

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Not just many of our politicians, but every single one without exception is covered by this passage in Romans 3 which damnation concludes in verse 3:18, **"There is no fear of God before their eyes."** The doctrine of total depravity which declares the total inability of man to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ is the clarion trumpet call of this chapter. **"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. ...For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Rom. 3:10-12, 23). Selah! Think about it!

What does it mean, to not fear God? "Fear" in the Scriptures has the thought of "reverence" and naturally falls into a concept of worship, as it venerates the object of this holy and thoughtful fear. The Bible says in: Proverbs 9:10 and 15:33, **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. ...The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility."** Two things to note from these foundational verses: 1) The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom- it is the first fruits of salvation by grace. 2) Before we can truly fear God, we must find

that "honorable humility." That is when God saves us! Then we "fear," "worship" and "love" Him.

So, it is inescapable that our (unsaved) politicians are in this condemned state of unbelief and no fear of God. With the declination of America away from our roots, where the Bible was once our elementary primer and God, the One that we pledged our allegiance unto in high school, we have "forgotten" the fear of the Lord. God is a terribly awesome God! The first step to wisdom is to fear that terribly awesome God. 1) Fear Him for what He might do unto us. (Anybody want to go to His prison of Hell?) **"But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him"** (Luke 12:5). 2) Fear the thought that He might "pass us by." How awful to be forgotten and left in the loneliest wilderness of sin and death. (Ezek. 16:1-6).

Humanism and evolution are the main culprits in this "falling away" from the fear of God in America. The satanic powers that be (Eph. 6:10-17) have worked overtime on our generation of politicians to blind them. **"In whom the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"** (II Cor. 4:4). It is difficult to find any politicians in America that fear God any longer. This is a like generation to Noah's, just before the flood. **"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"** (Gen. 6:5).

In 1776, when our country was

founded, many of our politicians were truly statesmen, that were saved Christians, and daily prayed and trusted in the power of Jesus Christ. I realize that there were also many unsaved deists and deceived among the leaders of the American Revolution, but at least even the majority of them, still had the wisdom to still fear the God of the Bible. His presence and existence has been obvious to EVERY generation. The hubris and pride found in humanism is just an outlet to allow man to blind himself against the very real knowledge and fear of God.

The remnants of this knowledge is seen in Nancy Pelosi's "prayers" and other politicians' lip-service to their constituents, in that they sing "God bless America" or in times of trial, substitute our "thoughts" are with you, instead of prayer and fasting. They fail to recognize a REAL God with REAL power to answer those prayers. This generation of politicians is the first in America to come out and deny the Bible and its God. What a fearful time to live in.

Even our courageous and honorable president, Donald J Trump, needs to find the true fear of God and be saved in that wisdom. I fear for him and his family, that they will be used of God for great things, and yet not know Jesus Christ as their Saviour. I pray for them daily and truly believe that God will answer that prayer of His people. God saved Abraham Lincoln during his presidency, and I trust He will save our current president as well. May God give our American government a fear of God! Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP





Light Contemplations

By Luke Austin
of Cadillac, Michigan

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

THE "POLITICAL" ISSUE

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jer. 1:5).

As a Christian I tend to stay away from politics. It is my conviction that the Bible says to preach Christ, not conservatism. But before anyone gets their knickers in a twist I am a conservative when it comes to politics and actively vote accordingly.

There is an issue that has, as of recently been brought back into the spotlight today. The language of the current political landscape calls it a "social" issue. But in truth it is THE issue. Abortion. This is not a political preference, it is literally a matter of life and death. It is not pro life or pro choice. Every pro has a con. It is pro life or anti life.

It is sickening how our country treats the murder of the unborn. They call it a "social" issue, like it is a small caveat in the grand scheme of a politician's overall platform. How depraved do we have to be as a nation to find it acceptable to even tolerate such a notion? "Um, sir, where do you stand on abortion?" "Oh, I say kill'em all if that is what you want, it is your body after all."

How sad, how demented that we think that we have the right to decide when life has value. That unborn child is a smaller version of a born child. So we deem it within the boundaries of

conscience to kill a child under a certain size? "You must be at least this tall to survive the killers."

You know, throughout history people have used murder to escape consequences. Someone knows too much, someone sees too much and that threat must be removed. From corrupt monarchs to low level drug dealers, consequences are removed by murder. So what about these babies? Well they are an inconvenience, a threat to life going as planned so they must be taken out. You can try and dress it up and make it seem less heinous by calling that baby "a clump of cells," but that clump of cells is pre born life. A clump of cells does not have a beating heart.

Abortion is sick, vicious, vile, depraved, disgusting, demented, just plain wrong. As harsh as the words are that I use to describe abortion, it must be said. There is no point in trying to sugar coat it. But with all of that being said you must understand, if you have had an abortion I do not hate you. I know the depravity of sin and how it can make the wicked seem ok. Maybe you were young. Maybe you were afraid of your parents finding out. Maybe it seemed like your only option. Maybe you did not realize what it really was at the time.

I do not hate you. I hate the institution that made it possible for you do so legally. You, I can forgive. I carry many scars of my own from a life without Jesus. I can not with a clear conscience say that I am somehow better than

you. I had a mountain of sin that would have justly condemned me to hell. But Jesus forgave me and He can forgive you. He came for the lowest of mankind and the basest of sinners. He did not come to save good people, He came for the most desperate offenders. Will you throw yourself upon the mercy of God through His Son Jesus Christ?

"And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matt. 9:11-13).

SAVED FROM WHOSE WRATH?

"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Rom. 5:7-10).

Much is said of the love of God in modern Christianity, and rightly so. The love of God is infinitely higher than anything we can fit inside the framework of our finite minds. God commendeth His love toward us. That is He communicates or sends His love to us through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son. I in no way

seek to downplay the love of God, it is the wonder of all wonders, that God would send His Son to die for the ungodly. Think of your worst enemy, the person who you despise and can not stand to be in the presence of, now multiply that disdain by the infinite holiness of God and you can get a taste of the hatred God has for sin and yes, sinners. But, consider what the text above says, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus came to save His enemies by His own death. This is a love that only an infinitely Holy God can express.

Now consider what verse 9 says. We who are saved have been saved from wrath but whose wrath? **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him"** (John 3:36). We have not been saved from hell. So often the gospel is presented that way today. Yes, hell is a terrible place, and you should desire to escape that end, but understand those that are sent there are sent there by a wrathful God who hates sin. Matthew 1:21 says Jesus shall save His people from their sin. God hates sin with a terrible anger. If that sin goes unwashed by the blood of Jesus that sin must be punished.

You must understand that God's wrath is as infinite as His love. We love to talk of the amazing love of God. And it is amazing, but what makes it so wonderful? His love, His shed blood on the cross, rescued me from His terrible wrath. We praise and thank God with the highest of praises because while we were yet sinners, vile, putrid, deserving of the worst condemnation, Christ died for us. God's wrath adds immensely to the value of His love. Trying

♦ (Continued on page 17)

Light Contemplations

(Continued from page 16) ♦

to preach the love of God and leave off from the wrath of God is like painting a picture without the shadows in the background. Light does not stand out as it should without darkness. Do not stick your fingers in your ears every time the preacher speaks of God's wrath. It is the very thing that you need to know, that God's wrath is the most terrifying sight imaginable, there is not a close second place. Flee from the wrath to come. Turn to Jesus and place your trust in Him. The mightiest of men tremble at the sight of His anger. **"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand"** (Rev. 6:15-17)?

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



Prayer of Agony

(Continued from page 11) ♦

all He could do toward granting it by strengthening His Son for the conflict.

This view does not satisfy me. If Christ feared physical death and was heard in that He feared, then He would have been delivered from physical death. We know from Holy Scripture that He was not delivered from physical death. Nor can this idea be reconciled with John 11:42 where Christ said

that the Father heard Him always. I freely grant that the Father did send an angel to strengthen Christ's human nature: **"And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him"** (Luke 22:43).

Our Savior did not pray to be delivered from (*apo*) dying, but out of (*ek*) death into which He was to come. In Psalm 16:10-11 it was written: **"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life. . ."** The Father heard His prayer in that He promised to raise Him from the dead and deliver Him from the power of the grave. The Syriac version renders it: **"to quicken him from death,"** meaning to restore Him from death to life. This fits well with Hebrews 13:20 that tells us: **"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant. . ."**

THE ANSWER OF THE PRAYER

The prayer of Christ was not disregarded by the Father. This prayer of Christ, like all the other prayers that He prayed, was an acceptable prayer: **"And was heard in that he feared."** William Gouge (1575-1653) informs us that the Greek word translated **"heard"** signifies not only hearing, but also the granting of the request that is heard (Luke 1:13; Acts 10:31). It is very likely that Psalm 116:3-5 was a prophecy of this event: **"The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. Then called I upon the name of the LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is**

merciful."

The Greek word (*eulabeia*) translated "fear" is rendered two different ways. Our King James Version renders it in the text by our word "fear," and in the margin "for his piety." Some render the words "for his godly fear."

If you give it the first sense, it would best agree with the proposition "from" (*ek*). The meaning then would be that Christ was so heard in His prayer to the Father that He was delivered from that which He feared. The Father promised to save Him from the dominion and power of death.

If you adopt the second meaning, "for his piety," then the sense is that He was heard for His human piety. This same Greek word is translated **"godly fear"** in Hebrews 12:28. The dignity and reverence Christ had for the Father made His petition acceptable. The prayer of a God-fearing person prevails with the Father (Jas. 5:16).

It seems to me that the prayer of Christ in Gethsemane was answered in a twofold sense. First, Christ in this prayer asked the Father to sustain His frail human nature when it would be subjected to Divine wrath. Christ's death would be the penal visitation of God's anger upon Him for our sins. Our Lord feared this would be more than His frail human nature could bear, and He knew He must bear our grief and carry our sorrows (Isa. 53:3). Being supported by Divine power, Christ was able to bear the burden of the punishment of all the sins of God's elect.

Second, the Father promised Him that He would not remain under the power of death and the grave. Before His human body saw corruption, it would be raised back to life. Paul said: **"For**

though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God" (II Cor. 13:4).

CONCLUSION

1. The God who heard the prayer of Christ in the garden will hear us when we pray in Christ's name. Jesus Christ said: **"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it"** (John 14:14). Again He declared: **"That whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you"** (John 15:16).

2. Christ's crying and tears as being the Surety of our sins should make us weep and cry for our sins. Can we take lightly that which forced our Surety to make strong cries? Let us cry, "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for my sins."

3. Times of great distress should drive us to God as it did Christ. Let us cry out to God by prayers and supplications for help in time of need. If Christ needed Divine help, how much more do we?

4. Let us be earnest in our prayers. When did you beseech God for a blessing with **"strong crying and tears"**? Are you among God's elect who **"cry day and night unto him"** (Luke 18:7)?

5. Oh, how our Lord suffered in Gethsemane and on the cross. He suffered both physical and spiritual death. His was the death of death. This was so His people might have no fear of either physical or spiritual death. He shed many tears that one day God might wipe all tears from our eyes. Do you know this Savior? Have you committed the keeping of your soul into His hands? Have you ever repented of your sins and believed the gospel?



Evidence of

(Continued from page 1) ♦

from the sacred Scriptures,

I. What it is to be Christ's disciple.

II. As it is Christ's design that His disciples, through life, should know that they are His disciples, so it is His design that they should prove to others that they are His disciples.

III. This knowledge is essential to true humility, and it is the only ground of true happiness and comfort to Christians through life and in death.

I. WHAT IT IS TO BE CHRIST'S DISCIPLE.

A disciple is a learner, a follower, an adherent to the doctrines of another. To be truly a disciple of Christ is to be truly a Christian--a hearty follower of the meek and lowly Saviour, in all His ordinances and commandments. We are not His disciples by our first birth--"**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**" Let us inquire,

1. By what power is this great change produced?

It is a remarkable fact which should never be overlooked in the consideration of this subject, that the total depravity of the human heart is represented in the Holy Scriptures in language the strongest and most impressive. If we strike from the Bible the doctrine of total depravity, we strike from it the doctrine of the necessity of a divine atonement. Paul in his epistle to the Ephesians represents himself and them as having been "**dead in sin,**" but by the rich mercy of God who had loved them, "**even when dead in sins,**" they had been so changed as to become "**new creatures.**"

This change, which is called the new birth, is produced by the power of the Holy Spirit. "**It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing.**"

2. What are some of the evidences that we are born again, are under the renewing power of the Holy Spirit?

Do not the Scriptures give us distinct instruction on this subject? "**Every one that loveth is born of God**" (I John 4:7). If we do not love Christians we are not converted, are not under the power of reigning grace. "If we love not our brother whom we have seen, how shall we love God whom we have not seen?" Wherever the work of conversion is accomplished, there is created in the soul a sorrow for sin, a hatred of it, and a hearty turning from it, connected inseparably with a hungering and thirsting after righteousness, after personal holiness. The love of God, the love of His Word, the love of His people, together with delight in doing His will, are all found in happy connection in the heart of the true disciple of Christ. Faith, which is the gift of God, lies at the foundation of all these exercises of the soul, and none of these things can truly exist in the soul without it. The testimony of Paul sustains this remark: "**For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness through faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love**" (Gal. 5:5-6). This sentiment is supported by Peter in the conference at Jerusalem. He says: "God who knoweth the hearts, beareth them witness, giving unto them the Holy Spirit, even as he did unto us, and put no difference between us (the Jews) and them, (the Gentiles,) purifying their

hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8-9).

The conclusion then is clear, that there is no genuine repentance, no hatred of sin, no humility, no love of holiness, no work of sanctification in the soul, no spiritual prosperity where there is no faith.

"Evangelical repentance," says Gill, "is from the Spirit of God, and follows upon real conversion and divine illumination. It is attended with faith and hope, and flows, not from a dread of punishment, but from love to God and a hatred of evil" (*Body of Divinity*). "**Surely, after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed I smote upon my thigh**" (Jer. 31:19).

II. AS IT IS CHRIST'S DESIGN THAT HIS DISCIPLES, THROUGH LIFE, SHOULD KNOW THAT THEY ARE HIS DISCIPLES, SO IT IS HIS DESIGN THEY SHOULD PROVE TO OTHERS THAT THEY ARE HIS DISCIPLES.

In the sacred Scriptures all the human family are represented as transgressors, and as enemies and haters of God's holy law. Jesus Christ assures us they are all gone out of the way, and are in the broad road that leads to death. "**Enter ye in at the strait gate,**" says He, "**for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**" But blessed be God, there are some who do find it, and give evidence to others that they have found it, and know for themselves that they are led by the Spirit and are "**the Sons of God,**" "**For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba,**

Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:15-16).

Jesus Christ came into the world "**to seek and to save that which was lost,**" and no sinner ever truly comes to Christ for salvation who doubts his being a lost sinner. He must know that he is guilty, know that he is altogether vile, know that he is carnal, sold under sin, know that he is a child of wrath, even as others, before he can repent. Repentance is a stern work, and perfectly excludes all doubting in reference to guilt, "**For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.**" There are no "ifs" in the work of repentance. The prodigal son did not come to his father doubting his sin and guilt, saying, "Father, if I have sinned." No; he came, saying, "**Father I have sinned.**"

Now, we maintain, that just as certainly as the sinner must know that he is a lost sinner, in order to repent of his sins, just so certainly must he know that he is a forgiven sinner--know that God's anger is turned away, in order to have the comforts of God's salvation, in order to have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Has any sinner ever come to Christ who was not first led by the Spirit? Has any one ever believed in Christ, "to the saving of souls," to whom this grace was not given? The answer to this question comes from the holy oracles, loud as thunder, NO! and the response of every pious heart on earth is, NO! "**As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God,**" says Paul. "By this title of sons of God," says Haldane, "the doubt and servile fears of the church of Rome are condemned,

♦ (Continued on page 20)

Little Hills

By Nathaniel Hille of
Plant City, Florida



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON – BIBLE SURVEY #11 ADAM

TEXT: Gen. 2:1-25

DEVOTIONAL READING: I Cor. 15:45

AIM: An Over-view of the Life of Adam

INTRODUCTION—We want to look at some of the people in the Pentateuch. Our first shall be, the very first man—Adam.

I. FACTS: Adam is the first person (I Tim. 2:13). He was created by God (Gen. 2:7). He lived 930 years and he died (Gen. 5:5). He was married to woman, later named Eve (Gen. 2:23; 3:20). He had 3 sons that were named: Cain, Abel, Seth; yet we are told that he had other sons and daughters (Gen. 5:4). He is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:45).

II. ORIGINAL CREATION: Eccl. 7:29; Gen. 2:7—The Bible makes it clear that God and God alone created man. He formed him of the dust of the ground. Here we see that man is responsible to his Creator.

1. Upright: Eccl. 7:29—the word means “right, righteous, just, straight, pleasing.”¹ The Lord God made man without sin. He was perfect and very good. Since God created man—He can only create that which is upright, especially since man was created in God’s image (Gen. 1:27).

A. Estate: This word means “condition” or “stage.” While man was created “upright” he was not created with immutability (not-changing). Man was able to change—and this he did when he sinned against God by disobeying God and eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17; 3:6-7).

III. MARRIAGE: Gen. 2:18-25—The first marriage was performed by the Lord. It was between man and a woman. This set the standard of marriage. God said—**“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet [suitable/fit] for him”** (Gen. 2:18).

1. God will make the helpmeet suitable for Adam—this needs to be remembered. NOTE: God brought all of creation before Adam and there was not one fit to be his helper. So he created one, whom Adam called “Woman” since she was taken from man’s side or womb.

2. God’s Laws of Marriage: Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-5—Scriptures make it clear that it is God who established the laws of marriage, not man. God’s Word makes it plain that marriage is only separated by death.

IV. FIRST DWELLING PLACE: Gen. 2:8-10—We are told that Adam dwelt in a garden that the Lord planted. The word Eden = pleasantness or pleasure (Isa. 51:3).

1. Purpose: Gen. 2:15—**“to dress (work) it and to keep (to hedge about—implying to protect) it.”** It was not “paradise” as some would think. It was a place where Adam was put to work.

V. THE FALL: Gen. 3:6-20—Even though Adam was created

upright—it was not a fixed foundation upon which he stood. Here we find that Adam fell, not from grace, but from his 1st estate, condition/stage.

1. Disobedience: Rom. 5:12, 19—when Adam ate from the forbidden tree he disobeyed the clear command of the Lord.

2. Results: There was but one punishment for the disobedience—death (Gen. 2:17). In death there is a separation. Adam was separated from God because of sin. The same is true today. It was illustrated in the banishment of Adam and the woman from the garden (Gen. 3:23-24).

3. Man Corrupted: Rom. 5:12, 19; Gen. 5:1-3—Please observe the difference between Gen. 5:1 & Gen. 5:3—Adam was created in the likeness of God; Seth begotten in the likeness of Adam.

A. Sinful Race: Rom. 3:23—When Adam fell from his first estate—his children fell in him. He was our representative, as well as we were in him. Remember, like produces like. Since Adam had sinned, was a sinner—he produced such. Thus, we come forth from our mothers’ wombs speaking lies (Ps. 58:3).

B. Man’s Religion: Gen. 3:7—they sewed fig leaf aprons. These speak of man’s work, no blood (no death), aprons (did not cover them completely).

VI. REDEMPTION OF ADAM: Gen. 3:15, 20-21—As always, salvation is by grace through faith. Here we see the gospel (Gen. 3:15). Next we see faith (Gen. 3:20). Last we see justification (Gen. 3:21). The animals that were slain to make the coat of skins represent Christ—they died so Adam and Eve would not; blood shed, and coats were made to cover them from the animal that died—a picture of Christ’s righteousness imputed to believers

VII. THE SECOND ADAM: I Cor. 15:45—This is Jesus!

1. The first Adam was of the earth, made out of the earth, and was earthy; but He, the 2nd Adam, is the Lord from Heaven—who came down from Heaven, and quickens (makes alive) whom He wills (John. 5:20-21; John. 6:33).

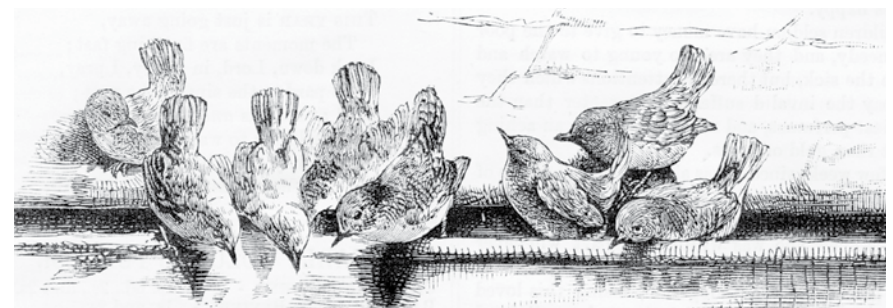
2. He is also called—“the last Adam” (I Cor. 15:45). This indicates that there are no more who shall stand before God in representation of another. Truly, there is one name given under Heaven among men whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

3. A Quickening Spirit—far different from a living soul. Spirit is that which is alive unto God. So in the last Adam we are alive unto God.

NOTES

1. *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary*

(Nathaniel Hille is pastor of the Bible Baptist Church of Plant City, Florida.)



Evidence of

(Continued from page 18) ♦

which teaches that believers should be uncertain, respecting their salvation and the love of God. But ought they to doubt the love of their heavenly Father? The Scriptures teach them to call God their heavenly Father; but according to that apostate church, they ought to be uncertain whether they are the children of God, or the children of the devil. This error the Apostle combats. The title, then, of 'sons of God,' is full of consolation, for we thus approach to God as 'our Father,' and have access with boldness to His throne of grace. Even in our afflictions we lift up our eyes to Him as to a gracious Father; and we know that our afflictions are only chastisements and trials from His paternal love, which He employs for our benefit, that we may be partakers of His holiness."

Can we conceive of a more miserable condition in human life, than for an individual to be brought by the power of the Divine Spirit, to know that he is a lost sinner---a justly condemned sinner before God; and yet for such a sinner never to be permitted to know that he is a pardoned, forgiven sinner? Every pious heart is ready to answer, we cannot conceive of a more wretched condition in this life. **"Oh wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death"** (Rom. 7:24)? How miserable forever must the Apostle have been but for what follows: **"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

Yes, blessed be God, there is forgiveness with Him, that He may be feared, loved and adored. He who comes to Jesus as a lost sinner shall not be sent empty away. He shall not be permitted

to remain all his lifetime groaning under a knowledge of his guilt and condemnation, and never be permitted to know the bliss of pardoning mercy. The God of hope will fill him with all joy and peace in believing, and though he may feel he is a sinner, he will feel he is a forgiven sinner.

Evangelical repentance is based upon a knowledge of guilt---a full, clear, undoubted, heartfelt conviction that God might in justice turn the sinner into Hell, and all the nations that forget God. Now, a consciousness that God's anger is turned away on our believing in Jesus Christ, is that which will give joy and peace. It may not be too much to assert that the greatest woe, the deepest misery which can come upon the soul, either in this life or that which is to come, is realized under a consciousness, that God's anger rests and must forever rest upon it. On the other hand, the conclusion is fair, is scriptural, that there is no greater bliss known upon earth or in Heaven, than that which arises from a consciousness that God is reconciled to us in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is enough for the Christian on earth, enough for him in Heaven.

The Apostle John says: **"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word; in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth, and hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him"** (I John 2:4-5; 3:18-19). "Here we are distinctly told," says Mr. Law,

"that obedience, and active, and truthful love, are essential to our knowing that we know God and are of the truth; but God reveals to no man, (unless you call the motions of grace a revelation,) his actual possession of this obedience and love, but leaves it for him to determine the point by their being present in the heart; and of their presence, I question whether there can be any greater certainty than consciousness, and I believe a real, undoubted consciousness of their existence, will give the heart all that assurance before God of which the Apostle speaks."

Mr. Andrew Fuller says: "If any one imagine that God has revealed to him His interest in His love, and this in a special and extraordinary manner, and not by exercising in him the holy exercises of grace, and thereby begetting a consciousness of his being a subject of grace, let him beware lest he deceive his soul. The Jews were not wanting in what some would call the faith of assurance. 'We have our Father, even God,' said they; but Jesus answered then, 'If God were your Father ye would love me.'"

It is related of a minister of the gospel, who was accustomed to catechise the young people of his charge every Lord's day evening, that on one occasion after he had received an answer to the question, What is effectual calling? he proposed that the answer to it should be changed so as to substitute the words me and my, in place of us and our. The minister wished to know how many could answer it in that way. Upon this proposition a solemn prevailed. At length a young man rose up, and with evident marks of a heart-broken and contrite spirit by divine grace, he answered: "Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit,

whereby convincing me of my sin and misery, enlightening my mind in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing my will; he did persuade and enable me to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to me in the gospel." The scene which followed this was truly affecting. The proposition of the question had commanded unusual solemnity, and the rising up of the young man had created high expectations, and the answer being accompanied with proofs of unfeigned piety and modesty, the congregation was bathed in tears. Indeed, a scene like this is well calculated to melt the heart of Christians, and to cause joy in the presence of the angels of God.

Fellow travelers to the judgment bar of God, how many of you who hear me today, can answer this question as did this young man? In his case we have a beautiful illustration of the correctness of our position, to wit: that where there is genuine conversion there must be a knowledge, a consciousness of it. Self is denied and Christ is embraced freely, fully, knowingly, happily. Others, besides Peter and this young man, have been enabled by divine grace to say, **"Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love thee."**

The sentiment, that it is not possible for the disciple to know that he is the child of God, and that it takes him all his lifetime to evince to himself and to the world, that he is truly a disciple of Jesus Christ is so repeatedly contradicted by the plain teachings of the sacred Word, that we need not, it would seem, consume time in showing its absurdity. Being at variance with Bible truth, as well as the consciousness of thousands of Christ's followers, it cannot afford any comfort to the pious

♦ (Continued on page 21)

Evidence of

(Continued from page 20) ♦

heart, nor be of any practical utility in the life of the Christian. "The entrance of the Word giveth light."

When Christ put the question to Peter and the other disciples, **"But whom say ye that I am?"** Peter's answer was, **"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."** Jesus then replied, **"Blessed art thou, Simon Barjonah: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven"** (Matt. 16:17). The knowledge which Peter had of the Son of God, as his Saviour, was not based upon the fact that he had seen Jesus with his natural eyes, but upon the fact that God had communicated it to him by the power of His grace. Hundreds had seen Jesus and had witnessed His miracles, but they did not receive Him and know Him as Peter knew Him.

In the sixth chapter of the gospel by John, Peter again says, **"And we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."** Every true believer in Christ may properly use this language, **"And that no one can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit"** (I Cor. 12:3). Paul says, **"The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."** **"Thomas, because thou hast seen me thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."** Others before, and many since the day that Thomas exclaimed, **"My Lord and my God,"** have believed in Jesus, and have felt themselves authorized to claim Him as their Lord and their God.

The Psalmist says: **"The LORD is my light and my salvation."**

"The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

Robert Haldane says: "This displeases the world, because it condemns the world." They affect to consider it presumption, but it is only a proper expression of our belief in God's testimony with regard to His Son. Such language it is the privilege of every believer to use, and he will do so in proportion as the love of God is shed abroad in his heart, by the Holy Spirit which is given unto him. (Haldane on Romans 1:8).

"I know whom I have believed," says Paul to Timothy, **"and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day."** Undoubtedly the Apostle knew he was a Christian before **"that day"** ---the day of his death. He knew he had committed all the interests of his soul and body, for time and for eternity, to Christ Jesus his Lord.

"This knowledge," says John Gill, "has always some degree of certainty in it, and though it is imperfect, it is progressive, and the least measure of it is saving, and has eternal life connected with it." We should grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. O what a fearful thing to have a name to live while we are dead! To have a place in the house of God and be destitute of the knowledge of Christ.

"I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another" (Job 19:25). Job knew

his Redeemer in the same way Paul knew Him---by faith. This doctrine is as old as the days of Abel. **"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous."** Enoch, too, had his witness, **"for before his translation he had this testimony that he pleased God"** (Heb. 11:4-5).

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your ownelves; know ye not your ownelves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates...But I trust that ye shall know that we, (myself and Timothy,) are not reprobates" (II Cor. 13:5-6). Self-examination is enjoined by the Apostle for highly important purposes. Our own spiritual happiness is increased just so far as we know that we are **"in the faith,"** and when we have indubitable evidence that others are partakers of like precious faith, this happiness is still increased. But we never should rest satisfied that we are converted, are Christians, merely because our fellow disciples may so esteem us. That man is not yet a converted man, who bases his hopes that he is, upon the favorable opinions God's people entertain of him. **"Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God,"** said Paul. **"I know that my Redeemer liveth... whom I shall see for myself,"** said Job.

In that remarkably interesting lesson of instruction, delivered to His disciples on the mount, our Lord said to them, **"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men**

light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Can a Christian read these declarations and not feel deeply impressed with a sense of the highly responsible position he occupies? The light of the knowledge of the glory of God has been poured into his heart that he may pour it out, instrumentally, upon the world around him. But shall he not know, nor those around him know, that he had any light until his removal by death? Is it not a miserable perversion of our Lord's arrangement, to press unconverted persons into the church? It is like mixing dirt with salt; it makes the bulk larger, but it checks its power. It is taking earth to salt the earth. It is applying darkness to remove darkness---introducing death to impart life.

Those who do not love each other will not love to work together. But Christ intended His disciples should be **"labourers together,"** and for this purpose He commanded them to love one another, and thus to let all men know they are His disciples.

The fact that professed Christians do not work together, proves to the unconverted world, that they do not love each other as they should. To come together and then to go their way and speak, (or write a book probably,) opposing strenuously and firmly, not to say furiously and foully, the faith and practice of their fellow disciples, is treating holy things with lightness, thus pulling down the character of true godliness before the scoffing world.

The religion of Jesus

♦ (Continued on page 22)

Evidence of

(Continued from page 21) ♦

Christ is a religion of love, of unwavering reality, forbidding all dissimulation, and enjoining us to love one another out of a pure heart, fervently. Our piety should not be of a questionable character, neither in our own view, nor in the view of those who may behold us.

The Apostle says to the Corinthians, **"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."** (II Cor. 3:2-3).

The Apostle considered their piety as a church of Christ fully manifested; but, says an objector, Paul has told us in reference to this church, that **"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named amongst the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who hath done this deed might be taken away from among you."** We reply in answer to this, that when the Apostle brought this great sin before them in his epistle, and told them to deliver such an one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, they saw their sin as a church, in retaining "such an one," and repented and promptly excluded him. **"For behold this self-same thing,"** (says Paul,) **"that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement**

desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter" (II Cor. 7:11). We here see the Christian character is known by its developments, just as the tree is known by its fruit while living.

God requires all converted sinners to let their light so shine that others may see their good works and be converted. He enjoins it upon them, that whatever they may do, the religion of Jesus Christ may be, and appear to be, the ruling passion in their lives, that they may declare plainly to others that they seek a heavenly country.

From what has been said we consider our proposition fully established, that is, as it is Christ's design His disciples through life should know that they are His disciples, so it is His design they should prove themselves to be His disciples. While we are permitted to live in this world as the disciples of Christ, it is our privilege to know we are on the Lord's side; and it is our duty so to live that others shall know it. **"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him."** O! what a reflection upon our Christian profession, when we manifest a morose, petulant, over-bearing, unyielding temper, either at home, abroad, or in church conference! **"Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."** **"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we loved the brethren."**

(Continued in the next issue)



THE

BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

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

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

INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDS MASS FUNERAL

(CH)--Indiana's attorney general Curtis Hill held a service for the remains of more than 2,400 unborn babies found in a late abortionist's home and car last year. "We lay to rest the remains of 2,411 unborn children. In doing so, we fulfill our obligation as a state pursuant to law and conscience to the unborn babies whose lives were terminated through abortions performed in clinics in Fort Wayne, Gary and South Bend," Hill said in his statement at the service.

215 HOUSE DEMOCRATS BACK BILL THAT WOULD OVERTURN HUNDREDS OF PRO-LIFE STATE LAWS

(CH)--A bill that would guarantee a right to an abortion and overturn nearly every state-level restriction of the procedure has the support of nearly half of the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives.

H. R. 2975, the "Women's Health Protection Act of 2019," received a hearing in the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and would guarantee the right to an abortion even if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade.

"A health care provider has a statutory right under this Act to provide abortion services, and may provide abortion services, and that provider's patient has a corresponding right to receive such services," the bill says.

The bill lists a dozen ways that states are prohibited from interfering with

abortion services, including delaying an abortion and performing "specified tests, services, or procedures" prior to an abortion. Such language would nullify waiting periods and ultrasound requirements. The bill also guarantees late-term abortions as long as the pregnancy poses "a risk to the pregnant patient's life or health." Courts have interpreted "health" to include virtually anything, including the mental health of a woman – effectively allowing abortion for any reason.

Since 2010, the bill says, 400 abortion restrictions have passed on the state and local level.

The bill has 216 sponsors or co-sponsors. Of those, 215 are Democrats. (Rep. Van Drew, who recently switched to the Republican party, supports the bill.) The House has 435 seats.

If enacted and upheld by the federal courts, it would invalidate nearly all state limitations on abortion, including waiting periods and women's right-to-know laws. It would invalidate state laws to protect pain-capable unborn children after 20 weeks fetal age – and would require all states to allow abortion even during the final three months of pregnancy based on an abortionist's claim of 'health' benefits, including mental health."

DEMOCRATS WALK OUT OF HOUSE MEETING AFTER PASTOR PRAYS FOR RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN, BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

(CH)--Democrats walked off the floor of the Virginia House of

♦ (Continued on page 23)

Bible & the Newspaper

(Continued from page 22) ♦

Delegates Tuesday after a pastor delivered an invocation urging them to protect the “unborn” and to uphold “biblical, traditional marriage.”

The six-minute prayer by Robert M. Grant Jr. of The Father’s Way Church in Warrenton, Va., eventually was cut off by House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, a Democrat, who gaveled the prayer to a close and began citing the Pledge of Allegiance.

“I pray that you may understand that all life is precious and worthy of a chance to be born, and God is a giver of life and people have no right or authority to take life,” Grant prayed. “The unborn has rights, and those rights need to be protected. They should never be denied the right to exist, the right to develop, or the right to have a family. The Word of God has given us a warning – woe to anyone who harms an innocent child. Every one of you sitting here today can guarantee these rights to these little innocent children of Virginia. ... Please do not ignore their little voices. I pray for a heart change today.”

Grant further prayed that the chamber would uphold the “biblical, traditional marriage as God instructed the first man and the first woman in the Bible, that the two shall be one flesh, that a man and a woman shall be fruitful and multiply.” “We should never rewrite what God has declared,” he prayed.

One Democrat shouted, “Is this a prayer or a sermon?” Michael Weibert, a Republican, invited Grant to pray.

“I think that the statehouse belongs to all the citizens. And all the citizens have a voice,” Grant told reporters after the prayer. “If it’s my turn to have a voice, and I am a pastor, what do you expect from me? If you don’t want to hear what a pastor has to say, then don’t invite one.”

OKLAHOMA HOUSE PASSES

BILL REVOKING MEDICAL LICENSES OF ABORTION DOCTORS

(CH)--A bill revoking the medical license of any doctor who performs an abortion passed the Oklahoma House of Representatives last week and now moves to the Senate. H.B. 1182, which passed 71-21, would add “performance of an abortion” to the list of “unprofessional” conducts that can get a doctor’s license revoked. Any doctor who performs an abortion would lose his or her license for one year. Rep. Jim Olsen, a Republican, is the bill’s sponsor stated: “In supporting this, we are thinking about the value of the life of the mother and equally the life of the baby. We are told the Supreme Court is the supreme law of the land, that we cannot protest its decision. There is a court even higher than the Supreme Court. There is the court of God. Abortion is a violation of the law of God.”

FLORIDA REPUBLICAN PROPOSES BILL TO OUTLAW SEX CHANGE SURGERY FOR KIDS

(CH)--A Florida Republican has proposed legislation that seeks to ban gender reassignment surgery and treatment for children. The legislation, put forward by State Rep. Anthony Sabatini, stipulates a \$10,000 fine or 15 years in prison for any doctor who facilitates gender reassignment treatment for minors. Sabatini said that he sponsored the bill in response to a lack of information regarding the risks associated with undergoing gender reassignment as a child. “It’s the wild west ... there’s no real guidelines, laws, no real valid diagnoses given to a child before they go down the path of changing their gender,” he said. “This bill makes sure that a young person waits until they are 18 years old before they make an irrevocable decision to change into the opposite sex.” Sabatini noted that there has been an unprecedented push from the left to

normalize the life-altering treatment, despite the fact that, statistically, most of those who transition seek to go back to their biological gender at a later date. Sabatini said that “80 percent of children who experience gender dysphoria outgrow it, but radical leftists want to make it permanent with dangerous medical procedures simply to further a political agenda.” The Republican Representative also highlighted the adverse effects of puberty blockers, which have been well-documented by a series of medical experts; one of the commonly-used drugs, Lurpon, has been linked to serious bone problems, alongside anxiety and depression.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE ADVANCES BILLS TO LOOSEN ABORTION RESTRICTIONS

(CH)--Two years after the Virginia legislature declared Jan. 22—the Roe v. Wade anniversary—as the “Day of Tears in Virginia,” in memory of “the innocents who have lost their lives to abortion,” the Democrat-controlled governing body is poised to dismantle the state’s pro-life protections. A House committee advanced a bill to the floor that would allow nurse practitioners and certified nurse-midwives to perform first-trimester abortions while eliminating regulations mandating a 24-hour waiting period and ultrasounds before such procedures. It would also roll back a law requiring clinics performing more than a few abortions a month have hospital-equivalent facility standards. Additionally, all health coverage plans would be required to cover the costs of services, drugs, devices and procedures related to abortions under the umbrella of reproductive health. Following the lead of their Republican counterparts who issued the “Day of Tears in Virginia” declaration in 2017, Democrats are now proposing Jan. 22 be declared the “Day of Women in Virginia” to “celebrate women in

♦ (Continued on page 24)

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 1-1-2020 to 1-31-2020

Beginning Balance	\$2,923.60
RECEIPTS:	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	300.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Berea B. C. B. (For MS State Sales tax)	115.80
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV	200.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	300.00
Carol Willett, Cottonwood Shores, TX	60.00
Citrus M. B. C. Inverness, FL	25.00
Emmanuel B. C., Oldtown, KY	200.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	200.00
Grace B. C., Rural Hall, NC	50.00
Grace Missionary B. C. Tulsa, OK	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC	50.00
Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY	35.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00
Parkway L. B. C., Springfield, OR	100.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR	50.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS	25.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX	30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Wellington, KS	100.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	25.00
Subscriptions	42.00
Anonymous	720.00
Dividing checks	300.00
Sub Total	\$3,437.80
TOTAL	\$6,361.40
EXPENDITURES:	
Printing	490.00
Postage	597.05
Wages	2,300.00
FICA	175.90
MS State Sales Tax	115.80
Dividing checks	300.00
Total Expenditures	\$3,978.75
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,382.65



BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 1-1-2020 to 1-31-2020

Beginning Balance	\$2,484.01
RECEIPTS:	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	225.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	100.00
Calvary Ind. B. C., Sumas, WA	100.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	200.00
.....	625.00
TOTAL	3,109.01
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	403.98
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	403.98
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,705.03

Bible & the Newspaper

(Continued from page 23) ♦ leadership.”

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA RAIDS

CHURCHES FOR ‘ILLEGAL’ BIBLES

(CH)--Government officials within China have confiscated Bibles from churches in recent months and threatened fines as part of an intensified crackdown on Christianity and an effort to eradicate “illegal publications,” according to a new report. The campaign has targeted illegal underground churches as well as legal Three-Self churches, which are registered with the government. In some locations, church members have stopped bringing their Bibles to church out of concern they will be taken.

‘BRAZIL BELONGS TO GOD’

BRAZIL’S PRESIDENT

PROFESSES HIS FAITH

(CH)--Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro stated that he “believes in Jesus as his Savior and that Brazil belongs to God.” Bolsonaro hasn’t been quiet about his faith in recent years. According to CBN, he’s considered himself a God-fearing man. His faith was strengthened during his presidential campaign and after he was nearly killed in an assassination attempt. “Doctors who attended to me said that for every 100 stabbings of the kind I endured, only one person survives. So, I am a survivor and owe my life to God. It was His will for me to live,” he said. As the 38th Brazilian president, Bolsonaro campaigned to make Judeo-Christian principles a high value in his administration. Known as the “Trump of the Tropics,” his motto has been “Brazil above everything, God above all.”



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Cortland, Ohio, has called Elder Nathan Long as pastor and he has accepted the call. Please remember this church and their new pastor in your prayers.

The Grace Bible Baptist Church of Denham Springs has called Elder Robert (Bob) Keller as pastor and he has accepted. Please remember this church and their new pastor in your prayers.

The Beauty Mountain Baptist Church of Edmond, WV invites everyone to attend their Spring Revival Meeting, March 16th-20th with Elder Joseph Sidders pastor of Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Temperance, MI.

Services will be at 7:00 p.m. each evening. There will be a fellowship meal at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 20th.

The Berea Baptist Church of Mantachie, MS will be having their Annual Fellowship meeting April 4th. Service time is 10:00 a.m. Scheduled speakers are Elders Paul Stepp, and George

Kelly. A meal following the service will be provided by the church.

All are invited to attend.

The Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Temperance, MI, and pastor Joe Sidders would like to announce Revival Services for May 28th -31st.

Service times are Thursday thru Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday Fellowship meal at 5:00 p.m. followed by services, Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Speakers are: Thursday, Elder Michael Jackman; Friday, Elder Justin Meier; Saturday, Elder David Green; Sunday, Missionary Nathan Long and Elder Matthew Stepp.

Should you need accommodation options or more information please contact pastor Sidders at (567) 686-7853.

The Beauty Mountain Baptist Church of Edmond, WV is in need of a pastor. Any available candidates may contact Brother Jonathan Bailess at 681-208-0517.

The Grace Landmark Baptist Church of Buckhannon, WV, is seeking a pastor. The church is Sovereign Grace and Landmark

in doctrine and practice. Any interested called pastor of like faith may contact Brother Brad Butcher at (304) 669-4738 or (304) 745-6226.

The Stephens Branch Baptist Church of Martin, Kentucky is in need of a pastor. They are an Independent, Sovereign Grace, Landmark, Missionary Baptist church holding to the doctrines of grace and the King James Bible. If you are interested in being considered or would like more information on the church you can call Brother Lonnie Edwards at (859) 629-1413 or write the church at: Stephens Branch Baptist Church, 1025 Stephens Branch Road, Martin, Kentucky 41649.

The Berea Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact (662) 282-7794 or Email:request@bereabaptistchurch.org.

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

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, KS is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact the church in writing at SGBC, 400 N. Main St., Caldwell, KS 67022, or by phone Brother Darin Wiley 620-863-2431.

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

ARTICLE INDEX	
A Study of Psalm 7:1-15 by Roy Mason	p. 1
Bible & The Newspaper	p. 22
Brief Truths by Randy Johnson	p. 9
The Evidence of Dicipleship by Robert Fleming	p. 1
Forum	pp. 12-13
Light Contemplations by Luke Austin	p. 16
Little Hills by Nathaniel Hille	p. 19
Little Valleys by Timothy J. Hille	p. 11
The Prayer of Agony by Milburn Cockrell	p. 1
Small Drops by Joseph Sidders	p. 7
Successful Families Are Two-Way Streets by Matthew Stepp	p. 1
Meager Peckings by the Editor	p. 3
Narrow Paths by Doug Newell IV	p. 5